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Gov. Noem Proclaims June 19th "Juneteenth Day" in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem proclaimed June 19th, 2020, as "Juneteenth Day," in South Dakota in memory of the 155th anniversary of the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, which is recognized as the end of slavery in the United States.

"South Dakota prides itself on Freedom," said Governor Kristi Noem. "We commemorate this important day to remind ourselves that there was a time in our history that not all Americans were free and to celebrate an important milestone toward achieving the American ideal: 'all men are created equal.'"

South Dakota Maintains AAA Credit Rating

PIERRE, S.D. – Moody's Investors Service announced they have reaffirmed South Dakota's AAA Issuer Credit Rating, the highest rating available, with a stable outlook.

"Forcing state government to live within its means is a fundamental tenet of my administration," said Governor Kristi Noem. "Between our high credit rating, low taxes, and reasonable regulations, I'm pleased to see Moody's acknowledge 'South Dakota's very healthy financial position.'"

In their report, Moody's highlighted that "the state has experienced far less of an impact from the coronavirus outbreak than other states. There have been far fewer job losses in South Dakota, relative to the employment base, than across the nation at large, and state revenue is still trending above the prior year despite indications that the effects of the virus have manifested in collections."

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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#116 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Steady across the board.

We're at 2,201,300 cases in the US. New case numbers held, still stubbornly over 20,000. NY leads with 390,536 cases, holding below 1000 new cases for a twelfth day. NJ has 168,107 cases, holding below 500 for a ninth day. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 168,107, IL – 136,081, MA – 106,422, TX – 102,677, FL – 85,918, PA – 84,780, MI – 66,980, and MD – 63,839. These ten states account for 62% of US cases, a decrease, which is another sign many states that have had smaller numbers are increasing, even as some of those hardest hit are managing their outbreaks. We have 2 more states over 50,000. 6 more states have over 40,000 cases, 2 more states have over 30,000 cases, 7 more states have over 20,000 cases, 10 more have over 10,000, 4 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 IN, TN, MS, MO, KY, KS, SD, and ND. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, TX, FL, GA, LA, NC, AZ, and WA. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, NJ, IL, MA, PA, MI, MD, and VA. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 118,458 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths remained about the same, still over 500. NY has 30,767, NJ has 12,800, MA has 7769, IL has 6737, PA has 6417, MI has 6064, CA has 5362, and CT has 4226. All of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today; 7 of them are reporting fewer than 50. There are 3 more states over 3000 deaths, 4 more states over 2000 deaths, 6 more states over 1000 deaths, 9 more + DC over 500, 11 more + PR over 100, and 9 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

We have continued growth in case numbers in the South and the West. Arizona, Florida, and California are all reporting enormous increases, all new daily highs. While there has been an attempt in some quarters to write this off as an artifact of increased testing, hospitalization rates are increasing too, and hospitalizations are not testing-dependent—after all, people in Wuhan were being hospitalized before there was a diagnostic test. Arizona is showing inpatient beds in the state at 85% of capacity. This is a scary number when new cases are increasing as rapidly as they are. Oklahoma is reporting rapid increases in cases as well; a record of 259 new cases was set yesterday, and today they're reporting 450. And the cavalcade of college athletes testing positive as they return to campus for summer workouts continues with the University of Texas reporting in with 13 cases.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former FDA Commissioner, says there are areas now "on the cusp of losing control" as "doubling times [are] now falling under 10 days." Doubling time is just what it sounds like, the time it takes for the total number of cases to double. He mentions he has particular concern about Arizona, Houston, Austin, and parts of Florida. Alabama and Arkansas are also looking shaky. As I mentioned last night, a number to watch is the percentage of people who test positive; when that number's rising, then you have an increase in cases you cannot attribute to increased testing alone. Gottlieb says the growth in case numbers has been greater than what was expected as social activity increases and says, "The states that were aggressive [in reopening] are the states where we're seeing these outbreaks right now." He recommends targeted containment measures in these localized areas, including rollbacks of reopening steps as needed, adding, "I'm more concerned than I was three weeks ago heading into the fall. Unless we get comfortable taking some common sense measures, where we can, some limited measures, we're going to be stuck with a lot more spread." I won't say the M-word again, but you all know I'm thinking it.

An at-risk group we don't mention frequently enough is health care workers. Although we should be, we are not keeping an official tally of their deaths. The CDC says more than 77,800 of them have tested positive and more than 400 have died, but they also acknowledge this is a significant undercount. National Nurses United, the largest union of nurses in the US, puts the number of deaths around 939, around 15% of them nurses, based on what it is hearing from its chapters, social media, and obituaries. Given the

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stress of working in an environment where unprecedented numbers of patients are dying, where there is great uncertainty about what might help these patients, where you see coworkers getting sick and dying, and where you know you are not taking the proper precautions because you lack the protective equipment to do so, it's kind of surprising they're reporting to work at all, particularly when nurses have been reprimanded, suspended, and fired for calling attention to the shortage of equipment and the risks.

Church is not looking very much like a safe place to be these days. There have been reports of outbreaks associated with churches across the country. One such, in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, has been associated with 23 cases thus far, all apparently connected with a man who came to church in early June suffering from what he thought was allergies. The Health Department believes there may be more cases, and church services have moved online for now.

Lest you conclude reopening inevitably leads to disaster, let me present for your consideration the state of Ohio which has gradually lifted its stay-at-home order since May 1. What has happened since is a plateau in new cases and a decline in hospitalizations. The number of new cases has dropped, the number of weekly cases is at a new low since this thing cranked up there in early April, the number of hospitalized patients has been halved, and the percentage of positive tests has dropped from 10.7% to 3.2%. So far, so good. So how did they do it? They're testing a lot, so they're catching more cases earlier. This means spread can be contained as we identify these cases before they've transmitted the virus to so many others. Not everything is open: The approach has been gradual and step-wise. And Ohioans have not gone crazy and returned to pre-pandemic levels of activity. Many are still working from home, at least part of the time, road traffic remains diminished as people continue to stay closer to home, and restaurants and other businesses have not been packed. In other words, the behavior changes established during the stay-at-home have persisted. These people are doing the hard work of keeping their communities safe. I hope this decline in cases continues for them.

Since reopening isn't going swimmingly everywhere, I found a piece written by a pair of physicians interesting as they addressed how we can stay safe amidst this process. Dr. Darria Long and Dr. David L. Katz explained that effective management requires good data so we can quantify harms and examine trade-offs; they are recommending representative random sampling of the population for infection and immunity.

They proposed two tactical priorities, infection risk stratification and exposure dose management. Recognizing that not everyone has the same risk for severe disease, they provide a risk-stratification matrix which is used to place people into risk tiers and then arrange accordingly for protection from viral exposure. The protection described is both by personal behaviors (social distancing and mask usage) and by policy (workplace precautions or avoidance). Then, recognizing that exposure dose determines whether you get sick and very likely how sick you get once a threshold dose is met, management of this dose is a means of minimizing illness and death.

So for their highest risk groups (age 70 and older with significant burden of organ-system disease), sheltering in place and the strictest, most careful protection are provided. For the next level of risk (70 and older, generally healthy or 50-69 with significant burden of organ-system disease), strict social distancing, mask use, and active monitoring would be employed. No one at these risk strata would return to work until we have an "all clear," the point at which there is "herd immunity and near-zero transmission, whether due to native infection or vaccination." The next risk stratum (under 50 with significant burden of organ-system disease, 50-69 and generally healthy, or 70 and older with no chronic medical conditions or activity restrictions) would return to work with social distancing and personal protection practices plus monitoring. The next stratum (50-69 with no chronic medical conditions or activity restrictions or 50-69 and generally healthy) return to work with social distancing and personal protection, and the lowest risk group (under 50 and in excellent health) manages the probability of exposure and exposure dose when exposure does occur.

They classify exposure dose according to various factors. One is density, how many people are in the same place and how close they are together. Then there is degree of activity, based on intensity of breathing and potential for expelling large quantities of virus. Another is duration, the length of time a

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person is exposed. And the final factor is distance. We're accustomed to considering the six-foot rule, but remember more distance is always better. This kind of framing enables us to fairly objectively categorize a given event along a continuum from high dose to low dose.

The doctors also remind us that many risk factors are not immutable, suggesting "there really never has been a better time for a national health promotion campaign. Accommodating risk tier is good; lowering that personal risk and migrating to a lower tier is obviously better." And they leave us with a admonition to "advance to it in common cause," a sentiment I'll echo.

A related subject that comes up a lot is the wild variation in outcomes for those infected with SARS-CoV-2. Some people never realize they've been infected; but others become critically ill, some of them dying. Why is that? You can believe that is a topic of fervent interest among researchers, and so they're gathering a great deal of demographic information on cases in an attempt to unravel just what's going on there. I recent read a round-up of the current state of play in this regard, and I'll walk you through the high points here, but don't get your hopes up: No one's cracked the case yet.

We know older people are at risk; we've talked this one to death. People over 60 are more likely to get sick and more likely to be severely ill. This may be a consequence of immunological senescence or the accumulation of a chronic conditions, especially hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes, lung disease, and heart disease, increase the risk at any age, but especially for older persons. So what else are we working on?

A research team at Westlake University in China took blood samples from people with mild to severe disease and analyzed them for molecular changes, identifying the proteins seen that were most informative, and training a computer to predict disease severity "with a high degree of accuracy," according to Dr. Francis Collins, director of the NIH (National Institutes of Health). Most of these proteins and metabolites are associated with immune processes and macrophage function or with platelet function. You will recall from last night that macrophages are very large scavenger cells whose job is clean-up. And platelets are cell fragments that circulate and are a key player in blood clotting.

Then, there's blood type. I read a paper in preprint (peer-reviewed paper later published in the New England Journal of Medicine) from a European team who did a genome-wide association analysis of almost 2000 patients with respiratory failure in Italy and Spain. They analyzed eight and a half million single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) in these patients. A polymorphism is simply a variation on a specific location on a chromosome; single-nucleotide polymorphisms are ones that vary in only one small part of the molecule. They identified a locus on chromosome 3 and one on chromosome 9 that showed genome-wide significance. On chromosome 3, one candidate gene deals with ACE 2, the cell surface receptor for this virus and another cluster of genes with chemokine receptors. A chemokine is a kind of cytokine that attracts white blood cells to the site of an infection; a chemokine receptor is the site on the white blood cell to which the chemokine binds to exert its effect. The higher frequency of these specific SNPs in patients who required ventilation supports the idea that these genes are significant in development of severe disease.

In the chromosome 9 locus is the gene that determines ABO blood type. It appears that people with Type A blood are at 45% higher risk to be infected and a 50% higher risk to need oxygen or mechanical ventilation, while people with Type O blood are only 65% as likely to get infected as people with other blood types. We're not sure why this would be so, but there's a theory that this genetic variant may be associated with inflammation, which may increase risk. It could also be that Type A is more associated with the development of small abnormal blood clots.

Ancestry.com and 23andMe are joining in the research effort to track down relevant genetic variations, surveying their customers about their experiences with Covid-19 so that these data may be correlated with the individuals' genetic profiles. There are several studies underway searching for unusual gene variants severely ill patients have in common. We have in the past identified such variants associated with increased susceptibility to other infectious diseases, so this isn't far-fetched work.

Another factor that can influence who gets sick—and how sick—has to do with the virus. There has been conversation since fairly early on about whether there are strains of the virus circulating that are more or

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less infectious than others. The initial speculation on this subject was about a so-called L and S strain, one presumably more dangerous than the other. The extensive genomic analysis of the virus and its various strains I reported on here way back in early April seemed to put that to rest; the folks who did that analysis concluded there were no mutations that would confer any particular advantage to one strain or another. The idea has come up a couple of times since, but there is still no evidence such a thing exists. The two predominant strains we're seeing entered the US from two directions, one from China and the other from Europe. That European strain does have a mutation in its spike protein—a component of those little knobs all over the surface that you see in pictures that is important in binding to cell receptors in humans; but there still is no evidence that this mutation has functional consequences for the virus. So this is still a no. Maybe something will turn up in the future, but I haven't heard anyone who knows things expecting that.

Then there's some talk about mode of transmission affecting disease severity. This line of thinking says that tiny particles in an aerosol, being small and light, have an easier time making their way all the way down into the deepest part of the lungs whereas larger respiratory droplets are likely to get blocked by the twists and turns in the airway or the mucus that lines it or the little hairs called cilia that line some of the passageways. Some think that, because of this, the most severe infections are going to result from aerosol exposure, not droplet exposure.

This is an interesting line of argument in light of the research I reported on just three or four days ago showing a finding that the virus replicates first in the upper respiratory tract and then is aspirated into the lungs of some people, where it sets up shop and causes severe disease. I have no idea how to square these findings with the speculation that some infections begin by direct inhalation of the virus into the lungs. I guess we'll all stand around watching these folks work that out, whereupon they will duly report to us.

There is also a much larger school of thought that infection—both its likelihood and its severity—is dependent on dosage. That fits with some of the work I reported on above. I don't think there's a lot of doubt in most minds that a larger exposure dose is a bigger problem on both counts.

And then there is the individual difference factor; some of our immune systems work better under certain circumstances than others'. It is possible, but not known, that some people's immune systems have been primed by prior exposure to other coronaviruses; we talked about that possibility just a few days ago. It is also possible some people's immune systems are more hair-trigger, therefore more prone to a cytokine storm, a subject we've done to death here.

A conclusion is emerging that obesity is an important risk factor in people younger than 60. People with a body mass index (BMI) between 30 and 34 are twice as likely to require ICU care, and those with a BMI over 35 are three times more likely to die than those with a normal BMI.

So we have a lot of ideas emerging about what could be responsible for the demographic patterns we see among the infected, the severely ill, and those who die. It is difficult at present to know how these questions will be resolved, but you can be sure there are people working on it.

There's a guy in New York City named Paul Stein. He's a retired public-sector lawyer, and as he watched the pandemic rage around him, he felt sort of useless, so he looked for something he could contribute. Here's what he came up with: He got out his accordion, and he played it for his community. In his neighborhood, the front stoop is a place to socialize, to sit in the evening and visit with neighbors going by. He turned his into a stage for what he dubbed his Emergency Accordion Stoop Extravaganzas, or EASE. And he put on a series of 45-minute concerts on this narrow street where the tall buildings loom over passers-by and the acoustics are pretty good. He alerted the neighbors with a phone call before so that groups wouldn't gather and threaten social distancing, and he played from his large repertoire of music while his neighbors danced and swayed to the rhythm and listened. And now Paul feels a little less useless than he used to. When you help yourself by helping others, there are no losers. Do some of that today.

And stay well. I'll be back.

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Area COVID-19 Cases

	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16
Minnesota	28,523	28,869	29,316	29,795	30,172	30,471	30,693
Nebraska	15,883	16,025	16,315	16,513	16,633	16,725	16,851
Montana	554	561	563	573	588	601	609
Colorado	28,347	28,499	28,647	28,822	29,017	29,130	29,299
Wyoming	760	768	793	811	832	841	856
North Dakota	2901	2941	2980	3016	3058	3080	3101
South Dakota	5523	5604	5665	5742	5833	5898	+5928
United States	1,979,971	2,000,464	2,023,347	2,048,986	2,074,526	2,094,069	2,111,622
US Deaths	112,006	112,924	113,820	114,669	115,436	115,732	116,114
Minnesota	+299	+346	+447	+479	+377	+299	+222
Nebraska	+131	+142	+290	+198	+120	+92	+126
Montana	+6	+7	+2	+10	+15	+13	+8
Colorado	+164	+152	+148	+175	+195	+113	+169
Wyoming	+12	+8	+25	+18	+21	+9	+15
North Dakota	+21	+40	+39	+36	+42	+22	+21
South Dakota	+52	+81	+62	+77	+91	+65	+30
United States	+19,786	+20,493	+22,883	+25,639	+25,540	+19,543	+17,553
US Deaths	+999	+918	+896	+849	+767	+296	+382
	June 17	June 18	June 19				
Minnesota	30,882	31,296	31,675				
Nebraska	17,031	17,226	17,415				
Montana	614	630	655				
Colorado	29,442	29,673	29,901				
Wyoming	866	884	906				
North Dakota	3124	3166	3193				
South Dakota	5966	6050	6109				
United States	2,137,731	2,163,290	2,191,200				
US Deaths	116,963	117,717	118,435				
Minnesota	+129	+414	+379				
Nebraska	+180	+195	+189				
Montana	+5	+16	+25				
Colorado	+143	+231	+228				
Wyoming	+10	+18	+22				
North Dakota	+23	+42	+27				
South Dakota	+38	+84	+59				
United States	+26,109	+25,559	+27,910				
US Deaths	+849	+754	+718				

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June 18th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

As Governor Noem has said repeatedly, the marathon continues. Numbers continue to improve in South Dakota with the active cases dropping 19, down to 810. After an adjustment in numbers, Kingsbury County was added back to the fully recovered list. There were 59 new positive tests in South Dakota with 14 in Minnehaha County, Beadle 7, Pennington had 6, Brookings and Oglala Lakota each with 5, and Brown and Charles Mix each with 4.

No new deaths in the Dakotas with South Dakota at 78 and North Dakota at 74. The active cases in Brown County ticked up by one to 23.

Brown County:

Active Cases: +1 (23)
Recovered: +3 (294)
Total Positive: +4 (319)
Ever Hospitalized: +1 (16)
Deaths: 2
Negative Tests: +91 (2295)
Percent Recovered: 92.2 % (.2 decrease)

South Dakota:

Positive: +59 (6109 total)
Negative: +1306 (64244 total)
Hospitalized: +15 (585 total). 93 currently hospitalized (up 2 from yesterday)
Deaths: 0 (78 total)
Recovered: +78 (5221 total)
Active Cases: -19 (810)
Percent Recovered: 85.5% +.5

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Butte +10 (381), Campbell +1 (61), Haakon +2 (187), Harding 34, Jones 24, Perkins 73, Potter +1 (152), unassigned -155 (6052).

Beadle: +5 positive, +7 recovered (345 of 472 recovered)
Brookings: +7 positive, +2 recovered (29 of 46 recovered)
Brown: +4 positive, +3 recovered (294 of 319 recovered)
Brule: +1 positive, +1 recovered (5 of 13 recovered)
Buffalo: +3 positive, +3 recovered (30 of 58 recovered)
Charles Mix: +4 positive, +1 recovered (17 of 41 recovered)
Clark: +1 recovered (7 of 11 recovered)
Clay: +1 positive, +6 recovered (50 of 70 recovered)
Corson: +2 recovered (6 of 12 recovered)
Faulk: +1 positive (16 of 21 recovered)
Hamlin: -1 positive, -1 recovered (8 of 10 recovered)
Hughes: +1 positive, +1 recovered (19 of 27 recovered)
Hutchinson: +1 positive, +1 recovered (7 of 10 recovered)
Kingsbury: -2 positive, -1 recovered (3 of 3 recovered)
Lawrence: +2 positive (11 of 15 recovered)
Lincoln: +3 positive, +4 recovered (250 of 275 recovered)
Lyman: +1 positive, +2 recovered (20 of 40 recovered)

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Meade: +1 positive, +3 recovered (24 of 40 recovered)
Minnehaha: +14 positive, +17 recovered (3255 of 3513 recovered)
Oglala Lakota: +5 positive, +4 recovered (33 of 4 recovered)
Pennington: +6 positive, +19 recovered (271 of 430 recovered)
Roberts: +2 recovered (37 of 40 recovered)
Todd: +2 recovered (37 of 50 recovered)
Yankton: +1 positive, +1 recovered (53 of 63 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Kingsbury): Day 13-13, Deuel 1-1, Douglas 4-4, Edmunds 4-4, Grant 13-13, Gregory 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Kingsbury 3-3, McPherson 3-3, Sanborn 13-13, Spink 5-5, Sully 1-1.

The NDDoH & private labs report 4,193 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 29 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 3,193.

