

# Groton Daily Independent

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"A GOOD FRIEND IS A CONNECTION TO LIFE - A TIE TO THE PAST, A ROAD TO THE FUTURE, THE KEY TO SANITY IN A TOTALLY INSANE WORLD."

-Lois WYSE



Driver's Education is in full swing as Shaun Wanner and Joel Guthmiller are teaching classes. Pictured above is Shaun Wanner going over what happens at a gas pump to drivers Logan Pearson and Axel Warrington. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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## #110 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The numbers are holding or decreasing today.

We're at 2,055,700 cases in the US. New case numbers are holding for a third day, still above 20,000. NY leads with 386,490 cases, holding below 1000 new cases for a sixth day. NJ has 166,164 cases, a decline after four days holding, below 500 for a third day. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 146,255, IL – 132,454, MA – 105,059, TX – 85,601, PA – 82,578, FL – 70,963, MI – 66,881, and MD – 61,262. These ten states account for 64% of US cases. We have 2 more states over 50,000. 5 more states have over 40,000 cases, 1 more states have over 30,000 cases, 7 more states have over 20,000 cases, 11 more have over 10,000, 5 more + DC and PR over 5000, 6 more + GU over 1000, 3 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, KS, GA, NM, IA, ID, MS, and GU. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, NC, TX, AZ, FL, TN, LA, and WA. 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.

Cities in Texas are seeing significant increases in case reports. Houston is prepared to reopen a hospital set up in a football stadium if needed, and officials are considering reimposing stay-at-home orders. It is unclear whether the stay-at-home order will have any force because the governor's order to lift restrictions supercedes anything city officials can do. Dallas County is actually in worse shape than Houston with more deaths per population. This week, Texas had its highest one-day total of new cases since the pandemic began.

Utah is also having some trouble; Thursday was their 15th straight day with 200 or more new reported cases. The rate of positive tests has more than doubled in less than a week; generally speaking, higher rates are indicative of a worsening situation. There are increases across the state, but the greatest increases are being seen in Salt Lake City.

I mentioned a few days ago that Arizona is in trouble too. Numbers are continuing to climb as hospitals report they are near capacity. The number of cases has quadrupled since May 1 and doubled since Memorial Day. Average number of new cases has increased by one-third in the past week. Some of this surge may be explained by increased testing, but the positive test rate has also increased considerably, running about two and one-half times the rate on May 3.

California's been worrying me for some time now; after successfully holding things together for weeks while case reports soared in other states with large metropolitan areas, the state logged its biggest one-day increase yesterday. Nearly half the increase was in Los Angeles County, an area where control has been elusive from the start. It should be noted, however, that one-third of the new cases in that county were from backlogged test results that finally came in. Still, nearly half of California's cases and more than half its deaths are in this one county which has only one fourth of the state's population. A big question will be whether the health care system can handle the numbers likely to show up as these new cases worsen.

It could be that a good share of this increase in case reports is simply an artifact of the large increases in testing just lately. A good indicator of this is the proportion of tests coming back positive, and that number has been declining since late April when it was 14%. It now sits around 8%, but the decline has slowed. This is a number to watch.

There is another trouble spot in the state, and this is in agricultural areas growing vegetables. Monterey County, for example, reports 39% of the county's cases were in agricultural workers. While field workers are at some risk, largely because of crowded dormitories and buses, outdoor work is generally safer than indoor work. We are seeing cases among vegetable packers; these people work indoors shoulder to shoulder, much as meat-packing workers do. Vegetable and fruit packers, just as with meatpackers, tend to be immigrants.

Despite the increase in testing in California, there is clearly also increased spread. It's not great that

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the state is currently easing restrictions. You will recall that  $R_e$  (effective reproduction rate) for the virus is an estimate of how many additional people each case is transmitting it to; an  $R_e$  below 1.0 will cause an outbreak to eventually die out; an  $R_e$  over 1.0 will continue to grow. At the time easing began in the state, the  $R_e$  was below 1.0, but it is no longer. This is a concern when our most populous state is showing these kinds of increases as easing continues. We'll keep an eye on them and wish them well.

There have been 114,662 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths has declined, still under 1000 for a third day. NY has 30,511, NJ has 12,489, MA has 7538, IL has 6467, PA has 6229, MI has 5994, CA has 4982, and CT has 4159. All of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today; only 2 of them are over 50. There are 6 more states over 2000 deaths, 7 more states over 1000 deaths, 8 more over 500, 12 more + DC and PR over 100, and 9 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

I've had a look at a set of papers describing studies of antibody levels in recovered Covid-19 patients. One done at the New York Blood Center found that a "large proportion of convalescent plasma samples have modest antibody levels" and that there was a wide range of levels seen. They were unable to determine what the level is that would afford immunity. A similar study done in China had similar findings. Those authors recommended that neutralizing antibody be titrated (levels measured) before convalescent plasma is used therapeutically and that further study of host immune response be done in conjunction with vaccine development. And a group at The Rockefeller University, while finding wide variability in antibody levels, just as the others did, also noted that every individual tested had small numbers of very potent neutralizing antibodies. They say their findings suggest "that a vaccine designed to elicit such antibodies could be broadly effective."

One conclusion we can draw from this is that, not surprisingly, there's still a lot we don't know. Another is that two recovered individuals may have big differences in their antibody titers. Since we don't yet have a specific titer in mind that would be protective, there's work yet to be done. But if these few very potent neutralizing antibodies constitute an effective response, their low titer may not be as important as their presence. We will want to remember that all of these papers were in preprint, so they have not yet been peer-reviewed.

Here's an interesting possibility for vaccine. We are seeing that countries like Pakistan, where the tuberculosis vaccine (BCG) has wide use, have lower coronavirus death rates than countries like the US, where it hasn't. Rates of infection are not lower, but serious disease and death rates are. This has some researchers wondering whether there may be some benefit to using a vaccine for a different pathogen to prime the body's nonspecific, first-line defenses known as innate immunity, which are mediated by a chemical called interferon and some other mechanisms we have not yet fully identified. We don't really understand how that spillover effect works, but it does appear that live, attenuated vaccines can induce broader protection than just to the specific antigen included in the vaccine.

Back in the '60s and '70s, large-scale clinical studies showed oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) showed some effectiveness against influenza virus and genital herpes simplex infections, as well as some cancers and bacterial infections. We know some vaccines that use attenuated (live, weakened) pathogens can activate these innate components of the immune system, which might give them some degree of off-target effectiveness; the effects were demonstrated to be nonspecific in nature, that is, they work with some pathogens other than the targeted one. This sort of innate immune response might not prevent disease entirely, but it is possible it could lessen the severity and shorten the duration of the disease by preparing the body's nonspecific first-line defenses to respond more efficiently.

This speculation is not without controversy; there are plenty of conflicting observational studies. Observational studies don't experiment; they simply compare infection and death rates in one place and another. Azra Raza from Columbia University Medical Center, acknowledges that BCG can improve our ability to fight off other kinds of infections for a limited period of time, but warns we may be seeing circumstantial evidence and the "only way to prove it is through future prospective trials." These would be the classical experimental designs with a control group receiving a placebo and an experimental group receiving the vaccine. There are some such trials of BCG already underway in the US, the Netherlands, and Australia;

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and a group is raising money to test OPV in the same way. One reason for caution is that there is some possibility such vaccines might have a detrimental effect, increasing the possibility of cytokine storms in the patient with an infection like Covid-19. Another is that use of the attenuated virus in the polio vaccine carries some risk of circulating virus that can cause paralytic disease in populations which are not already immunized; so there are parts of the world where administration of this vaccine is not a great plan.

So there are cautions, however, according to Shyam Kittilil, director of the Clinical Care and Research Divisions of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, if either of these works, "it really has great potential against future pandemics, not just this one." The advantage is, if this sort of thing is demonstrated to be effective, the vaccines in question are already developed, tested, and approved for use; all we need is evidence of efficacy and a sufficient supply to move forward with immunization programs. We will see how this progresses.

I have a friend who can't bear it when people throw away things that are still usable; she's always pulling items out of dumpsters and repurposing them or shining them up and giving them away. Recently, she found a wheelchair in good working order, just a little dirty. I have no idea what the back story on that wheelchair is; but she did the usual and cleaned it all up, making sure everything works, then looked for someone who needs it. When she called an organization that serves the homeless to arrange to bring the wheelchair in, she discovered they are in desperate need of bottled water. Their city is in the desert, and 100+ degree temperatures are an everyday thing this time of year. I can't imagine how it feels to live outdoors in that kind of heat and not have access to a drink of water whenever I needed one.

Neither could my friend, apparently, because she put out a FB call yesterday morning, explaining the need and asking her friends, "How much water can we provide in the next 24 hours?" She asked people who had a case of water lying around to bring some to her and others to contribute money. She planned to purchase and deliver it the water along with the wheelchair this morning. And all day long yesterday, the money came in and she ordered more and more deliveries of water until she ran out of places to stack it, then branched out to order hand sanitizer, sunscreen, face masks, and more. Last update I saw, they were up to nearly \$1600 and the deliveries were still coming in to her house. The whole thing is inspiring and wonderful. But that's not even the real story.

Here's the real story.

In her words: "The latest delivery guy looks at the truck and his load and says, 'What is all this for?' I explained and he said, 'God bless you, God bless you, God bless you.' He then asked me to wait and came back and handed me a twenty dollar bill. I tried to refuse, but he said he was from Nigeria and it is the least he can do to help his brethren who have not been as lucky as he is to get a good job." Note well, this man who came here with nothing and still has so little gave, not out of his abundance, but out of his scarcity, to those who have less.

I'm just going to let her have the last word tonight: "This is what love looks like. Also, action is the antidote to despair." You all know what to do with that.

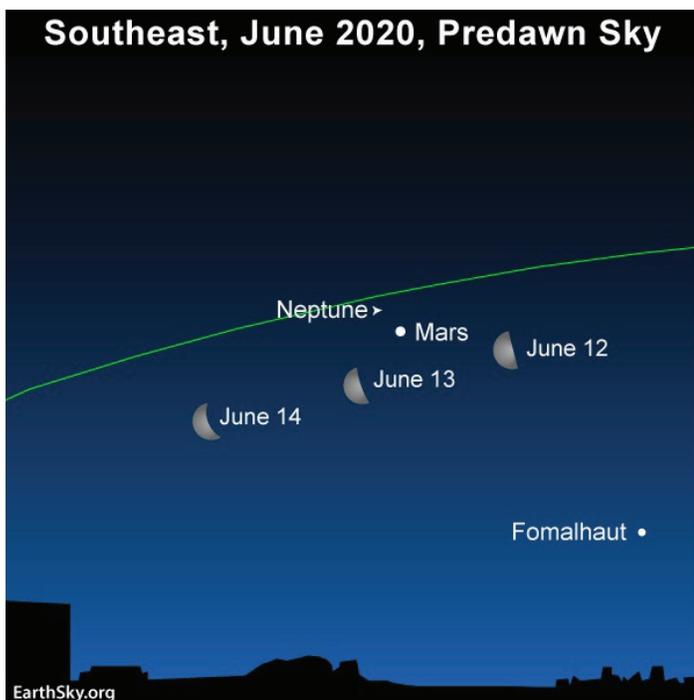
Keep yourself well—someone else too. We'll talk again.



## Earliest sunrises come before the summer solstice

Posted by Bruce McClure

For the Northern Hemisphere: June is a super month for an early morning walk. The dawn light is beautiful at this time of year. At mid-northern latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere, your earliest sunrises of the year happen around now. That's despite the fact that the northern summer solstice – and year's longest day for this hemisphere – are still about a week away.



In the predawn sky these next few mornings – June 12 and 13, 2020 – use the waning crescent moon to find the red planet Mars. Look first for the moon. That nearby bright “star” will be Mars. Unlike a star, which shines by its own light, Mars shines by reflecting the light of the sun. You may note that Mars shines with a steadier light than the twinkling stars. And, if you’ve been watching, you’ll also notice how bright Mars is now! The planet is due to grow dramatically brighter by the time of its opposition – when Earth will fly between Mars and the sun – in October 2020.

At mid-northern latitudes, it’s now that beautiful time of year when we’re having our earliest sunrises. So northerners might be hard pressed to get up early enough to see the moon and Mars. If you’re a night owl, staying up past the midnight hour, you might try to catch the pair rising into your eastern sky before bedtime.

On our chart at top, we also show the planet Neptune, the most distant (known) planet in our the solar system. You need an optical aid to see this distant world. Mars and Neptune will be in conjunction on June 12, 2020 (at about 12:00 UTC), with Mars pass-

ing 1.7 degrees to the south of Neptune. For reference, your index finger at arm’s length spans about 2 degrees of sky.

About half a day after the Mars-Neptune conjunction (June 12 at about 12:00 UTC) , the moon will pass 3 degrees to the south of Mars (June 13 at about 00:00 UTC). Then about a quarter day after the moon meets up with Mars, the moon will reach its half-illuminated last quarter phase on June 13, 2020

Earth is gaining on Mars in our faster, smaller orbit around the sun, and Mars, in turn, is growing ever brighter in Earth’s sky. Excluding our sun, only three stars are brighter than Mars at present: Sirius, Canopus and Alpha Centauri. Mars outshines Neptune by nearly 1,700 times, and the 1st-magnitude star Fomalhaut by nearly 3.5 times.

Yet, the great Mars show has barely begun. By the second half of August 2020, Mars will actually outshine Sirius, the brightest star of the nighttime sky. By October 2020, Mars will even outshine the king planet Jupiter. Jupiter is almost always the fourth-brightest celestial body, after the sun, moon and the queen planet Venus. But, Mars will displace Jupiter for one shining month, as Mars beams as the fourth-brightest celestial object, after the sun, moon and Venus, throughout October 2020.

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The logo for South Dakota, featuring the words "South Dakota" in a stylized, cursive script.

Department of Tourism  
June 2020  
SDVisit.com

## Here is the COVID-19 Weekly Update.

A few things worth noting this week:

American travelers' feelings about their health, finances and travel safety continue to improve.

More Americans report they are already traveling or ready to travel.

70% will take at least one leisure trip in the remainder of 2020.

Safety considerations are still important to travelers' decision-making, from which destination they choose to visit to the hotels they select.

The majority of American travelers continue to opt for beach, outdoor and rural type experiences for their next leisure trips.

Travelers continue to express the most comfort in traveling by personal vehicles.

Travel spending in the US grew for the sixth consecutive week as states and cities continue to reopen and lighten restrictions on travel.

States that normally see a high concentration of international travel continue to lag behind more rural and outdoor destinations.

Website traffic to TravelSouthDakota.com increased 46% over the prior year once again indicating the potential demand for South Dakota offerings this summer and fall.

Thank you to our research partners for providing this information: Tourism Economics, Destination Analysts, STR, U.S. Travel Association, Arrivalist, Miles Partnership, MMGY Travel Intelligence, ADARA and Longwoods International.

Please keep in touch with us and let us know what you are seeing for visitation and how you are doing. We are so eager to see you in-person one day soon. If we can be of any assistance, please reach out. You can contact me at [James.Hagen@TravelSouthDakota.com](mailto:James.Hagen@TravelSouthDakota.com).

All our best,

Jim and Team

Jim Hagen  
Secretary of Tourism

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## Service Notice: Gregory Clocksene

Memorial services for Gregory Clocksene, 67, of Groton will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 16th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Bill Duncan will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Monday from 5-7 p.m.

Greg passed away June 10, 2020 at his home.



## Baseball games will be starting this weekend in Groton

On Saturday, June 13, the Junior Legion Team will host Northville in a double header starting at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, June 14, the Junior Legion will host Lake Norden in one game at 3 p.m. which will be followed by the Legion team taking on Lake Norden.

On Monday, June 15, the Junior Teener team will host Frederick in a double header starting at 5:30 p.m. The Legion teams will travel to Claremont with the Junior Legion playing at 5 p.m. followed by the Legion Team.

On Wednesday, June 17, the Legion team will host Redfield in a double header starting at 6 p.m.

On Thursday, June 18, the Junior Legion Team will travel to Northville for a double header starting at 6 p.m.

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## Groton Sales Tax Revenue rises

Groton City Sales Tax revenue increased by 7 percent according to state sales tax returns filed in May, compared to the same period last year. Retail sales increased by 13 percent which is the largest share of the revenue, making up 45 percent of the total sales tax revenue for the city.

Below is a summary of Groton's sales tax report for 2019, 2020 and the percentage change from last year to this year.

	May 2019	May 2020	Pct.
<b>A Agriculture, Forestry, And Fishing</b>	<b>\$3,014.22</b>	<b>\$2,349.28</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>C Construction</b>	<b>\$691.44</b>	<b>\$318.23</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>D Manufacturing</b>	<b>\$241.38</b>	<b>\$363.84</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>E Transportation, Communications, Electric, Gas, And Sanitary Services</b>	<b>\$10,532.29</b>	<b>\$9,777.52</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>F Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>\$1,368.24</b>	<b>\$1,991.47</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>G Retail Trade</b>	<b>\$21,930.95</b>	<b>\$25,325.80</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>H Finance, Insurance, And Real Estate</b>	<b>\$36.55</b>	<b>\$239.89</b>	<b>645%</b>
<b>I Services</b>	<b>\$5,512.89</b>	<b>\$6,313.83</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>\$9.34</b>	<b>\$4.39</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,337.30</b>	<b>\$46,684.25</b>	<b>7%</b>

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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	June 12	June 13			
Minnesota	28,523	28,869	29,316	29,795			
Nebraska	15,883	16,025	16,315	16,513			
Montana	554	561	563	573			
Colorado	28,347	28,499	28,647	28,822			
Wyoming	760	768	793	811			
North Dakota	2901	2941	2980	3016			
South Dakota	5523	5604	5665	5742			
United States	1,979,971	2,000,464	2,023,347	2,048,986			
US Deaths	112,006	112,924	113,820	114,669			
Minnesota	+299	+346	+447	+479			
Nebraska	+131	+142	+290	+198			
Montana	+6	+7	+2	+10			
Colorado	+164	+152	+148	+175			
Wyoming	+12	+8	+25	+18			
North Dakota	+21	+40	+39	+36			
South Dakota	+52	+81	+62	+77			
United States	+19,786	+20,493	+22,883	+25,639			
US Deaths	+999	+918	+896	+849			

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## June 12th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

A male from Minnehaha County, age 60-69, is the latest casualty from the COVID-19 virus. That brings the state death count to 74. Moody County has been elevated to minimal to moderate community spread.

There were 77 positive cases in the state with 91 more being fully recovered, edging the percent of fully recovered up to 82.8 percent.

Brown County had two more positive cases and four more fully recovered as now 87.9 percent of the cases have been recovered.

Minnehaha and Pennington counties are still seeing double digit increases. Buffalo County has seen a spike of eight more cases while Beadle County had seven and Clay County six.

#### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: -2 (35)

Recovered: +4 (270)

Total Positive: +2 (307)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (16)

Deaths: 2

Negative Tests: +61 (2067)

Percent Recovered: 87.9% (0.7 increase)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +77 (5742 total)

Negative: +1184 (57263 total)

Hospitalized: +11 (525 total) - 87 currently hospitalized (No change from yesterday)

Deaths: +1 (74 total)

Recovered: +91 (4755 total)

Active Cases: -15 (913)

Percent Recovered: 82.8% up 0.5

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +10 (235), Butte +4 (338), Campbell +13 (56), Haakon +15 (180), Harding 33, Jones +1 (20), Mellette +29 (117), Perkins 71, Potter +1 (144), unassigned -230 (5295).

Aurora: +1 positive (23 of 30 recovered)

Beadle: +7 positive, +14 recovered (252 of 418 recovered)

Brookings: +1 recovered (20 of 26 recovered)

Brown: +2 positive, +4 recovered (270 of 307 recovered)

Brule: +4 positive (1 of 7 recovered)

Buffalo: +8 positive (15 of 39 recovered)

Charles Mix: +1 recovered (16 of 21 recovered)

Clark: +1 positive (4 of 7 recovered)

Clay: +6 positive, +3 recovered (18 of 56 recovered)

Codington: +1 positive, +2 recovered (36 of 44 recovered)

Corson: +1 positive (3 of 9 recovered)

Custer: +1 positive (1 of 2 recovered)

Davison: +1 positive (22 of 31 recovered)

Fall River: +1 recovered (4 of 6 recovered)

Faulk: +4 positive, +6 recovered (9 of 19 recovered)

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Hand: +1 recovered (3 of 6 recovered)  
Jerauld: +1 recovered (34 of 40 recovered)  
Lake: +1 positive (10 of 14 recovered)  
Lincoln: +3 positive, 4 recovered (236 of 262 recovered)  
Lyman: +1 recovered (13 of 32 recovered)  
McCook: +1 positive (5 of 8 recovered)  
Meade: +1 positive (19 of 30 recovered)  
Minnehaha: +14 positive, +40 recovered (3176 of 3458 recovered)  
Moody: +1 positive (17 of 20 recovered)  
Pennington: +11 positive, +8 recovered (182 of 362 recovered)  
Roberts: +1 positive (32 of 40 recovered)  
Todd: +1 positive, +2 recovered (26 of 46 recovered)  
Tripp: +1 positive (6 of 7 recovered)  
Union: +4 positive, +1 recovered (84 of 109 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Tripp): Day 13-13, Deuel 1-1, Edmunds 4-4, Grant 13-13, Gregory 1-1, Spink 5-5, Sully 1-1, Walworth 5-5.

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 3,410 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 36 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 3,016.

State & private labs have reported 126,489 total completed tests.  
2,573 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	647	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	938	16%
Hispanic	969	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	697	12%
Other	660	11%
White, Non-Hispanic	1831	32%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	6
Brown	2
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	53
Pennington	7
Todd	1
Union	1

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	30	23	207
Beadle	418	252	1053
Bennett	0	0	235
Bon Homme	8	7	483
Brookings	26	20	1224
Brown	307	270	2067
Brule	7	1	349
Buffalo	39	15	280
Butte	0	0	338
Campbell	0	0	56
Charles Mix	21	16	388
Clark	7	4	250
Clay	56	18	734
Codington	44	36	1499
Corson	9	3	93
Custer	2	1	282
Davison	31	22	1292
Day	13	13	290
Deuel	1	1	240
Dewey	2	0	620
Douglas	4	3	246
Edmunds	4	4	241
Fall River	6	4	423
Faulk	19	9	68
Grant	13	13	359
Gregory	1	1	192
Haakon	0	0	180
Hamlin	9	6	239
Hand	6	3	154
Hanson	3	0	93
Harding	0	0	33
Hughes	21	17	809
Hutchinson	8	6	548

Hyde	3	1	66
Jackson	4	1	115
Jerauld	40	34	207
Jones	0	0	20
Kingsbury	5	2	320
Lake	14	10	474
Lawrence	12	11	989
Lincoln	262	236	3402
Lyman	32	13	417
Marshall	4	3	163
McCook	8	5	379
McPherson	3	1	117
Meade	30	19	873
Mellette	0	0	117
Miner	3	2	140
Minnehaha	3458	3176	15963
Moody	20	17	379
Oglala Lakota	45	22	1258
Pennington	362	182	4740
Perkins	0	0	71
Potter	0	0	144
Roberts	40	32	752
Sanborn	13	12	160
Spink	5	5	508
Stanley	11	9	105
Sully	1	1	36
Todd	46	26	592
Tripp	7	6	225
Turner	25	23	498
Union	109	84	975
Walworth	5	5	309
Yankton	58	48	1798
Ziebach	2	1	91
Unassigned****	0	0	5295

## CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	579	0
20-29 years	1163	1
30-39 years	1268	3
40-49 years	958	5
50-59 years	921	10
60-69 years	517	13
70-79 years	173	6
80+ years	163	36

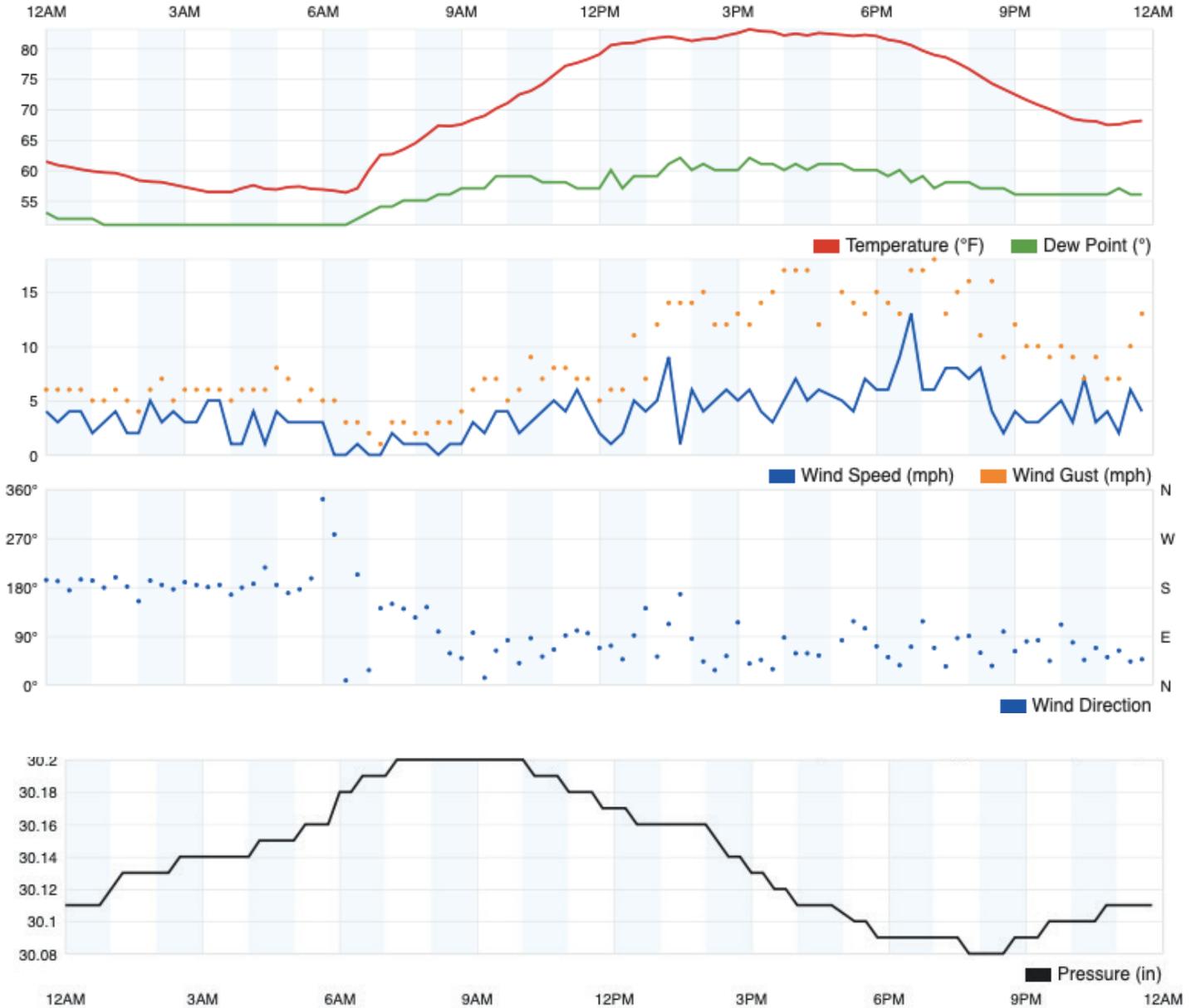
## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2735	40
Male	3007	34

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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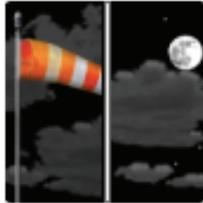
Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 87 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy  
and Breezy  
then Partly  
Cloudy

Low: 65 °F

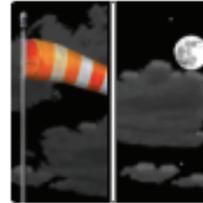
Sunday



Increasing  
Clouds and  
Breezy

High: 85 °F

Sunday  
Night



Partly Cloudy  
and Breezy  
then Partly  
Cloudy

Low: 69 °F

Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 88 °F

 **Breezy/Windy Weekend**   
*Isolated Storms – Mainly for the Missouri Valley*

Higs in the upper  
70s to the low 90s on  
Saturday...

...80s and low 90s on  
Sunday.

 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD 

Breezy to windy southeasterly winds, with gusts of 30 to 40 mph can be expected this weekend. Isolated showers and thunderstorms will be possible, mainly for the Missouri River Valley.

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## Today in Weather History

June 13, 1943: An estimated F2 tornado moved ENE, destroying a home on the southeastern edge of Highmore in Hyde County. A mother and her five children seeking shelter in the home were injured. Barns and outbuildings were damaged on a dozen farms. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 8 miles and caused about \$10,000 in damage.

June 13, 1991: A small F1 tornado remained on the ground for 4 miles as it moved westerly from 10 miles west of Roscoe to 6 miles west of Roscoe, in Edmunds County. The path of the tornado continued for another 5 miles but was not consistently on the ground. It dissipated one mile west of Roscoe. Although the tornado had a long path, its width was 10 yards and traveled through open fields and cause little to no damage.

1889 - Forest fires in northern Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota were in the process of destroying millions of dollars of board feet of timber. (David Ludlum)

1907 - The temperature at Tamarack, CA, dipped to 2 degrees above zero, the lowest reading of record for June for the U.S. The high that day was 30 degrees. Tamarack received 42 inches of snow between the 10th and the 13th. On the 13th the snow depth was 130 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1972: Severe weather conditions over the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico begin to converge and form a tropical depression that would become Hurricane Agnes over the next two weeks. This hurricane affected most of the eastern United States with the Northeast being the hardest hit area with heavy rainfall.

1976: A deadly tornado moved across parts of the southwestern Chicago, Illinois suburbs killing three people and injured 23 others. The tornado, with winds over 200 mph moved from Lemont to Downers Grove causing \$13 million in damage when 87 homes were destroyed, and another 90 were damaged. The tornado passed over the Argonne National Laboratory, peeling part of a roof of the building housing a nuclear reactor. The tornadoes movement was somewhat erratic moving southeast to the north and finally turning northwest.

