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Bahr is hired as Marshall County Sheriff

The following was printed in the Langford Bugle (effective July 1, the Langford Bugle will be merged with the Britton Journal to form the Marshall County Journal):

The Marshall County Commission hired a new sheriff effective July 1 at its regular meeting on Tuesday. Damian Bahr of Groton will complete the term of the late Dale Elsen who had served as Marshall County Sheriff since 1983. The sheriff's position will be up for election in 2022 with Bahr's appointment through Jan. 2, 2023. Brian Bard had been named the temporary sheriff when Elsen passed away from cancer last month and will continue as a deputy.

The new sheriff, who will be moving to Marshall County, has served as a fill-in deputy for Marshall County for the past 14 months and has worked with the Brown County Highway Department for the past 10 months. He has 20 years of law enforcement experience. He was on the Groton Police Department for 2 years, the Aberdeen Police Department for 4 years and the Brown County Sheriff's Office for 14 years. He will be paid \$60,000 per year.

Bahr was just elected to serve as councilman in Ward 2 in Groton.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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#117 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

I see some dark clouds moving in. I'm thinking it's time to change my approach to analysis to shift my focus from the "old news" states to some states with emerging problems. It will probably take a few days to work out just what I'll be doing, but don't be surprised when this numbers report takes a new shape.

We're at 2,232,400 cases in the US. New case numbers grew 12%, which we can hope is some sort of artifact of delayed reporting or a surge in testing or something, given growth has been running between 1.0 and 1.5% for well over a month. NY leads with 391,330 cases, holding below 1000 new cases for a thirteenth day. We have a new second-place state as NJ has been successfully managing its outbreak while cases have been surging in formerly third-place CA which reports 170,664 cases. NJ has 168,496 cases, holding below 500 new cases for a tenth day. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 136,917, TX – 107,314, MA – 106,650, FL – 89,740, PA – 85,288, MI – 67,300, and MD – 64,150. These ten states account for 62% of US cases. We have 2 more states over 50,000. 6 more states have over 40,000 cases, 3 more states have over 30,000 cases, 6 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 NY, NJ, OH, IN, TN, WA, MS, and MO. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, TX, FL, GA, NC, LA, AZ, and AL. States where new case reports are decreasing include IL, MA, PA, MI, MD, VA, CT, and MN. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 119,150 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths remained about the same, still over 500. NY has 30,816, NJ has 12,835, MA has 7799, IL has 6801, PA has 6446, MI has 6071, CA has 5426, and CT has 4238. All of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today. 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.

Tonight, I'm going to be brief; my brain needs a break. I can report that we look to be in some trouble. Any single day can vary with the vagaries of individual states' reporting processes, and that may be all we're looking at here; but it is worrisome to see new case reports slip above 30,000. We've been flirting with 20,000 for a couple of weeks and spent three consecutive days below it as recently as 10 days ago. Additionally, new case numbers hit record highs in several states: Florida, Arizona, Nevada, South Carolina, Oklahoma, and California. Florida broke yesterday's record high, as did Arizona. South Carolina has broken its record seven times in 11 days. Texas became the sixth state to break the 100,000 mark, and cases have doubled in a month. I've had a look at some hot-spot states and computed increases in total cases over the past week. I am seeing 35% increase in Arizona, 26% increase in South Carolina, 22% in Texas and Florida, and 20% in Oklahoma. These are large numbers. The CDC is projecting the death toll in the US could rise to 145,000 by July 11.

There's plenty to worry about tonight.

I'm going to leave you with a story from a country with a whole lot less cushion against the economic impact of this pandemic than we have here in the US, Zimbabwe. Half its population was dealing with food shortages before the pandemic hit; the health system was barely hanging on. They've been locked down

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since March, and more than 16 million people are struggling to make ends meet. The government says it has food aid sufficient for around a million.

This is the sort of problem that simply looks insurmountable. And maybe it is, but that doesn't stop some from doing what they can where they can. One such person is Samantha Murozoki, lawyer and mother of two. She started out wanting to feed a neighbor who had gone to bed hungry, and her small act of charity has grown into a community feeding project that brings in over two thousand people each day. She says, "It was mainly to cater to people I grew up with. Things escalated and I ended up feeding people from all over." Murozoki started by funding the meals out of her own pocket, but has since attracted contributions from the community to keep her going. When her act toward one neighbor had grown to feeding nearly 900 people by the end of the second week, she began to sell her clothing and "[a]nything I wasn't using at the time to trade for maize, cooking oil, salt, labor, so we could get the ball rolling." She has become something of a national heroine. And I have to admit she has at least one admirer here in the US.

See a need. Address the need.

A couple of years ago, I retired from a long career in the classroom. In my farewell address to my students at the 2018 Commencement, I told them, "When you behold a societal or community problem and think, 'Someone should do something about this,' remember: You're someone." We can all be someone if we choose.

That's it for tonight. Stay healthy. We'll talk tomorrow.

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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	June 20			
Minnesota	30,882	31,296	31,675	32,031			
Nebraska	17,031	17,226	17,415	17,591			
Montana	614	630	655	666			
Colorado	29,442	29,673	29,901	30,187			
Wyoming	866	884	906	927			
North Dakota	3124	3166	3193	3226			
South Dakota	5966	6050	6109	6158			
United States	2,137,731	2,163,290	2,191,200	2,222,600			
US Deaths	116,963	117,717	118,435	119,131			
Minnesota	+129	+414	+379	+356			
Nebraska	+180	+195	+189	+176			
Montana	+5	+16	+25	+11			
Colorado	+143	+231	+228	+286			
Wyoming	+10	+18	+22	+21			
North Dakota	+23	+42	+27	+33			
South Dakota	+38	+84	+59	+49			
United States	+26,109	+25,559	+27,910	+31,400			
US Deaths	+849	+754	+718	+696			

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June 19th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Three more deaths were recorded in South Dakota. All three were females in the 80+ age group. Two were from Pennington County and Jackson County recorded its first death.

Brown County:

Active Cases: 0 (23)
Recovered: +2 (296)
Total Positive: +2 (321)
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (16)
Deaths: 2
Negative Tests: +124 (2419)
Percent Recovered: 92.2 % (No change)

South Dakota:

Positive: +49 (6158 total)
Negative: +791 (65035 total)
Hospitalized: +4 (589 total). 95 currently hospitalized (up 2 from yesterday)
Deaths: +3 (81 total)
Recovered: +55 (5276) total)
Active Cases: -9 (801)
Percent Recovered: 85.7% +.2

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Butte +3 (384), Campbell 61, Haakon 187, Harding 34, Jones 24, Perkins 73, Potter +5 (157), unassigned +817 (5869).

Aurora: +1 positive, +1 recovered (28 of 34 recovered)
Beadle: +4 positive, +13 recovered (358 of 476 recovered)
Brookings: +1 positive, +1 recovered (30 of 47 recovered)
Brown: +2 positive, +2 recovered (296 of 321 recovered)
Brule: +2 positive, +1 recovered (6 of 15 recovered)
Buffalo: +2 recovered (32 of 58 recovered)
Charles Mix: +4 positive (17 of 45 recovered)
Clay: +3 recovered (53 of 70 recovered)
Codington: +1 recovered (40 of 47 recovered)
Corson: +1 positive, +3 recovered (9 of 13 recovered)
Custer: +1 positive (1 of 3 recovered)
Davison: +1 recovered (27 of 33 recovered)
Hughes: +2 positive, +1 recovered (20 of 29 recovered)
Jerauld: +1 positive, +1 recovered (35 of 39 recovered)
Lawrence: +1 positive (11 of 16 recovered)
Lincoln: +3 positive, +2 recovered (252 of 278)
Lyman: +4 positive, +4 recovered (24 of 44 recovered)
Meade: +1 positive, +2 recovered (26 of 41 recovered)
Mellette: +1 recovered (1 of 2 recovered)
Miner: +1 positive (2 of 4 recovered)
Minnehaha: +13 positive, +10 recovered (3265 of 3526 recovered)
Moody: +1 positive, +1 recovered (19 of 21 recovered)

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Oglala Lakota: +1 positive, +1 recovered (32 of 53 recovered)
Pennington: +7 positive, +6 recovered (277 of 437 recovered)
Sanborn: -1 positive, -1 recovered (12 of 13 recovered)
Spink: +1 positive (5 of 6 recovered)
Todd: +1 recovered (38 of 50 recovered)
Union: +1 positive, +2 recovered (100 of 114 recovered)
Yankton: +1 positive (53 of 64 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Spink): 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, Sully 1-1.

The NDDoH & private labs report 3,819 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 33 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 3,226. NDDoH reports one new death.

State & private labs have reported 148,099 total completed tests.
2,840 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	674	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	958	16%
Hispanic	1012	16%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	809	13%
Other	669	11%
White, Non-Hispanic	2036	33%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	6
Brown	2
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
Lincoln	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	54
Pennington	11
Todd	1
Union	1

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	34	28	233
Beadle	476	358	1239
Bennett	2	0	252
Bon Homme	11	8	519
Brookings	47	30	1388
Brown	321	296	2419
Brule	15	6	408
Buffalo	58	32	393
Butte	0	0	384
Campbell	0	0	61
Charles Mix	45	17	456
Clark	11	7	272
Clay	70	53	825
Codington	47	40	1665
Corson	13	9	113
Custer	3	1	373
Davison	33	27	1411
Day	13	13	361
Deuel	1	1	260
Dewey	4	0	753
Douglas	4	4	282
Edmunds	4	4	260
Fall River	6	4	506
Faulk	21	16	83
Grant	13	13	456
Gregory	1	1	206
Haakon	0	0	187
Hamlin	10	8	319
Hand	6	4	168
Hanson	3	2	107
Harding	0	0	34
Hughes	29	20	903
Hutchinson	10	7	612

Hyde	3	3	82
Jackson	6	2	263
Jerauld	39	35	216
Jones	0	0	24
Kingsbury	3	3	363
Lake	17	12	584
Lawrence	16	11	1085
Lincoln	278	252	3798
Lyman	44	24	556
Marshall	5	4	225
McCook	8	6	415
McPherson	3	3	154
Meade	41	26	1026
Mellette	2	1	152
Miner	4	2	162
Minnehaha	3526	3265	17388
Moody	21	19	408
Oglala Lakota	53	32	1602
Pennington	437	277	5373
Perkins	0	0	73
Potter	0	0	157
Roberts	40	37	876
Sanborn	12	12	164
Spink	6	5	713
Stanley	11	9	114
Sully	1	1	38
Todd	50	38	779
Tripp	9	6	289
Turner	25	23	563
Union	114	100	1164
Walworth	7	5	351
Yankton	64	53	1996
Ziebach	2	1	105
Unassigned****	0	0	5869

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2955	45
Male	3203	36

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	627	0
20-29 years	1265	1
30-39 years	1339	3
40-49 years	1005	5
50-59 years	979	12
60-69 years	551	13
70-79 years	206	7
80+ years	186	40

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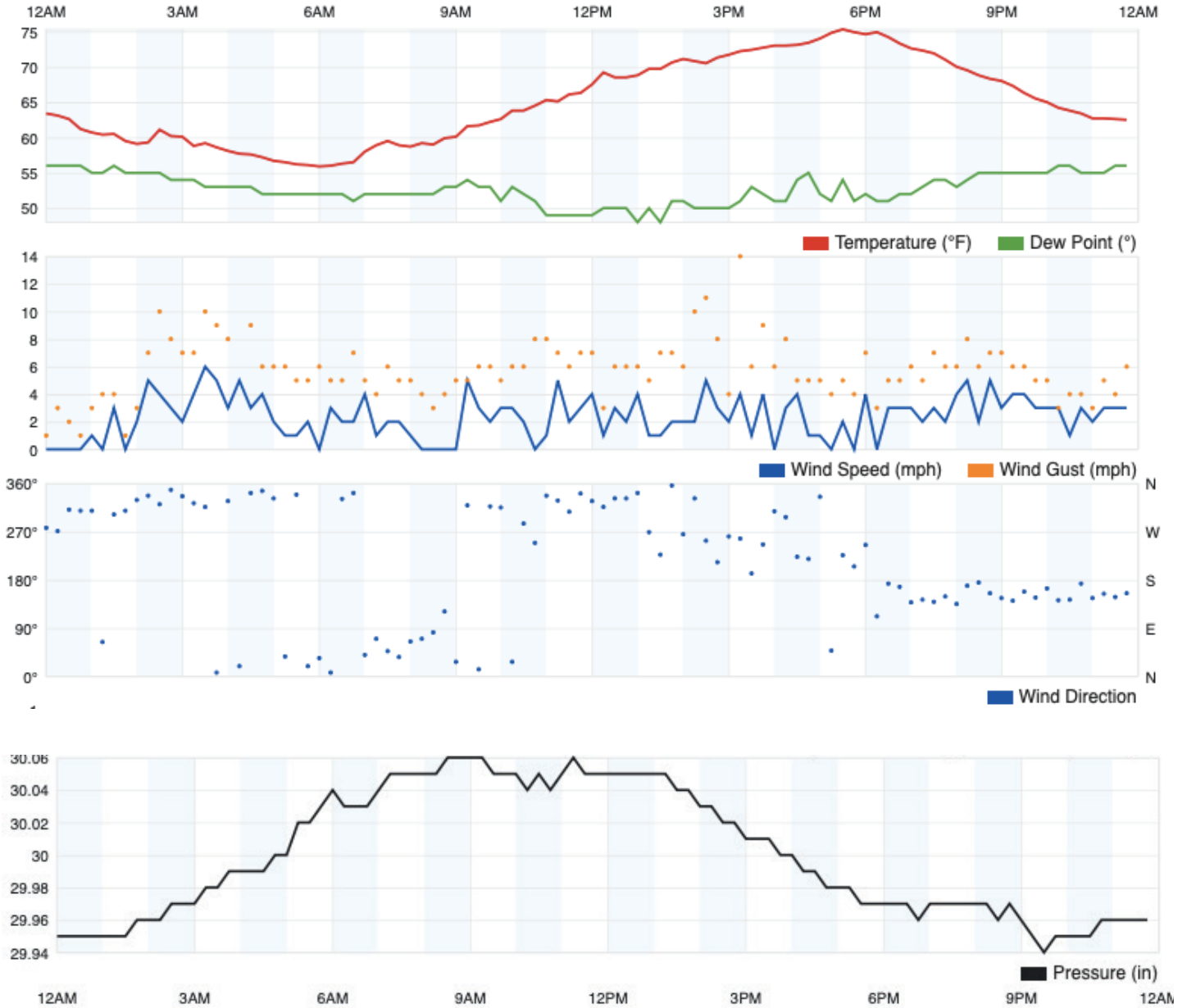
Baseball Schedule

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
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	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
				
Chance Showers then Severe Thunderstorms	Severe Thunderstorms	Partly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 79 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 73 °F

SLIGHT RISK of Severe T-Storms

ISSUED: 4:11 AM - Saturday, June 20, 2020

WHEN

This afternoon into the early evening hours. The highest risk period will be from 2 pm - 8 pm.

WHAT

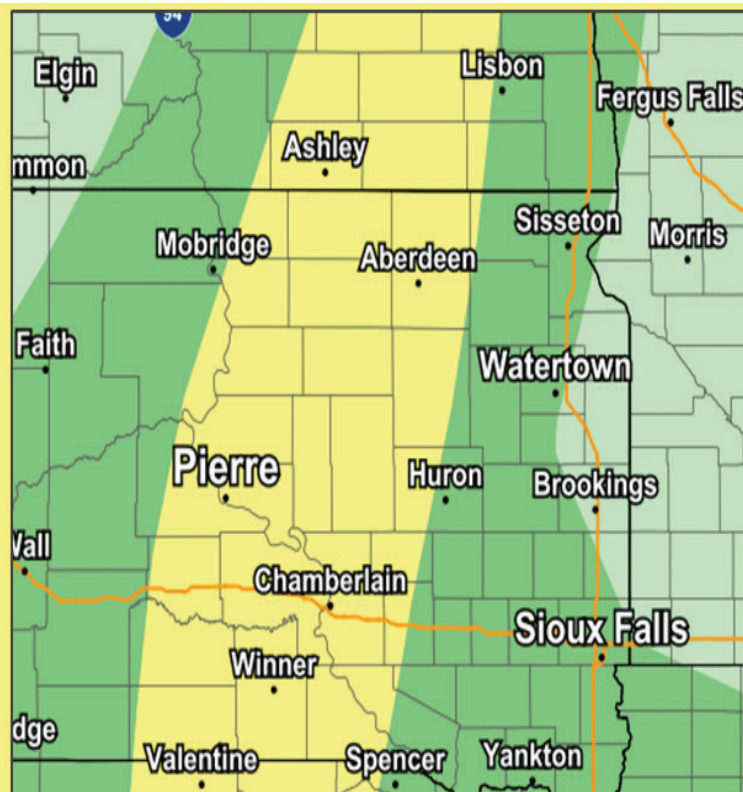
Scattered severe thunderstorms possible. These storms could produce **wind gusts of 60 to 70 mph and large hail.**

WHERE

Portions of central and northeast South Dakota. Areas with the greatest risk this afternoon are highlighted in yellow.

Impacts

Large hail and strong winds can lead to personal injury and property damage. Frequent lightning poses a hazard to life and livestock.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

MARGINAL	SLIGHT	ENHANCED	MODERATE
Isolated Severe Storms Possible	Scattered Severe Storms Possible	Numerous Severe Storms Possible	Widespread Severe Storms Likely

Portions of the forecast area have been outlooked in a "Slight Risk" for severe thunderstorms mainly this afternoon. The biggest threats associated with severe storms today are large hail, damaging winds, and frequent lightning. Keep an eye on the sky this afternoon, especially if your activities will have you outdoors.

Today in Weather History

June 20, 1957: An F2 tornado moved ENE from near Rockham to near Athol and Ashton. One person was killed as a mobile home was destroyed near the start of the path. Four barns were destroyed, and one house was unroofed.

Also on this day, an F5 tornado cut a swath through Fargo, North Dakota killing 10 and injuring at least 103 people. This tornado was the northernmost confirmed F5 tornado until the Elie, Manitoba tornado on June 22, 2007.

June 20, 1989: A meteorological "hot flash" hit Pierre. Descending air from collapsing thunderstorms caused the temperature in Pierre to warm from 86 degrees at midnight to 96 at one a.m. and to 104 at 2 a.m. Pierre's record high for the date of 105 degrees in 1974.

1970: Nesbyen, Norway reached 96 degrees on this day, becoming the warmest temperature recorded in Norway.

2001: Large hail driven by strong thunderstorm winds raked Denver International and front-range airports. Wind gusting to 54 mph along with hail as large as 2 inches in diameter punched at least 14 thousand holes and cracks in the flat roofs of several buildings at Denver International Airport. Also, 93 planes and hundreds of cars were damaged. About 100 flights had to be canceled stranding 1500 travelers. The Airport was completely shut down for about 20 minutes. The storm also damaged ground avoidance radar used to track planes on the ground to prevent collisions. Damage was estimated at 10 million dollars not counting the cost to the 93 airliners. The storm moved south and struck Watkins Colorado with hail as large as 2 1/2 inches in diameter and winds gusting to 60 mph.

1682 - A major tornado ripped through southwestern Connecticut, passing through Stratford, Milford, and New Haven, and then into Long Island Sound. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1921 - Circle, MT, received 11.5 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the state. The town of Circle received a total of 16.79 inches of rain that month to establish a rainfall record for any town in Montana for any month of the year. (The Weather Channel)

1928 - A farmer near Greensburg, KS, looked up into the heart of a tornado. He described its walls as rotating clouds lit with constant flashes of lightning and a strong gassy odor with a screaming, hissing sound. (The Weather Channel)

1964 - A squall line producing large hail swept through central Illinois. A second squall line moved through during the early morning hours of the 21st, and a third one moved through shortly after dawn. The series of hailstorms caused nine million dollars damage. Hailstones as large as grapefruit caused heavy damage to trees, utility lines, crops and buildings. The thunderstorms also produced as much as five inches of rain in an eight hour period. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms prevailed east of the Rockies, producing severe weather in the Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes in Colorado, and produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Goodland, KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-eight cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Flint, MI, and 104 degrees at Chicago, IL, equalled records for the month of June. Thunderstorms in North Dakota produced baseball size hail near Kief, and wind gusts to 100 mph near McGregor. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - An early morning thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 61 mph at Pierre, SD, and the hot thunderstorm winds raised the temperature from 86 degrees at midnight to 96 degrees by 1 AM, and 104 degrees by 2 AM. Butte, MT, and Yellowstone Park, WY, reported snow that afternoon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

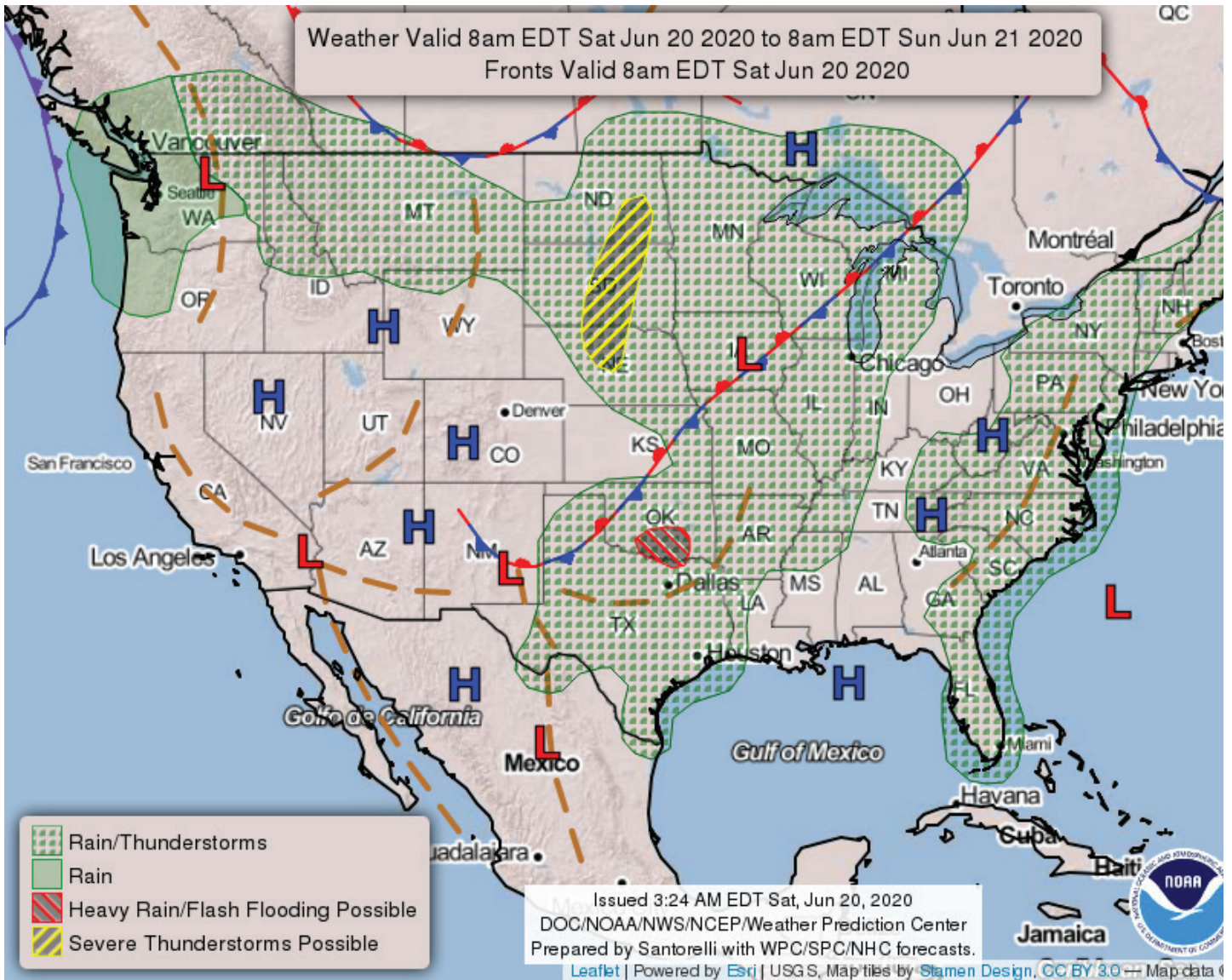
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 76 °F at 6:20 PM
Low Temp: 56 °F at 5:58 AM
Wind: 14 mph at 3:09 PM
Precip: .00

Record High: 101° in 1988
Record Low: 34° in 1969
Average High: 79°F
Average Low: 55°F
Average Precip in June.: 2.33
Precip to date in June.: 2.47
Average Precip to date: 9.47
Precip Year to Date: 7.10
Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



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EMPTY HANDS

Alexander the Great left an indelible mark on the world. In his early life, he was tutored by Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher, which shaped much of his thinking. By the age of thirty, he had created one of the largest empires in the ancient world. He was undefeated in battle and to this day is considered to be a military genius and is remembered as one of history's greatest commanders. He established over 30 cities as a result of his conquests and was responsible for spreading the Greek language and culture wherever his victories took him.

When individuals died during that period in history, it was customary for their hands to be wrapped in burial cloth. However, he decided that he would not follow that tradition. He said when he died he wanted people to see that his hands were empty.

When asked why he replied, "After all, we did not bring any money with us when we came into this world, and we can't carry away a single penny."

Paul echoed the same words. He said we brought nothing into the world with us when we came into the world, and we will certainly not take anything with us when we leave. He wants us to understand that one day whatever we have will be left behind when we go to meet God. The goal of the Christian is to lay up treasures in heaven by investing in God's Kingdom.

Prayer: Lord, it is natural to want the things of this world. They are attractive and appealing. Enable us to see "things" through Your eyes and use them for Your glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. 1 Timothy 6:6-8

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
- **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
- **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
- **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
- **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
- 07/24/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ferney Open Golf Tourney
- **CANCELLED** State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
- 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

11-34-36-52-66, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 2

(eleven, thirty-four, thirty-six, fifty-two, sixty-six; Mega Ball: seven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$26 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$25 million

Supreme Court upholds termination of Avera nurse

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has ruled a Sioux Falls hospital did not wrongfully fire a nurse after finding errors in her log of medication.

Avera McKennan Hospital terminated Stephanie Henning in 2016 after a routine medication log check turned up missing opioid pills.

Henning denied wrongdoing and sued Avera, claiming it wrongfully fired her and defamed her without sufficient evidence. The Second Circuit Court ruled in favor of Avera and Henning appealed, the Argus Leader reported.

The Supreme Court this week said claims of wrongful termination or breach of contract couldn't be met because Henning was an at-will employee.

It also said that defamation couldn't be proven because Henning couldn't show if Avera provided false information or acted with malice.

According to the court's ruling, a review of 16 charts from Henning's log found 12 areas of concern, including that the hospital could not account for 275 micrograms of fentanyl, and 3 milligrams each of Ativan, and hydromorphone.