State & private labs have reported 144,282 total completed tests.
2,809 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	673	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	955	16%
Hispanic	1006	16%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	799	13%
Other	663	11%
White, Non-Hispanic	2013	33%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	6
Brown	2
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
Lincoln	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	54
Pennington	9
Todd	1
Union	1

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	33	27	232
Beadle	472	345	1210
Bennett	2	0	250
Bon Homme	11	8	510
Brookings	46	29	1361
Brown	319	294	2386
Brule	13	5	387
Buffalo	58	30	384
Butte	0	0	381
Campbell	0	0	61
Charles Mix	41	17	436
Clark	11	7	269
Clay	70	50	816
Codington	47	39	1652
Corson	12	6	111
Custer	2	1	364
Davison	33	26	1396
Day	13	13	346
Deuel	1	1	259
Dewey	4	0	696
Douglas	4	4	271
Edmunds	4	4	258
Fall River	6	4	507
Faulk	21	16	83
Grant	13	13	391
Gregory	1	1	205
Haakon	0	0	187
Hamlin	10	8	302
Hand	6	4	167
Hanson	3	2	104
Harding	0	0	34
Hughes	27	19	884
Hutchinson	10	7	596

Hyde	3	3	82
Jackson	6	2	262
Jerauld	40	36	216
Jones	0	0	24
Kingsbury	3	3	360
Lake	17	12	580
Lawrence	15	11	1075
Lincoln	275	250	3745
Lyman	40	20	502
Marshall	5	4	214
McCook	8	6	407
McPherson	3	3	154
Meade	40	24	1018
Mellette	2	0	149
Miner	3	2	161
Minnehaha	3513	3255	17187
Moody	20	18	405
Oglala Lakota	54	33	1564
Pennington	430	271	5312
Perkins	0	0	73
Potter	0	0	152
Roberts	40	37	851
Sanborn	13	13	162
Spink	5	5	711
Stanley	11	9	114
Sully	1	1	38
Todd	50	37	760
Tripp	9	6	280
Turner	25	23	558
Union	113	98	1152
Walworth	7	5	348
Yankton	63	53	1978
Ziebach	2	1	102
Unassigned****	0	0	6052

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2928	42
Male	3181	36

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	618	0
20-29 years	1250	1
30-39 years	1332	3
40-49 years	1002	5
50-59 years	970	12
60-69 years	549	13
70-79 years	202	7
80+ years	186	37

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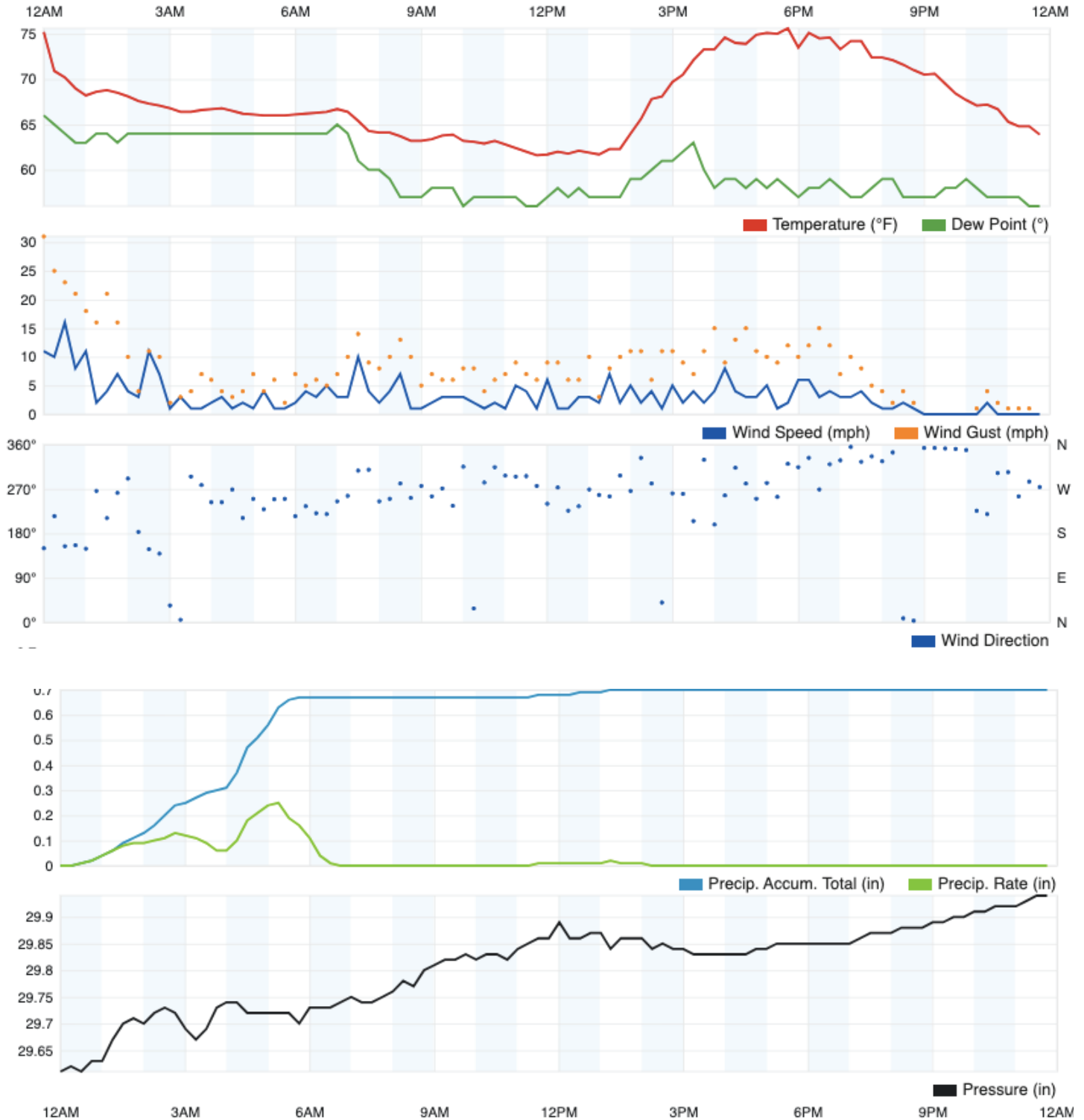
Baseball Schedule Updated June 19, 2020

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
June 19	Jr. Teener	Webster	Groton	6:00 (2)
June 22	Jr. Teener	Clark	Clark	6:00 (2)
June 22	Jr. Legion	Milbank	Groton	5:30 (1)
June 22	Legion	Milbank	Groton	7:00 (1)
June 23	Jr. Legion	Claremont	Groton	6:00 (1)
June 24	Jr. Legion	Faulkton	Faulkton	6:00 (2)
June 24	Jr. Teener	Milbank	Groton	5:30 (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 9	Jr. Legion	Milbank	Milbank	5:30 (1)
July 9	Legion	Milbank	Milbank	7:00 (1)
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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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 76 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 55 °F

Saturday



Chance
T-storms

High: 79 °F

Saturday
Night



Chance
T-storms

Low: 57 °F

Sunday



Sunny then
Chance
T-storms

High: 80 °F

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Aberdeen, SD

Today
Fri, June 19th
A Pleasant Day

76° 5% SW8
55° 10% SW7

Tonight

Pierre, SD

76° 10% SW8
57° 20% S7

Tonight

Watertown, SD

74° 5% N8
56° 10% SE7

Tonight

Updated: 6/19/2020 4:39 AM Central

No highs in the 90s or strong southerly winds today! No, today should showcase a mix of sun and clouds, but probably more sun. Temperatures today and later tonight should end up right around what climatology is for this time of year, which is high temperatures in the upper 70s to lower 80s and low temperatures in the mid to upper 50s. Can't rule out a shower or two around the region later tonight.

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Today in Weather History

June 19, 1894: A tornado moved NNE, passing 12 miles northwest of Bowdle, ending in extreme south-eastern Campbell County. A child was killed, and the mother and four other children were severely injured. A man was killed in another home, and his wife was injured. Fourteen homes were damaged or destroyed. Clothes were said to be torn to shreds and scattered for miles. This tornado was estimated to be an F3.

June 19, 1931: A tornado moved east from just south of St. Lawrence, passing south of Wessington. Buildings were destroyed on eight farms. Two farms were said to be wiped out, house and all. A woman was injured as she tried to rescue chickens. Cattle, horses, and over 100 hogs were killed. This tornado had an estimated strength of an F3.

June 19, 2013: Slow moving thunderstorms brought some large hail along with very heavy rains and flash flooding to parts of northeast South Dakota. One thunderstorm produced quarter hail and winds over 50 mph, which caused significant damage to a bean field along with damaging the siding of the house south of Wilmot in Roberts County. Several roads in Wilmot had water running over them for several hours. Over three inches of rain caused water to go over a part of Highway 123 south of Wilmot. The heavy rain of three to four inches brought many flooded roads in and around Veblen in Marshall County.

1794: A violent tornado commenced west of the Hudson River in New York. The tornado traveled through Poughkeepsie then crossed the border into Connecticut where it went through the towns of New Milford, Waterbury, North Haven, and Branford. It then continued into Long Island Sound. The tornado did extensive damage, and the funnel was reported by one observer to look like the "aurora borealis."

2004: Annette Island, Alaska set an all-time record high temperature of 93 degrees. Since record keeping began in 1941, Annette Island has seen 90-degree temperatures four times.

Continued State Unemployment Claims Decrease

PIERRE, S.D. – The latest number of continued state claims is 20,573 for the week ending May 30, a decrease of 4,613 from the pandemic high of 25,186 for the week ending May 9. This indicates the number of unemployed workers eligible for and receiving benefits after their initial claim.

"Many South Dakotans are going back to work, which is great for the economy as we work to get back to normal," said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. "Jobs may look different, but our department is prepared to help workers retrain to meet new demands and help employers find qualified candidates."

During the week of June 7-13, a total of 1,006 initial weekly claims for state unemployment benefits were processed by the Department of Labor and Regulation. This is an increase of 126 claims from the prior week's total of 880.

A total of \$4.7 million was paid out in state benefits, in addition to \$12.5 million paid out in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), \$747,400 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and \$59,700 in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance June 14 was \$99.8 million.

Also, during the week of June 7-13, a total of 321 PUA and 181 PEUC claims were processed.

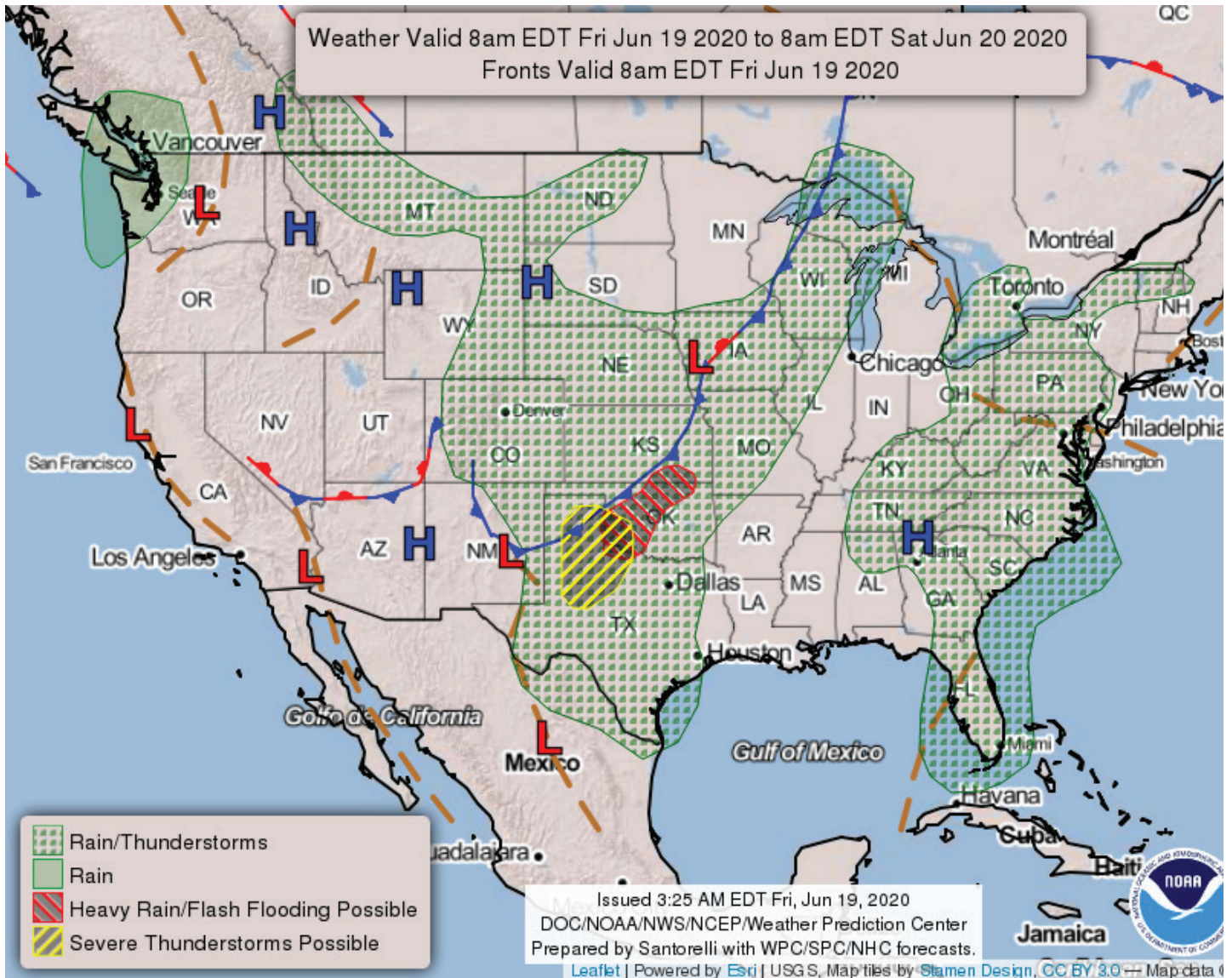
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 76 °F at 5:40 PM
Low Temp: 62 °F at 11:35 AM
Wind: 27 mph at 12:05 AM
Precip: .72

Record High: 108° in 1933
Record Low: 38° in 1902
Average High: 78°F
Average Low: 55°F
Average Precip in June.: 2.07
Precip to date in June.: 2.47
Average Precip to date: 9.21
Precip Year to Date: 7.10
Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



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GOD AND THE ISSUES OF LIFE

Years ago a luxury ocean liner was making its way from England to America. Shortly after dark, it encountered a massive thunderstorm and heavy seas. The ship began to heave, first one way and then the other, because of the enormous waves. One of the passengers sought out the captain and shouted in a loud voice, "Do something!"

"Madam, we are doing our very best," he said calmly, "and we are trusting in the providence of God."

"Is it that serious?" she asked.

The word "providence" comes from two Latin words, "care" and "preparation beforehand." For the Christian, this means that before we encounter problems or pain, trials or troubles, God has already made His preparation for us to be safe and secure no matter what He brings into our lives. Remember: If He planned it, He will protect us in it and through it!

We must realize that God sees "things" beforehand and knows what happens to us before it actually happens. Because of His sovereignty, knowledge, and power, He will arrange the outcome of these "things" to fulfill His plan and purpose for our lives.

Paul certainly believed in the providence of God. In his letter to the Romans, he assures us that "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called by Him." If it comes into our life, it is because God has a purpose and plan for it.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to trust You when days are dark and nights seem long. May we realize and accept Your "providence" for us in everything! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28

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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

50 years in prison for shooting 63 rounds at officers

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has sentenced a Rapid City man to 50 years in prison for repeatedly shooting at law enforcement officers during a four-hour standoff on New Year's Day 2019.

Judge Robert Gusinsky said Wednesday in Pennington County Court that "by the grace of God" no one died when 63 rounds were fired by Jordan Wounded Face.

Gusinsky acknowledged that Wounded Face needs mental health treatment for his schizophrenia, but that he's not confident he can be rehabilitated since he already completed or dropped out of several rounds of intensive mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Wounded Face "does deserve to get help" but "that can't be at the expense of the safety of the citizens in this community," said prosecutor Stacy Wickre.

He made "very dangerous choices" during the standoff that didn't have anything to do with his schizophrenia, Wickre said.

The Rapid City Journal says he faced 80 years in prison after pleading guilty but mentally ill in February to two counts of aggravated assault against law enforcement and two counts of firing at a motorcycle.

Claims for unemployment benefits continue to rise

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The number of South Dakotans applying for unemployment benefits continues to rise.

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation said Thursday that during the week of June 7-13 there were 1,006 initial weekly unemployment. That's an increase from 880 initial weekly claims made the week prior.

The Argus Leader reports the state has received more than 53,000 initial claims for unemployment benefits since mid-March when layoffs began to steadily increase because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The labor department also processed 321 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claims last week. That program provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are self-employed, independent contractors, nonprofit and temporary employees r who otherwise would not qualify for regular unemployment.

State officials also processed 181 claims for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which provides unemployment benefits to people who have exhausted their state and federal benefits.

Nationwide, there were 1.5 million initial weekly unemployment claims last week, which was a decrease of 58,000 from the week of May 31, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Poor People's Campaign eyes 'virtual march' in poverty fight

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

RIO RANCHO, N.M. (AP) — Clergy and religious leaders are preparing to hold a virtual march Saturday to highlight the plight of Americans struggling with poverty — people like Madelyn "Maddie" Brace and her boyfriend, Luciano Benavidez.

For weeks, Brace and her 4-month-old daughter have stretched Benavidez's shrinking paychecks, as his hours declined to 22 a week. In their small Albuquerque apartment, they've eaten smaller dinners and wrestled the bureaucracy at the state's unemployment office.

The global pandemic keeps the 21-year-old Brace inside. The lack of money forces 20-year-old Benavidez out, searching for employment that's not there.

"COVID-19 hits, and our country is quite negligent," said the Rev. William Barber II, an organizer of Saturday's march and president of the Repairers of the Breach, a nonprofit group that fights poverty and discrimination. "Global pandemics, by their very nature, exploit the fissures of society and America has

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fissures in terms of poverty and systemic racism.”

Modeled after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s last organizing effort, the new campaign seeks to bring the issue of poverty to the American consciousness amid anxiety, uncertainty and growing inequality.

The Mass Poor People’s Assembly & Moral March on Washington aims to build upon the nation’s principles to pursue solutions to poverty — something advocates say is getting especially severe in rural areas.

But instead of assembling in camps near the National Mall — as protesters did in the wake of King’s death in 1968, as part of the Poor People’s Campaign — this week’s gathering will offer poor people a chance to describe their lives, live-streamed to a national audience.

The digital gathering grew out of an original plan for a march in front of the White House this summer. That idea was scrapped due to the pandemic.

Organizers say poor coal miners from Kentucky and San Carlos Apache members from Arizona will speak about their own experiences in extreme poverty. Residents from Appalachia will discuss their food deserts, while others from the Mississippi Delta will talk about the lack of jobs.

The gathering comes two years after Barber and the Rev. Liz Theoharis of New York City encouraged activists in 40 states to take part in acts of civil disobedience, teach-ins, and demonstrations to force communities to address poverty on the anniversary of King’s event.

Barber said the coalition is operating in 45 states. Organizers have visited colonias along the U.S.-Mexico border and met with poor white farmers in Kansas.

Among those the campaign is pursuing to help are Mariah Kolka, 24, and Casey Britton, 25, of Linden, Tennessee. Both are mothers who live in an isolated county with limited resources and who have toiled in recent years with limited income. They live in an area with few grocery stores and health food options.

“We run out of vegetables run quick here,” Britton said. “There’s not much left but fast food.”

Childhood malnutrition, graduation rates and early deaths are worst among rural, black-majority counties in the American South and isolated counties where Native Americans live, according to a report released this month by the advocacy group Save the Children.

Using federal data from 2018 and examining more 2,600 counties and their equivalents, the report found that about a third of the 50 poorly ranked counties are majority African American and a quarter are majority Native American.

Barber said statistics like those should inspire the county to take action. He said organizers want both President Donald Trump and presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden to hold at least one debate that focuses on poverty.

“We are going to be a face on it,” Barber said. “Then, we are committed to a mass effort to build voting power.”

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP’s race and ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras>

Bankers say economy remains weak in rural parts of 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new survey of bankers in rural parts of 10 Plains and Western states suggests the economy remains weak in those areas as the coronavirus outbreak continues to affect the region.

The overall economic index for the region more than doubled to 37.9 in June from May’s 12.5, but it remained at a weak level. Any score below 50 suggests a shrinking economy, while a score above 50 suggests a growing economy, survey organizers say.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, said crop prices remain low, and more than one-third of the bankers survey expect that to be a significant challenge over the next year. Only 3% of bankers reported economic growth in their areas.

The bankers’ outlook for the economy remains negative, but the confidence index improved in June to 43.8 from May’s 22.1.

“Weak agriculture commodity prices, and layoffs have decimated economic confidence among bankers,”

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Goss said.

But job growth exceeded layoffs in rural areas as more businesses reopened. The hiring index jumped to 51.5 in June from May's 17.1, but employment remains well below what it was before the coronavirus outbreak began.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Man drowns after saving 2 children at lake near Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man who drowned in a Minnehaha County lake died after saving two children who had fallen off a flotation device, according to sheriff's officials.

Lazerick Grant, 38, of Sioux Falls, died at Sanford Hospital on Wednesday, according to the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff's Capt. Mike Walsh said deputies were dispatched to Wall Lake west of Sioux Falls shortly before 9 p.m Tuesday on a report of a possible drowning.

Rescue divers from Sioux Falls Fire Rescue, several other agencies and a helicopter also responded to Wall Lake.

Witnesses told officials Lazerick had been on a flotation device in the swimming area of the lake with two children at the time of the incident when the children fell in the water and Grant went in after them.

Sioux Falls superintendent named South Dakota regents CEO

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The superintendent of Sioux Falls public schools is set to become the new CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Superintendent Brian Maher earlier announced plans to resign at the end of this month from his post with the Sioux Falls School District. On Thursday, the regents announced Maher will become their next chief executive. The board is set to formally approve his appointment next week, and he would start his new role on July 6.

"I look forward to continuing my work in education and I embrace the opportunity to learn and make a difference in higher education," Maher said in a news release.

Maher has been with the Sioux Falls School District for five years, the Argus Leader reported. He also served as superintendent of schools in two Nebraska districts, Kearney and Centennial, from 1999 to 2015, when he moved to Sioux Falls.

A Nebraska native, Maher started his career in education teaching mathematics, computer science and physics. He was named Nebraska's superintendent of the year in 2015.

The regents oversee six public universities, including the South Dakota School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, and South Dakota School for the Deaf.

US drops planned limit for toxin that damages infant brains

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

The Trump administration on Thursday rejected imposing federal drinking-water limits for a chemical used in fireworks and other explosives and linked to brain damage in newborns, opting to override Obama administration findings that the neurotoxin was contaminating the drinking water of millions of Americans.

The contaminant is perchlorate, a component in rocket fuel, ammunition and other explosives, including fireworks. The Associated Press found one high-profile example of that on Thursday, reviewing a 2016 U.S. Geological Survey report that ties high levels of perchlorate contamination in the water at Mount Rushmore national memorial in South Dakota with past years of fireworks displays there.

While officials stopped the fireworks shows at the Black Hills memorial a decade ago, the pyrotechnics are scheduled to resume this Independence Day holiday at the urging of President Donald Trump, who plans to attend the festivities on July 3.

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His administration has rolled back or eliminated scores of existing or pending public health and environmental protections, and the latest example came Thursday when Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the government would not move forward on setting the first mandatory federal limits for perchlorate in drinking water.

The rollbacks have targeted Obama-era initiatives in particular, with the Trump administration saying the regulations are burdensome to business and are unnecessary.

Wheeler said in a statement the decision to drop the introduction of federal limits for perchlorate fulfill's Trump's "promise to pare back burdensome 'one-size-fits-all' overregulation for the American people."

Perchlorate from runoff contaminates the drinking water of as many as 16 million Americans, the Obama administration said in 2011 when it announced the EPA would act to set maximum limits for perchlorate for the first time.

Perchlorate can damage the development of fetuses and children and cause measurable drops in IQ in newborns, the American Academy of Pediatrics said last August in urging the "strongest possible" federal limits.

Erik Olson of the Natural Resources Defense Council advocacy group said the EPA's decision Thursday was "illegal, unscientific and unconscionable."

An earlier court-ordered consent decree, set after Olson's group accused the EPA of slow-walking the then-planned regulation, gave the agency until this month to set a maximum limit for perchlorate. The organization said Thursday it planned a legal challenge to the EPA's decision to drop the proposed regulation.

The EPA said last year it was looking at four options, including a limit for perchlorate in drinking water far higher than those that California, Massachusetts and other states are currently adopting. Another option was dropping the proposal to regulate perchlorate entirely, based on the contention that "perchlorate does not occur in public water systems with a frequency, and at a level of public health concern."

Wheeler said federal regulation was not warranted now partly because of the steps that some states and public drinking water systems have taken to reduce perchlorate contamination.

The EPA required some nationwide testing for perchlorate in drinking water only from 2001 to 2005, making it impossible to determine how severe a problem remains nationally, Olson said.

But Trump's EPA says it looked at some of the limited local testing done for perchlorate, including 15 water systems in a total of 12 states. It said the monitoring found levels of the rocket fuel chemical had declined in some of them.

Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, the top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, said in a statement that the EPA "abdicated its responsibility to set federal drinking water standards for a chemical long known to be unsafe, instead leaving it up to states to decide whether or not to protect people from it."

With the Mount Rushmore fireworks a few weeks away, a National Parks Service assessment has concluded there would be no environmental harm from reviving the annual fireworks display, parks service spokeswoman Alexandra Picavet said.

But the agency's written environmental assessment said workers planned to monitor any increase in perchlorate at Mount Rushmore after the fireworks. If readings change, more analysis "may be necessary to evaluate future events" at Mount Rushmore, the report concluded.

The memorial serves 3 million visitors a year and year-round park personnel. Picavet said the water is not the primary water source for visitors and workers, and that treatment removes the perchlorate from Mount Rushmore's drinking water.