1984 - Severe thunderstorms struck Denver deluging the city with five inches of rain, and leaving up to six feet of water in some places. Softball size hail smashed windshields and ripped through metal cars. Snow plows had to be called out. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including International Falls, MN, with a reading of 92 degrees. Mason City IA and Waterloo IA reported record highs of 100 degrees. Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced golf ball size hail around Hamilton Square NJ, along with high winds which tore the roof off a hospital causing a million dollars damage. Averill Park NY was deluged with 1.64 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Forrest NM was deluged with 5.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes. Temperatures soared into the 90s across much of the eastern half of the nation, including New England. Northern Illinois reported a record twenty straight days of dry weather. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Southern Plains Region to the Carolinas during the day and night, and continued to drench parts of Texas and Oklahoma with heavy rain. Oklahoma City reported 13.41 inches of rain for the first thirteen days of the month, and Fort Worth TX reported 29.56 inches for the year, a total more than 13 inches above normal. Severe drought continued to rage across South Texas. (The National Weather Summary)

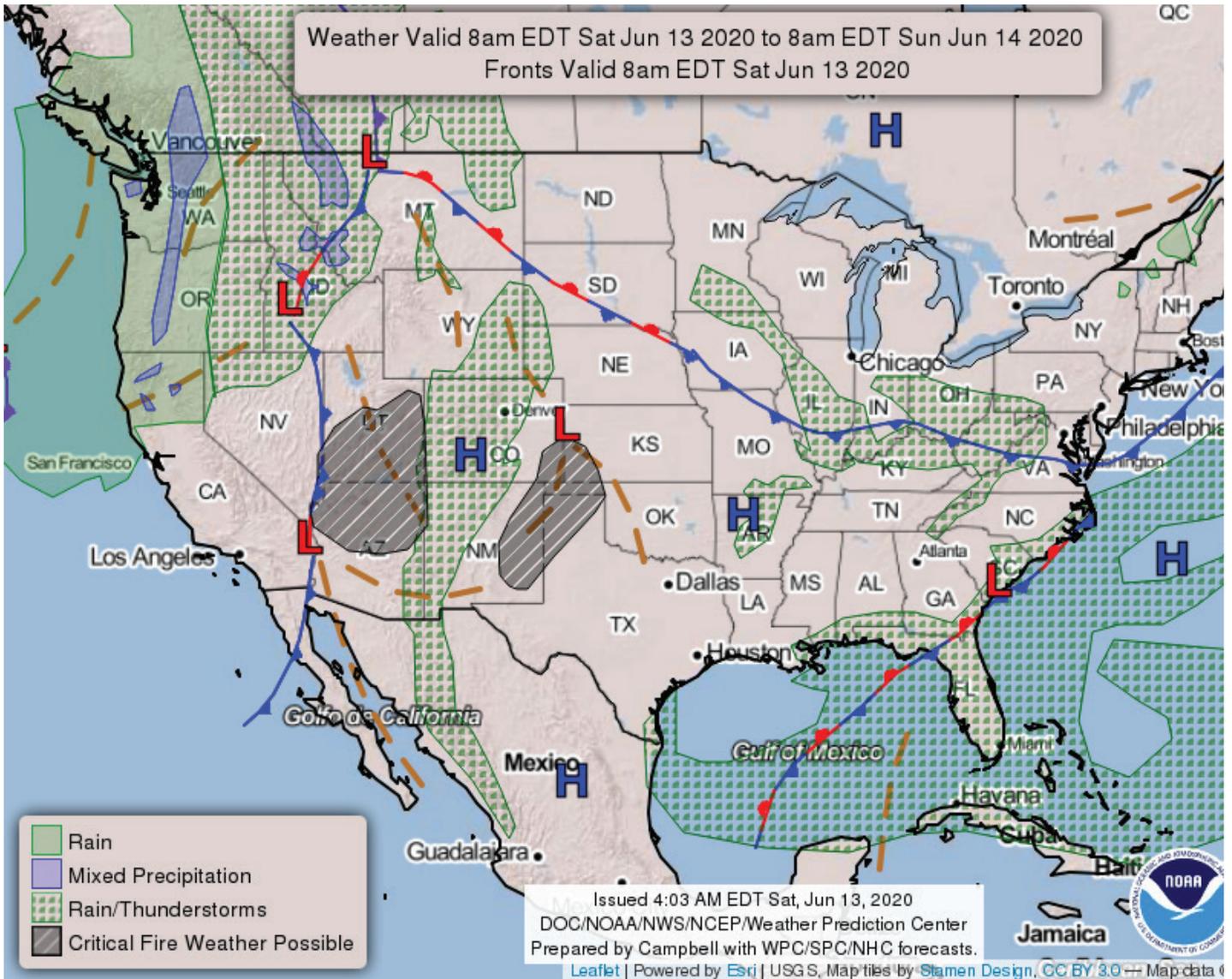
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 83 °F at 3:15 PM**  
**Low Temp: 56 °F at 3:34 AM**  
**Wind: 19 mph at 6:33 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

**Record High: 102° in 1936**  
**Record Low: 36° in 1942**  
**Average High: 77°F**  
**Average Low: 53°F**  
**Average Precip in June.: 1.43**  
**Precip to date in June.: 1.75**  
**Average Precip to date: 8.57**  
**Precip Year to Date: 6.38**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:23 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.**



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## THE GREATEST OF THESE

Abraham Lincoln was known for his kindness to everyone. He was often criticized by his associates for being gracious and thoughtful, considerate, and caring.

On one occasion he was asked, "With all of the power you have, why don't you destroy your enemies?"

"Am I not destroying my enemies," he asked, "when I make them my friends?"

Perhaps there is no more misunderstood or misused word in our world today than the word "love." Nearly everyone has their own meaning for it. For some, it has a "sexual" meaning. For others, it has an "I like to be with you" meaning. And, some see love as demonstrating an unselfish concern for the well-being of others - helping them when they are unable to help themselves or provide the necessities they need to survive.

Paul speaks of a love that is supremely concerned with the best interests and welfare of others. It is a love that makes the needs and concerns of others my very own. It is as though I am saying, "I don't walk away from the needs of others; I take them with me so I can do something about them. If they have a need, it is my need. If they hurt, I hurt. If they are in pain, it is my pain as well. If they have no food, I will share my food with them."

As Christians, we must move beyond the feeling, sentimental and emotional types of love to a love that forces us to do what Jesus would do or have us to do for others.

Prayer: Lord, we see in Your life and death the real meaning of love. Strengthen us to live as you lived and to love as You loved so others will see You in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 13

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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
- 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

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

14-19-57-67-70, Mega Ball: 2, Megaplier: 3

(fourteen, nineteen, fifty-seven, sixty-seven, seventy; Mega Ball: two; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

### US judge says he'll rule quickly on funding for tribes

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A federal judge in the nation's capital said Friday he will work quickly to deliver a ruling in a case centered on who is eligible for coronavirus relief funding set aside for tribes.

U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta heard more than three hours of arguments in the case he characterized as challenging. He is deciding whether Alaska Native corporations, which are unique to the state, can receive a share of \$8 billion in funding that Congress approved in March.

Numerous Native American tribes that sued the U.S. Treasury Department, which is tasked with doling out the money, say no.

Mehta earlier ruled to limit distribution to tribal governments while he took on the eligibility question.

The Treasury Department has sent \$4.8 billion in payments to tribal governments based on federal population data population and has said it will start distributing the rest no later than Monday — well past the deadline set by Congress.

Attorneys in the hearing Friday picked apart the language included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act and dissected the history of a federal law that gave tribes the ability to deliver services like health care, policing and housing to tribal members through federal contracts.

Attorneys representing the tribes said Congress intended the virus relief money to go to the 574 tribes that have a political relationship with the federal government. Because the corporations are not the recognized bodies of government for any tribe, they don't qualify, they argued.

"They are not in any scenario able to compete with tribal governments for finite resources," said Natalie Landreth.

Riyaz Kanji said Alaska Native corporations do not satisfy a clause in the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act to obtain federal contracts without authorization from the tribal governments themselves.

Department of Justice Attorney Jason Lynch disagreed and told Mehta that if the judge finds even one of dozens of regional and village corporations eligible for the funding, all must be deemed eligible.

Daniel Wolff, an attorney representing some of the corporations, pointed to one that he said delivers health care to Alaska Natives in the Anchorage area with the blessing of Congress and without express approval from all village governments. That circumstance is rare.

"The sovereign tribal villages simply don't have the resources to get the job done" he said. "That's the job of ANCs, that's why ANCs were created."

In a related case Thursday, Mehta denied a request from a tribe in Kansas to halt further distribution of the funding for tribal nations.

The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation sued the Treasury Department earlier this month, alleging it was shortchanged in the agency's initial distribution of funding. The tribe, whose reservation is north of

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Topeka, said the Treasury Department should have relied on the tribe's own enrollment data, rather than population data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The HUD data showed the tribe had 883 citizens. The tribe argued it should have received \$7.65 million dollars more based on its enrollment figure of more than 4,840.

The Treasury Department has said it used HUD data because it would correlate with the amount of money tribal governments have spent responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Tribal data doesn't distinguish between members who live on and off reservations, the agency said.

Mehta said he had no jurisdiction over the matter because Congress gave the Treasury secretary discretion in how to distribute the funding.

"The CARES Act thus contains no 'statutory reference point' by which to judge the secretary's decision to use HUD's population data set, as opposed to some other," Mehta wrote.

The judge also faulted the tribe for filing its lawsuit more than a month after the Treasury Department said it would use HUD data following a request for tribes to submit enrollment figures.

Carol Heckman, an attorney for the Prairie Band, said the tribe doesn't use the HUD database and did not immediately understand the Treasury Department's methodology. She said reports by Harvard researchers who dug into the HUD data showed the tribe it was underrepresented.

## Independent American Association baseball to start July 3

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — While Major League Baseball and the affiliated minor leagues are shut down, an independent circuit is set to open on July 3 with some fans in the seats.

The American Association said Friday its six teams will play in three hubs due to the new coronavirus, at least at the start of the season.

Minnesota's St. Paul Saints will play home games at Sioux Falls Stadium along with South Dakota's Sioux Falls Canaries. Manitoba's Winnipeg Goldeyes will be based at Newman Outdoor Field along with North Dakota's Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks. The Chicago Dogs will play home games at the Ballpark Commons along with the Milwaukee Milkmen.

All three home teams are in position to sell about 25% to 33% of their ballpark's capacities.

A 60-game regular season is envisioned through Sept. 10, and the top two teams will meet in a best-of-five championship series. Teams will allow limited capacities of spectators, if allowed.

Each team will play 42 games in its hub, including 30 home games. A displaced team would return to its regular home ballpark if government restrictions in place during the pandemic are relaxed.

Six teams will not operate this season: Cleburne Railroaders in Texas, Gary SouthShore RailCats in Indiana, Kansas City T-Bones, Lincoln Saltdogs in Nebraska, Sioux City Explorers in Iowa and Texas AirHogs in Prairie.

Training is slated to start June 25.

Major League Baseball's agreement with the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the governing body of the affiliated minors, expires after the season. MLB has proposed cutting guaranteed affiliations from 160 to 140 and also has discussed making St. Paul an affiliated club.

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

## Protest against police brutality planned in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Protesters are planning to line the streets of Sioux Falls on Saturday in another demonstration against police brutality and racism.

Organizers said Friday that they are asking everyone planning to attend the protest to remain peaceful and have communicated their plans to the police department.

Seymour Otterman, one of the protest organizers, said police brutality didn't appear to be a problem in the city, but that it's important to "stand in solidarity" with people across the country calling for police reforms.

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"Part of it is also acknowledging the racism that black people do face in Sioux Falls," Otterman said.

During the last protest nearly two weeks ago, some demonstrators marched to a mall, hurled rocks at police, and vandalized cars and several stores. Sioux Falls police have arrested at least eight suspects in that unrest and are searching for more.

Mayor Paul TenHaken said he was meeting with the family members of those who have been arrested in an attempt to "understand what's going on in our community and what the city needs to do better."

The mayor said he is not considering cutting the police department's budget despite calls from activists around the nation to rethink how police departments work. He defended the city's police, calling it "one of the best police departments in the country."

About 8% of the city's budget goes to policing, an allotment TenHaken called "minimal."

## Fire expert: Mount Rushmore fireworks display ill advised

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A July 3 fireworks display planned at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial would be "ill advised" because of the abnormally dry conditions and risk of summer wildfires, a fire expert said.

The event could attract as many as 7,500 people, and President Donald Trump said he plans to attend.

Bill Gabbert, the former fire management officer for Mount Rushmore and six other national parks in the region, said shooting fireworks over the extremely flammable ponderosa pine forest should not be done.

"Burning debris, the burning embers and unexploded shells fall into a ponderosa pine forest and ponderosa pine is extremely flammable," said Gabbert.

The Black Hills fell 30% to 50% short of moisture compared to the long-term precipitation average for the region in April and May, the Rapid City Journal reported. Long-range forecasts for June indicate that hotter and drier-than-average conditions will continue until July.

The U.S. Drought Monitor recently labeled nearly all of southwestern South Dakota, including most of the Black Hills, as "abnormally dry."

The fireworks display at Mount Rushmore to celebrate Independence Day has not happened since 2009, when it was ended because of fire danger after a pine beetle infestation.

The National Park Service, which manages the memorial, has determined that launching fireworks at Mount Rushmore would pose only a slight fire risk.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem's communications director, Ian Fury, said the park service has taken several precautions, including performing an environmental assessment and conducting a large controlled burn within the memorial's borders in April.

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This story has been corrected to reflect that 7,500 people are expected to attend the event, not 75,000.

## South Dakota reports one death from COVID-19, 77 cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota recorded one more death from COVID-19 on Friday, along with 77 new cases, according to the state Department of Health.

The death reported Friday was a man in his 60s from Minnehaha County. 74 people in total have died from COVID-19 in the state, according to health officials.

The state's tally of cases reached 5,742, but over 83% of those have recovered. 87 people are currently hospitalized from the virus. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases has decreased by 32%.

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.

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## Sioux Falls man accused of threatening to kill woman, child

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is accused of threatening to kill his girlfriend and their 2-year-old child and sexually assault the woman.

The 29-year-old man is facing a long list of charges, including false imprisonment and aggravated assault, police said.

Officers responded to an apartment shortly before midnight Wednesday where the man had argued with the woman and then grabbed a gun and threatened her and their child, according to Sioux Falls police spokesman Sam Clemens.

The Argus Leader reports the 30-year-old woman made a comment about calling police, so he took her phone.

Clemens says eventually she and the child were able to get out of the apartment and hid outside until police arrived. Police say the woman may have been hit or punched, but she did not require medical attention.

## At West Point, Trump stresses unity, nation's core values

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — President Donald Trump is highlighting the diversity of West Point's graduating class and appealing for America's newest officers to uphold the country's core values, a speech emphasizing unity at a time when the commander in chief's relationship with military leaders has become strained and questions have arisen about the role of soldiers in a civil society.

"You have come from the farms and the cities, from states big and small, and from every race, religion, color, and creed. But when you entered these grounds, you became part of one team and one family, proudly serving one American nation," Trump says in prepared remarks released by the White House before his address.

Trump's commencement speech to the 1,100 graduating cadets during a global pandemic comes as arguments rage over his threat to use American troops on U.S. soil to quell protests stemming from the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer.

The president tells the Class of 2020 that "you became brothers and sisters pledging allegiance to the same timeless principles, joined together in a common mission: to protect our country, to defend our people, and to carry on the traditions of freedom, equality and liberty that so many gave their lives to secure." He said they "exemplify the power of shared national purpose to transcend all differences and achieve true unity. Today, you graduate as one class, and you embody one noble creed: duty, honor, country."

Tensions between the White House and the military have escalated since nationwide protests began over the death of Floyd, a black man who was pinned by the neck by a white police officer for several minutes despite saying he couldn't breathe.

Trump seemingly alluded to the protests, saying in his prepared remarks: "What has historically made America unique is the durability of its institutions against the passions and prejudices of the moment."

In the past two weeks, Trump yelled at Defense Secretary Mark Esper for publicly opposing Trump's call to use active-duty troops to crack down on the demonstrations. Trump then shut down Esper's attempt to open a public debate on removing the names of Confederate Army officers from military bases.

Gen. Mark Milley, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, further risked Trump's ire Thursday by declaring it had been "a mistake" for him to accompany Trump on a June 1 walk through Lafayette Square. The trip ended with the president holding up a Bible and posing for the news media outside St. John's Church, which was damaged by fire during the unrest.

Milley's comments amounted to an extraordinary expression of regret by Trump's chief military adviser, who said his appearance led to the perception of the military becoming embroiled in politics, which in his view — one shared by Esper — is a threat to democracy.

The events have stirred debate within the military and among retired officers. More than 500 West Point graduates from classes spanning six decades signed an open letter reminding the Class of 2020 of its

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commitment to avoid partisan politics.

The letter, published this week on Medium, also alluded to the problems Esper and Milley encountered at the White House after Floyd's death.

"Sadly, the government has threatened to use the Army in which you serve as a weapon against fellow Americans engaging in these legitimate protests," they wrote. "Worse, military leaders, who took the same oath you take today, have participated in politically charged events. The principle of civilian control is central to the military profession. But that principle does not imply blind obedience."

They added: "We are concerned that fellow graduates serving in senior-level, public positions are failing to uphold their oath of office and their commitment to duty, honor, country. Their actions threaten the credibility of an apolitical military."

Esper did not attend. He told cadets in a video address that he knows their education and training "have prepared you to be strong leaders of character, confidence and courage. ... I expect you to remain committed to our core values — loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. These principles will guide you in challenging times and in the face of new and emerging threats."

Trump's appearance had been criticized as a political move that would put the graduates at risk in order to put Trump on a grand stage in a picturesque part of New York, the one remaining military service academy where he had yet to give a graduation address. Historic West Point is located 40 miles (65 kilometers) up the Hudson River from New York City, the epicenter of the U.S. coronavirus outbreak.

Army officials defended the move, saying the cadets would have had to brave the health risks of traveling back to campus anyway for their final medical checks, equipment and training.

The cadets had been home since spring break in early March, just before the coronavirus was declared a pandemic and Trump announced a national emergency. They returned to campus in late May.

A group called Veterans For Peace announced a protest outside West Point's main gate Saturday against what it called "Trump's dangerous narcissistic Photo-Op Stunt at the West Point Graduation."

The recently commissioned second lieutenants wore masks as they marched onto West Point's parade field, instead of into Mitchie Stadium, the longtime commencement venue. They sat 6 feet (1.8 meters) apart, in keeping with federal guidelines to practice social distancing during the outbreak.

Instead of shaking hands with the president, graduates planned to step up on a platform before the main dais and salute. Guests were not allowed; family and friends had to watch online.

The graduating class immediately underwent coronavirus testing when they returned to campus in late May. More than 15 class members who tested positive were isolated for two weeks before they were allowed to rejoin their classmates.

Cheryl Connors, a 1983 West Point alum whose son Cameron graduates Saturday, said the moment is "bittersweet." Her three older children graduated from the academy, too.

"I'm super proud of him and his classmates. It's a great accomplishment," she said. "And it's heartbreaking at the same time to not be able to be there and celebrate with him."

AP National Security Writer Robert Burns and Associated Press writer Michael Hill in Albany, N.Y., contributed to this report.

## Protests in Trump country test his hold in rural white areas

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

In the lake country 200 miles (320 kilometers) northwest of Detroit, hundreds danced, prayed and demanded racial justice in Cadillac, a Michigan town that was long home to a neo-Nazi group.

It was not an isolated scene. In eastern Ohio, even more demonstrated in rural Mount Vernon, a town with its own current of racial intolerance, just as others did in Manheim, Pennsylvania, a tiny farming town in Lancaster County, with its small but active Ku Klux Klan presence.

The protest movement over black injustice has quickly spread deep into predominantly white, small-town America, notably throughout parts of the country that delivered the presidency for Donald Trump. Across

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Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, more than 200 such demonstrations have taken place, many in cities with fewer than 20,000 residents, according to local media, organizers, participants and the online tracking tool CrowdCount.

"That's what's so striking, that these protests are taking place in rural places with a white nationalist presence," said Lynn Tramonte, who grew up near Mount Vernon and is monitoring the Black Lives Matter demonstrations around Ohio.

The protests in these Republican-leaning areas offer a test of the president's ability to reassemble his older, white voting bloc. If he cannot replicate that coalition, it would leave Trump with few options, especially since he continues to lose support in suburbs.

"If President Trump cannot hold onto white, working-class voters in rural, small-town Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Ohio, I don't know how he wins the election," said Terry Madonna, director of the Center for Public Affairs at Franklin & Marshall College, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. "Can you rule out he won't have that same level of enthusiasm? No, you can't."

Trump carried Pennsylvania by about 44,000 votes in 2016, in part with overwhelming support from a patchwork of rural, white counties.

The pattern also played out in Michigan and Wisconsin, where he won by even fewer votes. In Ohio, that coalition propelled him to an easy victory.

Trump's reelection campaign is working chiefly through online outreach to hold onto his largely white base and to identify new voters in rural areas as a defense against inroads by presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

Some polls suggest that, while white voters without college degrees are still a strong group for Trump, they could be more open to supporting Biden than they were to supporting Democrat Hillary Clinton four years ago.

Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh did not directly address the protests taking place in counties won by the president, but said more generally in a statement to The Associated Press, "President Trump expressed disgust and shock over what happened to George Floyd and praised the peaceful demonstrations, but also knows that Americans cannot live with riots and lawlessness in cities nationwide."

But the pace of change over racial justice after Floyd's death last month by police in Minneapolis has quickened and has sparked protests in hundreds of communities in every state, on a scale rarely, if ever, seen before. It is not that Biden will necessarily win rural counties that Trump carried easily, but he may be able to cut into Trump's margins enough to bring those states back to the Democratic column.

In Cadillac, branch home of the National Socialist Movement — among the nation's prominent neo-Nazi groups as recently as 2007 — black organizers were undeterred in staging their event at a lakeside pavilion even as armed opponents associated with the white nationalist group Michigan Militia parked nearby as a show of force.

Trump won Wexford County, home to Cadillac, with 65% of the vote, similar to neighboring counties in the lightly populated region, where unemployment has run higher than average in Michigan.

In neighboring Grand Traverse County, which Trump won by a smaller margin, more than 2,000 packed Traverse City's Lake Michigan shoreline park to hear protest organizer Courtney Wiggins. The 38-year-old black woman listed demands, including that police in the 95% white town of 14,000 end racial profiling, as armed protesters affiliated with the far-right Proud Boys dotted the perimeter.

Though similar events popped up in exurban Cedarburg and Grafton, keys to Ozaukee County in the GOP-leaning suburbs of Milwaukee, far more have materialized many miles from the major metropolitan areas in these four pivotal states, according to organizers and advocates who have tracked the protests.

In Mount Vernon, Ohio, the seat of Knox County where Trump received 66% of the vote, 700 people turned out on June 6 despite threats from opponents, who staged an impromptu rally later that day. It's the same small town where two years ago the local Christian college was vandalized when leaders put on a racial justice program, and where the Ku Klux Klan had been active in the area over the past century.

Dozens of protests have taken place in counties in these four battleground states that Trump flipped from Democrat to Republican. Among them were Macomb County outside Detroit, Portage and Mahoning

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counties in northeast Ohio, and — perhaps most notably — Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, where voters swung dramatically from President Barack Obama in 2012 to Trump four years later.

Still, the vast majority have taken place in more than 200 small cities and towns across these four states, like Oconto, Wisconsin, Marietta, Ohio, and Meadville, Pennsylvania, all with populations under 20,000 and in counties Trump carried with at least 60% of the vote.

And while the battle for the White House will likely be waged most intensely in these states' diversifying suburbs, where Democrats made gains in 2018, even a slight uptick among Democrats or a softening of Trump support in the vast spaces between could be enough to alter the election.

If Biden carries every state Clinton did in 2016 and reclaims Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, he would win a majority of the Electoral College votes.

Of those states, none was as close as Michigan, which Trump won by 10,704 votes out of more than 4.7 million ballots cast.

A little more than 11,000 voters backed Obama in 2008 and either didn't vote or supported Trump in 2016 in Grand Traverse County and the five counties surrounding it, including Cadillac's home in Wexford County, according to state voting records.

"These marginal numbers, a few extra votes here and there, we're talking, like, a handful of votes per county, and they exist in my six-county region," said Betsy Coffia, a Democratic Grand Traverse County commissioner. "This can make a difference."

## Atlanta police shoot, kill suspect after struggle

**The Associated Press undefined**

ATLANTA (AP) — Authorities in Georgia say a man who resisted being taken into custody by Atlanta police after failing a field sobriety test has been shot and killed.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said it was asked by the Atlanta Police Department to investigate the shooting, which happened at a Wendy's restaurant late Friday.

Numerous videos posted to social media sites showed a small crowd gathered at the scene and protesting the police shooting.

Officers were responding to a complaint of a man in a vehicle parked in the drive-thru who was asleep, causing customers to drive around the vehicle.

After he failed a field sobriety test, the officers attempted to place the man into custody, according to the GBI. But he resisted and a struggle ensued, leading the officer to deploy a Taser.

The GBI said witnesses saw the man grab the Taser away from the officer.

"It has also been reported that the male subject was shot by an officer in the struggle over the Taser," the GBI said in a statement.

The man was transported to a local hospital where he died after surgery, the statement said. The GBI later identified him as 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks of Atlanta.

One officer was treated for an injury and discharged from the hospital.

The officer involved in the shooting was not identified. Once its investigation is complete, the case will be turned over to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office for review.

## Mississippi faces reckoning on Confederate emblem in flag

**By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press**

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The young activists who launched a protest movement after George Floyd's death are bringing fresh energy to a long-simmering debate about the Confederate battle emblem that white supremacists embedded within the Mississippi state flag more than 125 years ago.

Anti-racism protests have toppled Confederate statues and monuments across the United States in recent days, and even NASCAR banned the display of the rebel flag. But Mississippi has been a holdout for years in displaying the emblem in the upper-left corner of its banner.

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Republican Gov. Tate Reeves rejects the idea of a legislative vote on erasing the symbol. If the flag is to be redesigned, "it should be the people who make that decision, not some backroom deal by a bunch of politicians in Jackson," Reeves said this week.

The mere mention of removing the Confederate emblem from the Mississippi flag stirs anger in its defenders, who tell people to leave the state if they don't like it.

The issue has gained new momentum since Floyd was killed last month by Minneapolis police. Thousands of people turned out June 6 in downtown Jackson for a protest organized by Black Lives Matter. One of the organizers, 18-year-old Maisie Brown, read a list of demands that started with "the removal of all Confederate symbols and memorabilia."

A loud cheer rose from the racially diverse crowd on a street outside the Governor's Mansion. Reeves was not home to hear it. He was out of town with his family.

Mississippi, with a 38% black population, still has dozens of rebel soldier statues outside courthouses. It's also the only state with a flag that includes the Confederate battle emblem — a red field with a blue X dotted by 13 white stars.

Reeves has repeatedly refused to answer reporters' questions about whether he thinks the flag properly represents the state. The first-year governor declared April to be Confederate Heritage Month.

Mississippi has used the Confederate emblem in its flag since 1894, when white supremacists in state government adopted it after Reconstruction. Georgia put a large Confederate battle symbol on its state flag in 1956, during a backlash to the civil rights movement. That state purged the symbol from its banner in 2001 — the same year Mississippi voters chose to keep it on their flag.

During two news conferences this week, Reeves would only repeat what he said during the 2019 governor's race — if the flag is going to be changed, it should be done by a statewide election. He said any Mississippi resident can start a new ballot initiative, which requires signatures from more than 100,000 voters.

"When the people believe it's time to change the flag is when the flag will be changed," Reeves said Monday.

Brown, who was born several months after the 2001 Mississippi flag election, said she has little patience for the governor's position.

"I feel like it's a cop-out to say 'I'm going to let Mississippi decide' instead of righting a wrong," Brown said Tuesday. "For Mississippi to show that it cares about its citizens who are not white, they have to take down the flag."

Enacting a law to change the flag would take a veto-proof two-thirds majority in a Republican-led Legislature. Some legislators said this week that they were trying to build a bipartisan coalition to reach that margin, but they acknowledge it's tough. Several lawmakers embrace the flag, and many think their political careers would be ruined by a vote for change.

George C. Bond, leader of the Mississippi Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans, said legislators should not engage in political deals to change the flag. He said hate groups have "misused" the Confederate symbol and that Mississippi National Guard soldiers have carried the state flag into battle beginning with the Spanish-American War and continuing to the current war on terrorism.

"That flag, to them, represented home, represented Mississippi," Bond said.

The 2001 flag referendum included a proposal to replace the Confederate emblem with a blue rectangle topped by circles of white stars to represent Mississippi as the 20th state. Critics derided it as a "pizza flag."

A different design has been gaining traction the past few years, with people flying it at their homes and businesses. The "Stennis flag" has red bars on either end and a white center topped with blue stars — 19 small ones encircling a large 20th one. The flag was designed by Jackson artist Laurin Stennis, granddaughter of U.S. Sen. John C. Stennis, who served 41 years before retiring in 1989.

The elder Stennis was a segregationist much of his career. His granddaughter rejects that mindset, saying she wants her design to unify the state. Critics say Mississippi should not adopt a flag with any connection to the former senator.

Brown said Mississippi leaders of Black Lives Matter want public discussion about a possible new flag design, drawing ideas from diverse groups of people.

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All eight of Mississippi's public universities stopped flying the state flag years ago because of the Confederate symbol. Many removed it after a white supremacist shot and killed worshippers at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015.

Black and white religious leaders in Mississippi issued a statement Thursday calling the flag "a major source of disagreement and discontent." Two dozen took part in a news conference, urging legislators to remove the Confederate symbol. They said a statewide vote would be divisive.

Ronnie Crudup Sr., administrative bishop for the Fellowship of International Churches, said that when his father and other black soldiers were together in their dress uniforms after returning to Mississippi from the Korean War, a white man used a racial slur against them and told them nothing had changed.

"By not changing the flag," Crudup said, "we're saying to the world: 'Nothing has changed.'"

Follow Emily Wagster Pettus on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus>.

## Activists cite tabulation flaw in mail-in ballots in Georgia

By FRANK BAJAK AP Technology Writer

Faulty software or poorly calibrated vote-tabulation scanners used to count mailed-in ballots in this week's chaotic Georgia primary may have prevented thousands of votes from being counted, election officials and voting integrity activists say.

The issue was identified in at least four counties, DeKalb, Morgan, Clarke and Cherokee, according to officials who discovered them, including activists who have sued the state for alleged election mismanagement.

"The fact that it is in multiple counties tells me that it's probably systemic," Richard DeMillo, a Georgia Tech computer scientist who has testified for the plaintiffs, because identical scanners and software were used to count all absentee ballots across the state. DeMillo said the only way to know for sure is through audits.

A top Georgia voting official, voting implementation manager Gabriel Sterling, said Friday that he had seen no evidence yet of the issue and found it difficult to believe the reports were "an active description of what is happening on the ground."

"These are activists who have an ax to grind," he said.

Nearly 1.1 million Georgians voted by mail for Tuesday's primary, which had been delayed twice due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In-person voting Tuesday was beset by cascading failures. Voters waited up to five hours to cast ballots at some polling places due to equipment problems, poll worker unfamiliarity with a new voting system and social distancing measures taken because of the virus. Many voters also showed up to vote in person because absentee ballots they requested never arrived by mail.

The scanners and ballot-marking devices used in all 159 Georgia counties Tuesday are part of a voting equipment package the state purchased for \$120 million from Dominion Voting Systems after a federal judge ordered it to scrap an outdated, untrustworthy system.

In post-election reviews Wednesday, election panels in all four counties detected unregistered votes while examining ballot images flagged by the vote-tallying scanner's software for anomalies.