The review also found that Henning did not scan 66 of the 669 medications to say whether they went to a patient, when and if there was any leftover, the ruling said.

Proclamation celebrates Juneteenth Day, but not a holiday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem has proclaimed Friday as Juneteenth Day in South Dakota to mark the traditional commemoration date of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

The proclamation does not carry the weight of making the day a state-recognized holiday as it is in most other states. Ian Fury, a spokesman for the Republican governor, said only an act of the Legislature can do that.

Deborah Evans, spokeswoman for the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, said she's glad South Dakota is taking a step with the proclamation.

Democratic Sen. Reynold Nesiba, of Sioux Falls, plans to propose legislation in the 2021 session to add Juneteenth to the list of state-recognized holidays.

Celebrating Juneteenth isn't limited to people who are the descendants of freed slaves, Nesiba told the Argus Leader. The day celebrates the "inclusive values of a more perfect union" and bringing the country closer to "liberty and justice for all."

At this particular time, it's important for South Dakotans to understand the nation's history, of which emancipation is "a powerful part," he said.

Republican Rep. Tom Pischke, of Dell Rapids, disagreed with Nesiba on Facebook, saying that Juneteenth becoming a state holiday would divide the state because it celebrates only a group of South Dakotans.

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"I don't think we should concentrate on anything that potentially divides us even more," he wrote.

This year, the annual celebration of freedom comes amid protests after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The death of Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, sparked worldwide protests over police brutality and racism. He died after Derek Chauvin, a white officer, used his knee to pin down Floyd's neck for several minutes as Floyd pleaded for air and eventually stopped moving.

Pandemic becomes a patchwork of small successes and setbacks

By KEN MORITSUGU and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Authorities in China appeared to be winning their battle against an outbreak of coronavirus in Beijing on Saturday, but in parts of the Americas the pandemic raged unabated. Brazil surpassed 1 million confirmed infections, second only to the United States.

Europe, in contrast, continued to emerge warily from lockdown, with hard-hit Britain considering easing social distancing rules to make it easier for restaurants, pubs and schools to reopen. In Italy, once the pandemic's European epicenter, Pope Francis told medics that their heroic efforts during the outbreak would help the country forge a future of hope and solidarity.

The head of the World Health Organization warned Friday that the pandemic is "accelerating" and that more than 150,000 cases were reported the day before — the highest single-day number so far.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva that nearly half of the newly reported cases were from the Americas, with significant numbers from South Asia and the Middle East.

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.

The global battle against COVID-19 is a patchwork of successes and setbacks at this point in the pandemic, quantified by the trajectory of the coronavirus in different countries.

In China, where the virus was first identified and where authorities hoped it had been vanquished, Beijing recorded a further drop in cases amid tightened containment measures. Officials reported 22 new cases in Beijing along with five others elsewhere in China. There were no new deaths and 308 people remained hospitalized for treatment.

South Korea, which has won global praise for its handling of the coronavirus, recorded 67 new cases, the largest 24-hour increase in about three weeks. Most of them come from the densely populated Seoul area, where about half of the country's 51 million people reside. Many cases have been linked to exposure in nightlife outlets.

Brazil's Health Ministry said the total number of cases had risen by more than 50,000 from the previous day. President Jair Bolsonaro still downplays the risks of the virus after nearly 50,000 fatalities in three months, saying the impact of social isolation on Brazil's economy could be more deadly.

South Africa continues to loosen lockdown measures under economic pressure, despite reporting nearly 4,000 more COVID-19 cases on Saturday. Casinos, beauty salons and sit-down restaurant service are among the latest permitted activities as the country eases one of the world's strictest lockdowns. South Africa has about 30% of the virus cases on the African continent, or more than 87,000.

South Africa and Ethiopia both said they are recommending the limited use of the commonly available steroid dexamethasone for all COVID-19 patients on ventilators or supplementary oxygen. In a British trial, the drug was shown to significantly improve survival chances for the most seriously ill.

South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said "this breakthrough is excellent news for us and we are especially fortunate that it came as we are preparing for our upcoming surge" in cases.

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

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government said it would announce next week whether it will ease social distancing rules that say people should remain 2 meters (6½ feet) apart. Business groups are lobbying for

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the distance to be cut to 1 meter (3 feet) to make it easier to restart the U.K.'s economy.

While many stores in Britain have reopened, pubs, hotels and restaurants won't be allowed to resume serving customers until July 4 at the soonest. Proposals to allow them to reopen safely include pubs having people order pints using phone apps rather than going to the bar.

The U.K. has Europe's highest and the world's third-highest official death toll from the pandemic, with more than 42,500 virus-related fatalities reported as of Saturday.

Italy, which for a time this spring had the most coronavirus cases and deaths in the world, continued receiving confirmation that the worst had receded.

Pope Francis welcomed doctors and nurses from the Lombardy region, Italy's financial and industrial capital and the center of its outbreak, to the Vatican on Saturday to thank them for their work and sacrifice.

Francis said Lombardy's medics "gave witness to God's proximity to those who suffer" and became literal "angels," helping the sick recover or accompanying them to their deaths when family members were prevented from visiting.

The northern region counted half of Italy's 34,500 COVID-19 deaths.

Meanwhile, Germany 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.

Many areas of Europe are dealing with new localized outbreaks, with some of the largest centered around meat-processing plants. German officials said Saturday that the number of workers infected at a slaughterhouse in the northwest of the country had risen to 1,029 but there was no evidence of "significant" spread beyond the workforce into the community.

French authorities were keeping a close eye on signs of an accelerating spread of the coronavirus in Normandy, a region that's until now been spared the worst of the outbreak that has hit Paris and the east of France particularly hard.

Lawless reported from London. Associated Press journalists from around the world contributed to this report.

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

Judge: Bolton can publish book despite efforts to block it

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge ruled Saturday that former national security adviser John Bolton can move forward in publishing his tell-all book despite efforts by the Trump administration to block the release because of concerns that classified information could be exposed.

The decision from U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth is a victory for Bolton in a court case that involved core First Amendment and national security concerns. But the judge also made clear his concerns that Bolton had "gambled with the national security of the United States" by opting out of a prepublication review process meant to prevent government officials from spilling classified secrets in memoirs they publish.

The ruling clears the path for a broader election-year readership and distribution of a memoir, due out Tuesday, that paints an unflattering portrait of President Donald Trump's foreign policy decision-making during the turbulent year-and-a-half that Bolton spent in the White House.

Nonetheless, Lamberth frowned upon the way Bolton went about publishing the book. Bolton took it "upon himself to publish his book without securing final approval from national intelligence authorities" and perhaps caused irreparable harm to national security, Lamberth said.

But with 200,000 copies already distributed to booksellers across the country, attempting to block its release would be futile, the judge wrote.

"A single dedicated individual with a book in hand could publish its contents far and wide from his local coffee shop," Lamberth wrote. "With hundreds of thousands of copies around the globe — many in news-

rooms — the damage is done. There is no restoring the status quo.’

DOJ tries to oust US attorney investigating Trump allies

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department moved abruptly Friday night to oust Geoffrey S. Berman, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan overseeing key prosecutions of President Donald Trump’s allies and an investigation of his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani. But Berman said he was refusing to leave his post and his ongoing investigations would continue.

“I have not resigned, and have no intention of resigning, my position,” Berman said. His statement came hours after Attorney General William Barr said Berman was stepping down from his position.

The standoff set off an extraordinary clash between the Justice Department and one of the nation’s top districts, which has tried major mob and terror cases over the years. It is also likely to deepen tensions between the Justice Department and congressional Democrats who have pointedly accused Barr of politicizing the agency and acting more like Trump’s personal lawyer than the nation’s chief law enforcement officer.

The move to oust Berman also comes days after allegations surfaced from former Trump national security adviser John Bolton that the president sought to interfere in an Southern District of New York investigation into the state-owned Turkish bank in an effort to cut deals with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Barr offered no explanation for why he was pushing out Berman in the statement he issued late Friday. The White House quickly announced that Trump was nominating the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission to the job, a lawyer with virtually no experience as a federal prosecutor.

Hours later, Berman issued his own statement saying he had learned that he was being pushed out through a press release. He vowed to stay on the job until a Trump nominee is confirmed by the Senate, challenging Barr’s power to remove him from office because he was appointed to the job by federal judges, not by the president. Under federal law, a U.S. attorney who is appointed by district court judges can serve “until the vacancy is filled.”

The Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel argued in a 1979 opinion that the “power to remove a court-appointed U.S. Attorney rests with the President.”

“The President is responsible for the conduct of a U.S. Attorney’s Office and therefore must have the power to remove one he believes is an unsuitable incumbent, regardless of who appointed him,” the opinion argues.

A senior Justice Department official said the department was pressing forward with its plans and will have Craig Carpenito, the U.S. attorney in New Jersey, take over the office temporarily, starting on July 3. The official wasn’t authorized to speak publicly about the issue and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Democrats have repeatedly accused Trump’s Justice Department of political interference, and those concerns have also been pervasive among some rank and file officials in the agency. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler said his committee was inviting Berman to testify next week.

Federal prosecutors in New York have overseen numerous prosecutions and investigations with ties to Trump in recent years. That includes an ongoing investigation into Giuliani’s business dealings, including whether he failed to register as a foreign agent, according to people familiar with the probe. The people were not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The office has also prosecuted a number of Trump associates, including Trump’s former personal lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen, who served a prison sentence for lying to Congress and campaign finance crimes.

Berman has also overseen the prosecution of two Florida businessmen, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, who were associates of Giuliani and tied to the Ukraine impeachment investigation. The men were charged in October with federal campaign finance violations, including hiding the origin of a \$325,000 donation to a group supporting Trump’s reelection.

Attention refocused on the Southern District this week after news organizations, including The Associated Press, obtained copies of Bolton’s tell-all book. Bolton alleges in the book that Trump sought to cut a deal to stop federal prosecutors in New York from investigating whether Halkbank violated U.S. sanctions

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against Iran in order to free an American pastor imprisoned in Turkey.

Six weeks after the pastor's release, Bolton writes that on a call with the Turkish president, "Trump then told Erdoğan he would take care of things, explaining that the Southern District prosecutors were not his people, but were Obama people, a problem that would be fixed when they were replaced by his people."

The White House is seeking to block the public release of Bolton's book, saying it is being published without formal authorization that the manuscript was free of classified information.

The episode Bolton describes occurred months after Berman assumed the role of U.S. attorney.

A Republican who contributed to the president's election campaign, Berman worked for the same law firm as Giuliani and was put in his job by the Trump administration. But as U.S. attorney, he won over some skeptics after he went after Trump allies, and had a direct hand in other investigations that have angered the president.

Berman was appointed by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions in January 2018, after Preet Bharara, then US attorney in New York, was fired. Bharara had refused to resign along with dozens of other federal prosecutors appointed by President Barack Obama.

Months later, FBI agents raided Cohen's offices, an act the president decried as a politically motivated witch hunt. Berman recused himself from Cohen's prosecution though it was never explained why.

The following April, in the absence of a formal nomination by Trump, the judges in Manhattan federal court voted to appoint Berman to the position permanently. The White House never said why Trump didn't formally nominate Berman.

Yet the links between the White House and some of Berman's investigations were clear. His office subpoenaed Trump's inaugural committee for a wide range of documents as part of an investigation into various potential crimes, including possible illegal contributions from foreigners to inaugural events.

And weeks before the 2018 midterm election, Berman announced insider trading charges against an ardent Trump supporter, Republican Rep. Chris Collins. Collins, who represented western New York, has since resigned.

Under Berman's tenure, his office also brought charges against Michael Avenatti, the combative lawyer who gained fame by representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in lawsuits involving Trump. Avenatti was convicted in February of trying to extort Nike after prosecutors said he threatened to use his media access to hurt Nike's reputation and stock price unless the sportswear giant paid him up to \$25 million.

The White House said in a statement Friday that Trump is nominating SEC Chairman Jay Clayton to the post. Before taking the reins at the SEC, Clayton was a well-connected Wall Street lawyer who represented and advised a number of major companies, including Goldman Sachs, Barclays, Deutsche Bank and UBS.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Marcy Gordon in Washington and Tom Hays and Larry Neumeister in New York contributed to this report.

China to establish national security bureau in Hong Kong

BEIJING (AP) — China plans to establish a special bureau in Hong Kong to investigate and prosecute crimes considered threatening to national security, the state-run news agency said Saturday, as it reported on details of a controversial new national security law Beijing is imposing on the semi-autonomous territory.

In addition to establishing the national security bureau, bodies in all Hong Kong government departments, from finance to immigration, will be directly answerable to the central government in Beijing, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The announcement is sure to increase concerns that China's central government will continue to tighten its grip on Hong Kong. Beijing has said it is determined to press ahead with the national security legislation — which has been strongly criticized as undermining the Asian financial hub's legal and political institutions — despite heavy criticism from within Hong Kong and abroad.

The details of the proposed national security law emerged as the body that handles most lawmaking for China's top legislative body closed its latest meeting. The bill was raised for discussion at the meeting

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of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress but there was no further word on its fate, Xinhua said.

Tam Yiu-chung, Hong Kong's sole delegate on the Standing Committee, told Hong Kong public broadcaster RTHK that the law was reviewed but no vote had been taken, and that it wasn't clear when it would be further vetted. The Standing Committee meets every two months.

The bill was submitted Thursday for deliberation, covering four categories of crimes: secession, subversion of state power, local terrorist activities and collaborating with foreign or external foreign forces to endanger national security.

The bill has received heavy criticism, including from the U.S., which says it will revoke some of the preferential conditions extended toward Hong Kong after its transfer from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

Britain has said it will offer passports and a path to citizenship to as many as 3 million Hong Kong residents. Group of Seven leading economies called on China to reconsider its plans, issuing a joint statement voicing "grave concern" over the legislation that is said would breach Beijing's international commitments as well as the territory's constitution.

Beijing has repeatedly denounced the moves as rank interference in its internal affairs.

Li Zhanshu, the ruling Communist Party's third-ranking official and head of the National People's Congress, presided over the meeting of the Standing Committee, which handles most legislative tasks in between the annual sessions of the full and largely ceremonial congress.

In its full session last month, the congress ratified a decision to enact such legislation at the national level after Hong Kong's own Legislative Council was unable to do so because of strong local opposition. Critics say the law could severely limit free speech and opposition political activity.

Legal experts say Beijing's justifications for the law are debatable.

The Hong Kong Bar Association on Friday called on the city's government to reveal details of the bill and warned that the law's enforcement in Hong Kong risked setting up a system of conflicting parallel legal standards dominated by Beijing.

"It raises the question whether individuals will be tried within the criminal justice system in (Hong Kong) by the Hong Kong courts or sent to the Mainland for trial and serve any terms of imprisonment in Mainland prisons," the bar association said in a statement emailed to reporters.

China acted following widespread and sometimes violent anti-government protests in Hong Kong last year that Beijing saw as a dangerous campaign to split the territory from the rest of the country. The protests were initially spurred by opposition to proposed legislation that could have seen criminal suspects sent to the mainland for trials in China's highly opaque legal system, along with possible torture and abuse. The extradition bill was eventually scrapped.

China has sought to assuage concerns by saying the new legislation would only target "acts and activities that severely undermine national security," according to Xinhua.

The legislation is broadly seen as an additional measure further eroding the legal distinctions between Hong Kong and mainland China.

Earlier this month, Hong Kong's legislature approved a contentious bill making it illegal to insult the Chinese national anthem after pro-democracy lawmakers boycotted the vote out of protest.

Senior opposition figures have also been arrested for taking part in demonstrations, and questions have arisen over whether the national security legislation will be used to disqualify pro-democracy candidates in September's elections for the Beijing-controlled Legislative Council.

AP FACT CHECK: In time of trauma, Trumps congratulates self

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump prefaced the revival of his campaign rallies with days of self-congratulation, a familiar pattern that has not been disturbed by the traumas of this time.

He devoted attention to the Obama administration, trashing it even while claiming some of its achievements as his own. Perhaps most brazenly, he claimed credit for reducing suicides by veterans and offering

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them same-day emergency mental health counseling at Department of Veterans Affairs centers, achievements he inherited and did not build on.

Trump has been preparing for his Tulsa, Oklahoma, rally on Saturday night, which shaped up to be the first indoor event of such a massive scale since the coronavirus pandemic took hold. Some public health officials implored him to move it outside or postpone it, fearing the event would spread sickness and death. Large crowds were expected both inside and outside.

A look at claims and the reality from the past week:

VIRUS THREAT

TRUMP: "Biden got failing grades and polls on his clueless handling of the Swine Flu H1N1. It was a total disaster, they had no idea what they were doing." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: This is a distorted history of a pandemic in 2009 that killed far fewer people in the United States than the coronavirus is killing now. For starters, Joe Biden, as vice president, wasn't running the federal response. Federal public health officials were not at all flying blind when the H1N1 pandemic, also known as swine flu, came to the U.S.

Then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's flu surveillance network sounded the alarm after two children in California became the first people diagnosed with the new flu strain in this country.

About two weeks later, the Obama administration declared a public health emergency and CDC began releasing anti-flu drugs from the national stockpile to help hospitals get ready. In contrast, Trump declared a state of emergency in early March, seven weeks after the first U.S. case of COVID-19 was announced.

More than 119,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S. The CDC puts the U.S. death toll from the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic at about 12,500.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE: "Oklahoma has really been in the forefront of our efforts to slow the spread. And in a very real sense, they've flattened the curve. ... The number of cases in Oklahoma — it's declined precipitously." — remarks Monday.

THE FACTS: The curve has actually been spiking higher since late May, not flattening.

Oklahoma did report just 41 new coronavirus cases on May 28, a relative low compared with early April. But infections have since increased. Last weekend, the state posted sharply higher numbers and set a daily record of new cases on Thursday, at 450.

Oklahoma is among the nearly half the states that have seen coronavirus infections rise since May when governors began loosening social distancing orders and as more people were able to get tests.

In Tulsa, the infection rate is also rising steadily after remaining moderate for months. The four-day average number of new cases in the city has doubled from the previous peak in April. The city's health department director, Dr. Bruce Dart, urged that the rally be postponed, noting that large indoor gatherings are partially to blame for the recent spread.

JUNETEENTH

TRUMP: "I did something good: I made Juneteenth very famous. ... It's actually an important event, an important time. But nobody had ever heard of it." — Wall Street Journal interview Wednesday.

THE FACTS: It's not true that no one had heard of it. No doubt it is better known now.

Trump's campaign originally scheduled its Tulsa rally for Friday, placing it on the date symbolizing the end of slavery, June 19; Trump agreed to shift it to Saturday. Over two days in 1921, whites looted and burned Tulsa's black Greenwood district to the ground, killed up to 300 black Tulsans and forced survivors into internment camps.

Trump's comment that no one knew about Juneteenth before the furor created by his rally is contradicted by the years of festivities, the official commemorations by all but a few state governments and routine White House acknowledgments of the occasion.

Trump's staff members have put out statements under his name each year of his presidency marking Juneteenth.

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"Melania and I send our best wishes for a memorable celebration to all those commemorating Juneteenth," says the 2019 statement outlining events of June 19, 1865, when Union troops arrived at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were free.

POLICE PRACTICES

TRUMP, on abusive policing: "President Obama and Vice President Biden never even tried to fix this during their eight-year period. The reason they didn't try is because they had no idea how to do it." — Tuesday at the White House.

THE FACTS: That is false.

Under the Obama administration, the Justice Department opened 25 wide-ranging civil rights investigations into local law enforcement agencies across the country, including police departments in Chicago, Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri.

Those investigations were aimed at overhauling troubled departments with patterns of civil rights abuses and generally resulted in court-enforceable consent decrees requiring the agencies to commit to a series of fundamental changes with regard to the use of force, stops, searches and more.

Besides that, the Obama White House established a task force to come up with best policing practices and to recommend ways to improve community trust while also reducing crime. That task force released its report in 2015.

That year, President Barack Obama barred the government from supplying certain types of military equipment to local police departments, a policy Trump reversed two years later.

Public pressure may be more intense on Congress now to pass sweeping laws on policing, after nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. But the limited steps Trump took Tuesday steered around Congress.

VACCINES

TRUMP, on scientists: "These are the people – the best, the smartest, the most brilliant anywhere, and they've come up with the AIDS vaccine. They've come up with ... various things." — Tuesday at the White House.

THE FACTS: No one has come up with a vaccine for AIDS, nor is there a cure. Nearly 38,000 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in the U.S. and about 1.7 million globally in 2018, according to the latest totals.

Powerful medicines have turned HIV into a manageable chronic condition for many patients, leading to major global efforts to get those drugs to more of the people who need them.

In addition, taking certain anti-HIV drugs every day also can work as prevention, dramatically reducing the chances that someone who is still healthy becomes infected through sex or injection drug use. A small fraction of the Americans who might benefit use that "preexposure prophylaxis."

Yet there is "no vaccine available that will prevent HIV infection or treat those who have it," says the U.S. Health and Human Services Department in outlining efforts to develop one.

Trump may have been trying to correct himself when he followed up with the comment that science has "various things" for AIDS.

As for a vaccine to end the coronavirus pandemic, Trump appears confident one will be ready by the end of the year, but public health authorities warn there's no guarantee that any of the candidates currently being tested will pan out. Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health says a vaccine by year's end is conceivable only if everything goes right in final testing this summer.

VETERANS

TRUMP, talking what he's done for veterans: "Every VA medical facility now offers same-day emergency mental health, something we didn't have or even come close to having." — remarks Wednesday.

THE FACTS: That's false. Same-day mental health service started at VA before Trump took office in January 2017.

The VA's effort to provide same-day primary and mental health care when medically necessary at every

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VA medical center was publicized in April 2016, during the Obama administration. By late 2016, the department's blog announced that goal would be achieved by year's end.

A Dec. 23, 2016, article in the Harvard Business Review cited new same-day services at all VA hospitals as evidence of notable progress at the department. David Shulkin, then VA secretary, told Congress in late January 2017 the services already were fully in place.

TRUMP, on efforts to reduce the suicide rate by veterans: "We're working very hard on this problem, and I think we've made a tremendous amount of progress. I even noticed your number: 20. Twenty is different than 24. You know what that means: each day. Hard to believe. Each day. But 20 is a big difference, and we're getting it way down." — remarks Wednesday.

THE FACTS: No. The veterans' suicide rate hasn't improved at all during Trump's administration. Suicides have gone up by the latest measure.

The VA estimated in 2013 that 22 veterans were taking their lives each day on average (not 24, as Trump put it). But the estimate was based on data submitted from fewer than half the states. In 2016, VA released an updated estimate of 20 suicides per day, based on 2014 data from every state as well as the Pentagon. That's the figure Trump wrongly claimed as his own.

Last fall, VA changed how it counted, removing some active-duty service members and former members of the National Guard and Reserve who had been in the mix. That left a suicide rate of 17 per day by military veterans, a change that reflected no improvement but merely a different methodology.

For 2017, VA reported 6,139 suicides by military veterans, up by 139 from the year before.

CHILDREN & COVID-19

TRUMP: "They've come out of this at a level that's really inconceivable. By the way, the regular flu, other flus, other things, SARS or H1N1, any of them, if you look at the young people they were affected like everybody else, but for whatever reason with respect to COVID, the numbers are very, very low." — remarks Monday.

THE FACTS: Although it's true that children are less likely than adults to develop COVID-19, the CDC has nevertheless counted more than 86,000 infections by the virus in Americans younger than 18.

Trump's statements overlook severe COVID-19 illnesses and some deaths of children in the U.S., even though kids in general tend to get less sick from it than adults do. He also glosses over the fact that kids can spread disease without showing symptoms themselves.

The CDC in April studied the pandemic's effect on different ages in the U.S. and reviewed preliminary research in China, where the coronavirus started. It said social distancing is important for children, too, for their own safety and that of others.

"Whereas most COVID-19 cases in children are not severe, serious COVID-19 illness resulting in hospitalization still occurs in this age group," the CDC study says.

Last month, the CDC also warned doctors to be on the lookout for a rare but life-threatening inflammatory reaction in some children who've had the coronavirus. The condition had been reported in more than 100 children in New York, and in some kids in several other states and in Europe, with some deaths.

JUDGES

TRUMP: "These horrible & politically charged decisions coming out of the Supreme Court are shotgun blasts ... Do you get the impression that the Supreme Court doesn't like me?" — tweets Thursday.

THE FACTS: Whether justices like or dislike a president is irrelevant to their rulings.

Trump was referring to two major decisions this past week on LGBT rights and immigration in which the conservative-leaning Supreme Court handed him defeats. But they were nothing personal.

Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the court's liberals in both cases. Also ruling against Trump in the LGBT case was Justice Neil Gorsuch, one of Trump's two appointees.

Roberts has sought to emphasize the judiciary's independence from the political branches of government

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and make clear that justices are not "politicians in robes." After Trump in 2018 went after a judge who ruled against his migrant asylum order, calling him an "Obama judge," Roberts issued an extraordinary rebuke.

"We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges," Roberts said in response to an inquiry from The Associated Press. "What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them."

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Luran Neergaard, Jessica Gresko and Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

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

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China claims valley where Indian, Chinese soldiers brawled

By EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — China said the Galwan Valley high up in the Himalayan border region where Chinese and Indian troops engaged in a deadly brawl this week falls entirely within China, boldly renewing claims on the disputed area as the Asian giants continued using military and diplomatic channels to try to reduce tensions on Saturday.

The confrontation in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region along the Himalayan frontier, was the deadliest between the two countries in 45 years. India blames China for instigating the fight by developing infrastructure in the valley, which it said was a breach of the agreement of what area remained in dispute.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in a statement Friday that "the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control in the west section of the China-India boundary."

He blamed incursions by Indian troops in the area from early May for a midnight clash on Monday that left 20 Indian soldiers dead. China has not said whether it suffered any casualties.

Soldiers brawled with clubs, rocks and their fists in the thin air at 4,270 meters (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 valley falls within 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.

Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava repeated on Saturday that China's claims to the valley were "exaggerated and untenable."

"They are not in accordance with China's own position in the past. Indian troops are fully familiar with the alignment of the (Line of Actual Control) in all sectors of the India-China border areas, including in the Galwan Valley. They abide by it scrupulously here, as they do elsewhere," Srivastava said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a meeting with political opposition leaders on Friday that no one "has intruded into our territory, nor taken over any post."

Modi said India was "hurt and angry" about the deaths of its troops. He said India wanted peace and friendship, but had the "capability that no one can even dare look toward an inch of our land."

Also on Friday, Zhao, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said that China was not holding any Indian soldiers, without addressing media reports that China had released 10 of them late Thursday.

"My information is that at present there are no Indian personnel detained on the Chinese side," Zhao said, according to an English version of his daily briefing posted on the ministry's website.

Indian officials have denied that any soldiers were in Chinese custody.

Lawmakers use protest momentum to push state racial reforms

By ADAM BEAM and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The racial reckoning sweeping the country after the killing of George Floyd in police custody has generated momentum at state capitols for widespread reforms addressing a range of inequities.

