

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Congratulations Groton Area Graduates and Families from the Groton Lions & Leos Clubs... To help you celebrate this milestone, we invite you to Summer Fest 2020 in the Groton City Park, Sunday, July 12th. Summer Fest may help you with a fun place for your guests to spend some time between graduation events. See our flyer below or go to Summer Fest 2020 on Facebook.**



**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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## Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

July 7, 2020 – 7:00pm

Groton Community Center

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1  
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. Appoint newspapers and banks
5. 2020 Elected Officials Workshop – September 2<sup>nd</sup> in Pierre
6. Resolution to approve the Plat “L and S Frohling Addition to the City of Groton in the SE ¼ of Section 24, Township 123 North, Range 61 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Brown County South Dakota”
7. Resolution 2020-1 Authorizing the Execution of Contractual Documents with the State of South Dakota for the Receipt of Cares Act Funds to Address the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis
8. Reminder: Lions Club is sponsoring the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Fest from 9am – 4pm on July 12 at the Groton City Park!
9. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
10. Hire summer employee
11. Adjournment

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#134 in a series

## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

It's pretty bad. We've added 305,000 new cases since the beginning of this month—and it's only the sixth. There were 53,900 new cases reported today, third worst day ever. We've had all of our three worst days in the last four days and are now at 2,957,200, less than 43,000 away from three million cases. Given we haven't had a day that small in over a week, chances are good we're hitting that milestone tomorrow. We are exceeding expectations. Go team.

I have 39 states showing increasing rates of growth, 14 steady, and only one with a declining rate. Definitely going the wrong way. 395 deaths were reported today, a lot more than the past few days, but nowhere near the territory we were in a couple of months ago. There have now been 130,303 deaths reported in the US, so we hit a milestone there too. This represents 0.3% growth in total deaths.

Nationwide, we set a record seven-day average for new cases for the 28th straight day. Seven-day averages for new cases set records in 11 states and Puerto Rico today; the greatest increases were seen in Montana, Tennessee, and Virginia. Seven states set records for hospitalizations.

Texas and Idaho reported record numbers of new cases today. Texas added nearly 9000 new cases; but some of this may be delayed reporting from the weekend, as several locations with new cases today had not reported any over the holiday. The county in Idaho where Boise is has tripled its case numbers since mid-June. Washington reported a record 1049 new cases today. Arizona passed 100,000 cases today; that total has doubled since June 20. Florida's daily new case count is five times larger than it was two weeks ago.

There is another outbreak on a college campus, this one associated with Greek life at the University of Washington. There have been 112 fraternity house residents plus another nine contacts confirmed infected so far. Given we're looking at the generally light student loads of summer, this and the numerous outbreaks among athletic programs raise significant concerns about reopening campuses fully this fall. We are hearing a lot of concern from faculty about reopening as well.

Several members of the Mississippi legislature have reportedly been confirmed to have positive tests in the last week; one of these was in contact with their governor. The mayor of Atlanta is also positive. Government officials are not safe. A church in San Antonio has been linked to at least 16 cases. The faithful are not safe. A summer camp in Missouri has had 40 campers and employees test positive. Summer fun does not keep you safe either.

There are shortages in testing availability in some of these hot spots. It has become most difficult to trace contacts in the past couple of weeks; when the patient has attended parties, people are refusing to list those they went out with. Given that many states have failed to hire adequate numbers of tracers or to isolate those who test positive, this additional challenge just sort of seems to break the system entirely. Really, there is no part of our attempts to mitigate or suppress this pandemic that is going according to plan.

Since testing has been such a challenge throughout this pandemic, it may be good news that a rapid antigen test for Covid-19 has received FDA emergency use authorization (EUA). An EUA is not full approval, but it does enable the company to produce and sell the test for use. A lot of the early rapid tests are tests for antibodies, and if you'll recall the conversations we've had about that in the past, there are

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many drawbacks to using an antibody test for the purpose of diagnosis—the time lag between infection and antibody production, the persistence of antibodies after someone is no longer actively infected, the possibility of cross-reactions with other coronaviruses. This is a 15-minute test for antigen—for components of the virus itself, so it avoids those problems. The question will be how accurate it turns out to be. The manufacturer is claiming something like 84% sensitivity and 100% specificity; so we'll see how it performs in the field. It seems likely negative tests will require confirmatory testing. The company expects to produce as many as 10 million tests between now and October and then two million per week thereafter. This would ease some of the shortage.

Over the past few months, we've talked about mutations, those tiny changes to the genetic code of this virus that arise spontaneously due to copying errors when the virus reproduces. We discussed the fact that this virus doesn't seem to mutate very frequently for an RNA virus and that the few mutations observed thus far had not seemed to confer any sort of functional advantage on the virus or change it in any way that will interfere with the effectiveness of either natural or vaccine-induced immunity. It appears we may have to update this information. A mutation has been identified which may confer additional infectiousness. Work is being done to confirm this, but this is what we're seeing at present. The mutation does not appear to have any effect on the severity of the infection that results or on the antigenic make-up of the virus (which cause problems for the immune system), but it does seem to increase the likelihood infection will occur. We'll keep an eye on this issue.

We've talked the subject of transmission nearly to death here, but there appears to be more to be said. For a long while, we've discussed here the fact that airborne spread, that is, spread via aerosols and tiny particles floating through the air, appears to contribute significantly to transmission; but the WHO and CDC have still not added this understanding to their statements. That omission can have real effects on the ways various countries approach the infection, so a group of 239 scientists published a letter today to ask these agencies to change their guidance to reflect the current state of the science. This is important because the best way to block aerosols is at the source—with a mask. These scientists believe there is more than sufficient solid evidence to support a change in guidance and also that failure to make the change will cause the pandemic to be more difficult to control

Like most restaurants in California, Seni Felic's Bistro SF Grill has spent much of the past few months closed. No money coming in. Mr. Felic was trying to find a way to pay the rent and not to lay off his entire work force when he hit on an idea: a nonprofit business model. He developed three meals, chicken with rice and vegetables, fish with rice and vegetables, and vegan mushroom paella, and priced them at his cost, \$5.50 each. He then let the world know and continued to develop new menus for each subsequent week. The restaurant is hanging on. He sees this as a service to his community—seniors, families, and people who don't know how to cook, as well as to his workers who are able to earn some percentage of their pre-pandemic income and have full-time jobs to come back to when reopening is complete.

Having lived through a revolution, Felic, who immigrated from Yugoslavia in the '90s, says, "I've seen much worse than this. . . . I was hungry for three years. Under these conditions, food is essential. Our idea was: Let's try to help." He says he would like to give his meals away free but can't afford to, so he set his price to cover his costs and went to work cooking. He believes this is one way to help us all to get through this difficult time. "When people come together and cooperate, I think we can overcome almost anything."

I think he's right.

Be well. We'll talk again.

## Groton, Clark advance in Jr. Teener Regions

### SDVFW 14U Groton tops Webster in 5 innings

SDVFW 14U Webster fell behind early and couldn't come back in a 15-2 loss to SDVFW 14U Groton on Monday. SDVFW 14U Groton scored on a single by Colby Dunker, a wild pitch during Kaleb Antonsen's at bat, a walk by Teylor Diegel, an error during Jacob Zak's at bat, and a single by Bradin Althoff in the first inning.

The SDVFW 14U Webster struggled to contain the high-powered offense of SDVFW 14U Groton, giving up 15 runs.

SDVFW 14U Groton got things started in the first inning. Dunker singled on a 0-2 count, scoring one run.

SDVFW 14U Groton scored seven runs in the fourth inning. The big inning for SDVFW 14U Groton came thanks to singles by Althoff and Dunker, a walk by Ryan Groeblichhoff, and an error on a ball put in play by Antonsen.

Dillon Abeln toed the rubber for SDVFW 14U Groton. He went four innings, allowing one run on zero hits and striking out eight.

BRENT SNAZA was on the mound for SDVFW 14U Webster. He surrendered seven runs on three hits over two-thirds of an inning, striking out one. BRENT BEARMAN and BLAIZE AMDAHL entered the game as relief, throwing two and two-thirds innings and one and two-thirds innings respectively.

TREY DUNSE and BEARMAN each collected one hit to lead SDVFW 14U Webster.

SDVFW 14U Groton tallied eight hits on the day. Althoff and Dunker all collected multiple hits for SDVFW 14U Groton. Althoff went 5-for-5 at the plate to lead SDVFW 14U Groton in hits. SDVFW 14U Groton tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Althoff led the way with four.

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### SDVFW 14U Claremont Falls To SDVFW 14U Clark

SDVFW 14U Claremont opened up an early lead in the second inning when Braven Hanse singled on a 1-0 count, scoring two runs.

In the top of the third inning, SDVFW 14U Clark tied things up at three when Conner Mudgett singled on a 3-2 count, scoring one run.

SDVFW 14U Clark took the lead for good with one run in the fourth inning. In the fourth Waylon Olson grounded out, scoring one run.

SDVFW 14U Claremont put up three runs in the second inning. Conner Glines and Hanse each drove in runs during the inning.

Jack Helkenn was on the hill for SDVFW 14U Clark. He surrendered three runs on zero hits over one and two-thirds innings, striking out one.

Will Schuller started the game for SDVFW 14U Claremont. He surrendered six runs on seven hits over five and two-thirds innings, striking out five. Hanse threw one and one-third innings in relief.

Kasson Keough went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead SDVFW 14U Claremont in hits.

SDVFW 14U Clark racked up eight hits on the day. Mudgett, Helkenn, and Ky Vandersnick each managed multiple hits for SDVFW 14U Clark.

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<b>Groton</b>	7	0	1	7	0	X	X	15	8	4
<b>Webster</b>	1	0	0	0	1	X	X	2	2	5

## SDVFW 14U Groton

BATTING	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Bradin Althoff	5	2	5	4	0	0
Brevin Flihs	2	2	0	0	3	1
Ryan Groeblichhoff	2	0	0	1	1	1
Colby Dunker	3	1	2	2	0	0
Kaleb Hoover	1	2	0	1	1	0
Kaleb Antonsen	3	1	0	0	1	1
Taylor Diegel	3	2	1	0	0	0
Jacob Zak	2	3	0	0	1	0
Logan Ringgenberg	1	1	0	0	0	1
Korbin Kucker	0	1	0	0	0	0
Caden McInerney	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

**2B:** Bradin Althoff

**TB:** Taylor Diegel, Colby Dunker 2, Bradin Althoff 6

**LOB:** Taylor Diegel 3, Colby Dunker 2, Brevin Flihs 2, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Kaleb Hoover, Logan Ringgenberg, Kaleb Antonsen 2

**SB:** Taylor Diegel, Colby Dunker 4, Brevin Flihs, Kaleb Hoover, Bradin Althoff 4, Jacob Zak

**SF:** Kaleb Hoover

**SAC:** Logan Ringgenberg

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Dillon Abeln	4.0	0	1	0	5	8	0
Korbin Kucker	1.0	2	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

**TS-#P:** Dillon Abeln 49-90, Korbin Kucker 8-15

**GO-FO:** Dillon Abeln 2-2, Korbin Kucker 0-1

**FPS-BF:** Dillon Abeln 11-21, Korbin Kucker 3-4

## SDVFW 14U Webster

BATTING	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
BLAIZE AMDAHL	3	0	0	0	0	2
CARTER WILLIAMS	1	1	0	0	2	1
CARSON MOUNT	2	0	0	0	0	2
BRENT SNAZA	3	1	0	0	0	1
BRENT BEARMAN	3	0	1	1	0	0
MATTHEW MOUNT	2	0	0	0	1	0
TREY DUNSE	2	0	1	0	1	1
JACK SHOEMAKER	2	0	0	0	0	0
SHELDON SCHMIG	1	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

**TB:** TREY DUNSE, BRENT BEARMAN

**LOB:** BRENT SNAZA, CARSON MOUNT, MATTHEW MOUNT 2, BLAIZE AMDAHL 4, SHELDON SCHMIG 2, JACK SHOEMAKER 3, TREY DUNSE, BRENT BEARMAN 2

**SB:** BRENT SNAZA

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
BRENT SNAZA	0.2	3	7	4	2	1	0
BRENT BEARMAN	2.2	3	7	6	3	2	0
BLAIZE AMDAHL	1.2	2	1	1	2	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**TS-#P:** BRENT SNAZA 21-45, BLAIZE AMDAHL 19-30, BRENT BEARMAN 30-64

**GO-FO:** BRENT SNAZA 0-1, BLAIZE AMDAHL 2-1, BRENT BEARMAN 2-2

**FPS-BF:** BRENT SNAZA 5-11, BLAIZE AMDAHL 9-10, BRENT BEARMAN 9-18

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<b>Clark</b>	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	6	8	2
<b>Claremont</b>	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	4

## SDVFW 14U Clark

BATTING	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Mason Mcelhone	4	0	0	0	0	2
Tyson Huber	4	1	1	0	0	0
Conner Mudgett	3	1	2	2	1	0
Emmerson Larson	2	0	0	0	1	1
Ky Vandersnick	4	1	2	0	0	0
Jack Helkenn	4	1	2	1	0	1
Josh Kannegieter	3	0	1	0	1	0
Waylon Olson	4	1	0	1	0	2
Collin Gaikowski	1	1	0	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

**TB:** Tyson Huber, Conner Mudgett 2, Josh Kannegieter, Ky Vandersnick 2, Jack Helkenn 2

**LOB:** Tyson Huber 3, Waylon Olson 3, Josh Kannegieter 3, Mason Mcelhone 6, Emmerson Larson, Ky Vandersnick 2, Jack Helkenn, Collin Gaikowski

**SB:** Tyson Huber, Josh Kannegieter, Emmerson Larson, Jack Helkenn, Collin Gaikowski

**SAC:** Emmerson Larson

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Jack Helkenn	1.2	0	3	3	5	1	0
Josh Kannegieter	5.1	4	0	0	1	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

**TS-#P:** Josh Kannegieter 39-57, Jack Helkenn 15-38

**GO-FO:** Josh Kannegieter 10-2, Jack Helkenn 1-1

**FPS-BF:** Josh Kannegieter 15-22, Jack Helkenn 4-8

## SDVFW 14U Claremont

BATTING	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Braven Hanse	3	0	1	2	1	1
Jesse Keough	3	0	1	0	1	0
Will Schuller	3	0	0	0	0	0
Mason Kimball	2	1	0	0	1	1
Kalen Godel	2	0	0	0	1	0
Grant Cutler	3	0	0	0	0	0
Conner Glines	2	1	0	0	1	0
Cristopher Cutler	2	1	0	0	1	1
Kasson Keough	3	0	2	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

**TB:** Kasson Keough 2, Jesse Keough, Braven Hanse

**LOB:** Grant Cutler 2, Will Schuller 4, Jesse Keough 2, Braven Hanse 2, Kalen Godel

**SB:** Will Schuller, Jesse Keough, Mason Kimball

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Will Schuller	5.2	7	6	3	2	5	0
Braven Hanse	1.1	1	0	0	2	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

**TS-#P:** Will Schuller 63-95, Braven Hanse 10-23

**GO-FO:** Will Schuller 6-3, Braven Hanse 2-0

**FPS-BF:** Will Schuller 17-30, Braven Hanse 2-6

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7
Minnesota	36,303	36,716	37,210	37,624	No Update+	38,136	38,569
Nebraska	19,177	19,310	19,452	19,660	19,827	19,929	20,046
Montana	967	1016	1083	1,128	1167	1,212	1249
Colorado	32,715	33,029	33,352	33,612	33,866	34,065	34,257
Wyoming	1184	1203	1233	1267	1289	1312	1349
North Dakota	3576	3615	3657	3722	3779	3816	3849
South Dakota	6764	6826	6893	6978	7028	7063	7105
United States	2,629,372	2,686,587	2,739,879	2,795,163	2,839,917	2,888,729	2,938,624
US Deaths	127,322	128,062	128,740	129,437	129,676	129,947	130,306
Minnesota	+442	+413	+494	+414		+512	+433
Nebraska	+135	+133	+142	+208	+167	+102	+117
Montana	+48	+49	+67	+45	+39	+45	+37
Colorado	+204	+314	+323	+260	+254	+199	+192
Wyoming	+33	+19	+30	+34	+22	+23	+37
North Dakota	+37	+39	+42	+65	+57	+37	+33
South Dakota	+48	+62	+67	+85	+50	+35	+42
United States	+46,475	+57,215	+53,292	+55,284	+44,754	+48,812	+49,895
US Deaths	+1149	+740	+678	+697	+239	+271	+359
	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30
Minnesota	33,469	33,763	34,123	34,616	35,033	35,549	35,861
Nebraska	18,092	18,221	18,346	18,524	18,775	18,899	19,042
Montana	743	766	803	829	852	863	919
Colorado	30,893	31,155	31,479	31,796	32,022	No Update	32,511
Wyoming	992	1016	1052	1079	1097	1121	1151
North Dakota	3320	3362	3393	3421	3458	3495	3539
South Dakota	6353	6419	6479	6535	6626	6681	6716
United States	2,347,102	2,381,369	2,422,312	2,467,837	2,510,323	2,548,143	2,682,897
US Deaths	121,225	121,979	124,415	125,039	125,539	125,799	129,544
Minnesota	+242	+417	+360	+493	+417	+516	+312
Nebraska	+135	+129	+125	+178	+251	+124	+143
Montana	+9	+23	+37	+26	+23	+11	+56
Colorado	+188	+262	+324	+317	+226		+353
Wyoming	+18	+24	+36	+27	+18	+24	+30
North Dakota	+7*	+42	+31	+28	+37	+37	+44
South Dakota	+27	+66	+60	+56	+91	+55	+35
United States	+34,800	+34,267	+40,943	+45,525	+42,486	+37,820	+34,754
US Deaths	+823	+754	+2,439	+624	+500	+260	+374

\* Due to a temporary software issue with the Electronic Lab Reporting System, most of the results from June 22 will be delayed. The issue has been resolved and as the system catches up today, the numbers will be reported out on June 24. Thank you for your understanding.

+ The Minnesota Department of Health took July 4th off so there is no update available.



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## July 6th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

This report is almost boring. There were no recovered cases today and only 15 counties report positive cases with Pennington having the bulk at 15. There were no deaths reported today in the Dakotas. We did lose Haakon County from the unaffected list, reporting their first case today. Brown County had two positive cases.

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: +2 (20)  
Recovered: 0 (327)  
Total Positive: +2 (349)  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (18)  
Deaths: 2  
Negative Tests: +13 (3133)  
Percent Recovered: 93.7% (-.5)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +42 (7105 total)  
Negative: +258 (77,198 total)  
Hospitalized: +1 (692 total). 59 currently hospitalized (Unchanged)  
Deaths: 0 (97 total)  
Recovered: 0 (6063 total)  
Active Cases: +42 (945)  
Percent Recovered: 85.3 down .5

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests (Lost Haakon): Butte +5 (498), Harding 40, Jones 36, Perkins 90, Potter 182, unassigned +74 (3265).

Don't be disappointed if your county is not listed - it means they do not have any new positive cases; but on the other hand, they also do not have any additional recovered cases.

Beadle: +1 positive  
Brookings: +2 positive  
Brown: +2 positive  
Clay: +2 positive  
Davison: +1 positive  
Haakon: First Positive Case  
Hughes: +1 positive  
Hutchinson: +1 positive  
Lincoln: +1 positive  
Minnehaha: +4 positive  
Oglala Lakota: +4 positive  
Pennington: +15 positive  
Turner: +2 positive  
Union: +4 positive  
Yankton: +1 positive

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Fully recovered from positive cases: Grant 13-13, Hyde 3-3, Kingsbury 6-6, Sanborn 12-12, Sully 1-1, Ziebach 1-1.

The NDDoH & private labs report 1,238 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 33 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 3,849. NDDoH reports no new deaths.

State & private labs have reported 202,533 total completed tests.

3,350 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	710	10%
Black, Non-Hispanic	978	14%
Hispanic	1107	16%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1082	15%
Other	736	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2492	35%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	7
Brown	2
Buffalo	3
Faulk	1
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
Lincoln	1
Lyman	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	58
Pennington	17
Todd	1
Union	1

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	34	33	289
Beadle	541	465	1469
Bennett	4	3	429
Bon Homme	12	11	605
Brookings	81	54	1791
Brown	349	327	3133
Brule	29	16	520
Buffalo	76	60	508
Butte	0	0	498
Campbell	1	0	64
Charles Mix	91	36	783
Clark	15	12	325
Clay	89	75	975
Codington	83	51	1993
Corson	19	15	143
Custer	10	5	553
Davison	47	34	1685
Day	18	13	418
Deuel	4	2	300
Dewey	8	1	922
Douglas	9	4	322
Edmunds	8	6	304
Fall River	12	7	731
Faulk	23	19	128
Grant	13	13	543
Gregory	4	1	245
Haakon	1	0	233
Hamlin	13	9	475
Hand	7	6	198
Hanson	10	6	139
Harding	0	0	40
Hughes	65	38	1218
Hutchinson	15	10	720

Hyde	3	3	99
Jackson	6	2	347
Jerauld	39	37	236
Jones	0	0	36
Kingsbury	6	6	421
Lake	22	18	681
Lawrence	19	18	1400
Lincoln	366	322	4598
Lyman	70	41	703
Marshall	5	4	308
McCook	13	7	496
McPherson	5	3	167
Meade	51	40	1337
Mellette	7	3	219
Miner	10	6	204
Minnehaha	3667	3385	20305
Moody	23	19	485
Oglala Lakota	99	54	2471
Pennington	575	409	7167
Perkins	0	0	90
Potter	0	0	182
Roberts	52	41	1114
Sanborn	12	12	174
Spink	12	9	908
Stanley	14	13	154
Sully	1	1	47
Todd	57	49	1326
Tripp	18	13	452
Turner	27	23	699
Union	137	115	1405
Walworth	15	6	422
Yankton	82	71	2432
Ziebach	1	1	149
Unassigned****	0	0	3265

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3434	53
Male	3671	44

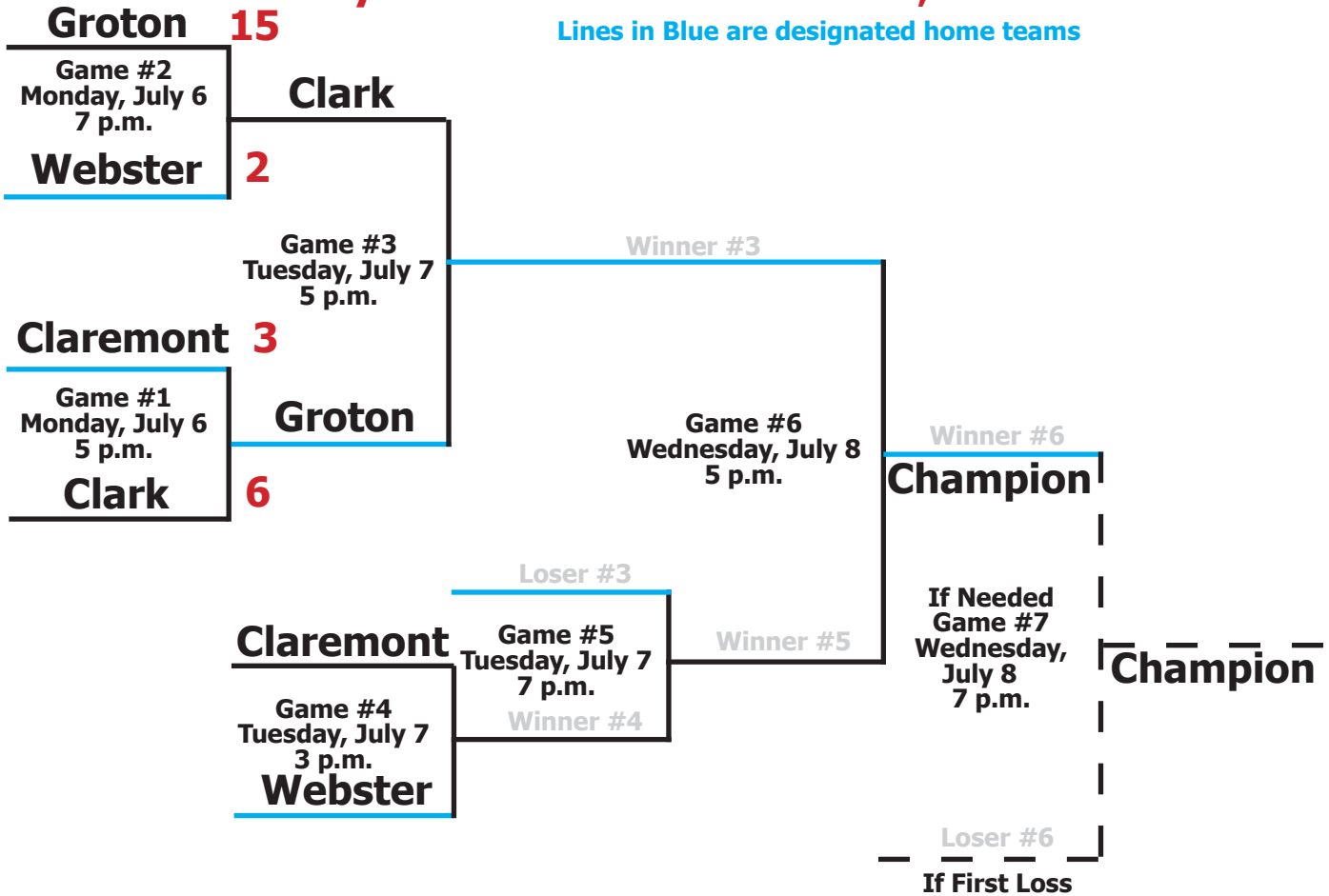
Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	747	0
20-29 years	1472	1
30-39 years	1498	3
40-49 years	1145	7
50-59 years	1109	12
60-69 years	662	17
70-79 years	256	13
80+ years	216	44