In Morgan County, Republican-dominated and just southeast of Atlanta, panelists discovered at least 20 votes on scanned ballot images that the program had not recorded, said Jeanne Dufort, a Democrat on the panel. She said it appeared the votes did not register because ovals that were supposed to be filled in were instead checked or marked with X's.

All three panelists agreed to add the unregistered votes to the electronic tally, said Dufort. But on Thursday, the county elections board voted 3-2 not to audit the rest of the roughly 3,000 absentee ballots. The other two panelists, both Republicans, did not return emails and phone calls seeking comment.

"It is a head-in-the-sand approach," Dufort complained.

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In Clarke County, vote review panelist Adam Shirley estimated at least 30 ballots out of about 300 flagged for anomalies had votes that "the system had not marked at all, that had not processed at all."

Shirley, a Democrat, recommended a review of all 15,000 absentee ballots.

In an email Friday to fellow board members, county election board chair Jesse Evans said "it's not just possible but probable that a ballot whose voter had clearly but not completely marked their vote would not have its votes counted by the software."

In an email to Evans, Shirley said he found it disturbing that the software did not flag the uncounted votes. "We only noticed them by sheer luck as we were adjudicating other, flagged contests on ballots."

In Cherokee County, the problem was detected in less than 5% of the flagged ballots, said an elections official who spoke on condition they not be further identified, citing fear of political harassment. The official said the number of flagged ballots was in the hundreds.

In DeKalb, County, review panel member Elizabeth Burns estimated finding between 20-50 uncounted votes on 530 flagged ballots and said her team had so far only reviewed half its 100,000 absentee ballots. Like Shirley, she said her team had stumbled upon the issue. She said she wondered if other counties were even aware of it.

"Maybe not everyone has been as thorough as us and noticed this," she said.

"The detection of this major problem was only because of diligent citizen oversight. The officials charged with the duty to fully test the equipment recklessly failed to responsibly do so, or to audit it," said Marilyn Marks, executive director of the Coalition for Good Governance, which is demanding in court that the state scrap the ballot-marking devices.

Dominion spokeswoman Kay Stimson referred questions to the state, but said in an email that her company's systems "are designed to support robust post-election audits, and we support them as a recommended best practice for elections."

Sterling, the state official, said authorities are willing to consider audits if merited.

Voting security expert Harri Hursti said inadequate pre-election testing may be the cause of the issue. A fix could be as simple as adjusting the contrast settings in the image-capturing software. Or it could be a different coding issue.

The Dominion election system used on Tuesday is proprietary. Hursti said it has never been subjected to an independent security review.

It was, however, denied certification by Texas, which cited "multiple hardware and software issues" identified by state-appointed examiners. They cited a complex installation process and one called the suite "fragile and error prone."

## The Latest: Thousands rally in Paris against excessive force

By The Associated Press undefined

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Thousands rally in Paris for 24-year-old Adama Traore, who died in police custody.
- Paris shops, restaurants close along route of planned march.
- London police impose restrictions as counter protests planned.
- Some SWAT team members resign in South Florida.

PARIS — Thousands gathered in Paris to denounce police brutality and discrimination.

Shouts rose from the largely black crowd as a group of white extreme-right activists climbed a building and unfurled a huge banner denouncing "anti-white racism." Others tried to tear it down.

Police surrounded the area, bracing for potential violence. There's been scattered clashes at largely peaceful demonstrations around France, inspired by Black Lives Matter and global protests in the wake of George Floyd's death.

The march in Paris was led by supporters of Adama Traore, a 24-year-old French black man who died in 2016. Traore didn't have his identity card on him and reportedly ran as the police approached.

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A huge portrait showed a face of half Traore, half Floyd. Traore's sister Assa told the crowd, "We are all demanding the same thing -- fair justice for everyone." She says her brother was also handcuffed and held down by police before he died.

A final report released last month cleared three officers of wrongdoing, triggering renewed protests. This week, the government banned chokeholds in France.

**PARIS** — Police have ordered the closure of newly reopened restaurants and shops along the route of a march in Paris against police brutality and racism, fearing possible violence.

The march between the Place de la Republique in eastern Paris and the city's main opera house is expected to be the biggest of several demonstrations Saturday inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S.

The Paris police chief ordered merchants and city officials to clear sidewalks along the route of anything that could be set on fire or used by troublemakers against police. Any gatherings of more than 10 people remain banned in France because of virus containment measures.

The Paris march was organized by supporters of Adama Traore, a French black man who died in police custody in 2016 in circumstances that remain unclear despite four years of back-and-forth autopsies. They're demanding "justice for Adama and all victims of police."

France has seen several similar demonstrations in the wake of George Floyd's death in the U.S. They've been overwhelmingly peaceful, though some have seen scattered clashes between police and protesters.

Protests are also expected Saturday in Marseille, Lyon and other French cities.

**LONDON** — British police have imposed strict restrictions on groups planning to protest in London Saturday in a bid to avoid violent clashes.

Protesters from the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as far-right groups, have said they plan to gather for demonstrations in central London.

Mayor Sadiq Khan warned that statues in the capital — in particular a statue of Winston Churchill in Parliament Square — could become flash points for violence. He said officials have intelligence that extreme far-right activists want to gather in London "ostensibly, they say, to protect the statues."

Commander Bas Javid urged people not to gather in large groups at all because of the coronavirus. But if they must, he said activists have to stick to the planned route and be off the streets by 5 p.m.

He said that while protesters last weekend were largely peaceful, a minority was "intent on disorder" that resulted in assaults on police and violent behavior.

Dozens were arrested last weekend and a police horse was pictured bolting past the crowds amid the chaos.

**HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla.** — Ten members of a South Florida police department's SWAT team have resigned from the team, citing safety concerns and local officials' "disdain" for the unit.

The eight officers and two sergeants resigned from the team, but did not resign from the Hallandale Beach Police Department.

Police Chief Sonia Quinones received a memo from the SWAT team Friday morning, City Manager Greg Chavarria said in a statement, according to news outlets.

The officers said they were "minimally equipped" and had been "disrespected" by city officials who refused to address equipment and training concerns.

"The risk of carrying out our duties in this capacity is no longer acceptable to us and our families," the officers wrote in the memo, dated June 9. "The anguish and stress of knowing that what we may be lawfully called upon to do in today's political climate combined with the team's current situation and several recent local events, leave us in a position that is untenable."

The officers also said they were outraged that command staff had recently joined protesters and other officials in taking a knee as demonstrators called for the case of Howard Bowe to be reopened.

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"This lack of support by members of the Command Staff is crippling to the agency and its rank and file," the memo said.

Bowe, a 34-year-old black man, was killed in 2014 by Hallandale Beach's SWAT team as it carried out a search warrant and raided his home. The officers wrote that investigators never found that any misconduct had been committed by the officers involved in Bowe's death. The case later resulted in a \$425,000 settlement between Bowe's family and the city.

DALLAS — Dallas officials have agreed to a 90-day ban on the use of tear gas and other less-lethal police crowd-control weapons against demonstrators.

U.S. District Judge Sam Lindsay approved late Thursday a consent decree in which Dallas police agree not to use against peaceful demonstrators smoke bombs, flashbangs, pepperballs, Mace or other chemical agents. They also agree to not fire such impact projectiles as rubber bullets, bean bags or sponges.

The preliminary injunction will remain in effect until Sept. 9 unless extended, amended or dissolved by the judge.

Tasia Williams and Vincent Doyle sued the city and police after rubber bullets injured them during two separate Black Lives Matter marches in Dallas.

The demonstrations are a reaction to the killing of George Floyd by a Minnesota police officer.

SEATTLE — A federal judge has ordered Seattle to temporarily stop using tear gas, pepper spray and flash bang devices to break up peaceful protests.

The 14-day edict is a victory for groups who say authorities overreacted to demonstrations in the city after the death of George Floyd. A Black Lives Matter group sued the Seattle Police Department this week to halt the violent tactics police have used to break up largely peaceful protests in recent days.

Officers used tear gas, pepper spray and other less-lethal weapons against crowds that have demonstrated against racism and police brutality following the killing of Floyd in Minneapolis.

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best apologized to peaceful protesters who were subjected to chemical weapons. However, Best has said some demonstrators had violently targeted police, throwing projectiles and ignoring orders to disperse.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's law and order and misinformation

By HOPE YEN, CALVIN WOODWARD and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Ugh," said a Republican senator. "How crude," said a Democratic governor.

President Donald Trump set off plenty of reactions like that when he peddled a baseless conspiracy theory about an activist who landed hard on the ground, and then in intensive care, in what prosecutors call an assault by police.

Trump's week of law and order rhetoric came with heavy doses of misinformation as he stretched to blame unrest on radical leftists and to put three loaded words — "defund the police" — in the mouth of a Democratic rival who doesn't support them.

Meantime, the coronavirus pandemic is still growing in nearly half the states. Trump and his aides said little about it except to keep up the push to reopen the country. The United States surpassed 2 million COVID-19 cases in the past week; more than 114,000 have died from it in this country.

A look at some claims and reality:

GEORGE FLOYD PROTESTS

TRUMP: "Buffalo protester shoved by Police could be an ANTIFA provocateur. 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?" — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: There's no evidence that Gugino was an "ANTIFA provocateur" or that he was trying to "black out" police equipment. And Trump doesn't explain the physics behind his theory that Gugino fell

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harder than he was pushed.

Trump referred to a report from the One America News Network, which cited an uninformed blog arguing that Gugino was using antifa-like tactics, such as "a method of police tracking used by Antifa to monitor the location of police."

Top tech experts called that claim confounding.

It is possible to disrupt police radio — an illegal action often called "jamming" — but hackers do that by attacking receiving stations, not with handheld devices that target an individual police officer's radio, Matt Blaze, a professor of computer science and law at Georgetown University, told The Associated Press.

"Any radio system is subject to interference, but it doesn't work by pointing some sort of ray gun and interfering," Blaze said. "That just doesn't make any sense."

Gugino was hospitalized in the intensive care unit last weekend after being pushed by police. He was seen bleeding from his head as officers walked away. Friends say he's a retiree and a veteran peace activist — not an "antifa provocateur."

Two Buffalo, New York, police officers have been charged with second-degree assault. The officers, who could face prison sentences of up to seven years if convicted, pleaded not guilty.

Many Republican lawmakers averted their eyes, as is typical with Trump's rawest provocations. But for the wavering Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, it was another thing to consider as she mulls over whether she will support him in the election. "Oh lord," she said when shown the tweet. "Ugh." She added: "Again, why would you fan the flames? That's all I'm going to say."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo had more to say: "How reckless, how irresponsible, how mean, how crude." He implored Trump to "show some decency. Show some humanity. Show some fairness." Like Murkowski, he spoke of flames being fueled.

TRUMP: "Domestic Terrorists have taken over Seattle." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: No they haven't.

After days of violent confrontations with protesters, Seattle police largely and temporarily withdrew from several city blocks and boarded up a precinct station, leaving protesters to set up a festive scene with speeches, activism, art and music. This was far from taking over a city, and authorities do not consider the protesters to be terrorists.

Gov. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., said Thursday that the zone was largely peaceful and "peaceful protests are fundamentally American."

As Trump has branded protesters "radical-left, bad people" engaging in domestic terrorism, he has frequently invoked "antifa," an umbrella term for leftist militants bound more by belief than organizational structure. Federal officials have presented scant evidence that such radicals were involved.

Some Democrats initially tried to blame out-of-state far-right infiltrators for unrest before backing down on that claim.

The AP found that the great majority of people arrested in Minneapolis and the District of Columbia in one weekend of protests were local residents and few were affiliated with organized groups.

TRUMP: "Sleepy Joe Biden and the Radical Left Democrats want to 'DEFUND THE POLICE.'" — tweet June 7.

THE FACTS: No, Biden does not join the call of protesters who demanded "defund the police" after Floyd's killing.

"I don't support defunding the police," Biden said Monday in a CBS interview. But he said he would support conditioning federal aid to police based on whether "they meet certain basic standards of decency, honorableness and, in fact, are able to demonstrate they can protect the community, everybody in the community."

Biden's criminal justice agenda, released long before he became the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee, proposes more federal money for "training that is needed to avert tragic, unjustifiable deaths"

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and hiring more officers to ensure that departments are racially and ethnically reflective of the populations they serve.

Specifically, he calls for a \$300 million infusion into existing federal community policing grant programs.

That adds up to more money for police, not defunding law enforcement.

Biden also wants the federal government to spend more on education, social services and struggling areas of cities and rural America, to address root causes of crime.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM BARR**, citing escalating protests outside the White House following George Floyd's May 25 death in Minneapolis: "The things were so bad the Secret Service recommended the president go down to the bunker." — Fox News on Monday.

**THE FACTS:** Here Barr is fact checking the president, who claimed a week earlier that he only visited the White House bunker to inspect it, not out of concern for his safety.

"I went down during the day, and I was there for a tiny little short period of time, and it was much more for an inspection," Trump told Fox News on June 3. "They said it would be a good time to go down — take a look because maybe sometime you're going to need it."

News organizations, including the AP, had reported that Secret Service agents rushed Trump on May 29 to a White House bunker, where he spent nearly an hour — not just a "tiny little short period of time" — as demonstrations outside the executive mansion intensified. The bunker is designed for use in emergencies such as terrorist attacks.

Trump had been unhappy with news coverage revealing that he had been spirited to the bunker, believing that it made him appear weak.

## HEALTH CARE

**TRUMP**, on veterans health care: "Before I came here, the vets would wait on line. ... And for years and years, they've been trying to get Veterans Choice. ... Now, most importantly, we take care of our vets." — Meeting with pastors, law enforcement officers and others in Dallas on Thursday.

**THE FACTS:** That is the latest iteration of his frequently told false claim to have achieved Veterans Choice when other presidents couldn't. President Barack Obama achieved it. Trump expanded it. The program lets veterans, under certain conditions, get private health care at public expense. It has not eliminated waits for care.

## CRIME

**TRUMP:** "This year has seen the lowest crime numbers in our Country's recorded history." — tweet Monday.

**THE FACTS:** Not so. First, this year's numbers are not compiled. Also, FBI statistics show the violent crime rate was lower in 2014 than in 2018, the most recent year recorded. Also, crime overall was substantially lower in the 1950s and 1960s, grew after that and has been on a downward trend since the 1990s, with variations along the way.

Police departments reported 368.9 violent crimes per 100,000 people in 2018, compared with 361.6 four years earlier.

The murder rate was 5 people per 100,000 in 2018. That rate was lower every year from 2010 to 2015.

Seitz reported from Chicago. Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apnews.com/APFactCheck>

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## The Latest: China to offer tests, ventilators to Africa

By The Associated Press undefined

JOHANNESBURG — African leaders say China will ensure the supply of 30 million testing kits and 10,000 ventilators each month for the African continent as the coronavirus pandemic accelerates there.

A statement by the South African president's office says the supplies will be available for purchase via a new continental platform that African nations set up to negotiate cheaper prices for urgently needed medical equipment amid intense global competition.

The head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said each African nation will be given a quota based on its population and number of virus cases. The South African statement says Canada, the Netherlands, South Korea and France also have been partners in the effort.

African nations have been outspoken about the need for equitable distribution of supplies, including eventual treatments and vaccines for the virus, saying the pandemic won't be over until the entire world is protected.

Africa has conducted 3 million tests for the virus, far short of its goal of about 13 million.

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

- Lives Lost: Weatherman built career on skills learned in war
- France has millions of unsold face masks after virus crisis
- Treasury chief refusing to disclose recipients of virus aid
- In the sprawling refugee camps of Sudan's Darfur, officials say people are falling sick and dying at astonishing rates. Humanitarian workers and medical personnel believe the coronavirus is spreading unchecked and untracked through Sudan's most marginalized territory. Medical facilities are few and far between in the large western territory.
- Most Americans say they are wearing masks. They are still by and large avoiding restaurants. And the vast majority are still staying at least six feet from others. A new poll finds most Americans aren't ready to abandon precautionary measures in response to the coronavirus, even as states and metropolitan areas relax restrictions.
- In the battle against COVID-19, public health workers spread across states, cities and small towns make up an invisible army on the front lines. But that army is under assault when it's needed most. Elected officials and members of the public frustrated with lockdowns and safety restrictions have turned public health workers into politicized punching bags, battering them with angry calls and physical threats.

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

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

MOSCOW — Ukraine has recorded its highest daily count of new coronavirus infections for the third day in a row, more than double the count earlier in the month.

The health ministry on Saturday reported 753 new cases, compared with 683 the previous day.

In early June, Ukraine was recording fewer than 350 new cases a day. Overall, Ukraine counts 30,506 confirmed infection cases and 880 deaths.

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa says the average delay in obtaining coronavirus test results from public labs has risen to 12 days amid backlogs and shortages of testing materials.

South Africa represents well over a quarter of Africa's virus cases, with more than 61,000. The country has conducted about a third of the virus tests in Africa, and countries with fewer resources could face similar delays or worse.

The longer it takes to confirm a positive case, the greater the risk that an infected person is unknowingly spreading the virus.

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South Africa's latest weekly report by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, issued late Friday and ending June 6, says the average time to process tests at public labs has grown from a little over two days a month ago.

Public labs earlier were handling three-fourths of coronavirus testing but that dropped to just over one-fourth as of June 6. Turnaround time in testing by private labs is less than two days.

South Africa's overall number of tests conducted has dropped since mid-May, also likely reflecting shortages. The African continent overall has more than 225,000 cases.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said Saturday that the coronavirus pandemic has challenged many assumptions.

In a message for the 4th World Day of the Poor, which will be celebrated Nov. 15, the pope said that "we feel poorer and less self-sufficient because we have come to sense our limitations and the restriction of our freedom."

He said the loss of jobs along with the chance to spend more time with loved ones "suddenly opened our eyes to horizons that we have long since taken for granted," and that the period of lockdown allowed many to rediscover "the importance of simplicity, and of keeping our eyes fixed on the essentials."

He also said that the pandemic "has made us all the more aware of the presence of the poor in our midst and their need for help," and that its sudden arrival sparked "a powerful sense of bewilderment and helplessness" that also demonstrated "our own need for an outstretched hand."

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani authorities have identified and sealed off nearly 1,300 hot spots to contain the rising trajectory of new coronavirus infections.

The sealing of high-risk area comes as Pakistan reported 6,472 news cases on Saturday, the country's highest single-day total. Pakistan has confirmed a total of 132,405 cases, including 2,551 deaths.

Pakistan put its entire population of 220 million under lockdown in March. The government has since eased restrictions, saying it was necessary to save the country's economy, but it has caused a surge in infections.

Prime minister Imran Khan has resisted demands from experts to reinforce the lockdown.

Authorities, however, are now using the term "smart lockdown" to close shops and markets and force people to stay home in areas where confirmed cases have increased in recent weeks. Some residential areas were also sealed in the capital, Islamabad, to contain the spread of the virus.

BEIJING — The Chinese capital has locked down 11 residential communities near a wholesale food market to try to stem a new outbreak of COVID-19.

Beijing officials said Saturday that 45 workers at the Xinfadi market tested positive for the coronavirus, though they showed no symptoms. That was in addition to an earlier announcement of seven people with symptoms who had visited or worked at the market.

Forty environmental samples taken at the market also tested positive, city officials said.

The Beijing News newspaper said in a social media post that Communist Party members and volunteers were being organized to shop for food and other daily necessities for the affected residents.

The city, which had not had a locally transmitted infection in more 50 days, reversed some recent moves to relax coronavirus restrictions.

Authorities delayed the planned reopening of schools on Monday for first to third graders and suspended athletics events. One immediate casualty was an orienteering race slated for Saturday, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The National Center for the Performing Arts, which had just reopened on June 2, reclosed, according to a media report.

NEW DELHI — India reported another record daily spike in coronavirus infections as the country passed

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the grim milestone of 300,000 cases.

The Health Ministry reported 11,458 new cases on Saturday and 386 deaths, driving the toll of fatalities up to 8,884.

India's total caseload reached 308,993, the four-highest in the world, including more than 150,000 recoveries.

The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed a nationwide in late March. India's caseload jumped by about 100,000 cases in a week, which coincided with the reopening of shopping malls, houses of worship and restaurants.

In the capital of New Delhi, most public hospitals are full, and crematoriums and graveyards are struggling to manage a rash of bodies. Delhi's government has projected that cases in the capital area alone could expand to more than half a million by late July, and is considering taking over luxury hotels and stadiums to convert into field hospitals.

**UNITED NATIONS** — The U.N. secretary-general says COVID-19 travel restrictions have left hundreds of thousands of the world's 2 million seafarers stranded at sea for months, and is calling on countries to designate them and other marine personnel as key workers.

Antonio Guterres also called on nations to ensure that crews can leave vessels and be replaced safely, according to a statement Friday from U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

The U.N. chief said the maximum time for seafarers to spend at sea under international conventions is being ignored, with some marooned on vessels for 15 months.

Guterres said U.N. agencies, including the International Labor Organization and the International Maritime Organization, have worked with the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers Federation to develop protocols for crew changeovers, "taking full account of public health concerns."

**BEIJING** — Beijing closed the city's largest wholesale food market Saturday after the discovery of seven coronavirus cases in the previous two days.

The Xinfadi market, which has 4,000 tenants, will be disinfected after workers tested positive and the virus was found in the environment, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The National Health Commission said that six new cases were confirmed in Beijing on Friday. Another case was reported Thursday. They are the first locally transmitted cases in the Chinese capital in more than 50 days.

Attention focused on the market after the discovery of the first three cases. Two of the infected people had been to the market, and the third worked with one of them at a meat research institute, according to Chinese media reports.

City officials said late Friday that all the workers were being tested for the coronavirus. They also ordered the testing of food and environmental samples from all the city's wholesale food markets.

**SEOUL, South Korea** — South Korea has reported 49 new coronavirus cases.

Most most of them are in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where health authorities have been struggling to slow transmissions linked to entertainment and leisure activities, church gatherings and low-income workers who can't afford to stay home.

The figures released Saturday brought national totals to 12,051 cases and 277 deaths.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 44 of the new cases are in greater capital area, which is home to half the country's 51 million people.

Agency director Jung Eun-kyeong is urging residents in the capital area to stay home over the weekend, saying there is "high concern" that increased public activity will lead to widespread circulation of the virus.

**GUATEMALA CITY** — The spread of the coronavirus is encroaching on Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei.

He says 58 employees in the presidential offices have tested positive for the virus, up from 18 on Sunday.

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Those who have tested positive include people from administration and security areas. Giammattei says he has been tested multiple times, but always has come out negative.

On Friday, Guatemala reported more than 8,600 infections and 351 deaths.

BEIJING — Officials in China's capital are moving quickly to stem a new coronavirus outbreak after the discovery of seven cases the past two days.

The National Health Commission said six of the cases were confirmed in Beijing on Friday, a day after the first was reported. They are the first locally transmitted cases in the city in more than 50 days.

Chinese media said at least two of the infected people had visited a wholesale market dealing in fresh food. Authorities said all workers at the Xinfadi market were being tested for the virus and testing of food and environmental samples had been ordered for all Beijing's wholesale food markets.

Earlier, the city said it was delaying the planned reopening of school Monday for first to third graders because of the new cases.

SAN DIEGO — A top U.S. Border Patrol official says coronavirus cases are on the rise in certain pockets of the agency.

Deputy Chief Raul Ortiz said Friday that 93 Border Patrol employees and 16 people in custody have tested positive for the virus. He says that is "relatively low" but adds that "we are not out of the woods just yet."

Ortiz tells employees that there have been "indications of localized increases" among Border Patrol personnel. He doesn't say where in an email to agents that was obtained by The Associated Press, and the agency didn't immediately respond to questions.

AP reported Thursday that border states Arizona and Texas have seen a recent rise in coronavirus cases.

AUSTIN, Texas — Daily coronavirus hospitalizations in Texas have reached a new high for a third time in four days as state officials continue to loosen restrictions on public activities.

Health officials said Friday that 2,166 patients were in Texas hospitals with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. That is 13 more than the previous high reached Wednesday.

Nineteen more COVID-19 deaths also were reported Friday, bringing the state's overall toll to 1,939.

Officials said almost 2,100 new coronavirus infections had been confirmed, bringing the state's total to 83,680.

The actual number is likely higher because many people have not been tested. Studies have found that many people can be infected and not feel sick, so may not seek testing.

## Fans savor return of stadium sport in virus-free New Zealand

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

DUNEDIN, New Zealand (AP) — They call one section of the stadium The Zoo, and it's easy to see why: thousands of university students in team colors standing on their seats, steadying trays of beer, swaying to music and erupting with joy when their team scores.

"Craziness," is how 20-year-old student Charlotte Power described the scene. "Dancing, partying. Hopefully no fights."

New Zealand on Saturday became one of the first nations in the world to welcome hordes of fans back into a packed sports stadium, thanks to the country's remarkable success in eliminating the coronavirus.

As countries try to reopen after lockdowns, the evening rugby match marked a milestone of sorts, and its importance wasn't lost on fans.

After instituting a strict lockdown in March, New Zealand has not reported any new cases of the coronavirus for more than three weeks, and says all those who contracted the disease have now recovered. Earlier in the week, the country removed just about every remaining virus restriction, with the notable exception of keeping the border closed.

That meant there were no masks or social distancing required when more than 20,000 fans poured into

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the Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin to watch Saturday's match between the local Highlanders and the Chiefs, who had traveled from Hamilton.

"It's massive," the country's sports minister, Grant Robertson, said on the sidelines. "It's a world first and it's a payoff for all the hard work of 5 million New Zealanders."

Robertson said he's been fielding calls from India and beyond from people curious to know how professional sports can proceed without virus restrictions. He said there's something special about being at a game.

"Anyone who's a fan of live sport or even live music knows that if you're there, it's totally different," he said.

For fan Iki Uele, it was a pleasure just seeing all the people.

"Everyone has been dying for this moment," he said. "Being locked down, we just needed something to vent out."

Uele said he did have concerns that somebody in the crowd might have the virus without knowing it. But he was willing to take the chance.

German exchange student Johanna Lindner said she'd never watched a rugby match before, and people back home were both curious and perhaps a little envious.

"It's a great opportunity to socialize again," she said. "To bring the country together since New Zealand is turning into one bubble. I think it's really important to lift people's mood a little bit."

Peter Miskimmin, the chief executive of government agency Sport New Zealand, said the return of stadium games is enormously significant, and that sports are part of the nation's DNA.

"I don't think anyone has yet replicated that sense of excitement of being in a crowd, and the passions that flow from that," he said. "To be in a stadium and to feel it, and to even influence the game. The players know that the crowd is there."

During Saturday's match, the momentum, and the lead, swung back and forth. The crowd got a laugh and a break from the mounting tension when a streaker wearing nothing but shoes braved the frigid winter weather and burst across the field. Then, with 2 minutes left on the clock, the home team scored a go-ahead drop goal.

As the final hooter sounded and the Highlanders kicked out the ball to win 28-27, the fans screamed and hugged. The players slapped each other on their backs and embraced.

All thoughts of social distancing were long gone.

## Thousands gather for Black Lives Matter rallies in Australia

By RICK RYCROFT Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Protests went ahead in support of the Black Lives Matter movement in far-flung parts of Australia on Saturday against the advice of government and health authorities but on a significantly smaller scale than the previous weekend, when tens of thousands rallied in cities along the east coast.

The biggest demonstration was in Perth, the Western Australia state capital, where the Australian Broadcasting Corp. estimated that 5,000 people gathered to honor George Floyd and remember indigenous Australian people who have died while in custody.

Floyd, a black man, died in handcuffs on May 25 while a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck. His death has prompted weeks of protests in the U.S. and around the world with the same theme: Black Lives Matter.

The threat of rain and lack of a city council permit meant the Perth rally didn't reach the expected 8,000-15,000 people organizers had hoped would attend.

Hannah McGlade, a human rights lawyer and activist, called for an independent investigation into indigenous deaths in custody and rejected calls from politicians for people not to gather for the protests.

"They told us not to come. They told us to be silent. We will not be silent," McGlade said.

Western Australia state Premier Mark McGowan had urged organizers to postpone the event, saying "this is about trying to save people's lives."

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A man in his 30s who attended the rally in Melbourne last weekend later tested positive for the coronavirus, heightening concerns about a potential second wave in Australia just as the federal and state governments are easing restrictions.

Western Australia COVID-19 regulations prohibit crowds of more than 300 from gathering, although police weren't enforcing social distancing fines and organizers offered face masks and hand sanitizer to protesters on Saturday.

The nationwide day of protests started in the far north, with more than 1,000 people gathering in City Park in Darwin, which has the highest proportion of Aboriginal people of Australia's state capitals.

Police in the North Territory issued a statement saying the event was peaceful "and allowed community members to express their views in a safe environment."

Sharna Alley, one of the Darwin protest organizers, told the crowd in comments broadcast by Sky News Australia: "We're tired of the injustices. We're tired of the brutality against our people in so-called protective custody. We really want to know, when will it stop."

Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders comprise 2% of Australia's adult population but 27% of the prison population. They are also the most disadvantaged ethnic minority in the country and have higher-than-average rates of infant mortality and poorer overall health, as well as shorter life expectancy and lower levels of education and employment than other Australians.

Refugee activists held small rallies in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to protest the detention of asylum seekers, despite warnings from police saying anyone attending the Sydney protest risked being fined and arrested.

An estimated 70 protesters were outnumbered by police at Sydney's Town Hall.

Police, including some mounted on horseback, counted protesters as they gathered and dispersed groups of more than 20.

New South Wales state Police Assistant Commissioner Michael Willing said the Sydney protests were not authorized and "we'll take whatever action we need to take to ensure that the COVID health order is abided by and that the community is kept safe."

## Despite risks, Greek islands keen to reopen to tourists

By DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

MYKONOS, Greece (AP) — Mykonos' newest bar-restaurant, Pelican, seemed to appear from nowhere. Tables, coffee machines, light fittings, music mixers and staff wearing matching black face masks were still being slotted into place as Greek visitors trickled in at the start of a long holiday weekend. Owner Vasilis Theodorou says he's in a hurry to get back to business.

Greece is, too.

Heavily reliant on tourism, the country officially opens to foreign arrivals Monday. Its hopes are pinned on prime destinations like the islands of Mykonos, Rhodes, Corfu, Crete and Santorini, where regular ferry services have already resumed and direct international flights will start July 1.

Greece has gambled on a decision to relax COVID-19 health inspections at ports and airports to try to avoid another crippling recession, having only recently emerged from a painful financial crisis.

"Business will be 80% down (this year). So we're waiting for the 20%, and we're happy because we know that's what it will be," Theodorou said.

"No matter how much we wish for it and want it, it won't be more than that. We expect that tourists from central Europe will come first, and hopefully Americans at a later stage. They are our best customers."

Timely and strictly enforced lockdown measures have so far kept the infection rate in Greece low and the death toll below 200.

But reopening means islands — many with only basic health facilities and previously sheltered from the outbreak on the Greek mainland — will again be receiving visitors from around the world far in excess of the local population.

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Mykonos Mayor Konstantinos Koukas told the AP that islanders feel prepared and have clear government guidelines.