Lawmakers have floated proposals to address affirmative action, racial disparities in school funding and health care, criminal justice reforms and even study reparations for slavery.

The efforts go beyond policing reforms to focus on systemic racism that has stubbornly pervaded public life for decades. They are prompting “very real conversations I didn’t think the country has ever really had because none of them are comfortable,” said Sydney Kamlager, a member of the Legislative Black Caucus in the California state Assembly.

“If you’re just talking about police and you’re not looking at the rest of the spectrum, then you’re really not focused on change,” she said.

Success has been mixed. While advocates in California have celebrated a string of recent legislative victories, lawmakers in New Hampshire refused to make an exception to their rules for a Democratic lawmaker who sought to introduce a bill examining racial bias and discrimination in the state’s corrections, judicial and police systems.

“I think it can wait,” said New Hampshire state Rep. Jack Flanagan, a Republican.

State Rep. Renny Cushing wanted to create a commission to collect data and make recommendations in areas such as training for police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, corrections officers and parole officers. He can try again in a few months.

“I grew up in this state and I hear people say, ‘We don’t have a problem with race in this state because we’re all white,’” Cushing said. “That in itself is a problem — that’s what unconscious bias is.”

Democratic lawmakers in Pennsylvania also are trying to capitalize on the moment to address racial bias in the judicial system. In Massachusetts, a Democratic lawmaker wants to overhaul state education spending to funnel more money to schools with high numbers of minority students. And in Ohio, separate resolutions would declare racism a public health crisis.

Lawmakers aren’t waiting in California, where a number of bills that have struggled to pass for years are suddenly sailing through the Legislature. Last week, the state Assembly overwhelmingly approved legislative that would let voters decide whether to overturn the state’s 1996 ban on affirmative action in government and public colleges and universities.

On Thursday, the state Senate passed a bill to make ethnic studies a graduation requirement in the California State University system, the country’s largest four-year public university with 23 campuses and more than 481,000 students. The bill had been languishing in the chamber for more than a year.

“Everybody has become a reformer,” said state Assemblywoman Shirley Weber, chairwoman of the Legislative Black Caucus.

Weber is the driving force behind another proposal that has received renewed attention — studying how California could offer reparations for slavery. The idea has been debated for decades, mostly at the federal level. Bills proposing a federal study have been in Congress since 1989 but have failed to pass.

California entered the Union in 1850 as a free state, meaning it never had a government-sanctioned system of slavery. But the state allowed slave-owning whites to bring their slaves to California, and the Legislature passed a law making it legal to arrest runaway slaves and return them to their owners.

California’s bill would establish an eight-member task force to study the effects of slavery and its “legacy of structural discrimination.” The committee would recommend how the state could compensate black people, which doesn’t necessarily mean cash. Weber, the bill’s author, said other ideas include paying for college education or helping people buy homes.

“We resisted defining what would happen. That limits the bill itself,” Weber said..

Other states have sought to couple their coronavirus relief efforts with racial justice issues. In Pennsylva-

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nia, Democratic lawmakers have fused a police reform and racial justice agenda with a pandemic recovery platform under the banner of a "just recovery." While Democrats have a minority in both of Pennsylvania's legislative chambers, they have had success in shaping how the state is spending federal coronavirus aid.

In Massachusetts, state Rep. Russell Holmes said a priority will be finding an extra \$1 billion over the next few years for struggling school systems.

"From a black and Latino perspective, that is primarily in our cities," he said.

Ohio could go further by declaring racism a public health crisis.

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus said resolutions in the House and Senate would officially acknowledge racism in Ohio for the first time. They call for increased spending to address the effects of racism in education, housing, criminal justice and health care.

"We have to look at this resolution as a way of re-educating the public," said state Rep. Stephanie Howse, the caucus president.

The Senate resolution had a hearing earlier this month and has three Republican co-sponsors. But the House resolution, which is cosponsored entirely by Democrats, has yet to have a hearing in the Republican-controlled chamber.

"(House leaders) have made it absolutely clear they are not on the side or of the belief black Ohioans deserve to be recognized as full citizens of this state," Howse said.

Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder, a Republican, told reporters he agrees racism is a public health crisis and that his chamber is taking the proposed resolution seriously. He pointed to several pieces of legislation passed by the House that he said partly respond to Democrats' concerns, but he agreed it's not enough.

"I think this chamber has been attentive to the needs of black Ohioans, and we continue to do that and are open to discussion and also trying to pass meaningful legislation that will help the situation," Householder said.

The House failed to act on the resolution before lawmakers left for summer break.

Amiri reported from New York.

Associated Press writes Steve LeBlanc in Boston; Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Holly Ramer in Concord, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

Trump outraged by Biden in May, but holds cash-on-hand edge

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump was outraged by Joe Biden in May, taking in \$74 million for his reelection, but he maintains a sizable advantage in cash on hand over the presumptive Democratic nominee.

The pro-Trump effort, which includes fundraising by the Republican National Committee, on Saturday reported its total days after Biden and Democrats said they had amassed nearly \$81 million last month for his White House bid.

Trump reported having \$265 million in the bank at the end of May. Biden and Democrats have yet to disclose their comparable numbers for that period, but the figures were expected to be available later Saturday once the campaign made its official filing with the Federal Election Commission. The total was \$103 million in the bank at the end of April.

Trump's campaign announced this week that it raised \$14 million last Sunday, which was the president's birthday.

Biden on Monday brought in \$6 million at a single event featuring Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a onetime rival for the nomination. He plans a fundraiser Tuesday with former President Barack Obama.

Trump's campaign has begun wide-scale general election ads, spending about \$24 million on television and digital spots over the past month, but it has come as the president's standing in both public and pri-

vate surveys has taken a hit.

Trump looks to reset campaign amid pandemic with Tulsa rally

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pressing ahead in a pandemic, President Donald Trump looked to reverse a decline in his political fortunes Saturday by returning to the format that has so often energized him and his loyal supporters: a raucous, no-holds-barred rally before tens of thousands of ardent fans, this time in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The rally was shaping up to be one of the biggest indoor events in the U.S. since large gatherings were shut down in March because of the coronavirus, and it was scheduled over the protests of local health officials and as COVID-19 cases spike in many states. The event was expected to draw crowds of protesters to the area as well.

It's been more than three months since the nation last saw a Trump rally. The unemployment rate stood at about 3.5% that March 2. The number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. was estimated at 91. "Our country is stronger than ever before," Trump declared.

Now, the unemployment rate stands at 13.3%, based on the most recent monthly report. The number of confirmed coronavirus cases has soared to about 2.2 million. The number of deaths reported in the U.S. has surpassed 119,000. Outrage over the criminal justice system's treatment of minorities following the death of George Floyd and other African Americans has spawned protests around the nation. Only about a quarter of Americans say the country is headed in the right direction.

Trump understands the stakes and was determined to return to his signature campaign events. He dismissed complaints that bringing together throngs for an indoor rally risked spreading the coronavirus as nothing more than politics.

"Big crowds and lines already forming in Tulsa. My campaign hasn't started yet. It starts on Saturday night in Oklahoma!" Trump tweeted Friday.

Trump's visit has also raised fears of clashes between protesters and Trump supporters. Officials expect a crowd of 100,000 people or more in downtown Tulsa. Trump will speak inside the BOK Center as well as at an outdoor stage. But his audience also will be voters in battleground states such as Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Florida.

Republican strategist Alex Conant said the rally gives the president a chance to reset his campaign after a couple of tough months.

"The Tulsa rally is trying to ignite some momentum in a campaign that's been going nowhere," Conant said. "When you look at the polls and then you look at the calendar, you realize he has to do something to try to reframe the election."

The events in Tulsa will go a long way to determining how the campaign plays out in coming months. A success lays the groundwork for Trump to take his show to states that will determine the presidential election. A spike in coronavirus cases coming out of Tulsa would make his reception in those states more contentious. The campaign said it will hand out masks and hand sanitizer, but there is no requirement that participants use them. Participants will also undergo a temperature check.

The president's campaign views his rallies as critical to his success. They elevate the enthusiasm level of his supporters and often lead them to donate, knock on doors and make phone calls on the president's behalf.

Trump has generally held his campaign rallies in swing states or in Democratic-leaning states such as Colorado or New Mexico that he hopes to flip this November. Oklahoma fits none of those categories. The last Democratic candidate to emerge victorious there in a presidential election was Lyndon Johnson in 1964. Trump won the state with more than 65% of the vote in the 2016 election. The Republican stronghold gives Trump more assurance that he'll face little resistance to his efforts from top state officials.

"It's going to be safe," said Gov. Kevin Stitt, a Republican. "We have to learn how to be safe and how to move on."

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Tulsa resident Sue Williams picked her place in line Thursday afternoon. "I've been praying, and I don't believe I'm going to get the coronavirus," Williams, 72, said, adding that she signed a waiver on her ticket application about the risks involved in going inside.

Mark Kelleher, of Oklahoma City, dismissed the threat of the virus as "fear porn."

"I think it's all a hoax, to tell you the truth," Kelleher said.

The rally was originally scheduled for Friday, but it was moved back a day following an uproar that it otherwise would have happened on Juneteenth, and in a city where a 1921 white-on-Black attack killed as many as 300 people.

Campaign officials said that Trump would focus on what they call the "great American comeback." White House officials continue to project strong growth numbers for the U.S. economy in the third and fourth quarters. They want to give Americans a reason for optimism. "We are back and we will be booming," press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Friday.

But Conant said he anticipates a lot of the speech will focus on presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

"Right now the election is a referendum on Trump, and he's losing," Conant said. "I think he needs to make a very strong case for why Biden would be a worse president."

Associated Press writer John Mone in Tulsa, Okla., contributed to this report.

US says its embassy in Kabul battling coronavirus outbreak

By RAHIM FAIEZ and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.S. State Department says COVID-19 infections have been reported at its embassy in the Afghan capital and affected staff include diplomats, contractors and locals.

The State Department did not say how many were affected. An official at the embassy in Kabul, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media, said up to 20 people were infected, the majority of them Nepalese Gurkhas, who provide embassy security.

"The embassy is implementing all appropriate measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19," the State Department said in a statement late Friday.

The infected staff are in isolation in the embassy while the remainder on the compound are being tested, said the embassy official. That official added that embassy staff were told they can expect tighter isolation orders.

The State Department said a sanitization of the premises was being carried out to "prevent further outbreak."

Afghanistan has 28,424 confirmed coronavirus cases. International aid organizations monitoring the pandemic's spread in the country say the numbers are much higher because of a lack of testing capabilities as well as access to testing.

Observers also fear the highly contagious coronavirus has spread throughout the country with the return of nearly 300,000 Afghans from Iran, the hardest hit country in the region. Iran has recorded more than 200,000 cases and 9,392 deaths.

Few of the Afghans who returned from Iran were tested before they fanned out across the country to their homes.

Earlier this month, the International Rescue Committee warned Afghanistan was on the brink of a humanitarian disaster mostly because the government does not have the capacity to even test 80% of coronavirus cases.

A handful of NATO troops have also tested positive for the infection. State

Lee reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon in Islamabad contributed to this report

Shooting, protests test Atlanta's image of Black prosperity

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

Police cars burned in the streets of Atlanta as protesters smashed windows and spray-painted graffiti outside CNN headquarters. Even during the national outcry over police brutality and racial injustice, Chassidy Evans struggled to understand why her hometown, with its legacy of peaceful resistance, had erupted in chaos.

Then her uncle, Rayshard Brooks, was shot in the back by a white Atlanta police officer after fighting a drunken driving arrest and trying to run away. The turbulent protests ignited by the May 25 police killing of another Black man, George Floyd in Minneapolis, had barely simmered down when Brooks was killed last week.

"We stood with the Atlanta Police Department when they were just tearing up our city and said this doesn't happen here," Evans said of violent protesters. Speaking through tears at a news conference this week, she added, "It makes you eat your words."

Brooks' killing so soon after the fiery demonstrations and Floyd's death under the knee of a white Minneapolis officer have cast a harsh spotlight on the cracks in Atlanta's reputation for racial harmony and Black prosperity. Brooks' death rekindled upheaval in the streets, though it wasn't as destructive.

Touting itself for decades as "the city too busy to hate," Atlanta has had an unbroken succession of Black mayors since 1973. African Americans own more than 176,000 businesses in metro Atlanta, according to the Census Bureau, more than any U.S. metropolitan area outside New York. After hiring its first Black officers in 1948, the Atlanta Police Department is now 60% Black, higher even than the city's Black population of 52%.

But activists and academics say those decades of progress haven't bridged a gaping socioeconomic divide in the Black community. Three of four Atlanta residents living in poverty are Black. So are all nine people whose deaths by police have been prosecuted since 1997.

"There are a lot of African Americans that are doing well, but there's a large number of them that are not," said Gerald Griggs, an Atlanta activist, attorney and a vice president of the city's NAACP chapter. "That's part of why you're seeing this unrest, because they've been neglected for 40 years."

Atlanta faced a defining moment in 1968 when native son Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Riots flared across the U.S., and thousands of National Guard troops mobilized to restore order in cities. Atlanta refrained from violence, and crowds quietly lined the streets the day of King's funeral to glimpse the mule-driven cart pulling his casket — a reaction that helped build the city's legacy of nonviolent resistance.

Five years later, Maynard Jackson was elected Atlanta's first Black mayor and was credited with affirmative action policies that gave Black-owned companies a greater share of city contracts. Jackson also pledged to prosecute police officers for acts of brutality.

But racial tensions persisted for decades as Atlanta grew its economy — and its national profile — often with few direct benefits to poorer Black residents, said Maurice Hobson, a Georgia State University historian and author of a book on race in Atlanta called "The Legend of the Black Mecca."

Atlanta Fulton-County Stadium, which opened in 1965 and became home to baseball's Atlanta Braves, encroached on Black neighborhoods. Decades later, the facility was razed to build an Olympic stadium for the 1996 summer games, prompting a real estate rush by white-owned businesses and a crackdown on crime before Atlanta was thrust into the international spotlight.

King's legacy was often evoked in promoting cooperation between the city's Black leaders and white business establishment, Hobson said.

"Because this is King's hometown and civil rights people live here, they have whitewashed the experience of the Black masses and made it about the middle class," Hobson said.

He also noted that violent protests have rocked Atlanta at least six times since the mid-1960s. Protesters smashed store windows and hurled rocks and bottles in 1992 after a jury acquitted three Los Angeles police officers in the beating of Rodney King.

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Angry demonstrators faced off with police in 2006 after plainclothes officers serving a warrant busted into the Atlanta home of 92-year-old Kathryn Johnson and fatally shot her when she fired a gun at them. Three officers received federal prison sentences.

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard says his office has prosecuted officers in nine homicides since he took office in 1997. All the victims were Black.

In the days since Brooks was killed, Howard has announced murder charges against the officer who opened fire and Police Chief Erika Shields has resigned. Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms has ordered new policies to limit officers' use of deadly force, while City Council members proposed greater police oversight.

"Keisha Lance Bottoms and Paul Howard in particular want to appear to be responsive by acting very quickly and not hiding behind a protracted investigation period," said Andra Gillespie, a political science professor at Emory University.

Bottoms, elected in 2017, has been closely watched as a potential running mate for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden. Howard faces a primary runoff election Aug. 11.

Atlanta's recent upheaval over racial injustice hasn't spared Black businesses.

After Chanel Hawk watched police cars burning on the news May 29, she learned early the next day that someone had thrown a brick through the window of her consignment boutique.

By the time Hawk reached the shop she's owned for six years, most of the designer clothing, shoes and handbags had been stolen. So was the cash register with \$100 inside.

"I understand they're mad and they're frustrated and all that," said Hawk, who estimates she lost \$100,000 in merchandise alone. "But this is a Black-owned business, and they know it's a Black-owned business. That's what made me mad."

She's among more than a dozen owners seeking help from Atlanta Black Owned Business Relief, a group started after the protests. The group has raised more than \$200,000 to help with damage and is aiming for \$500,000, co-founder Khadeeja Rayner said.

"I'm not putting down anybody who looted," Rayner said. "People felt like, 'I'm going to do what I have to do. They're killing us anyway.'"

Meanwhile, Atlanta is preparing for Brooks' funeral Tuesday. Actor and filmmaker Tyler Perry, an embodiment of Black prosperity in Atlanta, is helping pay the bill.

The service will be held at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached and more than 1,000 mourned his death five decades ago.

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia.

DC protesters pull down, burn statue of Confederate general

By ASHRAF KHALIL and ASHLEY THOMAS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Protesters toppled the only statue of a Confederate general in the nation's capital and set it on fire on Juneteenth, the day marking the end of slavery in the United States, amid continuing anti-racism demonstrations following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Cheering demonstrators jumped up and down as the 11-foot (3.4-meter) statue of Albert Pike — wrapped with chains — wobbled on its high granite pedestal before falling backward, landing in a pile of dust. Protesters then set a bonfire and stood around it in a circle as the statue burned, chanting, "No justice, no peace!" and "No racist police!"

Eyewitness accounts and videos posted on social media indicated that police were on the scene but didn't intervene. President Donald Trump quickly tweeted about the toppling, calling out D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and writing: "The DC police are not doing their job as they watched a statue be ripped down and burn. These people should be immediately arrested. A disgrace to our Country!"

Jubilant protesters read out Trump's tweet over a bullhorn and cheered. After the statue fell, most protesters returned peacefully to Lafayette Park near the White House.

The Pike statue has been a source of controversy over the years. The former Confederate general was

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also a longtime influential leader of the Freemasons, who revere Pike and who paid for the statue. Pike's body is interred at the D.C. headquarters of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, which also contains a small museum in his honor.

The statue, dedicated in 1901, was located in Judiciary Square about half a mile from the U.S. Capitol. It was built at the request of Masons who successfully lobbied Congress to grant them land for the statue as long as Pike would be depicted in civilian, not military, clothing.

Racial tensions in the country hit a boiling point and spilled into the streets after Floyd's killing late last month. Video showed a white police officer pressing his knee against Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes as the handcuffed Black man said, "I can't breathe." The officer, Derek Chauvin, has been charged with murder.

Civil rights activists and some local government officials in D.C. had campaigned for years to get the statue taken down but needed the federal government's approval to do so.

"Ever since 1992, members of the DC Council have been calling on the federal gov't to remove the statue of Confederate Albert Pike (a federal memorial on federal land). We unanimously renewed our call to Congress to remove it in 2017," the D.C. Council tweeted Friday.

A proposed resolution calling for the removal of the statue referred to Pike as a "chief founder of the post-Civil War Ku Klux Klan." The Klan connection is a frequent accusation from Pike's critics and one which the Masons dispute.

Thomas reported from Savannah, Georgia.

AP Interview: Ethiopia to fill disputed dam, deal or no deal

By ELIAS MESERET Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — It's a clash over water usage that Egypt calls an existential threat and Ethiopia calls a lifeline for millions out of poverty. Just weeks remain before the filling of Africa's most powerful hydroelectric dam might begin, and tense talks between the countries on its operation have yet to reach a deal.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Gedu Andargachew on Friday declared that his country will go ahead and start filling the \$4.6 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam next month, even without an agreement. "For us it is not mandatory to reach an agreement before starting filling the dam, hence we will commence the filling process in the coming rainy season," he said.

"We are working hard to reach a deal, but still we will go ahead with our schedule whatever the outcome is. If we have to wait for others' blessing, then the dam may remain idle for years, which we won't allow to happen," he said. He added that "we want to make it clear that Ethiopia will not beg Egypt and Sudan to use its own water resource for its development," pointing out that Ethiopia is paying for the dam's construction itself.

He spoke after the latest round of talks with Egypt and Sudan on the dam, the first since discussions broke down in February, failed to reach agreement.

No date has been set for talks to resume, and the foreign minister said Ethiopia doesn't believe it's time to take them to a head of state level.

The years-long dispute pits Ethiopia's desire to become a major power exporter and development engine against Egypt's concern that the dam will significantly curtail its water supply if filled too quickly. Sudan has long been caught between the competing interests.

The arrival of the rainy season is bringing more water to the Blue Nile, the main branch of the Nile, and Ethiopia sees an ideal time to begin filling the dam's reservoir next month.

Both Egypt and Ethiopia have hinted at military steps to protect their interests, and experts fear a breakdown in talks could lead to conflict.

Ethiopia's foreign minister would not say whether his country would use military action to defend the dam and its operations.

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"This dam should have been a reason for cooperation and regional integration, not a cause for controversies and warmongering," he said. "Egyptians are exaggerating their propaganda on the dam issue and playing a political gamble. Some of them seem as if they are longing for a war to break out."

Gedu added: "Our reading is that the Egyptian side wants to dictate and control even future developments on our river. We won't ask for permission to carry out development projects on our own water resources. This is both legally and morally unacceptable."

He said Ethiopia has offered to fill the dam in four to seven years, taking possible low rainfall into account. Sticking points in the talks have been how much water Ethiopia will release downstream from the dam during a multi-year drought and how Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan will resolve any future disputes.

The United States earlier this year tried to broker a deal, but Ethiopia did not attend the signing meeting and accused the Trump administration of siding with Egypt. This week some Ethiopians felt vindicated when the U.S. National Security Council tweeted that "257 million people in east Africa are relying on Ethiopia to show strong leadership, which means striking a fair deal."

In reply to that, Ethiopia's foreign minister said: "Statements issued from governments and other institutions on the dam should be crafted carefully not to take sides and impair the fragile talks, especially at this delicate time. They should issue fair statements or just issue no statements at all."

He also rejected the idea that the issue should be taken to the United Nations Security Council, as Egypt wants. Egypt's foreign ministry issued a statement Friday saying Egypt has urged the Security Council to intervene in the dispute to help the parties reach a "fair and balanced solution" and prevent Ethiopia from "taking any unilateral actions."

The latest talks saw officials from the U.S., European Union and South Africa, the current chairman of the African Union, attending as observers.

Sudan's Irrigation Minister Yasser Abbas told reporters after talks ended Wednesday that the three countries' irrigation leaders have agreed on "90% or 95%" of the technical issues but the dispute over the "legal points" in the deal remains dissolved.

The Sudanese minister said his country and Egypt rejected Ethiopia's attempts to include articles on water sharing and old Nile treaties in the dam deal. Egypt has received the lion's share of the Nile's waters under decades-old agreements dating back to the British colonial era. Eighty-five percent of the Nile's waters originate in Ethiopia from the Blue Nile.

"The Egyptians want us to offer a lot, but they are not ready to offer us anything," Gedu said Friday. "They want to control everything. We are not discussing a water-sharing agreement."

The countries should not get stuck in a debate about historic water rights, William Davison, senior analyst on Ethiopia with the International Crisis Group, told reporters this week. "During a period of filling, yes, there's reduced water downstream. But that's a temporary period," he said.

Initial power generation from the dam could be seen late this year or in early 2021, he said.

Ethiopia's foreign minister expressed disappointment in Egypt's efforts to find backing for its side.

"Our African brotherly countries should have supported us, but instead they are tainting our country's name around the world, and especially in the Arab world," he said. "Egypt's monopolistic approach to the dam issue will not be acceptable for us forever."

—
Cara Anna in Johannesburg contributed.

LGBT refugees find a haven in Kenya despite persecution

By TOM ODULA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — When he was attacked by a mob for being gay, Martin Okello said the kicks and blows from his assailants came so fast that he couldn't stop them or flee. He passed out and was left for dead in Nairobi's low-income neighborhood of Kawangware.

Okello had fled to Kenya from his native Uganda to seek asylum and protection under the U.N. refugee agency, he said, "but for the time I have been here, I could say we have been facing so many insecurities."

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Before the attack, the 29-year-old former radio journalist had kept his sexual orientation a secret for months as he worked as an educator for the LGBT community at a clinic in Kawangware. Still, he never expected to be persecuted in Kenya.

"We try as much as possible to keep a low profile, but in one way or another, you find yourself having a high profile because you can't deny you are an LGBTI," he said. "So it just comes out, and when it comes out, someone is like, 'Whoa! We can't tolerate this in the community.'"

Okello's best bet for a life free from intolerance lies in being resettled in a developed country. But global restrictions on travel because of the coronavirus had put that process on hold.

"I was waiting for the last interview so that I can be resettled in the U.S. where I expected a nice life and acceptance for people like me, because life here is like being in a dungeon with lions," Okello said.

He's one of more than 3,000 refugees in Africa and 10,000 worldwide whose resettlement was halted temporarily by the pandemic, according to the International Organization for Migration. It had no breakdown for how many of those are LGBT.

On Thursday, the IOM announced the restrictions finally were being lifted. The development came two days before World Refugee Day on June 20, which recognizes the millions of people forced to flee their homes due to war or persecution.

The news that the resettlement process was moving again "makes me feel good," Okello said Friday, adding that he has been waiting for resettlement for 3 1/2 years.

In the meantime, Okello has found solace in a group shelter called the "House of Nature," which provides safety and serves as an alternative family for those who have been kicked out of their communities due to discrimination.

Though around for decades, these shelters, or "houses," have been popularized recently by the Netflix show "Pose." They have helped minority communities at the height of the gay rights movement in the U.S. and the start of the AIDS epidemic.

Houses are led by "mothers" and "fathers," usually older members including drag queens, gay men or transgender women who provide guidance and support for the resident "children."

Human Rights Watch says 32 African nations have varying laws criminalizing homosexuality. In many cases, the laws are left over from the colonial era.

Uganda enacted anti-gay legislation in 2014, at one point calling for the death penalty for some homosexual offenses, although that law later was declared unconstitutional and jettisoned after international pressure.

Kenya is a rare regional haven. It is the only East African nation where someone can seek asylum and be registered as a refugee based on their LGBT status. And yet, there is still discrimination and harassment in Kenya. Gay sex is illegal, with sodomy punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

The "House of Nature" is led by Raymond Brian, another Ugandan refugee and a nonconforming gender person who also goes by the name of "Mother Nature."

"People feel comfortable here because it's not far from the family setup," Brian said. "We use family therapy to help each other overcome the trauma from our pasts. There is a mother figure and a father figure."

The last time Okello talked to his parents was six years ago. "I miss my parents and siblings. Unfortunately, lines of communication shut down," he said.

His life in Uganda was shattered in 2014 when a male sex worker tried to extort him for \$10 and outed him as gay. Okello was fired from the Christian radio station where he worked and was kicked out of his home by his Catholic parents. The same day that he was forced to leave home, he was attacked by a group of people but managed to take shelter at a friend's house.

Okello eventually made it to Nairobi, where he registered as a refugee and discovered the House of Nature.

It was started by Brian and others after Kenyan police raided a shelter of over 70 LGBT refugees. Now, three other houses have formed: Pride Umbrella Kenya, Lunko Contour and Refugee Trans Initiative. Members contribute rent through activities such as raising chickens, and other funding comes from LGBT nongovernmental organizations.

"We have to find ways of contributing to the house, including sex work," Brian said, even though it is illegal.

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Brian said the House of Nature found that when authorities were told of their presence or activities beforehand, they were less likely to be harassed by police.