The 2016 U.S. Geological Survey report called perchlorate contamination at Mount Rushmore "a major concern of park management." It said past years' fireworks displays were the "most probable source" of the contamination.

Authorities have cited a range of public health and environmental concerns, especially the risk of wildfires, in stopping fireworks at Mount Rushmore and not resuming them until now.

Sampling by the U.S. Geological Survey found perchlorate contamination in a water well at Mount Rushmore at more than two times an advisory-only level set by President George W. Bush's administration in

2008. Levels in a stream were more than three times higher than advisory level.

Klobuchar urges Biden to pick nonwhite woman as running mate

By SARA BURNETT Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Amy Klobuchar says she is dropping out of the running to be vice president and urging Democrat Joe Biden to select a woman of color instead.

The white Minnesota senator, who had seen her prospects fall as racial tensions swept the nation, said Thursday that she called the presumptive presidential nominee Wednesday night and made the suggestion. Biden had already committed to choosing a woman as his running mate.

"I think this is a moment to put a woman of color on that ticket," Klobuchar said on MSNBC. "If you want to heal this nation right now — my party, yes, but our nation — this is sure a hell of a way to do it."

Biden praised Klobuchar in a tweet Thursday, citing her "grit and determination" and saying, "With your help, we're going to beat Donald Trump."

Klobuchar's chances at getting the VP nod diminished after the killing of George Floyd by a white police officer in Minneapolis. Klobuchar was a prosecutor years ago in the county that includes Minneapolis, and during that period, more than two dozen people — mostly minorities — died during encounters with police.

Floyd's death last month set off days of protests across the country and criticism that as the county's top prosecutor, Klobuchar didn't charge any of the officers involved in citizen deaths. Officer Derek Chauvin, who was charged with Floyd's murder, had been involved in one of those cases, the fatal 2006 shooting of a man accused of stabbing people and aiming a shotgun at police.

Klobuchar, 60, was among a large field of Democrats who had sought the 2020 presidential nomination, running as a pragmatic Midwesterner who has passed over 100 bills. She dropped out and threw her support behind Biden before the crucial March 3 "Super Tuesday" contests after struggling to win support from black voters, who are crucial to Democratic victories. Her best finish of the primary was in overwhelmingly white New Hampshire, where she came in third.

The third-term senator had to cancel one of the final rallies of her campaign after Black Lives Matter and other activists took the stage in Minnesota to protest her handling of a murder case when she was prosecutor that sent a black teen to prison for life.

Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, a close Biden ally and Congress' highest-ranking black lawmaker, said in the days after Floyd's death that he believed it made Klobuchar a less likely pick for vice president, though he said she is "absolutely" qualified for the job.

"This is very tough timing for her," Clyburn said.

Even before Floyd's death, activists were pushing Biden to consider a woman of color, saying it would help build a multiracial coalition behind the Democratic ticket and motivate people — particularly younger voters — who may be underwhelmed by the 77-year-old former vice president's bid. The founder of She the People, a network of women of color, called news that Biden had asked Klobuchar to undergo formal vetting "a dangerous and reckless choice."

"To choose Klobuchar as vice president risks losing the very base the Democrats need to win, most centrally women of color, and could be a fatal blow to the Democrats' chance to win the White House," Aimee Allison said in May.

Others wanted Biden to choose a more progressive candidate, who could bring in support from voters who backed Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren in the primary. Like Biden, Klobuchar disagreed with Sanders and Warren during the campaign on major issues such as health care, calling "Medicare for All" unachievable and pushing instead for changes to the Affordable Care Act.

Democrats with knowledge of the process told The Associated Press last week that Biden's search committee had narrowed the choices to as few as six serious contenders after initial interviews. Among the group still in contention: Warren, California Sen. Kamala Harris and Susan Rice, who served as President Barack Obama's national security adviser. Warren is white; both Harris and Rice are black.

Biden has said he will announce his VP decision by Aug. 1.

Associated Press writers Amy Forliti in Minneapolis, Julie Pace in Washington, Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Ashley Thomas in Savannah, Georgia, contributed to this report.

Lives Lost: South African activist targeted apartheid, HIV

By **MOGOMOTSI MAGOME** Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Clarence Mini's life was marked by battles against formidable foes. The South African doctor fought apartheid — receiving his medical training in exile — the government's denial of HIV/AIDS and rampant corruption.

Loved ones say Mini, who recently died of COVID-19 at age 69, knew the odds were against him but never gave up, dedicating his life to the belief that all South Africans receive proper health care. They say he never became a cynic despite the struggles and made sure he had time for his four children — whether they were getting their driver's licenses or a leadership post at school.

"He would always make time to celebrate those small milestones," his son Yandi Mini told The Associated Press. "He always supported what we were passionate about."

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

Clarence Mini's warmth and his unwavering commitment to what he believed was right made him unique, loved ones said. His death on May 11 in Johannesburg led to a national outpouring.

At 25, Mini joined the armed struggle against apartheid, the brutal system of racial oppression enforced by the country's white minority, and secretly left South Africa in 1976. That year, the government opened fire on students in Soweto in a series of protests that left at least 176 people dead.

He joined the armed wing of the African National Congress and received military training in Angola. Only years later was Mini able to send a letter to his family saying he was alive and safe in exile.

He studied medicine in Bulgaria and qualified as a doctor, an achievement that would have been all but impossible for a black man during South African apartheid.

Ndumiso Ntshinga, who became friends with Mini in Bulgaria, described him as "a committed cadre and activist doctor." He organized fellow African National Congress members to work on farms to raise money for others in exile, Ntshinga said.

When apartheid began to fall in 1990, Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were released and the party became legal, allowing Mini and others to return home.

Instead of basking in the victory of democracy, Mini squared off against another foe: HIV/AIDS.

He quickly was at the forefront of the fight as the virus spread across South Africa, co-chairing the first national meeting of organizations fighting HIV in 1992.

Mini became a leader when many African National Congress members denied the existence of AIDS, longtime HIV activist Mark Heywood wrote in a tribute May 14 in the Daily Maverick, a South African news website.

"In those days, there was a deep reluctance to talk about HIV in the ANC. It took pioneers and mavericks like ... Mini to draw attention to the likely impact HIV would have on our country," Heywood wrote.

South Africa's second elected president, Thabo Mbeki, who was in power from 1999 to 2008, refused to allow government hospitals to distribute life-saving antiretroviral medicine, which health experts said led to thousands of deaths.

Mini targeted that denial. He and his wife, Nancy, a nurse, opened an HIV clinic and treated patients for free.

After Mbeki was ousted, Mini crafted a new government response to the HIV pandemic as co-chairman of the national AIDS council. Today, the South African government provides free life-saving medication to more than 5 million people — the most of any country in the world.

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In recent years, Mini became chairman of the Council for Medical Schemes, which regulates health insurers. He was a strong proponent of universal health care in what's considered the most unequal country in the world.

"Universal health care is the way forward. We cannot afford a situation where only a small percentage of people have all the resources of a country being focused on them. We have to spread it out and cover everybody," Mini told the South African Broadcasting Corp. in 2017.

"It is a human right declared internationally by the U.N. and our Constitution. We have no choice, we have to cover everybody in health care," he said.

Mini's friends said he was frustrated by corruption, which became rampant under President Jacob Zuma and forced Zuma from office in 2018. Under Mini's leadership, the Council for Medical Schemes investigated the health insurance industry amid allegations of corrupt ties between council officials and the entities they regulate. Last year, the council suspended at least five of its own executives.

Mini's frustration "came from the belief that it was not what many of us had fought the struggle (against apartheid) for. It made no sense to him why people would want to steal from the poor," said Ntshinga, his colleague in Bulgaria.

Mini was admitted to a hospital on March 28, the day after South Africa declared a national lockdown over the coronavirus outbreak. He was in an isolation ward when he died, paining his family.

"The last moments were really tough, and we hardly ever saw or communicated with him," his son said. "Even the few hospital visits we had were tough, as we had to be heavily clothed with protective gear and were strictly monitored."

Mini's memorial service and funeral last month were restricted to fewer than 50 people because of virus restrictions, preventing many former colleagues from attending. Mini is survived by his wife, Nancy; son Yandi; and three daughters, Nandi, Nomhle and Yolisa.

Young immigrants land court win but still face uncertainty

By ASTRID GALVAN The Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld legal protections for young immigrants, but President Donald Trump could still take away the ability for hundreds of thousands of them to live and work legally in the United States. With no legislative answer in sight, that means the uncertainty of the last eight years isn't over for many who know of nowhere else as home.

Activists are vowing to keep fighting for a long-term solution for 650,000 immigrants who were brought to the country as children. They face a White House that's prioritized immigration restrictions and a divided Congress that's unlikely to pass legislation giving them a path to citizenship anytime soon.

The high court on Thursday ruled that President Donald Trump improperly ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in 2017. Chief Justice John Roberts joined the four liberal justices in the 5-4 majority, while the conservatives justices called DACA illegal.

It's now up to the Trump administration whether to try again to dismantle the program that offers protection from deportation. Trump slammed the ruling, tweeting: "These horrible & politically charged decisions coming out of the Supreme Court are shotgun blasts into the face of people that are proud to call themselves Republicans or Conservatives," apparently also referring to a ruling this week that said it's illegal to fire people because they're gay or transgender.

But experts say there isn't enough time to knock down the 8-year-old program before the November election and doubt the government would try because DACA is popular with voters.

The court decision elicited surprise, joy and then apprehension from immigrants and advocates who know it's only a temporary solution.

"This is a huge victory for us," Diana Rodriguez, a 22-year-old DACA recipient, said through tears.

Rodriguez, who works with the New York Immigration Coalition, said she hasn't been to Mexico since she was brought to the U.S. at age 2. The ruling means young immigrants can keep working, providing for their families and making "a difference in this country," she said.

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But the work isn't over, Rodriguez said: "We can't stop right now, we have to continue fighting." Congressional Democrats, meanwhile, appeared satisfied to let the court's decision stand as the law of the land for now.

While Republicans protested that now, if ever, was the time for Congress to clarify the immigration system, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made it clear that Democrats were done with their legislation before the summer break and had little interest in meeting GOP demands to fund Trump's long-promised border wall as part of any comprehensive immigration overhaul.

"There isn't anybody in the immigration community that wants us to trade a wall for immigration," she said.

Pelosi was reminded that Trump has said he wants immigration reform. "We'll see," she said, noting how few days remain on the legislative calendar. "I don't know what the president meant — maybe he doesn't either."

Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden said that if elected, he would send lawmakers proposed legislation on his first day in office to make DACA protections permanent.

The program grew out of an impasse over a comprehensive immigration bill between Congress and the Obama administration in 2012. Under intense pressure from young activists, President Barack Obama decided to formally protect people from deportation and allow them to work legally in the U.S.

Immigrants who are part of DACA will keep those protections, but there are tens of thousands of others who could have enrolled if Trump didn't halt the program three years ago.

The Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, estimates that about 66,000 young immigrants meet the age requirement to join the program — 15 — but haven't been able to do so because the government has only been renewing two-year permits for those already enrolled.

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights has filed a DACA application for a person who's not part of the program already, legal services director Luis Perez said, though U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services hasn't signaled whether it will accept any.

"The circuit courts have already told USCIS you must accept renewals. Now that there's been a Supreme Court decision, really the instructions are gonna be you need to bring back the program in full effect," Perez said.

It's unlikely the Trump administration will take new applications without being forced by the courts.

USCIS deputy director for policy Joseph Edlow said in a statement that the court's opinion "has no basis in law and merely delays the president's lawful ability to end the illegal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals amnesty program."

A spokesperson said the agency was reviewing the decision and had no further comment.

And so the ups and downs continue, many coming from Trump himself. During the 2016 campaign, he vowed to repeal DACA. After his election, he softened his stance, saying at one point that DACA recipients had nothing to worry about. But under pressure from hard-liners, he announced in 2017 that he was ending the program.

Reyna Montoya, a DACA recipient from the Phoenix area who leads an immigrant rights advocacy organization, said she and others will keep pushing Congress to take up legislation addressing young immigrants.

"At this moment, the Senate needs to act, needs to come up with a proposal that will give us a path to citizenship," Montoya said.

Associated Press reporters Lisa Mascaro in Washington and Deepti Hajela in New York contributed to this report.

Atlanta police call out sick over charges in fatal shooting

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta police officers called out sick to protest the filing of murder charges against an officer who shot a man in the back, while the interim chief acknowledged members of the force feel abandoned amid protests demanding massive changes to policing.

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Interim Chief Rodney Bryant told The Associated Press in an interview that the sick calls began Wednesday night and continued Thursday, but said the department had sufficient staff to protect the city. It's not clear how many officers called out.

"Some are angry. Some are fearful. Some are confused on what we do in this space. Some may feel abandoned," Bryant said of the officers. "But we are there to assure them that we will continue to move forward and get through this."

Prosecutors brought felony murder and other charges against Garrett Rolfe, a white officer who shot Rayshard Brooks after the 27-year-old black man grabbed a Taser during a struggle and ran, firing it at the officer, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said.

Four months before Brooks was killed, Reconnect, a company that focuses on fighting incarceration and addiction, interviewed him about the year he spent in jail. He said the criminal justice system treats the people incarcerated within like "animals."

"Some of the system could, you know, looks at us as individuals," Brooks said. "We do have lives, you know, we're just a mistake we made."

He said having a record hindered the formerly incarcerated from trying to "provide for ourselves as far as getting a job and getting ourselves back on track."

Howard said Brooks was not a deadly threat at the time and that Rolfe kicked the wounded man and offered no medical treatment for over two minutes as Brooks lay dying. Another officer, Devin Brosnan, who the district attorney said stood on Brooks' shoulder as he struggled for his life, was charged with aggravated assault and violation of his oath.

Rolfe and Brosnan both contend their actions were justified and turned themselves in Thursday. Jail records show Brosnan was released on a signature bond, meaning he only has to pay if he fails to show up for court, while Rolfe was being held without bond. Rolfe was fired and Brosnan placed on desk duty.

A few hours after reporting to the Fulton County jail in Atlanta, Rolfe was moved to the jail in neighboring Gwinnett County, according to online records.

The decision to prosecute the officers came less than five days after the killing rocked a city — and a nation — still reeling after George Floyd's death at the hands of police in Minneapolis set off nationwide protests that have urged an extensive rethink of policing and an examination of racism in the United States.

L. Chris Stewart, a lawyer for Tomika Miller, Brooks' widow, told reporters the charging of the officers brought the family no joy.

"Some people thought that we'd be happy and be celebrating and have a fist in the air, but it's more a disappointment that this is the state of policing and this is where we're at," he said.

In his video interview with Reconnect, Brooks, a father, promised to "keep going until I make it to where I want to be."

Bryant, who took over after the previous chief resigned in the wake of the shooting, wore a navy blue shirt Thursday, rather than the white shirt typically worn by command staff, to show solidarity with the officers.

In the roughly three weeks since protests first broke out in Georgia's capital, officers have worked shifts of 12 or more hours and have been yelled at, spit on and had things thrown at them, Bryant said.

"At some point, people get tired, I recognize that, and physically exhausted," he said. "We will definitely get beyond it, and I'm certain that we will see our sick-outs drop back to normal, average."

The weeks since Floyd's killing have seen lawmakers pass police reforms, Americans reconsider statues commemorating controversial figures, and ideas like defunding police become part of the national conversation. But the drive for change has also drawn pushback, and divisions over the role police should play are becoming a major political flashpoint.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican, issued a strong message of support for police Thursday.

"We remember those who died in the line of duty and their families, who still mourn their passing," he said in a video his office posted to social media.

While some have hailed the prosecutor's office for moving quickly in the Brooks killing, Bryant said he

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was surprised at the speed, noting that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation hadn't yet finished its probe.

He would not say how many officers called out. But just one officer showed up for work Thursday morning in one zone, which several dozen are assigned to patrol, according to Vince Champion, southeast regional director for the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

Atlanta officers are walking off their shifts or not responding to calls because they feel "abandoned, betrayed, used in a political game," Champion told the AP.

Champion said he's heard from several officers that they fear using force to protect themselves will get them fired or arrested.

Brooks' funeral is set for Tuesday at Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, which was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s congregation, the Rev. Raphael Warnock announced. Tyler Perry, the actor and filmmaker, has offered financial help for the services, officials said.

Warnock urged people to remember all the lives lost in recent weeks in interactions with police.

"Tragically and involuntarily they all have become visible victims in an urgent public conversation about justice and fairness in our nation," said Warnock.

Police in Atlanta were called to a Wendy's last week over complaints of a car blocking the drive-thru lane and found Brooks asleep behind the wheel. A breath test showed he was intoxicated. Officers had a relatively calm conversation with Brooks before things rapidly turned violent when they tried to handcuff him.

Rolfe shot Brooks after he grabbed a Taser, fired it and ran, Howard, the prosecutor, said. But when the officer fired, Brooks was too far from him for the Taser to be a danger, and it had already been fired twice, so it was empty, Howard said.

Rolfe's lawyers said he feared for his and others' safety. Rolfe opened fire after hearing a sound "like a gunshot and saw a flash in front of him," apparently from the Taser.

The felony murder charge against Rolfe, 27, carries life in prison or the death penalty, if prosecutors decide to seek it. He was also charged with 10 other offenses punishable by decades behind bars.

The district attorney said the other officer, Brosnan, 26, is cooperating with prosecutors and will testify. But his attorneys said he hasn't agreed to be a witness for prosecutors.

One of his lawyers, Don Samuel, said Thursday that Brosnan suffered a concussion during the struggle with Brooks and put his foot on Brooks only briefly when he heard gunshots because he didn't know where they were coming from and was worried Brooks may have had access to a weapon.

Associated Press writer Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Palestinians fear displacement from an annexed Jordan Valley

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

FASAYIL, West Bank (AP) — For generations, the people of Fasayil herded animals on the desert bluffs and palm-shaded lowlands of the Jordan Valley. Today, nearly every man in the Palestinian village works for Jewish settlers in the sprawling modern farms to the north and south.

The grazing lands to the west and east, leading down to the banks of the biblical Jordan River, have been swallowed up by the settlements or fenced off by the Israeli military. So instead of leading sheep out to pasture, the men rise before dawn to work in the settlements for around \$3 an hour — or they move away.

"Everyone here works in the settlements, there's nothing else," said Iyad Taamra, a member of the village council who runs a small grocery store. "If you have some money you go somewhere else where there is a future."

Palestinians fear communities across the Jordan Valley will meet a similar fate if Israel proceeds with its plans to annex the territory, which accounts for around a quarter of the occupied West Bank and was once seen as the breadbasket of a future Palestinian state.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to annex the valley and all of Israel's far-flung West Bank settlements, in line with President Donald Trump's Middle East plan, which overwhelmingly favors Israel and has been rejected by the Palestinians. The process could begin as soon as July 1.

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Netanyahu has said Israel will annex the land but not the people who rely on it, telling an Israeli newspaper they will remain in an "enclave" under limited self-rule, with Israel maintaining security control.

Few if any Palestinians would be given citizenship, leaving their legal status uncertain. In a region that heavily relies on agriculture, the loss of farm and grazing land could force many to relocate.

Shaul Arieli, a retired Israeli military commander who worked on border demarcation during the peace process in the 1990s, estimates that the Palestinians would lose up to 70,000 acres (280 square kilometers) of private land. He expects Israel will carve out a new 200-kilometer (124-mile) border between the Jordan Valley and the rest of the West Bank, and a 60-kilometer (37-mile) border around the Palestinian city of Jericho.

He based his conclusions on maps presented by Netanyahu and the White House, which show Israel extending sovereignty over large swaths of land while leaving most populated areas outside its borders.

Itay Epshtain, a special adviser to the Norwegian Refugee Council, said Palestinians would lose some of the limited protections they have, once Israeli courts are no longer formally obliged to consider international laws related to military occupation.

"Palestinians void of civil status in Israel, and not coming under the authority of the military commander, would neither have standing in the High Court nor the ability to challenge decisions of the government," he said.

The Jordan Valley is home to around 60,000 Palestinians, according to the U.N., but nearly 90% of the land is part of what is known as Area C, the three-fifths of the West Bank that is under complete Israeli control. In the Jordan Valley, it includes closed military areas and around 50 agricultural settlements housing some 12,000 Israelis.

Palestinians are barred from those areas, and even on the lands they own, they are forbidden from digging wells or building any kind of infrastructure without hard-to-get military permits. From 2009 until 2016, less than 2% of more than 3,300 permit applications in Area C were successful, according to Peace Now, an Israeli anti-settlement group, citing official statistics.

Anything built without a permit, from home extensions to tents, animal pens and irrigation networks, is at risk of demolition by the Israeli military.

"If you dig a well they will come the next day and fill it with concrete," said Hani Saida, a farmer from the town of al-Auja. "They may annex this area, but they will never give us equal rights. They'll keep trying to drive us away."

COGAT, the Israeli military body that oversees civilian affairs in the West Bank, declined to comment.

Abdul-Malik al-Jaber, a Canadian-Palestinian businessman and the chairman of a large company that exports dates from the Jordan Valley, says the process of obtaining permits is a "nightmare," even for big investors.

"There's no way on earth a normal, simple farmer can afford the cost and the complications," he said.

Al-Jaber said his company has spent the last two months and around \$35,000 trying to secure a permit to build a modern date-packing plant on land he owns. He was told the Israeli military considers it a training area, even though farmers live there and work the land.

He fears annexation will only make things more difficult, by cutting off workers from the company's fields and factories and further complicating the export process.

Israel's annexation plans have sparked an international outcry, with European and Arab countries warning that it would violate international law and threaten any remaining hopes for a two-state solution.

But in the Jordan Valley and elsewhere in the West Bank the response has been more muted.

"From 1967 until today, water for drinking, water for agriculture, the border, the crossings, the roads, the government lands in Area C between the villages and the cities, the entrances to the towns — all of them are under Israeli control," said Mohannad Saida, a cousin of Hani.

"Nothing is going to change," he said.

He said his family owns around 750 acres (3 square kilometers) north of al-Auja, stretching to the banks of the Jordan River. They fled during the 1967 war, when Israel seized the West Bank from Jordan and

their land was sealed off as a military zone.

Over the years, they would drive into the hills to look down over the land. About 15 years ago, they noticed rows of freshly planted date trees, an extension of a nearby settlement.

A few years later, a relative who worked as a bulldozer driver was able to enter the area for an Israeli construction project. He took pictures of the mud-brick homes where their ancestors had been born and raised.

"We saw our mud houses," Saida said. "They are still standing."

Associated Press writer Mohammed Daraghmeh in Fasayil, West Bank, contributed to this report.

India-China Himalayan standoff deadly for cashmere herds

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Antagonisms between Indian and Chinese troops high in the Himalayas are taking a dire toll on traditional goat herds that supply the world's finest, most expensive cashmere.

This week, a deadly brawl between Indian and Chinese soldiers caused the deaths of at least 20 Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley, an achingly beautiful landscape that is part of a border region that has been disputed for decades because of its strategic importance as the world's highest landing ground.

The months-long military standoff between the Asian giants is hurting local communities due to the loss of tens of thousands of Himalayan goat kids died because they couldn't reach traditional winter grazing lands, officials and residents said.