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## Region 6 U14 Jr. Teener Tournament July 6-7-8 at Locke-Karst Field, Groton

Lines in Blue are designated home teams



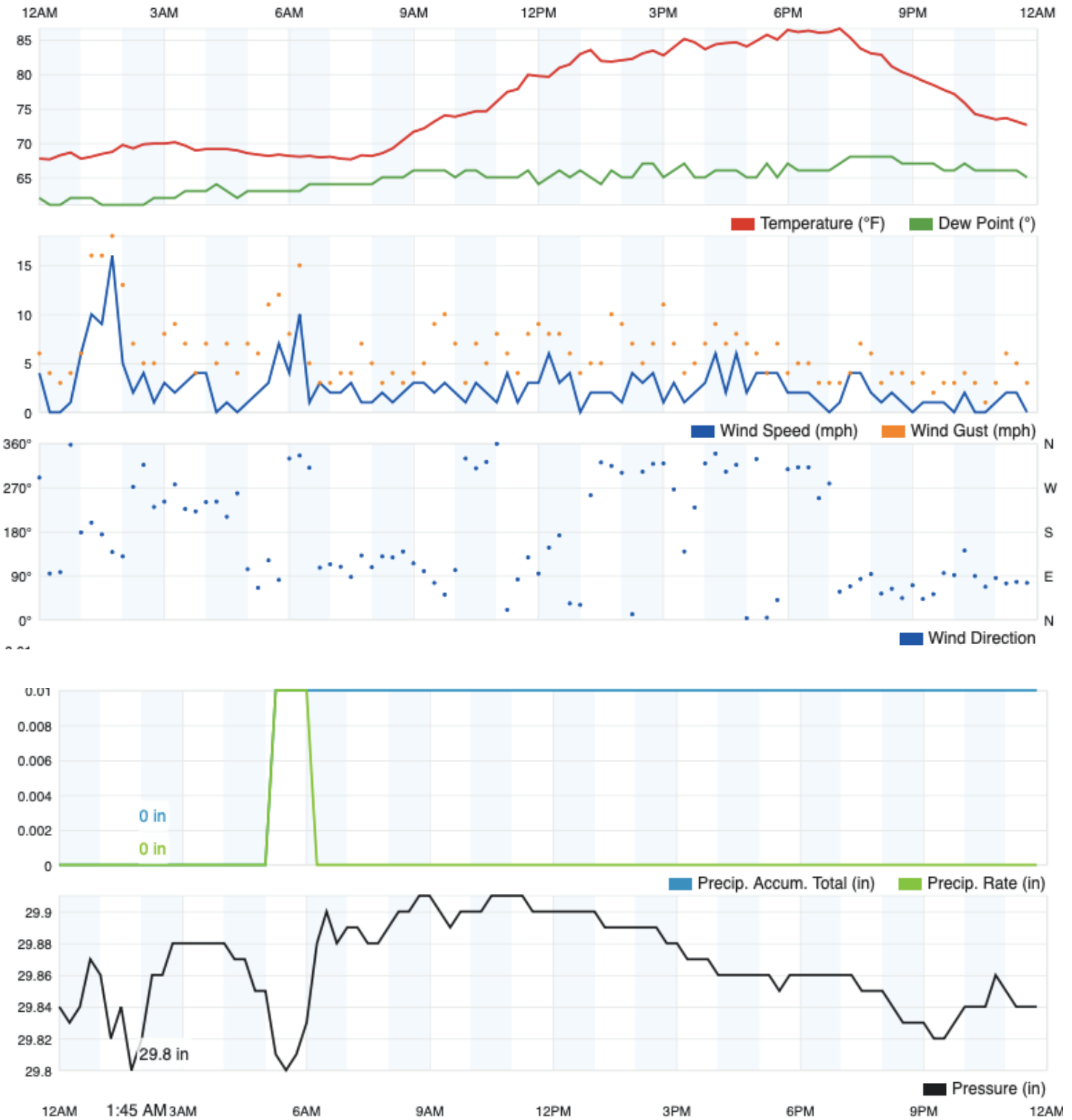
### Baseball Schedule

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
July 7	Legion	Redfield	<b>CANCELLED</b>	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



Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Mostly Sunny

High: 88 °F

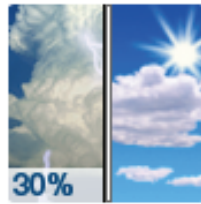
Tonight



Chance  
T-storms

Low: 73 °F

Wednesday



Chance  
T-storms then  
Mostly Sunny

High: 89 °F

Wednesday  
Night



Mostly Clear  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms

Low: 64 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 86 °F

## Slight Risk

of severe thunderstorms this afternoon  
and evening, July 5<sup>th</sup>

1 2 3 4 5

### Hazards

Hail (Quarter-sized and Larger)  
Damaging Winds (60-80 mph)  
Heavy Rainfall  
Lightning

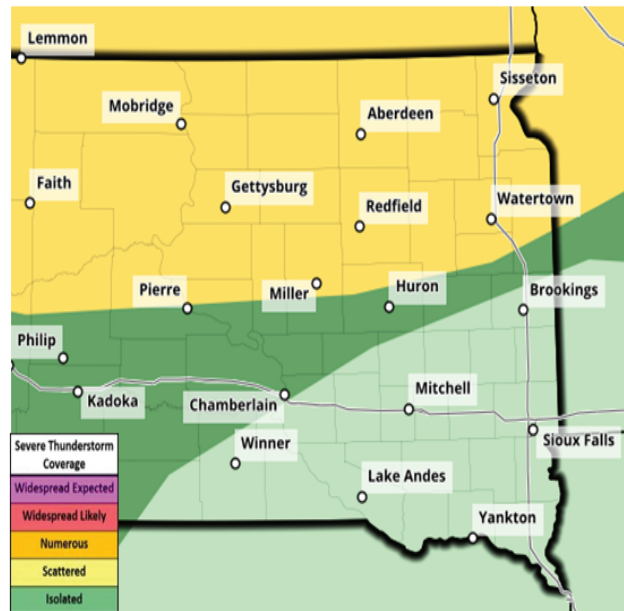
### Timing

The most intense storms will develop during  
the late afternoon and evening hours.  
Storms will continue through the late  
evening into the overnight hours.

### Action

Monitor the weather and have a plan of  
action in case storms threaten your area.

## Severe Weather Outlook



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 7/7/2020 6:07 AM Central

A vigorous storm system will move closer to the region today that will help set the stage for more active weather by tonight. A few garden variety type showers and storms will be possible through the morning, but the more intense storms will develop tonight. Warm and humid conditions will build into the region today with high temperatures reaching the 80s to low 90s this afternoon. Strong to severe weather can be expected tonight for the northern half of South Dakota into west central Minnesota. Large hail, damaging winds and heavy rainfall will be the primary threats with a couple of tornadoes also possible.

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## Today in Weather History

July 7, 1959: A powerful and widespread windstorm began near Kadoka and moved northeastward across the state at a speed of 60 to 65 mph. Airplane hangers were damaged or destroyed at Murdo, Redfield, and Watertown. Fourteen barns were destroyed or severely damaged. Five trailer homes were overturned.

July 7, 1990: A teenager was injured by softball size hail while working in a field near Herreid. The large hail also injured many cattle in the area. Most homes and vehicles in town suffered damage. The Herreid School had 120 broken panes of glass.

July 6, 1994: Widespread rainfall of over 6 inches fell in Dewey, Potter, and Faulk Counties, causing damage to roads and flooded basements and fields. A teenage girl escaped injury when her car was washed away by the waters of a swollen creek about 5 miles east of Gettysburg. Some total storm amounts include; 6.80 inches in Orient; 6.70 at Faulkton; 5.80 in Milbank; 5.48 in Big Stone City; 5.02 in Ipswich; 4.50 in Gettysburg; 4.17 in Webster; 4.12 near Onaka; 4.02 in Leola; and 3.97 in Britton.

1905: The mercury soared to 127 degrees at Parker, Arizona to tie the state record established at Fort Mohave on the 15th of June in 1896. The current record for Arizona is 128 degrees set in Lake Havasu City on 6-29-1994.

1991: During the early daylight hours of Sunday, July 7, 1991, a bow echo developed over southeast South Dakota and began racing east, producing very damaging winds. This bow echo was the start of a long-lived derecho that lasted 17 hours and affected areas from the Great Plains into western New York and Pennsylvania. Wind gusts in some places reached 80 to 100 mph. The strongest gust, 103 mph, was measured at Sioux Center, Iowa around mid-morning, and the roof of a school was blown off in nearby Orange City.

2004: A tornado occurred in the Rockwell Pass area of Sequoia National Park, California. Since the elevation of the tornado's ground circulation was approximately 3705 m (12,156 ft) MSL, this is the highest-elevation tornado documented in the United States.

2012: In Krymsk, Russia, nearly 11 inches of rain falls within a few hours on July 6th. The resulting flash floods occurred during the early morning hours on the 7. The flood wave, as high as 23 feet killed at least 172 people. The 10.83 inches is equivalent to three or four months' worth of precipitation in a typical year.

1915 - A severe wind and thunderstorm caused heavy damage and 38 deaths in and near Cincinnati, OH. Many older buildings were demolished. The steamship Dick Fulton was overturned. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - Montana was in the midst of a snowstorm that dumped ten inches at Glacier National Park, and produced winds to 90 mph. Meanwhile, Denver, CO, set a record high with a reading of 101 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms spawned eight tornadoes in Colorado, and three in West Texas. Thunderstorms also produced softball size hail at Bula, TX. In the midst of a record thirty-nine day string of 100 degree days, the temperature at Tucson, AZ, dipped to 66 degrees, marking their third straight record low for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-eight cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Youngstown, OH, hit 100 degrees, and for the second day in a row, Flint, MI, reached 101 degrees, equalling all-time records for those two cities. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather during the day, with more than 100 reports of large hail and damaging winds from Ohio to Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Thunderstorm winds reached 90 mph in Sullivan County, NH, and golf ball size hail was reported in Pennsylvania. Twenty-four cities, mostly in the southwestern U.S., reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 105 degrees at Cedar City, UT, and 114 degrees at Moab, UT, were all-time records for those locations. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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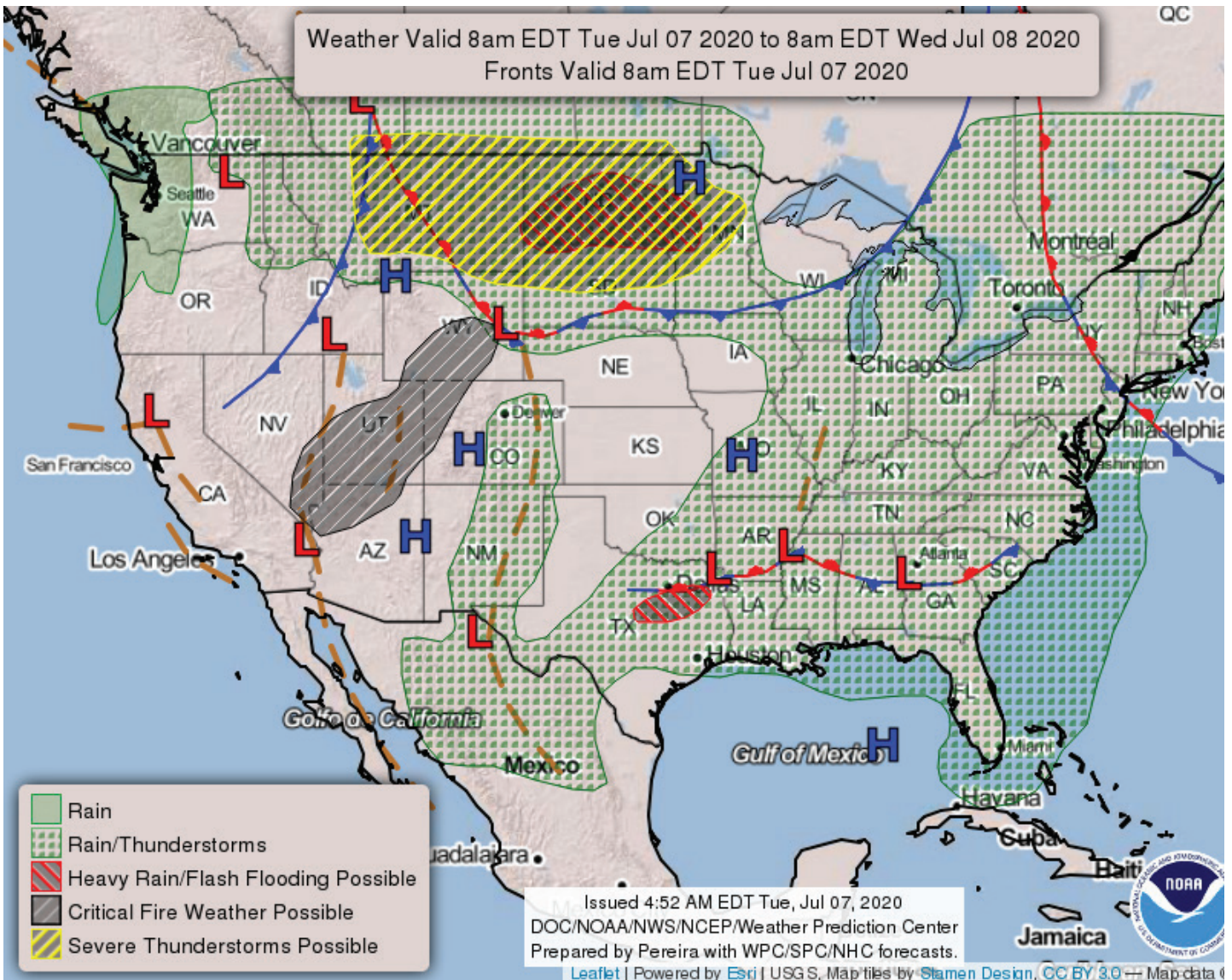
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 87 °F at 7:05 PM**  
**Low Temp: 67 °F at 12:04 AM**  
**Wind: 21 mph at 1:47 AM**  
**Precip: .01**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 106° in 1936**  
**Record Low: 43° in 1922, 1904**  
**Average High: 83°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in July.: 0.64**  
**Precip to date in July.: 0.21**  
**Average Precip to date: 11.48**  
**Precip Year to Date: 8.53**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:55 a.m.**





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## PLANNING AND FAITH

Once upon a time, a snail began his challenging climb up the trunk of an apple tree. He saw the small buds and tiny leaves and knew that he was going in the right direction. As he made his way upward, he noticed a worm sticking his head out of his comfortable hole.

"Where are you going?" asked the worm.

"I'm going to get an apple," came the reply.

"How foolish," said the worm. "There are no apples up there!"

"There will be when I get there," said the snail. That snail's determination is a great reminder of the faith of Noah. God gave him instructions to build an ark in the middle of dry land. In obedience to God's guidance, he did what God asked him to do. Although he did not know what a "flood" could possibly be, nor did he understand what God was going to do, he followed His instructions without question. He was ridiculed and condemned by his friends, but he did what God instructed him to do without knowing what would eventually happen.

In the life of every Christian, there are times when we doubt God and have difficulty acting in faith. It makes more sense to use our God-given minds to think logically, plan carefully, and work things out on our own than to trust an unseen God. But that's not what God wants! God wants us to believe that when He asks us to do something, it is for His glory and our good.

Prayer: Give us faith, Lord, to trust You in all things for all things. May we believe, with all of our hearts, that what You call us to do we can do if we trust You completely. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith. Hebrews 11:7

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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

### **US Supreme Court deals blow to Keystone oil pipeline project**

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court handed another setback to the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline from Canada on Monday by keeping in place a lower court ruling that blocked a key environmental permit for the project.

Canadian company TC Energy needs the permit to continue building the long-disputed pipeline across U.S. rivers and streams. Without it, the project that has been heavily promoted by President Donald Trump faces more delay just as work on it had finally begun this year following years of courtroom battles.

Monday's Supreme Court order also put on hold an earlier court ruling out of Montana as it pertains to other oil and gas pipelines across the nation.

That's a sliver of good news for an industry that just suffered two other blows — Sunday's cancellation of the \$8 billion Atlantic Coast gas pipeline in the Southeast and a Monday ruling that shut down the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota.

In the Keystone case, an April ruling from U.S. District Judge Brian Morris in Montana had threatened to delay not just Keystone but more than 70 pipeline projects across the U.S., and add as much as \$2 billion in costs, according to industry representatives.

Morris agreed with environmentalists who contended a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction permit program was allowing companies to skirt responsibility for damage done to water bodies.

But the Trump administration and industry attorneys argued the permit, in place since the 1970s, was functioning properly when it was cancelled by Morris over concerns about endangered species being harmed during pipeline construction.

Monday's one-paragraph order did not provide any rationale for the high court's decision.

The corps suspended the program following Morris' April ruling. Agency officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

TC Energy spokesman Terry Cunha said the company is not giving up on Keystone, but it will have to delay large portions of the 1,200-mile (1,900-kilometer) oil sands pipeline. The company started construction last week on a 329-mile (530-kilometer) section of the line in Alberta. That work will continue while the company wages its court fight in the U.S., Cunha said.

An attorney for one of the environmental groups involved in the case called Monday's order a major victory in the fight against Keystone. But he acknowledged the plaintiffs had hoped to hamper oil and gas projects nationwide.

"Our focus was originally on Keystone, so we're very happy the court order ensures it can't move forward under this unlawful permit," said Jared Margolis, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity.

Pipeline industry representatives said the order means thousands of workers whose jobs were threatened can continue working. A coalition of 18 states had backed the Trump administration in the case.

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said the Supreme Court's action "ensures that one Montana district court judge doesn't possess the power to drive national policy on such a critical issue."

The order returns the case to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals for further consideration.

Keystone was proposed in 2008 and would carry up to 830,000 barrels (35 million gallons) of crude daily to Nebraska, where it would be transferred to another TC Energy pipeline for shipment to refineries and export terminals on the Gulf of Mexico.

It was rejected twice under the Obama administration because of concerns that it could worsen climate change. Trump revived it and has been an outspoken proponent of the \$8 billion project.

TC Energy's surprise March 31 announcement that it intended to start construction amid a global economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic came after the provincial government in Alberta invested \$1.1 billion to jump-start the work.

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The company finished building the first piece of Keystone XL across the U.S. border in late May and started work on labor camps in Montana and South Dakota.

Follow Matthew Brown at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

## Protester at Trump's Mount Rushmore event faces 5 charges

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of the leaders of a protest before President Donald Trump's pre-Independence Day appearance at Mount Rushmore was charged Monday for allegedly stealing a shield from a law enforcement officer.

Nick Tilsen, 38, of Porcupine, South Dakota, is charged with second-degree robbery and simple assault, both felonies, and three other charges stemming from Friday's demonstration that drew more than 100 protesters in 95-degree heat.

Tilsen is a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe and the president of a local activist organization called NDN Collective.

Tilsen was one of about 15 people who remained in the street near an entrance to the event knowing they would be arrested after a 30-minute warning to vacate, the Rapid City Journal reported. Prosecutors say Tilsen's actions made a law enforcement officer "frightened for her life."

Tilsen's lawyer, Bruce Ellison, and family believe law enforcement and the state's attorney office are targeting Tilsen for his role at the protest.

"He's been treated in an usual manner" because "he's been identified as someone who had a leadership role," Ellison said after the hearing, noting that Tilsen could have been released over the weekend like the other protesters who were arrested.

Tilsen was released from jail Monday on \$2,000 bond.

## The Latest: Trump to establish 'National Garden' of heroes

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, S.D. (AP) — The Latest on President Donald Trump's July Fourth celebration at Mount Rushmore (all times local):

9:30 p.m.

President Donald Trump says he will establish a "National Garden of American Heroes," which he is describing as "a vast outdoor park that will feature the statues of the greatest Americans who ever lived."

Trump made the announcement as he opened the Fourth of July weekend with a speech and fireworks at the iconic Mount Rushmore.

He led into the announcement by paying tribute to a litany of American icons, from political figures like Ulysses S. Grant and Frederick Douglass to entertainers like Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra.

The executive order released Friday by the White House says the garden will feature statues of several presidents as well as other historic notables, including Davy Crockett, Amelia Earhart, Billy Graham, Harriet Tubman and Orville and Wilbur Wright.

9:15 p.m.

Kimberly Guilfoyle, the girlfriend of President Donald Trump's oldest son, has contracted the coronavirus.

Sergio Gor, chief of staff to the Trump campaign's finance committee, says Guilfoyle was immediately isolated after the positive result to limit exposure. He says she will be retested to confirm the diagnosis because she isn't showing any symptoms of COVID-19, the disease the virus causes. Gor says Guilfoyle is doing well and canceling her public events.

Gor says Donald Trump Jr. tested negative but is self-isolating as a precaution. He is also canceling his public events.

The couple was in South Dakota to hold fundraisers for Trump's reelection. Trump is giving a pre-Fourth of July speech at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

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8:50 p.m.

With the U.S. setting another record in newly reported coronavirus cases Friday, thousands have gathered at President Donald Trump's Independence Day celebration at Mount Rushmore — and few are wearing protective masks.

Nor was there any evidence of social distancing in the tightly packed audience assembled for Trump's speech and a fireworks display.

Trump did offer thanks to "the doctors, nurses and scientists working tirelessly to kill the virus."

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem, a Trump ally, had said social distancing wouldn't be required during the event and masks would be optional. Event organizers were to provide masks to anyone who wanted them and planned to screen attendees for symptoms of COVID-19.

Many parades and fireworks displays across the nation were canceled over the holiday weekend, with confirmed cases climbing in 40 states. The U.S. saw 52,300 newly reported cases Friday, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter, put out a tweet Friday night urging Americans to "Practice proper hygiene, social distancing & wear a mask when in close proximity to others."

7:55 p.m.

President Donald Trump is accusing activists who want to remove monuments to American leaders of conducting "a merciless campaign to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values and indoctrinate our children."

The White House provided excerpts of Trump's remarks before he was to deliver them at Mount Rushmore Friday night.

Trump says, "This movement is openly attacking the legacies of every person on Mount Rushmore."

The monument depicts the faces of presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

Trump says, "Those who seek to erase our heritage want Americans to forget our pride and our great dignity, so that we can no longer understand ourselves or America's destiny."

He says protesters who have called for the removal of statues "seek to dissolve the bonds of love and loyalty that we feel for our country, and for each other."

Trump did not explicitly mention statues of Confederate leaders, though he previously has criticized taking down Confederate symbols. Dozens of the statues removed in response to racial injustice protests in recent weeks have been tied to the Confederacy.

7:25 p.m.

About 15 protesters were arrested after a demonstration that blocked the main road into Mount Rushmore ahead of President Donald Trump's arrival for a Fourth of July fireworks show.

More than 100 protesters, many Native American, lined the road leading from Keystone, South Dakota, to the monument on Friday, holding signs and playing Lakota music in 95-degree heat. Some held their fists in the air as cars loaded with event attendees passed by. Others held signs that read "Protect SoDak's First People," "You Are On Stolen Land" and "Dismantle White Supremacy."