Despite the outreach, people still have negative feelings about the house, Brian said, adding: "They assume when we say we are queer that we have loose morals, and when we're sharing a house like this one, then all we do is have orgies."

But Brian said nothing could be further from the truth, and "what we need is understanding, not acceptance."

Thunberg has hope for climate, despite leaders' inaction

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Preparing for her appearance before the U.N. General Assembly last fall, Greta Thunberg found herself constantly interrupted by world leaders, including U.N. chief Antonio Guterres and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who had formed a queue to speak to her and take selfies.

"Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, waits in line but doesn't quite make it before it's time for the event to start," Thunberg recalls.

Such surreal memories for a teenager form the opening to a 75-minute monologue broadcast on Swedish public radio Saturday that soon shifts to the serious matter of climate change that's at the heart of Thunberg's work.

The 17-year-old has become a global figurehead of the youth climate movement since she started her one-woman protests outside the Swedish parliament in 2018.

Thunberg's blunt words to presidents and prime ministers, peppered with scientific facts about the need to urgently cut greenhouse gas emissions, have won her praise and awards, but also the occasional push-back and even death threats.

To Thunberg's disappointment, her message doesn't seem to be getting through even to those leaders who applaud her work.

The message is certainly stark: Thunberg cites a U.N. report that estimates the world can only keep emitting the current amount of carbon dioxide for the next seven-and-a-half years. Any longer and it becomes impossible to meet the Paris climate accord's ambitious goal of keeping global temperatures from rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) this century.

Most governments refuse to accept the idea that the world has only a fixed "carbon budget" left, because it implies that a sudden shift away from fossil fuel will need to happen in just a few years.

"Do you remember the London Olympics? 'Gangnam Style' or the first 'Hunger Games' movie?" Thunberg asks her audience on Swedish radio station P1. "Those things all happened about seven or eight years ago. That's the amount of time we're talking about."

Her months-long journey from Sweden to America's West Coast and back — by train, sailboat and an electric car loaned by Arnold Schwarzenegger — highlighted the impact that global warming is already having, from melting glaciers to fiercer forest fire seasons, Thunberg said.

It also opened her eyes to economic and social disparities affecting in particular Indigenous, Black and minority communities, voices she has sought to amplify in the climate debate.

"The climate and sustainability crisis is not a fair crisis," Thunberg says. "The ones who'll be hit hardest from its consequences are often the ones who have done the least to cause the problem in the first place."

Her frustration extends to journalists who want to know about "the real Greta" but interrupt her when she talks about the science of climate change.

"People want something simple and concrete, and they want me to be naive, angry, childish, and emotional," Thunberg says. "That is the story that sells and creates the most clicks."

Thunberg blasts governments and businesses that use what she calls "creative accounting" to make their emissions look lower than they are and apply the word "green" to industries that are not.

"The emperors are naked. Every single one," she says. "It turns out our whole society is just one big nudist party."

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Some critics have accused Thunberg of being a doom-monger. But she insists that her message is one of hope, not despair.

"There are signs of change, of awakening," she says. "Just take the 'Me Too' movement, 'Black Lives Matter' or the school strike movement (for climate action) for instance," she says, adding that the world has passed a "social tipping point" where it becomes impossible to look away.

The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic may provide a necessary wake-up call, she suggests.

"The corona tragedy of course has no long term positive effects on the climate, apart from one thing only: namely the insight into how you should perceive and treat an emergency. Because during the corona crisis we suddenly act with necessary force."

The Latest: Statue of Confederate general toppled in DC

By The Associated Press undefined

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Statue of Confederate general toppled in Washington
- Beyoncé releases new single to benefit Black-owned small businesses.
- Nevada officials renew proposal to remove statue of McCarran.
- Sharpton takes on Trump for 'lowlifes' tweet.

WASHINGTON — Protesters have toppled the only statue of a Confederate general in the nation's capital and set it on fire.

It comes on Juneteenth, the day marking the end of slavery in the United States, amid continuing anti-racism demonstrations following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Cheering demonstrators jumped up and down as the 11-foot (3.4-meter) statue of Albert Pike — wrapped with chains — wobbled on its high granite pedestal before falling backward, landing in a pile of dust. Protesters then set a bonfire and stood around it in a circle as the statue burned, chanting, "No justice, no peace!" and "No racist police!"

Eyewitness accounts and videos posted on social media indicated that police were on the scene, but didn't intervene.

President Donald Trump quickly tweeted about the toppling, calling out D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and writing: "The DC police are not doing their job as they watched a statue be ripped down and burn." After the statue fell, most protesters returned peacefully to Lafayette Park near the White House.

LOS ANGELES — Beyoncé did not let Juneteenth pass without dropping one of her signature surprises in the form a new single called "Black Parade."

The singer's website says the song released late Friday will benefit Black-owned small businesses. She opens the track by singing, "I'm going back to the South, I'm going back where my roots ain't watered down."

Juneteenth commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. Typically a day of both joy and pain, the holiday was marked with new urgency this year, amid weeklong protests over police brutality and racism sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd, a Black man, at the hands of Minneapolis police.

Beyoncé has spoken out against the killing of Floyd and has also called for charges against the Kentucky officers involved in the death of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman gunned down in March by officers who burst into her own home.

In an Instagram post announcing the release of "Black Parade," the singer wrote, "I hope we continue to share joy and celebrate each other, even in the midst of struggle."

LAS VEGAS — Democratic members of Nevada's congressional delegation are renewing a proposal to remove a statue of former Nevada Sen. Patrick McCarran from the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall, saying that

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he left a "legacy of racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia."

Sens. Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto and Reps. Steven Horsford, Dina Titus and Susie Lee made the request in a letter to Gov. Steve Sisolak and legislative leaders.

The letter says McCarran supported workers' rights and helped shape the air travel industry, but that his statue should be replaced with one of a person who better represents Nevada's values "as a compassionate, diverse and welcoming state."

TULSA, Okla. — Speaking before several hundred people gathered at the site of the white-on-Black rampage 99 years ago, the Rev. Al Sharpton took on President Donald Trump directly.

He referred to Trump's tweet Friday morning of a warning about any "lowlifes" showing up against his rally Saturday.

"It's lowlifes that shoot unarmed people, Mr. President," Sharpton said. "You couldn't be talking about us, because we fought for the country when it wouldn't fight for us."

He challenged Trump's lasting campaign slogan. "Make America great again — give me the date that America was great for everybody," Sharpton said.

"Greatness is when Blacks and whites and Latinos and Asians and original Americans take the streets all over this country and march against your tear gas" and threats to call out the military to squelch protests, Sharpton said. "That's when you make America great.

"Look over here in Greenwood tonight. This is what is great tonight," Sharpton said.

More news about the death of George Floyd at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>

Beyoncé drops surprise single 'Black Parade' on Juneteenth

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Beyoncé did not let Juneteenth pass without dropping one of her signature surprises — a new single called "Black Parade."

"I'm going back to the South, I'm going back where my roots ain't watered down," Beyoncé sings, opening the track. At several points on Friday's release, the singer tells listeners to "Follow my parade."

Proceeds from the song will benefit Black-owned small businesses, a message entitled "Black Parade Route" on the singer's website said. The post included links to dozens of Black-owned businesses.

"Happy Juneteenth. Being Black is your activism. Black excellence is a form of protest. Black joy is your right," the message said.

Juneteenth commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. While the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the South beginning Jan. 1, 1863, it wasn't enforced in many places until after the end of the Civil War two years later. Confederate soldiers surrendered in April 1865, but word didn't reach the last enslaved Black people until June 19, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to Galveston, Texas.

"We got rhythm, we got pride, we birth kings, we birth tribes," Beyoncé sings toward the end of the nearly five-minute song.

Juneteenth — typically a day of both joy and pain — was marked with new urgency this year, amid weeklong protests over police brutality and racism sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd, a Black man, at the hands of Minneapolis police.

Beyoncé spoke out on social media in the wake of Floyd's death.

"We're broken and we're disgusted. We cannot normalize this pain," she said in an Instagram video that called for people to sign a petition demanding justice for Floyd.

The singer also joined the call for charges against the officers involved in the killing of Breonna Taylor, who was gunned down in March by officers who burst into her Kentucky home. Beyoncé wrote in a letter Sunday to Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron that the three Louisville police officers "must be held accountable for their actions." Cameron has asked for patience amid a probe, but Louisville's mayor announced Friday that one of the officers would be fired.

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The release of "Black Parade" is the singer's latest philanthropic effort. In April she announced her Bey-GOOD charity would partner with Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey's Start Small campaign to provide \$6 million in relief funds to a variety of groups working to provide basic necessities in cities like Detroit, Houston, New York and New Orleans.

It's also the latest surprise release from the singer, who along with husband Jay-Z released the nine-track album "Everything Is Love" in 2018 with no notice. In 2013, Beyoncé released the self-titled album "Beyoncé," also without any notice.

"I hope we continue to share joy and celebrate each other, even in the midst of struggle," she wrote in an Instagram post announcing the release of "Black Parade." "Please continue to remember our beauty, strength and power."

DOJ tries to oust US attorney investigating Trump allies

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department moved abruptly Friday night to oust Geoffrey S. Berman, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan overseeing key prosecutions of President Donald Trump's allies and an investigation of his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani. But Berman said he was refusing to leave his post and his ongoing investigations would continue.

"I have not resigned, and have no intention of resigning, my position," Berman said. His statement came hours after Attorney General William Barr said Berman was stepping down from his position.

The standoff set off an extraordinary clash between the Justice Department and one of the nation's top districts, which has tried major mob and terror cases over the years. It is also likely to deepen tensions between the Justice Department and congressional Democrats who have pointedly accused Barr of politicizing the agency and acting more like Trump's personal lawyer than the nation's chief law enforcement officer.

The move to oust Berman also comes days after allegations surfaced from former Trump national security adviser John Bolton that the president sought to interfere in an Southern District of New York investigation into the state-owned Turkish bank in an effort to cut deals with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Barr offered no explanation for why he was pushing out Berman in the statement he issued late Friday. The White House quickly announced that Trump was nominating the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission to the job, a lawyer with virtually no experience as a federal prosecutor.

Hours later, Berman issued his own statement saying he had learned that he was being pushed out through a press release. He vowed to stay on the job until a Trump nominee is confirmed by the Senate, challenging Barr's power to remove him from office because he was appointed to the job by federal judges, not by the president. Under federal law, a U.S. attorney who is appointed by district court judges can serve "until the vacancy is filled."

A senior Justice Department official said the department was pressing forward with its plans and will have Craig Carpenito, the U.S. attorney in New Jersey, take over the office temporarily, starting on July 3. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the issue and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Democrats have repeatedly accused Trump's Justice Department of political interference, and those concerns have also been pervasive among some rank and file officials in the agency. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler said his committee was inviting Berman to testify next week.

Federal prosecutors in New York have overseen numerous prosecutions and investigations with ties to Trump in recent years. That includes an ongoing investigation into Giuliani's business dealings, including whether he failed to register as a foreign agent, according to people familiar with the probe. The people were not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The office has also prosecuted a number of Trump associates, including Trump's former personal lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen, who served a prison sentence for lying to Congress and campaign finance crimes.

Berman has also overseen the prosecution of two Florida businessmen, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, who were associates of Giuliani and tied to the Ukraine impeachment investigation. The men were charged in October with federal campaign finance violations, including hiding the origin of a \$325,000 donation to a

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group supporting Trump's reelection.

Attention refocused on the Southern District this week after news organizations, including The Associated Press, obtained copies of Bolton's tell-all book. Bolton alleges in the book that Trump sought to cut a deal to stop federal prosecutors in New York from investigating whether Halkbank violated U.S. sanctions against Iran in order to free an American pastor imprisoned in Turkey.

Six weeks after the pastor's release, Bolton writes that on a call with the Turkish president, "Trump then told Erdoğan he would take care of things, explaining that the Southern District prosecutors were not his people, but were Obama people, a problem that would be fixed when they were replaced by his people."

The White House is seeking to block the public release of Bolton's book, saying it is being published without formal authorization that the manuscript was free of classified information.

The episode Bolton describes occurred months after Berman assumed the role of U.S. attorney.

A Republican who contributed to the president's election campaign, Berman worked for the same law firm as Giuliani and was put in his job by the Trump administration. But as U.S. attorney, he won over some skeptics after he went after Trump allies, and had a direct hand in other investigations that have angered the president.

Berman was appointed by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions in January 2018, after Preet Bharara, then US attorney in New York, was fired. Bharara had refused to resign along with dozens of other federal prosecutors appointed by President Barack Obama.

Months later, FBI agents raided Cohen's offices, an act the president decried as a politically motivated witch hunt. Berman recused himself from Cohen's prosecution though it was never explained why.

The following April, in the absence of a formal nomination by Trump, the judges in Manhattan federal court voted to appoint Berman to the position permanently. The White House never said why Trump didn't formally nominate Berman.

Yet the links between the White House and some of Berman's investigations were clear. His office subpoenaed Trump's inaugural committee for a wide range of documents as part of an investigation into various potential crimes, including possible illegal contributions from foreigners to inaugural events.

And weeks before the 2018 midterm election, Berman announced insider trading charges against an ardent Trump supporter, Republican Rep. Chris Collins. Collins, who represented western New York, has since resigned.

Under Berman's tenure, his office also brought charges against Michael Avenatti, the combative lawyer who gained fame by representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in lawsuits involving Trump. Avenatti was convicted in February of trying to extort Nike after prosecutors said he threatened to use his media access to hurt Nike's reputation and stock price unless the sportswear giant paid him up to \$25 million.

The White House said in a statement Friday that Trump is nominating SEC Chairman Jay Clayton to the post. Before taking the reins at the SEC, Clayton was a well-connected Wall Street lawyer who represented and advised a number of major companies, including Goldman Sachs, Barclays, Deutsche Bank and UBS.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Marcy Gordon in Washington and Tom Hays and Larry Neumeister in New York contributed to this report.

Amid wave of cultural change, Trump tries to stir a backlash

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was June 2015, and Democrats felt the nation's political and cultural winds blowing their way. The Supreme Court ruled in President Barack Obama's favor on landmark gay marriage and health care cases. The White House was awash in rainbow light, a symbol of a liberal cultural takeover that seemed unstoppable.

The following year, Donald Trump was elected president, propelled by a revolt of voters who weren't on board.

As he barrels toward the November election, Trump is again positioning himself as the spokesperson for voters resisting a new wave of cultural change, ready to ride any backlash from the protests calling

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for racial equality and police reform and this week's Supreme Court rulings extending protections to gay workers and young immigrants.

"THE SILENT MAJORITY IS STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE," Trump tweeted Friday, aligning himself with those who believe their voices are increasingly missing from the national dialogue.

In truth, Trump has never had support from a majority of Americans, nor has he seen a political imperative in trying to. He lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton in 2016 but offset that by boosting turnout in crucial Midwestern battleground states among disaffected, largely white, voters. That's the same narrow path he's trying to replicate against Democrat Joe Biden.

Yet Trump's efforts to harness the culture wars to mobilize many of those same voters in 2020 may be more difficult than it was four years ago. Polls show that some of the cultural shifts that took hold during Obama's presidency have continued during Trump's tenure, signaling that his election alone couldn't hold back the evolving views of an increasingly diverse nation.

As a result, Trump has found himself out of step in recent weeks, even with some of his usual allies.

For example, polls show the majority of Americans support the nationwide protests over police brutality — demonstrations Trump threatened to crack down on by deploying the military. The outcry prompted the NFL to shift its position and apologize for not supporting players who protested police bias by kneeling during the national anthem, abandoning Trump on that debate.

This week's Supreme Court rulings also put the Trump administration — which argued against extending federal employment protections to LGBTQ Americans and in favor of rescinding deportation protections for immigrants known as "Dreamers" — on the opposite side of the vast majority of Americans.

A CBS News poll conducted earlier this month showed 82% of Americans believe gay people should be protected under civil rights laws. The same survey showed 85% of Americans say the "Dreamers" — young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children — should be given legal status. Trump has said he's open to legal protection for them but still sought to rescind their current protections to gain leverage in any immigration negotiations in Congress.

Yet some of Trump's supporters believe the nation is in a similar place to where it was during those heady days for liberals in 2015, with cultural trends and even court decisions papering over deep resentment and unease among many Americans.

"There is a mob mentality out right now that if you don't agree with what certain people want you to think, they attempt to shame and silence people," said Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots. "Yet when you go to the voting booth, you're going to vote the way you want to."

Some of the president's advisers privately acknowledge that many of the base voters Trump is appealing to aren't representative of the majority of the country. They are instead banking on those Americans being more fervent, more likely to donate to his campaign, to show up at rallies, and most importantly, to vote in November than Democrats or independents.

"There is going to be a massive turnout from people who see this cancerous political correctness coming from the major media companies, the social media companies, all of the elite institutions, including the Supreme Court," said Matt Schlapp, chair of the American Conservative Union and a Trump ally.

The president has made clear that as he embraces the culture wars in the months leading up to Election Day, he'll put the Supreme Court in his crosshairs. He said this week that he would soon release a list of contenders for any high court vacancies during his second term.

That's the same move he made in 2016 as he sought to energize conservatives eager to tip the balance of power throughout the judicial system and offset what they argue are "activist" liberal judges. They've since cheered Trump's two nominees to the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, and the 200 federal judges who have been confirmed during his term.

So this week's rulings were a jolt for many Trump supporters, one some conservatives say was needed to show the president's base that even more like-minded judges are needed.

"I can't think of much else that fires up conservatives than the makeup of the Supreme Court," said Jason Chaffetz, the former Republican congressman from Utah. "They're willing to forgive a lot knowing that Donald Trump is going to do the right thing in picking conservative justices."

Much of the conservative outrage over this week's court rulings has centered on Chief Justice John Roberts, who was nominated by President George W. Bush and sided with the majority in both cases. But Roberts was joined in the LGBT employment case by Gorsuch.

To Democrats, the rulings — and particularly Gorsuch's majority opinion on the gay rights case — were another sign that Trump is increasingly an outlier on political, social and legal matters, even in forums in which he seemingly has an advantage.

"What are they fighting for if Trump tries to enact his policies and they get overturned?" Jennifer Palmieri, a Democratic strategist who worked for Obama and Hillary Clinton, said of Trump supporters. "Trump has to worry about his base feeling like he's ineffectual, even with a Trump Supreme Court."

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Navy upholds firing of carrier captain in virus outbreak

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and ROBERT BURNS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The two senior commanders on a coronavirus-stricken aircraft carrier didn't "do enough, soon enough," to stem the outbreak, the top U.S. Navy officer said Friday, a stunning reversal that upheld the firing of the ship's captain who had pleaded for faster action to protect the crew.

Capt. Brett E. Crozier and Rear Adm. Stuart Baker, commander of the carrier strike group, made serious errors in judgment as they tried to work through an outbreak that sidelined the USS Theodore Roosevelt in Guam for 10 weeks, said Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations. The Crozier decision was a surprise since Gilday had recommended that the captain be restored to his command less than two months ago after an initial inquiry.

The pandemic set off a dramatic series of events that led to Crozier's dismissal, the abrupt resignation of the acting Navy secretary who fired him and the push for a broader review of the Pacific fleet's top commanders and how they handled the virus outbreak.

The spread of COVID-19 aboard the carrier while on deployment in the Pacific in March exploded into one of the biggest military leadership crises of recent years. More than 1,000 crew members eventually became infected, and one sailor died, in what was the most extensive and concentrated spread of the virus across the U.S. military.

It eventually sent all of the 4,800 crew members ashore for weeks of quarantine, in a systematic progression that kept enough sailors on the ship to keep it secure and running. More broadly, it put out of commission a massive warship vital to the Navy's mission of countering China's power in the Asia-Pacific region.

Gilday said at a Pentagon news conference that Crozier and Baker "failed to tackle the problem head on and take charge," as the virus spread throughout the ship, and their actions "fell well short of what we expect" of those in command. "They did not do enough, soon enough," he said.

Gilday's decision to hold both Crozier and Baker accountable is confirmation of concerns expressed by top Pentagon officials who demanded a deeper investigation when the Navy presented the results of a preliminary probe in April. Gilday's recommendation that Crozier be reinstated as a result of that probe was never acted upon, because the broader investigation was launched.

"Had I known then what I know today, I would have relieved him" of command in April, Gilday said.

Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite, who took office after the deeper probe was begun, said at the news conference that "emotions got in the way" of determining the full story of what happened aboard the Roosevelt, resulting in a too-narrow initial investigation. He said there had been "a rush to judgment," but he did not say who he blamed for that.

Among other findings, as described by Gilday, the investigation determined that the likely source of the coronavirus infection was obtained during a port visit in Vietnam in March. He said investigators were un-

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able to determine who among the crew was the first person to be infected.

The investigation, done by Adm. Robert Burke and endorsed Friday by Gilday, found that Crozier failed to stem the outbreak or properly communicate the escalating crisis to senior commanders. It also concludes that the ship's slow response to the virus was not his fault alone, and that Baker also failed to take decisive actions to address the problem.

Interviews with Crozier and Baker cited in the investigation report reveal confusion, conflict and poor communications among the leaders, their commanders across the fleet and in the Pentagon. A key disagreement involved Crozier and his medical team's insistence on better food and quarantine conditions for the crew, including individual hotel rooms, so that CDC guidelines were met.

Other commanders in the fleet pushed to quarantine 150 to 200 crew members together in larger facilities, while they worked through negotiations on hotel space.

Gilday said Friday that in several instances he believes Crozier put the crew's comfort ahead of its safety. He said the commanders were slow to move the sailors off the ship and released sailors from quarantine in one area of the ship too quickly.

Based on the findings, Crozier and Baker would be able to remain in the Navy and move to other jobs at their current rank, but the admonishments are likely career-enders for both men. Gilday said Crozier will not be eligible for command again.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., chairman of the House Armed Service Committee, said Friday that the panel is launching its own investigation to better understand the full range of mistakes that were made, including by civilian leaders and more senior commanders.

Crozier's firing upset the carrier's crew at the time, and he received cheers and applause as he walked off the ship.

When the coronavirus outbreak was discovered on the Roosevelt, Crozier sent an email to several commanders pleading for more urgent Navy action, including the removal of nearly all sailors from the ship to protect their health. That email was leaked to the media, and the acting Navy secretary at the time, Thomas Modly, accused Crozier of bad judgment and directed that he be relieved of command April 2.

Days later, amid an uproar of his handling of the matter, Modly resigned and was replaced by James McPherson. Braithwaite's nomination to be secretary was still pending at the time. He took over earlier this month after being confirmed by the Senate. In the report Friday, Gilday concluded that Crozier did not intentionally leak the email.

The Roosevelt, meanwhile, spent weeks in port in Guam, as crew members rotated ashore for quarantine. After about two weeks of training at sea, the carrier returned to operations at sea with a reduced crew on June 4. Sailors have continued to fly back to the ship from Guam after they have recovered from the virus or completed two weeks of quarantine.

The Roosevelt's experience with the virus, however, spurred the development of widespread cleaning and health precautions across the military. And it gave federal health authorities a population of sailors to test, providing greater insight into the science and the spread of the virus.

Chileans mass produce caskets to deal with COVID onslaught

By EVA VERGARA Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Nicolás Bergerie's family has been making coffins for four generations, with barely any alteration. But when he saw the coronavirus ravaging Europe, he decided to roll out a new product.

The "COVID" is a casket that eliminates precious woods, detailed carvings and glass viewing panes in favor of a plain box of cheaper wood that is fast to produce in quantity. It's the perfect product for Chile, which has become a hot spot for the virus despite aggressive government measures to control its spread.

On Friday, Chile's 230,000 cases made it ninth in the world in the number of confirmed coronavirus infections, despite its relatively small population of fewer than 19 million people. With more than 5,000 new cases reported on a typical day, next week Chile is expected to pass Italy in the ranks of most-infected countries.

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With more than 4,000 dead in Chile, Bergerie's business, Bergut Funeral Services, has seen its orders boom. He said the workshop is making 100 coffins a week, double the pre-pandemic number, although the cheaper caskets mean his income has dropped by half.

"We looked at the international experience and we started to turn out more coffins because we understood what was coming," said Manuel González, the head of the workshop.

The Chilean government reported 252 deaths Friday, the highest number since the virus that can cause COVID-19 disease arrived in Chile in early March. Most infections and deaths are concentrated in the capital, Santiago.

The true scale of the outbreak goes far beyond the official numbers — Chile is daily carrying out as many as 20,000 virus tests, and about 30% are coming back positive, a strong sign that many infections have gone undetected.

Officials admit their effort to battle the virus is falling short, particularly in tracing and isolating those who come into contact with infected people.

The pandemic has pushed the Chilean medical system close to collapse — intensive-care units in Santiago are at 96% of capacity, and that is only because dozens of patients have been sent to regional hospitals to ease the burden on those in the capital.

The coronavirus was brought to Chile by well-off travelers who vacationed in Europe. Chilean officials in April replaced a strict quarantine of several wealthy neighborhoods of Santiago with a string of constantly shifting closures in neighborhoods throughout the city.

"For a short while we had a window of opportunity," said Pablo Villalobos, a public health researcher at Harvard and adviser to the World Health Organization. "It was a lost opportunity."

The virus started spreading virtually uncontrolled through Santiago at the start of May, helped by officials' refusal to shut down public transport.

And controls supposedly in place weren't followed. Economy Minister Lucas Palacios said last month that 174,00 of the city's 427,000 businesses were still functioning, meaning 2.3 million people were working daily, despite a rule that was supposed to shut all but essential operations.

"The government did not take the necessary restrictive measures," said Claudio Castillo, a public health expert at the University of Chile.

Castillo said the government issued confusing public messages which led many Chileans to believe that only older people with preexisting conditions would be badly affected by the disease and that hospitals had sufficient capacity to treat people.

President Sebastian Piñera's government began talking in April about a safe return to relatively normal daily life.

Chile finally imposed a total lockdown in mid-May when cases started jumping by thousands daily. But the effect has been minimal, and the number of cases has multiplied sixfold since then.

A study by the University of Development in Santiago found that movement around the city had diminished 29%, but needed to be down 50% to 60% in order to reduce the rate of infection significantly.

"The government bet on a strategy," Villalobos said. "It didn't work."

AP source: MLB spring training sites close amid virus worry

By BEN WALKER AP Baseball Writer

Every team in Major League Baseball will shut its spring training camp over concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, a move that came in the wake of the Philadelphia Phillies announcing Friday five players had tested positive for COVID-19.

The closures come while MLB owners and players try to negotiate a deal to begin the season, and raise the possibility the virus outbreak could scuttle all attempts at starting up this year.

A person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press the spring complexes in Florida and Arizona will temporarily close because of recent events. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there wasn't an official statement.

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The facilities will undergo a deep cleaning and disinfecting. No one will be permitted back inside without a negative test for the virus.

Soon after the Phillies became the first known team to be affected by the outbreak, Toronto shuttered its site in Dunedin, Florida, about five miles from Philadelphia's camp in Clearwater. The Blue Jays said one player showed symptoms consistent with the virus.