"We want to open back up and we are heading into the 2020 season with optimism," he said. "But we are fully aware that ... (it) will be nothing like the season in 2019 — and hopefully nothing like the season in 2021."

An island that to many epitomizes high-life and hedonism, Mykonos would normally look very different in early June.

Its winding whitewashed streets would be packed. High-paying customers would be spilling out of the bars, eyeing luxury storefronts and competing with crowds from cruise ships for a restaurant table. VIP watchers have spotted pop star Katy Perry and soccer great Cristiano Ronaldo among a large crop of celebrities seen here in recent summers.

This year, beaches are empty, rented cars fill fenced-off lots, and most stores remain padlocked. Stray cats and the island's mascot, a large, light pink pelican, roam the streets for company.

Mosaic artist Irene Syrianiou has kept her workshop open despite the lack of customers. "We watch the news and hope for the best," she says, cracking pieces of marble into chips with a hammer.

"Nearly all my customers are American, whether it's buying pieces of art, making orders online, or attending classes I give during the summer," she said, before adding with a chuckle: "So it's going to be a tough year. But I'm an artist and I've gone hungry before."

The government's reopening policy has been criticized by the left-wing Syriza main opposition party, which argued tougher controls should be kept in place, with authorities only permitting travel to those recently tested in countries of origin.

Health Minister Vassilis Kikilias Friday insisted that a safety net had been built for the islands — with connections to each other and to mainland hospitals for testing and health evacuations. The network of doctors and support staff will be deployed with the help of more than 100 mobile units in cars and speed boats, and backed by the coast guard, air force, and civil authorities. The health ministry will also have 11 futuristic-looking "transit capsules" that can be used for patients heading to intensive care facilities.

"Each island will be attached to a fully equipped mainland hospital," Kikilias said.

Greece's gamble follows a decade of tourism growth and increasing reliance on the industry, with annual visitor numbers more than doubling since 2010 to 34 million last year and revenue up 80% to some 18 billion euros (\$20.2 billion).

During many of those years, the country teetered on the brink of bankruptcy and exit from the euro currency bloc, while Greeks endured harsh economic austerity in return for three international bailouts.

Tourism Minister Harry Theoharis, once Greece's top official for tax and revenues, said Friday that the country is determined to support its tourism industry.

"We're sending a clear message to the world's traveling public that we won't take a step back, either in health safeguards or in opening up the country." \_\_\_ Iliana Mier on Mykonos contributed. \_\_\_ Follow Gatopoulos at <http://www.twitter.com/dgatopoulos>

## In Zimbabwe, people with albinism struggle against prejudice

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Each time Yvonne Gumbo, who has albinism, and her friends get together for a picture, she insists on being in the center.

"I tell them I make the picture beautiful because I am special," she told The Associated Press at her home in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, recently.

"I have two different colors while they have one. I am black. I am white," she said, smiling. "Who else can make the picture more beautiful?"

It's the 22-year old's way of fighting back against the deeply rooted myths and prejudices faced by people with albinism in Zimbabwe, where they are often ostracized, laughed at and pejoratively referred to as "white people" among other names.

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While much of the world is engrossed in the race-related outrage over the death of George Floyd in the United States, Zimbabwe's young people with albinism are fighting prejudices against the color of their skin.

In nearby Malawi and Tanzania, many people with albinism are killed because their body parts are thought to bring good luck. No such killings have been reported in Zimbabwe, which has about 70,000 people with albinism out of a population of about 15 million.

But prejudices remain deep-rooted.

Some people stare, whistle or verbally abuse those with albinism when they walk along the streets. Some believe sleeping with them can cure HIV. Many others treat albinism as a curse.

But for Gumbo, none of that bothers her anymore. These days she carries an aura of confidence she admits was absent during the first two decades of her life.

"I only started living my life two years ago. The stigma had gotten to me that most times. I felt I wasn't as human as the others. I am now making up for those lost years," Gumbo said. She said she only started making friends after she finished school, where she had been treated as an outcast by fellow students and even teachers.

"I was very quiet and afraid. Now my former classmates are shocked at how talkative and assertive I have become," she said, attributing her newfound confidence to her membership in support groups.

Such programs include an annual Miss Albinism and Mr Albinism pageant, although it has been put on hold this year due to coronavirus restrictions.

"We have to focus on success, not pity," said Brenda Mudzimu, founder of the Miss Albinism Trust, which runs the pageant. The trust also offers career guidance workshops and support sessions for people with albinism.

"Right now we have albinos who are doctors, nurses ... success stories on the frontline of the fight against coronavirus. We also have to talk about them to inspire others," Mudzimu said.

However, the economic downturn caused by the restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19 means that many people with albinism are struggling to put food on the table, let alone afford essential items such as sunscreen, skin lotions and other medications.

The Zimbabwe Albino Association, a representative group, has been lobbying parliament to enact a law making it mandatory for government to provide free skin lotions to people with albinism.

Joyce Mutenje used to provide for her three children, who all have albinism, by washing laundry and household cleaning for traders at a busy border town before the lockdown. But now the border trade has stopped and Mutenje has run out of money to get skin cream for her children.

"This is all that's left," said Mutenje, holding two small tubes of lotion. She hopes to make it last for two weeks by telling the children to put the lotion only on their faces.

Obey Machona, a 21-year-old media studies student at the University of Zimbabwe, said he is an advocate of "taking back control of our lives as albinos." He said he used to support himself and his unemployed mother with part-time photography jobs. Now those gigs have dried up due to the lockdown and items such as skin lotion have become a luxury.

"What good is skin lotion when the stomach is empty?" he asked.

## France has millions of unsold face masks after virus crisis

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The French praised the altruism of their prized textile and luxury goods companies when production facilities got diverted from churning out the latest fashions to making cloth masks designed to protect the general public from the coronavirus.

Now, the companies that helped France avoid a feared shortage of virus-filtering face wear for everyday use say they need help unloading a surplus of 20 million masks. They asked the French government for assistance promoting and finding buyers for the unsold output of the industry's national effort.

Hundreds of textile and clothing manufacturers answered the government's call for millions of masks superior to homemade versions. President Emmanuel Macron last month sported a military-tested model

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embroidered with the tri-color national flag to advertise the "Made in France" masks.

Yet within weeks, demand dried up for the domestically produced masks that sold for a few euros at supermarkets and pharmacies or were available in bulk for free distribution by businesses and local governments. Manufacturers and the government acknowledged that many suppliers and consumers still opted for cheaper disposable face masks from Asia.

"They were more readily available," Guillaume Gibault, founder of trendy underwear brand Le Slip Français (The French Brief), told French public radio service RFI.

Gibault sees the slump as a marketing and distribution problem. The washable, specially engineered masks produced by his company and others saw "a very strong and immediate demand" before the excess accessories piled up in warehouses and factories.

"Not everyone necessarily knew about what was available around them, and the public didn't necessarily know where or what to buy," he said.

Some textile companies complained that the French government was slow to validate their masks as effective in filtering out small particles, which slowed their ability to get to market before people were allowed to start emerging from their homes and needed masks in stores or on public transportation.

A group of industry representatives got time with two junior government ministers this week to discuss the surplus masks, as well as broader concerns about the health of fashion, textiles and luxury goods makers amid the economic fallout of the pandemic and in the long term.

After the meeting, the ministers offered praise and pledged the government's help to spread the word to distributors, local governments and other potential customers about the environmental and employment benefits of the French masks and finding buyers at home and abroad for the surplus stock.

Agnes Pannier-Runacher, state secretary to France's economy minister, told French broadcaster RTL that the government's objective "is to convince large buyers to switch from single-use masks to reusable washable textile masks." Gibault and French Textile Industry Union President Yves Dubief agreed to lead the mission.

"In a few weeks, the French textile industry has managed to mobilize and redirect its productive apparatus on our territory in order to provide the French durable textile masks with guaranteed filtration in sufficient quantities," Pannier-Runacher said. "This impressive effort is to be commended. It must now be long-term and be given support."

The French Textile Industry Union was the first to sound the alarm in early June on this problem of surplus.

"The demand was such that no one had anticipated such a brutal halt. But in the textile industry, once launched, production does not stop with a snap of the fingers," Dubief told French magazine Challenges.

Some French companies were disgruntled because it was the French government that urged many of them to get into mask-making and to increase capacity so the country would produce 5 million masks a day that could be sold or given to the general public, local governments and corporations by mid-May.

The knitwear manufacturer behind the mask Macron flashed during a school visit at the beginning of May, Chanteclair, has a lot more where the president's came from. Owner Thomas Delise also has many unanswered questions.

The French government said this week that part of the joint industry-government mission will be "to support the sector in adjusting its production capacities to collective needs in masks over the next few months." For his part, Delise thinks that blocking large imports with trade barriers might help what ails his company.

"We don't know how the pandemic will evolve. We don't know which instructions the government will give, we don't know what kind of equipment the professionals will want. So today, yes, we have a surplus stock of 600,000 masks and it obviously has an impact on my company."

## Spike in deaths in Darfur points to virus' invisible spread

By ISABEL DEBRE and SAM MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — In the sprawling refugee camps of Darfur, the war-scarred western region of Sudan, officials say the elderly are falling sick and dying at astonishing rates.

In North Darfur's provincial capital of El Fasher, some say they scroll through a dozen death announcements each day: Another old friend, relative, community leader lost with dizzying speed.

Doctors in the region's few functioning hospitals report an influx of patients with symptoms like a lost sense of taste, breathing troubles and fevers. The official causes of their untimely deaths remain "unknown."

Humanitarian workers and medical personnel believe the coronavirus is spreading unchecked and untracked through Sudan's most marginalized territory, where medical facilities are few and far between and where years of conflict have left some 1.6 million people crammed into refugee camps.

Nationwide, Sudan has reported 6,879 coronavirus infections and 433 deaths, according to the Health Ministry. Of those, 193 cases and 54 fatalities have been confirmed across Darfur — a figure experts believe is a vast undercount.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, public health officials have sounded the alarm that the coronavirus will take a disastrous toll on the world's most vulnerable regions, particularly refugee camps, where social distancing, even hand-washing, prove impossible.

"People in the camps are suffocating, they can't breathe," said Mohamed Hassan Adam, director of Abushouk displacement camp in North Darfur. Just a corner of the camp saw 64 unexplained deaths in one month, he said. His four neighbors, all in their sixties, grew feeble and vanished one by one.

"They get exhausted then they die. There is no way to tell what happened," he said.

Authorities are scrambling to curb the spread of contagion amid a fragile democratic transition after massive protests last year toppled longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

"We are in the eye of the storm," said Ashraf Issa, spokesman for the U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, referring to the country's exponential surge in infections.

Sudan's health care system is in disarray after years of war and sanctions. Dire shortages of protective equipment and staff nationwide prompted strikes by medical workers as infections rise in their ranks. A drastic undersupply of drugs and hard currency forces the sick to purchase essential medicine out of pocket. A lack of fuel has made it increasingly difficult for doctors and patients to reach hospitals.

"These are the problems that Sudan faces everywhere, but in Darfur it is more severe," said Dr. Babikir El Magboul, director of the Health Ministry's Emergency and Epidemiology Department. "It's like a separate continent."

Many in Darfur's camps are undernourished and weakened by infectious diseases like malaria and acute watery diarrhea. At Abushouk camp, each bathroom is shared by dozens of people. Around the territory, markets and mosques — along with a growing number of funerals — continue to draw crowds.

Darfur, with a population of 9 million, has only around 600 health facilities, or one per 15,000 people. With facilities scattered over an area the size of Spain, residents in rural areas must travel long distances to reach one. Doctors say quarantine centers have no more than a few dozen beds, two or three ventilators and cheap gowns and surgical masks for protection equipment.

Before a new testing center opened this month in Nyala, South Darfur, testing was centralized in one laboratory in the capital, Khartoum, which processes just around 270 samples each day. Health workers in Darfur say that results can take a week to come through.

To fill the gap, some local doctors are working to grasp the virus' toll.

When El Fasher saw a spike in over 200 "mysterious" fatalities in just two weeks, officials launched an investigation. Dr. Taher Ahmed, deputy dean of El Fasher University's medical college, attributed around 50 fatalities to COVID-19, but said it was still likely an undercount. Doctors in West and Central Darfur provinces also reported an unusual increase in deaths.

Dr. Abdullah Adam, a radiology doctor, said he knew of 47 acquaintances who died the past month after showing coronavirus symptoms in villages around Kabkabiya, near El-Fasher. Among them were two of his uncles, he said. One family he knew lost a brother and sister in the same week.

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Some camps in the north saw 10 to 15 people a day dying the past week, compared to the normal rate of 5 to 10 a month, said Adam Regal, spokesman for a local organization that runs some camps.

"We're losing a whole generation," said Gamal Abdulkarim Abdullah, director of Zam Zam camp. He said he documented 70 dead the past week.

"The sharp mortality increase in Darfur is mostly linked to COVID-19, although not purely," said Dr. El Magboul. Amid the pandemic, people with other illnesses are struggling to find treatment. Yousef Saleh, the 70-year-old leader of El Fasher's Great Mosque, died earlier this month because he couldn't receive his usual diabetes care.

Darfur's violent past has bred distrust that further corrodes government health efforts.

Conflict flared in the territory when African minority rebels launched a revolt in 2003 over oppression by al-Bashir's Arab-dominated government. Al-Bashir waged a brutal counterinsurgency campaign, including mass rapes and killings. The trauma remains even after al-Bashir's fall.

Camp residents think the coronavirus is a conspiracy to "keep people in their homes where the old regime can come and kill them," said Abdullah, Zam Zam's director.

Hassan Adam of Abushouk scoffed when asked whether people call the government hotline to report suspected cases. "The government barely knows we exist," he said.

It hasn't helped that local authorities have clamped down on reporting. After two female journalists published an article about the high mortality rate in El Fasher and lack of protective equipment for doctors, they were promptly harassed and threatened with arrest by a military officer, according to the Darfur Journalist Association.

Many saw the incident as an ominous sign.

"When people are in the dark, they don't take things seriously," said Dr. Abdullah Adam. "I fear the worst is yet to come."

DeBre reported from Los Angeles.

## World joins US protests but leaders restrained about Trump

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — People have taken to the streets of Berlin, London, Paris and other cities around the world to demonstrate in support of Black Lives Matter protesters in the United States and to vent anger over President Donald Trump's response to the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota.

But at the top, the leaders of traditional allies of the United States have taken pains to avoid criticizing Trump directly, walking a fine line to reconcile international diplomacy with domestic outrage.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau let silence speak for itself when asked to comment on the decision to forcibly clear peaceful protesters outside the White House to make way for a Trump photo-op at a nearby church, standing pensively at his lectern apparently mulling his answer for more than 20 seconds before answering that Canada also suffered from "systemic discrimination" — never mentioning the American president.

"We need to be allies in the fight against discrimination, we need to listen, we need to learn, and we need to work hard to fix, to figure out how we can be part of the solution on fixing things," he said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel sidestepped questions from ZDF public television about Trump last week, saying the killing of Floyd was "really, really terrible. Racism is something terrible, and society in the United States is very polarized."

When pressed, she conceded that Trump's "political style is a very controversial one" but would go no further when asked if she had confidence in him.

A combination of factors are at work, including diplomatic courtesy but also pragmatism based on the possibility that Trump will be reelected to another four years in November, said Sudha David-Wilp, deputy director of the Berlin office of the German Marshall Fund think tank.

"It wouldn't be proper for his peers to criticize, especially when it's very obvious that they are concerned

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that the United States is going through an incredibly difficult time — you have the triple whammy of an economic depression, health crisis and now, of course, social unrest due to questions of racism,” she said.

But she said it’s difficult for leaders like Trudeau and Merkel, who “are seen as defenders of liberal democracy, and President Trump has trampled on many of the values that undergird liberal democracy, such as the protection of minorities, such as the freedom of assembly, such as the freedom of the press.”

Merkel’s verbal gymnastics could have been anticipated — in more than 14 years as chancellor, she has steered clear of ever critiquing allied world leaders — but even leaders who typically support Trump, like Hungary’s Viktor Orban or Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu have stayed silent on this issue.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has sought to cultivate close ties with Trump, called Floyd’s death “appalling” and said people have a “right to protest to make their feelings known about injustices such as what happened to George Floyd” but urged peaceful demonstrations.

Britain has seen several protests turn violent, and last weekend demonstrators in Bristol toppled the statue of a 17th-century slave trader. They also spray-painted an iconic statue of former Prime Minister Winston Churchill in London, calling him “a racist.”

Asked Wednesday in Parliament to name Trump’s good qualities, Johnson stuck to generalities.

“Mr. Trump, he has, amongst many other things, he is president of the United States, which is our most important ally in the world today,” Johnson said. “Whatever people may say about it, whatever those on the left may say about it, the United States is a bastion of peace and freedom and has been for most of my lifetime.”

France’s Emmanuel Macron, who has in the past steered clear of criticizing Trump specifically but has been vocal in speaking out against policies like the wine tariffs introduced by the administration, has not made a public appearance since Floyd was killed on May 25.

Floyd died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped responding. Three days later, another black man writhed on the street in Paris as a white police officer pressed a knee to his neck during an arrest.

France had several protests over the past week, with growing pressure on the government to address accusations of brutality and racism within the police force.

Macron’s office said the president is closely monitoring the events in France and the United States but “he did not wish to speak for the moment.” He’s expected to address the nation Sunday but his office did not give further details.

A few leaders have spoken out more strongly, like Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who criticized the response to the protests in the U.S. as “authoritarian” when pressed in parliament last week for an explicit response on Floyd’s killing.

“I share and stand in solidarity with the demonstrations that are taking place in the United States,” he said.

And Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg told the country’s NTB news agency last week that she was “deeply concerned about what is happening in the United States.”

“The fundamental challenge of making minorities feel part of a society is essential. We must all work with that,” she said. “One has to try to bridge the gap. It is not good for any society to be as deeply divided as the United States is now.”

Ghana’s President Nana Akufo-Addo said last week that it “cannot be right that, in the 21st century, the United States, this great bastion of democracy, continues to grapple with the problem of systemic racism.” And South African President Cyril Ramaphosa noted the “naked racism in the United States,” calling the protests a turning point. Neither mentioned Trump by name.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has not weighed in, but Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova called the situation in the U.S. “ridiculous.”

“I would like to believe that before showing their zeal in protecting the rights of the ‘suppressed’ and ‘dissenters’ in other countries, U.S. authorities will start to scrupulously observe democratic standards and ensure the freedoms of their citizens at home,” she said.

Sylvie Corbet in Paris, Jill Lawless and Sylvia Hui in London, Aritz Parra in Madrid, Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Cara Anna in Johannesburg and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

## Lives Lost: Weatherman built career on skills learned in war

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Robert Fleury knew he wanted to serve his country when he was a teenager, so he signed up for one of the most remote assignments in World War II — tracking the weather for the U.S. Navy in the frigid Aleutian Islands off Alaska.

He would later parlay the skills he learned in Quonset huts along the Bering Sea into a decades-long career with the National Weather Service.

In Portland, Maine, where he and his wife moved after the war, the friendly, good-natured Fleury would take it in stride when he occasionally botched a forecast and was teased by town golfers after it rained on their game.

“He would engage everyone with a funny little smile,” Bob Fleury said of his father.

Like thousands of other veterans and elderly people in nursing homes around the country, Fleury was isolated from his family and friends when he died at 94 from the coronavirus. He had been healthy and independent into his 90s and even overcome bladder cancer, but a fall had complicated his medical condition. He died April 21 at the Maine Veterans’ Home in Scarborough, the site of a devastating outbreak that claimed 11 residents and one spouse in just a month.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is part of an ongoing series of stories remembering people who have died from coronavirus around the world.

Fleury’s passing was difficult for his four sons because they couldn’t be at his bedside and say a proper goodbye like they had when their mother Patricia Fleury had died in 2011. Still, at their homes in four states, they celebrated their dad’s love of golf, duck hunting and a good martini.

“When my mother passed away, we were all there. This was just completely different,” said Bob Fleury of Liberty Hill, South Carolina.

He said his dad was seldom alone in life. Weather was his work, but golf was his passion and he shared it with family and friends with a wry sense of humor.

One of his favorite moves on the golf course was to knock over a sign just as an opponent was about to tee off. Bob Fleury fell victim to the joke many times and said it ultimately improved his concentration and made him a better golfer — his dad’s goal the whole time.

Robert Fleury wasn’t always the most outgoing person, but he was unfailingly kind and took pride in his active lifestyle. He was stocky with powerful legs — a build his son said resembled a football player more than a golfer. As his dad grew older, he also enjoyed running and playing squash and racquetball.

“He was very active,” said another son, Bruce Fleury of Hixson, Tennessee. “I think that’s why he lived so long.”

Robert Fleury fell into the weather business almost by accident when he signed up for military duty in his teens. He had a choice of two lines when he enlisted — one said “submarine service” and another offered work on a Navy weather ship. He and a friend decided the weather ship sounded safer.

As an aerographer’s mate in World War II, Fleury and colleagues used ropes to steady themselves against the biting wind as they made their way between huts in the Aleutians.

After the war, he spent more than 30 years as a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Portland, Maine. The job included doing live radio broadcasts from what is now Portland International Jetport but was then a tiny municipal airport.

His work and passion for golf sometimes collided when he failed to forecast a rainstorm.

“Of course they picked on him,” Bob Fleury said about locals who heard his father’s radio work. “They’d

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say 'Hey Bob, what's the weather going to be like tomorrow?' They'd honk at him and say, don't you know it's gonna rain?"

Robert Fleury was born in New York City and met his future wife when they were growing up in Queens and shared a circle of friends who spent their days at Coney Island. They were married for 67 years, beginning as teenagers just before he went off to war.

They moved to Maine after his military service ended and the weather service offered him a spot in either Portland or Caribou in the state's rural far north. They had four sons, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

His happiest days were the ones when he could take his boys and springer spaniels out duck hunting, sometimes in the marshes of Scarborough, said another son, Ronald Fleury of Portland, Maine. Doing the things he loved seemed to contribute to his long life.

"Dad's outliving everybody," another son, Ronald Fleury said. "Well, was."

## With the search for 2 kids at an end, a community mourns

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Within a few hours, a garden of mementos grew outside the rural crime scene. Pinwheels, flowers and stuffed animals dotted a fence near where police found remains believed to belong to two children in a bizarre case that has captured attention around the world.

For police, the grisly discovery this week marked a significant break in a monthslong investigation into what happened to Joshua "JJ" Vallow, who was 7 when he vanished in September along with his 17-year-old sister Tylee Ryan.

For relatives, who said the remains belong to the children, their heartbreak was magnified.

For cluster of small Idaho towns, it was the denouement of one mystery and the start of another: Where are JJ and Tylee? Right here, and yet irretrievably gone. Why are they gone? That may never be fully answered.

"I never thought it would come to this — I didn't think they were dead," said Timanee Olsen, a specialty cookie baker who has closely followed the case and after hearing about the bodies, planned a vigil to mourn the kids who disappeared from Rexburg. "It's just sparked a lot of sadness in our town."

The children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, has been in jail since February on felony child abandonment and other charges. Her new husband, Chad Daybell, was charged with concealing or destroying the bodies after police searched his rural property Tuesday. The remains have yet to be formally identified, but family members told news outlets that they belong to JJ and Tylee.

"We are filled with unfathomable sadness that these two bright stars were stolen from us, and only hope that they died without pain or suffering," the families wrote in the statement.

Kay and Larry Woodcock, JJ's grandparents, worked for months to keep the search for kids in the lime-light. With this week's discovery, they have withdrawn to grieve.

"The family is not doing any interviews right now," said Felicia Dewall, who is acting as their spokeswoman. "They're asking everybody to kind of respect that."

The complex case transfixed the public with its ties to the mysterious deaths of the Daybells' former spouses and the couple's doomsday beliefs.

It 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."

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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.

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.

Investigators haven't released any new details since the remains were found. The bodies were sent to Boise for autopsies, and it's not clear when those results will be released.

"It is the most horrendous outcome to the craziest nine-month mystery that I've ever heard of," said Olsen, who organized the vigil with a friend. "Those kids deserved better, and we're going to do everything we can to get those kids justice."

Olsen said hundreds of people had indicated they want to attend. She arranged to have the vigil in a parking lot in Idaho Falls, close to the town where the kids lived, hoping it would provide enough space for people to feel connected while remaining socially distant. People gathered Friday night wrote notes to the kids, burned candles and listened to "In the Arms of an Angel," according to The Idaho Post-Register.

"It's taken our town and turned it upside down. It's all you hear about all day long, and you don't need to know them to feel affected by it — it's in the air," she said. "We're just doing our best to stick together, especially in the hard times."

## **Biden's VP list narrows: Warren, Harris, Susan Rice, others**

**By BILL BARROW and JULIE PACE Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden's search for a running mate is entering a second round of vetting for a dwindling list of potential vice presidential nominees, with several black women in strong contention.

Democrats with knowledge of the process said Biden's search committee has narrowed the choices to as few as six serious contenders after initial interviews. Among the group still in contention: Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kamala Harris of California, as well as Susan Rice, who served as President Barack Obama's national security adviser.

Those with knowledge declined to name other contenders and said the process remains somewhat fluid. Additional candidates may still be asked to submit to the extensive document review process now underway for some top contenders. Those familiar with Biden's search spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the process.

The campaign dismissed the idea of a shortened list as early speculation. "Those who talk don't know and those who know don't talk," said Andrew Bates, a Biden spokesperson.

Biden, who has already said he will pick a woman as his running mate, is facing increased calls from Democrats to put a woman of color on the ticket — both because of the outsize role that black voters played in Biden's road to the nomination and because of the reckoning over racism and inequality roiling the nation following the death of George Floyd. The black Minneapolis man died after a white police officer pressed his knee on his neck for several minutes, an episode that was captured on video.

Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor and former Democratic National Committee chairman, said that while Biden's choice was likely to be "all about personal chemistry," it would be "exciting for the party" to have a black woman on a major party presidential ticket for the first time.

The campaign's list includes several black women, including Harris and Rice. Advisers have also looked closely at Florida Rep. Val Demings and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, both of whom are black, and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Latina.

Biden's vetting committee had conversations with a larger group of women earlier this spring; those continuing on in the process have been asked to turn over financial records, past writings and other documentation. Biden has had various public and private interactions with many of the women his vetting committee has considered thus far, but has not yet had any formal one-on-one interviews expressly to discuss the No. 2 spot on the ticket. Those aren't expected for several weeks.

Rice, who worked closely with Biden during his time as vice president, has emerged as a favorite among some former Obama administration officials and is personally close to the former president. She has never held elected office but has extensive foreign policy experience, including as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. She's also been an outspoken critic of the Trump administration since leaving the White House and considered running for U.S. Senate in Maine.

Rice has long been a target of Republicans, including for statements she made after the deadly 2012 attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya. Republicans have also accused her of spying on Michael Flynn, Trump's first national security adviser, though records declassified by the Trump administration show no evidence of Rice improperly accessing any information.

Harris and Warren have been seen as top contenders for the No. 2 spot since ending their own presidential campaigns.

Warren and Biden have forged a surprising bond in recent months and talk regularly about the progressive policy ideas the Massachusetts senator put at the forefront of her campaign. Biden already has adopted her proposed bankruptcy law overhaul. And now, with the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic slowdown elevating the nuts-and-bolts of governing, some Democrats see Warren's policy credentials as an asset to the ticket.

A Biden-Warren pairing would mean both Democrats on the ticket are white and in their 70s. Biden is 77, and Warren is 70.

Harris is the lone black contender who has won statewide office, notable experience given Biden's emphasis on wanting a partner "ready to be president." She and Biden have also demonstrated a comfortable manner with each other in online fundraisers. Harris is an expert voice in discussions of criminal justice, but some black progressives view her background as a prosecutor skeptically.

One contender whose standing does appear to have fallen is Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who was a prosecutor years ago in the county that includes Minneapolis. During that period, more than two dozen people — mostly minorities — died during encounters with police.

While the people with knowledge of Biden's vetting process did not rule Klobuchar out, she is widely viewed among Democrats with close ties to the Biden campaign as less likely to be tapped given recent events.

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Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe and Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

## Sao Paulo cemeteries to dig up graves for coronavirus space

By **TATIANA POLLASTRI** and **MAURICIO SAVARESE** Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's biggest metropolis has an unorthodox plan to free up space at its graveyards during the coronavirus pandemic: digging up the bones of people buried in the past and storing their bagged remains in large metal containers.

Sao Paulo's municipal funeral service said in a statement Friday that the remains of people who died at least three years ago will be exhumed and put in numbered bags, then stored temporarily in 12 storage containers it has purchased. The containers will be delivered to several cemeteries within 15 days, the statement said.

Sao Paulo is one of the COVID-19 hot spots in Latin America's hardest-hit nation, with 5,480 deaths as of Thursday in the city of 12 million people. And some health experts are worried about a new surge now that a decline in intensive care bed occupancy to about 70% prompted Mayor Bruno Covas to authorize a partial reopening of business this week. The result has been crowded public transport, long lines at malls and widespread disregard for social distancing.

Many health experts predict the peak of Brazil's pandemic will arrive in August, having spread from the big cities where it first appeared into the nation's interior. The virus has so far killed almost 42,000 Brazilians, and Brazil passed the United Kingdom on Friday to become the country with the world's second

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highest death toll.

Dr. Michael Ryan, the World Health Organization's emergencies chief, said Friday that the situation in Brazil remains "of concern," although acknowledged that intensive care bed occupancy rates are now below 80% in most areas of the country.

"Overall the health system is still coping in Brazil, although, having said that, with the sustained number of severe cases that remains to be seen," Ryan said. "Clearly the health system in Brazil across the country needs significant support in order to sustain its effort in this regard. But the data we have at the moment supports a system under pressure, but a system still coping with the number of severe cases."

The experts aren't the only ones with concerns.

At Sao Paulo's biggest cemetery, Vila Formosa, Adenilson Costa was among workers in blue protective suits digging up old graves Friday. He said their work has only grown more arduous during the pandemic, and as he removed bones from unearthed coffins, he said he fears what is to come.

"With this opening of malls and stores we get even more worried. We are not in the curve; we are in the peak and people aren't aware," Costa said. "This isn't over. Now is the worrisome moment. And there are still people out."

In April, gravediggers at Vila Formosa buried 1,654 people, up more than 500 from the previous month. Numbers for May and June aren't yet available.

Before the pandemic, Costa said, he and colleagues would exhume remains of about 40 coffins per day if families stopped paying required fees for the plots. In recent weeks that figure has more than doubled.

Remains stored in the metal containers will eventually be moved to a public ossuary, according to the statement from the city's funeral office. Its superintendent, Thiago Dias da Silva, told the Globo network that containers have been used before and they are more practical and affordable than building new ossuaries.

Work has been so busy in Sao Paulo cemeteries since the outbreak began that one of Costa's relatives was buried only a few meters (yards) from where he was working one day — without him even knowing. "I only found out the next day," he said.

Three other people he knew have also died from the virus.

"People say nothing scares gravediggers. COVID does," Costa said.

## The Latest: South Korea capital adds more coronavirus cases

By The Associated Press undefined

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported 49 new coronavirus cases.