Protesters barricaded the road with vans, prompting police and National Guard soldiers to move in. A standoff ensued, with police using pepper spray on several protesters but taking no further action for several hours.

Police finally used tow trucks to remove the vans and gave the demonstrators 30 minutes to leave. All but a group of about 15 people holding a banner that read "Land Back" left. When the deadline arrived they were arrested without incident, turning and putting their hands behind their backs to be cuffed.

The protest wouldn't have stopped Trump from arriving. He was scheduled to touch down near the monument in a helicopter.

—

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6:45 p.m.

President Donald Trump has arrived in South Dakota to get a head start on Independence Day weekend with a fireworks show at Mount Rushmore.

Trump planned to give a speech at the national monument Friday night. A person familiar with its contents described it as "fiery" — including fresh denunciations of people the president says are trying to "tear down" the nation's history.

Trump has forcefully opposed efforts by protesters as well as by government officials to remove Confederate statues, monuments and other honors for American leaders who benefited from slavery.

Native Americans protested Trump's presence at the monument, which was carved into mountains they consider sacred.

Some South Dakota officials are concerned about the absence of social distancing requirements — including wearing face coverings — for the thousands of people expected to attend.

Others are concerned that wildfires could be sparked by the first fireworks show at Mount Rushmore since 2009.

6:20 p.m.

Tow trucks are removing vans that protesters parked on the main road into Mount Rushmore to block access to the monument ahead of President Donald Trump's arrival for a Fourth of July fireworks show.

More than 100 demonstrators, mostly Native Americans, lined the road leading from Keystone, South Dakota, to the monument on Friday, holding signs that read "Protect SoDak's First People" and "You Are On Stolen Land."

Protesters barricaded the road with vans, prompting police and National Guard troops to move in. A standoff ensued, with police using pepper spray on several protesters but taking no further action.

After nearly two hours the crowd began to dwindle and police advanced past the vans as the remaining protesters retreated down the road. Tow trucks pulled up behind the officers and troops to remove the vans.

Trump was expected to arrive at the monument by helicopter.

5:30 p.m.

Protesters blocked the main road into Mount Rushmore ahead of President Donald Trump's arrival Friday for a Fourth of July fireworks show.

More than 100 protesters, mostly Native Americans, lined the road leading from Keystone, South Dakota, to the monument, holding signs and playing Lakota music in 95-degree heat. Some held their fists in the air as cars loaded with event attendees passed by. Others held signs that read "Protect SoDak's First People," "You Are On Stolen Land" and "Dismantle White Supremacy."

Protesters used vans to barricade the road. Police wearing riot gear and holding shields moved in on the protesters from both sides and warned them to disperse but took no further action.

Most of the fireworks show attendees had already arrived before protesters blockaded the road. Trump's schedule indicates he will arrive at the monument by helicopter.

This story was first published on July 3, 2020. It was updated on July 6, 2019, to clarify that President Donald Trump did not explicitly mention monuments to Confederate generals in his speech at Mount Rushmore.

## South Dakota governor, exposed to virus, joined Trump on jet

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Shortly after fireworks above Mount Rushmore disappeared into the night sky on Friday, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem accompanied President Donald Trump aboard Air Force One despite having had close contact with Trump's son's girlfriend, who had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Trump has been in a position all along to encounter a virus that spreads from people who don't feel sick,

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such as Noem, who had interacted closely at a campaign fundraiser with Donald Trump Jr.'s girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, who turned out to be infected. Noem didn't wear a mask on the plane and chatted with the president as the flight returned to Washington, D.C., according to her spokesperson, Maggie Seidel.

Noem had tested negative for COVID-19 shortly before welcoming Trump to South Dakota on Friday, a day after she had interacted with Guilfoyle. One photo on social media showed Noem and Guilfoyle, who is also a Trump campaign staff member, hugging. The Trump campaign announced that Guilfoyle had tested positive on Friday.

Guilfoyle's infection prompted some Republicans, such as Rep. Greg Gianforte of Montana, to take precautions against the spread of the coronavirus. He suspended in-person campaigning for his gubernatorial bid after his wife and his running mate both attended a fundraiser with Guilfoyle earlier in the week.

Noem doesn't plan anything similar or to get tested again for the virus, Seidel said. She cast Noem's decision to fly on Air Force One as a demonstration of how to live with the virus. Seidel pointed to comments from the World Health Organization that the spread of the virus is "rare" from asymptomatic people. But that runs counter to guidance from public health experts, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that advises people to wear masks when interacting with people outside their household.

The CDC says that people with active infections can still test negative, especially if it is early in the infection. The agency recommends that even people who test negative take precautions like avoiding close contact and wearing a mask around others.

Asked about Trump's interaction with Noem, the White House noted the frequency with which the president is tested.

"The president is tested constantly, has tested negative, and those around him are tested as well," White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said.

When asked why Noem was allowed to travel on Air Force One, McEnany referred the question to the Secret Service, but added: "They take the president's health very seriously. They would never put him in a situation that would put him in harm's way."

The Secret Service referred questions to the White House press office, which provided no additional comment.

Ian Fury, a spokesperson for Noem, said Monday on Twitter that the governor had consulted with the White House doctor before she boarded Air Force One and was told it would be OK to fly.

As the number of people hospitalized from COVID-19 in South Dakota has decreased in recent weeks to just 59 people statewide, Noem has doubled down on her relaxed approach to the pandemic. Even as Republican governors in states like Texas have moved to require people to wear masks, Noem didn't require distancing or masks at the July 3 celebration at Mount Rushmore, an outdoor event at which few in the closely packed crowd wore masks.

On Friday night, she told the crowd, "Tonight, if you look to your left, if you look to your right, you're going to see that this crowd isn't just from South Dakota, but it's from everywhere across this nation."

The influx of tourists for the Rushmore fireworks has some local leaders and doctors concerned that the area could see a spike in cases. Seidel said the governor worries about other effects of the virus, such as unemployment and domestic violence.

When Seidel was asked about a risk to Trump's health from Noem's presence on Air Force One, she said, "I don't understand why Gov. Noem now needs to manage the president's medical care."

## South Dakota man linked to Russian spy sentenced for fraud

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former conservative operative who was once romantically linked to a Russian agent was sentenced Monday to seven years in federal prison in South Dakota.

Paul Erickson pleaded guilty to wire fraud and money laundering as part of fraudulent investment schemes he operated for many years, the Argus Leader reported.

Erickson was not charged in connection to his romantic relationship with Maria Butina, who was deported in October after admitting she sought to infiltrate conservative U.S. political groups and promote Russia's

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agenda.

Prosecutors said Erickson concocted multiple investment schemes from 1996 to August 2018, including recruiting investors for a string of elder care homes; developing a wheelchair that allowed a person to use the bathroom from the chair; and home-building in North Dakota's booming oil fields. He operated his schemes from Sioux Falls.

Judge Karen Schrier listed former classmates, family members and even Erickson's godmother as victims of his investment schemes.

"You're a thief, and you have betrayed your friends and family, pretty much everyone you know," Schreier said.

Erickson, described by one of his victims as a "charismatic gentleman," was the national political director for Pat Buchanan's challenge to President George H. W. Bush in the 1992 Republican primary. He also worked as a media adviser to John Wayne Bobbitt, the Virginia man whose wife cut off his penis with a kitchen knife in 1993. And he joined with Jack Abramoff, a Washington lobbyist later imprisoned for corruption, in producing an anti-communist action movie.

Clint Sargent, Erickson's lawyer, argued for Erickson to be confined at home because he recently underwent heart valve replacement surgery, putting him at greater risk if he contracts the coronavirus.

Federal prosecutors resisted the motion, saying the Bureau of Prisons could take appropriate action to screen and protect inmates. Schreier said she gave credit to Erickson for pleading guilty and taking responsibility for his crimes before giving him a seven-year sentence, which will be followed with three years of supervised release. A decision on restitution for victims was deferred.

Erickson will be required to report to prison on July 20. Monday's sentencing had been repeatedly postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

## First-of-its-Kind Dashboard Highlights Benefits of Federal Highway Investment in South Dakota

WASHINGTON, July 6, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- South Dakota leveraged \$282.4 million in federal funds to advance \$395 million in highway improvements during fiscal year (FY) 2018, according to an interactive tool that for the first time provides the public and elected officials a clear look at how and where the state invests its transportation tax dollars.

Obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association's (ARTBA) "Highway Dashboard: A 50-State Guide to the Benefits of Federal Investment" displays information on more than 204 South Dakota projects that moved forward in FY 2018. Based on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) data, the dashboard provides the same information for all states.

The top five projects receiving federal funding in the state during 2018 included:

Hutchinson and Turner Counties; Grading, Structures and Surfacing; On the following routes: 018County of Todd; Shoulder Widening, Spot Grading and Surfacing, On the following routes: 083County of Deuel; Mill and PCCP Overlay, Pipe Work; Replace Structure (RCBC) and Approach Grading; On the following routes: 212Lyman County; AC Resurfacing, Structure Rehabilitation; On the following routes: 090 E, 090County of Minnehaha; Rest Area and Port of Entry Reconstruction" This dashboard helps shift the conversation from how much each state gets to specific outcomes and benefits," ARTBA President Dave Bauer says. "Such transparency and accountability will help residents better understand the value they are getting from infrastructure investments."

The current federal FAST Act surface transportation law expires September 30. As Congress continues working on a new long-term bill, the dashboard will help members of Congress and their staffs to learn more about projects and how federal funds are being utilized in their respective states, ARTBA says.

In FY 2018, 69 percent of projects costs were for reconstruction or repair work on existing highways, according to the ARTBA analysis. Added capacity (8 percent of funds), planning, design and construction engineering (7 percent) and right of way purchases (2 percent), are among 12 ways the state spent its transportation dollars.



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Compiled by ARTBA Chief Economist Dr. Alison Premo Black, the ARTBA Highway Dashboard features the top projects dating back to 1950. This data is submitted by states as part of FHWA's Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS).

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) brings together all facets of the transportation construction industry to responsibly advocate for infrastructure investment and policy that meet the nation's need for safe and efficient travel. ARTBA also offers value-added programs and services providing its members with a competitive edge.

Learn more: [artbahighwaydashboard.org](http://artbahighwaydashboard.org).

View original content: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/first-of-its-kind-dashboard-highlights-benefits-of-federal-highway-investment-in-south-dakota-301088620.html>

SOURCE American Road & Transportation Builders Association

## Charges pending for driver who hit, killed man, patrol says

WINNER, S.D. (AP) — Charges are pending against the driver who struck and killed a man who was walking along a highway near Winner, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

The crash happened about 2 a.m. Saturday on Highway 18 about 13 miles west of Winner, the patrol said.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

The 38-year-old driver of the car and a 42-year-old female passenger were not injured. The names of those involved have not been released.

## Australia's 2nd largest city foils nation's pandemic success

By ANDY BROWNBILL and ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australia has been among the world's most successful countries in containing its coronavirus outbreak — with one exception.

The southeastern state of Victoria had some of the nation's toughest pandemic measures and was among the most reluctant to lift its restrictions when the worst of its outbreak seemed to have passed.

But as most of the country emerges from pandemic restrictions, the virus has resumed spreading at an alarming rate in Victoria's capital, Melbourne. The city is buckling down with more extreme and divisive measures that have ignited anger and arguments over who is to blame.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said Tuesday that the entire city and some of its surrounds will be locked down again from Wednesday night under tougher restrictions than were imposed during the first shutdown that started in March.

"We are in many respects in a more precarious, challenging and potentially tragic position now than we were some months ago," Andrews said.

About 3,000 residents of nine public housing high-rise buildings were given just an hour's notice at the weekend before being prohibited from leaving their apartments for at least five days.

"The amount of police officers makes us feel like we're criminals," said a resident of one of the buildings, Nada Osman. "It's overwhelming. It's scary. It's like we're caged in."

Forty suburbs that are virus hot spots have been locked down by postal code since last week, with the result that businesses and households in some areas face restrictions while ones across the street from them do not.

"The line has to be drawn somewhere and I think most people can understand that," Maria Iatrou, whose cafe is restricted to takeout because it is on the wrong side of a suburban border, said before the citywide lockdown was announced.

"But that doesn't take away any of the frustration and disappointment associated with having to live with these restrictions again because we're unlucky enough to belong to one of these post codes," she said.

Victoria authorities had been praised for their aggressive testing and contact tracing. Melbourne researchers developed what they describe as the world's first saliva test for the coronavirus, a less accurate but more comfortable diagnostic tool than nasal swabs, in an effort to encourage more people to agree

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to door-to-door testing.

It's an extraordinary situation that raises questions about how Australia's second-largest city fell so far behind the rest of the country.

The nation of 26 million people has recorded about 8,500 cases and only 106 deaths from COVID-19.

Most if not all the blame is being directed at lax controls at quarantine centers set up in two Melbourne hotels.

Australian citizens and permanent residents returning from overseas are required to spend 14 days in strict hotel quarantine. Genomic sequencing that identifies which virus strains are circulating in specific clusters indicates the city's expanding outbreak is emerging from hotel quarantine guards and guests.

Critics of the Victoria government blame a decision to use private security contractors to enforce the quarantine.

Sydney, Australia's largest city, which in the early days of the pandemic had the country's highest number of daily new cases, chose to use police and the military to provide hotel security, with greater apparent success.

Media reports have alleged security firms charged the Victoria government for hotel guards that were not provided and that guards had sex with quarantined hotel guests and allowed families to go between rooms to play cards.

The Victoria government has largely shut down public debate on what went wrong by appointing a retired judge to hold an inquiry. Government officials maintain it would not be appropriate to make public comment before the judge reports her findings on Sept. 25.

But the government acknowledged infection control failures and has changed its system. State prison workers now oversee hotel quarantine and international travelers are no longer allowed to land at Melbourne airport.

Premier Andrews has defended plans to employ grounded Qantas flight crews to work with the prison guards in the hotel quarantine against union complaints that the crews were offered little training.

"There are very few groups of people who take safety more seriously and know and understand safety protocols and dynamic environments and the need to always go by the book than those who work in our aviation sector," Andrews said.

Catherine Bennett, an epidemiologist at Melbourne's Deakin University, said the city could be having similar success as the rest of Australia in virtually eliminating community transmission if not for the hotel quarantine breaches that allowed security guards to bring the virus home to their suburbs.

"We've had multiple positive people take the virus home at the same time into extensive multi-household families just after Victoria had relaxed its restrictions," said Bennett, who lives outside the 40 shutdown suburbs.

"Luck comes into it. You just need one person positive in a setting where it can take off to have a problem. That setting probably exists in cities all around Australia," she said.

Victoria officials wonder how many of Melbourne's residents will continue social distancing during their second lockdown as they see the rest of Australia lift restrictions.

Iatrou said the current lockdown has made a "massive difference" in earnings at her cafe in the suburb of Ascot Vale.

She welcomed the Melbourne-wide shutdown because it put her business back in competition with her competitors in previously unrestricted suburbs.

But time would tell whether business would return to the levels of the first nationwide lockdown.

"People are a lot more scared this time around," Iatrou said.

If customers stayed away though fear of infection or they lacked income, she said: "There'll be a lot more businesses closing their doors by the end of this."

McGuirk reported from Canberra, Australia.

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McGuirk reported from Canberra, Australia.

## Depp takes stand in libel trial, claims Amber Heard hit him

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Johnny Depp gave evidence in a London court on Tuesday, denying claims that he hit ex-wife Amber Heard and accusing her of assaulting him and depicting him as a "monster."

Depp sat in the witness box in a wood-paneled High Court courtroom on the first day of his libel case against The Sun over an article that branded him a "wife-beater." The "Pirates of the Caribbean" star began by taking the court oath and giving his full name: John Christopher Depp II.

Depp is suing the tabloid's publisher, News Group Newspapers, and its executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an 2018 story alleging he was violent and abusive to then-wife Amber Heard. Depp strongly denies the claim.

Depp said Heard had "said to the world that she was in fear of her life from me, and I had been this horrible monster if you will. Which was not the case."

Depp, 57, and model-actress Heard, 34, met on the set of the 2011 comedy "The Rum Diary" and married in Los Angeles in February 2015. They divorced in 2017, and now bitterly accuse one another of abuse.

Depp and Heard arrived by separate entrances at the neo-Gothic court building on the first day of the three-week trial, one of the first to be held in person since Britain began to lift its coronavirus lockdown. Both wore face coverings over their noses and mouths. Proceedings have been spread over several courtrooms to allow for social distancing.

Witnesses are likely to include Depp's former partners, Vanessa Paradis and Winona Ryder, both of whom have submitted statements supporting the Hollywood star.

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Depp's claim centers on an April 2018 story in the British tabloid headlined: "Potty - How can JK Rowling be 'genuinely happy' casting wife beater Johnny Depp in the new Fantastic Beasts film?"

While Heard isn't on trial, the case is also a showdown between the former spouses, who accuse each other of being controlling, violent and untruthful during their tempestuous marriage.

Describing one incident in which Heard claims he hit her, Depp said the opposite was true.

"As things tended to do, (it) escalated and got physical, ending with a bit of assault. Ms. Heard struck me," he said.

He painted himself as the peacemaker who tried to de-escalate things.

"Whenever it would escalate I would try to go to my own corner, as it were ... before things got out of hand," he said.

The Sun's defense relies on Heard's allegations of 14 incidents of violence by Depp between 2013 and 2016, in locations including Los Angeles, Australia, Japan, the Bahamas and on a private jet. He denies them all and says Heard attacked him with items including a drink can and a cigarette. He also claims Heard or one of her friends defecated on his bed.

"She was the abuser, not him," Depp's legal team, led by barrister David Sherborne, said in a written statement.

"She is a highly complex and aggressive individual who suffered extreme mood swings, would provoke endless circular arguments, and fly into violent rages."

Depp's lawyers said the judge would have to decide between two starkly opposing accounts of the relationship.

"There is no real room for a middle ground here," they said. "One side is plainly lying, and to an extraordinary extent."

The case is set to put the two performers' complex private lives under a microscope.

In pre-trial wrangling, the Sun's lawyers tried to have the suit thrown out on the grounds that Depp failed to disclose text messages he exchanged with an assistant showing that he tried to buy "MDMA and other narcotics" while he was in Australia with Heard in 2015.

Heard alleges that Depp subjected her to "a three-day ordeal of physical assaults" while they were in the country after drinking and taking drugs.

The newspaper's lawyer, Adam Wolanski, said withholding the texts was a breach of a previous court order requiring Depp to provide all documents from separate libel proceedings against Heard in the United States. Depp is suing Heard for \$50 million for allegedly defaming him in a Washington Post article about domestic abuse. That case is due to be heard next year.

Last week, judge Andrew Nicol ruled that Depp had breached the court order, but said "it would not be just" to throw out the actor's claim.

He also rejected an attempt by Depp to force Heard to disclose evidence including communications with actor James Franco and Space-X founder Elon Musk, with whom she allegedly had affairs while involved with Depp. The judge said the issue of Heard's extramarital relations was irrelevant to the central issue in the case, which is "whether Mr. Depp assaulted Ms. Heard."

## Hong Kong grappling with future under national security law

By ZEN SOO and ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writers

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam offered scant reassurance Tuesday over a new national security law that critics say undermines liberties and legal protections promised when China took control of the former British colony.

A year ago, Hong Kong residents felt secure enough in their freedoms under the territory's "one-country, two-systems" regime to bring their children to mass protests. Now, after the June 30 implementation of the security law, some are worrying they might be punished for what they post on Facebook Twitter or even TikTok.

Short-form video app TikTok, which has sought to distance itself from its Chinese roots — it is owned

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by Chinese internet giant ByteDance — said Tuesday it will stop operations in the city “in light of recent events.”

Hong Kong was promised 50 years of semi-autonomy after the July 1, 1997, handover. That allowed the city’s 7 million residents to keep a free press and other freedoms forbidden in the communist-ruled mainland.

Many of Hong Kong’s older generations fled political upheaval on the Chinese mainland. Younger Hong Kongers grew up expecting to achieve more democracy in their lifetimes. All are struggling to understand the implications of the new law, which prohibits what Beijing views as secessionist, subversive or terrorist activities or as foreign intervention in the city’s internal affairs.

“I didn’t have a strong view against formalizing a national security law but the way it was implemented is intrusive and disrespectful,” said Jen Au, who works in the banking industry. “It’s basically just bullying. Hong Kong has come a long way in the last 20 years to warm up to China and this really just backfired.”

Lam, the city’s Beijing-backed chief executive, said Tuesday the work of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security she chairs, which oversees enforcement of the law, will not be made public. So implementation rules giving police sweeping powers to enforce the law won’t be subject to judicial review.

Asked if she could guarantee that media can still report freely in Hong Kong without facing censorship, Lam said, “If the Foreign Correspondents Club or all reporters in Hong Kong can give me a 100% guarantee that they will not commit any offences under this national legislation, then I can do the same.”

Hong Kong was convulsed with massive, sometimes violent anti-government demonstrations for much of last year.

Initially, the protests were against extradition legislation, since withdrawn, that might have led to some suspects facing trial in mainland Chinese courts. But the protests expanded to encompass calls for greater democracy and more police accountability.

Critics see the security law as Beijing’s boldest move yet to erase the divide between Hong Kong’s Western-style system and the mainland’s authoritarian way of governing.

The new law criminalizes some pro-democracy slogans like the widely used “Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our time,” which the Hong Kong government says has separatist connotations.

Under the new law police can order social media platforms, publishers and internet service providers to remove any electronic message published that is “likely to constitute an offence endangering national security or is likely to cause the occurrence of an offence endangering national security.”

Service providers failing to comply could face fines of up to 100,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$12,903) and jail terms of up to six months.

Individuals who post such messages may also be asked to remove the message, or face similar fines and a jail term of one year.

Carine Lo said such rules scare her.

“From now on, whatever public events you take part in, or whatever you say online, you could end up doing something against this law,” the 21-year-old said. “So for us, I feel scared. Probably I’ll have to be more careful about what I say online, and I will watch out if people around me may snitch on me.”

Under the new law, the Hong Kong chief executive can authorize police to intercept communications and conduct surveillance to “prevent and detect offences endangering national security.”

Police can conduct searches for evidence without a warrant in “exceptional circumstances” and seek warrants requiring people suspected of violating the national security law to surrender their travel documents, preventing them from leaving Hong Kong.

Such vague provisions are worrisome, said Alex Tsui, a woman in her 20s.

“They should tell us Hong Kong citizens exactly in what kind of situations, they have what kind of rights or powers,” Tsui said. “They can’t just choose any time to say, you look suspicious, or accuse you of anything, and then come in to search for evidence, I think it’s completely unfair. It definitely is not going to help uphold justice.”

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described as “Orwellian” changes such as the removal of books

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critical of the Chinese Communist Party from library shelves, a ban on political slogans deemed to be subversive and a requirement that schools enforce censorship.

"Until now, Hong Kong flourished because it allowed free thinking and free speech, under an independent rule of law. No more," Pompeo said in a statement.

Hong Kong authorities moved quickly to implement the law after it took effect on June 30, with police arresting about 370 people.

Social media platforms, shut out of the mainland by China's "Great Firewall," have yet to be blocked in Hong Kong. But users have begun scrubbing their accounts and deleting pro-democracy posts out of fear of retribution. Many shops and stores that publicly stood in solidarity with protesters have removed the pro-democracy sticky notes and artwork that had adorned their walls.

Many experts say they doubt the new law will have a big effect on companies that already operate in both Hong Kong and the mainland.

But big social media companies have announced they are assessing the law. Apart from TikTok, Facebook and its messaging app WhatsApp, Google and Twitter announced they are freezing reviews of government requests for user data in Hong Kong.

Telegram, whose platform has been used widely to spread pro-democracy messages and information about the protests, said it has not shared data with the Hong Kong authorities.

Kurtenbach reported from Mito, Japan.

## 5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **A MICROCOSM OF AMERICAN DISUNITY** Places like Saginaw County, in the battleground state Michigan, have been hit with the triple shock of a pandemic, recession and an uprising against police abuse.
2. **RED SOX DOGGED BY SCANDAL** More than a dozen Black men have spent the last several years trying to get the team to listen to their claims that they were sexually abused by a former clubhouse manager over a period of three decades.
3. **WHERE PPP WENT** As much as \$273 million in federal coronavirus aid was awarded to more than 100 companies that are owned or operated by major donors to Trump's election efforts.
4. **'I WAS ALMOST WASHED AWAY'** Soldiers rescue residents on boats as floodwaters flow down streets in southern Japanese towns hit by deadly rains, leaving dozens dead and several missing.
5. **JOHNNY DEPP IN REAL-LIFE DRAMA** The "Pirates of the Caribbean" star is suing a British tabloid newspaper for libel over an article that branded him a "wife beater."