The San Francisco Giants' facility in Scottsdale, Arizona, was shut after one person who had been to the site and one family member exhibited symptoms Thursday. Texas closed its camp about 30 miles away in Surprise, saying no one had tested positive but that it wanted to expand testing protocols.

Also, the Houston Astros said a player working out at their spring camp in West Palm Beach, Florida, tested positive several days ago and was recovering. The Astros said they "implemented all health and safety protocols" but didn't say the camp was closed.

Stuck in a bitter fight over money, owners and the union had hoped to have players begin testing Tuesday and then start a second round of spring training by next weekend. Most teams had anticipated holding those workouts at their home ballparks, rather than at their spring camps in Florida and Arizona.

Earlier this week, Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem wrote in a letter to players' union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer that "the proliferation of COVID-19 outbreaks around the country over the last week, and the fact that we already know of several 40-man roster players and staff who have tested positive, has increased the risks associated with commencing spring training in the next few weeks."

Regarding the implications of the outbreak on the season, the Phillies said "it is too early to know."

The Phillies said three staff members at the camp also tested positive. The team didn't identify any of those affected.

Florida has experienced rising incidents of new cases and rates of those testing positive for COVID-19. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases in Florida has increased by 1,422.7, or 144.4%.

Arizona also has had a recent spike in cases, hitting a record for new daily cases.

The Phillies said the first confirmed case occurred Tuesday. The club said eight staff members have tested negative for the virus, while 12 staff members and 20 players — both major leaguers and minor leaguers — living in the Clearwater area are being tested.

The Phillies closed their facility in March when the coronavirus pandemic shut down sports. Players returning from injuries were allowed to continue their rehab after the facility was cleaned thoroughly. A few of the team's athletic trainers and staff remained to supervise and safety precautions were taken.

Several more players began working out at the facility over the past few weeks but group sizes were limited.

In a statement, managing partner John Middleton said, "The Phillies are committed to the health and welfare of our players, coaches and staff as our highest priority."

"As a result of these confirmed tests, all facilities in Clearwater have been closed indefinitely to all players, coaches and staff and will remain closed until medical authorities are confident that the virus is under control and our facilities are disinfected," he said.

The World Series champion Washington Nationals, who didn't reopen the spring camp they share with Houston after closing their portion in mid-March, said they'd had one minor league player test positive in the Dominican Republic. The team said the player was not at their facility.

AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum, AP Hockey Writers John Wawrow and Stephen Whyno and AP Sports Writer Rob Maaddi contributed to this report.

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

Juneteenth takes on new meaning amid push for racial justice

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, JONATHAN MATTISE and MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

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DETROIT (AP) — Protesters marched over the Brooklyn Bridge, chanted “We want justice now!” near St. Louis’ Gateway Arch, stopped work at West Coast ports and paused for a moment of silence at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, as Americans marked Juneteenth with new urgency Friday amid a nationwide push for racial justice.

The holiday, which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, is usually celebrated with parades and festivals but became a day of protest this year in the wake of demonstrations set off by George Floyd’s killing at the hands of Minneapolis police.

In addition to traditional cookouts and readings of the Emancipation Proclamation — the Civil War-era order that declared all enslaved people free in Confederate territory — Americans of all backgrounds were marching, holding sit-ins or taking part in car caravan protests.

Thousands gathered at a religious rally in Atlanta. Hundreds marched from St. Louis’ Old Courthouse, where the Dred Scott case partially played out, a pivotal one that denied citizenship to African Americans but galvanized the anti-slavery movement. Protesters and revelers held signs in Dallas, danced to a marching band in Chicago and registered people to vote in Detroit.

“Now we have the attention of the world, and we are not going to let this slide,” Charity Dean, director of Detroit’s office of Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity, said at an event that drew hundreds and called for an end to police brutality and racial inequality.

Events marking Juneteenth were planned in every major American city Friday, although some were being held virtually because of the coronavirus pandemic. At some events, including in Chicago and New York, participants packed together, though many wore masks. At others, masks were scarce.

Cranes came to a standstill as longshoremen in more than two dozen West Coast ports stopped work to mark Juneteenth. In California’s Port of Oakland, political activist and former Black Panther Party member Angela Davis thanked the workers for shutting down on “the day when we renew our commitment to the struggle for freedom.”

In Nashville, Tennessee, about two dozen Black men, most wearing suits, stood arm in arm in front of the city’s criminal courts. Behind them was a statue of Adolpho Birch, the first African American to serve as chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

“If you were uncomfortable standing out here in a suit, imagine how you would feel with a knee to your neck,” said Phillip McGee, one of the demonstrators, referring to Floyd, a Black man who died after a white police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes.

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on Sept. 22, 1862, and it became effective the following Jan. 1. But it wasn’t enforced in many places until after the Civil War ended in April 1865. Word didn’t reach the last enslaved Black people until June 19, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to Galveston, Texas.

Most states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth — a blend of the words June and 19th — as a state holiday or day of recognition, like Flag Day. But with protests over Floyd’s killing and a pandemic that’s disproportionately harmed Black communities, more Americans — especially white people — are becoming familiar with the holiday and commemorating it.

“I feel hopeful and really, really proud to see the community of whites and Blacks joining together and for white people to really understand what the significance of Juneteenth is,” said Elaine Loving, who marched with her two daughters, grandchildren and hundreds of others in Portland, Oregon’s historically Black neighborhood, where she’s lived since 1959.

Some places that didn’t already mark Juneteenth as a paid holiday moved in recent days to do so, including New York state.

The growing recognition of Juneteenth comes as protests have yielded results, including policing reforms in several places. Also gaining momentum were longstanding demands to remove symbols and names associated with slavery and oppression.

Protesters in North Carolina’s capital pulled down two statues Friday night that are part of a larger Confederate monument. Also this week, a crane toppled a Confederate monument that had stood in an

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Atlanta suburb since 1908 and the U.S. House removed portraits of four former speakers who served in the Confederacy.

In addition to big marches, smaller events were held. In Louisiana, community and environmental groups won a court fight to hold a Juneteenth ceremony at a site archaeologists have described as a probable cemetery for enslaved African Americans. Philadelphia residents staged impromptu celebrations after a parade and festival were canceled because of the pandemic, and St. Petersburg, Florida, unveiled a blocklong mural that says "Black Lives Matter."

"We know our lives matter. You don't have to tell us that. We're trying to tell the world that," said Plum Howlett, a tattoo artist who painted part of the mural.

President Donald Trump issued a message for Juneteenth, which he said was "both a remembrance of a blight on our history and a celebration of our Nation's unsurpassed ability to triumph over darkness."

Trump had originally planned a rally Friday in Tulsa, Oklahoma, but changed the date to Saturday amid an uproar about his appearance on a date of such significance. The city also is where white mobs attacked a prosperous black business district nearly a century ago, leaving as many as 300 people dead.

In New Orleans, where demonstrators were greeted with bowls of red beans and rice, speaker Malik Bartholomew offered a reminder.

"We celebrate Juneteenth in honor of the celebration of freedom, but guess what? We also have to celebrate the fight," Bartholomew said.

Mattise reported from Nashville, Tennessee and Smith from Providence, Rhode Island. Associated Press writers Jim Salter in St. Louis, Phil Marcelo in Boston, Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida, Ron Harris in Atlanta, Janet McConnaughey and Stacey Plaisance in New Orleans and Gillian Flaccus in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

AP changes writing style to capitalize "b" in Black

By The Associated Press Associated Press

The Associated Press changed its writing style guide Friday to capitalize the "b" in the term Black when referring to people in a racial, ethnic or cultural context, weighing in on a hotly debated issue.

The change conveys "an essential and shared sense of history, identity and community among people who identify as Black, including those in the African diaspora and within Africa," John Daniszewski, AP's vice president of standards, said in a blog post Friday. "The lowercase black is a color, not a person."

The news organization will also now capitalize Indigenous in reference to original inhabitants of a place.

Daniszewski said the revisions aligned with long-standing identifiers such as Latino, Asian American and Native American. He said the decision followed more than two years of research and debate among AP journalists and outside groups and thinkers.

"Our discussions on style and language consider many points, including the need to be inclusive and respectful in our storytelling and the evolution of language," he wrote. "We believe this change serves those ends."

The AP said it expects to make a decision within a month on whether to capitalize the term white. Among the considerations are what that change might mean outside the United States.

An ongoing debate over capitalization of Black accelerated in many U.S. newsrooms in recent weeks as journalists grappled with massive protests and sweeping changes in the aftermath of George Floyd's death at the hands of police.

The Los Angeles Times, USA Today and NBC News last week embraced capitalization, and the National Association of Black Journalists urged other news organizations to follow.

The AP Stylebook of usage policies is highly influential in the industry, with many news organizations, government and public relations agencies using it as a guide.

The death of Floyd, a Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck, sparked nationwide protests and lent momentum to a variety of social changes, from police reform

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and the public removal of Confederate statues and flags to the capitalization of Black.

"It's certainly long overdue," said Doris Truong, director of training and diversity at the Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank. "It's something that people who are Black have been calling for for a long time."

It's also a relatively simple step for news organizations dealing anew with many complex issues, such as whether their journalists can be opinionated on social media or march in Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

Nearly a century ago, sociologist W.E.B. DuBois waged a letter-writing campaign to get newspapers to capitalize Negro, saying a lowercase "n" was a sign of disrespect and racism. The New York Times took his advice in 1930, calling it an act of recognition and respect for those who'd spent generations in "the lower case."

Negro fell out of fashion with the Black Power movement of the 1960s, coming to symbolize subservience. African American was often used, but is not always accurate — some Black people don't trace their lineage to Africa.

One Black communications professional who published an open letter to the AP earlier this week calling for the capitalization said Friday he was pleased that the change happened on Juneteenth, which commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free 155 years ago.

"Not having a capital letter has felt disrespectful," said David Lanham, director of communications for the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program. "There is a shared cultural identity with Black Americans and that goes through our shared experiences. That also goes to the lack of geographic history as a result of slavery."

The Seattle Times and Boston Globe both changed their practices to capitalize Black late last year. The Globe explained that the word has evolved from a description of a person's skin color to signify a race and culture, and deserves the uppercase treatment much the way other ethnic terms do.

Lanham, who spearheaded an internal process to capitalize Black at Brookings last year, said he expects AP's shift will lead many other news organizations and other groups to make a similar change.

"Knowing how closely their Stylebook is viewed as the Bible for journalism, this is now the big domino to fall," he said.

Barber offers hope in Peruvian barrios devastated by virus

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Once a week, barber Josué Yacahuanca makes his way up the dusty hills of Peru's capital, heading into its poorest neighborhoods carrying a treasured golden briefcase that holds his life's passion — five clipper blades, 20 combs, four scissors and a bottle with alcohol.

Yacahuanca seeks out clients devastated by a coronavirus lockdown that has gone on for nearly 100 days in an attempt to stem the wave of new infections. He does it for free.

"I want them to look in the mirror and see a bit of hope," said Yacahuanca, who though just 21 years old is a veteran barber, having started cutting hair at age 13.

With ease, he moves between clients who want a clean, classic cut to those who ask for modern styles. Most recently he set up shop at the "December 24" neighborhood, where almost everybody has lost their jobs because of the pandemic, forcing many to work as street vendors.

Yacahuanca had a rocky start in life himself. Abandoned by his mother, he was raised by his godmother, Gloria Alvarez. Despite obstacles, he discovered a business savvy at a young age. He hustled at odd jobs, selling sweets, cleaning houses, working in outdoor markets and at a bus station.

"My life was hard," he said, working under a shade tree with a bird's eye view of the neighborhood populated by single mothers and their children who wear torn cloths and lack running water at home.

"I look at them and I see myself," he said.

Peru has been one of Latin America's hardest hit by recession brought on by the virus outbreak. Its gross domestic product has already shrunk 12% this year, a rate outpacing the United States, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, according to the World Bank.

Every day, the toll mounts in Peru, where officials reported Thursday a total of 7,400 deaths and more

than 244,000 people falling ill.

Like thousands of businesses across Peru, Yacahuanca's barbershop — called D Barrio Shop — closed its doors March 16 under lockdown orders. Since then, he watched his personal finances be pulverized. But he brushed it off, deciding to help others with the skills he has.

Greeting each client, Yacahuanca drapes them with a white cape emblazoned with a giant portrait of his favorite salsa singer, Héctor Lavoe, bringing it memories of the music he always had playing in his shop.

"I'm a fan of his music," Yacahuanca said. "He sings about the realities of life — sadness and joy."

Peru has roughly 150,000 barbers, and Yacahuanca and a few others are offering their services to those most in need at no charge.

Setting out on foot or hailing a motorcycle taxi once a week, he ventures into neighborhoods in need, including some where hunger has started to take hold among some residents.

On each trip, he follows a routine, setting out an old wooden chair as his makeshift barber chair and offering up his services. Most people ask twice when they don't believe the cut is free.

"I tell them, sure," he said. "It's from my heart."

Brazil tops 1 million cases as coronavirus spreads inland

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's government confirmed on Friday that the country has risen above 1 million confirmed coronavirus cases, second only to the United States.

The country's health ministry said that the total now stood at 1,032,913, up more than 50,000 from Thursday. The ministry said the sharp increase was due to corrections of previous days' underreported numbers.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro still downplays the risks of the virus after nearly 50,000 deaths from COVID-19 in three months, saying the impact of social isolation measures on the economy could be worse than the disease itself.

Specialists believe the actual number of cases in Brazil could be up to seven times higher than the official statistic. Johns Hopkins University says Brazil is performing an average of 14 tests per 100,000 people each day, and health experts say that number is up to 20 times less than needed to track the virus.

Official data show a downward trend of the virus in Brazil's north, including the hard-hit region of the Amazon, a plateau in cases and deaths in the countries' biggest cities near the Atlantic coast, but a rising curve in the south.

In the Brazilian countryside, which is much less prepared to handle a crisis, the pandemic is clearly growing. Many smaller cities have weaker health care systems and basic sanitation that's insufficient to prevent contagion.

"There is a lot of regional inequality in our public health system and a shortage of professionals in the interior," said Miguel Lago, executive director of Brazil's Institute for Health Policy Studies, which advises public health officials. "That creates many health care deserts, with people going long distances to get attention. When they leave the hospital, the virus can go with them."

The cattle-producing state of Mato Grosso was barely touched by the virus when it hit the nation's biggest cities in March. Sitting far from the coast, between the Bolivian border and Brazil's capital of Brasília, its 3.3 million residents led a mostly normal life until May. But now its people live under lockdown and meat producers have dozens of infected workers.

In Tangará da Serra, a city of 103,000 people in Mato Grosso, the mayor decided Friday to forbid the sale of alcoholic drinks for two weeks as an incentive for people to stay home. Fábio Junqueira said the measure was needed after a spike in COVID-19 cases that filled 80% of the city's 54 intensive care beds. The city has had nearly 300 cases of the disease, plus three fatalities.

In Rondonópolis, only 300 miles away from Tangará da Serra and home to a thriving economy, health authorities closed the local meatpacking industry after 92 cases were confirmed there. The city of 144,000 inhabitants counted 21 deaths from the virus and more than 600 cases. The mayor has also decided to limit sales of alcoholic beverages.

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Even regions once considered examples of successful efforts against the virus are now struggling. Porto Alegre, home to about 1.4 million people, had success in slowing the virus' spread over the last three months. But now its mayor is considering increasing social isolation measures after ICU occupancy in the city jumped to 80% this month.

"We were already making projections for schools to come back," Mayor Nelson Marchezan Jr. told The Associated Press. "Now the trend is to impose more restrictions."

Outside Sao Paulo city, five regions of the state's countryside will have to close shops starting Monday due to a rise in coronavirus cases. Gov. João Doria announced the decision Friday.

Dr. Mike Ryan, the World Health Organization's executive director, said at a news conference that Brazil needs to increase its efforts to stop the spread of infections.

"The epidemic is still quite severe in Brazil. I believe health workers are working extremely hard and under pressure to be able to deal with the number of cases that they see on a daily basis," Ryan said. "Certainly the rise is not as exponential as it was previously, so there are some signs that the situation is stabilizing. But we've seen this before in other epidemics in other countries."

Margareth Dalcolmo, a clinical researcher and professor of respiratory medicine at the state-funded Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, believes the reopening in major cities and the virus traveling by road into Brazil's heartland will keep the pressure on the country's health system.

"The risk in the interior now is very big," she said. "Our health system just can't solve the most serious cases of COVID in many places of the countryside."

Apple re-closes some stores, raising economic concerns

By TALI ARBEL and MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writers

Apple's Friday decision to close stores in four states with surging coronavirus cases highlights a question that other businesses may soon face: Stay open or prepare for more shutdowns?

Apple, like many other major U.S. retailers, shut down all of its U.S. locations in March. On Friday, it said it would shut 11 stores, six in Arizona, two in Florida, two in North Carolina and one in South Carolina, that it had reopened just a few weeks ago.

The move heightens concerns that the pandemic might keep the economy in the doldrums longer than expected. Those worries sent stocks on Wall Street lower. It's not clear whether other retailers will follow en masse, although one analyst expects hard-hit stores to stay open unless forced to close by local authorities.

Many other businesses, including manufacturing, travel, dining, and entertainment, have been steadily reopening where they can while taking health precautions. But some have recently pulled back or paused their plans. The Cruise Lines International Association, for instance, announced Friday that ships will not be sailing from U.S. ports until at least Sept. 15, extending a pause put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The auto industry, meanwhile, has seen its efforts to restart production hampered in part by infected workers.

Because U.S. efforts to contain the pandemic haven't been particularly successful, the situation "could ultimately lead to a need for more prolonged shut-downs" that would reduce consumer spending and cost jobs, said Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. In public remarks Friday, Rosengren said he expected the economic rebound this year would be less than what was initially hoped for at the pandemic's outset, and that the unemployment rate would remain in double-digits.

States such as Utah and Oregon are pausing the reopening of their economies amid a spike in cases, while others like Texas and Arizona have not changed their plans. Arizona this week did mandate that businesses implement social distancing, and Phoenix made masks mandatory in public.

Like many of the biggest players in the technology industry, Apple has been faring far better than most companies amid pandemic-induced recession. The store closures won't put a significant dent in Apple's sales, said Wedbush Securities Daniel Ives, but they are "a worrisome trend."

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The Cupertino, California, company has continued to sell iPhones and other products online, and other retailers can do so as well if they decide to close, said Craig Johnson, president of retail consultancy Customer Growth Partners.

"I don't think this is going to be a giant stumbling block for Apple or anybody else. You can still get almost everything you need online somewhere," he said.

Johnson noted that the country's biggest retailers, Walmart and Target, did not shut down, and neither did appliance chains like Home Depot and Lowe's. If other chains that aren't deemed essential do shut down stores, he would expect closures to be limited to areas with rising cases.

Still, retail has been hit hard, with declining profits and bankruptcies. Retail earnings shrank 70% in the first quarter, excluding Walmart, said Ken Perkins of Retail Metrics, and second-quarter earnings are expected to drop another 45%. Department stores Neiman Marcus and J.C.Penny and clothing chain J. Crew have all filed for bankruptcy protection. Home-goods chain Pier 1 is shutting down.

"Remaining open may be existential for some retailers and I would expect they will stay open where local regulations allow," Perkins said in an email. He expected that they would offer curbside pick-up "at a bare minimum" even if doors were shut again in specific areas where they are required to do so.

Disney, which has been planning to reopen Disneyland in California and Disney World in Orlando, Florida, in July, is not changing its plans. Universal Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld have already reopened in Florida. Cases are also rising in Florida, and some restaurants and bars said they were temporarily closing again.

Movie theater chains are also reopening, with Cinemark beginning the process this week in Dallas and going nationwide in July. Regal and AMC are also set to open again in July — with mask requirements for employees and customers.

The Navajo Nation's gambling operation had hoped to reopen its casinos in Arizona and New Mexico in mid-June but they'll stay closed until at least early July because of the outbreak. Other casinos have closed temporarily.

Arbel reported from New York; Liedtke from San Ramon, California. Associated Press Writer Joseph Pisani in New York and Economics Writer Christopher Rugaber in Washington, D.C. contributed to this report.

This story has been updated to correct that six stores are being closed in Arizona, not seven.

COVID-19 is ravaging America's vulnerable Latino communities

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, ANITA SNOW and BRYAN ANDERSON Associated Press

GUADALUPE, Ariz. (AP) — A Hispanic immigrant working at a fast-food restaurant in North Carolina is rushed to the hospital after she contracts COVID-19. A sickened Honduran woman in Baltimore with no health insurance or immigration status avoids the doctor for two weeks and finally takes a cab to the hospital and ends up on oxygen.

As the coronavirus spreads deeper across America, it's ravaging Latino communities from the suburbs of the nation's capital to the farm fields of Florida to the sprawling suburbs of Phoenix and countless areas in between.

The virus has amplified inequalities many Latinos endure, including jobs that expose them to others, tight living conditions, lack of health insurance, mistrust of the medical system and a greater incidence of preexisting health conditions like diabetes. And many Latinos don't have the luxury of sheltering at home.

"People simply cannot afford to stop working," said Mauricio Calvo, executive director of the Latino Memphis advocacy group in Tennessee.

In many areas, Latinos comprise a dramatically higher percentage of the positive COVID-19 tests compared with other racial and ethnic groups.

About 65% of positive tests in the county that is home to Chattanooga, Tennessee, are Latinos, even though they make up just 6% of the population. With many infected families living in the same home

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with no other place to go, Chattanooga officials are looking at providing alternative sites at hotels or other locations where people can safely isolate.

The same disparities exist nationwide.

Latinos account for 45% of coronavirus cases in North Carolina, where they make up only 10% of the population, according to the state's Department of Health and Human Services. In the Latino and Native American town of Guadalupe, Arizona, residents are testing positive at more than four times the rate of the entire county. The ZIP code with the most COVID-19 cases in Maryland borders the nation's capital and is majority Hispanic.

Honduran native Arely Martinez, who now lives in Baltimore, delayed medical help for two weeks after getting a fever and headache, struggling to breathe and losing her sense of smell. Lack of insurance, her immigration status and misinformation about the pandemic kept her home, but she finally went to the hospital and tested positive for COVID-19.

"I had no medical guidance, and apart from that, I was afraid because of the comments from people that when you go to the hospital, they would end up killing you," said Martinez, who spent two days in the hospital fretting about her three children while her husband left them alone to seek work.

Her husband tested negative for the virus, but her sister, who was fetching their groceries, became ill. Her children were never tested.

"Truthfully, they were the saddest moments of my life," she said. "There was not a moment or an instant that I stopped asking God to give me a chance to live to see my children, to hug them, to take care of them."

A growing body of evidence is forming around the virus' toll on Latinos as researchers develop a more advanced data analysis about COVID-19 and race.

This disparity among Latinos is similar to a national trend in African American deaths. An Associated Press analysis has found black Americans make up 26% of the deaths in nearly 40 states that kept detailed death data, even though they comprise only 13% of the population.

Researchers are also pointing out another noteworthy trend emerging in Latino cases. Because Latinos are much younger on average than U.S. whites, and the virus kills older people at higher rates, researchers are using "age-adjusted" data to provide a more accurate picture of the disproportionate toll.

A Brookings Institution study this week examined federal data to show the age-adjusted COVID-19 death rate for African Americans is 3.6 times that for whites. The age-adjusted death rate for Latinos is 2.5 times higher than white Americans. A Harvard paper used similar metrics to determine "years of potential life lost," finding that Latinos lost 48,204 years, compared with 45,777 for African Americans and 33,446 for non-Hispanic whites.

In North Carolina, Honduran native Lidia Reyes and her husband went without pay for three weeks after she lost her job at Subway during the pandemic. They sought help from loved ones and a local church to help pay the rent and keep food on the table for their son and daughter.

The 42-year-old Durham resident went back to work at the fast-food chain and got sick; she believes she was infected the day she neglected to wear a mask and gloves at work.

"The kids were really upset," said Reyes, who is in the country illegally. "They wanted to always come in my room to be with me. We were all desperate in different ways, and I was definitely getting depressed with how everything was going."

Though she's survived to tell her story, two fears remain: The forthcoming medical bills and the lack of seriousness she believes some in her community have toward the virus.

Latinos initially were reluctant to get tested for the virus, prompting authorities to bring testing sites into their communities, including grocery stores.

In the Arizona town named for Mexico's patron saint, Our Lady of Guadalupe, hundreds of people who live with family members in tiny adobe homes lined up in the scorching sun May 28-29 for free tests at the main plaza.

Eleven percent of the people tested positive for COVID-19.

"We have families that don't have running water, we have families that don't have electricity," Guadalupe Mayor Valerie Molina said. "We have a lot of community members who don't venture out beyond Guadalupe

and so we thought the best way to get them to test would be to bring testing to them.”

Molina issued a mandate Friday for face coverings in public areas of the hard-hit community.

Health and community leaders say testing is especially important for Latinos because they have been returning to work in large numbers and lack paid sick leave.

“People continue going to work before they get really sick and tested,” said Pilar Rocha-Goldberg, executive director of El Centro Hispano, a North Carolina advocacy group.

Dr. Viviana Martinez-Bianchi, a family physician in Durham and director of health equity at Duke University, said more is needed to help Latinos get tested closer to where they live. And authorities are trying to come up with alternative ways to help residents self-isolate if they get sick or suspect they are infected and are awaiting test results. Chattanooga officials are exploring direct financial assistance to families and have a section of the county’s COVID-19 task force assigned to the Latino disparity issue.

“I think that this pandemic has really highlighted issues that have always plagued our community and we’ve been fighting to overcome,” said Dr. Michelle LaRue, senior manager for health and social services at CASA, an organization helping Latinos in Maryland. “You know, labor safety issues, language access issues, health insurance and health care issues.”

Both Martinez and Reyes said they wish they hadn’t waited to see a doctor.

“People are dying in our community,” Reyes said. “I want people to understand and take the situation seriously.”

Six weeks after leaving the hospital, Martinez remains weak and has trouble sleeping.

“I shouldn’t have taken the risk because I also frightened my children,” she said. “I couldn’t breathe, my children were scared ... and I had no one to take care of me.”

Garcia Cano reported from Baltimore and Anderson reported from Durham, North Carolina. Meghan Hoyer in Washington, Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee, and David Collins in Hartford, Connecticut, also contributed to this report.

AMC Theaters reverses course on masks after backlash

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The nation’s largest movie theater chain changed its position on mask-wearing less than a day after the company became a target on social media for saying it would defer to local governments on the issue.

AMC Theaters CEO Adam Aron said Friday that its theaters will require patrons to wear masks upon reopening, which will begin in mid-July. Customers who don’t wear masks won’t be admitted or allowed to stay.

“We think it is absolutely crucial that we listen to our guests,” Aron said. “It is clear from this response that we did not go far enough on the usage of masks.”

Rival chain Regal followed AMC’s lead. Spokesman Richard Grover said Friday that moviegoers must wear masks in all its theaters as well.