Nomads have roamed these lands atop the roof of the world, around the undemarcated borders with China and Tibet, for centuries, herding the famed and hardy goats that produce the ultrasoft wool known as Pashmina, the finest of cashmeres.

Cashmere takes its name from the disputed Kashmir valley, where artisans weave the wool into fine yarn and exquisite shawls that cost up to \$1,000 apiece in world fashion capitals in a major handicraft export industry that employs thousands.

This latest bout of friction between the rival nuclear powers is adding to pressures from climate change and longer-term losses of grazing land for the Changpa, the nomadic herders who rear the Pashmina goats.

With access to the usual breeding and birthing grounds blocked by militaries on either side, newborn goats are perishing in the extreme cold of higher elevations, herders say.

"Denial of pastureland has led to high mortality of goat babies. It's so scary, it has never been like this," said Sonam Tsering, the general secretary of All Changtang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Marketing Society.

He said thousands of newborns died this year because most of the 300,000-strong herd of goats, which yields around 45 tons of fine feather-like wool each year, remained trapped in the extreme cold.

Authorities in Leh, the capital of Indian-controlled Ladakh, would not give any information, saying they were still collecting data.

But two officials with Ladakh's animal husbandry department said that according to field staff, the deaths were much higher than the usual 5 to 10% mortality rate among some 60,000 to 80,000 kids each year. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they said the Ladakh administration has barred them from speaking to reporters.

Demand for the cashmere, which is painstakingly combed from the goats, sorted, cleaned and hand woven, has always outstripped supply, so shortages are a certainty, said several people working in the trade.

"It's going to be catastrophic for wool production," said Namgyal Durbuk, a village official in the region.

India and China fought a border war in 1962 that also spilled into Ladakh. The two countries have been trying to settle their border dispute since the early 1990s without success, as their soldiers face off along a thousands-of-miles-long, undemarcated frontier that stretches from Ladakh in the north to the Indian state of Sikkim in the northeast.

For most of the year the Changpa raise their herds in the vast cold desert of the Changtang plateau of

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Ladakh, which straddles Tibet at over 5,000 meters (16,404 feet) above sea level.

The harsh, windy climate is what causes the goats to grow their super-soft wool. But the region becomes inhospitable from December to February, when temperatures can fall to minus 50 Celsius (-58 Fahrenheit).

That's when the Changpas bring their livestock to slightly lower elevations and warmer grazing lands in the Demchok, Hanle, Korzok, Chumar and Chushul areas near the disputed border with China.

This year, Indian authorities barred their passage for months, several people involved with herding said. The two sides blame each other for Monday night's clash, their deadliest conflict in 45 years.

Tensions have surged since August, when India unilaterally declared the region a federal territory while separating it from disputed Kashmir. China is among a handful of countries that strongly condemned the move, raising it at international forums including the U.N. Security Council.

Indian officials have kept a near-total silence on issues related to the confrontation with China. However, a security official in Ladakh, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with government regulations, said the grazing lands are close to the contested frontier and the restrictions in place in the area are to protect herders from Chinese soldiers.

Around 1,200 Changpa families have lost access to grazing lands even in the areas that are controlled by the Indian military due to the confrontation, Tsering said.

But the Chinese side also is interfering, he and other herders said.

"Our nomads in recent years have increasingly faced difficulty in accessing pastures in these places. Chinese soldiers have blocked them while bringing herders from Tibet into our lands," said Tsering.

Phuntsog, a local farmer who uses only one name, said local elders have been complaining to the Indian government about Chinese incursions for years.

"They would ignore every time. Now see where the Chinese are. Worst, these hapless, beautiful creatures which sustain our livelihood are becoming victim of this political and military game," he said.

China's foreign ministry said Thursday that such allegations are "sheer fiction." "Chinese border troops have always only patrolled Chinese territories," the ministry said.

Tsering said herders began losing terrain years ago, when Chinese began "snatching our pasturelands in a concerted way over the years, like inch by inch." He cited an example of a vast winter pastureland known as Kakjung, close to the Indus river.

"For the past four years it's a no-go-zone for us. They (Chinese) have taken full control of it," he said.

Associated Press reporters in Beijing contributed to this report.

Follow Aijaz Hussain on Twitter at twitter.com/hussain_aijaz

India's prime minister to meet with opposition on China row

By **ASHOK SHARMA** and **EMILY SCHMALL** Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's prime minister is meeting top opposition leaders Friday as the government tries to lower tensions with China after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash in a Himalayan border region.

India and China accuse each other of instigating the fight in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region along the Himalayan frontier. China has not said whether it suffered any casualties in what was the deadliest conflict between the sides in 45 years.

Both countries said they were communicating through military and diplomatic channels and stressed the importance of their broader relationship. Experts say the two nations are unlikely to head to war, but easing tensions quickly will be difficult.

China on Friday maintained its position that India is to blame for the clash.

"The right and wrong is very clear and the responsibility lies entirely with the Indian side," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

Both India and China have denied media reports that Indian soldiers were in Chinese custody.

During Monday's clash soldiers brawled with clubs, rocks and their fists in the thin air at 4,270 meters

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(14,000 feet) above sea level, but no shots were fired, Indian officials have said. The soldiers carry firearms but are not allowed to use them under a previous agreement in the border dispute.

Indian security officials have said the fatalities were caused by severe injuries and exposure to subfreezing temperatures.

The clash escalated a standoff that began in early May, when Indian officials said Chinese soldiers crossed the border in three places, erecting tents and guard posts and ignoring warnings to leave. That triggered shouting matches, stone-throwing and fistfights between the opposing sides, much of it replayed on TV news programs and in social media.

The action has taken place along a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) Line of Actual Control — the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

The rules of engagement along the Line of Actual Control — which prohibit using live ammunition but also ban physical contact between soldiers — will have to be renegotiated, defense analyst Rahul Bedi said.

“There is a lot of pressure on the Indian side, the emotions are high among the public,” Bedi said.

“It remains to be seen whether India will sit down at the negotiating table with China and say it will like to change these agreements to make them a little more aggressive or offensive in nature,” he said.

India’s Defense Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to heads of various political parties on Thursday to develop a consensus on the situation. On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was set to host the leaders of more than a dozen opposition parties.

The main opposition Congress party said the country deserves to know the truth.

“It deserves a leadership that is willing to do anything before allowing its land to be taken,” it said in a statement.

The clash has fanned growing anti-Chinese sentiments in India, which were already high because of the coronavirus pandemic, which began in China late last year. India’s caseload has climbed to fourth-highest in the world.

Emotions were on display in the southern city of Hyderabad, where thousands watched the funeral procession of Col. Santosh Babu, one of the casualties in Monday’s clash.

An Indian business confederation called for a boycott of 500 Chinese goods, including toys and textiles, to express “strong criticism” of China’s action in Ladakh.

Taylor Fravel, director of the Security Studies Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said China was trying to put pressure on India, and he didn’t think Beijing wanted a violent clash between their armies.

From a strategic perspective, Fravel said, China should want to drive a wedge between India and the United States to prevent any kind of counter-balance coalition.

“The deaths and the clash on Monday night will probably very quickly and much more rapidly push India closer to the United States, which I think is probably not what China wants,” he said.

G. Parthasarthy, a retired Indian diplomat, said that both China and Pakistan — India’s archrival — were aiming at low-cost containment of India. “China has a hangup against India and its civilization. For us to expect China will be a friendly neighbor It will never be a friendly relationship.”

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India’s northeast, while India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai Chin Plateau in the Himalayas, a contiguous part of the Ladakh region.

India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory while separating it from disputed Kashmir in August 2019. China was among the countries to condemn the move, raising it at forums including the U.N. Security Council. India was elected to the council this week.

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5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **YOUNG IMMIGRANTS STILL FACE UNCERTAINTY** The Supreme Court rejected Trump's effort to end legal protections for 650,000 young immigrants, but activists say legislation giving them a path to U.S. citizenship remains elusive.

2. **JUNETEENTH TAKES ON NEW MEANING** Celebrations will be marked from coast to coast with marches and demonstrations of civil disobedience, along with expressions of black joy despite it being an especially traumatic time for the nation.

3. **ATLANTA POLICE CALL OUT SICK** The interim chief tells the AP the officers are protesting the filing of murder charges against a white officer who shot a black man in the back, saying the force feels abandoned amid protests demanding changes to policing.

4. **SINGAPORE OPENS GYMS, DINING OUT** The latest relaxation in the city-state comes as reopenings in many places around the world are touching off fresh spikes in coronavirus infections.

5. **BIDEN SEIZES ON BOLTON BOOK** The Democrat's top aides say Trump kowtowed to Xi Jinping and ignored human rights abuses while trying to get the Chinese president's assistance with domestic politics.

Last batch of joint aid lands in Yemen amid UN funding cuts

By ISABEL DEBRE and MAGGIE HYDE Associated Press

The last of three large shipments of medical supplies landed in Yemen on Friday, organizers of the cargo flights said, following a joint initiative by the world organization and multinational corporations to boost the war-devastated country's health care system as it battles the coronavirus.

The shipments represent a different path to humanitarian relief in Yemen as the U.N. faces a drastic shortage of funds for its operations, even with the virus surging across the Arab world's poorest country.

"It's very important that we as a private sector help the public health authorities in their work on the ground," said Mohamed Nabil Hayel Saeed, a spokesman for the initiative. "The world must not forget Yemen at this time while they're fighting the virus."

Friday's batch followed two earlier shipments from the joint initiative, on Wednesday and Thursday, that each had more than 14 tons of items, including ventilators, coronavirus test kits and personal protective equipment.

A U.N. humanitarian appeal for Yemen this month fell \$1 billion short of what aid agencies needed. Some 75% of U.N. programs for the country, covering essentially every sector, from food to health care and nutrition, have shut their doors or reduced operations. The World Food Program had to cut rations in half and U.N.-funded health services were reduced in nearly 200 hospitals nationwide.

The Hayel Saeed Anam Foundation, the charity arm of the Yemeni-owned conglomerate by the same name which produces cooking oil and other foodstuffs, helped create the International Initiative on COVID-19 in Yemen. The partnership brings together U.N. agencies with a host of companies, including Swiss food packaging giant Tetra Pak and Unilever, the maker of Hellmann's mayonnaise and Dove soap, among other products.

It's an unusual effort to bring crisis-stricken Yemen back from the brink of further disaster, as the virus overwhelms Yemen's hospitals.

The number of people dying from COVID-19 has dramatically spiked nationwide. Testing remains limited, with the country conducting just 31 tests per 1 million people, among the world's lowest scores, according to the International Rescue Committee.

Friday's air delivery is expected to increase Yemen's ability to perform coronavirus tests by some 50,000 people per week.

Earlier this week, three airplanes loaded with a total of 43 tons of aid from China touched down in the capital, Sanaa and the southern city of Aden, for U.N.-led distribution to hospitals and labs. The 426 ven-

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tilators, 1 million pieces of protective equipment and 34,000 COVID-19 test kits aim to support a health system now functioning at 50% capacity, after five years of brutal conflict between Iran-backed Houthi rebels and a Saudi-led coalition, which backs forces fighting on behalf of Yemen's internationally recognized government.

The cargo arrives as other aid groups hurry to get supplies into the country. On Thursday, UNICEF announced it had shipped 10,000 COVID-19 testing kits to the capital. In a statement, it said an additional 8,000 test kits are expected to arrive in Aden in the coming days.

Long before the pandemic hit, the U.N. labeled Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 10 million people near famine and 80% of the country's 30 million population in need of aid. But the U.N. and donor nations have criticized parties to the conflict in the past for not allowing the free flow of aid to those who need it most.

The Houthis, who control Yemen's capital and much of the country's north, have restricted U.N. aid delivery programs in the country — a tactic to force the agencies to give them greater control over the massive humanitarian campaign. Donors' concerns over Houthi interference was among the top reasons for the funding shortfall this year.

"For millions of Yemenis, aid is a matter of survival, but humanitarian organizations here regularly encounter challenges, red tape and delays in delivering food, water and other support," said Riona McCormack, spokeswoman for the Norwegian Refugee Council in Yemen.

But organizers say the delivery is a small but urgently needed step for a health system in disarray.

"Support needs to be kept up," said Saeed. "Yemen is in a dire situation."

Britain lowers virus alert, Germany sees spike in cases

By JILL LAWLESS and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Britain lowered its coronavirus threat level one notch Friday, becoming the latest country to claim it's getting a national outbreak under control.

The U.K.'s Joint Biosecurity Center recommended moving the COVID-19 risk in the country from the second-highest level, 4 - meaning transmission is high or rising exponentially - to level 3, where an epidemic is in general circulation.

Health officials say there's been a steady decrease in cases across the U.K. but localized outbreaks are still likely. Britain has Europe's highest pandemic death toll with more than 42,000 virus-related deaths and over 300,000 confirmed cases.

Lowering the alert level was "a big moment for the country, and a real testament to the British people's determination to beat this virus," Health Secretary Matt Hancock said.

Meanwhile, Germany on Friday reported the country's highest daily increase in virus cases in a month after managing to contain its outbreak better than comparable large European nations.

The Robert Koch Institute, Germany's disease control center, listed 770 new confirmed cases, taking the country's total to 188,534.

A flurry of positive tests this week from an outbreak at a slaughterhouse in the western region of Guetersloh contributed the biggest daily increase since May 20.

The German government has stuck to its course of gradually reopening the country while seeking to clamp down swiftly on localized outbreaks.

A free app launched Tuesday to help trace people who may have been exposed to the virus has already been downloaded 9.6 million times in Germany, which has a population of 83 million.

Japan released a similar app Friday, also using technology developed by Apple and Google. Officials say data will only be recorded and stored in individual users' phones and deleted after 14 days to protect their privacy.

"We hope a widespread use of this app will lead to prevention of infections," Japanese Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said.

Singaporeans were able to wine and dine at restaurants, work out at the gym and socialize with up to

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five people at a time as of Friday, after the city-state removed most of its pandemic lockdown restrictions.

"It was a long-awaited experience," said Thomas Tan, a 34-year old customer service officer eating in an outdoor market. "It's good to be able to eat outside with friends but there still must be social distancing."

After at first appearing to have been a model for containing the virus, the country of only 5.8 million has one of the highest infection rates in Asia with 41,473 cases, mostly linked to foreign workers' dorms. Authorities say such cases have declined, with no new large clusters and a stable number of other cases despite a partial economic reopening two weeks ago.

Wee Cheng Yan, a gym trainer, said it felt good to return to work after two months at home.

"Definitely, interaction has been lacking the past few months," he said. "Watching a lot of TV. Doing a bit of resistance band training, which is not as effective as working out in the gym."

The reopening of stores and other public places has been blamed for touching off fresh spikes in infections in a number of countries, raising questions for governments about how to tread the line between keeping economic and social life going while avoiding unnecessary deaths.

China declared a fresh outbreak in Beijing under control after confirming 25 new cases among some 360,000 people tested. That was up by just four from a day earlier.

A Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention official said the number of cases was expected to fall soon in outbreak centered on Beijing's main wholesale market. So far Beijing has confirmed 183 new cases over the past week.

The 25 new cases reported Friday in Beijing were among 32 nationwide in China, four of them in Chinese who had returned from overseas.

Such outbreaks are inevitable, Wu Zunyou of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention told a news conference. But he stressed that prevention measures should not slacken.

Beijing suspended classes and put opening-up plans for everything from sports events to art exhibitions on hold. Bus travel to other regions was suspended to prevent the spread of the outbreak.

The pandemic is waxing and waning in many places, with numbers of cases soaring in Indonesia and India, Brazil and Mexico but appearing to be under control or contained in Thailand, Japan, Vietnam and New Zealand.

India recorded 13,586 newly confirmed cases on Friday, raising its total to 380,532. Still, shops, malls, factories and places of worship have been allowed to reopen while schools and cinemas remain shuttered.

Infections surged in rural areas after hundreds of thousands of migrant workers left cities after losing jobs in a lockdown announced in late March. Such precautions are now restricted to high-risk "containment" zones.

In South Korea, outbreaks have inspired second-guessing on whether officials were too quick to ease social distancing guidelines in April after a first wave of infections waned. Officials reported 49 cases of COVID-19 on Friday as the virus continues to spread in the densely populated capital area of Seoul, where half of its 51 million people live. About 30 to 50 new cases have been confirmed per day since late May.

The new coronavirus has infected more than 8.5 million people worldwide and killed more than 454,000, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The actual number is thought to be much higher because many cases are asymptomatic or go untested.

In the United States, which has reported the most confirmed cases at nearly 2.2 million, states have pushed ahead with emerging from full or partial pandemic shutdowns despite surges in new cases in many places, including Texas, Oklahoma, Florida and California.

New cases skyrocketed Thursday in Oklahoma by 450, double the record-setting number reported two days earlier. Tulsa County, where President Donald Trump plans a rally on Saturday at an indoor arena, remained the state's leading hot spot with 120 new cases for a total of 1,825.

The new wave comes amid demonstrations to protest police killings of black citizens and ahead of weekend Juneteenth celebrations marking the end of slavery in the U.S.

Aid group Doctors without Borders said Friday that at least 10 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed at one of the world's largest refugee camps, the sprawling Dadaab complex in Kenya.

Humanitarian organizations have warned that the virus could have devastating impacts on crowded refu-

gee camps, especially as travel restrictions have made the delivery of aid increasingly difficult.

At the Kakuma camp in Kenya, which recorded its first case earlier this month, Congolese refugee Aisha Regina said that if the virus spreads there "then all of us will perish. There is no space where one can stay away from the other."

Lawless reported from London. Royston Chan in Singapore, Elaine Kurtenbach in Bangkok and Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.

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

Players at 70 games, MLB at 60, Manfred says deadline near

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball players proposed a 70-game regular-season schedule Thursday, a plan immediately rejected by baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred with the sides 10 games and about \$275 million apart on plans to start the coronavirus-delayed season.

As part of the union proposal, players would wear advertisement patches on their uniforms during all games for the first time in major league history.

"This needs to be over," Manfred said. "Until I speak with owners, I can't give you a firm deadline."

Both sides envision spring training resuming June 26. Counting back, that means pitchers and catchers would have to travel Monday for the start of medical intake testing the following day.

While the gap has narrowed, both sides remain opposed to additional concessions, The path toward an agreement remains uncertain and difficult.

"We believe this offer represents the basis for an agreement on resumption of play," union head Tony Clark said in a statement.

Manfred met with Clark in Arizona for about five hours Tuesday, and MLB said Wednesday that they had reached a framework for the season. The union disputed that, saying it was merely another proposal.

"We had a list of issues. We stated positions on each of those issues. We then made trades and compromises across and within those issues," Manfred said. "At several points in time, I went back to the list of issues with Tony and reviewed where we were, and I did that again at the end of the meeting. We shook hands and we both agreed we were going to -- push was the word -- push our sides to reach an agreement consistent with that framework."

That plan included a 60-game regular-season schedule that would have \$1.48 billion in salaries plus a \$25 million players' postseason pool, people familiar with the framework told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because details were not announced. MLB for the first time agreed to pay full pro-rated salaries with games in empty ballparks.

"He was clear that it wasn't going to be easy and we were both clear that we needed approval from our respective constituencies," Manfred said. "Tony in fact informed me last night on the phone that he could not sell the framework even to his subcommittee, and that it was going no further and it was not going up for a vote of the players or anything like that because the subcommittee had rejected it. He then encouraged me to offer improvements in the framework. I told him I was not going to do that, but if he could make whatever counter-proposal he wanted to make any topic."

The union proposal would have \$1.73 billion in salaries, plus a \$50 million postseason pool, people familiar with that plan said.

"In my discussions with Rob in Arizona we explored a potential pro-rata framework, but I made clear repeatedly in that meeting and after it that there were a number of significant issues with what he proposed, in particular the number of games," Clark said. "It is unequivocally false to suggest that any tentative agreement or other agreement was reached in that meeting."

MLB's plan would have players receive about 37% of salaries that originally totaled \$4 billion, and the

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union's proposal would have them get roughly 43%.

"I told him 70 games was simply impossible given the calendar and the public health situation, and he went ahead and made that proposal anyway," Manfred said.

Both MLB and the union proposed starting the season on July 19, and players said it should end Sept. 30, three days later than management. Citing Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, MLB does not want to extend playing deeper into the autumn.

"Dr. Fauci's out there telling us that football should playing in a quarantine. The other two sports are playing in a quarantine," Manfred said, referring to plans for the NBA and NHL. "Our guys want nothing to do with that. Number two, Fauci says we shouldn't be playing in October and their proposal contemplates lengthening the season."

MLB also does not want to bunch more games into the same time period.

"We told them we're not playing doubleheaders," Manfred said. "Our public health guys tell us you should not put people together for that number of hours in the day. It's not safe. But they just keep ignoring those things."

Baseball's postseason would expand from 10 teams to 16 this year, and the two wild-card games would transform into eight best-of-three series. That would create a minimum of 14 new playoff games whose broadcast rights could be sold, and MLB would have the option of 14 or 16 postseason teams in 2021.

Manfred said MLB would give the additional playoffs games to broadcast partners for free this year to make up for the shortened regular season and MLB would sell the games for 2021. Players proposed they split broadcast revenue 50-50 from the additional 2021 games. That was a change in stance for a union that has steadfastly resisted sharing revenue because of fears it would become a step toward a salary cap system.

Players also would allow MLB to move postseason games this year to neutral sites if needed because of the coronavirus.

Both sides would expand use of the designated hitter to games involving National League teams.

The luxury tax would be suspended for 2020, which with a 70-game schedule projects to save the Yankees \$9.95 million, Houston \$1.52 million, the Dodgers \$506,000 and the Cubs \$135,000. At 60 games, New York is projected to save \$8.5 million, the Astros \$1.3 million, the Dodgers \$434,000 and the Cubs \$116,000.

Players with so-called split contracts, who get paid at a lower salary rate when sent to the minor leagues, would not have to repay the advance they already received: \$16,500, \$30,000 or \$60,000, depending on their contract, for a total of about \$33 million.

MLB would contribute \$10 million to social justice initiatives from funds not needed this year for the welfare plan used for health benefits.

Players would allow \$50 million to be transferred to the commissioner's discretionary fund from the international tax fund collected from teams that exceeded their signing bonus pools.

As part of a deal, both sides would waive claims against each other. MLB has the right to unilaterally set the schedule, but without a deal would have the risk of grievance hearings and possibly damages.

"We want to play. We want to reach an agreement," Manfred said. "We're committed to doing whatever is necessary to find a way to play, hopefully by agreement."

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Who they are: Six DACA recipients rejoice over court ruling

By ASTRID GALVAN Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has kept alive, for now, the Obama-era program that allows immigrants brought here as children to work and protects them from deportation. The high court on Thursday ruled that the Trump administration attempted to end the program improperly when it announced it was rescinding it in 2017. Since then, only people who were already enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program have been able to stay on board, and no new applicants have been accepted.

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About 650,000 people have DACA protections. Here are six from around the country.