Most most of them are in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where health authorities have been struggling to slow transmissions linked to entertainment and leisure activities, church gatherings and low-income workers who can't afford to stay home.

The figures released Saturday brought national totals to 12,051 cases and 277 deaths.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 44 of the new cases are in greater capital area, which is home to half the country's 51 million people.

Agency director Jung Eun-kyeong is urging residents in the capital area to stay home over the weekend, saying there is "high concern" that increased public activity will lead to widespread circulation of the virus.

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

- World Health Organization says pandemic puts women at 'heightened risk' of dying in childbirth.
- China reports Beijing's first locally transmitted virus case in weeks
- Airlines sue British government over country's quarantine for most incoming travelers
- More than two dozen international aid organizations have told the U.S. government they are "increasingly alarmed" that "little to no U.S. humanitarian assistance has reached those on the front lines" of the coronavirus pandemic as the number of new cases picks up speed in some of the world's most fragile regions.

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— Survivors of COVID-19 are donating their blood plasma in droves in hopes it helps other patients recover from the coronavirus. And while the jury's still out, now scientists are testing if the donations might also prevent infection in the first place.

— Among the numerous rural areas across the U.S. that have recently experienced coronavirus outbreaks are migrant farmworker communities in Florida. Immokalee is one of them. The poor town of 25,000 north of the Everglades has become a hot spot, with cases more than doubling in the past two weeks.

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

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING TODAY:

**GUATEMALA CITY** — The spread of the coronavirus is encroaching on Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei.

He says 58 employees in the presidential offices have tested positive for the virus, up from 18 on Sunday. Those who have tested positive include people from administration and security areas. Giammattei says he has been tested multiple times, but always has come out negative.

On Friday, Guatemala reported more than 8,600 infections and 351 deaths.

**BEIJING** — Officials in China's capital are moving quickly to stem a new coronavirus outbreak after the discovery of seven cases the past two days.

The National Health Commission said six of the cases were confirmed in Beijing on Friday, a day after the first was reported. They are the first locally transmitted cases in the city in more than 50 days.

Chinese media said at least two of the infected people had visited a wholesale market dealing in fresh food. Authorities said all workers at the Xinfadi market were being tested for the virus and testing of food and environmental samples had been ordered for all Beijing's wholesale food markets.

Earlier, the city said it was delaying the planned reopening of school Monday for first to third graders because of the new cases.

**SAN DIEGO** — A top U.S. Border Patrol official says coronavirus cases are on the rise in certain pockets of the agency.

Deputy Chief Raul Ortiz said Friday that 93 Border Patrol employees and 16 people in custody have tested positive for the virus. He says that is "relatively low" but adds that "we are not out of the woods just yet."

Ortiz tells employees that there have been "indications of localized increases" among Border Patrol personnel. He doesn't say where in an email to agents that was obtained by The Associated Press, and the agency didn't immediately respond to questions.

AP reported Thursday that border states Arizona and Texas have seen a recent rise in coronavirus cases.

**AUSTIN, Texas** — Daily coronavirus hospitalizations in Texas have reached a new high for a third time in four days as state officials continue to loosen restrictions on public activities.

Health officials said Friday that 2,166 patients were in Texas hospitals with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. That is 13 more than the previous high reached Wednesday.

Nineteen more COVID-19 deaths also were reported Friday, bringing the state's overall toll to 1,939.

Officials said almost 2,100 new coronavirus infections had been confirmed, bringing the state's total to 83,680.

The actual number is likely higher because many people have not been tested. Studies have found that many people can be infected and not feel sick, so may not seek testing.

**TORONTO** — Air travelers in Canada will need to have their temperatures checked before they are allowed to board planes, although the country's transport minister says the system will take months to get going.

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The measure is meant to keep the coronavirus from spreading as more people start flying again. Transport Minister Marc Garneau says the requirement will be phased in, starting at the end of June for international flights into Canada.

By the end of July, the program will expand to Canada's four largest airports — Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. Eleven more Canadian airports serving mostly domestic travelers will be added at the end of September.

SAO PAULO — Brazil's health ministry says the country has recorded a total of 41,828 deaths during the coronavirus pandemic, meaning it has surpassed the United Kingdom and now has the second highest total in the world, according to tallies by Johns Hopkins University.

Brazilian officials on Friday reported 909 deaths over the previous 24 hours. It is the hardest-hit nation in Latin America, with more than 828,000 confirmed virus cases.

The news came as states and cities across Brazil start to ease restrictive measures introduced more than two months ago in hopes of limiting the spread of the coronavirus.

Shops and malls are being allowed to open for four hours a day in Sao Paulo, the epicenter of Brazil's crisis. Stores have been crowded in smaller cities.

JACKSON, Miss. — Officials in Mississippi say calls from people in the state to the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline have increased 20% since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The chief of staff at the state Department of Mental Health said Friday that mental health challenges can arise from changes in eating or sleeping habits, anxiety about one's health or the health of loved ones and stress over the loss of a job. Wendy Bailey said problems can also be spurred by increased drug or alcohol use, something that is common during a major event like the pandemic.

Bailey spoke at a news conference with Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves.

The governor said "There is fear, there is pain and there is anxiety in this country and in our state and those cannot be overstated."

CARACAS, Venezuela — Authorities in Venezuela are extending its coronavirus lockdown keeping residents at home except for essential chores such as food shopping. The announcement Friday extends the lockdown through mid-July.

Officials have already allowed some sectors to reopen, including banks and construction. Doctors and dentists can also see patients. Next week, shopping centers and gyms will be allowed to reopen as well as sporting activities without live audiences.

According to official figures, 23 people have died in Venezuela since the first coronavirus cases were diagnosed in mid-March. Officials say fewer than 3,000 people have fallen ill in the country of roughly 25 million.

However, experts outside the government worry a wave of illnesses is still a danger for Venezuela.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Health officials in Oklahoma say a spike in coronavirus cases in the Tulsa area is linked to indoor events and are warning people attending such events to take health safety precautions.

The Tulsa Health Department's warning Friday comes a week before President Donald Trump is scheduled to hold a campaign rally at the BOK Center in Tulsa, which has a listed seating capacity of 19,199.

Department spokesperson Leanne Stephens says an undetermined number of the latest coronavirus cases were linked to two recent indoor gatherings, but declined to name those events.

She says the department has not had contact with the Trump campaign and the warning is unrelated to the planned rally.

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa has seen its largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases — 3,359. A health ministry update says South Africa now has more than 61,000 cases, or well over a quarter of

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the cases across the African continent, including 1,354 deaths.

Nearly two-thirds of South Africa's cases are in the Western Cape province centered on the city of Cape Town, where the World Health Organization's Africa chief has said the trend "seems to be similar to what was happening in Europe and in the U.S."

The total number of cases across the 54-nation continent is now above 218,000 and WHO says the pandemic is "accelerating" in Africa, even though the cases make up less than 3% of the global total.

South Africa has conducted more than 1 million tests for the virus, roughly one-third of all testing in Africa.

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon Supreme Court has upheld Gov. Kate Brown's shutdown orders aimed at stemming the coronavirus pandemic, and she put the brakes on loosening restrictions amid a spike in cases.

The Supreme Court overturned a ruling by a judge in a conservative, rural part of the state who had determined that Brown's restricting of activities during the coronavirus pandemic were subjected to a time limit and were thus "null and void."

The high court said Friday that Brown's powers under a state of emergency, declared on March 8, continue until the state of emergency is ended by either herself or the Legislature.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 178 new confirmed coronavirus cases Thursday, marking the highest daily count in the state since the start of the pandemic.

"As I've said before, reopening comes with real risk," Brown told a news conference Friday. She said the "pause" will give health officials time to assess what factors are driving the spread of the virus and determine the way forward.

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador -- Three months into a mandatory lockdown, Salvadorans are awaiting a reaction from President Nayib Bukele after the country's congress passed legislation over his strong objections that would let them leave their homes.

The Legislative Assembly passed legislation early Friday that would extend a state of emergency in the country for another two weeks, but eliminate the nearly universal mandatory stay-at-home order except for those who tested positive for COVID-19 and those returning from abroad.

The body approved it after failing to reach an agreement with administration negotiators, so it was unclear whether Bukele would accept it.

Bukele has imposed the strictest measures in the region to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, including sending people caught violating the order to government-run containment centers for month-long stays. He has resisted loosening the stay-at-home order, arguing that the country's medical system could be quickly overwhelmed, resulting in much greater loss of life.

PHOENIX -- The number of jail inmates in metro Phoenix who have tested positive for the coronavirus has surpassed the total among state prisoners.

Officials say 290 of Maricopa County's 4,400 inmates had tested positive as of Thursday. That compares to 249 confirmed cases among the nearly 41,000 inmates in Arizona's prisons. The sharp growth of cases in the county's jails has been attributed to more testing and contact tracing within the jails.

Arizona is one of several states that has seen a surge in new COVID-19 cases after stay-at-home orders were lifted last month.

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey is reporting an increase in the number of daily confirmed infections, some two weeks after relaxing many of the restrictions in place to curb its spread.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca on Friday reported 1,195 new cases in the past 24 hours, pushing the total number of infections in the country to 175,218. It was the first time the daily infections jumped past the 1,000-mark after hovering around 800 or 900 for nearly two weeks.

Meanwhile, Koca also reported 15 new deaths on his Twitter account — the lowest day-to-day fatality in more than two months. The total number of deaths now stands at 4,778.

Turkey reopened restaurants, cafes, gyms, parks, beaches and museums on June 1 and eased stay-at-

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home orders for senior citizens and minors earlier this week. People crowded sea fronts and parks in the first weekend after the relaxation, often without masks or flouting social distancing.

Koca warned that "false optimism" is causing the virus to spread and urged the public to wear masks and abide by government advice on distancing and hygiene.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt and state schools superintendent Joy Hofmeister say schools in the state are eligible to apply for federal funds available to respond to the coronavirus.

Grants of \$50,000 to \$500,000 are available, based on a school's student enrollment as of Oct. 1, 2019 for measures including improved access to distance learning and mental health support for students.

Public schools statewide were closed for the remainder of the school year and to turn to distance learning.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- A third California state prison has had an inmate die of suspected coronavirus as fatalities spread beyond what had been the prisons' epicenter for such deaths.

Officials said Friday that an inmate from Chuckawalla Valley State Prison near Blythe in Riverside County died Thursday at an outside hospital from what appear to be coronavirus complications.

It was the prison system's 15th virus-related inmate death, with 13 of those at the California Institution for Men in Chino.

Officials said the first death outside that prison came Tuesday, when an inmate from the California Institution for Women in Corona, east of Los Angeles, died at an outside hospital.

Statewide, more than 2,440 inmates have tested positive and more than 660 have recovered.

ATLANTA — U.S. health officials on Friday released long-awaited guidance for Americans who want to reduce their risk of coronavirus infection while attempting some semblance of normal life.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggestions include: Take the stairs, not the elevator, down from your hotel room. Encourage people to bring their own food and drinks to your cookout. Use hand sanitizer after banking at an ATM. Call ahead to restaurants and nail salons to make sure staff are wearing face coverings. And no high-fives — or even elbow bumps — at the gym.

The CDC also offered tips for organizing and attending big gatherings such as concerts, sporting events, protests and political rallies.

Those guidelines are "not intended to endorse any particular type of event," the CDC's Dr. Jay Butler said in a Friday call with reporters.

The guidelines are long overdue, some health experts say.

LONDON — The director-general of the World Health Organization says he is "truly concerned" about divisions the coronavirus pandemic has created globally and within countries, calling it an "invisible but a very small virus causing havoc."

WHO Secretary-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a press briefing on Friday that the novel coronavirus "is a very dangerous virus, and it's very hard to fight this virus in a divided world,."

Comparing the ongoing outbreak to the devastating Spanish influenza pandemic more than a century ago, Tedros called on nations "to do better" and to learn from history..

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- A third California state prison has had an inmate die of suspected COVID-19 as virus-related deaths of prisoners spread beyond the institution that has been the epicenter.

Officials said Friday that an inmate from Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, located near Blythe in Riverside County, died Thursday at an outside hospital from what appear to be COVID-19 complications.

It was the state prison system's 15th virus-related inmate death, 13 of which involved prisoners at the California Institution for Men in Chino.

Officials said the first death outside the Chino prison took place Tuesday, when an inmate from the California Institution for Women in Corona, east of Los Angeles, died at an outside hospital.

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Statewide, more than 2,440 inmates have tested positive for the virus and more than 660 have recovered.

ROME — The northern Italian region where Europe's COVID-19 outbreak began has registered for another day by far the most new coronavirus cases in Italy.

Italian Health Ministry figures showed the Lombardy region had 272 confirmed cases in the 24-hour period ending Friday evening. The region with the next-highest daily caseload, Emilia-Romagna, reported 33 new cases.

Nationwide, Italy had nearly 400 new cases in the last 24 hours, bringing the total to 236,305. The Health Ministry's daily update included 56 virus-related deaths, raising the country's death toll of people with confirmed infections to 34,223.

Authorities say since many people with COVID-19 symptoms weren't tested, the actual numbers of infections and deaths are likely to be significantly higher.

GENEVA — The World Health Organization's emergencies chief is expressing concern about Brazil's ability to manage surging coronavirus case numbers, but said the health system so far is coping.

Dr. Michael Ryan said Friday that some of Brazil's 27 administrative areas "have quite a bit of pressure on the intensive care system" and there are "clear hot spots in heavily populated areas."

The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University says Brazil has tallied more than 802,000 confirmed virus cases as of Friday, the second-largest number in the world after the United States, and over 40,000 COVID-19 deaths.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has rejected ordering quarantines, and many Brazilians have criticized him for opposing city and state measures such as lockdowns, social distancing and other steps meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Trump reschedules campaign rally after Juneteenth uproar

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that he is rescheduling his first campaign rally in months to a day later so it won't conflict with the Juneteenth observance of the end of slavery in the United States.

Trump had scheduled the rally — his first since early March — for June 19 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Black leaders said it was offensive for Trump to pick that day and that place, a city that in 1921 was the site of a fiery and orchestrated white-on-black attack.

Trump tweeted late Friday, "Many of my African American friends and supporters have reached out to suggest that we consider changing the date out of respect for this Holiday."

He said he is moving the rally to June 20 "to honor their requests."

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.

## The Latest: 10 resign from SWAT team amid safety concerns

By The Associated Press undefined

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Dallas officials agree to 90-day ban on use of tear gas against demonstrators.
- Judge orders pause on use of tear gas against protesters in Seattle.
- Minneapolis council takes step toward abolishing police department.

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. — Ten members of a South Florida police department's SWAT team have resigned from the team, citing safety concerns and local officials' "disdain" for the unit.

The eight officers and two sergeants resigned from the team, but did not resign from the Hallandale Beach Police Department.

Police Chief Sonia Quinones received a memo from the SWAT team Friday morning, City Manager Greg

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Chavarria said in a statement, according to news outlets.

The officers said they were "minimally equipped" and had been "disrespected" by city officials who refused to address equipment and training concerns.

"The risk of carrying out our duties in this capacity is no longer acceptable to us and our families," the officers wrote in the memo, dated June 9. "The anguish and stress of knowing that what we may be lawfully called upon to do in today's political climate combined with the team's current situation and several recent local events, leave us in a position that is untenable."

The officers also said they were outraged that command staff had recently joined protesters and other officials in taking a knee as demonstrators called for the case of Howard Bowe to be reopened.

"This lack of support by members of the Command Staff is crippling to the agency and its rank and file," the memo said.

Bowe, a 34-year-old black man, was killed in 2014 by Hallandale Beach's SWAT team as it carried out a search warrant and raided his home. The officers wrote that investigators never found that any misconduct had been committed by the officers involved in Bowe's death. The case later resulted in a \$425,000 settlement between Bowe's family and the city.

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DALLAS — Dallas officials have agreed to a 90-day ban on the use of tear gas and other less-lethal police crowd-control weapons against demonstrators.

U.S. District Judge Sam Lindsay approved late Thursday a consent decree in which Dallas police agree not to use against peaceful demonstrators smoke bombs, flashbangs, pepperballs, Mace or other chemical agents. They also agree to not fire such impact projectiles as rubber bullets, bean bags or sponges.

The preliminary injunction will remain in effect until Sept. 9 unless extended, amended or dissolved by the judge.

Tasia Williams and Vincent Doyle sued the city and police after rubber bullets injured them during two separate Black Lives Matter marches in Dallas.

The demonstrations are a reaction to the killing of George Floyd by a Minnesota police officer.

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SEATTLE — A federal judge has ordered Seattle to temporarily stop using tear gas, pepper spray and flash bang devices to break up peaceful protests.

The 14-day edict is a victory for groups who say authorities overreacted to demonstrations in the city after the death of George Floyd. A Black Lives Matter group sued the Seattle Police Department this week to halt the violent tactics police have used to break up largely peaceful protests in recent days.

Officers used tear gas, pepper spray and other less-lethal weapons against crowds that have demonstrated against racism and police brutality following the killing of Floyd in Minneapolis.

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best apologized to peaceful protesters who were subjected to chemical weapons. However, Best has said some demonstrators had violently targeted police, throwing projectiles and ignoring orders to disperse.

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MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis City Council members took a first step Friday toward changing the City Charter to allow for abolishing the police department and replacing it with something else.

Five of the 12 council members said Friday that they'll formally introduce a proposal later this month to remove the charter's requirement that the city maintain a police department and fund a minimum number of officers. Voters would have to approve the change if the proposal makes it onto the November ballot.

The Star Tribune reports the announcement came as council members face increased pressure to further define what they meant when a majority of them pledged to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department following George Floyd's death.

Council Member Jeremiah Ellison said he still expects to spend a year seeking feedback from the community about how to change the department, but he fears that if they don't remove that charter provision, it will hamper those efforts. He said removing the language alone won't eliminate the department.

Some business groups and Mayor Jacob Frey have said they prefer changing the department over eliminating it completely.

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ATLANTA — A protest organizer says a woman arrested Thursday at the Georgia State Capitol for defacing the statue of a Confederate general only wrote “tear down” on it in chalk.

Organizer J.J. Nicole questions whether the action merited any criminal charges, much less the felony charges filed by the Georgia State Patrol.

State Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Lt. Stephanie L. Stallings says 55-year-old Jamie Loughner of Atlanta was arrested Thursday. Loughner is charged with felony interference with government property and misdemeanor criminal trespass. Loughner remained in the Fulton County jail Friday. Bail was set at \$1,500.

Stallings says the statue of John Brown Gordon was “defaced,” according to the the Georgia Capitol Police. Protesters have been gathering at the statue of Gordon for daily protests demanding that it and other monuments be removed, saying they were white supremacists and that Georgia shouldn’t honor them.

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A Kentucky commission voted Friday to take down a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis from the state Capitol, adding its voice to a global push to remove symbols of racism and slavery.

The Historic Properties Advisory Commission met remotely through video teleconferencing at the request of Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear. It voted 11-1 to move the 15-foot (4.5-meter) marble statue of Davis to a state historic site in southern Kentucky where the Confederate leader was born. The commission is responsible for statues in the state Capitol.

Relocating the Davis statue means it will no longer share space in the ornate Capitol Rotunda with a statue of Abraham Lincoln, his Civil War adversary and the president who freed the slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation. Both were Kentucky natives.

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The first city in the United States named for Christopher Columbus has removed a statue of the explorer and placed it in storage for safekeeping.

Mayor Steve Benjamin of Columbia, South Carolina, said the statue had been vandalized with paint several times over the past week.

The mayor said he would rather have citizens and the City Council decide the statue’s fate than protesters in the middle of the night.

Workers dismembered the Columbus statue early Friday, and by mid-morning only the feet were attached to the pedestal at Riverfront Park.

Benjamin didn’t say where the statue was being stored.

Statues of Columbus, who came to North America in 1492, have been torn down by protesters in other cities who said the explorer started European colonization which exploited and led to the deaths of millions of native people on the continent.

Columbia was named in 1786 for the female representation of Columbus. It won an 11-7 vote over the name Washington in the South Carolina Senate.

South Carolina has a law protecting historic monuments from being taken down or altered without a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says he’d like to see an end to the police use of choke holds, except in limited circumstances.

Trump made the comments in an interview with Fox News Channel that aired Friday.

Trump said he doesn’t like choke holds and thinks that, “generally speaking” the practice “should be ended.”

But Trump also talked at length about a scenario in which a police officer is alone and fighting one-on-one and might need to use the tactic.

The White House has been working to craft an executive order on policing in the wake of the killing

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of George Floyd in police custody, which has sparked protests across the nation and around the world demanding justice and racial equality.

Congress also has been working to craft legislation in response.

**PARIS** — Activists dislodged a 19th century African funeral pole from its perch in a Paris museum Friday, saying they wanted to return it to Africa in a protest against colonial-era abuses.

The incident in the Quai Branly Museum came amid growing anger at symbols of colonialism and slavery in the United States and Europe in the wake of George Floyd's death and ensuing global protests against racial injustice.

The five protesters were stopped before they could leave the museum with the artwork, and an investigation was opened, according to a statement from France's culture minister. The work did not suffer serious damage.

The activists posted live video of the protest online, in which Congo-born Mwazulu Diyabanza accused European museums of making millions from artworks taken from now-impoverished African countries.

"It's wealth that belongs to us, and deserves to be brought back," he said. "I will bring to Africa what was taken."

Culture Minister Franck Riester condemned the move, saying: "While the debate on the restitution of works from the African continent is perfectly legitimate, it can in no way justify this type of action."

**BOSTON** — Boston's mayor declared racism a public health crisis on Friday, outlining a series of police reforms in response to the nationwide reckoning sparked by the police killing of a black man in Minneapolis.

Democratic Mayor Marty Walsh said he would propose transferring \$12 million from the police department, or roughly 20% of its overtime budget, to fund a range of social services, including mental health counseling, housing and homelessness programs, and new public health commission efforts to address racial disparities in health care.

Protesters have called on Walsh to "defund" police, and redirecting money from police to other social services is one of the goals of that movement. Activists have also asked Walsh to remove or rename city landmarks in recent days.

The mayor also announced the creation of the Boston Police Reform Task Force to review the department's use of force policies and suggest ways to improve officer training, its body camera program and the city's police review board.

**SPOKANE, Wash.** — Some political leaders in Washington's second-largest city are criticizing people who have shown up armed to silently watch protesters participating in Spokane's recent weekend Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

The Spokesman-Review reports the politicians have labeled the demonstrators as "armed vigilantes."

Officials who signed the statement include Mayor Nadine Woodward, the entire Spokane City Council, state legislators and some members of the city's school board. The protests were sparked by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

There have been no confrontations in Spokane between the armed people and the protesters. Another protest is scheduled for Sunday.

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** — The smallest U.S. state has the longest name, and it's not sitting well with some in the George Floyd era.

Officially, Rhode Island was incorporated as The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations when it declared statehood in 1790. Now, opponents have revived an effort to lop off the plantations reference, saying it evokes the legacy of slavery.

An online petition aims to ask the state to shorten the name to just Rhode Island, a nonbinding campaign intended to generate momentum toward an eventual ballot question this November.

"In no way am I trying to erase history. But we shouldn't glorify our shameful past," Tyson Pianka, a University of Rhode Island sophomore who organized the petition drive, said in an interview.

Name alterations have been attempted before — most recently in 2010, when nearly eight in 10 voters rejected the shorter name in a referendum. But supporters say they're feeling a fresh sense of urgency and determination as the nation reckons with Floyd's death. About 60% of all slave-trading voyages launched from North America came from Rhode Island, researchers say.

## Judge orders Seattle to stop using tear gas during protests

By LISA BAUMANN Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A U.S. judge on Friday ordered Seattle police to temporarily stop using tear gas, pepper spray and flash-bang devices to break up largely peaceful protests, a victory for groups who say authorities have overreacted to recent demonstrations over police brutality and racial injustice.

The liberal city with a lengthy history of massive, frequent protests has taken hits from all sides — from demonstrators, some city officials, the president and now a judge — over the way it's responded to crowds taking to the streets following George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police. Those on the right say the mayor and police chief aren't being tough enough on protesters who have taken over part of a neighborhood near downtown Seattle, while those on the left say police tactics have been far too harsh.

U.S. District Judge Richard Jones sided with a Black Lives Matter group that sued the Seattle Police Department this week to halt the violent tactics it has used to break up protests.

Last weekend, officers used tear gas, pepper spray and other force against crowds of protesters. Jones' order halts those tactics for two weeks, though demonstrations this week have been calm.

Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best have apologized to peaceful protesters who were subjected to chemical weapons. But Best has said some demonstrators violently targeted police, throwing objects and ignoring orders to disperse. Both have faced calls to resign, which they have rejected.

The judge said those objecting to the police tactics make a strong case that the indiscriminate use of force is unconstitutional. Jones said weapons like tear gas and pepper spray fail to target "any single agitator or criminal" and they are especially problematic during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Because they are indiscriminate, they may even spill into bystanders' homes or offices as they have done before," Jones wrote.

Durkan, a former U.S. attorney, "believes the court struck the right balance to protect the fundamental constitutional right to exercise protest, with the need to also ensure public safety," spokeswoman Kamaria Hightower said in an email.

Durkan also has requested reviews of police actions from the Office of Police Accountability and the city's inspector general. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste also said Friday the agency will stop using gas until further notice, particularly amid the pandemic.

This week, demonstrators have turned part of Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood into a protest center with speakers, drum circles and Black Lives Matter painted on a street near a police station. Police largely left the station after the chaos last weekend, when officers tear-gassed protesters and some demonstrators threw objects at them. Police sprayed tear gas just two days after the mayor and police chief said they were temporarily halting its use.

Durkan tweeted that on Friday she visited the so-called autonomous zone — which has been criticized by President Donald Trump and where people, including officers, come and go freely. She said she spoke with organizers about moving forward and noted that she's always known Capitol Hill as a place for people to express themselves.

Trump has slammed her and Gov. Jay Inslee for not breaking up the occupation by "anarchists" and threatening to take action if they don't. Both have assailed his comments and say they're focusing on a peaceful resolution. The demonstrations have been calm since police left the area.

Michele Storms, executive director of the ACLU of Washington, said the group was pleased with the judge's ruling.

"The city must allow for freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, and it must address police accountability and excessive use of force," Storms said in a statement.

The ruling came as massive crowds marched in the rain and some businesses temporarily closed in response to a call from Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County to launch a statewide general strike.

"As tens of thousands of people were gathering today to march silently and in solidarity against police brutality and misconduct, the U.S. District Court affirmed their right to protest, free from state violence. That is a victory for today," the group said in a statement.

Black Lives Matter encouraged supporters not go to work or to work from home Friday and to learn about local elected officials and issues. Organizers have demands for the city, county and state that include cutting at least \$100 million from the Seattle police budget, ending cash bail and declaring racism a public health crisis.

Durkan tweeted that she and the police chief participated in the march, saying Best and her Police Department leaders have been working "incredibly hard to adjust and improve every day."

Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste also said Friday his personnel will stop using gas until further notice, particularly amid the pandemic.

## Trump administration revokes transgender health protection

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

Washington (AP) — In a move applauded by President Donald Trump's conservative religious base, his administration on Friday finalized a rule that overturns Obama-era protections for transgender people against sex discrimination in health care.

The Department of Health and Human Services said it will enforce sex discrimination protections "according to the plain meaning of the word 'sex' as male or female and as determined by biology." This rewrites an Obama-era regulation that sought a broader understanding shaped by a person's internal sense of being male, female, neither or a combination.

LGBTQ groups say explicit protections are needed for people seeking sex-reassignment treatment, and even for transgender people who need care for common illnesses such as diabetes or heart problems.

But conservatives say the Obama administration exceeded its legal authority in broadly interpreting gender.

The reversal comes in the middle of LGBTQ Pride Month. Activists and Democratic lawmakers noted that Friday was also the four-year anniversary of the mass shooting at the Pulse gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in which 49 people were killed.

Behind the dispute over legal rights is a medically recognized condition called "gender dysphoria" — discomfort or distress caused by a discrepancy between the gender that a person identifies as and the gender at birth. Consequences can include severe depression. Treatment can range from sex-reassignment surgery and hormones to people changing their outward appearance by adopting a different hairstyle or clothing.

Many social conservatives disagree with the concept.

"Under the old Obama rule, medical professionals could have been forced to facilitate gender reassignment surgeries and abortions — even if they believed this was a violation of their conscience or believed it harmful to the patient," said Mary Beth Waddell of the religious conservative Family Research Council.

But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, "Religious freedom is no justification for hatred or bigotry, and every American has the right to seek and receive care without intimidation or fear."

The American Medical Association strongly criticized the Trump administration's action.

"The federal government should never make it more difficult for individuals to access health care — during a pandemic or any other time," said Dr. Susan Bailey, the group's president.

Under the Obama-era rule, a hospital could be required to perform gender-transition procedures such as hysterectomies if the facility provided that kind of treatment for other medical conditions. The rule was meant to carry out the anti-discrimination section of the Affordable Care Act, which bars sex discrimination in health care but does not use the term "gender identity."

Women's groups say the new regulations also undermine access to abortion, which is a legal medical

procedure.

"No one should fear being turned away by a medical provider because of who they are or the personal health decisions they have made," said Fatima Goss Graves, president of the National Women's Law Center.

The ACLU says it has already moved to try to prevent the rollback of protections for transgender people. The LGBTQ civil rights group Lambda Legal said it will sue.

More than 1.5 million Americans identify as transgender, according to the Williams Institute, a think tank focusing on LGBT policy at the UCLA School of Law. A bigger number — 4.5% of the population — identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to Gallup.

Roger Severino, head of the HHS unit that enforces civil rights laws, said transgender people continue to be protected by other statutes that bar discrimination in health care on account of race, color, national origin, age, disability and other factors.

"Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and according to the law," said Severino. "Our dedication to our civil rights laws is as strong as ever." He cited recent actions to safeguard access to treatment for disabled people in the coronavirus pandemic.

For the Trump administration it's the latest in a series of steps to revoke newly won protections for LGBTQ people in areas ranging from the military to housing and education.

The administration also has moved to restrict military service by transgender men and women, proposed allowing certain homeless shelters to take gender identity into account in offering someone a bed for the night, and concluded in a 2017 Justice Department memo that federal civil rights law does not protect transgender people from discrimination at work.

The new rule would also affect the notices that millions of patients get in multiple languages about their rights to translation services. Such notices often come with insurer "explanation of benefits" forms. The Trump administration says the notice requirement has become a needless burden on health care providers, requiring billions of paper notices to be mailed annually at an estimated five-year cost of \$2.9 billion.

## **MLB offers players 80% of prorated salaries, 72-game season**

**By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball and its players are moving closer — to a deal or to Commissioner Rob Manfred ordering a shortened season without an agreement.

MLB offered players 80% of their prorated salaries and a 72-game schedule beginning July 14 in an effort to start the pandemic-delayed season, according to details of the proposal obtained by The Associated Press.

Players would get 70% of their prorated salaries during the regular season and the rest for completion of the postseason under MLB's plan, given to the union Friday.