## Trump donors among early recipients of coronavirus loans

By BRIAN SŁODYSKO and ANGELIKI KASTANIS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As much as \$273 million in federal coronavirus aid was awarded to more than 100 companies that are owned or operated by major donors to President Donald Trump's election efforts, according to an Associated Press analysis of federal data.

Many were among the first to be approved for a loan in early April, when the administration was struggling to launch the lending program. And only eight businesses had to wait until early May before securing the aid, according to the AP's review of data released Monday.

The Trump-connected companies obtained the aid through the Paycheck Protection Program, which extends a lifeline to small businesses struggling to navigate the pandemic. Fast-food chains like MUY Brands, oil and gas companies and white-collar firms were all granted a slice of more than \$659 billion in low-interest business loans that will be forgiven if the money is used on payroll, rent and similar expenses.

All told, the Trump supporters who run these companies have contributed at least \$11.1 million since

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May 2015 to Trump's campaign committees, the Republican National Committee and America First Action, a super PAC that has been endorsed by Trump, the AP review found. Each donor gave at least \$20,000.

There is no evidence the companies received favorable treatment as a result of their ties to Trump, and the businesses account for just a fraction of the overall spending under the program.

But the distribution of relief money is coming under heightened scrutiny after the Trump administration initially refused to reveal which companies received loans, only to cave under growing bipartisan pressure from Congress. On Monday, the Treasury Department released the names of companies that received loans that were greater than \$150,000, though they didn't release specific dollar figures and instead gave ranges for the dollar value of the aid.

Among the recipients named Monday was the conservative website NewsMax, which was approved for a loan up to \$5 million on April 13, the data shows. NewsMax CEO Christopher Ruddy has donated \$525,000 to political committees supporting Trump, records show. He did not respond to a request for comment.

Muy Brands, a San Antonio, Texas-based company that operates Taco Bell, Pizza Hut and Wendy's franchises, was approved for a loan worth between \$5 million and \$10 million. Its owner, James Bodenstedt, has donated \$672,570 to Trump since 2016, records show. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

Irving, Texas-based M Crowd Restaurant Group, which owns 27 Texas restaurants including the Mi Cocina chain, was approved for between \$5 million and \$10 million. Ray Washburne, one of the company's founders, was vice chairman of the Trump Victory Committee in 2016 and donated \$100,000 to the PAC last August. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

"The PPP was a huge success and saved 51 million American jobs, including at Joe Biden's old law firm and many companies associated with Obama Administration alums," said Trump campaign spokeswoman Samantha Zager. "When the rent or mortgage was due, tens of millions of Americans kept receiving paychecks thanks to President Trump's leadership."

Government watchdog groups say they have little faith in the administration conducting oversight of the program, noting Trump has ousted numerous inspectors general and has broadly resisted efforts to add transparency.

"When you don't have proper safeguards, such as timely disclosure and effective inspectors general, then all these things look more suspicious and raise more questions," said Larry Noble, a former general counsel at the Federal Election Commission. "When you see these people getting assistance quickly and they have contributed to the campaign, then it is going to raise questions."

Companies typically must have fewer than 500 workers to qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program. About \$130 billion was unclaimed as the application deadline closed June 30.

With money still available, Congress voted to extend the program just as it was expiring, setting a new date of Aug. 8.

The public may never know the identity of more than 80% of the nearly 5 million beneficiaries to date because the administration has refused to release details on loans under \$150,000 — the vast majority of borrowers.

That secrecy spurred an open-records lawsuit by a group of news organizations, including the AP.

Still, the release of the data is the most complete look at the program's recipients so far.

And Trump donors aren't the only people with ties to the president who have benefited.

The Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy in New Jersey, which is named after Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner's grandfather, was approved for a loan in the range of \$1 million to \$2 million on April 5. Jared Kushner's parents' family foundation supports the school, NBC News reported.

Kasowitz Benson Torres, the law firm founded by Trump's longtime personal attorney Marc Kasowitz, was approved for a loan worth between \$5 million and \$10 million.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao's family's business, Foremost Maritime Co., was cleared for a loan valued between \$350,000 and \$1 million. She is married to the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Broadcasting company Patrick Broadcasting, which is owned by Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a firebrand



conservative and former talk radio host, received a loan of \$179,000, according to Patrick's senior adviser Sherry Sylvester. Patrick is the Texas chairman of Trump's presidential campaign.

The money was used to cover the payroll and expenses of 13 employees.

"The loan did not cover his salary, but he was able to save the jobs of all his employees, many of whom have been with him for decades," Sylvester said.

Kastanis reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writer Dee-Ann Durbin in Ann Arbor, Michigan, contributed to this report.

## Coronavirus slams Poland's already-troubled coal industry

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The coronavirus has ripped through Poland's coal mines, where men descend deep underground in tightly packed elevators and work shoulder-to-shoulder to extract the source of 75% of the nation's electrical power.

Of Poland's more than 36,000 reported COVID-19 cases, about 6,500 are miners — making them nearly a fifth of all confirmed infections in the country, even though they make up only 80,000 of the country's population of 38 million.

The virus hot spots, centered in the southern Silesia region, have paralyzed an already-troubled industry, forcing many to stay home from work and triggering a three-week closure of many state-run mines that are only now reopening.

It is one more blow that the pandemic has dealt to the global coal sector, already in steep decline in much of the world as renewable and other energy sources get cheaper and societies increasingly reject its damaging environmental impact.

Economic shutdowns from the virus also have cut electricity demand. Britain completely removed coal-fired power from its grid for 67 days starting April 9 — a record set since the Industrial Revolution as the National Grid works toward a zero-carbon system by 2025.

"Coal is in a long-term decline," said Bob Ward, policy director at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics. "It's simply cheaper to use gas or renewables, and the economics of coal just no longer make sense in many parts of the world."

"The question is whether the recent sharp reduction in coal use is sustainable and will last beyond the impacts of the pandemic," Ward said.

U.S. coal companies, already in financial trouble, are more likely to default because of the pandemic, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. Italian utility ENEL says it will be able to close coal-fired power stations that it operates across the world sooner than anticipated due to the virus.

But China, the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, actually has been accelerating plans for new coal power plant capacity as it tries to revive its virus-hit economy.

Poland, under pressure from the 27-member European Union to lower carbon emissions, is seeing the pandemic complicate its coal troubles.

Poland is the only EU state refusing to pledge carbon neutrality by 2050. Governments in Warsaw have argued for years that as an ex-communist country still trying to catch up with the West, it cannot give up the cheap and plentiful domestic energy source. It also says its reliance on coal plays is important for weaning itself from Russian gas.

In reality, Poland's coal production is becoming less efficient, and it has increasingly been importing cheaper coal from Mozambique, Colombia, Australia and even Russia. As it does so, Poland's own coal piles up unused, and some mines have been closed.

"Look what's happening with coal, how many millions of tons are being imported from outside Poland, and it was supposed to be completely different," Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski said at a campaign rally in Silesia. He faces conservative President Andrzej Duda in a presidential runoff election Sunday.

Piotr Lewandowski, president of the Institute for Structural Research in Warsaw, says Poland's coal sector

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is being pushed to a "tipping point" by several factors: falling demand for coal because of warmer winters; wind and other renewables becoming cheaper; rising costs of carbon emissions; and a society less willing to tolerate high levels of air pollution.

"As coal mines struggle, their stock of unsold coal is the highest it has been in five years," Lewandowski said. "The mines are between a rock and a hard place. They need to manage the outbreak while they are in financial tatters."

In an open letter Friday to Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, some 40 environmentalists, scientists and other groups urged him to urgently prepare a plan for phasing out coal use in order to receive EU funds for making a transition to a greener society. They said the pandemic has sped up "the economic, ecological and social problems" associated with coal.

Miners, however, worry the government could use the outbreak as a pretext to permanently shut inefficient mines. Conservative leaders have tried to calm those fears, aware of the political costs of job cuts to the industry.

When communism fell in Poland, it still had about 390,000 coal miners. Layoffs created high unemployment and poverty in Silesia, and miners staged violent protests in Warsaw.

Jacek Sasin, the deputy prime minister in charge of mining, insists there is no reason for miners to fear for their long-term prospects.

"All those who tried to argue that reduction was some sly plan to liquidate mines talked nonsense," he said.

Certainly nobody expects any big decisions about coal before Sunday's election between Duda, the incumbent, and Trzaskowski.

Coal miners already are frustrated by stagnant wages and a feeling the government is less committed to supporting them, said Patryk Kosela, a spokesman for a miners' trade union, Sierpien 80.

Adding to their concerns have been long waits for coronavirus test results and a state mining institute report issued at the start of the pandemic that said miners were not at risk.

"It was wishful thinking," Kosela said. "In mining, you work in tight groups. You go down in a packed small lift, people are crowded. Then you travel on an underground train, together, rubbing shoulders."

Polish miners normally wear only goggles and helmets with lamps, but one of the biggest companies said it supplied masks and disinfectant, and implemented other hygiene measures at the start of the outbreak. It was unclear how many workers actually wore the masks.

The virus spread very fast, Kosela said. The good news is that very few have faced serious complications, and many have recovered.

"Some are surprised that they are infected because they feel fine," he said.

Adam Henkelman, a 44-year-old miner who recovered from the virus, blames the government for the high infection rates and the other troubles in the sector.

"They had lost interest in us," said Henkelman, who works in the Murcki-Staszic coal mine in Katowice. "We don't know what tomorrow will bring."

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Associated Press writer Monika Scislowska contributed to this report.

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

## Australia's 2nd largest city foils nation's pandemic success

By ANDY BROWNBILL and ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australia has been among the world's most successful countries in containing its coronavirus outbreak — with one exception.

The southeastern state of Victoria had some of the nation's toughest pandemic measures and was among the most reluctant to lift its restrictions when the worst of its outbreak seemed to have passed.

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But as most of the country emerges from pandemic restrictions, the virus has resumed spreading at an alarming rate in Victoria's capital, Melbourne. The city is buckling down with more extreme and divisive measures that have ignited anger and arguments over who is to blame.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said Tuesday that the entire city and some of its surrounds will be locked down again from Wednesday night under tougher restrictions than were imposed during the first shutdown that started in March.

"We are in many respects in a more precarious, challenging and potentially tragic position now than we were some months ago," Andrews said.

About 3,000 residents of nine public housing high-rise buildings were given just an hour's notice at the weekend before being prohibited from leaving their apartments for at least five days.

"The amount of police officers makes us feel like we're criminals," said a resident of one of the buildings, Nada Osman. "It's overwhelming. It's scary. It's like we're caged in."

Forty suburbs that are virus hot spots have been locked down by postal code since last week, with the result that businesses and households in some areas face restrictions while ones across the street from them do not.

"The line has to be drawn somewhere and I think most people can understand that," Maria Iatrou, whose cafe is restricted to takeout because it is on the wrong side of a suburban border, said before the citywide lockdown was announced.

"But that doesn't take away any of the frustration and disappointment associated with having to live with these restrictions again because we're unlucky enough to belong to one of these post codes," she said.

Victoria authorities had been praised for their aggressive testing and contact tracing. Melbourne researchers developed what they describe as the world's first saliva test for the coronavirus, a less accurate but more comfortable diagnostic tool than nasal swabs, in an effort to encourage more people to agree to door-to-door testing.

It's an extraordinary situation that raises questions about how Australia's second-largest city fell so far behind the rest of the country.

The nation of 26 million people has recorded about 8,500 cases and only 106 deaths from COVID-19.

Most if not all the blame is being directed at lax controls at quarantine centers set up in two Melbourne hotels.

Australian citizens and permanent residents returning from overseas are required to spend 14 days in strict hotel quarantine. Genomic sequencing that identifies which virus strains are circulating in specific clusters indicates the city's expanding outbreak is emerging from hotel quarantine guards and guests.

Critics of the Victoria government blame a decision to use private security contractors to enforce the quarantine.

Sydney, Australia's largest city, which in the early days of the pandemic had the country's highest number of daily new cases, chose to use police and the military to provide hotel security, with greater apparent success.

Media reports have alleged security firms charged the Victoria government for hotel guards that were not provided and that guards had sex with quarantined hotel guests and allowed families to go between rooms to play cards.

The Victoria government has largely shut down public debate on what went wrong by appointing a retired judge to hold an inquiry. Government officials maintain it would not be appropriate to make public comment before the judge reports her findings on Sept. 25.

But the government acknowledged infection control failures and has changed its system. State prison workers now oversee hotel quarantine and international travelers are no longer allowed to land at Melbourne airport.

Premier Andrews has defended plans to employ grounded Qantas flight crews to work with the prison guards in the hotel quarantine against union complaints that the crews were offered little training.

"There are very few groups of people who take safety more seriously and know and understand safety protocols and dynamic environments and the need to always go by the book than those who work in our

aviation sector," Andrews said.

Catherine Bennett, an epidemiologist at Melbourne's Deakin University, said the city could be having similar success as the rest of Australia in virtually eliminating community transmission if not for the hotel quarantine breaches that allowed security guards to bring the virus home to their suburbs.

"We've had multiple positive people take the virus home at the same time into extensive multi-household families just after Victoria had relaxed its restrictions," said Bennett, who lives outside the 40 shutdown suburbs.

"Luck comes into it. You just need one person positive in a setting where it can take off to have a problem. That setting probably exists in cities all around Australia," she said.

Victoria officials wonder how many of Melbourne's residents will continue social distancing during their second lockdown as they see the rest of Australia lift restrictions.

Iatrou said the current lockdown has made a "massive difference" in earnings at her cafe in the suburb of Ascot Vale.

She welcomed the Melbourne-wide shutdown because it put her business back in competition with her competitors in previously unrestricted suburbs.

But time would tell whether business would return to the levels of the first nationwide lockdown.

"People are a lot more scared this time around," Iatrou said.

If customers stayed away though fear of infection or they lacked income, she said: "There'll be a lot more businesses closing their doors by the end of this."

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McGuirk reported from Canberra, Australia.

## How risky is dining out during the COVID-19 pandemic?

By The Associated Press undefined

How risky is dining out during the COVID-19 pandemic?

There is some risk, but health officials say there are precautions you can take to minimize the chances you'll be exposed to the virus.

Ordering takeout or delivery is still the safest option for getting restaurant food, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If you decide to eat at a restaurant, it's best to opt for outdoor seating where tables are at least 6 feet apart, the agency says. Dining inside a restaurant that hasn't reduced its capacity or safely distanced tables poses the most risk, it says.

The coronavirus spreads through droplets that are emitted when people talk, laugh, sing, cough or sneeze. Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces because it might be harder to keep people apart and there's less ventilation, the CDC says.

Diners should assess what other safety steps the restaurant is taking.

For example, servers should be wearing masks and the restaurant should have a process to ensure people are not congregating too closely while waiting for a table, says Dr. Susan Casey Bleasdale, an infectious disease expert at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Digital or disposable menus and throwaway utensils are also preferable, according to the CDC. The agency says touchless payment options, like those available on your mobile device, are optimal. Otherwise, restaurants should have procedures for avoiding hand-to-hand contact with cash and credit cards.

If you are gathering at a restaurant with a group, Bleasdale suggests only dining with people you know, and checking if they have been feeling sick or experiencing any symptoms.

People more vulnerable to severe illness from the virus, such as the elderly, might want to avoid eating out at restaurants altogether.

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The AP is answering your questions about the coronavirus in this series. Submit them at: [FactCheck@AP.org](mailto:FactCheck@AP.org).

Read previous Viral Questions:

Does wearing a mask pose any health risks?

How risky is flying during the coronavirus pandemic?

Who would be the first to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

## Jerusalem offers a grim model for a post-annexation future

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — It's hard to say what exactly will change in the West Bank if Israel follows through on its plans to annex parts of the occupied territory, but east Jerusalem, which was annexed more than a half-century ago, may provide some answers.

Israeli leaders paint Jerusalem as a model of coexistence, the "unified, eternal" capital of the Jewish people, where minorities have equal rights. But Palestinian residents face widespread discrimination, most lack citizenship and many live in fear of being forced out.

Rights groups say that in some aspects, Palestinians in east Jerusalem have even fewer legal protections than those in the West Bank, where it's possible to appeal to international laws governing the treatment of civilians in occupied territory.

They point to Israel's Absentee Property Law of 1950, which allows the state to take control of any property whose owner lives in an "enemy state" and was used to confiscate the lands and homes of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled or were forced out during the war surrounding Israel's creation in 1948.

Rights groups say that in recent decades, authorities have abused the law to seize homes in sensitive parts of Jerusalem, evicting Palestinian residents and paving the way for settlers to move in.

The Sumarin family has been locked in a 30-year legal battle to prove ownership of their home in Silwan, an east Jerusalem neighborhood coveted by Jewish settlers because of its proximity to holy sites.

When the original owner died in the 1980s, the property was deemed to have an absentee landlord because his four children lived in Jordan. The Israeli branch of the Jewish National Fund then purchased the property from the state in 1991. Last week, a court ordered the family to vacate the property by mid-August and to pay around \$5,800 in court fees.

Family members say the original owner left it to his nephew, who was born and raised there, and from whom they are descended. The extended family living in the home, which now includes 15 men, women and children, says it will appeal the decision.

"Who's absent? We're right here. I've been here for 40 years," said Amal Sumarin, the wife of the nephew's son. "Where are the families with their children supposed to go? Every house built in Silwan is under threat."

The Israeli branch of the Jewish National Fund, which promotes Jewish settlement in the Holy Land and is known by its Hebrew acronym KKL, did not respond to requests for comment.

Rights groups fear that if annexation takes place, Israel will use the same law to strip Palestinians of privately held land in the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to annex all of Israel's settlements and the strategic Jordan Valley in line with President Donald Trump's Middle East plan, which overwhelmingly favors Israel and was rejected by the Palestinians.

It's unclear when or even if Netanyahu will follow through on his pledge, but he has made clear that he wants to annex land but not people, leaving cities, towns and villages under limited Palestinian self-rule. Tens of thousands of acres of privately owned land would likely become part of Israel, potentially leaving the owners "absent" in enclaves outside its new borders.

"It's not something that we will see the first day of annexation, and it won't be a big announcement," said Hagit Ofran, an expert on settlement policy at Peace Now, an Israeli rights group opposed to the settlements. "But the potential is that Israel will not only prevent the owners from accessing their land... but also take over their land."

Palestinians in the annexed territories are unlikely to be offered citizenship, due to Israel's interest in

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preserving its Jewish majority, and many would refuse it so as not to legitimize Israeli rule. Instead, they are likely to get the same kind of permanent residency held by most Palestinians in east Jerusalem.

That form of residency grants Palestinians access to social services, freedom of movement in Israel and the right to vote in local elections — but not national ones. It can be revoked if Palestinians reside outside the city, as many are tempted to do because of the difficulty of building or expanding homes in east Jerusalem.

Peace Now has found evidence of systematic housing discrimination and says around half of all Palestinian housing units in east Jerusalem have been built without hard-to-get permits, putting them at risk of demolition by Israeli authorities.

The inequities are on vivid display in Silwan, a crowded, run-down Palestinian neighborhood spilling into a valley just outside the walls of the Old City. It's proximity to the bitterly-contested hilltop religious site known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount has made it a focus for powerful settler organizations who have spent decades acquiring properties there.

Palestinians view the sale of properties to such groups as a betrayal of their national cause, so the transactions are often carried out in secret through Palestinian middlemen, leading to drawn-out legal disputes and in some cases the physical takeover of homes — or parts of homes — by settlers who claim to have bought them.

Jawad Siyam's backyard is divided by a crude wall of corrugated steel. On the other side, a group of settlers live in a building that belonged to his family for decades. The settlers took control last year after a complicated 25-year legal battle that they won, in part by invoking the Absentee Property Law.

The two families don't get along.

Siyam says they shout at each other from their respective terraces. When the settlers held a party recently, Siyam responded to the loud music by dragging his speakers outside and blasting Arab pop.

"He is not a settler that comes to be your neighbor, he comes to take the next house and the next house," Siyam said. "These neighbors are coming to kick you out."

Daniel Luria, the executive director of Ateret Cohanim, one of the settler organizations that operates in Silwan, says Jews have as much right to live there as in Tel Aviv. For him and other ideological settlers, Jerusalem is the capital of the biblical homeland promised to the Jews, and the settlers are heirs to the "pioneers" who established Israel in the first place.

"The Jews have a right, clearly, as the true sons of Abraham coming back home, to live in any neighborhood," he said. "Especially if an Arab wants to sell, which is the case in 99% of the cases."

For many Palestinians living in the West Bank, which has been under Israeli military rule for decades, annexation seems like a grim formality. Siyam fears they will be in for a cruel awakening.

"People think it will not change because they talk about the big image," he said. "If you talk about the small image, and details, it will change a lot."

## Death toll from flooding in Japan rises to 50, dozen missing

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Soldiers rescued residents on boats as floodwaters flowed down streets in southern Japanese towns hit by deadly rains that were expanding across the region Tuesday. At least 50 people have died and a dozen are missing.

Pounding rain since late Friday in Japan's southern region of Kyushu has triggered widespread flooding. More rain was predicted in Kyushu and the western half of Japan's main island as the rain front moved east.

In Fukuoka, on the northern part of the island, three soldiers waded through knee-high water pulling a boat carrying a mother, her 2-month-old baby and two other residents.

"Good job!" one of the soldiers said as he held up the baby to his chest while the mother got off the boat, Asahi video footage showed. Several children wearing orange life vests over their wet T-shirts arrived on another boat.

An older woman told NHK television she started walking down the road to evacuate, but floodwater rose

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quickly up to her neck. Another woman said, "I was almost washed away and had to grab a electrical pole."

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said 49 victims were from riverside towns in the Kumamoto prefecture. Another of the dead confirmed as of Tuesday morning was a woman in her 80s found inside her flooded home in another prefecture.

About 3 million residents were advised to evacuate across Kyushu, Japan's third-largest island.

Tens of thousands of army troops, police and other rescue workers mobilized from around the country worked their way through mud and debris in the hardest-hit riverside towns along the Kuma River. Rescue operations have been hampered by the floodwater and continuing harsh weather.

In Kuma village in the hardest-hit Kumamoto prefecture, dozens of residents took shelter at a park. The roofed structure had no walls or floor and they sat on blue tarps spread on the dirt ground, with no partitions. The village office's electricity and communications had been cut.

Among the victims were 14 residents of a nursing home next to the Kuma River, known as the "raging river" because it is joined by another river just upstream and is prone to flooding. Its embankment fell, letting water gush into the nursing home.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

## Red Sox dogged by claims of racism, sexual abuse

MICHAEL REZENDES Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Last month, when former Major League All-star Torii Hunter said he'd been called the N-word "a hundred times" at Boston's storied Fenway Park, the Red Sox were quick to back him up with a promise to fight racism.

"Torii Hunter's experience is real," the team said in a June 10 Twitter post, adding that there were at least seven incidents as recently as last year where fans used racial slurs. The team promised to do a better job dealing with racism: "As we identify how we can do better, please know we are listening."

But those words rang hollow for more than a dozen Black men who have spent the last several years trying to get the Red Sox to listen to their claims that they were sexually abused by a former Red Sox clubhouse manager who died in 2005.

The former clubhouse manager, Donald "Fitzy" Fitzpatrick, pleaded guilty to criminal charges of attempted sexual battery in 2002, admitting that he used Red Sox team memorabilia to lure young, Black clubhouse workers into secluded areas of the team's Florida spring training facility, where he abused them. Fitzpatrick did not admit to abusing young boys in other ballparks.

Since then, a growing number of men have stepped forward to allege that they, too, were abused by Fitzpatrick at Fenway Park and at major league stadiums in Baltimore and Kansas City, when the Red Sox were playing on the road. Because their claims date to the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, they are too old to be included in civil lawsuits, and the men say their requests for out-of-court settlements have fallen on deaf ears.

Gerald Armstrong, 65, said he believes the team knew that Fitzpatrick, who worked for the Red Sox for decades, was molesting youngsters hired as bat boys, ball boys, and club house attendants. "You can't tell me that you can have 30 or 40 guys traveling around with him and observing his behavior and not know what he was doing," Armstrong said.