Joella Roberts

Age: 22

Lives: Washington, D.C.

Country of origin: Trinidad and Tobago

Joella Roberts was 4 when she came to the U.S. with her mom and brother in 2001. Her grandmother, who was already living in the states, petitioned to bring them as well, but their applications were delayed and they made the trip anyway. Eventually, Roberts was in the country without permission. She and her family were debating whether she should go back to Trinidad and Tobago and start fresh. An attorney told her about DACA around 2015, and she's had the protection since. "I have like an artificial citizenship," Roberts said. Having DACA allowed her to help her family, as she is the sole provider. She was able to finance a car and have credit.

Like many other DACA recipients, she is politically savvy and determined to use her skills to advocate for others like her. Roberts just graduated from college and is working as a university program coordinator for FWD.us, a bipartisan group that advocates for criminal justice and immigration reform.

Roberts said she couldn't fall asleep until 4 a.m. Thursday because of anxiety about the pending high court ruling. She jumped out of bed when she heard the news.

"I was like, finally, the Supreme Court is on the right side of justice and history and it's been a really long, torturous couple of months," Roberts said. She said that while she's happy with the decision, there are still other things to fight for, like justice for black Americans— including black immigrants— killed by police.

Edison Suasnavas

Age: 33

Lives: Saratoga Springs, Utah

Country of origin: Ecuador

Edison Suasnavas would not be able to analyze cancer cells for a living without DACA. He has advanced biology degrees, but until getting protections had worked a low-wage job at a hotel. Now, he's a molecular oncology specialist in a medical lab in Salt Lake City, and he's volunteered to help with coronavirus test diagnosing, although he hasn't been selected yet. Suasnavas is married, has two young children, and owns a home and two cars. He was 12 when he came to the U.S. from Ecuador after an economic crisis there. He moved with his family to Logan, Utah, and was considering moving to Mexico, where his wife is from, before he got DACA protections.

His wife woke him up Thursday to deliver the good news.

"I don't want to sound cocky but right now especially with what's going on, working in a medical lab, it showed that we are essential to keep contributing to the country," Suasnavas said.

Sumbul Siddiqui

Age: 27

Lives: Chicago area

Country of Origin: Pakistan

Growing up in the state of Georgia, Sumbul Siddiqui remembers struggling to find and pay for medical care for her parents — Pakistani immigrants who've had visas pending approval for nearly 20 years and didn't have health insurance. That hardship inspired Sumbul, the eldest of four siblings, to pursue a career in medicine. She's a second-year medical student at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and wants to focus on public health. "It helps me connect more to underserved communities," she said. "Understanding the struggle helps me advocate for them more."

Born in Saudi Arabia and brought to the U.S. at 4, Siddiqui has relied on DACA since 2013 to go to school. But she often worries about being separated from her parents and three siblings. One has DACA and two are native-born U.S. citizens.

She's been to Pakistan once. She met her relatives for the first time, but felt like an outsider, speaking Urdu with an accent. "I learned how American I am," she said.

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After learning about the Supreme Court ruling, Siddiqui began crying, saying she can now plan to finish her medical training.

"I've had so much anxiety and it feels like something has lifted off my shoulders," she said. "We are finally feeling some relief."

Belen Sisa

Age: 26

Lives: Gilbert, Arizona

Country of origin: Argentina

Born in Buenos Aires, Belen Sisa and her family came to the United States as tourists when she was 6 and overstayed their visas. At the time, Argentina was in the midst of an economic recession.

The family settled in Arizona, where Belen grew up in the Phoenix area.

While majoring in political science and history at Arizona State University, she co-founded the organization Undocumented Students for Education Equity. She also became politically active as a DACA recipient, helping organize student marches and protesting deportations of immigrants.

"I would say that the biggest benefit DACA gave me was a sense of empowerment and control over my future," Sisa said. "The moment DACA was announced it was a catalyst to my involvement in activism and politics that eventually led me to where I am and who I am now. It gave many of us the confidence to fight for more and that is what we are doing now."

Sisa said she was overjoyed by the high court's ruling.

"It's great to know that DACA lives and we can continue our fight," Sisa said. "It is great to have the anxiety over."

Tony Valdovinos

Age: 29

Lives: Phoenix

Country of origin: Mexico

Phoenix political consultant Tony Valdovinos didn't learn he was born in Colima, Mexico, and brought to the U.S. when he was 2 until he tried to join the Marine Corps at 18. He said the family had immigrated to the U.S. because his father was having problems finding work amid slowing economic growth.

Valdovinos became involved in politics and, after working on a local campaign in 2012, an attorney began helping him and some other young immigrants get together all their documents so they could apply for the DACA program. He later served as a campaign manager for Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego when she first ran for City Council.

A local musical called "Americano!," which played to sold-out audiences earlier this year, was inspired by Valdovinos' life.

After the court ruled on Thursday, Valdovinos said he could better focus on the campaign of Yassamin Ansari, a Phoenix City Council candidate.

"It was such a terrible standoff, waiting for a decision for so long without being able to do anything," Valdovinos said. "Everything we knew could change, so I decided to stay focused on my life and getting our story out to the world. I never wanted to live in fear as an immigrant after our mom brought us here so we wouldn't starve."

Marisol Estrada

Age: 26

Lives: Atlanta

Country of origin: Mexico

One of Marisol Estrada's earliest memories is walking the desert to cross the border when she was 5. A majority of DACA recipients are from Mexico. She wasn't scared at the time, she just did what her parents told her to. But she realizes now it was probably dangerous. Still, Estrada is glad her parents brought her to the U.S., where she is safer and has had greater opportunities.

Estrada was in high school and looking to get her first job when she discovered she didn't have legal status. She started researching universities in Mexico and was thinking of going back when Obama enacted

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DACA the summer before her senior year of high school.

Because of the program, Estrada was able to graduate from college with a degree in political science in three years and is about to start law school. She hopes to practice immigration law.

Estrada said she had to read the ruling three times before she grasped what it meant. "I couldn't make it past the second page because my palms were shaking," she said.

"It's a big win but at the end of the day there's a lot of people that we will need to fight for," she said, referring to the estimated 11 million people living in the country without permission. "So I'm happy but very cautiously happy."

Associated Press reporters Anita Snow in Phoenix, Sophia Tareen in Chicago and Kate Brumback in Atlanta contributed to this report.

How black history is taught in schools faces new scrutiny

By **KEN MILLER** and **MICHAEL MELIA** Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — For decades, when it was discussed at all, the killing of hundreds of people in a prosperous black business district nearly a century ago was referred to as the Tulsa race riot.

Under new standards developed by teachers, Oklahoma students are urged to consider the differences between labeling it a "massacre" or a "riot," which is how it's still described in state laws. Typically in ninth and 11th grades, students also are encouraged to research survivors and learn their firsthand accounts of the 1921 violence.

"If that's taught correctly, then any freshman has a context for how and why this kind of thing can happen in the United States of America," said Aaron Baker, a history teacher in the Putnam City school district in Oklahoma City.

The state's new standards are going out to schools as a national conversation on racial injustice brings new scrutiny to how African American history is taught nationwide. Recent demonstrations over police brutality also are bringing awareness to an important holiday that isn't widely taught — Juneteenth. Celebrated Friday, it honors the day in 1865 that the last enslaved black people learned they had been freed.

There is no national curriculum or set of standards for teaching black history in America. Only a small number of states, including Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi and New York, have laws requiring that it be taught in public schools. States set their own standards, and history survey courses often touch on slavery, Reconstruction, the rise of Jim Crow laws and the civil rights movement.

Some experts and educators say black history lessons focus too much on violence and suffering, instead of the systemic aspects of racism and white supremacy, while others say the past has been sanitized.

In Texas, the Board of Education recently approved a course on African American studies that will be an elective for high school students. A University of Texas professor involved in developing the curriculum, Kevin Cokley, said his college students say they are taught a sanitized version of black history in high school.

"When I am teaching about slavery and how brutal it was, and sharing specific details, most of my students — natives of Texas — indicate they did not learn the specifics of slavery that I provide them in my course," said Cokley, a professor of educational psychology and African and African diaspora studies. "Oftentimes they are shocked and angered to find they were not taught the information I am sharing with them."

The massacre in Tulsa happened over the course of 16 hours, from May 31 to June 1, 1921, when white mobs attacked black residents and businesses. As many as 300 people were killed, hundreds more injured and thousands were left homeless. Tulsa's black business district, known as Black Wall Street, was destroyed.

Oklahoma schools have been required to teach the massacre since 2002, although some people believed it wasn't being taught everywhere. Tulsa schools instituted new standards two years ago, which the state Education Department used as a guide.

The massacre largely wasn't discussed in Oklahoma until a commission was formed in 1997 to investigate the violence. The commission is led by state Sen. Kevin Matthews, a Tulsa Democrat who said the

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new teaching standards haven't faced opposition but that some people would have preferred to leave the massacre in the past.

"Older people called me and said, 'Why do you want to bring this back up, this dirty secret?'" he said.

Matthews said his grandmother was a young girl in Tulsa during the massacre but never told him about the violence. He learned about it as an adult from his grandmother's brother.

"It was like a movie, I couldn't believe it happened here," Matthews said.

LaGarrett King, director of the Carter Center for K-12 Black History Education at the University of Missouri, said he believes there is too much emphasis in the instruction of black history on violence, which is often centered on racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan in a way that doesn't explore nuances or apathy toward black deaths.

King provided training last year for 300 educators around the country who are interested in teaching black history. He expects a virtual session this summer to have more participants than usual. He said that the growing interest makes him optimistic but that history needs to be framed differently. The push for diversity in education so far has led to mostly cosmetic changes, he said, without enough emphasis on the entry points and perspective of black history.

"White people don't acknowledge Juneteenth, but yet we're supposed to be a country that believes in freedom. We have been taught July 4, 1776, is the real Independence Day, but it's not," King said. "The vast majority of black people were still enslaved."

Lawrence Paska, executive director of the National Council for the Social Studies, said schools should be preparing to help walk students through questions about discrimination, protests and racial violence when they return in the fall.

"The notion of 'Do we have a curriculum that is responsive to the needs and experiences of the students we have now?'" That is an important question schools need to be asking," Paska said.

Melia contributed from Hartford, Connecticut.

Juneteenth: A day of joy and pain - and now national action

By AARON MORRISON and KAT STAFFORD Associated Press

In just about any other year, Juneteenth, the holiday celebrating the day in 1865 that all enslaved black people learned they had been freed from bondage, would be marked by African American families across the nation with a cookout, a parade, a community festival, a soulful rendition of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

But in 2020, as the coronavirus ravishes black America disproportionately, as economic uncertainty wrought by the pandemic strains black pocketbooks, and as police brutality continues to devastate black families, Juneteenth is a day of protest.

Red velvet cake, barbecued ribs and fruit punch are optional.

For many white Americans, recent protests over police brutality have driven their awareness of Juneteenth's significance.

"This is one of the first times since the '60s, where the global demand, the intergenerational demand, the multiracial demand is for systemic change," said Cornell University professor Noliwe Rooks, a segregation expert. "There is some understanding and acknowledgment at this point that there's something in the DNA of the country that has to be undone."

Friday's celebrations will be marked from coast to coast with marches and demonstrations of civil disobedience, along with expressions of black joy in spite of an especially traumatic time for the nation. And like the nationwide protests that followed the police involved deaths of black men and women in Minnesota, Kentucky and Georgia, Juneteenth celebrations are likely to be remarkably more multiracial.

"I think this year is going to be exciting to make white people celebrate with us that we're free," said 35-year-old Army veteran David J. Hamilton III, who has organized a Juneteenth march and protest through a predominantly black, Hispanic and immigrant neighborhood in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Hamilton, who is black, said this year is his first treating "Juneteenth with the same fanfare as the Fourth

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of July or Memorial Day.”

In Tulsa, a day ahead of a planned presidential campaign rally Saturday for Donald Trump, the Rev. Al Sharpton and Tiffany Crutcher, the twin sister of a black man killed by a city police officer in 2016, plan keynote addresses about the consequences of racial prejudice. Their commemoration will take place in the Greenwood district, at the site known as Black Wall Street, where dozens of blocks of black-owned businesses were destroyed by a white mob in deadly race riots nearly a century ago.

In Washington, D.C., and around the country, activists affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement will host in-person and virtual events to celebrate the history of the black liberation struggle and amplify their calls for defunding police in the wake of high-profile police killings of African Americans.

As of Thursday, organizers with the Movement for Black Lives said they had registered more than 275 Juneteenth weekend events across 45 states, through its website.

Rashawn Ray, a David Rubenstein Fellow at the nonprofit public policy Brookings Institution, said many now view Juneteenth as an opportunity for education and to push to dismantle structural racism.

“There’s going to be a lot of people who are also going to double down on the push for reparations,” Ray said. “There’s no reason why black people have been the only group in the United States to be systematically discriminated against, legally, by the federal government and not receive reparations.”

Juneteenth marks the day on June 19, 1865, that Union soldiers told enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, that the Civil War had ended and they were free. The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves in the South in 1863 but it was not enforced in many places until after the end of the Civil War in 1865.

The day is recognized in 47 states and the District of Columbia, according to the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation. Hawaii, North Dakota and South Dakota are the only states without an official recognition. And it is not yet a federal holiday. It took roughly 18 years after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. before his birthday was observed as a federal holiday.

Still, more workers than perhaps ever in history will have the day off on Friday: Nike, the NFL, Twitter and its mobile payments services company Square, along with a handful of media outlets, have announced plans to observe Juneteenth as a company holiday. On Wednesday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order recognizing Juneteenth as a paid holiday for state employees.

The abolition of slavery in the U.S. was followed by the birth of Jim Crow segregation, relegating many black Americans to poor, redlined neighborhoods with under-resourced schools. After the passage of landmark civil rights protections in the 1960s, decades of mass incarceration policy and employment discrimination eroded opportunities and economic stability for black people and families. All along, police brutality has been a fixture of the black American experience. And now, COVID-19 is killing black people at more than three times the rate that it kills white people.

Much of the systemic racism and atrocities visited on black Americans have gone unanswered. This week, the Equal Justice Initiative, which in 2015 cataloged thousands of racial terror lynchings of black people by white mobs, added nearly 2,000 Reconstruction-era lynchings confirmed between 1865 and 1876, bringing the total number of documented lynchings to nearly 6,500.

“Our continued silence about the history of racial injustice has fueled many of the current problems surrounding police violence, mass incarceration, racial inequality and the disparate impact of COVID-19,” said Bryan Stevenson, director of the Equal Justice Initiative.

“We need a new era of truth and justice in America,” he said in a statement. “We must acknowledge our long history of racial oppression and then repair the damage this history has created — including the presumption of dangerousness that gets assigned to black people by police and others.”

Juneteenth also comes at a time when the nation is at a political crossroads, and Black Voters Matter co-founder LaTosha Brown said it is shaping up to be a politically defining moment ahead of the November election.

“The devaluing of black lives is built into this American system to the point that the ideas around democracy don’t apply to us the same way that they apply to white folks,” Brown said, adding black voters are demanding change.

"So Juneteenth is a celebratory event but we're not celebrating the country. We're celebrating our own freedom and our own ability to be liberated and the resiliency of black people."

Stafford and Morrison are members of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow Morrison on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/aaronlmorrison>. Follow Stafford on Twitter at https://twitter.com/kat__stafford.

Court rejects Trump bid to end young immigrants' protections

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected President Donald Trump's effort to end legal protections for 650,000 young immigrants, the second stunning election-season rebuke from the court in a week after its ruling that it's illegal to fire people because they're gay or transgender.

Immigrants who are part of the 8-year-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program will retain their protection from deportation and their authorization to work in the United States — safe almost certainly at least through the November election, immigration experts said.

The 5-4 outcome, in which Chief Justice John Roberts and the four liberal justices were in the majority, seems certain to elevate the issue in Trump's campaign, given the anti-immigrant rhetoric of his first presidential run in 2016 and immigration restrictions his administration has imposed since then.

The justices said the administration did not take the proper steps to end DACA, rejecting arguments that the program is illegal and that courts have no role to play in reviewing the decision to end it. The program covers people who have been in the United States since they were children and are in the country illegally. In some cases, they have no memory of any home other than the U.S.

Trump didn't hold back in his assessment of the court's work, hitting hard at a political angle.

"These horrible & politically charged decisions coming out of the Supreme Court are shotgun blasts into the face of people that are proud to call themselves Republicans or Conservatives. We need more Justices or we will lose our 2nd Amendment & everything else. Vote Trump 2020!" he wrote on Twitter, apparently including the LGBT ruling as well.

In a second tweet, he wrote, "Do you get the impression that the Supreme Court doesn't like me?"

Later, he said the decision showed the need for additional conservative justices to join the two he has appointed, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, and pledged to release a new list from which he would choose a nominee if another opening occurs on his watch. Both of his appointees dissented on Thursday, though Gorsuch wrote the LGBT rights ruling.

Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden pledged to send Congress proposed legislation on his first day in office to make DACA protections permanent.

Roberts, with whom Trump has sparred, wrote for the court that the administration did not pursue the end of the program properly.

"We do not decide whether DACA or its rescission are sound policies," Roberts wrote. "We address only whether the agency complied with the procedural requirement that it provide a reasoned explanation for its action. Here the agency failed to consider the conspicuous issues of whether to retain forbearance and what if anything to do about the hardship to DACA recipients."

The Department of Homeland Security can try again, he wrote. But any new order to end the program, and the legal challenge it would provoke, would likely take months, if not longer.

"No way that's going to happen before November," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, a professor of immigration law practice at Cornell University Law School.

The court's four conservative justices dissented. Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Justices Gorsuch and Samuel Alito, wrote that DACA was illegal from the moment it was created under the Obama administration in 2012. Thomas called the ruling "an effort to avoid a politically controversial but legally correct decision."

Alito wrote that federal judges had prevented DACA from being ended "during an entire Presidential term. Our constitutional system is not supposed to work that way."

Justice Kavanaugh wrote in a separate dissent that he was satisfied that the administration acted ap-

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propriately.

DACA recipients were elated by the ruling.

"We'll keep living our lives in the meantime," said Cesar Espinosa, who leads the Houston immigration advocacy group FIEL. "We're going to continue to work, continue to advocate."

Espinosa said he got little sleep overnight in anticipation of a possible decision. In the minutes after the decision was posted, he said his group was "flooded with calls with Dreamers, happy, with that hope that they're going to at least be in this country for a while longer."

From the Senate floor, the Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said of the DACA decision, "I cried tears of joy."

"Wow," he went on, choking up. "These kids, these families, I feel for them, and I think all of America does."

Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas had a different take, labeling DACA illegal and focusing his wrath on Roberts.

"Yet John Roberts again postures as a Solomon who will save our institutions from political controversy and accountability. If the Chief Justice believes his political judgment is so exquisite, I invite him to resign, travel to Iowa, and get elected," Cotton said in a statement.

The program grew out of an impasse over a comprehensive immigration bill between Congress and the Obama administration in 2012. President Barack Obama decided to formally protect people from deportation while also allowing them to work legally in the U.S.

But Trump made tough talk on immigration a central part of his campaign and less than eight months after taking office, he announced in September 2017 that he would end DACA.

Immigrants, civil rights groups, universities and Democratic-led states quickly sued, and courts put the administration's plan on hold.

The Department of Homeland Security has continued to process two-year DACA renewals so that hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients have protections stretching beyond the election and even into 2022. No new applications have been accepted since 2017, and it probably would take a court order to change that, Yale-Loehr said.

The Supreme Court fight over DACA played out in a kind of legal slow motion. The administration first wanted the justices to hear and decide the case by June 2018. The justices said no. The Justice Department returned to the court later in 2018, but the justices did nothing for more than seven months before agreeing a year ago to hear arguments. Those took place in November and more than seven months elapsed before the court's decision.

Thursday's ruling was the second time in two years that Roberts and the liberal justices faulted the administration for the way it went about a policy change. Last year, the court forced the administration to back off a citizenship question on the 2020 census.

In 2018, Roberts joined his conservative colleagues to preserve Trump's travel ban affecting several countries with largely Muslim populations. In that instance, Roberts wrote the administration put the policy — or at least its third version — in place properly.

Associated Press writers Jessica Gresko, Lisa Mascaro in Washington, Astrid Galvan in Phoenix, Nomaan Merchant in Houston and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

Atlanta police call out sick to protest charges in shooting

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta police officers called out sick Thursday to protest the filing of murder charges against an officer who shot a man in the back, while the interim chief acknowledged members of the force feel abandoned amid protests demanding massive changes to policing.

Interim Chief Rodney Bryant told The Associated Press in an interview that the sick calls began Wednesday night and continued Thursday, but said the department has sufficient staff to protect the city. It's not

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clear how many officers have called out.

"Some are angry. Some are fearful. Some are confused on what we do in this space. Some may feel abandoned," Bryant said of the officers. "But we are there to assure them that we will continue to move forward and get through this."

Prosecutors brought felony murder and other charges against Garrett Rolfe, a white officer who shot Rayshard Brooks after the 27-year-old black man grabbed a Taser during a struggle and ran, firing it at the officer, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said.

Howard said Brooks was not a deadly threat at the time and that the officer kicked the wounded man and offered no medical treatment for over two minutes as he lay dying. Another officer, Devin Brosnan, who the district attorney said stood on Brooks' shoulder as he struggled for his life, was charged with aggravated assault and violation of his oath.

Rolfe and Brosnan both contend their actions were justified and turned themselves in Thursday. Jail records show Brosnan was released on a signature bond, meaning he only has to pay if he fails to show up for court, while Rolfe was being held without bond. Rolfe has been fired and Brosnan placed on desk duty.

A few hours after reporting to the Fulton County jail in Atlanta, Rolfe was moved to the jail in neighboring Gwinnett County, according to online records.

The decision to prosecute the officers came less than five days after the killing rocked a city — and a nation — still reeling after George Floyd's death at the hands of police in Minneapolis set off nationwide protests that have urged an extensive rethink of policing and an examination of racism in the United States.

L. Chris Stewart, a lawyer for Tomika Miller, Brooks' widow, told reporters the charging of the officers brought the family no joy.

"Some people thought that we'd be happy and be celebrating and have a fist in the air, but it's more a disappointment that this is the state of policing and this is where we're at," he said.

Bryant, who took over after the previous chief resigned in the wake of the shooting, wore a navy blue shirt Thursday, rather than the white shirt typically worn by command staff, to show solidarity with the officers.

In the roughly three weeks since protests of Floyd's killing first broke out in Georgia's capital, officers have worked shifts of 12 or more hours and have been yelled at, spit on and had things thrown at them, Bryant said.

"At some point, people get tired, I recognize that, and physically exhausted," he said. "We will definitely get beyond it, and I'm certain that we will see our sick-outs drop back to normal, average."

The weeks since Floyd's killing have seen lawmakers pass police reforms, Americans reconsider statues commemorating controversial figures, and ideas like defunding police become part of the national conversation. The largest labor group in the Seattle area voted to expel the city's police union Wednesday, saying the guild representing officers failed to address racism in its ranks, and California's police chiefs on Thursday endorsed a plan to more aggressively weed out cops who break the law or have a history of complaints.