"This represents our final proposal for a 72-game season," Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem wrote in a letter to union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer that was obtained by the AP. "You should let us know by the end of the day on June 14 whether players desire to accept it."

Teams cut their proposed schedule each time they make an offer due to the calendar, unwilling to delay the World Series past October. Because salaries are tied to games, total pay for the year decreases as time goes by.

The players' last offer, on Tuesday, was for an 89-game regular season at full prorated pay. The union said it will convene a call of players to discuss its response, but players repeatedly have said they don't intend to move off their stance for full prorated pay.

"The owners' whole strategy from the beginning has been this. Play as few regular season games as possible to limit player cost as much as possible," Cincinnati pitcher Trevor Bauer tweeted. "Play as many postseason games as possible to drive revenue as high as possible. They're more than happy to play only 50 games. ... Why would players play the additional 24 games for free and burden the additional risk of injury?"

MLB proposed that players be guaranteed about \$1.27 billion in salaries including projected earned bonuses, increasing the total to \$1.45 billion if the postseason is completed. The union's proposal would

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guarantee players roughly \$2.25 billion.

Before the new coronavirus caused opening day to be pushed back from March 26, salaries had been set to total \$4 billion. Each side includes an additional \$50 million postseason pool.

Players have insisted they receive 100% of their prorated salaries, the terms the sides agreed to in March, but that agreement was contingent on fans having access to stadiums. MLB told the union that playing in empty ballparks without gate revenue would cause a loss of \$640,000 for each additional game played and that teams can't afford full. The union has said it doubts MLB's figures but has not received sufficient financial disclosure to make a full evaluation.

Manfred has threatened to unilaterally call for a schedule of about 50 games if teams must pay 100% prorated salaries. That would guarantee just under \$1.25 billion — close to the new offer without the postseason portion. If Manfred goes with a one-sided plan, the union likely would file a grievance and hope an arbitrator would award money damages.

Both sides say they would agree to expand the playoffs from 10 teams to 16 in 2020 and 2021, but an agreement is needed for that to happen. MLB is to receive \$787 million from Fox, Turner and ESPN in its current postseason format. Expanded playoffs would create new games to sell, the total depending on the format agreed to.

Baseball's highest-paid players, Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole, would each be guaranteed \$11.2 million and have the chance to earn \$12.8 million under the new plan. They would receive \$19,777,778 under the union plan, down from their original \$36 million salaries this year, and \$11,111,111 for 50 games at full prorated pay.

A player at the \$563,500 minimum would be guaranteed \$175,311 under the MLB plan with the chance to rise to \$200,356. He would get \$309,577 under the union proposal and \$173,920 for 50 games at a full prorated rate.

In addition, a \$50 million postseason players' pool in each side's proposal would result in a full share being worth about \$250,000 for the World Series winner and \$170,000 for the loser. Normally, tickets fund the postseason pool.

MLB has proposed that active rosters expand to 30 for the first two weeks of the season, 28 for the next two weeks and then 26 for the rest of the year. MLB also proposed each team could keep 60 total players, including the group not active.

MLB has made three proposals, starting with an 82-game schedule on May 26, then cutting to 76 on Monday and now reducing the season further. Cole and Trout each would have been guaranteed about \$5.58 million under MLB's first proposal and about \$8.72 million in the second with the chance to earn \$12.19 million if the postseason is completed.

Players started at 114 games on May 31 and dropped to 89 on Tuesday.

"We still see no justification for paying players less than a full day's pay for a full day's work," Meyer wrote to Halem on Tuesday in a letter obtained by the AP. "Your refusal to play any games in October remains unreasonable and unsupported. You can play more baseball games than that and you owe it to your players and fans to do so. Among other things, concerns about a second wave in October and November are apparently not going to stop other leagues from playing during those months."

While the sides agreed to prorated pay in March, they also said they would engage in "good faith" negotiations over playing in empty ballparks. Halem, in his letter Friday, reminded Meyer that before the deal Manfred had been prepared to exercise the provision allowing him to suspend Uniform Player Contracts after a declaration of a national emergency.

"The association's rhetoric that players 'remain opposed to any further pay cuts' is quite misleading because players were never entitled to be paid in the first place ... when games were not being played as a result of the ongoing national emergency," Halem wrote.

Anger among the bargainers was clear when Halem told Meyer "I acknowledge up front that I must have misinterpreted your June 6th letter. I thought the letter reflected a willingness on the part of the association to discuss in good faith the economics necessary for the Office of the Commissioner to waive its

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right under the March Agreement to resume the 2020 season only when there are, among other things, no restrictions on fan access. After reviewing the association's counterproposal, I stand corrected."

As part of the March agreement, players received \$170 million in salary advances and a guarantee of 2020 service time even if no games are played. In exchange, the union waived its right to claim additional salary.

"We are convinced that the association has purposely failed to fulfill its obligations under the March agreement," Halem added. "This failure to act in good faith has caused enormous damage to the sport.

Players want to extend the regular season past its scheduled end on Sept. 27 and push back the World Series deep into November.

MLB said it remains willing to suspend for this offseason the loss of amateur draft picks for teams signing qualified free agents, leaving the decision "at the election of the association." This would mark the first time since the free agent era started in 1976 that free agent compensation would be dropped, but the union said this week it was not interested.

Both sides have expressed interest in using joint funds to assist minor league players, who are not likely to have a season, and social justice initiatives.

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

## Airman may face death penalty in California cop killing

By MARTHA MENDOZA and STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) — The sheriff's deputy reached a house at the end of the narrow Northern California dirt road and decided getting help from more deputies would be a good idea. The terrain was steep, the redwood forest thick.

The deputy turned the patrol car around and headed back down the hill, just as a van passed by heading up. It was a close call.

The van's driver, officials say, was U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Steven Carrillo, who lay in wait for more law enforcement to arrive before ambushing them from the steep hillside above in a barrage of gunfire and explosives.

Carrillo, 32, was charged with 19 offenses, including murder and attempted murder of peace officers, and was calm and unflinching Friday during his first appearance in Santa Cruz Superior Court. The charges include the possibility of life in prison without parole or the death penalty.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has put a moratorium on executions but Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey Rosell said Friday he hadn't yet decided whether he would seek the death penalty.

Carrillo allegedly shot and killed Santa Cruz County sheriff's Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller on Saturday and wounded four other officers in Ben Lomond, an unincorporated area outside the beachfront city of Santa Cruz south of San Francisco. He was armed with homemade bombs, an AR-15 rifle and other weapons and was intent on killing police, authorities said.

The FBI is investigating whether Carrillo, a leader of an elite military security force, has links to the killing of a federal security officer outside the U.S. courthouse in Oakland during a protest against police brutality on May 29.

Federal authorities have not confirmed whether Carrillo is a suspect in the Oakland case.

On Friday, Carrillo appeared via video from jail in Monterey County. He is being held without bail and is scheduled to enter a plea Wednesday.

Defense attorney Jeffrey Stotter said his client has a traumatic brain injury, though he would not elaborate beyond saying it was not related to his active-duty military service.

Carrillo had no record of disciplinary issues during his service, according to the Air Force.

The military said Carrillo was deployed to Kuwait for four months in 2019, but his attorney stated he served in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Justin Ehrhardt, a former friend of Carrillo who served in the Air Force with him before his retirement, told The Mercury News that Carrillo considered himself a libertarian and may have been pushed over the

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edge following police use of force during protests over the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes in Minneapolis.

"Excessive use of force on unarmed civilians — that was a huge thing for him," Ehrhardt told The Mercury News. "It was a mental tipping point for him." Ehrhardt imagined it was Carrillo's way of saying, "If I'm going to fight for something, it's going to be against the establishment."

Ehrhardt told the newspaper that Carrillo shared memes on Facebook about the right-wing extremist "boogaloo" movement, a loosely organized internet-rooted network of gun enthusiasts expressing support for overthrowing the U.S. government. Three purported followers of the movement were arrested last month in Nevada and accused of planning a terror attack during recent Las Vegas protests over Floyd's death.

Ehrhardt did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Rosell would not discuss Carrillo's potential links to the "boogaloo" movement and said the investigation to any possible connections is ongoing. The district attorney also did not know why Carrillo was not wearing a mask.

On Saturday, someone called 911 to report a suspicious white van in Boulder Creek, saying guns and bomb-making devices were inside. The van's registration led a sheriff's deputy up Carrillo's steep driveway to his Ben Lomond home, roughly 8 miles (13 kilometers) away from Boulder Creek.

Carrillo arrived in a second white van and ambushed the deputies, showering gunfire and explosives down a hillside from the high ground onto police who scrambled to find cover and defend themselves.

Gutzwiller, 38, was shot and killed. Another deputy was shot in the chest — his bulletproof vest saving him — and suffered shrapnel wounds from an explosive and then was struck by Carrillo's vehicle as the suspect fled the home. A California Highway Patrol officer was wounded in the hand.

Carrillo escaped, carjacked a vehicle and tried to carjack several others before being subdued through the herculean efforts of a heroic resident, who managed to tackle and detain him as Carrillo, toting an AR-15, pulled a pipe bomb and pistol from his pants.

A CHP officer shot Carrillo during the gun battle. Carrillo was treated for a non-life-threatening injury, though it's not clear where he was struck.

Dazio reported from Los Angeles.

## Some states hit pause, others press on amid spike in virus

By PAUL J. WEBER and ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Utah and Oregon put any further reopening of their economies on hold amid a spike in coronavirus cases, but there was no turning back Friday in such states as Texas, Arkansas and Arizona despite flashing warning signs there, too.

One by one, states are weighing the health risks from the virus against the economic damage from the stay-at-home orders that have thrown millions out of work over the past three months.

And many governors are coming down on the side of jobs, even though an Associated Press analysis this week found that cases are rising in nearly half the states — a trend experts attributed in part to the gradual reopening of businesses over the past few weeks.

Texas hit highs this week for hospitalizations and new COVID-19 cases, prompting Houston's top county official, Lina Hidalgo, to warn that "we may be approaching the precipice of a disaster." Meanwhile, the state went ahead with allowing restaurants to expand eat-in dining Friday to 75% of capacity, up from 50%.

"Oh, yeah, I've been concerned," 32-year-old Renata Liggins said as she settled in front of a plate of brisket at Black's Barbecue in Austin and the number of people now hospitalized with COVID-19 in Texas climbed to its highest level yet, at more than 2,100. But "it just feels I can finally breathe a little bit."

Alabama, which began reopening in early May, has seen more than a quarter of the state's 23,000 cases come in the past two weeks as Republican Gov. Kay Ivey emphasized personal responsibility.

Arkansas, which has seen both hospitalizations and active cases more than double since Memorial Day, reported its largest one-day spike in new coronavirus cases Friday. Gov. Asa Hutchinson said at least 11,547

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people in the state have tested positive for the virus, an increase of 731 cases over Thursday.

Hutchinson said he expected more increases in the coming week but would press ahead with plans to further ease virus restrictions on businesses starting Monday. Capacity limits will be increased for restaurants, bars, theaters and other businesses while other social distancing restrictions remain in place.

"Regardless of what we see in the next week, we made the right decision to go ahead and lift some of these restrictions so we don't cause more damage to people's lives and their livelihood," Hutchinson said.

Arizona has become one of the most troubling hot spots in the U.S. as new cases have surged to more than 1,000 a day, up from fewer than 400 before stay-at-home orders expired in mid-May.

Republican Gov. Doug Ducey has given assurances the health care system can handle it, and Arizona Health Director Dr. Cara Christ said: "We are not going to be able to stop the spread, and so we can't stop living as well."

California, which implemented the country's first statewide stay-at-home order, entered the most expansive phase of its gradual reopening Friday. Wineries started uncorking their bottles and welcoming people back to their tasting rooms, and hotels, zoos, museums and aquariums were also allowed to reopen. San Francisco restaurants resumed outdoor dining, and the San Diego Zoo opened on a limited basis.

Cases are rising as the state expands testing, but health officials say key metrics to watch are the positivity rate among those tested and hospitalizations, and both have remained relatively steady in recent weeks as businesses gradually reopened. The state has "guardrails and cautions" in place that give officials confidence to continue reopening, said Mark Ghaly, the state's health and human services secretary.

Health officials in Oklahoma warned Friday that a spike in coronavirus cases in the Tulsa area is linked to indoor events and people who attend such gatherings should take health precautions. Tulsa Health Department spokesperson Leanne Stephens said an undetermined number of cases were linked to two recent indoor gatherings but declined to name them.

The warning comes a week before President Donald Trump is scheduled to hold a campaign rally at the city's BOK Center, which has a listed seating capacity of more than 19,000. Stephens said the warning was unrelated to the rally.

So far, only a small number of governors have shown a willingness to retreat, or at least hit pause.

Republican Gov. Gary Herbert of Utah and Democratic Gov. Kate Brown of Oregon said they would halt lifting further restrictions for the time being as new cases flare.

"As I've said before, reopening comes with real risk," Brown said in announcing a one-week pause that will affect, among other places, Portland, the state's biggest city.

She said the increase in positive test results was caused in part by the reopening of some counties. Oregon reported 178 new cases Thursday, the highest count since the outbreak began.

Elsewhere across the country, Iowa allowed bars, restaurants, theaters and other businesses to pack in more customers. Swimming pools, senior centers and adult day care centers were also cleared to open back up. Iowa is still seeing hot spots, especially near meatpacking plants.

In Texas, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott "is making pretty clear at this point he wants the economy to open," a worried Austin Mayor Steve Adler said. "My hope is that when he sees what kind of surge there's going to be, he does act at a state level."

DeMillo reported from Little Rock, Ark. Associated Press writers Andrew Selsky in Salem, Ore.; Kimberly Chandler in Montgomery, Ala.; Bob Christie in Phoenix; and Tammy Webber in Fenton, Mich., contributed to this report.

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

## Kentucky panel votes to remove Davis statue from Capitol

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A Kentucky commission voted Friday to take down a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis from the state Capitol, adding its voice to a global push to remove symbols of racism and slavery.

The Historic Properties Advisory Commission met remotely through video teleconferencing at the request of Gov. Andy Beshear and then voted 11-1 to move the 15-foot (4.5-meter) marble statue of Davis to a state historic site in southern Kentucky where the Confederate leader was born. The commission is responsible for statues in the state Capitol.

"When I see the Jefferson Davis statue in my state Capitol, and knowing our history, I can't find a lot of reasons to honor this man in that way," said commissioner member Cathy Thomas, adding that he "enslaved human beings" and "rebelled against the United States of America."

Relocating the Davis statue means it will no longer share space in the ornate Capitol Rotunda with a statue of Abraham Lincoln, his Civil War adversary and the president who freed the slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation. Both were Kentucky natives.

State workers were seen doing prep work Friday for the statue's removal from the Rotunda, but it wasn't immediately clear when it would go.

The panel's vote came two days after another Davis statue was toppled by protesters in Virginia. It comes amid a reignited effort to pull down Confederate monuments around the U.S. after the deaths of black Americans at the hands of police. A black man in Minnesota, George Floyd, died after a Minneapolis police officer pinned him down by putting his knee on Floyd's neck.

In Louisville, protesters have demanded justice for Breonna Taylor, who was killed in her home in March. The African American EMT was shot eight times by narcotics detectives who knocked down her door while attempting to enforce a search warrant. No drugs were found.

Beshear, who said he expected the commission to remove the statue from the Capitol Rotunda, called it an historic day after the vote. The Democratic governor has referred to the statue as a divisive symbol that needed to go.

"It was past time for this vote and for this action," Beshear said in a statement. "But what it will mean is that ... every child who walks into this Capitol feels welcome, and none of them have to look at a symbol and a statue that stands for the enslavement of their ancestors."

The Davis statue has stood in the Kentucky statehouse since 1936. It occupied a corner of the Rotunda near a bronze likeness of Lincoln. Their statues are among several on display in the Rotunda, a popular place for rallies when the legislature is in session.

Advocates have for years been asking state officials to remove the Davis statue. In 2018, officials removed a plaque declaring the only president of the Confederacy to be a "Patriot-Hero-Statesman."

Kentucky was a border state during the Civil War and did not secede from the Union, though some of its citizens owned slaves and Kentuckians fought on both sides of the conflict. The statue was placed in the Capitol during a time of Jim Crow segregation to maintain white rule, Thomas said during the commission's discussion.

"Its purpose was clear in the 1930s as it is today," she said. "The statue was placed to reaffirm a legacy of white supremacy ... during a time when black Kentuckians lived with threats of violence and lynchings and a system of segregation that denied us basic rights as American citizens."

Voting against the statue's removal, commission member Brandon Wilson said: "I came on this board with the intent to protect history. I didn't come on the board to remove history. ... I understand that it's tough history."

Wilson said he sees the push to move the Davis statue as a "cultural movement trying to suppress" history. He accused the governor of "politicizing" the issue and "using our board as a weapon" to achieve an agenda. He said the proximity of the Davis and Lincoln statues offered the chance for a "great teaching moment" for visitors to the Capitol.

The commission called for the statue to be moved to the Jefferson Davis Historic Site, where Davis was

born. The site features a 351-foot monument and a museum, according to a state website.

## **Biden's VP list narrows: Warren, Harris, Susan Rice, others**

**By BILL BARROW and JULIE PACE Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden's search for a running mate is entering a second round of vetting for a dwindling list of potential vice presidential nominees, with several black women in strong contention.

Democrats with knowledge of the process said Biden's search committee has narrowed the choices to as few as six serious contenders after initial interviews. Among the group still in contention: Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kamala Harris of California, as well as Susan Rice, who served as President Barack Obama's national security adviser.

Those with knowledge declined to name other contenders and said the process remains somewhat fluid. Additional candidates may still be asked to submit to the extensive document review process now underway for some top contenders. Those familiar with Biden's search spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the process.

The campaign dismissed the idea of a shortened list as early speculation. "Those who talk don't know and those who know don't talk," said Andrew Bates, a Biden spokesperson.

Biden, who has already said he will pick a woman as his running mate, is facing increased calls from Democrats to put a woman of color on the ticket — both because of the outsize role that black voters played in Biden's road to the nomination and because of the reckoning over racism and inequality roiling the nation following the death of George Floyd. The black Minneapolis man died after a white police officer pressed his knee on his neck for several minutes, an episode that was captured on video.

Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor and former Democratic National Committee chairman, said that while Biden's choice was likely to be "all about personal chemistry," it would be "exciting for the party" to have a black woman on a major party presidential ticket for the first time.

The campaign's list includes several black women, including Harris and Rice. Advisers have also looked closely at Florida Rep. Val Demings and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, both of whom are black, and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Latina.

Biden's vetting committee had conversations with a larger group of women earlier this spring; those continuing on in the process have been asked to turn over financial records, past writings and other documentation. Biden has had various public and private interactions with many of the women his vetting committee has considered thus far, but has not yet had any formal one-on-one interviews expressly to discuss the No. 2 spot on the ticket. Those aren't expected for several weeks.

Rice, who worked closely with Biden during his time as vice president, has emerged as a favorite among some former Obama administration officials and is personally close to the former president. She has never held elected office but has extensive foreign policy experience, including as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. She's also been an outspoken critic of the Trump administration since leaving the White House and considered running for U.S. Senate in Maine.

Rice has long been a target of Republicans, including for statements she made after the deadly 2012 attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya. Republicans have also accused her of spying on Michael Flynn, Trump's first national security adviser, though records declassified by the Trump administration show no evidence of Rice improperly accessing any information.

Harris and Warren have been seen as top contenders for the No. 2 spot since ending their own presidential campaigns.

Warren and Biden have forged a surprising bond in recent months and talk regularly about the progressive policy ideas the Massachusetts senator put at the forefront of her campaign. Biden already has adopted her proposed bankruptcy law overhaul. And now, with the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic slowdown elevating the nuts-and-bolts of governing, some Democrats see Warren's policy credentials as an asset to the ticket.

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A Biden-Warren pairing would mean both Democrats on the ticket are white and in their 70s. Biden is 77, and Warren is 70.

Harris is the lone black contender who has won statewide office, notable experience given Biden's emphasis on wanting a partner "ready to be president." She and Biden have also demonstrated a comfortable manner with each other in online fundraisers. Harris is an expert voice in discussions of criminal justice, but some black progressives view her background as a prosecutor skeptically.

One contender whose standing does appear to have fallen is Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who was a prosecutor years ago in the county that includes Minneapolis. During that period, more than two dozen people — mostly minorities — died during encounters with police.

While the people with knowledge of Biden's vetting process did not rule Klobuchar out, she is widely viewed among Democrats with close ties to the Biden campaign as less likely to be tapped given recent events.

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe and Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

## Q&A: What's next for Seattle protesters' 'autonomous zone'?

By CHRIS GRYGIEL Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — For nearly a week, people opposing police brutality and racial injustice have turned a Seattle neighborhood into ground zero for their protests, creating a carnival-like atmosphere with speakers and drum circles near a largely abandoned police station.

While protesters say it shows how people can manage without police intervention, it's drawn scorn from President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly threatened to "go in" to stop the "anarchists" he says have taken over the liberal city after officers withdrew to ease tensions.

Washington's governor and Seattle's mayor, both Democrats, have rebuked Trump and say local officials are trying to find a peaceful resolution following demonstrations that turned violent last weekend.

In the latest twist, a U.S. judge on Friday ordered Seattle police to temporarily stop using tear gas, pepper spray and flash-bang devices to break up largely peaceful protests.

A look at what's going on in Seattle:

**WHAT IS THE "CAPITOL HILL AUTONOMOUS ZONE"?**

It stretches for several blocks in the densely packed Capitol Hill neighborhood just east of downtown Seattle and sprung up after police removed barricades near a police station Monday and largely left the building.

It came after officers used tear gas, pepper spray and flash-bang devices last weekend to disperse demonstrators they said were assaulting them with projectiles.

Signs along the sidewalks proclaim "You are entering free Capitol Hill" and "No cop co-op." Throughout the day, speakers use microphones to discuss their demands. Artists have painted a blocklong "Black Lives Matter" mural on the street. Many businesses are still open.

While there are makeshift barricades that block the area to vehicles, people walk in and out freely. And some officers have been back during the week to check on the police station.

**WHAT DO PROTESTERS WANT?**

They come from a variety of groups and interests, ranging from Black Lives Matter organizers to labor and neighborhood groups. Most want the police precinct to be turned into a community center and much of the department's funding to be redirected to health and social services.

"What you see out here is people coming together and loving each other," said Mark Henry Jr. of Black Lives Matter. "I see people coming from different walks of life ... learning from each other."

**WHAT IS TRUMP SAYING?**

In a series of tweets, Trump has taunted Gov. Jay Inslee and Mayor Jenny Durkan and said Seattle had

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been taken over by "anarchists."

"These Liberal Dems don't have a clue. The terrorists burn and pillage our cities, and they think it is just wonderful, even the death. Must end this Seattle takeover now!" Trump tweeted Friday.

His comments come as he's pushed for a stronger response to protesters nationwide. Following last weekend's unrest, the protests in Seattle have been largely peaceful.

In a Thursday interview with the Fox News Channel, the president said, "If we have to go in, we're going to go in. These people are not going to occupy a major portion of a great city."

In response, Durkan said it would be "unconstitutional and illegal to send military to Seattle."

HOW HAVE POLICE REACTED?

Police Chief Carmen Best said the decision to leave the Capitol Hill precinct wasn't hers and she was angry about it. In a video message to officers this week, she also reiterated that police had been harassed and assaulted during protests.

"Ultimately, the city had other plans for the building and relented to severe public pressure," Best said.

Durkan said in a statement that she decided to remove the barriers around the station in an effort to deescalate tensions.

Best said in an interview Friday on "Good Morning America" that officials had to remove some personnel for a short period, then it became unsafe for officers to go back.

Police initially said protesters in the "autonomous zone" had harassed and intimidated residents and businesses but later eased off those statements and said they had no concrete evidence of that.

While Best said she supports free speech, "this is not that."

WHAT'S NEXT?

The police chief said Friday that officials were working to get officers back into the precinct, stressing the "need to have officers responding to calls in a timely fashion. And with the occupation that's taking place, we're not able to do so in a timely way."

She says police want to ensure they're responding to community concerns, keeping people safe and making their response "proportionate to what we're addressing."

On the first weekend of protests in late May, there was widespread destruction downtown as people smashed storefront windows and stole merchandise. Last weekend, police used tear gas to disperse crowds on Capitol Hill that they said had become unruly, soon after pledging to temporarily stop using a type of tear gas.

Some City Council members and other elected officials say authorities overreacted, and both Durkan and Best have faced calls to resign.

The new court ruling added to the criticism, saying a Black Lives Matter group that sued this week made a strong case that the indiscriminate use of force during largely peaceful protests is unconstitutional. The federal judge said weapons like tear gas and pepper spray fail to target "any single agitator or criminal" and are especially problematic during the coronavirus pandemic.

The mayor said she doesn't want a repeat of last weekend's violence and tweeted that she visited the Capital Hill area Friday to speak with organizers about moving forward.

Associated Press photographer Ted Warren contributed to this report.

## US stocks bounce higher, but still end the week with a loss

By ALEX VEIGA and DAMIAN J. TROISE AP Business Writers

Wall Street managed to end a bumpy day broadly higher Friday but still finished with its worst week in nearly three months.

The S&P 500 rose 1.3% a day after dropping nearly 6% in its biggest rout since mid-March. It lost 4.8% for the week, snapping a three-week winning streak for the benchmark index. Small-company stocks and bond yields rose, meaning investors were a bit more willing to take on risk again a day after the sell-off.

The volatility this week interrupted what had been a dramatic rally for the market. After surging Monday,

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stocks sold off for three straight days as a rise in COVID-19 cases in the U.S. and a discouraging economic outlook from the Federal Reserve dashed investors' optimism that the economy will recover relatively quickly as states lift stay-at-home orders and businesses reopen.

"Yesterday was the market taking a needed breath and saying 'OK, this is probably going to take more time than we were expecting,'" said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird. "Today, it's 'maybe we overreacted yesterday.'"

The comeback rally lost some of its early strength as the day went on. The S&P 500 gained 39.21 points to 3,041.31 after shedding more than half of its early gains.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 477.37 points, or 1.9%, to 25,605.54. It had been up more than 800 points in the early going. It closed the week with a 5.6% loss.

Investors have been balancing optimism about the reopening of the economy against the possibility that the relaxing of restrictions will lead to a surge in new coronavirus infections and fatalities. Cases are climbing in nearly half the states, according to an Associated Press analysis, a worrying trend that could intensify as people return to work and venture out during the summer.

Despite the uncertainty, stocks have mounted a historic comeback the past couple of months, with the S&P 500 rallying 44.5% between late March and Monday, erasing most of its losses tied to the pandemic. It's unclear if Thursday's market sell-off reflected a fundamental reassessment of the economic outlook or a one-off drop as traders cashed in on the market's recent gains.

"We will continue to see volatility across the markets, as there is plenty of uncertainty on what the reopening of the U.S. economy looks like," said Julie Fox, northeast private wealth market head at UBS Financial Services.

In a press conference earlier this week, Fed Chair Jerome Powell put a damper on hopes for a swift economic rebound from the coronavirus pandemic, noting that surprisingly strong May hiring data, while encouraging, was hardly enough to ensure that the job market or the economy is back on track.

"This is a battle of optimism and realism that's been playing out over the last three months," said Adam Taback, chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Wealth Management. "Optimism was winning over realism with a look toward 2021. What Jerome Powell exposed is 2021 is not enough time. It's likely 2022 or even 2023 before we will see ourselves get back to normal."

Taback said the job market remains the most important gauge of the economy's recovery, which is why he's keeping an eye on data for signs that people who were laid off or furloughed are getting rehired as businesses reopen.

"The main thing to watch is how fast those jobs come back, because they'll be directly tied to how much consumers are spending," he said.

Technology, financial and industrial stocks were among the big gainers Friday. Utilities stocks posted a small loss. Companies that were among the biggest losers Thursday were big gainers Friday, including airlines and cruise lines.

The Nasdaq, which climbed above 10,000 points for the first time on Wednesday, gained 96.08 points, or 1%, to 9,588.81. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fared better than the rest of the market, climbing 31.46 points, or 2.3%, to 1,387.68. European markets closed mostly higher. Asian markets ended broadly lower.

Bond yields rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury yield increased to 0.69% from 0.65% late Thursday.

Oil prices ended mixed. Benchmark U.S. crude oil for July delivery fell 8 cents to settle at \$36.26 a barrel. Brent crude oil for August delivery rose 18 cents to close at \$38.73 a barrel.

## NBA gives teams, players more detailed schedule for restart

By **TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer**

The NBA gave teams a more definitive timetable for the restart to the pandemic-interrupted season Friday, including required coronavirus testing that is set to begin this month and mandatory individual workouts in early July before training camps.

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The league is still working on completing the health and safety protocols that will essentially become the rulebook for the restart at the Disney campus near Orlando, Florida — and told teams that talks with the National Basketball Players Association on those issues are continuing.

Meanwhile, a person with direct knowledge of the talks said that Disney workers who will be on the campus during the NBA restart will have to follow a long list of protocols — including constant mask or other appropriate personal protective equipment usage when in the vicinity of any NBA participants or others there for the restart, strict social distancing guidelines and a submission to daily temperature checks and symptom self-assessments.

There are other requirements that will also apply to those working in housekeeping and food service, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because those details have not been revealed publicly. The NBPA has said player health and safety will be a top priority, and there are still many concerns about how things will work once teams arrive at Disney.

But with negotiations on many levels apparently far enough along to determine a schedule of sorts, the league gave teams the go-ahead to immediately start allowing two assistant coaches to deal with voluntary player workouts. The rule had been one coach with one player since teams were given the green light to re-open facilities for the voluntary workouts last month.

NBA head coaches can be one of those two coaches involved in the voluntary sessions starting June 23, though social distancing and other rules the league applied in response to the pandemic would still apply.

June 23 is significant in another way as well. That would be the first day players on the 22 teams that will be going to the Disney campus would be required to undergo coronavirus testing conducted by those teams.

The league also said it is still working on plans for the eight teams — Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Golden State, Minnesota and New York — that will not be part of the restart at Disney. Those teams can keep their facilities open for now for voluntary workouts until told otherwise.

The rest of the league's timetable, as of now and with the caveat that it is still considered tentative until the health protocols are done and agreements with Disney are signed, includes:

July 1 through July 7, 8 or 9 — Required individual workouts for players on the 22 participating teams, with the end date coinciding with which day that team would arrive at the Disney campus.

July 7, 8 and 9 — Arrivals at the Disney campus in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

July 9-29 — Team training camps at Disney, which would follow initial health and safety screenings upon arrival.

July 21 or 22 — Start date for three intersquad scrimmages for each team. The scrimmages will be scheduled by the NBA and will have NBA referees.

July 30-August 14 — Seeding games at Disney. Games will resume. The NBA is still working on completing the schedule for those eight games per team, and the matchups will be based on regular-season games that remained when the league suspended play on March 11.