Armstrong said that former Red Sox first baseman George Scott, known as the "Boomer," frequently told him to "stay away from Fitzy." Scott died seven years ago.

"It was another slap in the face for me," said Charles Crawford, 45, an African American from Taunton, Massachusetts after hearing the most recent Red Sox statement about combating racism at Fenway Park. Crawford alleges that Fitzpatrick abused him in a locked storage room and in the team showers at Fenway Park when he was 16 years old, in the summer of 1991.

"Now would be a good time for the Red Sox to show everyone they mean what they say," said Armstrong, who claims he was the first Black youth to be hired in the visitors' clubhouse by the old Kansas

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City Athletics — only to be allegedly abused by Fitzpatrick multiple times in a stadium storage room and the historic Muehlebach Hotel in downtown Kansas City.

When contacted by The Associated Press, Daniel Goldberg, an attorney for the Red Sox, re-issued a statement the team released in 2017, noting that Fitzpatrick pleaded guilty to criminal charges under the team's previous ownership.

"The Red Sox have always viewed the actions — which date back as long as six decades ago — of Mr. Fitzpatrick as abhorrent," the team statement says. "When the team, under prior ownership became aware of the allegations against Mr. Fitzpatrick in 1991, he was promptly relieved of his duties."

Mitchell Garabedian, an attorney representing 21 men who claimed they were abused by Fitzpatrick — 15 of whom are Black — has been pushing for out-of-court settlements with the Red Sox, three other teams and Major League Baseball for years, but to no avail. Recently, following the death of George Floyd and statements about combating racism issued by the Red Sox, Major League Baseball and several teams, Garabedian has tried again to open negotiations, without success.

"It's inconceivable to me that they wouldn't want to help these victims in this day and age," said Garabedian, who is known for his work representing victims of Catholic clergy sex abuse, including those who took part in a 2002 settlement with the Boston Archdiocese.

Forbes Magazine recently pegged the value of the Red Sox at \$3.3 billion, third among the 30 major league ball clubs. In a recent ranking of billionaires, the magazine also estimated principal owner John Henry's net worth at \$2.6 billion.

Today's Red Sox, led by Henry, who also owns The Boston Globe, have labored to shed the team's racist past since buying the franchise in 2002.

Under the late Tom Yawkey, the team's former owner, the Red Sox were the last major league team to integrate, signing infielder Elijah "Pumpsie" Green in 1959, more than a decade after Jackie Robinson smashed the color barrier by signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

In addition, the Red Sox had a chance to sign Robinson before he went to the Dodgers, and they took a pass on signing fellow Hall of Famer Willie Mays.

Two years ago, the Red Sox tried to step away from the team's racist legacy when it asked the City of Boston to drop Yawkey's name from a street that runs alongside Fenway Park. The request ignited opposition from a group of civic leaders who said the move would tarnish Yawkey's record of charitable giving. But the Red Sox prevailed and today Yawkey Way has reverted to its original name, Jersey Street.

Crawford and Armstrong, who have long accused Fitzpatrick of abuse, said the former clubhouse manager used official team caps and baseballs to draw them and others into private settings in major league ball parks and at other locations.

Garabedian said three of the 21 alleged victims claim Fitzpatrick molested them after showing up at little league games in Boston and nearby Brockton and telling them he was a scout for major league baseball.

"He was very active," Garabedian said.

Garabedian is seeking \$5 million for each of the 21 alleged victims.

But Armstrong said he's speaking out in large part to encourage all Black men who are victims of child sexual abuse to overcome the shame or embarrassment they may feel so they can acknowledge what was done to them and get the counseling they likely need.

"I think a lot of black men have been molested and for cultural reasons they just don't come forward to deal with it," he said. "And if you don't deal with it, you're looking at a lot of emotional problems."

## NHL, players announce labor deal, plan to resume play Aug. 1

By JOHN WAWROW and STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writers

The NHL is in position to resume playing in less than a month — with 24 teams in action, all in Canada — and could be on the verge of enjoying labor peace through 2026.

The National Hockey League and the NHL Players' Association on Monday announced a tentative deal on a return-to-play format and a memorandum of understanding on a four-year extension of the collec-



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tive bargaining agreement.

Should both agreements be ratified, the NHL would proceed immediately to its expanded 24-team playoff format, with play beginning on Aug. 1. Under the plan, training camps would open July 13, with teams traveling to their respective hub cities for exhibition games on July 26.

The hub cities are Toronto and Edmonton, Alberta, for the qualifying round and at least first two playoff rounds, according to a person with direct knowledge of the agreements who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the league and NHLPA have not released this information.

For the conference finals and the Stanley Cup Final, the person said, the league is being cautious and allowing itself site flexibility in the event of potential spikes in COVID-19 infections.

Extending the CBA, which was set to expire in September 2022, was considered a necessary step in restarting the season, which was placed on pause in March as a result of the pandemic. The extension covers numerous on- and off-ice issues, including the NHL's potential return to the Olympics, the person said.

If approved, players would be in a position to compete at the Beijing Olympics in 2022 and in Italy four years later. In order for that to happen, the NHL would first have to resolve marketing rights and health insurance, among other issues, with the International Olympic Committee and International Ice Hockey Federation.

The NHL, NHLPA and IIHF had what were called productive talks earlier this year. The NHL participated in five consecutive Olympics from 1998-2014 before skipping 2018 in South Korea.

Financially, the CBA extension would attempt to address the lost revenue stemming from the remainder of the regular season being wiped out and with empty arenas looming for the playoffs.

Players would defer 10% of salaries next season which owners would pay back over three consecutive seasons starting in 2022-23, a second person familiar with the proposed agreement told The AP. The salary cap will remain at \$81.5 million for at least next season, the person said, also speaking only on the condition of anonymity because the details have not been released.

Escrow payments to owners to even out hockey-related revenue at 50/50 would be capped at 20% next season, with the cap decreasing throughout the deal, the second person said. If owners are still owed money from the players, the CBA would be extended for an additional season. Escrow has been one of the biggest complaints of players in the past several years.

The agreements need two-thirds approval by owners.

On the union side, the agreements must first be approved by a majority of the NHLPA's 31-member executive committee before going to a vote to the full membership. The executive committee is expected to make its recommendation by the end of day Tuesday; if approved, the players would be expected to complete their voting process by Friday.

Over the weekend, the league and players agreed to an extensive series of return-to-play protocols involving training camp and games. Players will be allowed to opt out of competing in the expanded playoffs, and will have three days to make their decision once the agreement is ratified.

Should the league push ahead, the matchups are already known: The top four teams in each conference (Boston, Tampa Bay, Washington and Philadelphia in the East and St. Louis, Colorado, Vegas and Dallas in the West) play a handful of round-robin games to determine seeding.

Those top seeds then face the winners of eight opening-round, best-of-five series: No. 5 Pittsburgh Penguins vs. No. 12 Montreal Canadiens; No. 6 Carolina Hurricanes vs. No. 11 New York Rangers; No. 7 New York Islanders vs. No. 10 Florida Panthers; No. 8 Toronto Maple Leafs vs. No. 9 Columbus Blue Jackets; No. 5 Edmonton Oilers vs. No. 12 Chicago Blackhawks; No. 6 Nashville Predators vs. No. 11 Arizona Coyotes; No. 7 Vancouver Canucks vs. No. 10 Minnesota Wild; and the No. 8 Calgary Flames vs. No. 9 Winnipeg Jets.

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For more AP NHL coverage: <https://apnews.com/NHL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Kanye West? The Girl Scouts? Hedge funds? All got PPP loans

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's small business lending program has benefited millions of companies, with the goal of minimizing the number of layoffs Americans have suffered in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Yet the recipients include many you probably wouldn't have expected.

Kanye West's clothing line. The sculptor Jeff Koons. Law firms and high-dollar hedge funds. The Girl Scouts. Political groups on both the left and right.

All told, the Treasury Department's Paycheck Protection Program authorized \$520 billion for nearly 5 million mostly small businesses and nonprofits. On Monday, the government released the names and some other details of recipients who were approved for \$150,000 or more.

That amounted to fewer than 15% of all borrowers. The Associated Press and other news organizations are suing the government to obtain the names of the remaining recipients.

Economists generally credit the program with preventing the job market meltdown this spring from becoming even worse. More than 22 million jobs were lost in March and April. But roughly one-third of them were regained in May and June — a faster rebound than many analysts had expected.

The government acted quickly in early April, with Treasury lending the first \$349 billion in just two weeks. The program got off to a rocky start, one marked by confusion and difficulty for many companies that sought loans.

"The process was messy, and they couldn't target it as much," Diane Swonk, chief economist at accounting firm Grant Thornton, said of Treasury.

Here are seven unlikely recipients of the PPP loans:

### JEFF KOONS

Koons, a modernist sculptor, is known best for his work with large, metallic balloon-like animals. His "Rabbit" sculpture fetched \$91 million at auction last year.

Koons' studio was approved for \$1 million to \$2 million, the government's data shows. (The data shows only ranges for the amounts of approved loans.) His studio said it employed 53 people before the pandemic. The PPP loans can be forgiven if employers use most of the money to keep their workers on the payroll.

### WALL STREET AND PRIVATE EQUITY

Nearly 600 asset management companies and private equity firms were approved for money from the PPP, according to government data.

Financial firms were generally not badly hurt by the coronavirus pandemic. Their employees were largely able to keep working, and they weren't among the industries that had to be shut down by government orders. In addition, of course, investment managers and private equity employees tend to be exceedingly well-paid occupations.

According to the data, those 583 companies reported supporting roughly 14,800 jobs collectively with the money from the program. That's an average of 25 employees per company.

One other notable financial company that borrowed from the program: Rosenblatt Securities, which commands one of the largest physical presences on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Rosenblatt borrowed between \$1 million and \$2 million.

### KANYE WEST'S CLOTHING LINE

Kanye West's clothing-and-sneaker brand Yeezy received a loan of between \$2 million and \$5 million, according to the data released by Treasury. The company employed 106 people in mid-February before the pandemic struck.

Yeezy, best known for its \$250 sneakers, just announced a major deal with Gap that will have the rap superstar designing hoodies and T-shirts to be sold in the chain's 1,100 stores around the world. (A representative for Yeezy didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.)

Last weekend, West, a notable fan of President Donald Trump, tweeted that he was running for president.

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Some other well-known fashion and retail names whose businesses were pummeled by store shutdowns were also approved for loans. The list included high-end designers Oscar de la Renta and Vera Wang and suit maker Hickey Freeman. All their loans were in the \$2-million-to-\$5 million range.

## POLITICAL GROUPS

The Americans for Tax Reform Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the anti-tax lobbying group Americans for Tax Reform, was approved for a loan of up to \$350,000. ATR, led by the anti-tax activist Grover Norquist, who has long supported a smaller federal government, said it didn't oppose the PPP. It described the program "as compensation for a government taking during the shutdown."

The Center for Law and Social Policy, a research and advocacy group focused on policies supporting low-income Americans, was authorized for a loan of up to \$1 million, according to government data.

## THE GIRL SCOUTS

More than 30 Girl Scout chapters across the country received PPP loans, the Treasury said. The Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming were approved for between \$350,000 and \$1 million.

## JIM JUSTICE, BILLIONAIRE GOVERNOR

West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice's family companies received at least \$6.3 million from the program.

Justice, a Republican, is considered to be West Virginia's richest person through his ownership of dozens of coal and agricultural businesses, many of which have been sued for unpaid debts. At least six Justice family businesses were approved for loans, including The Greenbrier Sporting Club, an exclusive club attached to a lavish resort that Justice owns called The Greenbrier.

Justice, a billionaire, acknowledged last week that his private companies received money from the program but said he didn't know the dollar amounts. A representative for the governor's family companies didn't immediately return emails seeking comment.

## RESTAURANT CHAINS

TGI Fridays and P.F. Chang's China Bistro were among the major restaurant chains that were approved for loans.

Dallas-based TGI Fridays, which has around 500 restaurants nationwide, obtained between \$5 million and \$10 million in loans from the program. In 2014, TGI Fridays was bought by the the New York private equity firm TriArtisan Capital Advisors. That firm also owns P.F. Chang's China Bistro, which was also approved for a loan.

Though the PPP program was designed to help small businesses, big hotel and restaurant chains were also allowed to apply. A message seeking comment was left with TGI Fridays.

P.F. Chang's China Bistro says a PPP loan helped it keep 12,000 workers employed and transition its restaurants to carry-out-only during the coronavirus pandemic. Scottsdale, Arizona-based P.F. Chang's, which has more than 210 restaurants around the country, was approved for between \$5 million and \$10 million from the PPP program, according to the government data.

## Hospitals approaching capacity as Miami closes restaurants

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Hospitals rapidly approached capacity across the Sunbelt, and the Miami area closed indoor dining at restaurants and gyms again because of the surging coronavirus Monday, as the U.S. emerged from a Fourth of July weekend of picnics, pool parties and beach outings that health officials fear could fuel the rapidly worsening outbreak.

The seesaw effect — restrictions lifted, then reimposed — has been seen around the country in recent weeks and is expected again after a holiday that saw crowds of people celebrating, many without masks.

"We were concerned before the weekend and remain concerned post-holiday, as anecdotal stories and observed behavior indicate that many continue to disregard important protective guidance," said Heather

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Woolwine, a spokeswoman for the Medical University of South Carolina.

Confirmed cases are on the rise in 41 out of 50 states plus the District of Columbia, and the percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus is increasing in 39 states.

Florida, which recorded an all-time high of 11,400 new cases Saturday and has seen its positive test rate lately reach more than 18%, has been hit especially hard, along with other Sunbelt states such as Arizona, California and Texas.

A virus outbreak in the California Legislature indefinitely delayed the state Assembly's return to work from a scheduled summer recess. Five people including Assemblywoman Autumn Burke tested positive. Coronavirus hospitalizations in California have increased 56% in the past two weeks while the number of confirmed cases has jumped 53%.

In Miami-Dade County, population 2.7 million, Mayor Carlos Gimenez ordered the closing of restaurants to indoor dining and certain other indoor places, including vacation rentals, seven weeks after they were allowed to reopen. Gimenez had initially said that restaurants would be closed to all dining but in a statement Monday evening the mayor said that after meeting with medical experts and a restaurant industry group that his emergency order "will allow for outdoor dining, where possible, to continue with restrictions." Beaches will reopen on Tuesday after being closed over the weekend.

"But if we see crowding and people not following the public health rules, I will be forced to close the beaches again," the mayor warned.

Hospitalizations across the state have been ticking upward, with nearly 1,700 patients admitted in the past seven days compared with 1,200 the previous week. Five hospitals in the St. Petersburg area were out of intensive care unit beds, officials said. Miami's Baptist Hospital had only four of its 88 ICU beds available.

"If we continue to increase at the pace we have been, we won't have enough ventilators, enough rooms," said Dr. David De La Zerda, ICU medical director and pulmonologist at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Officials in Texas also reported hospitals are in danger of being overwhelmed. Hospitalizations statewide surged past 8,000 for the first time over the weekend, a more than fourfold increase in the past month. Houston officials said intensive care units there have exceeded capacity.

Along the border with Mexico, two severely ill patients were flown hundreds of miles north to Dallas and San Antonio because hospitals in the Rio Grande Valley were full.

In Arizona, the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 topped 3,200, a new high, and hospitals statewide were at 89% capacity. Confirmed cases surpassed 100,000, and more than half of those infected, or over 62,000, are under 44 years old, state health officials said.

As cases surge across the state, Katie Cameron said it appears some of her neighbors in Phoenix are in denial. The mother of two said she's seen people tearing down caution tape meant to keep them off playground equipment in parks, large groups gathering to socialize and — most concerning — very few masks.

"I feel like people don't care or don't think it's real," Cameron said. "It's kind of like 'out of sight, out of mind' or they are just lying to themselves because they don't want to believe it."

Health officials in South Carolina reported over 1,500 new cases Monday. If the numbers keep rising at their current rates, hospitals will probably have to adopt an emergency plan to add 3,000 more beds in places such as hotels and gyms, authorities said.

Alabama has been averaging about 1,000 new cases a day, two or three times what it was seeing in late April, when its stay-at-home order was lifted.

"We set a record for highs over the holiday weekend, and, of course, given the number of people who were out and about over the weekend celebrating, we are certainly concerned about what the next couple of weeks are going to look like as well," said Scott Harris, Alabama's health officer.

In West Virginia, Republican Gov. Jim Justice reversed course and ordered the wearing of face masks indoors, joining other state leaders around the country.

"I'm telling you, West Virginia, if we don't do that and do this now, we're going to be in a world of hurt," he said, adding: "It's not much of an inconvenience."

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The coronavirus is blamed for over a half-million deaths worldwide, including more than 130,000 in the U.S., according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. The number of confirmed infections nationwide stood at 2.9 million, though the real number is believed to be 10 times higher.

New cases per day nationwide have hit record levels of well over 50,000.

Average deaths per day have fallen over the past two weeks from around 600 to about 510, in what experts say reflects advances in treatment and prevention as well as the large share of cases among young adults, who are more likely than older ones to survive COVID-19.

But deaths are considered a lagging indicator — that is, it takes time for people to get sick and die. And experts are worried the downward trend in deaths could reverse itself.

Meanwhile, three of the top U.S. medical organizations issued an open letter urging Americans to wear masks, social distance and wash hands often to help stop “the worst public health crisis in generations.”

The American Medical Association, American Nurses Association and American Hospital Association issued the plea in the absence of a mask-wearing order from Washington and said steps taken early on that helped slow the spread of COVID-19 “were too quickly abandoned.”

The White House again rejected calls for a nationwide order to wear face coverings, with White House chief of staff Mark Meadows saying on Fox News that it is a matter for governors and mayors to decide.

In New York, once the most lethal hot spot in the country, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he was concerned about reports of large gatherings over the holiday weekend in New York City, on Fire Island and other places.

“I understand people are fatigued,” he said. “We’ve been doing this for 128 days. I get it. But it doesn’t change the facts, and we have to stay smart.”

Gomez Licon reported from Miami. Pane reported from Boise, Idaho.

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

## Maxwell moved to NY for Epstein-related sex abuse charges

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeffrey Epstein’s longtime confidante Ghislaine Maxwell was transferred Monday to a New York City jail plagued by coronavirus concerns and other problems as she faces charges that she recruited girls, one as young as 14, for him to sexually abuse.

Maxwell, 58, was moved to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, where she will await a July 14 remote appearance in Manhattan federal court, her lawyer told a judge. She had been locked up at a New Hampshire jail since authorities arrested her last week at a \$1 million estate she purchased there.

Maxwell, the daughter of the late British publishing magnate Robert Maxwell, was the former girlfriend and longtime close associate of Epstein, who killed himself at a federal jail in Manhattan last August while he awaited trial on federal sex trafficking charges.

“Somebody made the conscious decision, ‘let’s not house her where Epstein was housed,’” said Jack Donson, a former prison official who worked for the Bureau of Prisons for more than two decades.

Maxwell has been indicted on multiple charges, including that she conspired to entice girls as young as 14 to engage in illegal sex acts with Epstein from 1994 through 1997.

Several Epstein victims have described Maxwell as his chief enabler, recruiting and grooming young girls for abuse. She has denied wrongdoing and called claims against her “absolute rubbish.”

Late Monday, a judge said Maxwell could appear at her arraignment and bail hearing by video because of the pandemic, but those scheduling limitations require it be held Thursday or next week — not Friday as her lawyer requested.

Defense attorneys Mark S. Cohen and Christian Everdell told Judge Alison J. Nathan in a letter Monday evening that they were finally able to speak with their client at the Brooklyn lockup shortly before 9 p.m. Monday, when she agreed to waive her right to appear in person in court for arraignment and a bail hearing.

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The lawyers said they wanted the hearing to occur the morning of July 14. She will appear by video remotely from the federal jail.

A message seeking comment was left with Everdell. The Bureau of Prisons declined to comment further on Maxwell's confinement.

Prosecutors have said Maxwell "poses an extreme risk of flight." She has three passports, is wealthy with lots of international connections, and has "absolutely no reason to stay in the United States and face the possibility of a lengthy prison sentence," they wrote in a memo.

Maxwell is being prosecuted in Manhattan but jailed in Brooklyn — the opposite of what happened with Mexican drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, who was held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan while on trial in Brooklyn last year, prompting closures of the Brooklyn Bridge each day as he was taken to and from court.

Donson, who advises white-collar criminals on what to expect in prison, said the lockup on the Brooklyn waterfront is akin to the federal prison system's version of a high-rise apartment building — highly secure, with elevators to move inmates from floor-to-floor, air-conditioned cells and limited room for recreation or other activities.

The facility, opened as a federal jail in the early 1990s, houses about 1,600 inmates. One of its two main buildings is a century-old former Navy warehouse.

Donson said he's made frequent visits to the jail and observed staff acting "downright unprofessional" yelling and cursing at inmates. The jail's former warden, Cameron Lindsay, said it is "one of the most troubled" facilities in the federal prison system and had a "unique history of staff misconduct."

A week-long power failure at the Brooklyn jail in January 2019 sparked unrest among shivering inmates and drew concerns from a federal watchdog about the government's bungled response. In March, the jail had the federal prison system's first inmate to test positive for coronavirus, and the facility's response to the disease led to an ongoing court battle over allegations that inmates were being put at serious risk.

Last month, an inmate died after correctional officers sprayed him with pepper spray, which has led to an investigation by the Justice Department's inspector general. In May, another inmate at the facility died.

The Bureau of Prisons has been the subject of intense scrutiny since Epstein took his own life while in custody in August, which Attorney General William Barr said was the result of the "perfect storm of screw ups."

The agency has been plagued for years by serious misconduct, violence and staffing shortages so severe that guards often work overtime day after day or are forced to work mandatory double shifts and has struggled recently with an exploding number of coronavirus cases in prisons across the U.S.

The Justice Department launched a special task force earlier this year to address criminal misconduct by Bureau of Prisons officers following several scandals, including the discovery of a smuggled gun found at the same Manhattan jail where Epstein took his own life.

On its website Monday, the Bureau of Prisons listed five inmates and six staff members at the Brooklyn jail currently testing positive, while another eight inmates and 35 staff members previously recovered from the disease.

Donson said he expects Maxwell will be closely watched while she's in jail, possibly even with a working camera fixed on her cell, to avoid a repeat of the errors that authorities said led to Epstein's demise. Under the prison system's coronavirus protocols, Maxwell faces an immediate 14-day quarantine and testing for the virus.

"Especially for a socialite living in a mansion in New Hampshire, it's quite a difference," Donson said.

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Balsamo reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Larry Neumeister in New York contributed to this report.

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On Twitter, follow Michael Balsamo at [twitter.com/mikebalsamo1](https://twitter.com/mikebalsamo1) and Michael Sisak at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak)

## White woman charged after racist Central Park confrontation

By TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A white woman who called the police during a videotaped dispute with a Black man over her walking her dog without a leash in Central Park was charged Monday with filing a false police report.

In May, Amy Cooper drew widespread condemnation and was fired from her job after frantically calling 911 to claim she was being threatened by “an African American man,” bird watcher Christian Cooper. On the video he recorded of the woman, he sounds calm and appears to keep a safe distance from her.

District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. said in a statement on Monday that his office had charged Amy Cooper with falsely reporting the confrontation, a misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of a year behind bars. She was ordered to appear in court on Oct. 14.

Cooper’s attorney, Robert Barnes, said Cooper would fight the charge. His client, he said, has already lost her livelihood and “her public life. Now some demand her freedom?”

Reached by phone on Monday, Christian Cooper said he had no reaction or comment.

After the backlash, Amy Cooper released an apology through a public relations service, saying she “reacted emotionally and made false assumptions about his intentions.”

“He had every right to request that I leash my dog in an area where it was required,” she said in the written statement. “I am well aware of the pain that misassumptions and insensitive statements about race cause and would never have imagined that I would be involved in the type of incident that occurred with Chris.”

Amy Cooper’s 911 call was seen by many as a stark example of everyday racism and fueled outrage in the period leading up to the street protests sparked by the police custody death of George Floyd. It also inspired New York state lawmakers in June to pass a law that makes it easier under civil rights law to sue an individual who calls a police officer on someone “without reason” because of their background, including race and national origin.

The new law, which the governor also signed last month, holds an individual who makes such 911 calls liable “for injunctive relief, damages, or any other appropriate relief” in a civil lawsuit. Cooper was charged under an existing false-report law that’s been long on the books and doesn’t reference race.