AMC Theaters wasn’t the first to say it would defer to officials on the mask issue. That policy was identical to what Cinemark announced earlier this month. Cineplex Inc., which has a 75% box office market share in Canada, said they will leave it up to moviegoers to decide if they wear a face mask inside their theaters. Company spokeswoman Sarah Van Lange said they are taking the lead from public health authorities and provincial guidelines. She said employees will be required to wear masks.

Most major retailers require masks for customers only where local rules mandate it.

But the AMC plan hit a nerve for many on Thursday and #boycottAMC quickly became a trending topic on Twitter.

The outrage was further flamed by one of Aron’s comments in an interview with the Hollywood trade Variety that implied that taking a hard stance on mask-wearing was a political matter.

“We did not want to be drawn into a political controversy,” Aron said. “We thought it might be counter-

productive if we forced mask wearing on those people who believe strongly that it is not necessary.”

He also said that he thought the “vast majority of AMC guests will be wearing masks” and that he planned to lead by example and would be wearing a mask himself.

The interview came on the same day that California started requiring people throughout the state to wear masks in most indoor settings and outdoors when distancing isn’t possible.

While public health officials say wearing a mask is important in helping stop the spread of COVID-19, not wearing one has become a political statement for people who say it violates their freedom or exaggerates the threat of the coronavirus. President Donald Trump has pushed back against masks, even as the virus has killed more than 100,000 Americans this year.

Earlier Friday, Alamo Drafthouse, which operates around 40 locations in the U.S. said that it would be requiring that guests wear masks at its theaters, with a caveat for eating and drinking. Those without masks, it said, would be given one. AMC plans to sell masks for \$1.

Most indoor U.S. theaters have been closed since mid-March because of COVID-19. But both independent locations and major chains are readying to reopen within the next month.

AMC said it will open 450 of its U.S. locations on July 15, with the goal of having most of its theaters in operation by July 24 for the opening of Disney’s “Mulan” and Christopher Nolan’s “Tenet” the following week.

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AP Business Writer Tali Arbel contributed from New York. Robert Gillies contributed from Toronto.

Navy upholds firing of carrier captain in virus outbreak

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and ROBERT BURNS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The two senior commanders on a coronavirus-stricken aircraft carrier didn’t “do enough, soon enough,” to stem the outbreak, the top U.S. Navy officer said Friday, a stunning reversal that upheld the firing of the ship’s captain who had pleaded for faster action to protect the crew.

Capt. Brett E. Crozier and Rear Adm. Stuart Baker, commander of the carrier strike group, made serious errors in judgment as they tried to work through an outbreak that sidelined the USS Theodore Roosevelt in Guam for 10 weeks, said Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations. The Crozier decision was a surprise since Gilday had recommended that the captain be restored to his command less than two months ago after an initial inquiry.

The pandemic set off a dramatic series of events that led to Crozier’s dismissal, the abrupt resignation of the acting Navy secretary who fired him and the push for a broader review of the Pacific fleet’s top commanders and how they handled the virus outbreak.

The spread of COVID-19 aboard the carrier while on deployment in the Pacific in March exploded into one of the biggest military leadership crises of recent years. More than 1,000 crew members eventually became infected, and one sailor died, in what was the most extensive and concentrated spread of the virus across the U.S. military.

It eventually sent all of the 4,800 crew members ashore for weeks of quarantine, in a systematic progression that kept enough sailors on the ship to keep it secure and running. More broadly, it put out of commission a massive warship vital to the Navy’s mission of countering China’s power in the Asia-Pacific region.

Gilday said at a Pentagon news conference that Crozier and Baker “failed to tackle the problem head on and take charge,” as the virus spread throughout the ship, and their actions “fell well short of what we expect” of those in command. “They did not do enough, soon enough,” he said.

Gilday’s decision to hold both Crozier and Baker accountable is confirmation of concerns expressed by top Pentagon officials who demanded a deeper investigation when the Navy presented the results of a preliminary probe in April. Gilday’s recommendation that Crozier be reinstated as a result of that probe was never acted upon, because the broader investigation was launched.

“Had I known then what I know today, I would have relieved him” of command in April, Gilday said.

Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite, who took office after the deeper probe was begun, said at the news conference that “emotions got in the way” of determining the full story of what happened aboard

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the Roosevelt, resulting in a too-narrow initial investigation. He said there had been "a rush to judgment," but he did not say who he blamed for that.

Among other findings, as described by Gilday, the investigation determined that the likely source of the coronavirus infection was obtained during a port visit in Vietnam in March. He said investigators were unable to determine who among the crew was the first person to be infected.

The investigation, done by Adm. Robert Burke and endorsed Friday by Gilday, found that Crozier failed to stem the outbreak or properly communicate the escalating crisis to senior commanders. It also concludes that the ship's slow response to the virus was not his fault alone, and that Baker also failed to take decisive actions to address the problem.

Interviews with Crozier and Baker cited in the investigation report reveal confusion, conflict and poor communications among the leaders, their commanders across the fleet and in the Pentagon. A key disagreement involved Crozier and his medical team's insistence on better food and quarantine conditions for the crew, including individual hotel rooms, so that CDC guidelines were met.

Other commanders in the fleet pushed to quarantine 150 to 200 crew members together in larger facilities, while they worked through negotiations on hotel space.

Gilday said Friday that in several instances he believes Crozier put the crew's comfort ahead of its safety. He said the commanders were slow to move the sailors off the ship and released sailors from quarantine in one area of the ship too quickly.

Based on the findings, Crozier and Baker would be able to remain in the Navy and move to other jobs at their current rank, but the admonishments are likely career-enders for both men. Gilday said Crozier will not be eligible for command again.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., chairman of the House Armed Service Committee, said Friday that the panel is launching its own investigation to better understand the full range of mistakes that were made, including by civilian leaders and more senior commanders.

Crozier's firing upset the carrier's crew at the time, and he received cheers and applause as he walked off the ship.

When the coronavirus outbreak was discovered on the Roosevelt, Crozier sent an email to several commanders pleading for more urgent Navy action, including the removal of nearly all sailors from the ship to protect their health. That email was leaked to the media, and the acting Navy secretary at the time, Thomas Modly, accused Crozier of bad judgment and directed that he be relieved of command April 2.

Days later, amid an uproar of his handling of the matter, Modly resigned and was replaced by James McPherson. Braithwaite's nomination to be secretary was still pending at the time. He took over earlier this month after being confirmed by the Senate. In the report Friday, Gilday concluded that Crozier did not intentionally leak the email.

The Roosevelt, meanwhile, spent weeks in port in Guam, as crew members rotated ashore for quarantine. After about two weeks of training at sea, the carrier returned to operations at sea with a reduced crew on June 4. Sailors have continued to fly back to the ship from Guam after they have recovered from the virus or completed two weeks of quarantine.

The Roosevelt's experience with the virus, however, spurred the development of widespread cleaning and health precautions across the military. And it gave federal health authorities a population of sailors to test, providing greater insight into the science and the spread of the virus.

AP-NORC poll: Many in US say protest impact will be positive

By AARON MORRISON and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ahead of the Juneteenth holiday weekend's demonstrations against systemic racism and police brutality, more than 4 in 10 Americans say they expect recent protests around the country will bring positive change. A majority say they approve of the protests.

Despite headline-making standoffs between law enforcement and protesters in cities nationwide, the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds a majority of Americans

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think law enforcement officers have generally responded to the protests appropriately. Somewhat fewer say officers used excessive force.

The findings follow weeks of peaceful protests and unrest in response to the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died pleading for air on May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer held his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes. A dramatic change in public opinion on race and policing has followed, with more Americans today than five years ago calling police violence a very serious problem that unequally targets Black Americans.

Bill Ardren, a 75-year-old retired resident of Maple Grove, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis, said he supports the protests. He blames protesters and law enforcement equally for why some demonstrations turned into ugly clashes scarred by looting and arson.

"People finally got fed up because of this last incident," said Ardren, referring to Floyd's death, "and it spread all over the country."

The new poll finds 54% of Americans say they approve of the protests, while 32% disapprove. Another 14% say they hold neither opinion.

More think the protests will mostly change the country for the better than bring about negative change, 44% to 21%. A third say they won't make much difference.

An Associated Press tally of known arrests through June 4 found more than 10,000 people were arrested at demonstrations in the U.S., many of which defied citywide curfews and some daytime orders to disperse. The count grew by the hundreds each day, as protesters were met with overwhelming shows of force by local officers, state police and National Guard members. Los Angeles had more than a quarter of the nation's arrests, according to the AP's tally, followed by New York, Dallas and Philadelphia.

One of the nation's largest demonstrations took place in Philadelphia on June 6, when tens of thousands of people met near the Philadelphia Museum of Art and peacefully marched through Center City. Kipp Gilmore-Clough, a resident of the city and associate pastor at Chestnut Hill United Church, joined that day's protest and said that kind of response to police abuse was "long overdue."

"I've been fairly heartened by the ongoing presence in the streets, because the systemic racism that has generated these protests is longstanding and deeply embedded," said Gilmore-Clough, who's among those who believe the protests will have a positive impact. "My hope is that this persistence leads to results, changes of laws, changes of institutions and changes to our patterns that have normalized white supremacy."

Seven percent of Americans say they've participated in a protest in the past few weeks. While Black Americans were significantly more likely to say so than white Americans, the poll found about half of those who said they protested were white. The demonstrations have been noted as remarkably diverse compared with those seen as affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement that emerged nearly seven years ago.

About 8 in 10 Black Americans say they approve of the protests. About half of white Americans approve, while about a third disapprove.

Overall, Americans are somewhat more likely to say the protests have been peaceful than violent, 27% vs. 22%, but 51% think there's been a mix of both. White Americans are more likely than Black Americans to call protests violent, 20% to 7%, though 54% of white Americans say there has been a mix.

Gilmore-Clough said he was disappointed by law enforcement's use of excessive force at the protests. At times, police officers across the country were caught on video indiscriminately swinging batons, firing rubber bullets, deploying tear gas and pepper spray — even shoving people to the ground. Officers in many other places joined protesters, including some symbolically kneeling alongside demonstrators.

A majority of Americans, 55%, say law enforcement responded to recent protests appropriately, while fewer, 44%, say they used excessive force. And 54% say President Donald Trump's response to the recent unrest — he suggested sending the U.S. military into cities where local officials struggled to quell unrest, before later backing off the idea — made things worse.

Just 12% say Trump made things better, while 33% say his response had no impact.

Anne Oredoko, a supervising attorney in the racial justice unit of the Legal Aid Society of New York, one of the nation's largest public defender agencies, said the New York Police Department's response to peaceful

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protests undermined civil rights. Mass arrests also threatened public health during the coronavirus pandemic, making the idea that anyone believes the law enforcement response was appropriate troubling, she said.

"There's something deeply bankrupt about our inability to see the value of life, across color and ethnicity," Oredeko said. "There's something missing in this country. If you understand the point that protesters are making, saying that there is a deep distrust of police and a need for systemic reforms, your response shouldn't be to maim them."

While 7 in 10 Black Americans said law enforcement officers responded to the protests with excessive force, about half as many white Americans said that. Roughly 6 in 10 white Americans said law enforcement officers responded to protests appropriately.

Destiny Merrell, a 20-year-old Black college student from Unadilla, Georgia, said she has not participated in the protests out of fear she could be harmed by police or other demonstrators.

"We matter, but we don't matter to certain people," she said.

Fingerhut reported from Washington.

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/>.

This story has been corrected to show the associate pastor's surname is Gilmore-Clough, not Gillmore-Clough.

TSA insider faults agency's response to coronavirus

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

A Transportation Security Administration official charges that the agency helped spread COVID-19 by failing to provide enough protective gear for airport screeners who are in close contact with travelers every day.

The top TSA official in Kansas, Jay Brainard, says the agency didn't train staff for the pandemic and barred supervisors like him from giving screeners stockpiled N95 respirators in March when facial coverings such as surgical masks were hard to buy.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that our people became Typhoid Marys and contributed to the spread of that virus because TSA senior leadership did not make sure (screeners) were adequately protected," Brainard told The Associated Press on Friday.

Brainard filed a complaint against his own agency with the Office of Special Counsel, which handles whistleblower complaints, earlier this month. Late Thursday, the special counsel ordered TSA's parent agency, the Homeland Security Department, to conduct an investigation.

The TSA said in a statement that it has followed guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in deciding protection standards for workers.

Spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein said that at the start of the virus outbreak, TSA told employees that masks were optional, then made them mandatory at airport checkpoints in the first week of May.

Airport officers are required to wear nitrile gloves when they screen passengers. They must change gloves after every pat-down, and travelers can request the use of new gloves at any time, Farbstein said. Eye protection has remained optional for screeners.

Farbstein added that plastic barriers have been installed at security checkpoints and areas where checked bags are dropped off for screening.

Brainard disputed parts of the TSA statement, saying screeners have not been told to change gloves after every pat-down. He said new guidelines that took effect last week still have gaps, including no procedure

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for how to handle travelers who appear to be sick and little or no contact-tracing after TSA personnel become sick.

Brainard's complaint and the special counsel's demand for an investigation were earlier reported by the Washington Post and National Public Radio.

Air travel in the U.S. remained at normal levels until early March despite rising numbers of cases and deaths tied to the coronavirus. It then plunged by about 95% but has since recovered slightly as more states relax stay-at-home orders.

Brainard said he wants TSA to take corrective steps to protect health as air travel recovers.

TSA says on its website that 706 of its employees have tested positive for COVID-19 and five have died, plus one screening contractor.

TSA Administrator David Pekoske said in March that the agency was prepared for the pandemic, with adequate equipment for screeners.

"Our officers wear gloves as a matter of course anyway ... that's the primary means of transmission for the disease," Pekoske told a Senate hearing. "We have also authorized our officers in the screening checkpoints, if they would like, to wear a surgical mask. They are permitted to do that, and we provide those masks."

Brainard said that until April, he and other TSA federal security directors were told to withhold N95 respirators that they had in stock at airports but to allow employees to bring their own masks to work.

"If you remember, you couldn't get masks" because they were sold out, he said. "To say to these people, 'You can go out and buy your own,' that's unacceptable."

Brainard joined TSA as an air marshal when the agency was created after the September 2011 terror attacks. He has been an outspoken critic of the agency's top leadership, testifying before a congressional committee in 2016 and filing two previous whistleblower complaints.

Brainard filed the virus-related complaint on June 3. The special counsel declined to comment, but the order directing Homeland Security to investigate the allegations indicates that the independent federal watchdog office believes there is a "substantial likelihood" of wrongdoing.

Homeland Security could refer the matter to its inspector general, which is the hope of Brainard and his lawyer, Tom Devine of the Government Accountability Project in Washington, D.C. The department, however, could send the complaint to TSA.

The special counsel will review the findings either way and issue a report to the White House and Congress.

Trump embraces immigration court fight as election boost

By WILL WEISSERT and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's rejection of one of Donald Trump's key immigration measures reignites a hot-button issue in a presidential campaign already scorched by pandemic, economic collapse and protests over police brutality and racial injustice.

The president is betting that he can energize his most loyal supporters by fighting the Supreme Court, which decided on procedural grounds Thursday that he couldn't end legal protections for young immigrants. Trump, who often attempts to shift the nation's focus to immigration when forced to defend himself on other fronts, said Friday he would renew his legal effort.

His immigration push is risky, even for someone who has built his political career on defying conventional wisdom. It could allow Trump to fire up his base on an issue that was a centerpiece of his 2016 victory while highlighting Democratic challenger Joe Biden's struggle to win over Latino voters. But it could also further alienate swing voters including suburban women who could decide the election.

Some Republicans say that, with less than five months before November, it's not a fight worth having.

"It doesn't make any political sense, or moral sense or ethical sense," said Republican strategist Tim Miller, a frequent Trump critic and veteran of Jeb Bush's unsuccessful 2016 presidential run. "Anybody that likes (Trump) because of his willingness to 'go there' on racial and immigration issues is already with him, and he's not picking up anybody else."

Still, Trump has built his presidency around hard-line immigration policies and a crackdown on the U.S.-

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Mexico border. He's been eager to return to those themes after months of negative headlines about the coronavirus and an economy devastated by it.

The president plans to travel to Arizona next week to celebrate 200 miles of new border wall that has been completed during his term, and hold just his second rally after months of campaigning suspended amid more than 100,000 deaths from COVID-19.

His decision to resume big rallies despite virus concerns is another example of his determination to transform an issue into a political fight his supporters can embrace.

But COVID and the border wall are different from the 8-year-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, which protects 650,000 people brought to the U.S. as children from deportation and authorizes them to work.

Polls show widespread support for the program known as DACA, as well as for immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally through no fault of their own.

Some Trump allies acknowledge worries about losing support among moderates. But the president and some of his aides argue that will be easily offset by excitement among steadfast conservatives.

Biden, meanwhile, has promised to send legislation to Congress codifying DACA on his first day as president, if elected. But he has also refused to back decriminalizing illegal border crossing, unlike Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and other Democrats who unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination.

Sanders routinely out-pollled Biden among Latino voters during the primaries, helping power the senator's big wins in Nevada and California, though Biden saw some improvement among Hispanics in places like Texas and Arizona.

Chuck Rocha was Sanders' top aide on Latino outreach and has since launched a political action committee aimed at motivating Hispanic voters, especially in battleground states like Pennsylvania. He said he already has "people in the film room" and is planning to use the DACA decision — and the president's vow to go back to court — "to draw a contrast between Joe Biden and Donald Trump."

"There's a motivation factor we worry about with younger Latinos who supported Bernie Sanders who are not onboard with Joe Biden yet," Rocha said. "But these people went to school with these DACA recipients. These kids are friends with these DACA recipients. These people understand that their friends are just as much American as they are, so it really cuts at the heart of an emotional issue."

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Friday that "Democrats really seem to be using the DACA recipients as pawns" for electoral purposes, adding, "That is despicable."

Julia Rodriguez, a senior Biden campaign adviser, countered that Biden isn't willing to lie quietly back while "Trump continues to double down on his base." Instead, she said, Biden is "reaching out to women voters, to young voters, to voters of color."

Trump and his campaign also have focused their response to the Supreme Court decision on their efforts to nominate more conservative justices to the Supreme Court. That's despite the fact that Chief Justice John Roberts, who was appointed by Republican President George W. Bush, authored the DACA ruling.

Trump has used the federal courts as a powerful motivator before, stoking fears about possible Democratic picks. Conservatives had for years viewed gaining commanding representation on the federal bench as critical to slowing the nation's cultural transformation, and Trump has largely delivered, appointing more judges than Barack Obama or any other recent president.

Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh says, "Conservative judges were a huge issue in 2016 and will be again this November."

Marisa Franco, the Arizona-based cofounder of Mijente, a Latino organizing and activist political organization, said she sees the DACA decision -- and Trump's response -- as "an opportunity for Biden" but that promising to send legislation to Congress isn't enough.

"I think he can go further and he must go further to actually solve these problems," Franco said. She said that federal agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement "really parallel what we're seeing in local police departments around the country. They are operating with blank checks with no accountability," and Biden "needs to go in and he needs to clean house."

Associated Press Writer Bill Barrow contributed to this report from Atlanta.

'Why not a Black woman?' Consensus grows around Biden's VP

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden is facing growing calls to select a Black woman as his running mate as an acknowledgement of their critical role in the Democratic Party and a response to the nationwide protests against racism and inequality.

The shifting dynamics were clear late Thursday when Amy Klobuchar took herself out of contention for the vice presidency. The Minnesota senator, who is white, told MSNBC that "this is a moment to put a woman of color on that ticket."

Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, has already pledged to select a woman as his vice president to energize the party's base with the prospect of making history. But following the outrage over the police killing of George Floyd last month, many Democratic strategists say there's growing consensus that the pick should be a Black woman.

"Like it or not, I think the question is starting to become, 'Well, why not a Black woman?'" said Karen Finney, a spokesperson for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign.

Finney, who was one of 200 Black women who signed a letter to Biden encouraging him to select a Black woman for his ticket, warned that the former vice president could face a backlash if he chose a white woman.

"That puts a lot of pressure on Biden. It puts a lot of pressure on who he selects, no question," she said. "The country is recognizing the gravity of this moment, the significance of this moment."

Biden's team has been vetting potential candidates for weeks and has begun whittling down their list of choices. Several of the potential contenders are Black, including California Sen. Kamala Harris, Florida Rep. Val Demings, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and Susan Rice, who served as President Barack Obama's national security adviser. New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Latina, is also in the mix.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who is white, is also leading contender. Another possibility who is white, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, said last month that she had opening conversations with Biden's team about potentially serving as vice president. In a Thursday interview, she said, "Beyond that, there's just not much new to report."

Antjuan Seawright, a veteran Democratic strategist, said the current moment calls for someone who understands the challenges faced by Black Americans.

"There's a renewed sense of urgency around the need to have someone who can speak to the experiences of today and advocate for the promises of tomorrow when it comes to populations of constituencies in this country who've been left out for a very long time," he said.

Klobuchar's decision was in part a reflection of the fact that her own chances at getting the VP nod diminished after Floyd's killing.

She was a prosecutor years ago in the county that includes Minneapolis, and during that period, more than two dozen people — mostly people of color — 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, was involved in a fatal October 2006 shooting of a man accused of stabbing people and aiming a shotgun at police. Klobuchar's successor as prosecutor, Mike Freeman, sent Chauvin's case to a grand jury, which was customary practice for the office at the time, and the grand jury in 2008 declined to prosecute. Freeman has said Klobuchar, who won election to the Senate in November 2006 and took office in January 2007, had no involvement in the Chauvin case.

But her decision this week to endorse a woman of color is certain to complicate the pitches of other white contenders.

In conversations with a half-dozen Democrats, none would rule out Warren, who's been actively engag-

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ing with Black activists and leaders since exiting the Democratic presidential race and won plaudits from some former skeptics for her outreach. But privately, many acknowledged that her chances have dimmed following Klobuchar's remarks.

"I think Elizabeth, if she wants the job, has got to make the case for not only why she would be the best vice president of the people he's considering, but why she would be the best person to put on the ticket electorally," said Heidi Heitkamp, a former Democratic senator from North Dakota who served with Warren. "If she can make that persuasive argument, you can't rule her out.

Heitkamp said she's long believed Biden should choose a Black woman, in part because of the current political climate, but also because Black women are some of the Democratic Party's most loyal voters. And she suggested Klobuchar's comments Thursday night reflected the views of many of those within the party.

"I think it was incredibly generous of her to bow out and to say what I think a lot of us are thinking, which is that the time has come to recognize the contributions and the capabilities of a lot of women who may otherwise get passed over," she said.

The debate among Democrats about Biden's vice presidential pick has divided among competing and sometimes contradictory views within the party about the best path to victory in November.

Those who believe Biden must take into consideration geographic concerns advocate choosing a candidate from a swing state. Those who believe Biden should focus on winning over and turning out young and liberal voters suggest he should choose a progressive. And those who believe demographics are key argue in favor of a woman of color.

Warren was long the favorite of those who felt strongest that Biden needed to win over skeptical progressives. But Seawright argued that Klobuchar's comments helped refocus the conversation.

"I think that when Klobuchar and others use intentional commentary like she did, I think it helps push back on some of these conversations being had about geographics, the flavor within the party, progressive versus moderate, etc.," he said. "When intentional conversations like she had last night come about, it really turns down the noise and really focuses on the lyrics of what's important."

Trump turns virus conversation into 'US vs. THEM' debate

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

President Donald Trump's push to resume big rallies despite concern he's putting the public's health at risk is part of a broader reelection campaign effort to turn the national debate about the coronavirus into a political fight that he frames as "US vs. THEM."

"They hate me. They hate you. They hate rallies and it's all because they hate the idea of MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" Trump said in a recent fundraising email.

Those who raise concerns about the health risks of packing in thousands of people for his Saturday rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Trump says, are trying to "COVID-SHAME" his supporters for events that will draw fewer people than the throngs that turned out for outdoor protests after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Trump went so far as to complain in a Wall Street Journal interview this week that some Americans wore facial coverings not as a preventive measure but as a way to signal disapproval of him.

The president appears to be calculating that he can ignite resentment toward "the other" and inspire his base to turn out for him in November, said Christopher Borick, director of the nonpartisan Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion.

"The frame of us-versus-them -- the other -- has been a consummate rhetorical tool for the president throughout his time in office and before as a candidate," Borick said. He cited earlier Trump attacks against people living in the country illegally and against "American carnage" in U.S. cities as examples of divisive language from the presidential bully pulpit. "It's the tried-and-true device that he repeatedly goes back to."

White House senior adviser Kellyanne Conway on Thursday resurrected a divisive 2016 campaign line — Democrat Hillary Clinton's dismissive reference to some Trump supporters as a "basket of deplorables" — that underscored the Trump team's effort to turn mask-wearing into a political issue.

"We can't pick and choose who can be where, wearing a mask or not, based on our politics, based on

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whether some people think that folks are irredeemable and deplorable," she told Fox News. "They have the same rights as anybody else to peacefully assemble ... under our Constitution."

Dan Eberhart, a Republican donor and Trump supporter, said it was disheartening that the virus has turned into a "Red team vs. Blue team" issue. But he said that Trump is clear-eyed that if the economy isn't "roaring by October," his reelection hopes are dim. The president's push to get back to normal, including campaigning, reflects that political reality.

But the reality of the threat from the pandemic is quite different. Epidemiologists are increasingly concerned about spikes in infections that suggest the virus is still spreading.

Arizona, Florida, California, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas all reported record-high single-day increases in coronavirus cases on Thursday. Tulsa County, where Trump will hold his rally at a 19,000-seat arena, has emerged as the state's leading COVID-19 hot spot. The state recorded 352 more cases on Friday, its second highest daily toll during the pandemic.

Administration officials have echoed the president, pillorying Democratic critics and the media as alarmist.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany complained that the media have set a double standard. She said little concern was raised about the spread of COVID-19 as demonstrators took to the streets to demand changes in policing.

Economic adviser Larry Kudlow said the spikes in some states were "small bumps," and he argued that increased testing had accounted for the surge in positive cases. Vice President Mike Pence, who early in the crisis took a decidedly more cautious tone as Trump chafed against public health expert recommendations, dismissed concerns about a second wave of the virus as "overblown."

Nadia Abuelezam, a Boston College epidemiologist, said she worried that rhetoric that turns mask-wearing into a politically fraught action could lead to more deaths and infections.

"When we're talking about empowering people to protect themselves and to protect others, incorporating politics muddles the education piece at a time when some people might not fully understand why masks work in the first place," Abuelezam said.

Trump sees a winning message in presenting voters with contrasting images of himself traveling the country to make his case for a second term while presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden sticks closer to home. Trump insists that the virus is "fading away" and that a vaccine, which he predicts will be available by year's end, might not even be needed.

Eberhart, the GOP donor, said he wished Trump would be "a bit more cautious" and delay big stadium rallies a little longer.