Aug. 15-16 — The two-game play-in series to determine the No. 8 seed in each conference, if necessary. The series would be necessary if the team in ninth place in either conference when the seeding games end is within four games of the No. 8 team. A best-of-two series would be played, with the ninth-place team needing to go 2-0 in those games to earn a playoff berth. Otherwise, the No. 8 team would take that seed and move into the conference quarterfinals.

Aug. 17 — Playoffs begin. This date would move up to Aug. 15 or 16 if the play-in series are unnecessary. The playoffs are all scheduled as traditional best-of-seven series.

Aug. 30 — A limited number of family members and guests of remaining teams will be permitted to arrive at Disney for the first time. They would stay on the Disney property. They will not be permitted until this point in the schedule.

Aug. 31-Sept. 13 — Conference semifinals.

Sept. 15-28 — Conference finals.

Sept. 30-Oct. 13 — NBA Finals. The league originally planned an Oct. 12 end date, though that has now

been adjusted.

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

## Trudeau: police video of aboriginal chief arrest shocking

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday that black and indigenous people in Canada do not feel safe around police after a police dashcam video emerged of the violent arrest of a Canadian aboriginal chief.

The arrest has received attention in Canada as a backlash against racism grows worldwide in the wake of the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck.

The 12-minute police video shows an officer charging at Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam with his arm and elbow up as he tackles him to the ground. It also shows the officer punching him in the head.

Trudeau called the video “shocking.”

“I have serious questions about what happened,” Trudeau said. “The independent investigation must be transparent and be carried out so that we get answers. At the same time, though, we also know that this is not an isolated incident. Far too many black Canadians and indigenous people do not feel safe around police. It’s unacceptable. And as governments, we have to change that.”

Pictures show Adam was left bloodied with his face swollen. Alberta’s police watchdog agency is investigating. Police charged Adam with resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer.

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police dash camera video was released publicly as part of a court application to get criminal charges against Adam removed.

The video earlier shows a different officer approaching Adam’s truck outside a casino in Fort McMurray, Alberta, early on the morning of March 10. Police have said Adam’s truck had expired plates.

The video shows Adam getting in and out of the vehicle, removing his coat and taking a karate-like stance and using expletives as he complains about being harassed by police. His wife and niece get in between him and the officer at times.

Adam’s lawyer, Brian Beresh, has filed a court motion to have criminal charges dropped over violation of Adam’s constitutional rights.

“All of this resulted from an expired license plate tag. The video speaks for itself,” Beresh said in a statement.

Opposition Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer said he was troubled by the video.

“It’s very difficult to watch,” Scheer said. “I found it very troubling and very worrying. The events of the last few days and weeks have ignited a very important conversation about the use of excessive force.”

The RCMP said in a statement that the dashcam video had been reviewed by supervisors and “it was determined that the members’ actions were reasonable and did not meet the threshold for an external investigation.”

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said she found the images in the video “incredibly disturbing.”

“This is a moment in our country when we need to confront the really horrible reality that systemic racism exists here in Canada, anti-black racism exists in Canada, anti-indigenous racism exists in Canada. It is systemic,” she said.

The statement from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation called for the officers involved to be punished and criminal charges brought.

Mark Mendelson, a former Toronto police detective, said the officer flying at Adam with his elbow and punching him on the ground was unnecessary and egregious. Mendelson also wondered why he was being arrested.

“You can see him being verbally aggressive. My position is that if you can’t take somebody yelling and

swearing and screaming at you, then you probably shouldn't be a cop," he said.

Adam held a news conference last weekend to talk about excessive force and racism. He has noted that although aboriginal people represent 5% of Canada's population, they make up to 30% of the prison population.

Trudeau has also said the issue of systemic racism in policing is longstanding and needs addressing.

Curtis Zablocki, deputy commissioner for the RCMP in Alberta, acknowledged systemic racism does exist in the force, but declined to comment on the video because of the ongoing internal investigation.

National RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki said in a statement that she should have acknowledged there is systemic racism in recent media interviews.

"I struggled with the definition of systemic racism, while trying to highlight the great work done by the overwhelming majority of our employees," she said. "I did not say definitively that systemic racism exists in the RCMP. I should have. ... Throughout our history and today, we have not always treated racialized and Indigenous people fairly."

## Police disciplinary records are largely kept secret in US

By **CLAUDIA LAUER** and **COLLEEN LONG** Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Officer Derek Chauvin had more than a dozen misconduct complaints against him before he put his knee on George Floyd's neck. Daniel Pantaleo, the New York City officer who seized Eric Garner in a deadly chokehold, had eight. Ryan Pownall, a Philadelphia officer facing murder charges in the shooting of David Jones, had 15 over five years.

But the public didn't know about any of that until the victims' deaths.

Citizen complaints against police across the U.S. are largely kept secret, either under the law or by union contract — a practice some criminal justice experts say deprives the public of information that could be used to root out problem officers before it's too late.

In recent years, there have been dozens of examples of officers who had numerous complaints against them of excessive force, harassment or other misconduct before they were accused of killing someone on duty.

Confidentiality "makes it really tough for the public to know just who it is they are dealing with and to know whether their department or any particular officer is one they would want out in the streets," said David Harris, a University of Pittsburgh law professor who studies police behavior.

While the U.S. considers ways to reform American policing following the sometimes violent protests that erupted nationwide over Floyd's death in Minneapolis, complaint data is getting renewed attention as a way to track and correct rogue officers and perhaps head off more serious instances of brutality.

Both Democratic and Republican reform bills in Congress would make officers' disciplinary records public and create a national database of allegations — a shift in political will that didn't exist just a few years ago.

Police advocates argue that withholding allegations is necessary to protect officers' privacy and keep them safe. Police unions have fought in contract negotiations and in state legislatures for confidentiality. In some cases, records are erased after as little as two years.

"The unfettered release of police personnel records will allow unstable people to target police officers and our families for harassment or worse," said Patrick Lynch, head of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association in New York City. "A dangerous cop-hater only needs a police officer's name, linked to a few false or frivolous complaints, to be inspired to commit violence."

Personal information on officers is already being leaked online, according to an intelligence document from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, obtained by The Associated Press.

Police unions argue, too, that the overwhelming majority of complaints are deemed unsubstantiated after internal investigations. But that argument carries no weight with the many activists who say police departments tend to protect their own.

Out of about 5,000 complaints brought against New York City officers last year for offenses such as discourtesy, excessive force and abuse of authority, 24% were substantiated, according to the city's in-

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dependent Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Bowling Green State University criminologist Phil Stinson, who has collected data on thousands of police charged, investigated or convicted of crimes, said that most officers go through their careers with few complaints against them, and that generally a small percentage of officers account for an outsize share of complaints.

Stinson recalled an Atlanta officer who had a personnel file full of "frightfully similar" complaints from women of sexual misconduct. It wasn't until his file was leaked to a local TV station that he faced any discipline.

Around 40% of current New York City police officers have never received a civilian complaint, while 32% have one or two, and one officer has 52, the highest, according to the review board.

In New York, Pantaleo, the officer who put Garner in a chokehold in 2014 but was not indicted in his death, had eight disciplinary cases of abuse and excessive force, four of which were substantiated. But his record was secret until a staff member at the review board leaked it. The staffer later resigned.

New York legislators this week voted to repeal the law that kept officers' names secret along with specifics about complaints made against them. The repeal passed largely along party lines, and Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed it Friday.

Chris Dunn, legal director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, rejected the notion, advanced largely by Republicans, that police disciplinary records should be kept private like medical information.

"They have no privacy interest in acts of misconduct, in the use of force or the killing of civilians," he said. "When a police officer walks out the door in uniform, they're a public official, and all of their conduct should be subject to public scrutiny."

In Philadelphia, Pownall's record was made public along with that of a few other officers named in hundreds of complaints after reporters filed freedom of information requests in 2018. As for Chauvin, who is charged with murder in Floyd's death, his records became public after similar requests — and the details are still being withheld.

Many departments disclose portions of officers' complaint files. Some release files only for certain time periods. Some withhold complaints if the internal investigation did not substantiate them. Others, like many Texas departments, hold back cases that did not result in a suspension or firing. But in most cases, the information is released only if the person requesting it names the officer.

But by the time a reporter or member of the public knows the officer's name, it can be too late.

In Scottsdale, Arizona, Officer James Peters was involved in seven shootings from 2002 to 2012 that led to six deaths. Six of those shootings were deemed justified by the department. In the final case, Peters killed an unarmed man holding his 7-month-old grandson.

The city paid \$4 million to the victim's family to settle a lawsuit that noted Peters had at least two previous complaints, including a reprimand for mishandling a gun he pointed at his own face.

Some states, cities and police departments are working toward transparency, however grudgingly.

A 2018 California law requires departments to start releasing information about misconduct claims, though only when officers are found to have improperly used force or fired their weapons, committed sexual assaults on the job or been dishonest in their official duties.

Several departments responded by destroying decades of records. Others filed lawsuits asking that the law not apply to files from before the law took effect in 2019.

A court ruling in a lawsuit in Chicago opened up the system there a few years ago. A data program created by an activist and journalist at the center of the lawsuit has even been used by members of the department to look at others' files when they are assigned new partners or new officers are transferred into their units.

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw and Mayor Jim Kenney pledged this week to publish a detailed quarterly report on complaints against city officers.

But that report, like the complaint data currently available online, will be scrubbed of all details, including the names of any officer, accuser or witness, said City Manager Brian Abernathy.

"I think we still recognize that officers are employees," he said. "We're trying to balance their rights and the public's right for transparency."

Long reported from Lowell, Indiana. Associated Press writer Jacques Billeaud in Phoenix contributed to this report.

## Trump policy change frightens Cubans, shows Washington chaos

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A week and a half ago, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a strongly worded announcement that the Trump administration was prohibiting business with Fincimex, a Cuban state corporation that works with foreign credit card and money transfer businesses, among others.

Many ordinary Cubans panicked.

Fincimex handles hundreds of millions of dollars in remittances sent to Cuba through Western Union by families in Cuban-American communities in South Florida and around the nation. Would a ban on business with the military-run company mean an end to the remittances that so many Cuban families need to put food on the table?

The State and Treasury departments wouldn't say. Meanwhile, thousands of families rushed to send money before the ban went into effect on Friday.

What happened next offers a small window into the chaos behind the administration's execution of one of its top foreign policy priorities — weakening the communist-run Cuban government and its longstanding alliance with President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela.

As expected, the administration published a regulation Friday in the Federal Register — the official gazette of the U.S. government. The new rule sanctions anyone doing business with military-run businesses in Cuba, including three hotels, two scuba-diving centers and a swimming-with-dolphins center at a beach resort in eastern Cuba.

But it doesn't mention Fincimex. That led Cuba-watchers to speculate Friday morning that the Trump administration had simply backed off its threat to potentially cut remittances to Cuba. A few hours later, the State Department said omitting Fincimex had simply been a clerical error and the Cuban company would indeed be sanctioned.

"The correction will be published in the Federal Register in the coming days," the State Department said.

The new regulation will not, however, actually affect Americans' ability to send remittances to family in Cuba, according to a person familiar with the process.

Western Union is expected to be able to continue sending money to Cuba through Fincimex even after the new ban goes into effect, the person said on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. company declined to comment on any future regulations, saying Friday simply that "we can confirm that our business and services from the U.S. to Cuba are operating as usual and in compliance with U.S. law and regulations."

A U.S. bank that works with MasterCard to operate a small number of cards allowing cash withdrawals at ATMs in Cuba cut off those cards on Thursday evening, but otherwise the Fincimex ban was expected to have a minimal impact on the island, said Collin Laverty, who runs head of Cuba Educational Travel, one of the largest companies bringing U.S. travelers to Cuba. Laverty also consults for U.S. companies who want to do business in Cuba.

"It kind of is symbolic of the Trump approach to Cuba, which is to make a lot of noise, cause a lot of confusion," he said. "Sometimes they follow through with regulations, sometimes they don't ... the policy's been extremely inconsistent and incoherent."

Despite Western Union's reassurances, many Cubans and their families in the U.S. have spent the last week assuming that remittances were about to be cut off in the middle of one of Cuba's deepest economic crises in decades, fueled in large part by the near-total closure of flights in and out of the island due to the coronavirus pandemic.

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Yadamis Roque is a 47-year-old homemaker with a disabled 20-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son. She lives on remittances sent by her mother in Florida.

As she waited on line outside a Western Union in Havana on a recent weekday, she said she was still assuming that her lifeline was about to be cut off.

"I will be affected," she said. "This has been a really heavy blow ... why do we have to suffer as a result of this, and in the middle of a pandemic!"

Associated Press writer Michael Weissenstein reported this story in Havana and AP writer Matthew Lee reported from Washington. AP writer Andrea Rodríguez in Havana contributed to this report.

## CDC posts long-awaited tips for minimizing everyday risk

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Take the stairs, not the elevator, down from your hotel room. Encourage people to bring their own food and drinks to your cookout. Use hand sanitizer after banking at an ATM. Call ahead to restaurants and nail salons to make sure staff are wearing face coverings. And no high-fives — or even elbow bumps — at the gym.

These are some of the tips in long-awaited guidance from U.S. health officials about how to reduce risk of coronavirus infection for Americans who are attempting some semblance of normal life.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted the guidelines Friday, along with a second set for organizing and attending big gatherings such as concerts, sporting events, protests and political rallies.

But the guidelines are "not intended to endorse any particular type of event," the CDC's Dr. Jay Butler said in a Friday call with reporters.

The staging and attendance of such events should be in accordance with what local health officials are advising, based on much the coronavirus is spreading in a particular community, he added.

The guidelines are long overdue, some health experts say.

Julia Marcus, a Harvard Medical School infectious disease researcher, has likened stay-at-home suggestions to "abstinence-only" messaging and has pressed for advice to help people minimize risk. She said she was delighted by the CDC's tips.

"I think it's a huge step in the right direction," Marcus said. "These guidelines are really directed toward ordinary Americans trying to make decisions about risk every day."

But there are notable omissions. There's nothing about precautions to take before going to church, no guidance about dating and sex and no explicit advice on a topic that some doctors say they get asked all the time: Is it OK to take the kids to visit grandparents?

"Visiting grandma is something I must address three times a week," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University infectious disease expert.

"My empathy goes out to the CDC. It's very, very difficult to have a precise answer for every circumstance," he added.

Stay-at-home orders, school shutdowns and business closings were followed by a national flattening in the rate of new cases. In recent weeks, many states have started reopening as they face pressure to get the pandemic-damaged economy going again. And cases are rising in nearly half the states, according to an Associated Press analysis.

The CDC has put out many sets of guidelines, including some for churches, camps, schools and transit agencies. But until now, the organization hasn't offered specific advice to people trying to decide how to safely do things like take vacations, get their nails done, host barbecues, visit a bank or library, go out to eat or exercise at a gym.

Other organizations have been trying to fill the void, and some have addressed questions the CDC didn't.

New York City's health department this week released guidelines for having sex during the coronavirus outbreak. The department advised people to have sex only with those who are close to them, and not with multiple partners. It also suggested washing hands before sex, wearing a mask during it, and said

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"be creative with sexual positions and physical barriers, like walls, that allow sexual contact while preventing close face to face contact."

The CDC's director, Dr. Robert Redfield, called his agency's new guidelines "common sense suggestions," not mandates. State or local governments may want to reimpose stricter measures if new outbreaks occur, but that's a call for them to make, CDC officials said.

The guidelines repeat earlier advice about wearing face coverings, especially if it's difficult to keep at least 6 feet away from other people.

They also offers a list of questions people should consider before going out, and some things to think about in particular situations. For example, it suggests that house parties be held outside, guests be greeted with a wave instead of a hug and that everyone bring their own food and drinks.

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## Temperature spike: Earth ties record high heat May reading

BY SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Earth's temperature spiked to tie a record high for May, U.S. meteorologists reported Friday.

Last month the global average temperature was 60.3 degrees (15.7 degrees Celsius), tying 2016 for the hottest May in 141 years of record keeping, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

That's 1.7 degrees (nearly 1 degree Celsius) higher than the 20th century average for Earth.

Temperature on land set a heat record, while ocean temperatures ranked second.

Parts of Africa, Asia, western Europe, South and Central America had record warmth.

"We continue to warm on the long term and in any given month we're likely to be knocking on the door, close to a record in the era that we're in," NOAA climate monitoring chief Deke Arndt said.

The last seven Mays, from 2014 to 2020, have been the seven warmest Mays on record.

This past spring was the second hottest on record, behind 2016. And this year so far is the second hottest five-month start of a year.

Arndt said it's highly likely that 2020 will be one of the two hottest years since 1880.

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## Floyd's death spurs question: What is a black life worth?

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — For 12-year-old Tamir Rice, it was simply carrying a toy handgun. For Eric Garner, it was allegedly selling untaxed cigarettes. For Michael Brown, Sandra Bland and Ahmaud Arbery, it was the minor offenses of jaywalking, failing to signal a lane change and trespassing on a residential construction site.

And for George Floyd, it was an accusation he used a fake \$20 bill at a grocery store. While in police custody on May 25, Floyd repeatedly pleaded "I can't breathe," as a white officer in Minneapolis pressed his knee into the black man's neck for what prosecutors say was nearly nine minutes.

"George wasn't hurting anyone that day," his brother, Philonise Floyd, said Wednesday in testimony to a House Judiciary Committee hearing on policing practices and law enforcement accountability.

"He didn't deserve to die over \$20. I am asking you, is that what a black man's life is worth?"

Twenty dollars: To some, that's chump change. But George Floyd was not a chump, family and friends in Houston, where he grew up, asserted when they laid him to rest this week in a golden coffin. Those who mourned him at memorials held across three states said the value of the 46-year-old's life far surpassed that.

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In death, Floyd has created an invaluable and, some say, unprecedented moment for the national struggle against institutional racism and inequality.

In Minnesota, across the nation and around the world, outrage turned into action as protests grew, propelled by the reality that African Americans become martyrs of the Black Lives Matter movement over such trivial activities — in circumstances where their rights are discarded, their liberty deprived, their lives devalued. And where they're far more likely than whites to die at the hands of police.

"What's exposed in this moment is something black folks have always known: How quickly we can be killed by law enforcement over the most trivial things," said Chelsea Fuller, spokesperson for the Movement for Black Lives, a national coalition of more than 150 black-led grassroots organizations seeking the liberation of black people.

"This is now clear as day to everyone, including white people, and we all need to face that the solution to this endemic problem won't be quick or easy, but it is urgent and necessary," she said in a statement.

For some who now seek change, the fix starts with reforming police departments and the U.S. criminal justice system. Others favor a deeper reckoning to address centuries-old assumptions that black lives hold only a fraction of the value placed on the rights, liberty, lives and property of the white majority in America.

"Human life (does not equal) 20 bucks," read a protest sign during a rally last week at the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul.

A week after Floyd's death, Miski Noor, an activist with the Twin Cities-based Black Visions Collective, visited the area around Cup Foods, the grocery store at Chicago Avenue and 38th Street where an employee called police to report a man who allegedly bought cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill.

The intersection has become a makeshift memorial, where flowers, teddy bears, candles, artwork and protest signs surround the spot where Floyd breathed his last breath. Floyd's younger brother, Terrence, stood there on June 1 to urge calm after protests turned to looting and vandalism in cities that included Los Angeles, New York City and San Francisco.

The circumstances of Floyd's death are "the reason why we have to get at the conversation around anti-blackness," said Noor, who lives just blocks from the grocery. Noor said the Floyd arrest started over a "store owner in a majority black and (nonwhite) neighborhood who decides a counterfeit 20 is enough to call the police."

But Jamar Nelson, a spokesman for the owners of Cup Foods, said it was important to recognize who is responsible for Floyd's death.

"We do our community a huge disservice if we continue to focus on the call and not how police officers have a reckless disregard for the lives of black and brown men," he said.

Echoing that sentiment, Mahmoud "Mike" Abumayyaleh, co-owner of the grocery, attended the Minneapolis memorial for Floyd wearing a T-shirt that read, "We can't breathe," a reference to the man's last words under the knee of Officer Derek Chauvin. The officer, who has since been fired, is charged with second-degree murder.

Various studies of criminal justice data show that African Americans are far more likely than whites to be pulled over by police, and are as much as three times more likely to be searched. Black people are roughly 13% of the population, whereas the white population is about 60%.

Black men were about 2.5 times more likely than white men to be killed by police between 2013 and 2018, according to an August 2019 study published by the National Academy of Sciences. Black women were 1.4 more times likely than white women to be killed by police, according to the same study.

The Movement for Black Lives is behind a push for local communities to defund police departments nationwide, and reinvest in struggling black communities to address economic inequality and disparities in education and health care.

Though the Minneapolis City Council recently announced intentions to disband and re-purpose the police department in the wake of Floyd's death, such efforts have drawn strong rebuke from President Donald Trump.

"There won't be defunding, there won't be dismantling of our police," Trump said this week, adding that police were doing a "fantastic" job.

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The response to the outrage over Floyd's death doesn't have to be defunding police, said Arthur Rizer, who directs the criminal justice program at R Street, a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit that favors limited, effective government. The response could instead be to reform laws and policies that disproportionately criminalize black people, he said.

"There's so many nickel-and-dime laws around that we really have to review what we have, what we need and then get rid of some of these things," said Rizer, who is white and previously worked as a patrol officer in Washington state and as a federal prosecutor in California.

Under Minnesota law, the counterfeiting charge that cost Floyd his life carries a jail sentence of up to a year, or a maximum of five years of imprisonment for a repeat offender. Even if there was probable cause to investigate Floyd, the law doesn't require "a very intense arrest on the spot," Rizer said.

"If I would have been (Floyd), they would not have assumed that I was trying to do something bad," he said. "They would have probably assumed that it was some type of accident. That is a big piece that I think we need to focus on."

Last week, Floyd's family forwarded their pleas for racial justice to the United Nations. It's at least the third time in the last six years that black American families made appeals for the U.N. to intervene to hold police accountable.

During Floyd's funeral in Houston on Tuesday, Rep. Al Green of Texas called for the creation of a federal "Department of Reconciliation" to address systemic racial inequity that dates back to the abolition of slavery.

"This country has not reconciled its differences with us," said Green, who is black. "We survived slavery, but we didn't reconcile. We survived segregation, but we didn't reconcile. In the highest land, the highest office, it's time to have someone who's going to make it his or her business to seek reconciliation for black people in the United States of America."

Nekima Levy Armstrong, a civil rights lawyer and former president of the Minneapolis NAACP, said the demand that black lives are valued like white lives must begin at the community level.

"I know that if George Floyd were alive today, he would want us to continue this fight, continue holding the powers that be accountable, and remembering all of those who are not here to speak for themselves," she said.

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Morrison is a member of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/aaronlmorrison>.

## Poll: Americans maintain virus precautions as states reopen

By TAMMY WEBBER and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans say they are wearing masks. They are still by and large avoiding restaurants. And the vast majority are still staying at least six feet from others when out and about.

Even as states and metropolitan areas throughout the country relax restrictions on social and economic life during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, a new poll finds that most Americans aren't yet ready to abandon the public health behaviors that help reduce the risk of themselves and the people around them contracting the virus that causes COVID-19.

"For us, it's about doing whatever we have to do to keep ourselves and our community safe," said Jody Hayden, who runs a chocolate shop with her husband in the tiny Lake Michigan town of Empire, about 265 miles northwest of Detroit. She said her family wears masks and keeps their distance while out — and they'll expect customers to do the same when the doors to their store, the Grocer's Daughter, reopen next Friday.

"We see people from all over the world at our shop and we really love that, but this summer puts us at risk from people traveling from hot spots," Hayden said. "We could anger some customers and lose money or not have all the safety measures and ... risk a life. We couldn't live with that."

Overall, 90% of Americans say they're wearing a mask, according to the new poll conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the Data Foundation. That's higher than in April, when 78% were wearing

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a mask in response to the disease.

The latest COVID Impact survey is the third in a series measuring the pandemic's impact on Americans' physical, mental and social health.

The precautionary measures are not universal, with exceptions — such as a Memorial Day pool party at a bar in Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks — making headlines. This week, President Donald Trump moved his party's national convention to another state after officials in North Carolina balked at his desire to accept the Republican nomination in a packed basketball arena.

But majorities of Americans say they are still actively following the recommendations of public health experts. Sixty-three percent say they have canceled or postponed social or pleasure activities, down only slightly from 69% in April. Seventy-five percent say they are avoiding public or crowded places, down slightly from 80%. And 56% say they avoid contact with high-risk people, compared with 62%.

An overwhelming majority — 83% — continues to say they are keeping six feet distance from those outside their household. And while many restaurants are opening their doors to in-person diners as restrictions are eased, 72% of Americans say they are avoiding them.

Indianapolis resident Sharon Alseth Bartholomew said she and her husband went to an outdoor bar on Memorial Day weekend "just to test the waters." But so far, they've drawn the line at dining inside.

"Eating in a restaurant is not comfortable to us yet," said Bartholomew, who said they still wear masks inside stores, wipe down groceries and keep hand sanitizer nearby. She's concerned about the number of people who don't do the same.

"I think with the onset of summer, people are kind of shedding some fears and just saying, 'Oh, the hell with it, let's just get back to life,' and I firmly do not believe that is the way I want to go right now," she said.

Public health officials say it's important to remain vigilant. A recent Associated Press analysis found that cases of COVID-19 are again rising in nearly half of U.S. states, a trend that could intensify as people return to work and venture out during the summer.

"The narrative is that if the government is reopening, it's better and they can relax more," said Fernando Garcia, founder and executive director of the Border Network for Human Rights in El Paso, Texas, a group that has distributed thousands of masks to people who could not afford them.

Dr. Rachel Rubin, senior medical officer at the department of public health in Cook County, Illinois, said infections, hospitalizations and deaths have fallen sharply in the Chicago area but another wave is inevitable. Its severity could be lessened by actions people take now.

"People ... are not used to just listening to authority saying, 'This is what you need to do.' But from a public health perspective it's critical that we try to abide by these guidelines as best we possibly can," especially physical distancing of six feet or more, said Rubin.

Even if they are taking precautions, though, many Americans balk at the idea of contact tracing, which health officials say must be paired with testing to quickly extinguish outbreaks of new infections.

Roughly 6 in 10 say they would not be likely to install an app on their phone that tracks their location and sends notifications if they have been exposed. Comparable shares say they are unlikely to install an app that would ask questions about their symptoms and provide recommendations, or to use a website that would do the same.

Bartholomew said she probably wouldn't participate, "mainly because there's so little privacy in anything anymore ... and the term 'tracking device' is something that just doesn't make me feel good."

Seventy-six-year-old Frank Fazekas of New Hartford, New York, had similar qualms, even though he and his wife know they're more susceptible and still wear masks and avoid crowds: "It seems that when there's some crisis or emergency, we give up a little more of our privacy and freedom. And once it's gone, it's difficult to get back," he said.

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Webber reported from Fenton, Michigan.

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The survey of 2,047 adults was conducted May 30-June 8 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-

based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.0 percentage points.

Online:

COVID Impact Survey: <https://www.covid-impact.org>

## Fed says 'full range of tools' in play to counter pandemic

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is promising to use its "full range of tools" to pull the country out of a recession brought on by a global pandemic, signaling that it would keep interest rates low through 2022.

In its semi-annual monetary policy report to Congress, the central bank said Friday that the COVID-19 outbreak was causing "tremendous human and economic hardship across the United States and around the world."

In response, the Fed said it's "committed to using its full range of tools to support the U.S. economy in this challenging time."

The Fed's report comes two days after a policy meeting where the central bank kept its benchmark interest rate at a record low of zero to 0.25% and signaled that it planned to keep it there through 2022. The Fed said it would continue to buy billions of dollars of Treasury and mortgage-backed securities to support the financial market.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell will testify before congressional committees for two days next week, starting Tuesday, on the new report. Lawmakers are expected to ask Powell to explain how the central bank plans to further support the economy during what is expected to be the steepest economic downturn in the last 70 years.

Powell predicted this week that the recovery will likely be slow with Americans "well into the millions" unable to get their old jobs back.

Powell's downbeat assessment of how long it could take labor market to recover along with other renewed fears about the pandemic's impact on the economy helped trigger a huge selloff in the market on Thursday with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 1,861.82 points, or 6.9%.

After the market plunge, President Donald Trump sent out a tweet criticizing the Fed's views that a full economic recovery could take a long time.

"The Federal Reserve is wrong so often," Trump tweeted. "I see the numbers also, and do MUCH better than they do. We will have a very good Third Quarter, a great Fourth Quarter, and one of our best ever years in 2021."

The report submitted to Congress this week included economic projections from Powell and other top Fed officials. They showed that Fed officials expect a steep drop in economic growth of 6.4% this year with unemployment remaining at a sharply elevated 9.3% through this year.

A recently as February, unemployment was at a half-century low of 3.5%.

The economic projections showed that the Fed's key interest rate, which the central bank cut in March to a record low near zero, is expected to remain at that level through the end of 2022 with only two of the 15 Fed officials expecting a rate higher than zero by late 2022.

The Fed did not announce any new policy initiatives at its meeting this week, but financial analysts believe that those could be unveiled later this year, depending on how the economy performs in the second half.

The Fed noted a sharp deterioration in the labor market with nearly 20 million jobs lost since February, "reversing almost 10 years of job gains."

"The most severe job losses have been sustained by the socioeconomic groups that are disproportionately represented among low-wage jobs," according to the report.

The Fed on Friday also summarized a series of events that it has been holding since last year aimed at getting public input into improvements the central bank can make in its monetary policy work. That in-

cluded an event in May in which it sought to determine how the coronavirus was impacting people's lives. "People have put their lives and livelihoods on hold during this public health emergency," Powell wrote in an introductory note. "While all of us have been affected, the burdens are falling most heavily on those least able to carry them."

The Fed, Powell said, remains focused on laying the foundation for a return to the strong labor market the country was experiencing last year.

## **VIRUS DIARY: Romance conquers ocean, outbreak and red tape**

**By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press**

SAO PAULO (AP) — The certificate arrived on the floor of an otherwise empty elevator. My 1-year-old stumbled to the doorway of our Sao Paulo apartment and watched as I picked up the document. She was the sole witness to the end of a bizarre Brazilian bureaucratic procedure.

Her mother and I were husband and wife. Sort of.

"The following account was related to me," began the certificate signed by a notary public who hours earlier appeared at my door sporting a camouflage mask. Luisa and I "coexist in a status that configures a stable union since Jun. 2 of 2018."

A few months before that, I'd met Luisa at a friend's house in Madrid. It was my last night in town and it pained me to leave her, but we kept up an exchange of flirtatious messages. When I flew back across the Atlantic to cover the World Cup, Luisa met me — on June 2, technically our first date. She, too, was covering the tournament.

We started to fall for one another. We rode in sleeper cars between Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan, Saransk. Then things got complicated.

Luisa, alone in her Madrid apartment, read her pregnancy test results and texted a picture to me, alone in Sao Paulo. That was the first of several sleepless nights and long phone conversations.

She didn't want to give up freelancing for a Brazilian TV station. I didn't want to quit my job. She didn't want to ditch Spain. I didn't want to disconnect from home. We were apprehensive. We were in love.