The confrontation began early one morning when Christian Cooper said he noticed Amy Cooper had let her cocker spaniel off its leash against the rules in the Ramble, a secluded section of Central Park popular with birdwatchers.

In the video posted on social media, he claimed the dog was “tearing through the plantings” and told her she should go to another part of the park. When she refused, he pulled out dog treats, causing her to scream at him to not come near her dog.

Amy Cooper also warned him she would summon police unless he stopped recording.

“I’m going to tell them there’s an African American man threatening my life,” Amy Cooper is heard saying in the video as she pulls down her face mask and struggles to control her dog.

“Please call the cops,” Christian Cooper says.

“There’s an African American man, I’m in Central Park, he is recording me and threatening myself and my dog. ... Please send the cops immediately!” she says during the call before he stops recording.

Police say by the time they responded, they were both gone.

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Associated Press writer Michael R. Sisak contributed to this report.

## Army identifies buried remains as missing Texas soldier

By ACACIA CORONADO Report for America/ Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — An Army commander confirmed Monday that dismembered remains found last week buried near Fort Hood belonged to a 20-year-old soldier who vanished more than two months ago from the Texas base.

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Maj. Gen. Scott Efflandt, Fort Hood's senior commander, said during a news conference that the armed forces forensic examiner determined through DNA analysis that the remains belonged to Spc. Vanessa Guillén. A day earlier, an attorney for Guillén's family had said Army officials told the family at their Houston home that the remains were hers.

"We're now confronted with the aftermath of one of the most heinous acts I can imagine," Efflandt said.

Guillén, who had been missing since April, was killed and dismembered by U.S. Army Specialist Aaron Robinson, a 20-year-old soldier from Calumet City, Illinois, took his own life last week, federal and military investigators have said.

Cecily Aguilar, a 22-year-old civilian from Killeen, has been arrested and charged with one count of conspiring to tamper with evidence for allegedly helping hide Guillén's body.

Aguilar made her initial appearance Monday in federal court in Waco, saying that she understood the charge as read. If convicted, Aguilar faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. Her next court date is scheduled for July 14.

The human remains were found near the Leon River in Bell County, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of Fort Hood.

Natalie Khawam, the attorney representing the Guillén family, said Army officials told the family it took longer to identify the remains because Guillén was bludgeoned so terribly that they were unable to use dental records.

"Her mom is distraught that they can't even bury her body because there are only fragments," Khawam said.

Guillén's family has said that they believe she was sexually harassed by Robinson and is calling for a congressional investigation. Army investigators said last week that they had no credible evidence that Guillén had been sexually harassed or assaulted.

Democrats on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, including Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, of New York, said Monday that they had requested a briefing on the Army's response and investigation into Guillén's disappearance.

"The emerging details about the disappearance and murder of Specialist Vanessa Guillen are truly horrific, and our hearts go out to her family. We are also deeply disturbed by reports that Specialist Guillen was sexually harassed prior to her disappearance, but according to her family, was too fearful of the professional consequences to report her concerns," the Democrats said in a joint news release.

At the Monday news conference, Efflandt said they will complete their ongoing sexual harassment investigation and will take action on any findings.

"Every person who raises their right hand to serve their family and their country in uniform deserves to be safe and treated with dignity and respect," Efflandt said. "To the victims of sexual harassment and assault we hear you, we believe you and encourage you to come forward."

Col. Ralph Overland, commander of Guillén's regiment, said at the news conference that Guillén's death "has devastated us all and left a hole in our formation."

"She was strong, courageous and caring," he said, adding that she "always went above and beyond to accomplish the mission."

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AP writer Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this report.

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Acacia Coronado is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.



## NY count: 6,300 virus patients were sent to nursing homes

By MARINA VILLENEUVE and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York hospitals released more than 6,300 recovering coronavirus patients into nursing homes during the height of the pandemic under a controversial, now-scraped policy, state officials said Monday, but they argued it was not to blame for one of the nation's highest nursing home death tolls.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration, which has taken intense criticism over the policy, instead contended the virus' rampant spread through the state's nursing homes was propelled by more than 20,000 infected home staffers, many of whom kept going to work unaware they had the virus in March and April. Another 17,500 workers were infected through early June.

"Facts matter. And those are the facts," state Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said in a news conference.

New York's report came more than a month after The Associated Press did its own count finding that hospitals around the state released more than 4,500 recovering coronavirus patients to nursing homes under a March 25 Health Department directive that prohibited nursing homes from refusing to take in patients because they had or may have had COVID-19.

The directive was intended to help free up hospital beds for the sickest patients as cases surged. But several relatives, patient advocates and nursing administrators who spoke to the AP at the time blamed the policy for helping to spread the virus among the state's most fragile residents. To date, more than 6,400 deaths have been linked to the coronavirus in New York's nursing home and long-term care-facilities.

Cuomo, a Democrat, reversed the directive under pressure on May 10, but he has argued for weeks that infected home workers, not released COVID-19 patients, were to blame for a coronavirus spread through nursing homes that he compared to "fire through dry grass."

The Cuomo administration didn't release how exactly they reached the report's conclusions, which back up Cuomo's repeated defenses. And the report has its limits: it only looks at the number of residents who died inside nursing homes and not at hospitals, for example.

Cuomo noted Monday that it wasn't well understood early on how readily the virus could be spread by people without symptoms.

"Nobody knew what they were talking about for a long time. That's the bottom line here," he told reporters in New York.

The health commissioner said there was "no reason to place blame" on anyone.

"If you were to place blame, I would blame coronavirus," Zucker said.

The state's findings didn't deter Republicans from seeking investigations of the state's nursing home deaths. And some nursing home groups remain convinced the March 25 order was a bad idea.

"Bringing in even one instance of COVID to a nursing home is in no one's best interest," said Stephen Hanse, who runs a nursing home association called the New York State Health Facilities Association and the New York State Center for Assisted Living.

While New York's report doesn't rule out whether the March 25 directive played any role in the thousands of nursing home deaths, it notes that the virus was already present in many homes before they accepted COVID-19 patients from hospitals. Over 80% of the 310 nursing homes that admitted such patients already had a confirmed or suspected case among residents or staffers, the report says.

And Zucker contends the timelines line up to suggest that COVID-19 was already surging in nursing homes before the March 25 directive.

The state report says the number of residents dying at nursing homes peaked on April 8 — around the same time as COVID-19 deaths statewide, but nearly a week before the peak of COVID-19 patients from hospitals — a sequence of events the report casts as "suggesting the policy was not the cause."

The average patient had been hospitalized for nine days, the report says — the same period that it likely takes for the virus to no longer be contagious, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nonetheless, the state's data show over 1,000 COVID-19 patients entered nursing homes between March

25 and April 8. And it's unclear how many admitted patients were hospitalized for fewer than nine days, and how many residents died each day at hospitals.

Cuomo has defended the March 25 directive as ensuring sick and elderly patients who weren't well enough to return to their communities had somewhere to go if hospital beds overfilled as officials then worried.

But Hanse said the policy tied the hands of nursing home leaders who were afraid of residents becoming infected from new patients, or who wanted to require symptomatic patients be tested for COVID-19 so nursing homes could place them in the right unit.

"There's now a clear recognition that the nursing home resident is the least among all the members of our community that can handle the COVID-19 virus," he said.

The head of a union that represents 60,000 New York nursing home workers said they did all they could to care for residents.

"They did so at great physical and emotional cost, in many cases without adequate personal protective equipment and while being denied needed paid sick time," said George Gresham, president of union 1199SEIU.

New York officials have said that the March 25 directive was never intended to force nursing homes to take patients they weren't equipped to care for, and that they should have spoken up if that was the case. Officials also have noted that some other states, including neighboring New Jersey, had similar policies.

Michael Dowling, CEO of hospital chain Northwell Health — which sent more than 1,700 COVID-19 patients to nursing homes, according to the AP's count — said those who claim that nursing home admission policies from hospitals caused the fatalities are "not supported by the facts."

Nursing home residents' advocate Richard Mollot said while the report might answer some questions about the virus' devastating spread through the facilities, bigger, underlying issues — like the industry's history of infection-control lapses — remain.

"There is, unfortunately, plenty of blame to go around," said Mollot, executive director of the Long Term Care Community Coalition.

Villeneuve reported from Albany.

## 'Senseless crime': The victims of July Fourth shootings

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

A 6-year-old computer whiz. A young mother working for a better home for her kids. An 8-year-old who loved to make dance videos.

From San Francisco to South Carolina, a spate of shootings claimed the lives of people celebrating or just taking a drive over the Fourth of July weekend. Chicago saw one of its bloodiest holiday weekends in memory, with 17 killed and 70 wounded by gunfire. The incidents come amid fears the coronavirus pandemic, protests against racism, rising gun sales and an election year could make for a particularly deadly summer.

Here's a look at some of the victims from this weekend.

### 'SHE DIED IN MY ARMS'

Secoriea Turner should have been making TikTok videos on her phone Sunday evening, her mother said. Instead, Charmaine Turner appeared before reporters with Atlanta's mayor and interim police chief to plead for anyone with information about her 8-year-old daughter's death to come forward.

Secoriea was riding in a car with her mother and another adult just before 10 p.m. Saturday. They exited the interstate and tried to enter a parking lot when they were confronted by "a group of armed individuals" blocking the entrance, police said. Before the driver could make a U-turn, shots were fired and Secoriea was hit, Turner said.

"She died in my arms," Turner said.

The shooting happened near the Wendy's where Rayshard Brooks, a Black man, was fatally shot by a

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white police officer June 12. The fast-food restaurant was burned during protests the following night and became a gathering place for demonstrations against police brutality.

Charmaine Turner noted the time as she spoke at a news conference Sunday, saying her daughter would have just finished eating dinner: "She would have been on TikTok dancing in her phone."

The girl's father, Secoriya Williamson, further reflected on the simple pleasures of an 8-year-old girl: "She just wanted to get home to see her cousins. That's all she wanted to do."

## 'A CHANCE AT LIFE'

Studious and sweet, Natalia Wallace was preparing to start second grade in a few weeks at a Chicago elementary school.

The 7-year-old was killed Saturday night by a gunshot wound to the head. She was standing on the sidewalk in a West Side neighborhood where she'd visited her grandmother. Authorities said gunmen got out of a car and started firing rounds.

Her father, Nathan Wallace, said he'd hugged his daughter minutes before the shooting.

"I just wanted her to have a chance at life," he said. "Whatever she wanted to do, I was going to be there no matter what. To see my daughter on the table with a gunshot wound to the forehead, that'll change somebody's life."

A 33-year-old man was charged with murder Monday.

Teachers remembered Natalia as shy yet diligent as she completed remote lessons at the end of first grade.

"Sometimes, her quiet spirit gave her the strength to lead the reading lessons within her group, and she soared when it came to doing math," said a statement from the school. "During e-learning, Natalia was always present and participating. At the end of each class session, she would type in the chat box, 'I Love You.'"

## 'HE WAS GOING TO BE SOMETHING'

Jace Young was a "bright star" with an unlimited future, his uncle said.

Six-year-old Jace was shot and killed while attending a birthday party Saturday in the Bayview neighborhood of San Francisco.

Nate Ford said his nephew was intelligent and empathetic beyond his years.

"We knew he was going to be something," the boy's uncle told the San Francisco Chronicle on Monday.

Jace was a whiz with computers, always chose milk over soda, and refused to eat meat, the uncle said.

"Because it will kill animals," Ford recalled Jace saying.

No arrests have been made.

"Senseless violence like this that could so tragically claim the life of a small child is unacceptable in our City," San Francisco police Chief William Scott said in a statement.

## 'THE HARDEST PART'

Mykala Bell and Clarence Sterling Johnson were killed in a South Carolina nightclub shooting.

Johnson worked as a security guard at the Lavish Lounge, where gunfire erupted early Sunday during a performance by trap rapper Foogiano.

Bell's family described the 23-year-old single mother of two small children as a caring person who looked after her younger family members.

"That's going to be the hardest part – looking at my niece in a casket," Ramon Arnold, Bell's uncle, told WHNS-TV in Greenville. "Can't see her face no more. A senseless crime."

Ashley Arnold, Bell's aunt, said her niece had just gotten a new job at a call center and planned to move her children into a new home.

"They love their mommy," Ashley Arnold said, according to the Anderson Independent Mail newspaper. "And it's up to us to keep her legacy alive for them."

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Friends affectionately referred to Johnson as "CJ" and "Big Sterling," an affable man always happy to help out when he could.

"He was one who showed no partiality when it came to serving," pastor Henry Johnson of Queen Street Baptist Church, where Sterling Johnson served on the usher board, told the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg. "Sterling was what I called a 'servant' who served in so many areas in our community wholeheartedly, making sure everyone felt safe."

A GoFundMe page was set up to help the 51-year-old security guard's family, which includes two daughters, two sons, two grandchildren, two sisters and three brothers.

## 'TIRED OF SHOOTINGS'

Davon McNeal wasn't even supposed to be at the Washington, D.C., cookout where he was shot and killed. The 11-year-old had only stopped by to pick up a phone charger and some earbuds, his family said.

Tony Lawson, the boy's maternal grandfather, wept as he recalled the boy's love for family and football.

"He was a good kid ... 11 years old. He hadn't lived his life yet," Lawson told WTTG-TV.

John Ayala, Davon's paternal grandfather, told the news station that it was shortly after the boy arrived that partygoers heard gunshots and everyone dropped to the ground.

"Everybody's just saying they're just tired – tired of the shootings in the community," Ayala said. "We're protesting for months, for weeks, saying, 'Black Lives Matter, Black Lives Matter.' Black lives matter it seems like, only when a police officer shoots a black person. What about all the black-on-black crime that's happening in the community?"

## 'A BABY WE'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN'

Royta Giles Jr. would have started third grade this fall.

The 8-year-old boy was waiting in line Friday at an Alabama mall with his family to buy new outfits for the Fourth when gunshots rang out, AL.com reported. Police said a group of men got into an argument near the food court and fired at one another.

Family members, friends and his school described Royta as an energetic, smiling boy who dreamed of a future in the music industry and wanted to be a rapper.

Former assistant principal Mr. Van James said: "He was bright, articulate, and very convincing. We even tried to convince him to become a lawyer."

The boy's grandmother said the family was devastated.

"This is a baby we'll never see again," Keshia Layfield said. "I have to comfort his mother, and I don't even know how to begin. I can only imagine what she's feeling. Not only am I grieving for my daughter, but I'm grieving the loss of my grandson."

Associated Press reporters Kate Brumback in Atlanta, Sophia Tareen in Chicago, Rebecca Santana in New Orleans, and Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

## **New rules: Foreign pupils must leave US if classes go online**

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

International students will be forced to leave the U.S. or transfer to another college if their schools offer classes entirely online this fall, under new guidelines issued Monday by federal immigration authorities.

The guidelines, issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, provide additional pressure for universities to reopen even amid growing concerns about the recent spread of COVID-19 among young adults. Colleges received the guidance the same day that some institutions, including Harvard University, announced that all instruction will be offered remotely.

President Donald Trump has insisted that schools and colleges return to in-person instruction as soon as possible. Soon after the guidance was released, Trump repeated on Twitter that schools must reopen this fall, adding that Democrats want to keep schools closed "for political reasons, not for health reasons."

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"They think it will help them in November. Wrong, the people get it!" Trump wrote.

Under the updated rules, international students must take at least some of their classes in person. New visas will not be issued to students at schools or programs that are entirely online. And even at colleges offering a mix of in-person and online courses this fall, international students will be barred from taking all their classes online.

It creates an urgent dilemma for thousands of international students who became stranded in the U.S. last spring after the coronavirus forced their schools to move online. Those attending schools that are staying online must "depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to a school with in-person instruction," according to the guidance.

The American Council on Education, which represents university presidents, said the guidelines are "horrifying" and will result in confusion as schools look for ways to reopen safely.

Of particular concern is a stipulation saying students won't be exempt from the rules even if an outbreak forces their schools online during the fall term. It's unclear what would happen if a student ended up in that scenario but faced travel restrictions from their home country, said Terry Hartle, the council's senior vice president.

"It's going to cause enormous confusion and uncertainty," Hartle said. "ICE is clearly creating an incentive for institutions to reopen, regardless of whether or not the circumstances of the pandemic warrant it."

The international education group NAFSA blasted the rules and said schools should be given the authority to make decisions that are right for their own campuses. It said the guidance "is harmful to international students and puts their health and well-being and that of the entire higher education community at risk."

Nearly 400,000 foreigners received student visas in the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, down more than 40% from four years earlier. School administrations partly blame visa processing delay.

Colleges across the U.S. were already expecting sharp decreases in international enrollment this fall, but losing all international students could be disastrous for some. Many depend on tuition revenue from international students, who typically pay higher tuition rates. Last year, universities in the U.S. attracted nearly 1.1 million students from abroad.

Trump's critics were quick to attack the new guidelines. Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent, said the "cruelty of this White House knows no bounds."

"Foreign students are being threatened with a choice: risk your life going to class in-person or get deported," Sanders said in a tweet. "We must stand up to Trump's bigotry. We must keep all our students safe."

Dozens of colleges have said they plan to offer at least some classes in person this fall, but some say it's too risky. The University of Southern California last week reversed course on a plan to bring students to campus, saying classes will be hosted primarily or exclusively online. Harvard on Monday said it will invite first-year students to live on campus, but classes will stay online.

Immigration authorities suspended certain requirements for international students early in the pandemic, but colleges were awaiting guidance on what would happen this fall. ICE notified schools of the changes Monday and said a formal rule would be forthcoming.

The announcement was the Trump administration's latest pandemic-related strike against legal immigration. Last month, authorities extended a ban on new green cards to many people outside the United States and expanded the freeze to include many on temporary work permits, including at high-tech companies, multinational corporations and seasonal employers.

The administration has long sought deep cuts to legal immigration, but the goal was elusive before the coronavirus.

## Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms contracts COVID-19

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced Monday that she had tested positive for COVID-19.

The 50-year-old Democrat is among the women named as a potential vice-presidential running mate for

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presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden.

"COVID-19 has literally hit home. I have had NO symptoms and have tested positive," Bottoms tweeted.

She told MSNBC that she decided her family members should get tested again because her husband "literally has been sleeping since Thursday." She said the only other symptoms she and her husband have been experienced are those similar to allergies they have.

"It leaves me for a loss for words because I think it really speaks to how contagious this virus is," Bottoms told MSNBC. "We've taken all of the precautions that you can possibly take. We wear masks, we're very thoughtful about washing our hands, I have no idea when and where we were exposed."

Bottoms' national profile has risen in recent months both as a mayor handling the coronavirus pandemic and amid the national reckoning on race that has followed a white Minneapolis police officer's killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, on May 25.

A first-term mayor, Bottoms issued a firm plea for peaceful protest as demonstrators gathered on downtown streets after Floyd's killing — and urged the protesters to get tested for COVID-19. She invoked Atlanta's civil rights history and her personal experience as the mother of Black sons. She won plaudits from progressives after firing Atlanta officers for using excessive force during the protests.

She has also been noted for earlier criticizing Republican Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on his slowness to order Georgians to shelter in place and his quickness to lift that order.

Bottoms was an early and vocal supporter of Biden, who has been considering Bottoms as his possible vice presidential running mate in his own presidential bid.

Violence in the city has grown worse since protesters burned down a fast food restaurant where a white officer fatally shot Rayshard Brooks after he seized a stun gun and ran. Armed people have been manning roadblocks at the site and an 8-year-old girl was shot dead near the site on Saturday. At the same time, some police officers have been refusing to answer calls, angry that the district attorney has charged officers in the Brooks shooting.

Atlanta police again broke up the roadblocks at the site Monday, but that wasn't enough for Kemp, who said he was mobilizing up to 1,000 National Guard troops after a spike in shootings in Atlanta.

## Trump sideswipes NASCAR, Wallace over flag and noose

By JILL COLVIN and JENNA FRYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASCAR's layered relationship with President Donald Trump took a sharp turn Monday when Trump took a sideswipe at the racing organization for banning the Confederate flag and wrongly accused the sport's only full-time Black driver of perpetrating "a hoax" when a crew member found a noose in the team garage stall.

Trump suggested Bubba Wallace should apologize after the sport rallied around him after the noose was found in his assigned stall at Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama. Federal authorities ruled last month the noose had been hanging since October and was not a hate crime. NASCAR and the FBI have exclusively referred to the rope — which was used to pull the garage door closed — as a noose.

It was the only garage pull out of 1,684 stalls at 29 inspected NASCAR tracks to be fashioned as a noose.

NASCAR President Steve Phelps has bristled at suggestions the noose was a hoax. Wallace was shown a photograph of the noose, never personally saw it, and was told by NASCAR officials he was the victim of a hate crime.

"Has @BubbaWallace apologized to all of those great NASCAR drivers & officials who came to his aid, stood by his side, & were willing to sacrifice everything for him, only to find out that the whole thing was just another HOAX?" Trump tweeted. "That & Flag decision has caused lowest ratings EVER!"

The tweet came after Trump used a pair of Independence Day speeches to dig deeper into America's divisions by accusing protesters who have pushed for racial justice of engaging in a "merciless campaign to wipe out our history." The remarks served as a direct appeal to the Republican president's political base, including many disaffected white voters, with less than four months to go before Election Day.

Wallace responded on Twitter with a note to "the next generation and little ones following my foot steps"

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in which he urged people to use their platform and not be detracted by "hate being thrown at you."

"Love should come naturally as people are TAUGHT to hate," Wallace tweeted. "Even when it's HATE from the POTUS .. Love wins."

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany defended the president's decision to wade into the Wallace case, likening it to actor Jussie Smollett's claims he was a victim of a hate crime. McEnany criticized the press in a White House briefing, calling Trump's tweet a "complete indictment of the media's rush to judgement."

McEnany declined to explain why the president thought Wallace should have to apologize given he didn't report the noose. McEnany refused to say whether or not the president supports NASCAR's ban on the Confederate flag.

NASCAR did not directly address the Trump tweet in a Monday statement.

"We are proud to have Bubba Wallace in the NASCAR family and we commend his courage and leadership," NASCAR said. "NASCAR continues to stand tall with Bubba, our competitors and everyone who makes our sport welcoming and inclusive for all racing fans."

Andrew Murstein, co-owner of the Richard Petty Motorsports team that fields Wallace's car, called Trump's tweet "a late, misinformed, and factually incorrect statement." He also said it was unwarranted and cited the photo NASCAR released of the noose.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," Murstein said in a statement. "Bubba has reacted in a truthful, professional, level headed manner. The NASCAR community and those in the know all stand by him."

Wallace led the push for NASCAR to ban Confederate symbols at tracks. Two weeks later, the noose was found at the first race some fans were allowed to attend since the shutdown. On the same day, a plane pulling a banner of the Confederate flag that read "Defund NASCAR" was circling the track and protesters outside the speedway displayed their flags.

Two NASCAR drivers came to Wallace's defense Monday. Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson, currently sidelined with the coronavirus, posted an image of Wallace's No. 43 that had been used by drivers in an earlier #IStandWithBubba campaign. Rookie Tyler Reddick tweeted but later deleted a reply to Trump that read: "We don't need an apology. We did what was right and we will do just fine without your support."

LeBron James and Chelsea Clinton were among those outside of NASCAR who backed Wallace on social media, with James stating he stands with Wallace.

NASCAR's complex relationship with Trump dates to early in his campaign when former chairman Brian France brought a contingent of drivers to a rally in Georgia.

France later sent a memo to NASCAR employees stating his political beliefs were his own and he was not speaking on behalf of the organization. France was replaced as chairman following his arrest for driving while impaired in 2018.

Other members of the France family welcomed Trump to Daytona for the season-opening race in February. Many drivers and owners mingled with Trump and posted selfies with the president.

Wallace, who was born in Alabama, has taken an active role in the push for racial equality. He has worn a shirt saying "I Can't Breathe," and raced with a Black Lives Matter paint scheme in Virginia.

Ramsey Poston, a former NASCAR consultant and now head of crisis management firm Tuckahoe Strategies, said Trump's tweet is harmful to NASCAR's push for inclusion. Wallace is one of just a handful of non-white drivers. Daniel Suarez is Mexican and Aric Almirola is of Cuban descent. Kyle Larson, who is half-Asian, was fired in April for using a racial slur.

"The brewing cultural war within NASCAR for equality has just erupted and the sport's efforts to separate from its past just got tougher," Poston said. "The president's comments are essentially a rallying call for people who support the Confederate flag to challenge the sport's recent flag ban and create chaos."