"To use a football analogy, Trump is more of a coach that is trying to win the game than a GM or a coach with foresight that is looking to next season or his legacy," said Eberhart, CEO of Canary, one of the nation's largest privately owned oilfield services companies. "Trump is really concerned about the news cycle and the next news cycle, and he's worried about his reelection. But I don't think his legacy or what the history books are going to say enters his cortex."

With his rally, Trump is also flouting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines that, for now, discourage large indoor gatherings.

Trump aides say the campaign will conduct temperature checks of rallygoers and supply hand sanitizer. Face coverings will be distributed, but people won't be required to wear them. CDC guidelines call for the use of masks in areas where individuals cannot maintain social distance.

The story has been corrected to reflect that the last name of the public opinion expert is Borick, not Borricks.

Deaths prompt Alaska officials to remove 'Into the Wild' bus

By MARK THIESSEN and BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — An abandoned bus in the Alaska wilderness where a young man documented his demise over 114 days in 1992 has been removed by officials, frustrated that the bus has become a lure

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for dangerous, sometimes deadly pilgrimages into treacherous backcountry.

An Alaska National Guard Chinook helicopter flew the bus out of the woods just north of Denali National Park and Preserve on Thursday.

Christopher McCandless hiked to the bus located about 250 miles (402 kilometers) north of Anchorage nearly three decades ago, and the 24-year-old Virginian died from starvation when he couldn't hike back out because of the swollen Teklanika River. He kept a journal of his plight, discovered when his body was found. McCandless' story was first documented in Jon Krakauer's 1996 book "Into the Wild," followed by Sean Penn's movie of the same name in 2007.

Over the years, the bus became a magnet for those wishing to retrace McCandless' steps to the bus to pay homage. But the Teklanika River that prevented McCandless from hiking out also has caused problems for people who came later on pilgrimages. Two women, one from Switzerland in 2010 and one from Belarus in 2019, drowned on such pilgrimages.

State officials said there have been 15 other search-and-rescue operations since 2009, including one involving five Italian tourists last winter, one with severe frostbite.

"We encourage people to enjoy Alaska's wild areas safely, and we understand the hold this bus has had on the popular imagination," Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Corri A. Feige said in a statement. "However, this is an abandoned and deteriorating vehicle that was requiring dangerous and costly rescue efforts, but more importantly, was costing some visitors their lives."

In Alaska, the Department of Natural Resources is responsible for protecting and preserving state land.

"I was stunned when Commissioner Feige informed me," Carine McCandless, Christopher's sister, said in an email to The Associated Press. "Though I am saddened by the news, the decision was made with good intentions, and was certainly theirs to make. That bus didn't belong to Chris and it doesn't belong to his family."

The 1940s-era bus, sometimes called "Bus 142" or "The Magic Bus," was used to house employees by the Yutan Construction Co. when it built an access road about 25 miles west of the Parks Highway, the main thoroughfare between Anchorage and Fairbanks. The National Guard named Thursday's bus lift "Operation Yutan."

The bus was abandoned in 1961 and had become an emergency shelter for those using the backcountry to recreate or hunt.

"Seeing those photos of Fairbanks 142 flying out of the bush triggered a flood of complicated emotions for me," Krakauer said in an email to the AP.

Krakauer said he respects the decision to remove the bus, "but some powerful history is attached to that old bus. A great many people care deeply about what happens to it."

For now the bus is being kept in a secure, unnamed location while the department decides what to do with it, Feige said. A release from the Alaska National Guard said the discussion includes "possible plans to display the bus for the public to view at a safe location."

The guard said its air crew also is safekeeping a suitcase that holds sentimental value to the McCandless family. Officials didn't detail what was in the suitcase.

Bohrer reported from Juneau, Alaska.

Former Baltimore mayor pleads guilty to perjury charge

By BRIAN WITTE Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Baltimore's disgraced former mayor pleaded guilty to a state perjury charge Friday for failing to disclose a business interest relating to her "Healthy Holly" children's books on her financial disclosure forms when she was a state senator.

Catherine Pugh, a 70-year-old Democrat, already has been sentenced to three years in federal prison for netting hundreds of thousands of dollars in the self-dealing scandal over the books that touted exercise and nutrition. She is scheduled to report to federal prison next week in Alabama. Last year, she pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy and tax evasion charges.

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She answered "yes" quietly through a mask when asked by her attorneys whether she understood the plea agreement on the perjury charge. She was sentenced to six months in jail to be served concurrently with her federal sentence.

Judge Mark Crooks said he was saddened for the city of Baltimore, which has struggled with high violent crime, when he heard of the charges against her.

"It forced you to leave the helm of the ship in the middle of the tempest," Crooks said.

Charlton Howard, the state prosecutor who brought the charge, said after the sentencing that ensuring elected officials are transparent about their business relationships is essential to maintaining integrity in government. He noted that she reported other business interests on her financial disclosure forms, but not "Healthy Holly."

"In order for us in the state and for the state prosecutor's office to have the best opportunity to battle corruption, the first important step is transparency. That's the reason behind the financial disclosure forms, so that the public doesn't have to guess at what are the financial ties that our public officials have," Howard said.

Pugh served in the Maryland Senate from 2007 to 2016, when she was elected Baltimore's mayor. She resigned as mayor under pressure last year as authorities investigated bulk sales of her paperbacks, which netted her hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Pugh earned at least \$345,000 in income in 2016 through sales of her books but failed to mention her ownership in financial disclosure forms, which are filed with the Maryland State Ethics Commission and signed under the penalties of perjury, according to the state prosecutor's office.

In the federal case, Pugh admitted to defrauding purchasers of her books to pay for straw donations to her political campaign for mayor and to fund the purchase and renovation of a house in Baltimore.

She also admitted to selling her books to the University of Maryland Medical System, where she had served as a board member.

The medical system paid Pugh a total of \$500,000 for 100,000 copies that were meant to be distributed to schoolchildren, but about 60,000 of those books were sent to a city warehouse and a Pugh office where thousands were removed to give to other customers. Prosecutors say Pugh never delivered the other 40,000 books the health system purchased for city schools.

While serving in the state Senate, Pugh sat on a committee that funded the medical system. She also sat on the hospital network's board from 2001 until the scandal erupted in March. Pugh returned the last \$100,000 payment.

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By ALI SWENSON, BEATRICE DUPUY, ARIJETA LAJKA and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

CLAIM: NASCAR, which recently banned the Confederate flag at its events, is now forcing its drivers to engage in Muslim prayer.

THE FACTS: NASCAR is not forcing drivers to engage in Muslim prayer. The bogus claim circulated with a photo that showed drivers at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway taking part in a longstanding tradition called "kissing the bricks." A post featuring the photo racked up more than 140,000 views last weekend. "So NASCAR bans the confederate flag but FORCES all their drivers to do Muslim prayer?" it read. "I wouldn't have believed it if I didn't see it with my own eyes. Unacceptable!!" NASCAR has been the target of heavy praise and some disdain since it announced it would ban the Confederate flag from its events and properties, citing a need to provide a more "welcoming and inclusive" environment for its fans. But the auto racing association has not asked its athletes to participate in a Muslim prayer. The photo that went viral on social media actually shows drivers participating in a well-known NASCAR tradition at the

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Indianapolis Motor Speedway's Yard of Bricks. It was started by driver Dale Jarrett in 1996. After Jarrett won the Brickyard 400 race, he and his crew walked out to the finish line, knelt and kissed the yard-long section of bricks on the track. Since then, winners of the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400 and other races have done the same. A reverse image search reveals the photo was taken in July 2016, when Kyle Busch won the Combat Wounded Coalition 400 race at the track.

CLAIM: Public service announcement warns of a white supremacist who has been shooting at black people at traffic lights. He drives a white truck and was last seen in Mesa, Arizona.

THE FACTS: State and local police officials in Arizona as well as organizations that track violence by white supremacists said they received no reports of a gunman targeting black motorists in Mesa, surrounding cities or elsewhere in the state last week. Nor did they release a public service announcement. On the evening of Tuesday, June 16, a post made to look like a public service announcement began circulating on Instagram and Facebook with claims of a violent white supremacist in Arizona. "PSA," the post said, "If you're in AZ there is a white supremacist shooting black people at stop lights. He drives a white truck." The post added that the driver was last seen in Mesa, a suburb of Phoenix. By Wednesday afternoon, identical posts shared on Facebook had been viewed more than 100,000 times. Mesa Police Department officials said there was no evidence of any such activity in the city. "We have not had any calls regarding this or anything similar," Detective Jason Flam, the department's public information officer, said in an email to the AP. "Our intelligence unit is aware and looking into this fake PSA." Flam said he was concerned that someone was "trying to create fear" with the unfounded post. He said he reached out to surrounding agencies in Gilbert, Chandler, Scottsdale and Tempe to investigate whether the posts were targeting multiple cities. Officers in those locations were unaware of any similar PSAs circulating in their jurisdictions, he said. The Arizona Department of Public Safety had not seen any incidents like the one described in the post, spokesman Raul Garcia told the AP. "This may be an example of disinformation designed to divide the community and cause fear," he said in an email. "I have submitted the information to the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center." Both Marcela Taracena, a spokesperson for the ACLU in Arizona, and Rebecca Sturtevant, an associate media director for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said they had not received any reports about a white supremacist shooting people in Arizona.

CLAIM: "Nancy Green (aka Aunt Jemima) was born into slavery. She was a magnificent cook. When she was 'freed' she rolled her talent into a cooking brand that General Mills bought & used her likeness. She died in 1923 as one of America's first black millionaires."

THE FACTS: There is no evidence that Green's portrayal as Aunt Jemima made her into a millionaire. After Quaker Oats announced Wednesday that it would retire the Aunt Jemima brand, known for its pancake mixes, posts online began circulating a false tale about the first woman who portrayed Aunt Jemima. "Aunt Jemima really do you know her history?" a Facebook post carrying the false claim stated, criticizing Quaker Oats decision to remove the character from the brand. The brand got its name from the minstrel song "Old Aunt Jemima," which was composed by African American comedian and performer Billy Kersands. Chris Rutt, who created the pancake flour in 1889, was inspired by the song after hearing it during a minstrel performance and decided to give the name to his pancake flour. At the time, Aunt Jemima was seen as a "mammy" character, a racial stereotype of a slave happy to please her white masters. Rutt then sold his company to a larger milling company, R.T. Davis Milling Co., after failing to sell the flour. The milling company brought its mix to the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and hired Nancy Green, a former slave who was working as a cook for a judge, to act as Aunt Jemima and sell the pancake flour. "This began a really long tradition of women being Aunt Jemima in public performance," said Maurice M. Manring, author of "Slave in a Box: The Strange Career of Aunt Jemima." "Aunt Jemima became a national brand advertising nationally." Manring added that the fame of the brand Aunt Jemima coincided with the explosion of advertising during World War I. The brand created a whole backstory for Aunt Jemima giving her a fictional family and creating made up events about her life. However, there is no evidence that Nancy Green shared in any of the profits from the company that sold the pancake mix, said Patricia A. Turner,

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professor of African American studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, and author. Green would continue her work as a housekeeper and died in 1923 after being hit by a car. In "Clinging to Mammy: The Faithful Slave in Twentieth-Century America," author Micki McElya wrote that very few people outside Green's close friends and fellow parishioners at Olivet Baptist Church were aware of her role as Aunt Jemima. The brand would replace Green as Aunt Jemima with several different women, including Anna Harrington. In 2014, the descendants of Harrington sued Quaker Oats and its parent company, PepsiCo, saying Green and Harrington were exploited, and asking for a share of the company's profits for having helped develop the brand. The decision by Quaker Oats to retire the Aunt Jemima name comes after weeks of protests demanding justice for George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man killed by police in Minneapolis, and national outrage over the treatment of black Americans in the U.S. On Wednesday, Quaker Oats acknowledged to the AP that Aunt Jemima's origins were based on a racial stereotype.

CLAIM: All California voters, if you are registered to vote as an independent, you will not be able to vote Republican come 2020. You must go online and change to Republican. California changed the rules and is hoping no one figures it out in time.

THE FACTS: Information contained in the post does not apply to the general election this fall. During California's presidential primary election on March 3, independent voters, also known as "no party preference" voters, could vote in the Democratic presidential primary without changing their party affiliation, but not in the Republican primary. A post that circulated at the time of the primary is recirculating now to make it appear as though California's independent voters will not be able to vote Republican in the general election unless they change their party affiliation to Republican. "California voters please read," says a June 6 Facebook post, featuring a text post spreading the false information about independent voters. The post had more than 5,000 shares. The California Secretary of State's office confirmed to the AP that independent voters were only barred from voting Republican in the presidential primary. During the general election in November they can vote for a candidate belonging to any party. The Democratic Party, American Independent Party and Libertarian Party all notified the Secretary of State's office that they would be allowing California's "no party preference voters" to request their party's presidential ballot in the March 3 presidential primary election. More than 5.4 million Californians are listed as "no party preference" voters. In February, The Associated Press reported that "no party preference" voters in California who vote by mail could apply for a crossover ballot to vote Democrat or re-register as Republicans to vote in the Republican presidential primary. The GOP and national party leaders set the rules for the Republican presidential primary barring "no party preference" voters from participating.

CLAIM: Video shows Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage making disparaging remarks about the British people, including that they are racist and should be ashamed.

THE FACTS: Comments Farage made in a YouTube video were edited to misrepresent what he said. In the full video, Farage was actually criticizing the media for their coverage. On Thursday, a Twitter user posted an out-of-context clip that appeared to show Farage calling the British "awful," "racist people." A check of the video shows that Farage was describing the so-called "narrative" of British people that he said the media puts out. A Twitter user tweeted the misleading clip on June 18: "Wow, this can't have been easy to admit. Well done @Nigel_Farage." In the edited clip, Farage states: "We are awful, terrible, backward, knuckle-dragging racist people and we should be deeply ashamed." The tweet with the out-of-context clip had over 8,000 retweets and nearly 1 million views. In the full version of the video, Farage said: "Whenever I turn on the BBC, it could be Channel 4, it could be Sky, it doesn't matter, we are completely bombarded by a narrative that somehow we are awful, terrible, backward, knuckle-dragging racist people and we should be deeply ashamed... . That message, that narrative is coming out of mainstream media constantly." On June 16, Farage uploaded the video to YouTube and then shared it on Twitter, saying, "This is why nobody trusts the mainstream media. Watch my latest YouTube upload." Since the police killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes, Black Lives Matter protests have spread across the U.S. and

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to countries around the globe, including Britain. In June, Farage made comments comparing Black Lives Matter protesters to the Taliban for pulling down statues of slave traders. That same week, London-based radio station LBC announced that they will no longer broadcast Farage's weekday evening show. "Nigel Farage's contract with LBC is up very shortly and, following discussions with him, Nigel is stepping down from LBC with immediate effect," the company stated on June 11.

CLAIM: Side-by-side photos show that CNN lightened the skin of the gunman who drove a car into a Seattle protest to make him appear white.

THE FACTS: CNN did not alter the skin tone of the gunman who drove into a George Floyd protest in Seattle on June 7 and shot one person. One of the photos used in the image was manipulated to make the gunman's skin lighter, and a CNN logo was added. Posts circulating online are falsely suggesting that CNN got caught doctoring an image of a Seattle gunman to lighten his skin tone. The fabricated image shows side-by-side photos: one, taken by The Seattle Times, that shows the actual event and another that has been altered to lighten the gunman's skin and add the CNN logo. The photo was shared across social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Reddit. "CNN lightened the photo of the man who drove into the protester last night in Seattle. They said he was white...ck the real photo. Ok...do you understand they are getting everyone riled up with LIES," said an Instagram post with the image that had more than 7,000 likes. Video taken by The Seattle Times of the protest on Capitol Hill in Seattle shows the gunman driving into protesters, hitting a barricade and then exiting his car holding a pistol. In a June 8 story on the incident, CNN did not include photos or video of the gunman. CNN confirmed to the AP that the logo added to the photo is not in CNN's style. Bridget Leininger, CNN senior director of communications, told the AP in an email that the photo appears doctored. The altered photo began circulating on social media shortly after the gunman plowed into the June 7 protest. On June 8, 4Chan users uploaded the side-by-side image with the CNN logo saying "white supremacist shoots protester." "CNN is up to their no good tricks again," the poster said. The manipulated photo was shared widely across pro-Trump and conservative Facebook groups and pages where it received more than 50,000 interactions.

CLAIM: Photo shows residents of Seattle's occupied protest zone planting their new official flag, which has a pink unicorn and the acronym "CHAZ" on it, in an overflowing trash can.

THE FACTS: False. This photo, which racked up more than 18,000 views on Facebook and appeared on message boards such as 4chan, was manipulated to make viewers believe it was taken recently in Seattle. The flag was edited to show a pink unicorn design and the acronym "CHAZ." In the original photo, first posted in 2017, the flag design is not visible. The photo shows black-clad individuals holding up the mast of a flag, planting it into a garbage can that's overflowing with coffee cups and water bottles. It looks like a strange homage to a famous photo by AP's Joe Rosenthal from the Battle of Iwo Jima, which has made it popular for use on memes with the phrase "Emo Jima." It's unclear where the original photo was taken. In Seattle, the part of the Capitol Hill neighborhood where protesters have gathered for more than a week was originally known as the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone, or CHAZ. The area is now more commonly referred to as the Capitol Hill Organized Protest, or CHOP. Protest organizers have worked with the City of Seattle to reconfigure the area to continue gathering while promoting public safety, according to the mayor's office. There is no evidence that protesters in CHOP have designated or raised any official flag.

CLAIM: Video shows protesters throwing projectiles at a police car in Brooklyn on Sunday evening, June 14.

THE FACTS: The New York Sergeants Benevolent Association, a police union representing sergeants in the New York Police Department, claims a video it posted was taken Sunday. Actually, a Twitter user first posted the video two weeks earlier, on May 30. The 36-second video, which racked up more than 503,000 views before early Monday, showed a trash can getting lobbed at a police car, breaking the glass on its rear window. It continued with people throwing various other objects at the car, until the driver reversed and drove away down an adjacent street. "NYC - Community Policing Dividend pays off big! This was tonight

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Flatbush Ave Brooklyn,” the Sergeants Benevolent Association tweeted alongside the video on Sunday. But Twitter users quickly realized something was amiss. “This police union account is lying,” tweeted Noah Hurowitz, a local reporter covering the New York protests, later Sunday evening. “This video appears to have been shot on May 30, a block down Flatbush from the now-infamous video of two NYPD SUVs driving thru a crowd of protesters at St. Marks and Flatbush.” A search through old tweets reveals that the Twitter user @Nick74004212 did indeed tweet the same 36-second video on May 30, the night two police cruisers in Brooklyn drove into protesters, knocking several people to the ground. Robert Mladinich, a retired NYPD detective and spokesperson for the union, said he couldn’t confirm how the video got posted but that he was looking into it. He told The Associated Press the SBA would correct the record if the tweet was false, but the tweet was still up on Friday.

CLAIM: An Abraham Lincoln monument was recently torched in Chicago.

THE FACTS: A news article published in June falsely suggests that an Abraham Lincoln statue was burned in Chicago during protests that turned violent in the city. The incident happened in 2017, not recently. Facebook and Instagram users are sharing a news article that wrongly suggests a bust of former President Abraham Lincoln was torched last week in Chicago. Time has not always been kind to the bust since it was first erected on Aug. 31, 1926. It was spray painted, stolen, had its nose knocked off and then, finally, was set on fire in August 2017 while perched on a street corner in Chicago’s West Englewood neighborhood. But reports that it was torched during recent protests in Chicago are false. The bust of Lincoln is doing fine in its new location at the Chicago Public Library’s West Englewood branch, where it was relocated in 2018 after being restored, Chicago Alderman Raymond Lopez told the AP on Monday. “Abraham Lincoln is well preserved in my community,” Lopez said. “It’s fine and perfect in its location.” Lopez posted on Facebook about the statue being burned in August 2017, and the false reports claiming that Lincoln was burned — again — link to that old post. The misleading article about the Lincoln statue was written and published days after protests, some of which turned violent and resulted in damaged property in Chicago, over the death of George Floyd. “An Absolute Disgraceful Act: Abraham Lincoln Monument Torched in Chicago,” the headline of the article says. The article was also shared on Instagram. “Abraham Lincoln, aka The Great Emancipator, signed the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, freeing the slaves as the United States descended into Civil War. The left doesn’t care about that after all,” the Instagram post says.

This is part of The Associated Press’ ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform.

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Trump says he will renew effort to end DACA protections

By ASTRID GALVAN and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday he will renew his effort to end legal protections for hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the United States as children.

Trump denounced a Supreme Court ruling that the administration improperly ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in 2017. Splitting with Trump and judicial conservatives, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the four liberal justices in the 5-4 vote Thursday.

Through executive action, Trump could still take away the ability of 650,000 young immigrants to live and work legally in the U.S. And with no legislative answer in sight in Congress, uncertainty continues for many immigrants who know no other home except America.

In a tweet Friday, Trump said, “The Supreme Court asked us to resubmit on DACA, nothing was lost or won. They ‘punted,’ much like in a football game (where hopefully they would stand for our great American

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Flag). We will be submitting enhanced papers shortly.”

Many believe Trump could modify the rescinding of DACA in the same way he changed a travel ban on mostly Muslim countries. The ban was upheld by the Supreme Court after two revisions in over a year, including adding North Koreans and some Venezuelan officials to the ban.

In a 5-4 opinion with a stark rebuke from liberal justices, the high court found that Trump was well within a president’s considerable authority over immigration and the responsibility for keeping the nation safe.

Groups that support DACA said they will remain on guard against further action by Trump.

“What’s important to note: NOTHING has changed since yesterday and won’t change unless SCOTUS decides otherwise,” the immigration legal services provider and advocacy group RAICES, based in Texas, wrote on Twitter. “We’ll remain vigilant & ready to fight anything that may come.”

Hareth Andrade, a national staffer with Mi Familia Vota, an organization that focuses on voter engagement, said the president’s tweet is a “sore loser remark.” Andrade is also a DACA recipient.

“This appeal tactic will only run out the time he has left as president,” she said. “Our movement knows better, we have deeply organized our communities, and for now, have a SCOTUS decision on our side to keep our DACA benefits intact.”

Megan Essaheb, director of immigration advocacy for the Washington-based nonprofit Asian Americans Advancing Justice, said that while Trump can still terminate DACA, he could also choose to support legislation that provides legal status to recipients along with 300,000 people who have temporary status and the estimated 11 million who are in the U.S. without permission.

“If he chooses cruelty, it will be on him,” Essaheb said.

The Trump administration says it’s moving forward against DACA, even though experts say there isn’t enough time to knock down the program before the November election.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said the president has vowed to take care of DACA far better than the Democrats ever did.

“We want to find a compassionate way to do this,” McEnany said.

“We’re going to move as quickly as we can to put options in front of the president,” Ken Cuccinelli, acting head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, told “Fox & Friends.”

“That still leaves open the appropriate solution which the Supreme Court mentioned, and that is that Congress step up to the plate,” he said.

Activists are vowing to keep fighting for a long-term solution for young immigrants whose parents brought them to the United States when they were children. They not only face a White House that’s prioritized immigration restrictions but also a divided Congress that is not expected to pass legislation providing a path to citizenship anytime soon.

The high court decision on Thursday elicited surprise, joy and some apprehension from immigrants and advocates who know it’s only a temporary development.

“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 back 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.

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 some Republicans asserted that now is 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.

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.

For now, immigrants who are part of DACA will keep their 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 of 15 to join the program but haven't been able to do so because the government has only been renewing two-year permits for those already enrolled.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services hasn't signaled whether it will accept any new applications and it's unlikely the Trump administration would do so without being forced by the courts. Still, pro-DACA organizations are encouraging those who qualify to file first-time applications.

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

What Supreme Court? Trump's HHS pushes LGBT health rollback

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration Friday moved forward with a rule that rolls back health care protections for transgender people, even as the Supreme Court barred sex discrimination against LGBT individuals on the job.

The rule from the Department of Health and Human Services was published in the Federal Register, the official record of the executive branch, with an effective date of Aug. 18. That will set off a barrage of lawsuits from gay rights and women's groups. It also signals to religious and social conservatives in President Donald Trump's political base that the administration remains committed to their causes as the president pursues his reelection.

The Trump administration rule would overturn Obama-era sex discrimination protections for transgender people in health care.

Strikingly similar to the underlying issues in the job discrimination case before the Supreme Court, the Trump health care rule rests on the idea that sex is determined by biology. The Obama version relied on a broader understanding shaped by a person's inner sense of being male, female, neither, or a combination.

Writing for the majority in this week's 6-3 decision, Justice Neil Gorsuch said, "An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex.

"Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what (civil rights law) forbids," wrote Gorsuch, who was nominated to the court by Trump.

The president thundered back in a tweet: "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."

In the HHS rule, the department's Office for Civil Rights anticipated a Supreme Court ruling on job discrimination "will likely have ramifications" for its health discrimination rule.

But health care is different, HHS argued. "The binary biological character of sex (which is ultimately grounded in genetics) takes on special importance in the health context," administration lawyers wrote. "Those implications might not be fully addressed by future (job discrimination) rulings even if courts were to deem the categories of sexual orientation or gender identity to be encompassed by the prohibition on sex discrimination in (civil rights law)."

Cornell University constitutional law scholar Michael Dorf says that doesn't sound like a persuasive argument to him.

"I don't think it works very well," said Dorf. "In Justice Gorsuch's opinion he's not saying the word 'sex' is ambiguous. He's saying that when you do all the reasoning, it's clear that 'sex' includes sexual orientation and gender identity."

Civil rights laws on employment and health care may be different in a technical sense, said Dorf, but "it seems to be a very short distance to say (the Supreme Court ruling) also applies" to sex discrimination in health care.

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Not so fast, said Gregory Baylor, an attorney for the religious liberty group Alliance Defending Freedom. "Biological sex matters in many health care settings in a way that it doesn't matter in many employment decisions," Baylor said. He cited the shortcomings of drug trials that use male patients but not women, when there can be differences in how medications affect both genders.

But gay rights and women's groups say their arguments against the health care rule have clearly been strengthened by the Supreme Court.

"The decision puts the (HHS) rule on even shakier ground than it ever was," said Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, a lawyer specializing in health care with the LGBTQ civil rights group Lambda Legal.

Michelle Banker, an attorney for the National Women's Law Center, said the administration's timing raises process questions that could later become important in a court challenge. It was only last week HHS announced it had finalized the rule.

"Agencies are required to make reasoned, rational decisions when they make policy," said Banker. "The Supreme Court just weighed in and said that the legal interpretation they are relying on is wrong, and they have not grappled with that."

The Obama-era rule was intended to carry out anti-discrimination provisions in former President Barack Obama's signature health care law, which included a provision that barred sex discrimination in health care. The Trump administration says its predecessor went beyond what Congress authorized in protecting gender identity as well as biological gender.

Another provision of the Obama rule bars discrimination in health care against women on grounds of having or not having abortions. The Trump rule overturns that as well. Baylor said there's nothing in the Supreme Court decision that would affect the Trump administration's decision.