But the drive for change has also drawn pushback, and divisions over the role police should play are becoming a major political flashpoint.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican, issued a strong message of support for police on Thursday.

"We remember those who died in the line of duty and their families, who still mourn their passing," he said in a video his office posted to social media.

While some have hailed the prosecutor's office for moving quickly in the Brooks killing, Bryant said he was surprised at the speed, noting that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation hadn't yet finished looking into it.

He would not say how many officers called out. But just one officer showed up for work Thursday morning in one zone, which several dozen are assigned to patrol, according to Vince Champion, southeast regional director for the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

Atlanta officers are walking off their shifts or not responding to calls because they feel "abandoned, betrayed, used in a political game," Champion told the AP.

Champion said he's heard from several officers that they fear using force to protect themselves will get

them fired or arrested.

Brooks' funeral is set for Tuesday at Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, which was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s congregation, the Rev. Raphael Warnock announced. Tyler Perry, the actor and filmmaker, has offered financial help for the services, officials said.

Warnock urged people to remember all the lives lost in recent weeks in interactions with police. "Tragically and involuntarily they all have become visible victims in an urgent public conversation about justice and fairness in our nation," said Warnock.

Police in Atlanta were called to a Wendy's last week over complaints of a car blocking the drive-thru lane and found Brooks asleep behind the wheel. A breath test showed he was intoxicated. Officers had a relatively calm conversation with Brooks before things rapidly turned violent when officers tried to handcuff him.

Rolfe shot Brooks after he grabbed a Taser, fired it and ran, Howard, the prosecutor, said. But when the officer fired, Brooks was too far from him for the Taser to be a danger, and it had already been fired twice, so it was empty, Howard said.

Rolfe's lawyers said he feared for his and others' safety. Rolfe opened fire after hearing a sound "like a gunshot and saw a flash in front of him," apparently from the Taser.

The felony murder charge against Rolfe, 27, carries life in prison or the death penalty, if prosecutors decide to seek it. He was also charged with 10 other offenses punishable by decades behind bars.

The district attorney said the other officer, Brosnan, 26, is cooperating with prosecutors and will testify. But his attorneys said he hasn't agreed to be a witness for prosecutors.

One of this lawyers, Don Samuel, said Thursday that Brosnan suffered a concussion during the struggle with Brooks and put his foot on Brooks only briefly when he heard gunshots because he didn't know where they were coming from.

"He's worried that he may have access to a weapon," Samuel said.

Associated Press writer Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

'Into the Wild' bus removed from Alaska backcountry

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — An abandoned bus in the Alaska backcountry, popularized by the book "Into the Wild" and movie of the same name, was removed Thursday, state officials said.

The decision prioritizes public safety, Alaska Natural Resources Commissioner Corri Feige said.

The bus has long attracted adventurers to an area without cellphone service and marked by unpredictable weather and at-times swollen rivers. Some have had to be rescued or have died. Christopher McCandless, the subject of the book and movie, died there in 1992.

The rescue earlier this year of five Italian tourists and death last year of a woman from Belarus intensified calls from local officials for the bus, about 25 miles from the Parks Highway, to be removed.

The Alaska Army National Guard moved the bus as part of a training mission "at no cost to the public or additional cost to the state," Feige said.

The Alaska National Guard, in a release, said the bus was removed using a heavy-lift helicopter. The crew ensured the safety of a suitcase with sentimental value to the McCandless family, the release states. It doesn't describe that item further.

Feige, in a release, said the bus will be kept in a secure location while her department weighs various options for what to do with it.

"We encourage people to enjoy Alaska's wild areas safely, and we understand the hold this bus has had on the popular imagination," she said in a release. "However, this is an abandoned and deteriorating vehicle that was requiring dangerous and costly rescue efforts. More importantly, it was costing some visitors their lives."

McCandless, a 24-year-old from Virginia, was prevented from seeking help by the swollen banks of the Teklanika River. He died of starvation in the bus in 1992, and wrote in a journal about living in the bus for

114 days, right up to his death.

The long-abandoned Fairbanks city bus became famous by the 1996 book "Into the Wild" by Jon Krakauer, and a 2007 Sean Penn-directed movie of the same name.

The Department of Natural Resources said the 1940s-era bus had been used by a construction company to house employees during work on an access road in the area and was abandoned when the work was finished in 1961.

In March, officials in the Denali Borough based in Healy, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from the bus, voted unanimously to be rid of it.

Facebook removes Trump ads with symbols once used by Nazis

By ERIC TUCKER and BARBARA ORTUTAY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facebook has removed campaign ads by President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence that featured an upside-down red triangle, a symbol once used by Nazis to designate political prisoners, communists and others in concentration camps.

The company said in a statement Thursday that the ads violated "our policy against organized hate." A Facebook executive who testified at a House Intelligence Committee hearing on Thursday said the company does not permit symbols of hateful ideology "unless they're put up with context or condemnation."

"In a situation where we don't see either of those, we don't allow it on the platform and we remove it. That's what we saw in this case with this ad, and anywhere that that symbol is used, we would take the same action," Nathaniel Gleicher, the company's head of security policy, told lawmakers at a hearing.

The Trump campaign spent more than \$17,000 on the ads for Trump and Pence combined. The ads began running on Wednesday and received hundreds of thousands of impressions.

In a statement, Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh said the inverted red triangle was a symbol commonly used by antifa so it was included in an ad about antifa. He said the symbol is not in the Anti-Defamation League's database of symbols of hate. The Trump campaign also argued that the symbol is an emoji.

"But it is ironic that it took a Trump ad to force the media to implicitly concede that Antifa is a hate group," he added.

Antifa is an umbrella term for leftist militants bound more by belief than organizational structure. Trump has blamed antifa for the violence that erupted during some of the recent protests, but federal law enforcement officials have offered little evidence of this.

Some experts disputed that the red triangle was commonly used as an antifa symbol.

European anti-fascist groups initially used the red triangle as a symbol, hoping to reclaim its meaning after World War II, but it is no longer widely used by the movement nor by U.S. antifa groups, said Mark Bray, a Rutgers University historian and author of "Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook."

The ADL said the triangle was not in its database because it is a historical symbol and the database includes only those symbols used by modern-day extremists and white supremacists.

"Whether aware of the history or meaning, for the Trump campaign to use a symbol — one which is practically identical to that used by the Nazi regime to classify political prisoners in concentration camps — to attack his opponents is offensive and deeply troubling," ADL chief executive officer Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement.

Even with the ads removed, Facebook and CEO Mark Zuckerberg, still face persistent criticism for not removing or labeling earlier posts by Trump that spread misinformation about voting by mail and, many said, encouraged violence against protesters during recent unrest in American cities.

Those questions arose anew during Thursday's hearing as Democrats pressed the executives about what moral obligations they felt they had when it came to content and about decisions they've made to remove, label or leave up false or incendiary posts.

Facebook, for instance, was asked why it did not swiftly remove a doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., last year that appeared to show her slurring her words.

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"If we simply take a piece of content like this down, it doesn't go away," Gleicher responded. "It will exist elsewhere on the internet. People who are looking for it will still find it."

Later Thursday, Twitter labeled a video Trump had posted as "manipulated media." The president had tweeted a doctored video of two young children with a fake, misspelled CNN headline of "Terrified toddler runs from racist baby." For the first time last month, Twitter began flagging some of Trump's tweets with a fact-check warning.

With Thursday's hearing focused on the spread of disinformation tied to the 2020 election, the companies said they had not yet seen the same sort of concerted foreign influence campaigns like the one four years ago, when Russia sowed discord online by playing up divisive social issues.

But that suggests the threat has simply evolved rather than diminished, said the executives, who pointed out that media entities linked to foreign governments were now directly engaging online on American social issues as a way to influence public opinion. Chinese actors, for instance, have likened allegations of police brutality in the U.S. to the criticism China faced for its aggressive treatment of protesters in Hong Kong.

"That shift from platform manipulation to overt state assets is something that we've observed," said Nick Pickles, Twitter's public policy strategy and development director.

The companies say they have accelerated efforts to root out fake accounts. Twitter, for instance, said it had challenged in the first six months of 2019 more than 97 million accounts that showed signs of platform manipulation, and Facebook said it had disabled about 1.7 billion fake accounts between January and March.

Preventing disinformation ahead of the election is a significant challenge in a country facing potentially dramatic changes in how people vote, with the expected widespread use of mail-in ballots creating openings to cast doubt on the results and spread inaccurate narratives.

Facebook said Thursday that it is working to provide Americans with accurate information about the vote-by-mail process, with notifications to users about how to request ballots and about whether the date of their election has changed. The outreach is targeted to voters in states where no excuse is needed to vote by mail or where fears of the coronavirus are accepted as an excuse.

"Providing that accurate information is one of the best ways to mitigate those types of threats," Gleicher said.

Associated Press writer Amanda Seitz contributed to this report.

Bolton critique of Trump could define tell-all book battles

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House fight with former national security adviser John Bolton is the latest chapter in a lengthy history of Washington book battles, yet it will likely define future cases between the U.S. government and former employees determined to write tell-alls.

The government asked a federal court for a temporary restraining order to prevent the release of the book, claiming it contains classified material. But the book, set to be released Tuesday, is already sitting in warehouses. And media outlets, including The Associated Press, have obtained advance copies and published stories on the book.

The 577-page book paints an unvarnished portrait of Trump and his administration. Bolton writes that Trump "pleaded" with China's Xi Jinping during a 2019 summit to help his reelection prospects and that political calculations drove Trump's foreign policy.

Trump on Thursday called the book a "compilation of lies and made up stories" intended to make him look bad. He tweeted that Bolton was just trying to get even for being fired "like the sick puppy he is!"

The two sides are set to face off Friday in U.S. District Court in Washington, adding Bolton's name to a long list of authors who have clashed with the government over publishing sensitive material. Bolton filed a motion late Thursday to dismiss the government's complaint.

"The Government cannot plausibly argue that Ambassador Bolton has power to stop the Amazon delivery trucks in America, unshelve the copies in Europe, commandeer the copies in Canada, and repossess the

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copies sent to reviewers or in the possession of major newspapers," Bolton's court filing says.

The government says Bolton violated a nondisclosure agreement in which he promised to submit any book he might write to the administration for a prepublication review to ensure government secrets aren't disclosed.

After working for months with the White House to edit, rewrite or remove sensitive information, Bolton's lawyer says his client received a verbal clearance from classification expert Ellen Knight at the National Security Council. But he never got a formal clearance letter, and the Trump administration contends that the book, titled "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir," still contains sensitive material.

The case "has the makings of being the defining litigation for nondisclosure agreements for decades," said Jonathan Turley, a constitutional law expert at George Washington University who has handled cases involving classified materials for decades. "Both sides have now dug in."

The White House has tried to use the firestorm sparked by the book to its advantage, as it looks to animate the president's loyal base of supporters against the media and Democrats. White House aides have circulated quotes from both groups critical of Bolton in an effort to highlight what they view as a sudden embrace of the departed aide now that he's turned critical of Trump.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lashed out at Bolton in a statement late Thursday, declaring him a "traitor."

"I've not read the book, but from the excerpts I've seen published, John Bolton is spreading a number of lies, fully-spun half-truths, and outright falsehoods," Pompeo said. "It is both sad and dangerous that John Bolton's final public role is that of a traitor who damaged America by violating his sacred trust with its people."

The White House insists that classified material remains in the Bolton book even though he worked on revisions for months with Knight. The government said in its court filing that after Knight finished her review, the White House ordered a second review to be done by Michael Ellis, a political appointee who has been senior director for intelligence on the National Security Council since March and previously was the NSC's deputy legal adviser.

"The fact that the White House wanted multiple, sequential reviews is way out of the ordinary and it suggests the obvious point that there is a political motivation at work," said Steven Aftergood, a classification expert at the Federation of American Scientists.

Ellis began his review of the Bolton book on May 2 at the behest of national security adviser Robert O'Brien. The lawsuit said Ellis has had "original classification authority" since 2017, allowing him to make decisions to classify material.

A classification expert, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the administration, disputed that. The expert said it is highly irregular for a political appointee like Ellis to be involved in the prepublication process. The expert said Ellis has never done a prepublication review of a book and only received his initial "original classification authority" training, which is required every year, during the first week of June, a month after he was asked to review Bolton's book.

Turley and other legal experts wonder why the government waited until the last minute to go to court to stop the book's release.

"It's a rather curious way to protect classified information if you allow thousands of these books to be held in barely secured warehouses around the country," he said.

Classification battles have popped up regularly over the years.

In 2010, the Defense Department negotiated to buy and destroy all 10,000 copies of the book "Operation Dark Heart," a story about the Afghan war by Anthony Shaffer, a former defense intelligence officer. It was initially cleared for publication by Army reviewers, but when spy agency reviewers took a look, they claimed it included classified information that could damage national security.

Matt Bissonnette, who wrote "No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama bin Laden," was ordered to forfeit an estimated \$6.8 million to the federal government in 2016 when he skipped a prepublication review by the Pentagon. The Defense Department claimed the book contained classified information. The publisher denied it did.

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In 2008, a former undercover CIA officer writing under the pen name Ishmael Jones published "The Human Factor: Inside the CIA's Dysfunctional Intelligence Culture," which recounted his work on weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. In 2011, a federal judge ruled that he had broken the law by not going through the CIA's prepublication review process, which Jones claimed the agency had stalled.

A case that went all the way to the Supreme Court dealt with a book by Frank Snepp, who signed a nondisclosure agreement as part of working at the CIA and then published a book about the agency's activities in South Vietnam. He didn't get clearance from the CIA. A lower court denied Snepp royalties from the book, and the Supreme Court upheld that ruling in 1980.

The Justice Department filed a similar action over former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden's book, seeking to collect all the proceeds because it didn't undergo a prepublication review. Under the law, the executive branch has the sole discretion to determine what material is classified.

Aftergood said the Bolton case has turned the government's little-known prepublication review process into national news.

"It's becoming clear that the whole policy needs to be reexamined and rewritten," Aftergood said. "As it stands, it's arbitrary and subject to abuse."

Stephen Vladeck, a University of Texas School of Law professor who specializes in constitutional and national security law, said that while the court might be hesitant to prevent publication of the book, the Trump administration might "have a very good shot at preventing anyone from making any money off the book."

Keith Urbahn, one of Bolton's literary agents and founding partner of Javelin, based in Alexandria, Virginia, said the book has sparked interest in the past two days from television and film representatives, but no deals have been signed. Urbahn said it's too early to tell if the Bolton saga will lead to more books being published without full government sign-off.

Associated Press writers Hillel Italie in New York and Michael Balsamo and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

Biden seizes on Bolton book to hit Trump's record on China

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Bolton's claim in an explosive new book that President Donald Trump urged China's Xi Jinping to help him win reelection could undermine his campaign's effort to portray Democratic rival Joe Biden as soft on Beijing.

Biden's top aides moved quickly on Thursday to argue that it's Trump who has taken a weak approach to the rising superpower. They seized on accusations from Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser, that the president continually kowtowed to Xi and ignored human rights abuses while trying to get his foreign counterpart's assistance with domestic politics.

"The Bolton allegations are just the most noxious and hateful cherry on top of a sundae that already existed here," Ron Klain, a longtime Biden adviser, said in an interview. "We have seen for three years that Donald Trump has curried favor with authoritarian regimes that are willing to help him personally and politically."

China already loomed large in the contest as Trump and Biden have traded accusations over corruption, geopolitical pandering and the president's shifts in tone toward the country during the coronavirus pandemic, which ignited in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. But Bolton's accusations intensified the debate with less than five months remaining until the election.

Biden's team hopes the book will help reinforce their argument that the administration was slow to react to the pandemic, in part because of the tone set by Trump.

Klain, who served as President Barack Obama's Ebola coordinator and Biden's chief of staff when he was vice president, said he began briefing Biden on the situation in China as early as Jan. 10. Biden wrote an op-ed warning about the virus on Jan. 27 and began speaking about the issue on the campaign trail around that time.

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Trump, meanwhile, told CNBC on Jan. 22 that the virus was “totally under control” and that he trusted Xi to handle the outbreak.

Trump’s team insists the president has taken a strong stance against Beijing.

“President Trump is the first president to actually stand up to China for their decades of trade cheating and he has held them accountable for lying to the world about the coronavirus,” said Tim Murtaugh, the Trump campaign’s communications director. “Joe Biden has spent his entire career appeasing China, failing to take them seriously as an economic competitor, and allowing his son Hunter to profit wildly through a Chinese-controlled bank.”

The president, eager to run for reelection on the back of a strong economy, resisted pressuring China for fear of rattling the stock market but also because he did not want to upset Xi, as The Associated Press first reported in February. The two nations had only recently completed the first phase of a sweeping trade deal, and Trump viewed the completion of the rest of the agreement as a key plank in his reelection platform, according to three White House and campaign officials not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Trump’s initial reluctance to challenge Xi has echoes in a moment recounted in Bolton’s book, which the White House has tried to block from being published. According to Bolton, Trump turned a blind eye toward Xi’s construction of camps for Uighurs, who are predominantly Muslim and culturally and ethnically distinct from the majority Han Chinese population

“At the opening dinner of the Osaka G-20 meeting, with only interpreters present, Xi explained to Trump why he was basically building concentration camps in Xinjiang,” Bolton wrote of a 2019 meeting. “According to our interpreter, Trump said that Xi should go ahead with building the camps, which he thought was exactly the right thing to do.”

Trump also, according to Bolton, asked Xi for China to make agricultural purchases from U.S. farmers that could shore up the president’s hold on states he’d need to win this November.

“Turning a blind eye to human rights to China is a pattern; it’s an administration that is carrying out an amoral foreign policy that some might say is immoral,” said Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who noted that Trump has also not called out abuses by the likes of Saudi Arabia and Russia. “They want to look tough on China without actually being tough on China.”

But after the pandemic tore across America, Trump’s rhetoric shifted dramatically, blaming China for not containing the coronavirus and underselling its severity. And as support for the president began to slide, the campaign looked to link Biden to China, suggesting that as Obama’s pointperson to Asia, he helped enable Beijing’s rise.

The campaign also claimed that Biden’s son Hunter personally profited off his father’s international access. It also put tens of millions of dollars behind television and digital ads that resurface Biden’s previous praise for Beijing.

But polling suggests the ads have largely been a wash — the two men are viewed as about even in their ability to manage China — and have yet to make a significant impact on the public’s perception on the issue.

Democrats hope to keep the pressure on Trump into the fall. The Democratic National Committee this week launched a six-figure digital and television ad campaign hitting Trump on China, which party officials say will expand in the coming weeks. And it allows the Biden campaign to return to an issue that aides see as one of the candidate’s key assets in the campaign: his foreign policy experience and pledge to restore America’s standing as a global leader.

But Trump’s allies have no plans to cede the matter. Beyond the pandemic, they still believe they can link the Obama administration’s trade deals and economic policy to the loss of manufacturing jobs, particularly in the vital battlegrounds of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, a strategy that worked in 2016.

“The upper Midwest was in a decline and it’s because those jobs are in China and we won with that,” said Steve Bannon, the chief executive officer of Trump’s 2016 campaign, in a recent interview. “Trump can still deliver a tough message about getting those jobs back. Biden is the wrong guy for the moment.”

Lemire reported from New York.

Top seller 'Antiracist Baby' to be released as picture book

NEW YORK (AP) — A picture book edition of Ibram X. Kendi's "Antiracist Baby," one of the country's top-selling books since the death last month of George Floyd, is coming out July 14.

"Antiracist Baby" went on sale this week as a board book and has been part of a wave of works about race and racism that have been selling strongly as protests against Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police spread worldwide.

Two other Kendi books are current bestsellers, "How To Be an Antiracist" and "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America," winner of the National Book Award in 2016.

The picture book of "Antiracist Baby" will feature illustrations by Ashley Lukashevsky, Penguin Young Readers announced Thursday.

The new edition is being published by the Penguin imprint Kokila.

As racism protests roil US, Florida revisits dark past

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN** Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — On Election Day a century ago, a white mob swept through a tiny Florida citrus town after a black man showed up at the polls to vote. Over two days of terror, the mob set fire to homes and drove black residents from their community.

It was one of the bloodiest days in American political history, with the number of deaths remaining in question — some estimates as high as 60.

That dark episode, until recently largely forgotten, came to be known as the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots. Others remember it as a massacre, one of the many acts of racial violence perpetrated against black citizens over the decades.

As the centennial approaches, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has before him a bill that would require schools to do more to highlight the day in their history classes. If signed by the governor, it would order state officials to identify parks, buildings and other facilities that could be renamed in honor of those who died because of the racial hatred that welled up on that day in the tiny community west of Orlando.

State Sen. Randolph Bracy, whose district includes Ocoee, urged the governor to give his blessings to the measure as a way to bring attention to the racial strife not only in the state's past but also to acknowledge the ongoing tumult spawned by recent police brutality against black people.

"Florida is known for its beautiful beaches and as a vacation destination, but a century ago, and even long after that, Florida was a terrible place to be if you were a black person," Bracy said.

Before that fateful Election Day on Nov. 2, 1920, the Ku Klux Klan had marched through nearby Orlando to scare the black population away from the polls.

When Mose Norman, an affluent black man, showed up in Ocoee to vote, he was turned away because precinct workers said he hadn't paid his poll tax. Undeterred, he returned — only to be forced out again by a group of whites.

"He had the audacity to vote, and to organize the black community to vote," Bracy said. "And that was too much for white people to handle."

Soon, a mob went after Norman. When they came upon the home of another affluent black man, Julius "July" Perry, gunfire erupted and Perry was lynched. Violence and flames soon engulfed the community of about 850 people — more than a fourth of them black.

The number of casualties has been difficult to pin down because of a possible cover-up and a scarcity of reliable historical records, according to Paul Ortiz, a history professor at the University of Florida who has written extensively on the massacre.

Like many other race riots, Ortiz said, official records have often undercounted the number of casualties.

Initial newspaper accounts referred to fewer than 10 people killed, including two whites. However, in the aftermath, an investigation by the NAACP said interviews with townspeople suggested between 30 and 60

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black people were killed. The NAACP called for an official investigation but none occurred.

The Ocoee massacre was just one of many that engulfed communities across the country during the Jim Crow era. The better-known Tulsa Massacre, considered one of the country's deadliest race riots, broke out just months after Ocoee.

In 1923, the predominantly African American town of Rosewood, Florida, was destroyed by white mobs. The massacre drew widespread attention when it became the subject of a feature film. In 1994, the state of Florida agreed to compensate survivors and their descendants.

Bracy and state Rep. Kamia Brown, both Democrats, wanted similar compensation for descendants of the Ocoee riots but failed to muster support from the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Instead, lawmakers unanimously approved legislation meant to raise awareness about the 1920 riots — the bill now before the governor. The legislation melded separate proposals that sought to draw attention to historical events precipitated by hatred. It would also designate the second week in November as "Holocaust Education Week."

"It's really important that people know this history, so that we are able to move forward especially in the climate we have going on in our country," Brown said.