We decided I'd work in Spain until she gave birth and later we'd return to Brazil, where our families could help.

Luisa and I were still finding each other's foibles when we moved into our Sao Paulo apartment last September with 5-month-old Carolina. Luisa struggled most with the transition, because her workday was still tuned to Madrid time — a night shift from 2 a.m. to 10 a.m. We shared the same bed at different times of day. She was only halfway here.

Her contract's end in mid-May provided some relief: No longer would she leave home and risk COVID-19 infection. But we were also in the epicenter of Latin America's hardest-hit country, and she was losing her health care.

It was time to get hitched.

We wanted a marriage with loved ones present, but ceremonies were prohibited in Sao Paulo to avoid spreading the virus. A friend told me about notaries public who, for \$200, would come to your home, collect your signatures and sort out the bureaucracy for a union. Marriage could wait until after the pandemic, Luisa and I reasoned, when we could do it properly.

We scheduled the visit as soon as possible: three weeks later. Turns out such house calls are in high demand during this pandemic. Ample time in quarantine allowed our imaginations to wander. What if Luisa were infected and needed treatment in the overwhelmed public hospitals on the city's outskirts? I wrote about Brazilians struggling to find treatment and willed myself to avoid thinking Luisa might soon be among them.

Having an infant helped prevent us from dwelling on such concerns or, for that matter, sleeping. When the notary arrived May 28, he caught us completely off guard ... and wearing yoga pants. Carolina watched cartoons as we signed the paperwork. The stamped document arrived later that day.

Government recognition of our union grants Luisa certain rights, including access to my healthcare, but

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our status remains “single” — and will until we sign our marriage contract.

After crisscrossing an ocean to sync up, we’re still not fully together. We’re just one step closer. So, we’re keeping the champagne bottles corked until this pandemic passes and we can celebrate with our future wedding guests.

Save the date. Whenever that is.

—  
Virus Diary, an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus saga through the eyes of Associated Press journalists around the world. Follow Brazil-based AP correspondent Mauricio Savarese on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MSavarese>

## Putin attends first public event after months of lockdown

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday showed up at a ceremony marking the national holiday — the first big public event he has attended since announcing a nationwide lockdown more than two months ago.

Putin observed the hoisting of the national flag at a memorial park in western Moscow and then took part in an award ceremony. He wasn’t wearing a mask, and neither did most of those whose hands he shook after presenting them with Hero of Russia medals.

Putin pointed to the nation’s “thousand-year history full of pages of great glory and pride, the unrivaled bravery of our ancestors and their love for their country.” In his speech, he particularly hailed medical workers, praising their courage and self-sacrifice.

The 67-year-old Russian leader’s previous public appearance came in late March, when he attended a meeting with business people just as he announced a partial economic shutdown intended to stem the outbreak. He authorized regional governors to decide on restrictive measures, and most of them imposed tight lockdowns at the end of March.

Since then, Putin has held near-daily video calls, but just a few offline meetings with top officials. When Russia marked Victory Day on May 9, the nation’s most important holiday marking the Nazi defeat in World War II, Putin stood alone to observe a parade of the Kremlin guard regiment.

Several top officials, including Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov, were infected with the virus. They have now recovered.

Russian media reported that the Kremlin has maintained a tight protocol to protect Putin, placing officials and aides on quarantine for two weeks prior to meeting him.

Asked if those whom Putin awarded with medals also had undergone the same procedure, Peskov said that participants in the ceremony had been tested for the virus but refused to offer further details.

Other Russian cities also held Day of Russia celebrations. In St. Petersburg, festivities included a stunning acrobatic show on the Neva River in which people on water jets conducted stunts and carried a giant Russian flag

Last month, Putin ordered an end to the nationwide economic shutdown and set dates for the two main events on his agenda that were postponed due to the coronavirus. Citing a slowdown in contagion, he ordered the Victory Day parade postponed from May 9 to be held on June 24 and set a vote on constitutional amendments that could extend his rule until 2036 on July 1.

Putin has been in power for more than 20 years, longer than any other ruler in the country since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Most regions have lifted their lockdowns, and Moscow, which accounted for nearly half of all infections, also ended restrictions earlier this week. Health officials, however, have advised people to continue wearing medical masks, and in some regions, including Moscow, they are mandatory in public places.

Some experts have argued that lifting the lockdown was premature as the country has continued to register high daily numbers of new infections at around 9,000, and opposition activists have accused the Kremlin of jeopardizing public health by rushing the constitutional vote.

Russia has the world's third-highest caseload of more than 511,000 infections, including 6,715 deaths.

## Statues boarded up in London as more protests expected

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Authorities in London boarded up monuments including a war memorial and a statue of wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill in anticipation of rival demonstrations by anti-racism and far-right protesters, as the city's mayor urged protesters Friday to stay home because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Monuments have become major focuses of contention in demonstrations against racism and police violence after the May 25 death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck.

A statue of slave trader Edward Colston was hauled from its plinth by protesters in the English port city of Bristol on Sunday and dumped in the harbor.

Several other statues have been defaced during mass protests around the country, including Churchill's, which was daubed with the words "was a racist." Police now fear far-right groups plan to seek confrontation with anti-racism protesters under the guise of protecting statues.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who cites Churchill as a personal hero, said it was "absurd and shameful" that his statue was "at risk of attack by violent protesters."

Churchill, who was Britain's prime minister during World War II and again during 1951-55, is revered by many in the U.K. as the man who led the country to victory against Nazi Germany. But he was also a staunch defender of the British Empire and expressed racist views.

In a series of tweets, Johnson said that Churchill "sometimes expressed opinions that were and are unacceptable to us today, but he was a hero, and he fully deserves his memorial."

He said tearing down statues would be to "cancel our past" and "lie about our history."

Johnson also claimed that anti-racism demonstrations had been "hijacked" by "a growing minority" of extremists who wanted to cause violence.

Johnson has repeatedly declined to apologize for his own past offensive statements. He has called Papua New Guineans cannibals, used the derogatory term "piccaninnies" to refer to members of the Commonwealth and compared Muslim women who wear face-covering veils to "letter boxes."

Anti-racism protests in Britain have been predominantly peaceful, though small groups have scuffled with the police and thrown projectiles near Parliament and the prime minister's residence in London.

Hundreds of anti-racism activists gathered Friday in London's Hyde Park, but the demonstration was much smaller than gatherings the previous week.

The toppling of Colston's statue in Bristol has reinvigorated calls for the removal of other monuments to figures associated with imperialism and racism. Authorities this week removed a statue of slave owner Robert Milligan from its perch in London's docklands, and campaigners in Oxford are pressing for a likeness of Victorian imperialist Cecil Rhodes to be withdrawn from view at Oxford University.

At Cambridge University, environmental protesters from Extinction Rebellion defaced a memorial window honoring geneticist and statistician Ronald Fisher, a proponent of eugenics, with the words "Eugenics is genocide. Fisher must fall."

In Poole, southern England, authorities revised plans to remove a statue of Robert Baden-Powell to protect it from attack after supporters of the Scouts founder objected. It was boarded up instead. Baden-Powell has been accused of racism and Nazi sympathies.

The New Zealand city of Hamilton on Friday removed a bronze statue of the municipality's namesake, John Hamilton, a British naval officer accused of killing indigenous Maori people in the 1860s.

The city of Camden, New Jersey, took down a statue of Christopher Columbus on Thursday, joining others of the 15th-century explorer that have been removed across the U.S.

With more demonstrations expected in London over the weekend, a protective plywood screen was erected around Churchill's statue outside Parliament. Authorities also fenced off other statues in Parliament Square, including memorials to Nelson Mandela and Abraham Lincoln, as well as the nearby Cenotaph, a

memorial to Britain's war dead.

A Black Lives Matter group in London said it was calling off a planned protest on Saturday because the presence of far-right activists would make it unsafe, though some anti-racism demonstrators are still likely to gather.

Authorities have urged protesters not to gather because of the continued risk of spreading the coronavirus. Gatherings of more than six people are currently barred in England, though police have allowed previous demonstrations to take place.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said he was "extremely concerned that further protests in central London not only risk spreading COVID-19, but could lead to disorder, vandalism and violence."

He said far-right groups planned to "provoke violence, and their only goal is to distract and hijack this important issue.

"Staying home and ignoring them is the best response this weekend."

## 'The walk' thrusts Gen. Milley reluctantly into spotlight

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **LOLITA C. BALDOR** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his first eight months as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley carefully crafted a low-key public profile. He knew that splashy and sassy were unlikely to endear him to his boss, President Donald Trump.

Then "the walk" happened.

Milley, in his camouflage battle dress uniform, strolled with Trump and a presidential entourage across Lafayette Square on June 1 to be positioned in front of a church, where Trump held up a Bible for photographers. Critics immediately hit Milley, the nation's top military officer, for appearing to be a political pawn. On Thursday, he finally spoke out.

"It was a mistake," he said — simple words that thrust the square-jawed general into the public spotlight like never before. That risked further antagonizing a president who dislikes any hint of criticism of his staged events and has made his embrace of military power a theme of his reelection campaign.

Asked in a Fox News interview Thursday whether he thought Milley's expression of regret was significant, Trump said, "No, I don't think so. I mean, if that's the way they feel, I think that's fine."

Milley's words drew praise from some members of Congress, including Trump ally Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, but added a new layer of tension between the Pentagon and the White House. That tension burst into public last week with Defense Secretary Mark Esper openly breaking with Trump on the use of federal troops to quell protests.

Milley's willingness to admit he erred reflects a personal commitment to a principle deeply rooted in American military tradition: that members of the military are apolitical, sworn to defend the Constitution, not a president. Civilians are supposed to control the military, but not for personal political gain.

That commitment had been questioned after the walk. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., an Iraq War veteran, said seeing Milley and Esper "walking like lapdogs" behind Trump sends "a horrifying message to our troops — including our black and brown troops — that our military's leaders will not protect them from unlawful orders."

Former senior military leaders also weighed in, though in many cases didn't mention Milley by name. Jim Mattis, the retired Marine general who was Trump's first defense chief, called it "a bizarre photo op for the elected commander in chief, with military leadership standing alongside."

But it was Milley, along with other senior officials, who was urging Trump not to carry out his threat to deploy active-duty troops in D.C. As part of that effort, he spent time at the main security operations center, working to ensure that National Guard members were in the right places and had what they needed to protect the city, so active-duty forces would not be required.

Striding along the streets talking with Guard members, he was a formidable figure with his piercing look, close-cropped gray hair, bushy eyebrows and imposing size. He talked openly about the need for troops to enable the peaceful protests while also preventing violence.

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Military generals are known for their egos, and Milley is no exception. Reserved is not a word one would use to describe the Massachusetts native. He is forceful, given to bouts of temper but quick with a laugh and a sharp retort.

A student of military history, Milley peppers his conversations with references to lessons learned during America's wars, the details of which he can recite instantly. He is given to regaling visitors to his official residence above Arlington National Cemetery with stories about the history of the house and its previous occupants.

Milley's father, Alexander, served as a Navy corpsman with the 4th Marine Division during World War II and fought with them at the Battle of Iwo Jima. In a speech in January, Milley recalled walking the beach where his father landed and said he "began to imagine what hell on earth was like and that was Iwo Jima." Reflecting on the costs of war, he took that moment to repeat his conviction that the military's job is to preserve the Constitution and prevent such war from happening again.

After four decades in the military, Milley was a somewhat surprising pick by Trump to be Joint Chiefs chairman, a position that is the pinnacle of any military career. He had been serving as chief of staff of the Army when Mattis was ready in 2018 to recommend to the White House who should succeed Gen. Joseph Dunford as chairman. Milley was notably not his choice.

Trump, however, disregarded Mattis' advice and chose Milley, saying, "He's a great gentleman, he's a great patriot, he's a great soldier."

Two weeks later Mattis submitted his resignation, a move widely attributed to his disagreement with Trump over pulling out of Syria but also linked to his disappointment at Trump overruling him on Milley, who became chairman on Oct. 1, 2019. He commands no troops but is the principal military adviser to the president, the secretary of defense and the National Security Council.

Milley is known in the military as a charismatic leader who commanded troops during several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He hasn't been afraid to offer candid and sometimes blunt assessments, including to Congress. In 2017, he admonished the House Armed Services Committee for being slow to approve a defense budget, slamming the inaction as "professional malpractice."

A native of Winchester and a vocal fan of the Red Sox and other Boston teams, Milley received his Army commission in 1980 from Princeton University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science. He has two master's degrees.

An infantry officer by training, he also commanded Special Forces units in a career that has included deployments in the invasion of Panama in 1989 and the multinational mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina to implement the Dayton Peace Accords.

## Public health workers fighting virus face growing threats

By MICHELLE R. SMITH, LAUREN WEBER and ANNA MARIA BARRY-JESTER Associated

Press and Kaiser Health News

Emily Brown was stretched thin.

As the director of the Rio Grande County Public Health Department in rural Colorado, she was working 12- and 14-hour days, struggling to respond to the pandemic with only five full-time employees for more than 11,000 residents. Case counts were rising.

She was already at odds with county commissioners, who were pushing to loosen public health restrictions in late May, against her advice. She had previously clashed with them over data releases and control and had haggled over a variance regarding reopening businesses.

But she reasoned that standing up for public health principles was worth it, even if she risked losing the job that allowed her to live close to her hometown and help her parents with their farm.

Then came the Facebook post: a photo of her and other health officials with comments about their weight and references to "armed citizens" and "bodies swinging from trees."

The commissioners had asked her to meet with them the next day. She intended to ask them for more support. Instead, she was fired.

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"They finally were tired of me not going along the line they wanted me to go along," she said.

In the battle against COVID-19, public health workers spread across states, cities and small towns make up an invisible army on the front lines. But that army, which has suffered neglect for decades, is under assault when it's needed most.

Officials who usually work behind the scenes managing tasks like immunizations and water quality inspections have found themselves center stage. Elected officials and members of the public who are frustrated with the lockdowns and safety restrictions have at times turned public health workers into politicized punching bags, battering them with countless angry calls and even physical threats.

On Thursday, Ohio's state health director, who had armed protesters come to her house, resigned. The health officer for Orange County, California, quit Monday after weeks of criticism and personal threats from residents and other public officials over an order requiring face coverings in public.

As the pressure and scrutiny rise, many more health officials have chosen to leave or have been pushed out of their jobs. A review by Kaiser Health News and The Associated Press finds at least 27 state and local health leaders have resigned, retired or been fired since April across 13 states.

From North Carolina to California, they have left their posts because of a mix of backlash and stressful, nonstop work, all while dealing with chronic staffing and funding shortages.

Some health officials have not been up to the job during the biggest health crisis in a century. Others previously had plans to leave or cited their own health issues.

But Lori Tremmel Freeman, CEO of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, said the majority of what she calls an "alarming" exodus resulted from increasing pressure as states reopen. Three of those 27 were members of her board and well known in the public health community — Rio Grande County's Brown; Detroit's senior public health adviser, Dr. Kanzoni Asabigi; and the head of North Carolina's Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services, Chris Dobbins.

Asabigi's sudden retirement, considering his stature in the public health community, shocked Freeman. She also was upset to hear about the departure of Dobbins, who was chosen as health director of the year for North Carolina in 2017. Asabigi and Dobbins did not reply to requests for comment.

"They just don't leave like that," Freeman said.

Public health officials are "really getting tired of the ongoing pressures and the blame game," Freeman said. She warned that more departures could be expected in the coming days and weeks as political pressure trickles down from the federal to the state to the local level.

From the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, federal public health officials have complained of being sidelined or politicized. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been marginalized; a government whistleblower said he faced retaliation because he opposed a White House directive to allow widespread access to the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment.

In Hawaii, Democratic congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard called on the governor to fire his top public health officials, saying she believed they were too slow on testing, contact tracing and travel restrictions. In Wisconsin, several Republican lawmakers have repeatedly demanded that the state's health services secretary resign, and the state's conservative Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that she had exceeded her authority by extending a stay-at-home order.

With the increased public scrutiny, security details — like those seen on a federal level for Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top infectious-disease expert — have been assigned to top state health officials, including Georgia's Dr. Kathleen Toomey after she was threatened. Ohio's Dr. Amy Acton, who also had a security detail assigned after armed protesters showed up at her home, resigned Thursday.

In Orange County, in late May, nearly 100 people attended a county supervisors meeting, waiting hours to speak against an order requiring face coverings. One person suggested that the order might make it necessary to invoke Second Amendment rights to bear arms, while another read aloud the home address of the order's author, the county's chief health officer, Dr. Nichole Quick, as well as the name of her boyfriend.

Quick, attending by phone, left the meeting. In a statement, the sheriff's office later said Quick had expressed concern for her safety following "several threatening statements both in public comment and

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online." She was given personal protection by the sheriff.

But Monday, after yet another public meeting that included criticism from members of the board of supervisors, Quick resigned. She could not be reached for comment. Earlier, the county's deputy director of public health services, David Souleles, retired abruptly.

An official in another California county also has been given a security detail, said Kat DeBurgh, the executive director of the Health Officers Association of California, declining to name the county or official because the threats have not been made public.

Many local health leaders, accustomed to relative anonymity as they work to protect the public's health, have been shocked by the growing threats, said Theresa Anselmo, the executive director of the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials.

After polling local health directors across the state at a meeting last month, Anselmo found about 80% said they or their personal property had been threatened since the pandemic began. About 80% also said they'd encountered threats to pull funding from their department or other forms of political pressure.

To Anselmo, the ugly politics and threats are a result of the politicization of the pandemic from the start. So far in Colorado, six top local health officials have retired, resigned or been fired. A handful of state and local health department staff members have left as well, she said.

"It's just appalling that in this country that spends as much as we do on health care that we're facing these really difficult ethical dilemmas: Do I stay in my job and risk threats, or do I leave because it's not worth it?" Anselmo asked.

In California, senior health officials from seven counties, including Quick and Souleles, have resigned or retired since March 15. Dr. Charity Dean, the second in command at the state Department of Public Health, submitted her resignation June 4. Burnout seems to be contributing to many of those decisions, DeBurgh said.

In addition to the harm to current officers, DeBurgh is worried about the impact these events will have on recruiting people into public health leadership.

"It's disheartening to see people who disagree with the order go from attacking the order to attacking the officer to questioning their motivation, expertise and patriotism," said DeBurgh. "That's not something that should ever happen."

Some of the online abuse has been going on for years, said Bill Snook, a spokesperson for the health department in Kansas City, Missouri. He has seen instances in which people took a health inspector's name and made a meme out of it, or said a health worker should be strung up or killed. He said opponents of vaccinations, known as anti-vaxxers, have called staffers "baby killers."

The pandemic, though, has brought such behavior to another level.

In Ohio, the Delaware General Health District has had two lockdowns since the pandemic began — one after an angry individual came to the health department. Fortunately, the doors were locked, said Dustin Kent, program manager for the department's residential services unit.

Angry calls over contact tracing continue to pour in, Kent said.

In Colorado, the Tri-County Health Department, which serves Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties near Denver, has also been getting hundreds of calls and emails from frustrated citizens, deputy director Jennifer Ludwig said.

Some have been angry their businesses could not open and blamed the health department for depriving them of their livelihood. Others were furious with neighbors who were not wearing masks outside. It's a constant wave of "confusion and angst and anxiety and anger," she said.

Then in April and May, rocks were thrown at one of their office's windows — three separate times. The office was tagged with obscene graffiti. The department also received an email calling members of the department "tyrants," adding "you're about to start a hot-shooting ... civil war." Health department workers decamped to another office.

Although the police determined there was no imminent threat, Ludwig stressed how proud she was of her staff, who weathered the pressure while working round-the-clock.

"It does wear on you, but at the same time, we know what we need to do to keep moving to keep our community safe," she said. "Despite the complaints, the grievances, the threats, the vandalism — the staff have really excelled and stood up."

The threats didn't end there, however: Someone asked on the health department's Facebook page how many people would like to know the home addresses of the Tri-County Health Department leadership. "You want to make this a war??? No problem," the poster wrote.

Back in Colorado's Rio Grande County, some members of the community have rallied in support of Brown with public comments and a letter to the editor of a local paper. Meanwhile, COVID-19 case counts have jumped from 14 to 49 as of Wednesday.

Brown is grappling with what she should do next: Dive back into another strenuous public health job in a pandemic or take a moment to recoup?

When she told her 6-year-old son she no longer had a job, he responded: "Good, now you can spend more time with us."

Michelle R. Smith is a correspondent for the AP, and Lauren Weber and Anna Maria Barry-Jester are writers for KHN. AP writer Audrey McAvoyn in Honolulu and KHN correspondent Angela Hart in Sacramento contributed to this report.

This story is a collaboration between The Associated Press and Kaiser Health News, which is a non-profit, editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation. KHN is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

## Australian prime minister apologizes for 'no slavery' claim

By ROD MCGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's prime minister apologized on Friday to critics who accuse him of denying the country's history of slavery, as a state government announced it will remove a former Belgian king's name from a mountain range as part of a global re-examination of racial injustice.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has defended the legacy of British explorer James Cook, who in 1770 charted the site of the first British penal colony in Australia, which became present-day Sydney.

Morrison, who represents the Sydney electoral district of Cook in Parliament, described the British naval hero on Thursday as "very much ahead of his time," and urged people calling for the district to be renamed to "get a bit of a grip on this."

"While slave ships continued to travel around the world, when Australia was established ... it was a pretty brutal place, but there was no slavery in Australia," Morrison told Sydney Radio 2BG.

But he made a rare apology on Friday after critics pointed out that tens of thousands of South Pacific islanders had been forced to labor on Australian sugar cane plantations in the 19th century and Australian indigenous people had been forced to work for wages that were never paid.

Satirical website Betoota Advocate ran a headline, "'Australia Never Had Slavery,' Says P.M. Who Thinks The Sugar Cane Just Cut Itself for 100 Years."

"My comments were not intended to cause offense and if I did, I deeply regret that and apologize for that," Morrison said, adding that slavery was not lawful in the original Sydney colony.

While Morrison was seeking public restraint in re-evaluating historical figures in response to George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, the Western Australia state government announced it will rename the King Leopold Ranges in Australia's northwest.

State Lands Minister Ben Wyatt, an indigenous Australian, described Belgium's King Leopold II as an "evil tyrant" who should not be honored.

The announcement came after a statue of the monarch, who forced many people into slavery in the Congo, was defaced and removed from the Belgium city of Antwerp.

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Morrison's denial of Australian slavery came as a second blow to many indigenous Australians after he expressed gratitude after Floyd's death that Australia did not share the U.S. problem of police violence against the black population.

Aborigines account for 2% of Australia's adult population and 27% of its prison population, with more than 340 indigenous Australians dying in police or prison custody in the past three decades.

A statue of Cook in a Sydney park was a focus of anti-racism protesters in Sydney on Friday. A cottage built by Cook's parents in England in 1755 that was moved to the Australian city of Melbourne in the 1930s has also been targeted by activist vandals.

## Downplaying virus risk, Trump gets back to business as usual

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the White House, aides now routinely flout internal rules requiring face masks. The president's campaign is again scheduling mass arena rallies. And he is back to spending summer weekends at his New Jersey golf club.

Three months after President Donald Trump bowed to the realities of a pandemic that put big chunks of life on pause and killed more Americans than several major wars, Trump is back to business as usual — even as coronavirus cases are on the upswing in many parts of the country.

While the nation has now had months to prepare stockpiles of protective gear and ventilators, a vaccine still is many months away at best and a model cited by the White House projects tens of thousands of more deaths by the end of September.

Amid renewed fears of a virus resurgence, financial markets — frequently highlighted by Trump as a sign of economic recovery — suffered their worst drop since March on Thursday. The market opened on the upside Friday morning.

At the White House, though, officials played down the severity of the virus surge and sought to blame it on factors beyond Trump's forceful push to reopen the economy, which he's counting on to help him win reelection.

"I spoke to our health experts at some length last evening. They're saying there is no second spike. Let me repeat that: There is no second spike," Larry Kudlow, director of the National Economic Council, said Friday on "Fox & Friends."

He said COVID-19 cases are increasing only in certain spots of the country, but that nationally, the rates of new cases and fatalities have flattened out. "There is no emergency," Kudlow said. "There is no second wave. I don't know where that got started on Wall Street."

Surgeon General Jerome Adams, who stressed the country has a positive testing rate under 6%, said the data on the virus show the nation is moving in the right direction. Still, Adams cautioned at a round-table with Trump Thursday in Texas that while the country has flattened the curve on virus cases, "that doesn't mean that COVID has gone away, that it's any less contagious, that it's any less deadly to vulnerable communities."

The White House was a late adopter of many of the safety proposals it recommended, eager to project a sense of normalcy even as it relied on strong testing capacity not available to the rest of the nation. Now Trump, who watched the human and economic toll of the virus take the wind out of his campaign sails, sees even greater urgency in returning to how things were — no matter the state of the virus.

At the White House, the coronavirus task force has dramatically scaled back both its visibility and its operations. It now meets once or twice a week on an as-needed basis instead of every day.

White House officials say that, because response systems have already been put in place and a strategy developed, there's no longer a need for a whole-of-government response. Still, the president receives regular briefings, and the vice president gets briefed multiple times a day.

Yet Trump has taken to talking about the pandemic in the past tense — an "invisible enemy" conquered — rather than one still ravaging a nation that has, in recent weeks, also been consumed by mass protests following George Floyd's killing by police.

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Within the White House complex, many staffers have been flouting directions issued last month to limit their entry to the West Wing and advising “everyone who enters the West Wing to wear a mask or facial covering” unless they are sitting at their desks and at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) away from colleagues. The directive came after two White House officials — the vice president’s press secretary and a presidential valet — tested positive for the virus, sending panic waves through the building.

Weeks later, staff members are frequently seen walking around the West Wing without masks. That includes at meetings with the president, such as a Wednesday roundtable with African American supporters. White House staff have also declined to wear masks on Air Force One, even in close proximity to the president.

Vice President Mike Pence, for his part, tweeted — and then deleted -- a photo of himself posing with staff huddled together at the reelection campaign’s headquarters. No one appeared to be wearing a mask. The White House and campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

The visual return to normalcy comes as the country surpassed 2 million COVID-19 cases this week, with new hot spots emerging in battleground states like Arizona and cases rising in nearly half of states, according to an Associated Press analysis. Though some states that have moved quickly to reopen have not seen a surge, others have seen escalations.

Yet Trump has continued to travel — even to states that still have restrictions — and announced this week that he’ll resume his signature campaign rallies beginning next Friday in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The state, which was among the earliest to begin loosening coronavirus restrictions, has a relatively low rate of infection but has seen cases rising.

“They’ve done a great job with COVID, as you know, the state of Oklahoma,” Trump said Wednesday.

Campaign officials chose the location knowing Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt would raise no objections. Stitt’s most recent reopening phase places no limits on the size of group gatherings. The campaign hopes the location will all but guarantee a large crowd, since Oklahoma is one of the most Republican states in the nation and Trump has never held a rally there as president.

Still, the reality could not be completely ignored.

“By clicking register below, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present,” Trump’s campaign advised those signing up for the rally. “By attending the Rally, you and any guests voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree not to hold Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.” liable for illness or injury.

Trump is also planning events in Arizona and Florida — states where cases are on the upswing. In Arizona, hospitals have been told to prepare for the worst as hospitalizations have surged.

Trump this month decided that he would no longer hold the marquee event of the Republican National Convention — his acceptance speech — in North Carolina after the state refused to guarantee that he could fill an arena to capacity with maskless supporters. It’s being moved to Jacksonville, Florida.

For the White House, the priority is regaining economic momentum.

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Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 13, the 165th day of 2020. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On June 13, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1842, Queen Victoria became the first British monarch to ride on a train, traveling from Slough Railway Station to Paddington in 25 minutes.

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In 1911, the ballet "Petrouchka," with music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by Michel Fokine, was first performed in Paris by the Ballets Russes, with Vaslav Nijinsky in the title role.

In 1927, aviation hero Charles Lindbergh was honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

In 1935, James Braddock claimed the title of world heavyweight boxing champion from Max Baer in a 15-round fight in Queens, New York. "Becky Sharp," the first movie photographed in "three-strip" Technicolor, opened in New York.

In 1942, a four-man Nazi sabotage team arrived on Long Island, New York, three days before a second four-man team landed in Florida. (All eight men were arrested after two members of the first group defected.) President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services and the Office of War Information.

In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in *Miranda v. Arizona* that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was recaptured following his escape three days earlier from a Tennessee prison.

In 1983, the U.S. space probe Pioneer 10, launched in 1972, became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system as it crossed the orbit of Neptune.

In 1986, Benny Goodman, the clarinet-playing "King of Swing," died in New York at age 77.

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton stirred controversy during an appearance before the Rainbow Coalition by criticizing rap singer Sister Souljah for making remarks that he said were "filled with hatred" toward whites.

In 1997, a jury voted unanimously to give Timothy McVeigh the death penalty for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing. The Chicago Bulls captured their fifth professional basketball championship in seven years with a 90-to-86 victory over the Utah Jazz in game six.

In 2005, a jury in Santa Maria, California, acquitted Michael Jackson of molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor at his Neverland ranch. The Supreme Court warned prosecutors to use care in striking minorities from juries, siding with black murder defendants in Texas and California who contended their juries had been unfairly stacked with whites.

Ten years ago: Gary Faulkner, a Colorado construction worker, was detained in Pakistan while on a one-man mission to hunt down Osama bin Laden (Faulkner was released 10 days later). "Memphis," the rhythm 'n' blues musical set in the American South in the 1950s, won four Tony Awards, including best musical; "Red," about painter Mark Rothko, won best play and five other honors. Jimmy Dean, a country music legend and an entrepreneur known for his sausage brand, died in Richmond, Virginia, at age 81. The final "Annie" (formerly "Little Orphan Annie") comic strip ran in fewer than 20 newspapers, ending with a cliffhanger.

Five years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton formally kicked off her presidential campaign with an outdoor rally in New York where she asked supporters to join her in building an America "where we don't leave anyone out, or anyone behind." To scientists' relief and delight, the Philae spacecraft that landed on a comet the previous fall "woke up" and communicated with Earth after seven long months of silence.

One year ago: The United States blamed Iran for suspected attacks on two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, denouncing what it called a campaign of "escalating tensions"; the U.S. Navy rushed to assist the vessels, including one that was set ablaze. President Donald Trump said press secretary Sarah Sanders would leave the post at the end of the month. The Toronto Raptors captured Canada's first major title in 26 years by beating the two-time-defending-champion Golden State Warriors 114-110 to wrap up the NBA championship.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bob McGrath is 88. Magician Siegfried (Siegfried & Roy) is 81. Actor Malcolm McDowell is 77. Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is 76. Singer Dennis Locorriere is 71. Actor Richard Thomas is 69. Actor Jonathan Hogan is 69. Actor Stellan Skarsgard is 69. Comedian Tim Allen is 67. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper is 63. Actress Ally Sheedy is 58. TV anchor Hannah Storm is 58. Rock musician Paul deLisle (deh-LYL') (Smash Mouth) is 57. Actress Lisa Vidal is 55. Singer David Gray is