HHS rejects charges by Trump administration critics that it's opening the way for discrimination.

"HHS respects the dignity of every human being," said Roger Severino, head of the department's civil rights office. "We vigorously protect and enforce the civil rights of all to the fullest extent permitted by our laws as passed by Congress."

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 were facing off Friday afternoon 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.

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.

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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.

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, in early June, a month after he was asked to review Bolton's book.

In an amended filing on Friday, the government acknowledged that Ellis did not receive his "original classification authority" training until June 10, after he had already reviewed Bolton's book. The government said Ellis reviewed the book again after his training, but did not alter any of his decisions that the book still contained classified material.

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.

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.

Associated Press writers Hillel Italie in New York and Michael Balsamo and Zeke Miller in Washington

contributed to this report.

Canada's loss of UN Security Council seat a blow to Trudeau

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Justin Trudeau arrived on the world stage with rock star popularity in 2015. He declared "Canada is back" and made winning a seat on the powerful U.N. Security Council a top foreign policy priority.

But Canada lost out to Norway and Ireland this week in a three-way race for two seats. It was Canada's second consecutive defeat in a bid for a seat and an especially big blow to Trudeau.

"There is no doubt that this is not the result I was hoping for," the prime minister said a day after Wednesday's vote.

Trudeau blamed the loss on Canada's late start in campaigning for the seats. Norway and Ireland had declared their candidacies for the seats well before Trudeau was elected in 2015, after which he announced Canada's intention to run.

"The reality was, coming in five years later than them gave us a delay that we unfortunately weren't able to overcome," Trudeau said. He gave no other reasons why Canada lost.

The loss was especially embarrassing because of Canada's stature as an economic powerhouse, part of the G7 and a member of NATO.

Some U.N. diplomats say Canada ran a good campaign, maybe even the best campaign, but added that when it comes to voting at the United Nations, especially by a secret ballot, governments have many other considerations.

As part of North America, some experts say Canada suffers because of its geographic association with the United States, even though Trudeau and President Donald Trump often don't see eye-to-eye on issues like free trade and climate change.

It also had supported Israel over the Palestinians in the General Assembly, a stance that did not go unnoticed by the Arab League and the larger 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation, although there was a sudden shift in November when Canada backed Palestinian rights to self-determination.

Canada also has had brushes with China and Japan.

Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, said the failure to win a Security Council seat was "a big blow to Trudeau, although the result was not surprising."

"Trudeau may be popular with women when he travels abroad, but that doesn't cut it in U.N. politics," Wiseman said. "Canada is back, as Trudeau says, but at the end of the line."

Because of the Security Council's mandate to ensure international peace and security, winning a seat is considered a pinnacle of achievement for many countries. It gives them a strong voice on crucial issues such as sanctions, as well as war and peace ranging from conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Libya, Africa and Ukraine to the nuclear threat posed by North Korea and Iran, and attacks by extremist groups.

Trudeau tried to sell Canada's bid by noting that the multilateral system is challenged by large countries withdrawing their support for engagement on the world stage. He said world needs medium-sized countries like Canada to step up and defend it.

"We will remain committed to multilateralism," he said. "It also matters to many, many countries around the world that Canada continues to be present in defending multilateralism."

Robert Bothwell, a professor of Canadian history and international relations at the University of Toronto, said the loss was "a blow to Trudeau because he set it up to be one."

Canada lost for a number of reasons, he said, including the fact that its neighbor is the United States and it has not had much success at "establishing linkages" with other countries. He also said European countries usually support others in Europe and Arab countries tend to vote in terms of Israel.

It's not known how Japan voted, but Bothwell said Trudeau likely angered Tokyo when he delayed signing the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

China-Canada relations also are at a low. Chinese prosecutors charged two detained Canadians with spying Friday in an apparent bid to pressure Canada to drop a U.S. extradition request for an executive of

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China's technology giant Huawei who is under house arrest in Vancouver.

Bothwell also said Chrystia Freeland, Canada's deputy prime minister, took no interest in the U.N. during her tenure as foreign minister.

Canada's loss came in the first round of voting in the U.N. General Assembly, where 192 of the 193 U.N. member nations cast secret ballots for five new Security Council members.

Canada needed 128 votes — two-thirds of the voting members of the assembly. Norway passed the threshold with 130 votes and Ireland got 128 votes. Canada fell short with 108 votes.

Trudeau actually finished with fewer votes than Canada's previous prime minister, Conservative Stephen Harper, received in 2010. Trudeau's Liberals, who were in opposition at the time, blamed Conservative foreign policy for the previous failure.

Norway and Ireland will start two-year terms on the council on Jan. 1 along with India and Mexico, who won uncontested seats, and Kenya, which defeated Djibouti in a second round of voting Thursday.

Respected columnist Paul Wells wrote a stinging rebuke of the current government in Maclean's magazine. "Believing it would fall from the heavens on Trudeau because he wasn't Harper was an expression of the narcissism and shallowness that have characterized this government during much of its time in office," Wells wrote.

Associated Press writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

'Chariots of Fire,' 'Lord of the Rings' actor Ian Holm dies

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ian Holm, a versatile British actor whose long career included roles in "Chariots of Fire" and "The Lord of the Rings" has died. He was 88.

Holm died peacefully Friday morning in a hospital, surrounded by his family and carer, his agent Alex Irwin said in a statement. His illness was Parkinson's-related.

"His sparkling wit always accompanied a mischievous twinkle in his eye," Irwin said. "Charming, kind and ferociously talented, we will miss him hugely."

Holm appeared in scores of movies big and small, from costume dramas to fantasy epics. A generation of moviegoers knows him as Bilbo Baggins in "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" trilogies.

He won a British Academy Film Award and gained a supporting-actor Oscar nomination for portraying pioneering athletics coach Sam Mussabini in the hit 1982 film "Chariots of Fire."

His other movie roles included Father Cornelius in "The Fifth Element," android Ash in "Alien," a smooth-talking lawyer in "The Sweet Hereafter," Napoleon Bonaparte in "Time Bandits," writer Lewis Carroll in "Dreamchild" and a royal physician in "The Madness of King George."

He was also a charismatic theater actor who won a Tony Award for best featured actor as Lenny in Harold Pinter's play "The Homecoming" in 1967.

He was a longtime member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, though a bout of debilitating stage fright that struck during a production of "The Iceman Cometh" in 1976 kept him off the stage for many years.

"I think it happens quite often to actors," Holm told the Associated Press in 1998. "They lose their nerve. They may think it's a crazy way to make a living, or whatever. I was fortunately gainfully employed in the other media. I could have frozen in front of a camera, and I would have had to become a chimney sweep or something."

He returned to live performance and won a 1998 Laurence Olivier Award for best actor for his performance in the title role of "King Lear" at the National Theatre.

Holm was knighted in 1998 for his services to drama.

Mia Farrow said he was "among the giants of the theater."

"We met while working at the RSC where, mid-performance of Iceman Cometh, terror seized him and he left the stage — for 14 years," she tweeted. "He worked in films and TV — unfailingly brilliant."

Royal Shakespeare Company artistic director Gregory Doran called Holm "one of the RSC greats"

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"Ian was entirely original. Entirely a one-off," Doran said. "He had a simmering cool, a compressed volcanic sense of ferocity, of danger, a pressure cooker actor, a rare and magnificent talent. There's a great spirit gone."

Holm was married four times and had five children.

South African choir adapts to COVID-19 by making new music

By BRAM JANSSEN Associated Press

MOUTSE VALLEY, South Africa (AP) — The dusty streets of rural South Africa are a far cry from the bright lights of "America's Got Talent," but that's where the members of the Ndlovu Youth Choir find themselves coping with the coronavirus pandemic.

With an electrifying mix of vocals and dance moves, the group made the finals of the U.S. television show last year. Sold-out performances across the U.S. and Europe followed, as well as a recording contract.

But COVID-19 halted their international tour and landed them back where they began, Moutse Valley in South Africa's Limpopo province, one of the country's poorest regions.

"We were supposed to go to Germany for a performance, but it got canceled. We are used to touring the world, doing shows everywhere, and during this corona time it's been very difficult and frustrating," said Sandile Majola, 26, a member of the chorus and its manager.

The virus has created new risks for singing together, but this "cultural catastrophe," as one British arts group called COVID-19, is not stopping the young singers.

Ndlovu is the Zulu word for elephant, and like the pachyderm the choir members are showing determination to move forward.

The group was formed in 2008 to help orphans and children of HIV patients, said Hugo Tempelman, a Dutch doctor who 30 years ago started a medical clinic that has become a wide-ranging community development project, the Ndlovu Care Group.

The project had more than 600 child-headed households in the orphan and vulnerable children program, he said.

"We tried to assist those kids with food programs and tried to give them a more resilient way of surviving, through life skills," Tempelman said.

He saw a bigger need for the children's development.

"When I saw the kids go home, I still didn't see a smile. And I thought that if we want to provide hope, we must give them something that they can be proud of," he said.

He came up with the idea of a youth choir.

"Of course, you start a choir, because Africa sings," he said. "Africa sings everywhere. They sing at a funeral, they sing at a birth. They sing their moods."

In 2016 the choir became more professional with the help of donors. Two years later their rendition of the Ed Sheeran song "Shape of You" won them an audition on "America's Got Talent" and their captivating performances skyrocketed them to fame.

The 38 young singers are used to overcoming adversity and, with Tempelman's help, they are coming up with a new plan.

Pulling down his face mask, choir manager Majola described how all the singers, ranging in age from 13 to 26, have been tested for COVID-19 and have been cleared to sing together.

A recording and filming studio has been constructed at the community theater and they have begun rehearsing new material for an online show.

"We are getting together for the first time since lockdown started," said Majola with excitement.

The group's performances of "Africa" and "Higher Ground" have had millions of viewers on YouTube and now the group hopes to highlight new material.

"I still receive emails from people all over the world," Majola said. "I just got one this morning of someone saying he was depressed and couldn't get out of bed, until he saw our performance and it gave him hope."

Choir director Ralf Schmitt said the group is rehearsing new material for their first album with Simon

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Cowell's label, a division of Sony Music. Livestream performances are also planned.

"We are all excited. We'll be recording with some international artists from around the globe," Schmitt said. The album is scheduled for release at the end of the year, but the choir intends to release a song, "We Will Rise," to mark the birthday of Nelson Mandela on July 18.

"It's an inspirational song about how we can work together to overcome this coronavirus," Schmitt said.

Andrew Meldrum in Johannesburg contributed.

VIRUS DIARY: A pandemic, a layoff & a suddenly stay-home dad

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The day his boss looked over at the TV screen and gave a forlorn nod at the plunging red lines of the stock market, my husband could feel the layoff coming.

It was a gut punch when it hit our family, like millions of others. But we didn't have much time to ponder as he switched from his microbrewery job to being a full-time dad to our 5-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son.

When Dave put away his steel-toed boots and safety goggles, he traded one world for another. His daily work had been linear: Water, barley, yeast and hops make a much-appreciated bubbly beverage. Raising kids is more like climbing a mountain in roller skates. It's fun, but each day ends pretty much where it started.

In the life of a small child, 2 1/2 months is a long time. During our quarantine, Dave got the chance to watch their growing minds more closely, even as he wondered whether his own would make it through intact. With playgrounds and playdates off limits, taking them to the trail was a lifeline, and he grew his reserves of patience, creativity, and confidence in a well-stocked backpack.

Meanwhile, I set up to work at the dining room table, covering the mounting toll of the coronavirus and even an earthquake. I oversaw some math lessons and learned to stop apologizing as the kids catapulted themselves into Zoom meetings.

But it was Dave who made the cheese sandwiches and separated squabbles. It was Dave who oversaw kindergarten reading lessons, watching our daughter veer from swagger to tears at a moment's notice. It was Dave who helped our 3-year-old wash his hands, a process that's like wrestling a tiny octopus 20 times a day.

And like so many parents, he took them outside. "Adventures" in the forest preserve near our suburban Salt Lake City home became the centerpieces of their days during those weeks of quarantine.

My husband is a guy who likes to be prepared. So he packed a backpack as if they'd be gone for weeks rather than hours.

Thirsty? Daddy has two water bottles.

Band-Aids for cuts, even those invisible to the human eye? Daddy's got them, plus ointment.

Need a way to carry the decade-old camera you found in the basement? Daddy's got some paracord and knows where to find it.

Provisioned, they trailed a pale-yellow butterfly our daughter named Butter as it fluttered ahead in the sunshine. They dubbed one spot The Enchanted Forest and delighted at dramatic splashes created by throwing stones into the creek. Dave saw them thinking through the basics of a compass or following a falcon tracing circles in the sky.

They stepped in anthills, complained vocally when socks got wet and screamed over forgotten granola bars.

I pitched in as much as I could. During walks on my lunch break, I learned it was worth seeing the flush of pride on my daughter's face as she rode her bike down a big hill, even if she fought hard when it was time to go home. I learned that sometimes it's OK if the kids eat mac and cheese straight from the pan while I finish a breaking news story.

We're hoping they remember the beauty of those days with Dad, and how to cope with a strange time of small discomforts and big uncertainties. And there is still plenty of uncertainty, even as they return to

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daycare and Dave gets back to work at a reopening brewery.

There are fewer midday walks following butterflies now, and less screaming over wet socks. But Daddy's backpack will always be packed for them, ready for uncertainty and adventure. On Father's Day and every day.

Virus Diary, an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus pandemic through the eyes of Associated Press journalists around the world. See previous entries here. Follow Salt Lake City-based AP journalist Lindsay Whitehurst on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/lwhitehurst>

Bank of England says sorry for slave links as UK faces past

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The Bank of England has apologized for the links some of its past governors had with slavery, as a global anti-racism movement sparked by the death of George Floyd forces many British institutions to confront uncomfortable truths about their pasts.

The central bank called the trade in human beings "an unacceptable part of English history," and pledged not to display any images of former leaders who had any involvement.

"The bank has commenced a thorough review of its collection of images of former governors and directors, to ensure none with any such involvement in the slave trade remain on display anywhere in the bank," the institution said in statement.

The decision comes after two British companies on Thursday promised to financially support projects assisting minorities after being called out for past roles in the slave trade.

Insurance giant Lloyd's of London and pub chain Greene King made the pledges after media highlighted their inclusion on a University College London database of individuals and companies with ties to the slave trade.

Launched in 2013, the database shows how deeply the tentacles of slavery are woven into modern British society.

It lists thousands of people who received compensation for loss of their "possessions" when slave ownership was outlawed by Britain in 1833. It reveals that many businesses, buildings and art collections that still exist today were funded by the proceeds of the slave trade.

Those listed on the database include governors and directors of the Bank of England, executives in companies that are still active and forbears of prominent Britons including writer George Orwell and ex-Prime Minister David Cameron.

About 46,000 people were paid a total of 20 million pounds — the equivalent of 40 percent of all annual government spending at the time — after the freeing of slaves in British colonies in the Caribbean, Mauritius and southern Africa.

Some slave owners were paid vast sums. John Gladstone, father of 19th-century Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone, received more than 100,000 pounds in compensation for hundreds of slaves, at a time when skilled workers earned 50 to 75 pounds a year.

But not all the slave owners were ultra-wealthy. Middle-class Britons up and down the country were paid compensation. The loan the government took out to cover the payments was so large that it was not repaid in full until 2015.

Information about the role played by British firms and individuals in slavery has been available on UCL's database for seven years. But corporate apologies are only coming now that the Black Lives Matter movement has thrust the issue of racial injustice into global prominence.

Keith McClelland, a researcher with UCL's Legacy of British Slave-ownership project, said many parts of British society had been unwilling to face up to the past.

"The dominant narrative from the 1830s onwards was that the great thing about Britain was that it had abolished the slave trade and then abolished slavery," he said.

"And this wasn't just a narrative being told about Britain at that time. (Former Prime Minister) Gordon

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Brown (and) David Cameron made speeches saying in the 2000s saying, there is this golden thread of liberty that runs through British history, one component of which was the abolition of slavery. Fine. Except neither of them actually mentioned that behind that was 200 years of slavery.

"It seems to me just incomprehensible that you can laud the abolition of slavery without talking about slavery itself. But that's what has happened."

The racial-equality protests that followed Floyd's May 25 death in Minneapolis have sparked a reassessment of history, with demonstrators in several countries toppling memorials to people who profited from imperialism and the slave trade.

Earlier this month, protesters in the English city of Bristol hauled down a statue of Edward Colston, a 17th-century slave trader, and dumped it in the city's harbor. City officials fished it out and plan to put it in a museum, along with placards from the protest.

Oxford University's Oriel College has recommended the removal of a statue of Cecil Rhodes, a Victorian imperialist in southern Africa who made a fortune from mines and endowed Oxford's Rhodes scholarships for international students.

McClelland said Floyd's death and its aftermath could bring major change in how Britain faces its past — but it's too soon to say.

"There are a lot of statements coming from companies about regret," he said. "Will this make a concrete difference? Ask me in two, three, four, five years' time. Have they actually done anything rather than say, 'Oh, well, we're terribly sorry?'"

"We'll see. I am not entirely optimistic."

More news about the death of George Floyd at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>

New solo version of Aretha song about race, faith released

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A never-before-heard solo version of the late Aretha Franklin's riveting and powerful collaboration with Mary J. Blige about faith and race, 2006's "Never Gonna Break My Faith," has arrived on Juneteenth.

Sony's RCA Records, RCA Inspiration and Legacy Recordings released the song Friday, aligning with the holiday celebrating the day in 1865 that all enslaved black people learned they had been freed from bondage.

"Never Gonna Break My Faith" resonates today, featuring lyrics like: "You can lie to a child with a smiling face/Tell me that color ain't about a race."

"The world is very different now. Change is everywhere and each of us, hopefully, is doing the best he or she can to move forward and make change as positive as possible," Clive Davis, Sony Music's chief creative officer and Franklin's close friend and collaborator, said in a statement.

Dozens of artists have released new songs detailing the black experience amid the global protests sparked by the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many others. Some performers have released covers of protest anthems or re-released older songs that resonate with the times, like "Never Gonna Break My Faith."

Lyrics from the song include: "My Lord, won't you help them to understand/That when someone takes the life of an innocent man/Well they've never really won, and all they've really done/Is set the soul free, where it's supposed to be."

Calling Franklin's performance "chilling," Davis said the song's lyrics and relevance "will shake every fiber in your body."

"Everyone should hear this record," Davis said. "It deserves to be an anthem."

"Never Gonna Break My Faith" won best gospel performance at the 50th Grammy Awards in 2008, marking Franklin's 18th and final Grammy win. She died in 2018 at age 76.

The song was originally featured in the film "Bobby," about U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's 1968 assassination, and features background vocals from The Boys Choir of Harlem.

"This solo version has been sitting on my computer for years, and when I heard Clive was making a film on Aretha's life, I sent this version to him. The world hasn't heard her full performance and it really needed to be heard," Grammy-winning singer Bryan Adams, who co-wrote the song, said in a statement. "I'm so glad it's being released, the world needs this right now."

Advocates worry blacks, Hispanics falling behind in census

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Halfway through the extended effort to count every U.S. resident, civil rights leaders worry that minority communities are falling behind in responding to the 2020 census.

With outreach efforts to motivate minority responses upended by a global pandemic, both the National Urban League and the NALEO Educational Fund are sounding the alarm that communities with concentrations of blacks and Hispanics have been trailing the rest of the nation in answering the census questionnaire.

The once-each-decade count helps determine where \$1.5 trillion in federal funding goes and how many congressional seats each state gets.

"Going into 2020, we knew the census was going to be extremely challenging. We knew the Census Bureau didn't have sufficient preparations to do all of its tests to make sure it would work out the way it should be ... and then COVID-19 hit," said Arturo Vargas, CEO of NALEO Educational Fund said this week during a virtual town hall with NBCUniversal Telemundo.

The pandemic is disproportionately affecting the Latino population, he said, so "we have to figure out how we break through the real noise affecting their daily lives to do something as ordinary as going through the mail and filling out their forms."

People can respond either online, by phone or through the mail, but many U.S. residents haven't taken the initiative.

The nation's self-response rate was 61.5% this week. Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, New York and Texas — states with large concentrations of Hispanics — were lagging. California, which invested \$187 million in outreach efforts, was doing slightly better, with 62.6% of its households responding, he said.

A more detailed analysis of response rates in late May and early June conducted by the Center for Urban Research at the City University of New York's Graduate Center showed that neighborhoods with concentrations of black residents had a self-response rate of 51%, compared to 53.8% for Hispanic-concentrated neighborhoods and 65.5% for white-dominant neighborhoods.

Advocates at the National Urban League are particularly worried that the count will miss black immigrants, blacks in rural communities, formerly incarcerated men and women, and children under age 4.

The Census Bureau already plans to send out as many as 500,000 workers this summer and fall to the homes of people who haven't responded, but the league's president and CEO, Marc Morial, says it must do more — hiring still more door-knockers, targeting more advertising to minority communities and mailing out another round of paper questionnaires.

"They need to use their bully pulpit," Morial said. "It's been quiet."

The Census Bureau had allotted \$500 million for its outreach campaign. Another \$160 million was added after the start of the pandemic for advertising and engaging with community partners.

With the new coronavirus spreading, the Census Bureau suspended field operations in mid-March for a month and a half, including efforts to drop off census forms at households in rural areas with no traditional addresses.

The Census Bureau on Thursday said it had finished dropping off the forms to almost all of the 6.8 million mostly rural households. Because of the pandemic, the Census Bureau pushed back the deadline for finishing the 2020 census from the end of July to the end of October, and asked Congress for a delay in handing over apportionment and redistricting numbers.

Getting a higher self-response rate is important because it saves money on door-knocking and makes for a more accurate count. The 2010 census undercounted blacks by 2.1% and Hispanics by 1.5%, according to the bureau.

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"We are risking another decreased count in 2020 census," U.S. Rep. Grace Meng, a Democrat from New York City, said Thursday during a conference call. Her Queens district is one of the most diverse in the nation.

"Any mistake or inaccurate count we make becomes a 10-year mistake and affects our neighborhoods and communities for a very long time," she said.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 20, the 172nd day of 2020. There are 194 days left in the year. Summer begins at 5:44 p.m., Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 20, 1837, Queen Victoria acceded to the British throne following the death of her uncle, King William IV.

On this date:

In 1782, Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States, featuring the emblem of the bald eagle.

In 1893, a jury in New Bedford, Massachusetts, found Lizzie Borden not guilty of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

In 1921, U.S. Rep. Alice Mary Robertson, R-Okla., became the first woman to preside over a session of the House of Representatives.

In 1943, race-related rioting erupted in Detroit; federal troops were sent in two days later to quell the violence that resulted in more than 30 deaths.

In 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted and was sentenced to five years in prison. (Ali's conviction was ultimately overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court).

In 1972, three days after the arrest of the Watergate burglars, President Richard Nixon met at the White House with his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman; the secretly made tape recording of this meeting ended up with the notorious 18½-minute gap.

In 1974, the film noir "Chinatown," starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1979, ABC News correspondent Bill Stewart was shot to death in Managua, Nicaragua, by a member of President Anastasio Somoza's national guard.

In 1990, South African black nationalist Nelson Mandela and his wife, Winnie, arrived in New York City for a ticker-tape parade in their honor as they began an eight-city U.S. tour.

In 1994, O.J. Simpson pleaded not guilty in Los Angeles to the killings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. Former airman Dean Allen Mellberg went on a shooting rampage at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Washington, killing four people and wounding 22 others before being killed by a military police sharpshooter.

In 2001, Houston resident Andrea Yates drowned her five children in the family bathtub, then called police. (Yates was later convicted of murder, but had her conviction overturned; she was acquitted by reason of insanity in a retrial.)

In 2014, the Obama administration granted an array of new benefits to same-sex couples, including those living in states where gay marriage was against the law; the new measures ranged from Social Security and veterans benefits to work leave for caring for sick spouses.

Ten years ago: Juan Manuel Santos, a former defense minister from a political powerful clan who oversaw a major weakening of leftist rebels, won Colombia's presidency. Edith Shain, who claimed to be the nurse smooched by a sailor in Times Square in a famous Life magazine photograph marking the end of World

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War II, died in Los Angeles at 91. Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland won the U.S. Open.

Five years ago: Max Scherzer pitched a no-hitter, losing his perfect game with two outs in the ninth inning when he hit a batter in the Washington Nationals' 6-0 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates. More than 60 pizza-makers working for 18 hours completed a pie that was 1.59545 kilometers, or nearly a mile long, for Milan's world fair, Expo 2015; a Guinness World Records judge proclaimed it the world's longest pizza, topping a 1.1415-kilometer-long pie made in Spain.

One year ago: Iran's Revolutionary Guard shot down a U.S. surveillance drone in the Strait of Hormuz; it was the first time the Islamic Republic had directly attacked the U.S. military amid tensions over the unraveling nuclear deal. A U.S. official said preparations had been made for a military strike against Iran in retaliation for the downing of the drone, but that the operation was called off with just hours to go. To the surprise of no one, the New Orleans Pelicans made Zion Williamson the top pick in the NBA draft; the Duke star was considered one of the most exciting prospects in years. The Supreme Court ruled that a 40-foot-tall, World War I memorial cross could continue to stand on public land in Maryland.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Bonnie Bartlett is 91. Actress Olympia Dukakis is 89. Actor James Tolkan is 89. Movie director Stephen Frears is 79. Singer-songwriter Brian Wilson is 78. Actor John McCook is 76. Singer Anne Murray is 75. TV personality Bob Vila is 74. Musician Andre Watts is 74. Actress Candy Clark is 73. Producer Tina Sinatra is 72. Rhythm and blues singer Lionel Richie is 71. Actor John Goodman is 68. Rock musician Michael Anthony is 66. Pop musician John Taylor is 60. Rock musician Mark degli Antoni (de-GLI'-an-toh-nee) is 58. Christian rock musician Jerome Fontamillas (Switchfoot) is 53. Rock musician Murphy Karges (Sugar Ray) is 53. Actress Nicole Kidman is 53. Country/bluegrass singer-musician Dan Tyminski is 53. Movie director Robert Rodriguez is 52. Actor Peter Paige is 51. Actor Josh Lucas is 49. Rock musician Jeordie White (AKA Twiggy Ramirez) is 49. Rock singer Chino Moreno (Deftones) is 47. Country-folk singer-songwriter Amos Lee is 43. Country singer Chuck Wicks is 41. Actress Tika Sumpter is 40. Country musician Chris Thompson (The Eli Young Band) is 40. Actress-singer Alisan Porter is 39. Christian rock musician Chris Dudley (Underoath) is 37. Rock singer Grace Potter (Grace Potter & the Nocturnals) is 37. Actor Mark Saul is 35. Actress Dreama Walker is 34. Actor Chris Mintz-Plasse (plahs) is 31. Actress Maria Lark is 23.

Thought for Today: "Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old." — Franz Kafka, Austrian author and poet (1883-1924).

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