Over the years, the massacre in Ocoee had become mostly forgotten. A few modest memorials have gone up in recent years.

But the Orange County Regional History Center will commemorate the massacre's centennial this fall, hoping to foster understanding of the forces that led up to it and the racial tensions that endure decades since.

"We need to tell the story because it shows how far we've come today and how far we haven't, especially in light of recent events," said Pam Schwartz, the chief curator of the exhibit called "Yesterday, this was home: The Ocoee Massacre of 1920."

Amid global protests inspired by the police killing of George Floyd, Schwartz hopes the exhibit will provide some historical context for the Black Lives Matter movement and what she called the "racial terror" that still flares up across the United States.

"This is part of a collective history that harkens back to a century ago," she said. "Nothing has changed. It just looks different now."

Israeli soldier gets community service after killing Gazan

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli soldier who shot and killed a Palestinian fisherman near the Gaza frontier in 2018 has been given 45 days of community service after an army investigation concluded he fired without authorization, the military said Thursday.

The military said a group of Palestinians had approached the fence but were far away when the paratrooper opened fire, striking one of them. Its statement did not identify the soldier or the Palestinian, or say whether he was killed.

Nawaf al-Attar, a 23-year-old fisherman was shot and killed by Israeli troops near the northern beach frontier on Nov. 14, 2018, when the military said the shooting occurred.

It happened a few hours after a cease-fire took effect following a brief round of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants. The area near the fence had seen weekly protests at the time that often turned violent, but there were no demonstrations that day.

The military said the soldier reached a plea bargain in which he pleaded guilty to charges of negligence and reckless endangerment. He received a suspended sentence and was demoted to the rank of private.

Gaza has been under an Israeli and Egyptian blockade since the Islamic militant group Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces there in 2007. Since then, Hamas and other militant groups have fought three wars and engaged in numerous smaller battles with Israel.

Rights groups have accused Israel of using excessive force and of failing to adequately investigate the killing of civilians. Israel says it makes every effort to avoid civilian casualties and accuses Palestinian

militants of using civilians as human shields.

"Enforcing a military occupation on millions of people for decades requires exorbitant violence and impunity for the soldiers who sustain it," the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said in a statement.

"Forty-five days of community service for killing a man is but the latest example of how the military law enforcement system is designed to protect perpetrators, not their victims."

An Associated Press investigation last year found that the military had opened investigations into 24 potentially criminal shootings of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza over the previous year. None of the cases at that time had yielded convictions or even indictments, and in most cases the army had not interviewed key witnesses or retrieved evidence from the field.

The Palestinian Authority has asked the International Criminal Court to probe alleged Israeli war crimes, including allegations related to violence in Gaza. Israel has sought to rally the international community against any investigation, arguing that the Palestinians lack legal standing and that its own courts investigate and punish any misconduct.

Israel does not recognize the ICC, but any charges could put Israeli officials at risk of arrest in other countries.

Associated Press writer Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

European countries slam US withdrawal from tech tax talks

By **THOMAS ADAMSON** undefined

PARIS (AP) — European countries are slamming the Trump administration's withdrawal from negotiations over a major tax on big tech companies.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, speaking on France Inter, called it a "provocation" and said France will still implement the tax regardless of the U.S. change of heart.

Le Maire was referring to a letter in which U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told the finance ministers of France, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom that he was suspending talks on the tax.

"This letter is a provocation. It is a provocation against all the partners at the OECD (the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) when we were centimeters away from a deal on the taxation of digital giants," Le Maire said.

In a statement, Treasury Department spokeswoman Monica Crowley said the U.S. "has suggested a pause" in the talks as countries focus on fighting COVID-19 and reopening their economies.

The countries have been discussing an international agreement on the way global taxes work. The tech tax is meant to prevent tax avoidance measures by multinationals, but the U.S. has said it unfairly singles out companies like Amazon and Google.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has dismissed the OECD efforts so far, saying the countries involved were trying to harm American companies and telling a congressional committee Wednesday "that's not something we're ever going to be a part of."

Some countries such as Spain and Britain have been working on their own digital taxes while they wait for a global one. The head of the OECD, a group of wealthy nations, urged countries to continue working on the global levy, warning of the risks if more countries decided to bring in their own digital taxes.

"This, in turn, would trigger tax disputes and, inevitably, heightened trade tensions," said Secretary-General Angel Gurría. "A trade war, especially at this point in time, where the world economy is going through a historical downturn, would hurt the economy, jobs and confidence even further."

In Europe, big tech firms such as Google and Facebook pay most of their taxes in the European Union countries where their registered headquarters are based and often pay very little in countries where they run large and profitable operations.

"The digital tax is a necessity of the 21st century. It's not a whim or an eccentricity," Spanish Finance Minister María Jesús Montero told Spain's Cadena SER radio. "This is because we have an analogue taxation system while we have a digital society and a digital economy".

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Le Maire said there was a joint response to the letter from the four countries on Thursday.

The French parliament approved the initial stages of a digital tax law last year but agreed to postpone implementation until December of this year in exchange for the U.S. holding off on retaliatory tariffs.

The U.S. has launched an investigation into the French digital tax that may lead to tariffs on French products.

Joe Kennedy, senior fellow at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a non-partisan think tank, said the U.S. has a legitimate complaint about the French digital services tax violating international trade rules. But Kennedy has misgivings about the decision to suspend talks as the world economy contends with fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

"I think the administration should stay in there," he said. "It's best to negotiate ... This is the worst time to have a ramping up of trade disputes."

A so-called "Google tax" is also making its way through the Spanish parliament, with an eye toward levying it later this year. The Spanish Cabinet agreed in February to go ahead with its adoption despite threats of retaliatory tariffs by the Trump administration.

Spain wants to place a 3% tax on online ads, on deals brokered on digital platforms and on sales of user data by tech companies that have a turnover of more than 750 million euros (\$842 million) a year internationally and more than 3 million euros in Spain. It hopes to raise close to 1 billion euros a year in extra tax revenue.

Britain, which recently introduced its own digital services tax, said it would keep pushing for a global levy.

"We have always been clear that our preference is for a global solution to the tax challenges posed by digitalization, and we'll continue to work with our international partners to achieve that objective," the Treasury department said in a statement.

The U.K.'s 2% digital tax took effect in April and applies to search engines, social media services and online marketplaces earning more than 500 million pounds (\$624 million) in annual global revenue, including 25 million pounds from British users. The Treasury estimates it will eventually bring in an extra 515 million pounds a year.

Associated Press Writers Aritz Parra in Madrid, Kelvin Chan in London and Paul Wiseman and Martin Crutsinger in Washington contributed to this report.

World War II forces sweetheart singer Vera Lynn dies at 103

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Dame Vera Lynn, the endearingly popular "Forces' Sweetheart" who serenaded British troops during World War II, has died at 103.

During the war and long after, Lynn got crowds singing, smiling and crying with sentimental favorites such as "We'll Meet Again," and "The White Cliffs of Dover."

"The family are deeply saddened to announce the passing of one of Britain's best-loved entertainers at the age of 103," her family said in a statement. "Dame Vera Lynn, who lived in Ditchling, East Sussex, passed away earlier today, 18 June 2020, surrounded by her close family."

Lynn possessed a down-to-earth appeal, reminding servicemen of the wives and sweethearts they left behind when they went off to war.

"I was somebody that they could associate with," she once told The Associated Press. "I was an ordinary girl."

Tributes poured in from political leaders, entertainers, veterans and thousands of fans.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said her "charm and magical voice entranced and uplifted our country in some of our darkest hours. Her voice will live on to lift the hearts of generations to come."

Lynn hosted a wildly popular BBC radio show during the war called "Sincerely Yours" in which she sent messages to British troops abroad and performed the songs they requested. The half-hour program came on during the highly coveted slot following the Sunday night news.

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"Winston Churchill was my opening act," she once said.

But Lynn once thought the war would doom her chance of success.

"When war first started, when it was declared, I thought, 'Well there goes my career.' You know, I shall finish up in a factory or the army or somewhere," she recalled. "You imagined all the theaters closing down, which didn't happen except when the sirens sounded. And everybody, if they wanted to, they could stay in the theater and the show would go on."

In September 2009, long after her retirement, Lynn topped the British album chart with a hits collection titled "We'll Meet Again — The Very Best of Vera Lynn." It reached No. 1, despite competition from the release of remastered Beatles' albums.

Amid this year's coronavirus outbreak, Lynn and opera singer Katherine Jenkins released a charity version of "We'll Meet Again." Once again the public found comfort in her words of hope, which resonated in the locked-down country.

In a reflection of her enduring appeal, Queen Elizabeth II also invoked the words of Lynn's signature song as she addressed the nation in lockdown. The monarch, who served as an ambulance driver during the war, played on the song's theme, promising that loved ones would be reunited in the end after being separated by the virus.

"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return," the queen said. "We will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

Lynn earned her nickname, "The Forces' Sweetheart," after being ranked No. 1 in a 1939 Daily Express poll that asked servicemen to name their favorite musical artists. Years later, she reflected on time spent with soldiers abroad.

"What they needed was a contact from home," she said. "I entertained audiences from 2,000 to 6,000. And the boys would just come out of the jungle and sit there for hours waiting until we arrived and then slip back in once we'd left."

A plumber's daughter, Vera Margaret Welch was born on March 20, 1917, in London's blue-collar East Ham neighborhood.

She took her stage name from her grandmother's maiden name. She started singing in social clubs at age 7 and dropped out of school by 11 when she started touring with a traveling variety show. By 17 she was a band singer, and at 21 — when the war started — she was a known performer.

She married band musician Harry Lewis in 1941, and he went on to manage her career. They had one daughter, Virginia.

Lynn appeared in a handful of films: "We'll Meet Again" (1942), playing a young dancer who discovers her singing voice; "Rhythm Serenade" (1943), in which she played a woman who joins the Women's Royal Navy and organizes a nursery in a munitions factory; and "One Exciting Night" (1944), a comedy about a singer who is mistakenly caught up in a kidnapping.

While Lynn is best remembered for her work during the war, she also had success during the post-war years. Her "Auf Wiedersehen Sweetheart" in 1952 became the first record by an English artist to top the American Billboard charts, staying there for nine weeks. Lynn's career flourished in the 1950s, peaking with "My Son, My Son," a No. 1 hit in 1954.

After staying away from the business for years, she had a 1970s comeback single "Don't You Remember When" and even covered Abba's "Thank you for the Music," but fans still really wanted to hear the wartime classics. Lynn was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1975.

In the years that followed she continued to support veterans' causes and raise money for research on cancer and cystic fibrosis. She set up her own charity for children with cerebral palsy, and was a forceful advocate for her causes. She played an important part in a 1989 campaign to win a better pension deal for World War II widows, and until 2010 was actively involved in various veterans charities.

On occasion, Lynn delighted fans by taking up the microphone again. She sang outside Buckingham Palace in 1995 in a ceremony marking the golden jubilee of VE Day. In recent years, Lynn lived a quiet village life in Ditchling, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) south of London.

She did make fleeting mini-appearances, particularly when veterans were involved. During ceremonies last year to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, she recorded a message that was played to a ballroom full of veterans on a ship sailing to France to mark the event. Tears flowed as Lynn spoke. When she was done, thunderous applause rattled the windows.

The veterans remembered her many appearances, and the fact that she traveled to Burma to entertain the troops, one of the few entertainers to make the difficult journey.

Burma veteran Tom Moore, who won the hearts of the nation when he walked 100 laps of his garden in the days before his 100th birthday to raise money for the National Health Service during the pandemic, described her death as a "real shame."

Another veteran, Mervyn Kersh, told The Associated Press that he remembered her beauty and her voice. But more importantly, he remembered a message that resonated with troops far from home.

"She sang songs which expressed feeling, with lyrics which were very meaningful for me and, everyone I knew, as they expressed the sentiments and hopes of a generation from the disaster of Dunkirk, the Blitz, North Africa and the long wait until Normandy," Kersh said. "I am very sorry to learn that she has gone, but thankful for the 103 years she gave us."

Persistently high layoffs suggest a slow US economic rebound

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three months after the viral outbreak shut down businesses across the country, U.S. employers are still shedding jobs at a heavy rate, a trend that points to a slow and prolonged recovery from the recession.

The number of laid-off workers seeking unemployment benefits barely fell last week to 1.5 million, the government said Thursday. That was down from a peak of nearly 7 million in March, and it marked an 11th straight weekly drop. But the number is still more than twice the record high that existed before the pandemic. And the total number of people receiving jobless aid remains a lofty 20.5 million.

The figures surprised and disappointed analysts who had expected far fewer people to seek unemployment aid as states increasingly reopen their economies and businesses recall some laid-off people back to work. The data also raised concerns that some recent layoffs may reflect permanent losses as companies restructure their businesses, rather than temporary cuts in response to government-ordered closures.

The report is "telling us that the scars from the job losses in the recession will be longer-lasting than we expected," said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

At the same time, Thursday's figures may have raised as many questions about the state of the job market as they answered. Jobless claims generally tracks the pace of layoffs. But they provide little information about how much hiring is occurring that would offset those losses. In May, for example, employers added 2.5 million jobs — an increase that caught analysts off-guard because the number of applications for unemployment aid was still so high.

Some likely factors help explain why applications for jobless benefits remain so high even as businesses increasingly reopen and rehire some laid-off workers. For one thing, many businesses that deal face-to-face with customers — from restaurants and movie theaters to gyms and casinos — remain strictly limited to less-than-full capacity. Some of those establishments are still cutting jobs as a result.

Casinos in Louisiana, for example, can open at half-capacity. But Boyd Gaming Corp., which operates five casinos in the state, has informed 1,500 of its workers that with financial losses mounting, they could be laid off by early July.

And in some especially hard-hit sectors, like the hotel and travel industries, corporations are now slashing white-collar workers because their business remains far below pre-pandemic levels. This week, Hilton Hotels said it would cut 22% of its corporate global workforce — about 2,100 jobs.

Although consumer spending, the primary driver of the U.S. economy, is recovering from its low in mid-April, it remains far below its pre-pandemic level, according to data compiled by Opportunity Insights. That trend may be forcing changes at some companies that managed to withstand the initial shutdowns.

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AT&T, for instance, said this week that it plans to cut 3,400 technical and clerical workers over the next few weeks. It also plans to permanently close 250 of its Mobility and Cricket Wireless stores.

"We're starting to see more job losses among higher-skilled positions that are harder to recall," said Brad Hershbein, a senior economist at the Upjohn Institute.

And some states may still be clearing backlogs of applications from weeks or months ago.

Corinne Cook, who lives in Kissimmee, near Orlando, just received her first unemployment payment last week, after being laid-off from her job in mid-April. Cook, 28, moved to the area in September for an 18-month contract position as a 3-D modeler for Walt Disney, a job involving sculpting character prototypes that were printed on 3-D printers. She lost her job when the parks closed down.

She's receiving the minimum state unemployment benefit from Florida, \$125 a week, because the state has no record of her prior earnings in New Jersey, even though she said she has uploaded, mailed and faxed her documents from her job there. If her previous earnings were properly credited, her state benefits would more than double. She is grateful, though, for the extra \$600 in federal unemployment benefits, which have allowed her to pay some bills.

Dealing with the state's bureaucracy "was very stressful," she said.

Daco of Oxford Economics said he still expects the June jobs report, to be released in early July, to show another hiring gain. But these figures will be particularly hard to forecast. Tens of millions of people may be flowing in and out of work each month, he noted, making it much more difficult to forecast where the job market is headed.

The jobs report for May had suggested that the damage might have bottomed out. The unemployment rate declined from 14.7% to a still-high 13.3%.

Even so, nearly 21 million people are officially classified as unemployed. And including people the government said had been erroneously categorized as employed in May and those who lost jobs but didn't look for new ones, 32.5 million people are out of work, economists estimate.

Thursday's report showed that an additional 760,000 people applied for jobless benefits last week under a new program for self-employed and gig workers that made them eligible for aid for the first time. These figures aren't adjusted for seasonal variations, so the government doesn't include them in the official count.

Other recent data have been more encouraging and suggest that the lifting of shutdown orders has sparked some pent-up demand from consumers. Most economic gauges remain far below their pre-pandemic levels, though, and some analysts question whether the recent gains can be sustained, especially if the virus were to surge back.

Last month, retail and restaurant sales jumped nearly 18%, the government said Tuesday, retracing some of the record plunges of the previous two months. Still, retail purchases remain a sizable 6% below their year-ago levels.

One key reason why consumer spending has somewhat rebounded is that government aid programs, from one-time \$1,200 stimulus checks to \$600-a-week in supplemental federal unemployment aid, have helped offset the loss of income for laid-off Americans. Yet nearly all the stimulus checks have been issued. And the supplemental federal jobless aid is set to expire July 31.

"Recently, some indicators have pointed to a stabilization, and in some areas a modest rebound, in economic activity," Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Tuesday in testimony to a Senate committee. Yet "until the public is confident that the disease is contained, a full recovery is unlikely."

Hollywood says Black Lives Matter, but more diversity needed

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As protests erupted across the country following the death of George Floyd, every major entertainment company in Hollywood issued statements of support for the black community.

But as unanimous as that show of solidarity was, it was also clear that this wasn't a fight Hollywood could watch from the sidelines. As the uproar over "Gone With the Wind" showed, the movie industry has a past — and present — to reckon with. At a recent protest in Los Angeles organized by major talent

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agencies, actor Michael B. Jordan turned his focus to the studio headquarters around him.

"Where is the challenge to commit to black hiring? Black content led by black executives, black consultants," said Jordan. "Are you policing our storytelling as well?"

Hollywood's record in diversity and inclusion has improved in recent years, but it still lags behind the population — particularly in its executive ranks. (It's easier, Spike Lee has joked, to get a black president than a black studio head.) Statements and donations are well and good, many say, but Hollywood studios and production companies can speak far louder by green-lighting diverse movies — and reexamining those who do the green-lighting.

"This is a golden opportunity for Hollywood to look at itself in the mirror and decide what side of history it wants to be on," says Darnell Hunt, dean of social sciences at UCLA.

UCLA's annual Hollywood diversity report has found a notable increase in lead acting roles in the most popular films in recent years. Researchers argue diversity is good business. People of color, data shows, often buy more than half of tickets to the most successful films.

But Hunt has also found a lack of systemic change. Some 93% of senior executive positions at major and mid-major studios are held by white people and 80% by men. He has outlined a five-point strategy for more meaningful progress, from the bottom up.

"Every institution in our society to the extent that it's not helping to eradicate the problem is complicit to a some degree. I would argue that Hollywood stands right at the center of that," says Hunt. "When you have an industry that's structured around white men in control, it echoes the white supremacy that's at the core of the critique of policing right now."

Five years ago, after the Academy Awards fielded all-white acting nominees, the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite became a rallying cry. The industry and the film academy have changed since then but it hasn't happened overnight. At this year's Oscars, the South Korean film "Parasite" made history for non-English language films but the awards still featured only one acting nominee of color.

Now, at a defining moment for race in America, some in the industry leaders believe stronger steps are necessary. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences last week said it will make new inclusion standards for Oscar eligibility. Hunt, who has consulted on that initiative, said it could apply to either the diversity of individual films or a distributor's overall record of inclusion.

The Writers Guild of America West, in an open letter from its Committee of Black Writers to industry leaders, demanded action, not words.

"Either you commit to a new, institutionalized system of accountability with and to black writers, or you prove that you're putting on just another strategic, virtue-signaling performance deemed necessary to survive the times," read the letter.

The debate recently stirred by "Gone With the Wind," only highlighted what's at stake.

After pressure from filmmakers including "12 Years a Slave" producer John Ridley, HBO Max temporarily removed the 1939 film. The highest grossing movie of all time despite its glamorized portrait of slavery in the Antebellum South, "Gone With the Wind" is part of an ignoble Hollywood legacy stretching back to "The Birth of a Nation." When the film returns to the streaming service, Turner Classic Movie host Jacqueline Stewart will contextualize it.

"We can see with 'Gone With the Wind' how profoundly people's understanding of American history has been shaped by these popular entertainments," says Stewart. "It's forcing us to confront the roots of racism in our country and to think about the role the media has played in shaping our understanding of race."

Recent films like Ava DuVernay's "Selma," Dee Rees' "Mudbound" and Spike Lee's just-released "Da 5 Bloods" have lent a corrective to history as seen in the movies. More are on the way. Since the protests began, several documentary projects have been announced on the Tulsa race massacre, including one produced by LeBron James.

Lee's frequent co-writer Kevin Willmott recently completed a drama, "The 24th," about the Houston Riots, in which some 150 black soldiers marched on Houston in 1917 after a police force evolved from plantation patrols and slave catchers brutalized them. Janet Pierson selected the film for SXSW before the festival

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was canceled, because, she said, it powerfully captured an important but little-known chapter in history. Willmott, who's currently in talks with a pair of distributors, considers the Houston Riots a precursor to today's unrest.

"One of my fears is that it's a pretty strong film. In the climate we have now, I worry that it will scare some people," says Willmott. "I hope that America has the courage to show this film because this is what America is dealing with right now. I know that dramatic movies about black resistance to injustice and oppression are hard sells in Hollywood."

It's a good time to consider what films are getting greenlit, picking up distribution and getting hefty marketing support. When the director George Tillman ("Soul Food," "Men of Honor") first came to Hollywood, he found that the kinds of movies he wanted to make were set to modest budget parameters and marketed only to African American communities. Tillman remembers thinking: "You ain't gonna put a billboard on Sunset or anything? It's just going to be just on the South Side of Chicago? How am I ever going to expand?"

That's evolved, Tillman says, citing changes brought by television and streaming services. But he still wishes his last film, the impassioned Angie Thomas adaptation "The Hate U Give," had made a larger impact. As a story about a young woman led to the Black Lives Matter movement after tragedy, it's a movie (currently free to stream) that speaks directly to the moment.

For Tillman, it's the movie's honesty that resonates now. It features a father instructing his children how to act in self-preservation if they're ever pulled over by the police. The talk is one Tillman's father gave him and one he's given his 17-year-old son.

"To bare your truth is so important as a filmmaker," says Tillman, who's currently prepping a drama about the formation of the Black Panthers for Paramount Pictures. "Don't let executives try to change your perspective as an African American man, as a filmmaker. What's your belief? What's your history? No one can tell your story better than you.

"Keep pushing the truth on screen."

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

Cream of Wheat, Mrs. Butterworth confront race in packaging

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Colgate, Cream of Wheat and Mrs. Butterworth are the latest brands reckoning with racially charged logos. The soul-searching comes in the wake of PepsiCo's announcement Wednesday that it's renaming its Aunt Jemima syrup brand. Mars Inc. says it's also reviewing its Uncle Ben's rice brand.

New York-based Colgate-Palmolive Co. said Thursday it is working with its Chinese partner, Hawley & Hazel Chemical Co., on changes to its Darlie brand toothpaste.

The toothpaste, which is popular in Asia, was called Darkie when it was first introduced in the 1930s. Packages featured a drawing of a minstrel singer in blackface with a wide smile; a Hawley & Hazel executive came up with the logo after visiting the United States and seeing Al Jolson perform. The Chinese name on the box translated to "black man toothpaste."