While Trump claimed NASCAR's ratings are down, they are actually up. Michael Mulvihill, executive vice president at Fox Sports, tweeted that Fox viewership is up 8% since the sport returned from the pandemic hiatus on May 17. NBC took over the broadcast rights this past weekend and said its ratings for Sunday's race were up 46% from last year's event at Indianapolis.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC, pushed back against Trump's NASCAR tweet on Fox News Radio, saying

NASCAR is trying to grow the sport by removing divisive symbols.

"I don't think Bubba Wallace has anything to apologize for," Graham said.

AP Auto Racing Writer Fryer reported from Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Small business aid went beyond hard-hit companies, data show

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and JOYCE M. ROSENBERG AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government on Monday identified roughly 650,000 mostly small businesses and nonprofits that received taxpayer money through a federal program that was designed to soften job losses from the coronavirus but also benefited wealthy, well-connected companies and some celebrity owned firms.

The Treasury Department's Payroll Protection Program approved applicants from a broad swath of industries. Some that were less directly impacted by the pandemic, such as manufacturing and construction, received a greater proportion of the loans than the hard-hit restaurant and hotel industries. Many law firms and private equity companies also obtained loans.

Businesses owned by politicians also borrowed from the program, including a minor league baseball team owned by the family of the governor of Ohio. A large franchisee of Wendy's, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut restaurants, whose CEO is a major donor to President Donald Trump, received loans totaling \$15 to \$30 million.

Other recipients included Kanye West's clothing and sneaker brand Yeezy, Ice Cube's professional basketball league, Planned Parenthood clinics in more than two dozen states, the nonprofit arm of the anti-tax group headed by Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax Reform, as well as Rosenblatt Securities, one of the biggest names on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

As of June 30, the program had handed out \$521 billion. The Treasury Department identified just a fraction of the total borrowers Monday, naming only companies that got more than \$150,000. Those firms made up less than 15% of the nearly 5 million small companies and organizations that received loans.

Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican and chairman of the Small Business Committee that crafted the program, said the release of the data provided "much needed transparency." He called the program "a historic lifeline" for small businesses during the pandemic.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer described the data release as a "good start" but lamented that it took so long and "so much pressure from Democrats" to make the information public. He said more transparency was needed "to ensure that these taxpayer dollars went where Congress intended — to the truly small and underbanked small businesses."

Economists generally credit the program with helping prevent the job market meltdown from being much worse. Employers added 7.5 million jobs in May and June, a solid increase that was probably driven in part by the PPP. The economy still has nearly 15 million fewer jobs than before the pandemic.

Research by the Federal Reserve found that companies with fewer than 50 workers before the pandemic saw their hiring rise 12% in May, while jobs grew just 5% in larger firms, suggesting PPP helped fuel rehiring.

But the program was only intended to carry the economy through a short interruption from the pandemic, which is now threatening to have a longer-lasting impact. The Treasury Department initially required the loans to be spent within eight weeks of being received, though that was later extended to 24 weeks.

Many small businesses have already run through their PPP money and still face sharply smaller demand, as consumers remain wary of returning to previous habits of shopping, visiting gyms, or eating out. Texas, Florida, California, New York and others states have reversed their reopenings, closing down bars and delaying the onset of indoor dining.

"The biggest issue is that PPP is short-term help," said Adam Ozimek, chief economist at Upwork, a freelancing platform. "And now we're dealing with a mid- to long-term problem."

A survey by the National Federation of Independent Business found that as of mid-June, 14% of small businesses that borrowed from the PPP expected they would have to lay off some workers when their



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loan ran out.

The program provided loans of up to \$10 million for small businesses to help them recover from the government-ordered shutdowns and revenue losses caused by the virus. The average loan amount for the entire program was \$107,000, the Treasury Department said in a broad summary of the program.

The loans can be forgiven if businesses mostly use the money to continue paying workers. The program initially was set to expire June 30 but was extended last week to Aug. 8, with \$132 billion still available.

The recipients employed 51 million people before the pandemic began, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said. That amounts to about 85% of all workers at companies with fewer than 500 employees. The government will not know how many of these jobs were actually saved until companies apply to have the loans forgiven, a process that is just beginning.

A senior administration official said Monday that some small companies "will need additional support" in the coming months.

The public may never know the identity of more than 80% of the nearly 5 million beneficiaries to date because the administration has refused to release details on loans under \$150,000. That secrecy spurred a lawsuit by news organizations including The Associated Press.

The Treasury Department has released only dollar ranges for the loan amounts, rather than exact figures.

High-profile evangelical megachurches, including several with pastors who have backed Trump, also received loans after religious entities were permitted to seek aid even if they performed only faith-based functions.

Among the Trump-linked churches that received PPP loans was First Baptist Dallas, the Texas megachurch where senior pastor and White House ally Robert Jeffress hosted Vice President Mike Pence for a pre-July 4 service. Jeffress' church reported retaining nearly 300 jobs with its loan of between \$2 million and \$5 million.

Some major supporters of Trump also benefited. MUY Brands Inc., a San Antonio, Texas-based franchisee with more than 750 Wendy's, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut restaurants, received between \$15 million and \$30 million between three entities. MUY Brands CEO James Bodenstedt is a major donor to the president. He has given \$300,000 to the Trump Victory PAC since the start of this year, according to federal campaign finance records.

The hardest-hit restaurant and hotel industries lost nearly half of their pre-pandemic jobs in March and April. They ranked fifth on a list of recipients. Health care, professional and business services, construction and manufacturing received a greater share of loans.

And according to an analysis by Beth Ann Bovino, U.S. chief economist at Standard & Poor's, some states with the smallest increases in unemployment from the pandemic got more loans than harder-hit states.

"It didn't reach the industries that needed it, and it looked like it didn't reach the states that were hardest hit," Bovino said.

Media companies, including Newsday and American Media, former owner of the National Enquirer, got loans of up to \$5 million.

The data gave few details about loans to minority-owned businesses. Companies were not required to supply demographic data on their applications, and many entries about race and gender contained "unanswered."

However, many minority-owned businesses are run by the owner, with few, if any, employees, so their loan amounts likely were under \$150,000 and therefore not part of the data release. Senior administration officials who briefed reporters before the release said they hoped to get more information when owners submit applications for loan forgiveness over the next few months.

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Associated Press writers Farnoush Amiri in Columbus, Ohio, Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit, Holly Ramer in Concord, New Hampshire, and Elana Schor in New York City contributed to this report.

## Uber buys Postmates, ups delivery game in \$2.65 billion deal

By MATT OTT and CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Business Writer

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — Uber has widened its reach in the fiercely competitive delivery market by acquiring Postmates in a \$2.65 billion all-stock deal, the company said Monday.

The acquisition enables the ride-hailing giant to increase its delivery offerings at a time when the global pandemic has suppressed customers' desire for rides while boosting home delivery needs. While Uber's meal delivery business, Uber Eats, has mostly focused on restaurants, Postmates delivers a wider array of goods including groceries, pharmacy items, alcoholic drinks and party supplies.

"The vision for us is to become an everyday service," said Dara Khosrowshahi, CEO of Uber, in a conference call with investors Monday. "Postmates is a great step along that vision. Anyplace you want to go, anything you want delivered to your home, Uber is going to be there with you, and we think these everyday frequent interactions create a habit, create a connection with customers.

Uber and its Uber Eats food-delivery division will gain ground against DoorDash, which controls about 44% of the U.S. meal delivery market. That's compared with Uber Eats' 23% share before the Postmates deal. Grubhub and its subsidiaries had just under 23% of the U.S. meal delivery market, according to May figures from Second Measure, a data analysis company. Postmates had about 8% of the market.

"We really believe that the market is much bigger than, let's say, the traditional delivery players," Khosrowshahi said. "We look at groceries as a category, there's a lot of hot food being delivered, we look at essentials as a category that we are going to go after as well."

Last month, Uber lost out in a bid for Grubhub, which would have made it the dominant U.S. food delivery service. But Amsterdam-based Just Eat Takeaway.com ended up nabbing Chicago's Grubhub in a \$7.3 billion deal. Uber was reportedly seeking to team Grubhub with its Uber Eats business.

The food delivery sector is undergoing a major consolidation this year and more is expected. The number of people using food delivery services is on the rise because of the coronavirus pandemic, but customers tend to jump around from service to service depending on where they can find the best deal.

Some restaurants are already leaving the platforms, saying the commissions — which can top 30% — are too high.

The Panda Express chain launched its own delivery service last month, saying delivery companies were making its meals too expensive for consumers. In March, some Washington restaurant and bar owners banded together to start their own delivery service, DC To-GoGo. It currently offers delivery from 18 establishments, and founder Josh Saltzman said it's adding more each week.

Smaller restaurants, however, lack the muscle to negotiate favorable terms with the third-party platforms, or the capacity to build out their own online ordering service. Many are turning to delivery, despite the costs, as a means surviving pandemic shutdown orders.

For restaurants, "the deal is not quite as good," said Stephen Beck, managing partner of management consultancy cg42. "A consolidation of power, so to speak, and fewer options is not a good thing for the restaurant industry."

Third-party delivery orders in the U.S. have risen from 2% of restaurant transactions to about 7% during the pandemic, according to David Portalatin, food industry advisor at the NPD Group. In the month of May, third-party delivery orders rose 170% compared to the previous year, he said.

"It's a very challenging business to start with and for that reason, you had a lot of independent restaurants who said third-party delivery is not for us. Then, the world changed dramatically overnight," Portalatin said. "There has been a dramatic shift, so everybody is participating. That is going to enable the third-party apps to sign up a whole lot of restaurants."

For many restaurants, the price of partnering with third-party platforms is coming on top of the costs of reopening with reduced capacity and other safety restrictions imposed because of the virus, Portalatin said.

"Unfortunately, some restaurants are going to close, and some are going to evolve," he said.

Uber has leaned on its food delivery business with COVID-19 cutting into all ride-share businesses. Uber's rides business slid 3% in the first quarter and dropped 80% in April compared with the same time

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last year. Bookings through its food delivery business, on the other hand, surged 54% in the first quarter.

By acquiring Postmates, Uber not only gets the bigger share of the food delivery market it has long desired, but also shores itself up against further pandemic-related losses in its ride-hailing division.

"In our opinion, Uber finds itself with its back against the wall on the consolidation theme as the Grubhub deal fell apart on anti-trust concerns, and now must quickly look to acquire market share and added scale which makes the Postmates deal a smart strategic fit," analysts with Wedbush Securities wrote Monday.

Postmates, a closely held private company, claims 600,000 food and restaurant merchants to choose from, which it claims is the largest selection in the U.S. The company says it has the ability to serve 80% of households across all 50 states.

The boards of both companies have approved the transaction and the deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2021.

Uber and Postmates are both based in San Francisco.

Shares of Uber Technologies Inc. rose \$1.84, or 6%, to close Monday at \$32.52.

AP Business Writers Alexandra Olson in New York and Dee-Ann Durbin in Ann Arbor, Michigan, contributed to this story.

## Fossils reveal dinosaur forerunner smaller than a cellphone

BY SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Meet Kongonaphon kely, a pocket sized dinosaur forerunner that was smaller than your cellphone.

The creature, which predated dinosaurs and flying pterosaurs, was just shy of 4 inches (10 centimeters) tall, according to a study published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Some of these things would have been quite cute animals," said study lead author Christian Kammerer, a paleontology researcher at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. Looking like a small dinosaur that could fit in your hand, Kammerer mused that it "would probably make a great pet."

Of course, no humans were around when Kongonaphon was roaming the wild, jumping around with its strong hind legs and feeding on bugs with its peg-like teeth, Kammerer said. The name means tiny bug slayer.

The fossils, dug up in Madagascar, date from 237 million years ago. Scientists figure the little guy was an adult because of growth rings in its bones, Kammerer said.

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## France: Macron ousts security chief after police protests

By SYLVIE CORBET and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron ousted his top security official Monday following protests over police brutality, as part of a government shakeup aimed at focusing on France's post-pandemic economic recovery for the remaining two years of Macron's term.

The man named as France's new interior minister, Gerald Darmanin, is facing a preliminary investigation into a rape accusation that he firmly denies. Macron's office said the probe was "not an obstacle" to Darmanin's appointment but wouldn't further comment on the ongoing investigation.

In a surprise move, Macron also named a provocative lawyer who has defended WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and suspected terrorists as head of the Justice Ministry. And a former Green Party lawmaker was appointed to lead the powerful Ministry for Ecological Transition after Macron came under criticism for lagging on promises to cut emissions.

The 42-year-old centrist leader, whose presidency has been buffeted by protests and now the virus crisis, promised that the new government would be one of "purpose and unity." Macron tweeted that his 2017

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campaign promises to modernize France and free up its businesses remain central to his agenda, but he "must adapt to the international upheavals and crises we are experiencing. A new path must be forged."

First among the priorities that Macron listed is helping the world's sixth-largest economy recover from the battering delivered by the coronavirus pandemic. His new lineup includes some new faces but also leans heavily on loyalists as Macron seeks to steady the country.

One key change is at the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police. Former budget minister Gerald Darmanin was named to replace Interior Minister Christophe Castaner, who had come under fire amid widespread French protests against racial injustice and police violence spurred by the death of George Floyd in the United States.

In response, Castaner initially announced a ban on the use of chokeholds in policing, but he then backed down in the face of counter-demonstrations and pressure by police unions. He also launched an experiment with expanded Taser use.

Darmanin, 37, a member of Macron's young guard, is a former conservative who joined Macron's centrist party in 2017 and is seen as outspoken but effective.

The rape investigation casts a shadow over his appointment. An preliminary probe was opened in 2017 after a woman said he raped her when she sought legal help in 2009. Prosecutors ordered it dropped the following year for lack of evidence, but last month the Paris appeals court ordered it reopened. Darmanin, the highest-ranking French official accused of sexual misconduct in the #MeToo era, says the encounter was consensual, and sued the woman for slander.

The new government reflects a balance of figures from the left and right and from outside politics altogether -- like Eric Dupond-Moretti, arguably France's most famous lawyer.

Among his clients have been Assange; accomplices to Mohamed Merah, who killed Jewish children, a rabbi and paratroopers in a 2012 rampage around Toulouse; and former French government ministers accused of tax fraud or sexual harassment.

Two other important changes are at the Labor Ministry, whose new chief, Elisabeth Borne, will have to deal with a pending surge in unemployment, and the Ministry for Ecological Transition, to be led by former Green Party legislator Barbara Pompili.

Macron didn't change the finance or health ministers, posts central to helping France through the virus crisis and recession, or the foreign and defense ministers.

The new government will be led by Prime Minister Jean Castex, who was appointed Friday. Macron last week ditched Edouard Philippe, who as prime minister steered France through its coronavirus lockdown and the first three years of Macron's presidency.

Castex is a career civil servant, and his low profile suggests that Macron doesn't want to be overshadowed should he choose to seek reelection in 2022. Macron has not yet said if he'll run for a second term.

John Leicester in Le Pecq, France contributed.

## Native American groups ask NFL to force Redskins name change

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a dozen Native American leaders and organizations sent a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Monday calling for the league to force Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder to change the team name immediately.

The letter was signed by 15 Native American advocates and obtained by The Associated Press. It demands the team and the NFL cease the use of Native American names, imagery and logos — with specific importance put on Washington, which last week launched a "thorough review" of its name.

The letter was delivered on the same day that President Donald Trump voiced his opposition to any name change by the team. Several team sponsors have come out in favor of change recently and Snyder showed his first indication of willingness to do so amid a nationwide movement to erase racially insensitive symbols.

According to their letter, the groups "expect the NFL to engage in a robust, meaningful reconciliation

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process with Native American movement leaders, tribes, and organizations to repair the decades of emotional violence and other serious harms this racist team name has caused to Native Peoples.”

The NFL did not immediately respond to a message confirming receipt of the letter. Goodell last week expressed support for Snyder’s review process of the name.

Retired PGA Tour golfer Notah Begay, IllumiNative founder Crystal Echo Hawk, two former executive directors of the National Congress of American Indians and several authors and professors signed on to the letter, which wants a full re-branding of the team “to ensure that continuing harm is not perpetuated by anyone.”

Trump is against re-branding the Redskins and Major League Baseball’s Cleveland Indians, who are also considering a name change.

Trump tweeted: “They name teams out of STRENGTH, not weakness, but now the Washington Redskins & Cleveland Indians, two fabled sports franchises, look like they are going to be changing their names in order to be politically correct.”

Snyder had been steadfast against changing the name on several occasions since buying the team in 1999. Last week, sponsors FedEx, PepsiCo, Nike and Bank of America released statements saying they requested a change, and several online stores removed the team’s gear.

“We believe it is time for a change,” PepsiCo said.

FedEx CEO Frederick Smith is a minority owner, and the company is the title sponsor of the team’s stadium in Landover, Maryland. The sudden flood of sponsors coming out against the name prompted the organizational review announced Friday.

“This process allows the team to take into account not only the proud tradition and history of the franchise but also input from our alumni, the organization, sponsors, the National Football League and the local community it is proud to represent on and off the field,” Snyder said.

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody in May sparked protests and a nationwide debate on racism. That conversation renewed calls for Snyder to change the name called a “dictionary defined racial slur” by Native American advocates and experts.

“We’ve never been faced with a greater opportunity and moment for this to finally happen,” Echo Hawk said last month.

“Native Americans have been working and fighting on this issue for decades, decades and decades, and I think really talking with different Native leaders around the country, this is the moment. There’s really no excuse now for this Washington team and for the NFL to do the right thing.”

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Chinese diplomat derides UK’s move to offer HK citizenship

By DANICA KIRKA and KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The Chinese ambassador to Britain accused Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday of meddling in China’s affairs by offering citizenship to 3 million people from Hong Kong following the imposition of a national security law.

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming defended his country’s new national security law against accusations it’s aimed at eroding Hong Kong’s considerable autonomy and curbing dissent. Liu pointed out that the U.K. handed control of the city that was a British colony for more than a century back to Beijing in 1997.

“This move constitutes a gross interference in China’s internal affairs and openly tramples on the basic norms governing international relations,” the ambassador said of the British citizenship offer, adding that the Chinese side has expressed “its great concern and strong opposition.”

Johnson introduced the new visa and citizenship route for certain Hong Kong residents last week after deciding China had committed a “clear and serious breach” of the Sino-British Joint Declaration that set out the transition when Hong Kong was returned to China.

Johnson’s Downing Street office also urged China not to interfere if Hong Kong residents who are eligible

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to reside and seek citizenship in the U.K. want to come and said the government was "also reviewing extradition arrangements with Hong Kong."

The conflict over Britain's response to developments in Hong Kong has soured relations with China, the world's second-largest economy, at a time when Johnson's government wants new trading relationships following the U.K.'s exit from the European Union.

The national security law China imposed last week makes secessionist, subversive, or terrorist activities illegal, as well as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs. Activities such as shouting slogans or holding up banners and flags calling for the city's independence are violations of the law regardless of whether violence is used.

China argues the measure was needed to quell lawlessness and rioting. But there are signs the law is chilling free speech in Hong Kong after the city's public libraries pulled books written by pro-democracy figures from shelves. Authorities said the books were being reviewed in light of the new legislation.

When a reporter asked China's envoy to Britain during a news conference Monday about books being removed, Liu replied that it "depends on what the book is about."

If a book aims to incite secession or subversion, "you know that will be tantamount to a kind of crime," he said.

During his news conference, Liu also needled British officials about reconsidering their decision to grant Chinese tech giant Huawei a limited role supplying new high-speed network equipment to wireless carriers. Britain is reportedly poised to backtrack on the initial approval following U.S. government warnings that it would sever an intelligence-sharing arrangement if the U.K. did not ban Huawei.

Liu said that "Britain can only be great" when it has an independent foreign policy and that it sets a bad precedent to "make your policy in the morning and change it in evening." He said that while he believed Huawei would simply do business elsewhere, other Chinese companies might think twice about investment into the U.K.

"It also sends out a very bad message to the China business community," he said. "They are all watching how you handle Huawei."

Adding to Sino-British tensions, British regulators are weighing a punishment for China's state broadcaster. CGTN, after upholding a complaint that it broke broadcasting rules by airing a forced confession from Peter Humphrey, a British corporate investigator imprisoned for two years in China.

The U.K.'s broadcasting watchdog, Ofcom, said Monday that CGTN committed a "serious" breach of broadcasting rules when it aired two programs with the footage and is putting the channel "on notice" that it plans to impose sanctions, which could include a big fine or revoking its broadcast license.

The tension comes four years after President Xi Jinping visited the U.K. to cement deals that would give Britain a vast new pool of investment and China greater access to European markets. Xi was welcomed as an honored guest at Buckingham Palace and Parliament even as critics warned that Britain was taking a risk by courting Beijing so aggressively.

Liu said that the "golden era" of U.K.-China relations was proposed by the British side and that China agreed because to the description as it was in the interest of both countries. But he said that a country cannot want a golden era and then "treat China as an enemy."

"We want to be your friend. We want to be your partner," he said. "But if you want to make China a hostile country, you have to bear the consequences."

## No more delays: What to know about the July 15 tax deadline

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL AP Personal Finance Writer

It's time to do your taxes — no more delays.

As the coronavirus pandemic took hold this spring, the federal government postponed the traditional April 15 filing deadline until July 15.

The move provided some economic and logistical relief for taxpayers dealing with the disruptions and uncertainty brought on by lockdowns, school closures and shuttered businesses. But now that new dead-

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line is rapidly approaching.

Taxpayers must file or seek an extension by the new deadline or face a penalty. The IRS is expecting about 150 million returns from individuals and as of last count, it had received almost 139 million.

So for those of you still waiting to file, make a payment or with other questions, a few answers:

## DO I HAVE TO?

Yes. In most cases, you must file and pay your taxes by July 15.

Taxpayers who need more time can request an extension on the IRS website. That will give them until Oct. 15 to file. However, an extension to file does not mean added time to pay. So those planning on filing later should estimate what they owe and make that payment by July 15.

## I CAN'T PAY NOW, WHAT DO I DO?

Go ahead and file your taxes even if you cannot pay.

The IRS is willing to set up payment plans or make other arrangements with taxpayers who cannot pay in full. Many of those can be set up online. And the penalty for failure to file will be much more expensive than the failure to pay, says Kathy Pickering, chief tax officer at H&R Block.

## WHAT ABOUT REFUNDS?

The IRS is still processing and issuing refunds, most within 21 days.

Those getting refunds will be paid interest, dating back to April 15, if they file on time. The interest rate is 5% per year through June 30. Starting July 1, it drops to 3% per year. The interest is compounded daily for refunds. Any refund issued after July 1 will get a blended rate.

## I DON'T WANT TO GO TO ANYWHERE. CAN I DO THIS ONLINE?

Yes, you can file or pay your taxes online. The IRS urges taxpayers to use electronic options to support social distancing and speed the processing of returns, refunds or payments. The agency is still working its way through a backlog of mail that built up during its closure in response to the pandemic.

Accountants and tax preparation services say they have a variety of means to help people prepare their taxes without meeting face to face.

## WHAT ABOUT ESTIMATED TAXES?

Taxpayers who make estimated quarterly tax payments have until July 15 to make the payments for the first and second quarter. Those were originally due on April 15 and June 15 respectively.

## WHAT ELSE?

There are a host of other tax deadlines linked to July 15. Check out the IRS website or reach out to a tax professional for answers to your specific question.

One worth noting is that July 15 is also the deadline to claim a refund for 2016 tax returns. An estimated \$1.5 billion refunds for 2016 are sitting unclaimed because people failed to file tax returns. The law provides a three-year window of opportunity to claim a refund. But if taxpayers do not file a return within that time, the money becomes property of the Treasury. There is no penalty to file a later return if a refund is due.

It's also a good time to check in with a tax professional if you have had a major shift in income, employment or other tax situations in 2020. With all the changes stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be need for added help when it comes to taxes.

"Reach out to (your tax professional) about what 2020 is going to look like," says Michael Eisenberg, a CPA and attorney at Squar Milner in Los Angeles.

## Scientists urge WHO to acknowledge virus can spread in air

LONDON (AP) — More than 200 scientists have called for the World Health Organization and others to acknowledge that the coronavirus can spread in the air — a change that could alter some of the current

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measures being taken to stop the pandemic.

In a letter published this week in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, two scientists from Australia and the U.S. wrote that studies have shown "beyond any reasonable doubt that viruses are released during exhalation, talking and coughing in microdroplets small enough to remain aloft in the air." That means people in certain indoor conditions could be at greater risk of being infected than was previously thought.

The WHO has long maintained that COVID-19 is spread via larger respiratory droplets, most often when people cough or sneeze, that fall to the ground. It has dismissed the possibility of airborne transmission, except for certain high-risk medical procedures, like when patients are first put on breathing machines.

In a statement on Monday, the U.N. health agency said it was aware of the article and was reviewing it with technical experts.

WHO has been criticized in recent weeks and months for its seeming divergence from the scientific community. The organization for months declined to recommend mask-wearing, partly out of supply concerns and has also continued to describe the transmission of COVID-19 from people without symptoms as "rare."

The letter was endorsed by 239 scientists from a variety of fields. It stated that the issue of whether or not COVID-19 was airborne was of "heightened significance" as many countries stop restrictive lockdown measures.

The authors cited previous studies suggesting that germs closely related to the new virus were spread via airborne transmission. They said "there is every reason to expect" that the coronavirus behaves similarly. They also cited a Washington state choir practice and research about a poorly ventilated restaurant in Guangzhou, China, each of which raised the possibility of infections from airborne droplets.

"We are concerned that the lack of recognition of the risk of airborne transmission of COVID-19 and the lack of clear recommendations on the control measures against the airborne virus will have significant consequences," the scientists wrote. "People may think they are fully protected by adhering to the current recommendations but in fact, additional airborne interventions are needed."

Scientists around the world have been working furiously to understand the new virus. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it is thought to mainly jump from person to person through close contact, but adds: "We are still learning about how the virus spreads."

Martin McKee, a professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who was not linked to the letter, said the scientists' arguments sounded "entirely reasonable."

"Part of the problem is that everybody at WHO was moving with the paradigm of influenza, even though we know there are lots of differences between influenza and coronaviruses," he said.

McKee noted that with Britain's recent reopening of its pubs, restaurants and salons, the possibility of airborne coronavirus transmission might mean stricter interventions are needed indoors, including more mask-wearing and continued physical distancing.

"We're getting accumulating evidence about super-spreading events happening in indoor spaces where there are large numbers of people in confined spaces," he said. "Many of these are in exactly the circumstances that governments now want to open up."

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Jonathan Sackler, co-owner of Purdue Pharma, dies

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) — Jonathan Sackler, one of the owners of OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, has died, the company confirmed.

Sackler died June 30, according to a court filing. He was 65 and the cause of death was cancer.

He was the son of Raymond Sackler, one the brothers who bought drug company Purdue Frederick in 1952, and served as an executive and board member for the company that was later renamed Purdue Pharma. Like other members of the Sackler family, he has stepped off the board of the company in recent years, though family members retain ownership.



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The company is seeking bankruptcy protection as part of an effort to settle nearly 3,000 lawsuits brought against it by state and local governments that blame the company for sparking the opioid crisis that has killed more than 400,000 Americans since 2000. Hundreds of the lawsuits also name family members.

The company's settlement plan calls for the family, which has been listed among America's wealthiest, to pay at least \$3 billion and give up ownership of Purdue.

## Justices rule states can bind presidential electors' votes

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a decision flavored with references to "Hamilton" and "Veep," the Supreme Court ruled unanimously Monday that states can require presidential electors to back their states' popular vote winner in the Electoral College.

The ruling, in cases in Washington state and Colorado just under four months before the 2020 election, leaves in place laws in 32 states and the District of Columbia that bind electors to vote for the popular-vote winner, as electors almost always do anyway.

So-called faithless electors have not been critical to the outcome of a presidential election, but that could change in a race decided by just a few electoral votes. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.

A state may instruct "electors that they have no ground for reversing the vote of millions of its citizens," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in her majority opinion that walked through American political and constitutional history with an occasional nod to pop culture.

Such an order by a state "accords with the Constitution — as well as with the trust of a Nation that here, We the People rule," Kagan wrote.

President Donald Trump has been both a critic and fan of the Electoral College.

In 2012, he tweeted, "The electoral college is a disaster for a democracy." But in November 2016 after he won he presidency despite losing the popular vote to Hillary Clinton, he tweeted, "The Electoral College is actually genius in that it brings all states, including the smaller ones, into play."

Monday's ruling was not about the legitimacy of the Electoral College or an ongoing effort to effectively eliminate it by having states commit to support the national popular vote winner. That proposal, sure to be challenged in the courts, wouldn't take effect unless states constituting a majority of electoral votes endorsed it.

The court acted on another issue, whether electors are free agents regardless of what voters in their states decide. The justices scheduled arguments for last spring so they could resolve the issue before this year's presidential election rather than amid a potential political crisis after the country votes.

Kagan recounted how the Constitution's original rules for presidential electors sowed confusion because there was no distinction between votes for president and vice president. She noted that the results of the 1796 election gave President John Adams his political rival, Thomas Jefferson, as vice president, a situation Kagan called "fodder for a new season of Veep."

Things got worse four years later when Jefferson and Aaron Burr finished in an Electoral College tie, sending the election to the House of Representatives. It took 36 ballots and the influence of Alexander Hamilton to elect Jefferson as president, Kagan wrote.

"Alexander Hamilton secured his place on the Broadway stage—but possibly in the cemetery too—by lobbying Federalists in the House to tip the election to Jefferson, whom he loathed but viewed as less of an existential threat to the Republic," she said.

Those two elections led to the adoption of the Twelfth Amendment, which produced the Electoral College rules in use today, with separate ballots for president and vice president. "By then, everyone had had enough of the Electoral College's original voting rules," Kagan wrote.

The closest Electoral College margin in recent years was in 2000, when Republican George W. Bush received 271 votes to 266 for Democrat Al Gore. One elector from Washington, D.C., left her ballot blank.

When the court heard arguments by telephone in May because of the coronavirus outbreak, justices invoked fears of bribery and chaos if electors could cast their ballots regardless of the popular vote outcome in their states.

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The issue arose in lawsuits filed by three Hillary Clinton electors in Washington state and one in Colorado who refused to vote for her despite her popular vote win in both states in 2016. In so doing, they hoped to persuade enough electors in states won by Trump to choose someone else and deny him the presidency.

The federal appeals court in Denver ruled that electors can vote as they please, rejecting arguments that they must choose the popular-vote winner. In Washington, the state Supreme Court upheld \$1,000 fines against the three electors and rejected their claims.

The Supreme Court affirmed the Washington decision and reversed the ruling from Colorado.

In all, there were 10 faithless electors in 2016, including a fourth in Washington, a Democratic elector in Hawaii and two Republican electors in Texas. In addition, Democratic electors who said they would not vote for Clinton were replaced in Maine and Minnesota.

The closest Electoral College margin in recent years was in 2000, when Republican George W. Bush received 271 votes to 266 for Democrat Al Gore. One elector from Washington, D.C., left her ballot blank.

The Supreme Court played a decisive role in that election, ending a recount in Florida, where Bush held a 537-vote margin out of 6 million ballots cast.

The justices scheduled separate arguments in the Washington and Colorado cases after Justice Sonia Sotomayor belatedly removed herself from the Colorado case because she knows one of the plaintiffs.

In asking the Supreme Court to rule that states can require electors to vote for the state winner, Colorado had urged the justices not to wait until "the heat of a close presidential election."

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, who argued his state's case at the Supreme Court, called the outcome "a win for orderly elections and our constitutional democracy."

Reacting to the decision Monday, the lawyer for the electors who challenged the state rules said he's glad the court acted now. "Obviously, we don't believe the Court has interpreted the Constitution correctly. But we are happy that we have achieved our primary objective — this uncertainty has been removed. That is progress," lawyer Lawrence Lessig said.

## Stores focus on cleaning to get shoppers back to spending

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Forget about making shopping fun. As clothing retailers and others try to stay viable during the coronavirus pandemic, they're hoping steps like cleaning during store hours, offering hand sanitizer and other safety measures will bring in customers to spend.

At the same time, they are largely leaving fitting rooms open and not requiring shoppers to wear masks unless it's a local rule, despite public health experts who advise that masks, social distancing and good ventilation are key for safety. That may make some already-jittery shoppers more nervous.

"Shopping was something I really enjoyed. I like to look at clothes and jewelry. It was almost like therapy," said Hope Kaplan, a 62-year-old publicist who is now only willing to go to the dentist and CVS because she's worried about the coronavirus, especially with cases rising in her home of Tucson, Arizona.

It's a crucial moment for retailers, who are trying to recover from the worst sales slump on record. The months-long shutdowns accelerated store closings and bankruptcies. And some stores may start closing some locations again as cases climb in states like Florida, Arizona and Texas. Apple already has.

Retailers used to encourage shoppers to linger, offering enticements like food, trying on clothes and makeup and playing with toys in their stores - things you couldn't do on Amazon. Now stores are more grab-and-go, with curbside pick-up an option. But they say shoppers who want to hang out in the store still can.

"Shopping is an emotional experience," said Melissa Gonzalez, a New York-based retail consultant. "The problem is, how do you bring safety measures but still make shopping inviting and fun?"

Taking a page from retailers like Walmart, Target and Home Depot, which have stayed open because they were deemed essential businesses, many major retailers are making employees wear masks, constantly cleaning public areas, adding plexiglass shields by cashiers, limiting the number of customers in stores and adding signs that remind shoppers to keep six feet apart.

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"I like that stores are constantly cleaning," said Madelyn Rouse, 17, of Chicago, who recently shopped at American Eagle Outfitters, Urban Outfitters and Forever 21.

Saks Fifth Avenue offers appointment shopping before and after hours, while J.C. Penney dedicates certain shopping hours to vulnerable customers. American Eagle and Sephora provide hand sanitizer at store entrances.

Instead of letting customers sample makeup, Macy's cosmetics counter employees show colored drawings of what the makeup looks like. Ulta Beauty and Sephora have phone apps that let customers virtually try on lipstick and other beauty products.

As for masks, which public-health experts encourage to curb the spread of the virus, American Eagle is one of the few requiring that customers wear them in all stores. It hands out masks at store entrances. American Eagle's lingerie chain Aerie also has the same safety protocols in place. But having store workers enforce social distancing can be difficult, particularly when dealing with shoppers who don't want to wear masks.

Stores are also opening fitting rooms, which are crucial for many clothing shoppers but are also closely packed spaces where people could potentially infect each other. Even chains that initially closed dressing rooms, like Gap, J.C. Penney and Kohl's, are now reopening them. The stores say they will remove clothing that's tried on from the sales floor for a few days. American Eagle is steam cleaning the rejected clothes.

Social distancing, masks, constant disinfecting and well-ventilated indoor spaces are all important, said Lawrence Gostin, a public health expert at Georgetown University. He recommends keeping fitting rooms closed until a later phase in the reopening and believes clothes themselves are not a likely source of infection.

Workers' top safety concern is that customers won't wear masks, said Stuart Applebaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store union that represents roughly 6,300 New York-area Macy's and Bloomingdale's employees.

One Macy's worker in New York was apprehensive about returning to work in late June, but said he feels safe.

"You have to create an environment of safety for us and the customers," said Steve Ward, 58, who works in the mattress area. "Before, our focus was just selling.

He sprays the mattress with disinfectant in front of customers before and after they try it out.

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Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

## **AIDS report: Kids are lagging and COVID-19 is harming care**

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

New numbers on the global AIDS epidemic show some big successes, such as fewer deaths and new infections. But there are also some tragic failures: Only half the children with HIV, the virus that causes the disease, are getting treatment.

"We are making great progress against the HIV epidemic ... but the bad, bad news is that kids are lagging behind," said Dr. Shannon Hader, deputy executive director of UNAIDS. The United Nations agency reported last year's numbers Monday at the start of an international AIDS conference.

Progress against HIV also is being hurt by another infectious disease — the new coronavirus. Four years ago, the United Nations set goals for limiting HIV infections and improving treatment by the end of 2020, and all will be missed because the coronavirus pandemic is hurting access to care, the report concludes.

"We were already off track for the 2020 targets, but COVID-19 is threatening to blow us completely off course," said UNAIDS' executive director, Winnie Byanyima.

A World Health Organization survey found that 73 countries are at risk of running out of HIV medicines and 24 have critically low stocks.

"Access to HIV medicines has been significantly curtailed" since the coronavirus pandemic began, said WHO's chief, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "We must not turn our backs" on HIV while fighting

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COVID-19, he said.

Here are highlights from the UNAIDS report:

## INFECTIONS

About 1.7 million new HIV infections occurred in 2019 — down 23% since 2010 but far short of the 75% reduction goal.

Eastern and southern Africa have greatly curbed new infections, but they're rising elsewhere — by about 20% since 2010 in Latin America, the Middle East and north Africa, and 72% in eastern Europe and central Asia.

"We have countries in other regions that are growing a next wave of epidemics among young people," Hader said. "We're still seeing 150,000 kids being newly infected with HIV each year."

In sub-Saharan Africa, girls and young women make up 10% of the population but account for 25% of new HIV infections. In many cases, pregnant women aren't getting tested or don't stay on drugs that can prevent spreading the virus to their babies, Byanyima said.

## TREATMENT

Worldwide, 38 million people have HIV and 81% of them are aware of it. About 25.4 million are on treatment, triple the number since 2010.

Roughly 67% of adults with the virus are getting treatment. But only 53% of children and teens are, meaning 840,000 of them are missing out on life-saving drugs.

Besides reaching more kids to provide care, "we need the science to come through for children" to develop easier treatments, Byanyima said. "It's really hard if you're a child ... 5, 6 or 7 ... to be on a tablet every day for the rest of your life," or to have to conceal daily medicine use to keep HIV status a secret because of stigma around the disease, she said.

## DEATHS

There were 690,000 AIDS-related deaths in 2019. That's down 39% from 2010 but short of the target of under 500,000 by the end of this year.

Children accounted for 95,000 of those deaths.

"That's a stain on our conscience ... because treatments are there," Byanyima said. "It breaks my heart that 4,500 girls, young women, were being infected every week in Africa — every week! They are many times, three or four times, more vulnerable than boys and men of the same age because of social norms, because of lack of education, opportunity."

## COVID-19'S IMPACT

In many countries, Byanyima said, health workers testing for and caring for people with HIV have switched to fighting COVID-19; supplies of medicines and condoms have been disrupted because of lockdowns; and many health clinics have closed.

Dr. Anton Pozniak, head of the AIDS conference and an HIV specialist at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London, said many HIV patients have delayed seeking care out of fear of getting the coronavirus. Some are even afraid to have medicines delivered to their homes because "they don't want the stigma of parcels and drugs arriving" that might reveal their HIV status, he said.

Another conference leader, Dr. Monica Gandhi of the University of California, San Francisco, said that in her large HIV clinic, a smaller percentage of patients now have their HIV under control.

"We're very, very worried, profoundly worried," about COVID-19 harming patients and efforts to curb the HIV, she said.

A six-month interruption of HIV services in sub-Saharan Africa would mean 500,000 deaths, according to estimates by UNAIDS, the WHO and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

That would mean a return to death levels last seen in 2008, "and I think we have to admit, we just can't allow that to happen," said Hader, the UNAIDS official.

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Associated Press writer Jamey Keaten in Geneva contributed to this story. Marilyn Marchione can be followed on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP>

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Latino, Black neighborhoods struggle with test disparities

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A Latino cook whose co-worker got COVID-19 waited in his truck for a free swab at a rare testing event in a low-income neighborhood in Phoenix. A Hispanic tile installer queued up after two weeks of self-isolation while his father battled the coronavirus in intensive care. He didn't know his dad would die days later.

As the pandemic explodes in diverse states like Arizona and Florida, people in communities of color who have been exposed to the virus are struggling to get tested. While people nationwide complain about appointments being overbooked or waiting hours to be seen, getting a test can be even harder in America's poorer, Hispanic and Black neighborhoods, far from middle-class areas where most chain pharmacies and urgent care clinics offering tests are found.

"There really isn't any testing around here," said Juan Espinosa, who went with his brother Enrique to the recent drive-up testing event in Phoenix's largely Latino Maryvale neighborhood after a fellow construction worker was suspected of having COVID-19. "We don't know anywhere else to go."

Hundreds of people lined up last week for another large-scale testing event in a different low-income area of Phoenix that's heavily Hispanic and Black.

Arizona — the nation's leader in new confirmed infections per capita over the past two weeks — and its minority neighborhoods are just starting to feel what New York and other East Coast and Midwestern communities experienced several months ago, said Mahasin Mujahid, associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Public Health.

"It's the perfect storm as this hits unlevel playing fields all across the U.S.," said Mujahid, a social epidemiologist who studies health in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Public health officials say widespread testing to rapidly identify and isolate infected people can help ensure residents of underserved neighborhoods get care while slowing the virus's spread.

"Pandemics expose the inequalities in our health care system," said Dr. Thomas Tsai, assistant professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a surgeon at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital. "What is needed is to make testing free and as available as possible.

"Outreach to the Hispanic population, the Black community, to immigrants, the most vulnerable, unprotected people is critical for public health," with a national response being ideal, he said.

But President Donald Trump's administration has delegated responsibility for testing to states that have stitched together a patchwork of responses, forcing private foundations and nonprofit community health organizations to fill in the gaps and ensure people of color are reached.

"If you just set up the testing sites in wealthy communities, you cannot rein this in," said Dr. Usama Bilal, assistant professor at Drexel's Dornsife School of Public Health in Philadelphia, where Black doctors recently won city funding for testing in African American neighborhoods.

When Florida officials were slow to roll out testing in the migrant community of Immokalee, the nonprofit Coalition of Immokalee Workers called on the international aid group Doctors Without Borders for help.

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation in Chicago pushed hard before getting support from the city's Racial Equity Rapid Response Team to deliver free, widespread testing in that Black neighborhood.

"It hit the African American communities very, very hard," said the corporation's executive director, Carlos Nelson. "We have since had great success in getting people tested and bringing numbers down."

In Arizona, the free drive-up testing June 27 drew nearly 1,000 people and was just the second big event of its kind in the heavily Latino neighborhood of Maryvale.

The first event, held June 20 by the privately funded Equality Health Foundation, drew criticism when much larger crowds than expected showed up, and some people waited for as long as 13 hours. Organiz-

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ers had decided to take in those without appointments.

"It shows that there is an unavailability of testing if there is that kind of demand," said Will Humble, executive director of the Arizona Public Health Association and former head of the state Department of Health Services.

Equality Health spokesman Tomás León acknowledged that "we were really overwhelmed" when so many showed up for the first round. The results from that event, while incomplete, showed about 24% of tests were positive, he said. Arizona's positive rate statewide had risen to 25.9% as of Sunday for the past week, which is the highest in the nation, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

The scene was more orderly a week later, after Equality Health doubled staff and nasal swabs and refused to accept people without appointments.

Arizona officials have since committed to increasing testing sites, especially in Maryvale and other areas of west and south Phoenix that are more than 80% Latino. Testing sites also are scarce in a part of the city where some neighborhoods are more than 15% Black.

"We need more tests, and we need more efficiency around tests," Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said in late June. "No one should have to wait hours and hours for tests to be conducted."

But as of Sunday, Arizona was 38th among all states for the number of tests performed with results per 1,000 people, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Like Black people, Latinos have high rates of health problems such as diabetes that make them more susceptible to the virus. And they often live in family groups that make the virus easier to spread.

Carmen Heredia, CEO of Valle del Sol Community Health, said an entire family of 20 recently took advantage of free testing in the small Latino and Indigenous town of Guadalupe, bordering Phoenix.

Carlos Sandoval, 45, said his whole family needed testing after exposure to his 65-year-old father, who got COVID-19 and was susceptible because of a kidney transplant six years ago. His mother tested positive but didn't have symptoms.

**As Sandoval waited to be tested late last month, his father, was on oxygen at the hospital. His dad, also named Carlos, died June 30.**

**The family never imagined COVID-19 would touch them, he said.**

**"We, Hispanics, don't believe the virus is very important until someone we know gets it," Sandoval said.**

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 7, the 189th day of 2020. There are 177 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 7, 1865, four people were hanged in Washington, D.C. for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln: Lewis Powell (aka Lewis Payne), David Herold, George Atzerodt and Mary Surratt, the first woman to be executed by the federal government.

On this date:

In 1846, U.S. annexation of California was proclaimed at Monterey (mahn-tuh-RAY') after the surrender of a Mexican garrison.

In 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii.

In 1937, the Second Sino-Japanese War erupted into full-scale conflict as Imperial Japanese forces attacked the Marco Polo Bridge in Beijing.

In 1941, U.S. forces took up positions in Iceland, Trinidad and British Guiana to forestall any Nazi invasion, even though the United States had not yet entered the Second World War.

In 1948, six female U.S. Navy reservists became the first women to be sworn in to the regular Navy.

In 1954, Elvis Presley made his radio debut as Memphis, Tennessee, station WHBQ played his first recording for Sun Records, "That's All Right."

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In 1963, a Navy jet fighter from Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Pennsylvania crashed into a picnic area, killing seven people; the pilot, who ejected, survived.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford and the first lady hosted a White House dinner for Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. The United States Military Academy at West Point included female cadets for the first time as 119 women joined the Class of 1980.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Arizona Judge Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1983, 11-year-old Samantha Smith of Manchester, Maine, left for a visit to the Soviet Union at the personal invitation of Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov (ahn-DROH'-pawf).

In 2005, terrorist bombings in three Underground stations and a double-decker bus killed 52 victims and four bombers in the worst attack on London since World War II.

In 2009, some 20,000 people gathered inside Staples Center in Los Angeles for a memorial service honoring the late Michael Jackson, who was tearfully described by his 11-year-old daughter, Paris-Michael, as "the best father you could ever imagine."

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama bypassed the Senate and appointed Dr. Donald Berwick to run Medicare and Medicaid. In Philadelphia, a disabled sightseeing "duck boat" adrift in the Delaware River was struck by a barge and capsized; two Hungarian tourists died. Los Angeles police charged Lonnie Franklin Jr. in the city's "Grim Sleeper" serial killings. (Franklin, who was sentenced to death for the killings of nine women and a teenage girl, died in prison in March 2020 at the age of 67.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama met at the White House with the head of Vietnam's Communist Party, Nguyen Phu Trong, as the U.S. pressed ahead to conclude talks on a groundbreaking Asia-Pacific economic pact. Subway said it had mutually agreed with Jared Fogle to suspend their relationship after the home of the sandwich chain's longtime pitchman was raided by federal and state investigators. (Fogle later pleaded guilty to one count each of distributing and receiving child porn and traveling to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a child, and was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison.)

One year ago: The Navy announced that Adm. William Moran, the four-star admiral who'd been set to become the Navy's top officer, would instead retire, a move prompted by what Navy Secretary Richard Spencer described as poor judgment regarding a professional relationship. The U.S. women's soccer team won its fourth Women's World Cup title, beating the Netherlands 2-0; Megan Rapinoe converted a tiebreaking penalty kick and Rose Lavelle added a goal. Leaked diplomatic cables published in Britain's Mail on Sunday newspaper revealed that Britain's ambassador to the United States had called the Trump administration "dysfunctional" and "inept."

Today's Birthdays: Musician-conductor Doc Severinsen is 93. Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough is 87. Rock star Ringo Starr is 80. Comedian Bill Oddie is 79. Singer-musician Warren Entner (The Grass Roots) is 77. Actor Joe Spano is 74. Pop singer David Hodo (The Village People) is 73. Country singer Linda Williams is 73. Actress Shelley Duvall is 71. Actress Roz Ryan is 69. Actor Billy Campbell is 61. Actor Robert Taylor is 60. Rock musician Mark White (Spin Doctors) is 58. Singer-songwriter Vonda Shepard is 57. Actor-comedian Jim Gaffigan is 54. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ricky Kinchen (Mint Condition) is 54. Actress Amy Carlson is 52. Actress Jorja Fox is 52. Actress Cree Summer is 51. Actress Robin Weigert is 51. Actress Kirsten Vangsness is 48. Actor Troy Garity is 47. Actress Berenice Bejo (BEH'-ruh-nees BAY'-hoh) is 44. Actor Hamish Linklater is 44. Olympic silver and bronze medal figure skater Michelle Kwan is 40. Rapper Cassidy is 38. Country singer Gabbie Nolen is 38. Actor Ross Malinger is 36. Actor-comedian Luke Null (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 30. Pop singer Ally Hernandez (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 27. Pop musician Ashton Irwin (5 Seconds to Summer) is 26. Country singer Maddie Marlow (Maddie and Tae) is 25.