Colgate-Palmolive acquired a 50% stake in Hawley in 1985. In 1989, the name of the toothpaste was changed to Darlie and the logo was changed to a racially ambiguous figure in a top hat. But Colgate said the product is under further review.

"We are currently working with our partner to review and further evolve all aspects of the brand, including the brand name," the company said in a statement.

B&G Foods Inc., which makes Cream of Wheat hot cereal, said Wednesday it is initiating "an immediate review" of its packaging. A smiling black chef holding a bowl of cereal has appeared on Cream of Wheat packaging and in ads since at least 1918, according to the company's web site.

"We understand there are concerns regarding the Chef image, and we are committed to evaluating our packaging and will proactively take steps to ensure that we and our brands do not inadvertently contribute

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to systemic racism," Parsippany, New Jersey-based B&G said in a statement.

Chicago-based Conagra Brands, which makes Mrs. Butterworth's syrup, said its bottles — which are shaped like a matronly woman — are intended to evoke a "loving grandmother." But the company said it can understand that the packaging could be misinterpreted. Critics have long claimed that the bottle's design is rooted in the "mammy" stereotype.

"We understand that our actions help play an important role in eliminating racial bias and as a result, we have begun a complete brand and packaging review on Mrs. Butterworth's," Conagra said in a statement.

The changes are the latest signal of the powerful cultural moment unleashed by the Black Lives Matter protests, which have spread around the world and prompted companies to rethink their policies and products.

On Thursday, Yelp announced it was partnering with My Black Receipt, a group that is encouraging people to spend \$5 million at black-owned businesses through July 4. Yelp said it's adding a free search function for consumers to easily find businesses that identify themselves as black owned.

AP Explains: US Supreme Court ruling on DACA program

By **ASTRID GALVAN** The Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the program that protects immigrants who were brought to the country as children and allows them to work. The court on Thursday ruled President Donald Trump didn't properly end the program, which then-President Barack Obama created in 2012. Trump attempted to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in 2017 shortly after being elected on a largely anti-immigrant platform. Here's what the high court's decision means:

WHAT IS DACA?

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program was created in 2012 by the administration of then-President Barack Obama. Obama was under pressure by young activists who staged sit-ins at congressional offices and protested outside the White House, seeking legislation that would address their immigration status. Largely known as Dreamers after the D.R.E.A.M. Act, the failed legislation that would have granted them a pathway to citizenship, these immigrants were brought to the U.S. as children and had grown up here.

DACA allows them to legally work and shields them from deportation. But it was limited to those who were between 15 and 30 years old, who were attending or graduated from high school and who didn't have a felony criminal record. The fee to apply and renew is nearly \$500.

Many original DACA recipients were college students who faced stark job prospects after graduation because they couldn't legally work. Now, many of the 650,000 people who are enrolled in DACA are working professionals; some are even parents and grandparents. At its height, nearly 800,000 people were enrolled in the program.

WHY DID PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TRY TO END DACA?

President Donald Trump, while campaigning in 2016, vowed to end DACA, but then softened his stance before finally having his administration announce its demise in September 2017. The administration argued the program was illegal and that although he didn't favor punishing children for the actions of their parents, "we must also recognize that we are nation of opportunity because we are a nation of laws." His administration has also cited a lower court's ruling striking down an expansion of DACA that would have applied to parents as another reason to end the program. Texas and other states threatened to sue the administration over the program after having sued to stop an expansion of it during the Obama years. Immigrant advocates filed legal challenges to Trump's decision, and appeals courts left the program alive, but only for people who were already enrolled. At a hearing before the justices last November, the administration's attorney argued that it had taken responsibility for its decision and that it had the authority to end DACA even if it is legal because it's bad policy.

"We own this," Solicitor General Noel Francisco said.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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On Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court said that while Trump could end the program, he did so improperly. That means the administration can try again if it chooses, as it did successfully when its 2017 travel ban was initially rejected in court. Experts say that's not likely to happen before the election in part because DACA has wide, bipartisan support among the American public. Even if it were to try again, it couldn't get through the federal rule-making process by the November elections.

The Supreme Court's decision to keep DACA intact means the 650,000 people who are enrolled will keep their protections, which last two years. But the program hasn't accepted any new applicants in a couple of years, and it's unclear whether people who would have qualified for the program but couldn't apply after Trump announced he was rescinding it will now be able to apply.

Sarah Pierce, a policy analyst at the Migration Policy Institute, said the Trump administration is unlikely to take new applicants without a lower court's order. "It's up in the air," Pierce said.

IS THERE ANOTHER SOLUTION?

There have been many efforts to pass legislation that would provide legal status and a path to citizenship for Dreamers, but even plans with bipartisan support have fallen flat. After Trump tried to end the program in 2017, he gave Congress six months to come up with a solution. They did not.

Pierce said she also is not hopeful that Congress will pass any legislation addressing Dreamers.

"They've been trying to legislate something on Dreamers for almost two decades now, and they haven't been able to do," Pierce said. "If the program continues administratively, I am not hopeful that Congress will move forward with any long-term changes, at least in the short term. Anything related to immigration is very political."

The last time Congress moved to pass a bill that would provide a pathway to citizenship, the administration had a long list of demands that pleased hardliners but cost broader support.

Decline in new US virus deaths may be temporary reprieve

By CARLA K. JOHNSON and NICKY FORSTER Associated Press

The number of deaths per day from the coronavirus in the U.S. has fallen in recent weeks to the lowest level since late March, even as states increasingly reopen for business. But scientists are deeply afraid the trend may be about to reverse itself.

"For now, it's too soon to be reassured that deaths are going down and everything's OK," said Dr. Cyrus Shahpar of Resolve to Save Lives, a nonprofit organization that works to prevent epidemics.

Deaths from COVID-19 across the country are down to about 680 a day, compared with around 960 two weeks ago, according to an Associated Press analysis of data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The analysis looked at a seven-day rolling average of deaths through Wednesday.

A multitude of reasons are believed to be at play, including the advent of effective treatments and improved efforts at hospitals and nursing homes to prevent infections and save lives.

But already there are warning signs.

For one thing, the number of newly confirmed cases per day has risen from about 21,400 two weeks ago to 23,200, the AP analysis found.

And in Florida, Georgia, Texas and Arizona — states that loosened their stay-at-home restrictions early — daily deaths have been quietly rising since early June, said Ali Mokdad, professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"These are not numbers. These are human beings," Mokdad said. "We're going to see a rise in deaths in many places in the United States."

The outbreak has killed about 118,000 people in the U.S. and nearly a half-million worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins' count, though the real numbers are believed to be higher. Potential vaccines are in early stages of testing, and it is unlikely any will be ready before early next year.

Experts note that a rise in deaths could take awhile to show up in the U.S. statistics. Stay-at-home orders imposed in March, combined with the use of face masks and other social-distancing measures, have been bringing down the daily death toll since mid-April, and the U.S. as a whole is still seeing the positive

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effects, even though people are starting to work, shop and eat out again.

Doctors watching for an uptick in deaths will be on the alert for certain signals to emerge in a specific order, Shahpar said.

First, cellphone data will show people moving around more. Next, doctors will report more flu-like illnesses, and the proportion of people testing positive for the virus will rise. Hospitalizations will then go up and, finally, so will deaths.

Several factors are believed to be pushing the curves for deaths and cases in opposite directions.

Rising case numbers can partially be explained by the wider availability of testing. Mild cases, previously undetected because of limits on who could be tested, are now showing up in the numbers.

As for the drop in deaths, "it is probably several things happening at once," said Dr. Shmuel Shoham, a professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Lessons learned from the "awful early days" are now benefiting the severely sick and people in nursing homes, Shoham said.

It looks that way in Washington state's King County, where the first nursing home outbreak in the U.S. killed 45 people at the Life Care Center in suburban Seattle. County data shows deaths in similar facilities declining over the past two months. And no single facility in the county has come close to the death toll at Life Care, which was struck unaware.

While it is unclear how much specific treatments may have contributed to the decline in deaths, doctors are trying antivirals such as remdesivir, plasma donated from people who have recovered from the virus and steroids such as dexamethasone, which grabbed attention this week with reports confirming it can save the lives of many of the sickest patients.

While all viruses mutate, scientists say the coronavirus so far is not changing in a way that has made it less deadly.

The decline in deaths this spring might well be tied in part to warmer weather as people spend more time outdoors where circulating air disperses the virus. But that does not bode well for the U.S. come this fall and winter.

Mokdad noted that deaths are on the rise in the Southern Hemisphere, where it's now winter.

"This virus is going to have a second wave. It's going to follow the pattern of pneumonia," he said. "What we're seeing in the Southern Hemisphere will be happening here."

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AP-NORC poll: Trump adds to divisions in an unhappy country

By JULIE PACE and EMILY SWANSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are deeply unhappy about the state of their country — and a majority think President Donald Trump is exacerbating tensions in a moment of national crisis, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

With less than five months until Election Day, the survey offers few bright spots for a president confronting a historic pandemic, a sharp economic decline and national outrage over police brutality against black people. Most Americans — including 63% of Republicans — say the country is heading in the wrong direction. And close to two-thirds — including 37% of Republicans — say Trump is making America more divided.

"Instead of bringing us all together, he's pulling us all apart," said Donna Oates, a 63-year-old retiree from Chino, California.

Oates said she was a Republican until March, when her mounting frustration with Trump and the GOP prompted her to change her voter registration to the Democratic Party. Trump's tenure, she said, has made her "dread getting up to turn on the TV and see any of the news."

That pessimism poses reelection challenges for Trump in his face-off against Democrat Joe Biden. Presidents seeking four more years in office typically rely on voters being optimistic about the direction the

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country is headed and eager to stay the course — a view most Americans don't currently hold.

Just 24% say the country is headed in the right direction, down from 33% a month ago and 42% in March. That's when the COVID-19 pandemic began taking hold in the U.S., killing nearly 120,000 Americans to date and upending most aspects of daily life.

Overall, 37% of Americans say they approve of Trump's handling of the coronavirus outbreak — a dip from 44% in March.

The fallout from the pandemic has been sweeping. Beyond the public health risks, the economy suffered from a sudden jolt as states implemented strict stay-at-home orders. Though some of those restrictions have started to ease and businesses in many places are now beginning to open, the unemployment rate still sits at 13.3%.

The nation has also been jarred by the deaths of George Floyd and other black Americans at the hands of police, which prompted protests across the nation. Trump responded aggressively to the protests, some of which became violent, and vowed to send the active-duty military into states that couldn't contain the demonstrations. The Pentagon publicly opposed that step and it was never carried out.

Trump's overall approval rating during this moment of tremendous upheaval sits at 39%. Though that's down slightly from the 43% who approved of his job performance in February and March, it's well within the narrow range where his ratings have stayed throughout his time in office. That suggests that the president's most enthusiastic supporters have remained loyal throughout the pandemic and other crises.

The president's strongest ratings continue to center on the economy, as has been the case throughout his tenure. About half of Americans say they approve of Trump's handling of the economy.

Still, that's down somewhat from 56% approval in March — a warning sign to Trump, who planned to run for reelection on a booming economy, that Americans are attuned to the shifting economic landscape. Even with the dip in the unemployment rate as some businesses reopen, economic forecasts for the rest of the year remain uncertain, particularly as new virus hot spots emerge. Trump's economic argument has shifted to focus on promises about what the nation's financial situation could look like in 2021 if he's given a second term in office.

The protests over police brutality against black Americans have proven to be a particularly searing moment for the nation, as well as Trump's presidency. And he gets low marks for his handling of them.

A majority of Americans — 54% — say Trump has made things worse during the unrest following the death of Floyd, an unarmed and handcuffed black man who died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly eight minutes. Seventy-two percent of black Americans and 51% of white Americans think Trump has made things worse following Floyd's death.

Floyd's death has prompted a broad discussion about the legacy of racism in America, with business leaders acknowledging inequality in the workplace, prominent brands reconsidering names rooted in racial stereotypes and statues of Confederate figures being taken down across the country.

Trump has expressed sadness over Floyd's death and backed some efforts to reform policing. But he's also questioned how systemic racism is in America and suggested that inequalities can largely be addressed by boosting the economy. Just 32% of Americans say they approve of Trump's handling of race relations, while 67% disapprove.

Views of Trump are particularly negative among black Americans, a group that votes overwhelmingly for Democrats, but one with which the president has been focused on boosting his support ahead of November.

About 9 in 10 black Americans disapprove of how Trump is handling his job overall, and roughly the same percentage disapprove of how he is handling race relations. Among white Americans, 45% approve of how Trump is handling his job overall and 37% approve of how he's handling race relations.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,310 adults was conducted June 11-15 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 3.7 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

Curtains for Camelot: Last Kennedy sibling's death ends era

By WILLIAM J. KOLE Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Camelot's inner circle is just about gone — though its spirit, some say, is very much alive. Wednesday's death of Jean Kennedy Smith, an acclaimed former U.S. ambassador to Ireland and the last surviving sibling of President John F. Kennedy, virtually erases those who were closest to the assassinated 35th U.S. president.

"This is sort of bringing down the curtain on one of America's three political dynasties — the Adamses, the Roosevelts and now the Kennedys," said Patrick Maney, a Kennedy scholar and retired professor of history at Boston College.

Only Ethel Kennedy, the 92-year-old wife of JFK's brother, Robert F. Kennedy — himself felled by an assassin's bullet five years later amid a mighty struggle for civil rights with echoes reverberating now in 2020 — remains with us.

"The world seems less bright today," said Victoria Reggie Kennedy, whose husband, former U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, another JFK brother, died in 2009.

Kennedy Smith, who died Wednesday at age 92 at her Manhattan home, is being hailed for playing a pivotal role in the peace process in Northern Ireland.

She was the eighth of nine children born to Joseph P. and Rose Kennedy. She married Kennedy family financial adviser and political strategist Stephen Edward Smith in 1956.

Several of her siblings tragically preceded her in death by decades.

Her siblings included older brother Joseph Kennedy Jr., killed in action during World War II; Kathleen "Kick" Kennedy, who died in a 1948 plane crash; the president assassinated in 1963; and the senator slain in 1968.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, the youngest of the Kennedy siblings, died of brain cancer in August 2009, the same month their sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver died.

And the relentless string of tragedies that have befallen the clan never seems to stop. Last summer, Saoirse Kennedy Hill, the 22-year-old granddaughter of Bobby Kennedy, fatally overdosed on drugs at the family's iconic compound on Cape Cod.

"Over the past several years, we've been reminded of the Kennedy family's many tragedies," Maney said. "(Kennedy Smith's) death makes us think of some of the triumphs of the family and their great accomplishments that still shape our lives today."

The JFK era was dubbed "Camelot" because the youthful president and his glamorous wife, Jacqueline Kennedy, evoked a sense of national optimism expressed in a line from a Broadway musical: "Don't let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot."

For a generation of Americans, the Democratic Party clan represented the closest thing the U.S. had to the royalty it has always admired elsewhere.

To be sure, vestiges of the Kennedy era are all around us.

There's still the sprawling Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port. The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate are major draws for visitors to Boston — or they were before the coronavirus pandemic temporarily shuttered them.

And Kennedys are still serving in or running for office and engaging in public service, in line with the most enduring quote from JFK's 1961 inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy III, who is RFK's grandson and the lone member of the political dynasty currently in elected office, is running for the U.S. Senate in Massachusetts.

On Thursday, he called Kennedy Smith an "incredible aunt" who led a "remarkable life."

Amy Kennedy, the wife of former U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island, is running for a House seat in New Jersey.

Others, like Joseph P. Kennedy II — a former congressional member who runs a program that helps the

poor heat their homes in winter — have found different ways to give back.

"It's hard to imagine another family having the broad range of impacts that the Kennedys did," said Darrell West, vice president and director of governance studies at the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington.

But with Jean Kennedy Smith's death coming at a time of hyperpartisanship, something is gone forever, West said, describing it as "the passing of the guard."

"That generation was the greatest generation," he said. "Since then, there have been so many problems. People worry about our ability to rise to the challenges that we face. It seems a very long time ago when the Kennedys were running the national government."

Maney sees modern American political history divided into two eras: Before Kennedy and Since Kennedy. "The Kennedys still have a hold on us in a way that nobody since that time has held a generation spell-bound," he said. "There's still something about the Kennedy mystique that remains."

Follow AP New England editor Bill Kole on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/billkole>

This story has been corrected to note that the "Camelot" reference to the JFK era originated not from Shakespeare's writings, but from a Broadway musical, and that Stephen Smith was a Kennedy political strategist, not White House chief of staff.

Billie Eilish gets 3-year restraining order for trespasser

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge has extended to three years a restraining order taken out by Billie Eilish against a man who repeatedly appeared at her Los Angeles home.

In a hearing, Superior Court Judge Dianna Gould-Saltman agreed to the extension of the May 11 order preventing 24-year-old Prenell Rousseau of Farmingville, New York from attempting to contact or coming within 100 yards (91 meters) of the 18-year-old pop star or her parents.

Eilish, her attorney and her parents phoned in to the hearing, held in a courtroom that was empty except for a reporter from The Associated Press and court staff because of tight coronavirus restrictions. All including the judge wore face masks.

The order also prohibits Rousseau from assaulting or harassing the family, or from coming near Eilish's workplaces.

Neither Rousseau nor an attorney for him appeared at the hearing. Messages left with possible relatives seeking comment from him were not immediately returned.

Eilish listened by phone but did not speak. Both of her parents answered yes when the judge asked them if they would like to be included in the order.

Eilish said in court documents that Rousseau showed "erratic behavior" as he appeared at the home she shares with her parents seven times on May 4 and 5 until he was finally arrested for trespassing.

Her attorney Mark D. Passin asked the judge for a five-year restraining order, but Gould-Saltman settled on three years after hearing that Rousseau had made no attempt to contact Eilish or her family outside of those two days.

The judge said she was not trying to minimize the threat, and emphasized that the order can be amended and extended if necessary.

In his first appearance at the home, Rousseau rang the doorbell and asked Eilish's father through the a surveillance camera whether she lived there, and persisted after he was told he had the wrong house.

The family called their private security service when he returned later the same evening.

"While we waited for security, Mr. Rousseau remained on our porch, sat down and began to read a book, while also continuing to engage in a periodic monologue," Eilish said in court documents. "My father repeatedly asked him to leave, but he refused."

The documents say Eilish and her family were frightened by Rousseau, in part because he did not wear

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a face mask in five of his appearances at the home, and repeatedly touched the doorbell and doorknob without gloves.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, June 19, the 171st day of 2020. There are 195 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 19, 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was approved by the U.S. Senate, 73-27, after surviving a lengthy filibuster.

On this date:

In 1775, George Washington was commissioned by the Continental Congress as commander in chief of the Continental Army.

In 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over, and that all remaining slaves in Texas were free — an event celebrated to this day as "Juneteenth."

In 1938, four dozen people were killed when a railroad bridge in Montana collapsed, sending a train known as the Olympian hurtling into Custer Creek.

In 1944, during World War II, the two-day Battle of the Philippine Sea began, resulting in a decisive victory for the Americans over the Japanese.

In 1945, millions of New Yorkers turned out to cheer Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was honored with a parade.

In 1952, the U.S. Army Special Forces, the elite unit of fighters known as the Green Berets, was established at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The celebrity-panel game show "I've Got A Secret" debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1953, Julius Rosenberg, 35, and his wife, Ethel, 37, convicted of conspiring to pass U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York.

In 1975, former Chicago organized crime boss Sam Giancana was shot to death in the basement of his home in Oak Park, Illinois; the killing has never been solved.

In 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law requiring any public school teaching the theory of evolution to teach creation science as well.

In 2006, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned North Korea it would face consequences if it test-fired a missile thought to be powerful enough to reach the West Coast of the United States.

In 2009, Texas billionaire R. Allen Stanford was indicted and jailed on charges his international banking empire was really just a Ponzi scheme built on lies, bluster and bribery. (Stanford was sentenced to 110 years in prison after being convicted of bilking investors in a \$7.2 billion scheme that involved the sale of fraudulent certificates of deposits.)

In 2013, actor James Gandolfini, 51, died while vacationing in Rome.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address to pin blame on Republicans for making life harder for the unemployed and for those who could lose their jobs without new federal intervention. Former NBA player Manute Bol, 47, died in Charlottesville, Virginia, after returning from a humanitarian trip to his birth country of Sudan.

Five years ago: The Obama administration released its annual terrorism report, which said Iran's support for international terrorist groups had remained undiminished in the last year and even expanded in some respects. Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees homered for his 3,000th career hit, becoming the 29th player in major league history to reach that milestone. (The Yankees beat the Detroit Tigers 7-2.) Author James Salter, 90, died in Sag Harbor, New York.

One year ago: The Trump administration ordered a sweeping about-face on Obama-era efforts to fight climate change, easing restrictions on coal-fired power plants. In a daylong interview with the House Ju-

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diciary Committee, former top White House adviser Hope Hicks refused to answer questions related to her time in the White House. Mexico's Senate voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new free trade agreement with the United States and Canada. (President Donald Trump signed the trade deal into law in January 2020.) Keith Raniere, the guru of a cult-like self-improvement group that attracted heiresses and Hollywood actress, was convicted in New York of turning his female devotees into his sex slaves.

Today's Birthdays: Pop singer Tommy DeVito (The Four Seasons) is 92. Actress Gena (JEH'-nuh) Rowlands is 90. Hall of Fame race car driver Shirley Muldowney is 80. Singer Elaine "Spanky" McFarlane (Spanky and Our Gang) is 78. Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi (soo chee) is 75. Author Sir Salman Rushdie is 73. Actress Phylicia Rashad is 72. Rock singer Ann Wilson (Heart) is 70. Musician Larry Dunn is 67. Actress Kathleen Turner is 66. Country singer Doug Stone is 64. Singer Mark DeBarge is 61. Singer-dancer-choreographer Paula Abdul is 58. Actor Andy Lauer is 57. Rock singer-musician Brian Vander Ark (Verve Pipe) is 56. Actor Samuel West is 54. Actress Mia Sara is 53. TV personality Lara Spencer is 51. Rock musician Brian "Head" Welch is 50. Actor Jean Dujardin is 48. Actress Robin Tunney is 48. Actor Bumper Robinson is 46. Actress Poppy Montgomery is 45. Alt-country singer-musician Scott Avett (AY'-veht) (The Avett Brothers) is 44. Actor Ryan Hurst is 44. Actress Zoe Saldana is 42. Former NBA star Dirk Nowitzki is 42. Actor Neil Brown Jr. is 40. Actress Lauren Lee Smith is 40. Rapper Macklemore (Macklemore and Ryan Lewis) is 38. Actor Paul Dano is 36. New York Mets pitcher Jacob DeGrom is 32. Actor Giacomo Gianniotti is 31. Actor Chuku Modu (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 30. Actor Atticus Shaffer is 22.

Thought for Today: "Exuberance is better than taste." — Gustave Flaubert, French author (1821-1880).
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