

# 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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**JoAnn and Mike Nehls erect a sign at the end of Groton's Main Street. Nehls is running for Brown County Commission.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Members of the Groton Lions Club put the finishing touches together for the Summer Fest scheduled for Sunday at the Groton City Park.**

(Photo from Groton, SD Lions Club Facebook Page)

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**#137 in a series**

## **Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller**

Well, it was another terrible day, almost as terrible as yesterday. Today, we added another 58,900 cases, our second-worst day yet, second only to yesterday's just over 59,000 new cases. Today, that was a 1.9% increase in total cases to a whopping 3,129,800. So we're on a roll: Our ten worst days in this pandemic have been the last ten days. We still have 38 states and territories on an increasing 14-day rolling average, 14 holding, and 2 declining. Cases are rising fastest in Hawaii, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Delaware, West Virginia, and Florida. Five states set records for new cases today: Montana, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Alabama.

There were 837 deaths reported today in the US, a 0.6% increase in total deaths to 133,055. Two states set record numbers of deaths, Tennessee and Florida.

Hospitals are under severe stress. In Florida, 40 ICUs have hit capacity, and in Mississippi, the five largest hospitals in the state are at ICU capacity and "stretched thin." The TSA reports that more than 1000 of its workers have been diagnosed; more than 900 of these were people who had front-line contact with travelers. Six have died.

We continue to see worrying news from college and university campuses. The latest is from the University of North Carolina, which has suspended summer athletics workouts after 37 positive tests from athletics department staff and students were reported. They are also quarantining all of those testing positive plus close contacts, so they are responding appropriately. Ohio State also suspended workouts today; Kansas, Arizona, Boise State, Kansas State, and the University of Houston had done so prior to today. At least three dozen schools have reported outbreaks associated with these summer workouts. This is a lot of infections considering most of these campuses are basically ghost towns at this point. I have concerns.

This latest surge in various states is closely associated with reopening: Here are states' increase in daily new case average since reopening: Florida – 1000%; Arizona – 858%; Texas – 680%; South Carolina – 999%; Georgia – 245%. None of these states met the CDC benchmarks for reopening before doing so. On the other hand, states that did a measured reopening, few though they are, show a different picture: New York – declined by 52%; Massachusetts – declined by 83%.

I want to update a story about viral transmission we've been following for a few days. You will recall that earlier this week I reported a group of scientists had published a letter to the WHO urging it to reconsider its stance on transmission to include airborne transmission as a means of transmitting Covid-19. And today, they did just that, formally acknowledging airborne transmission, saying people should "avoid crowded places, close-contact settings, and confined and enclosed spaces with poor ventilation." They also finally acknowledged that asymptomatic cases are not infrequent and that asymptomatic transmission is not rare. This, as the New York Times reports, "provides an explicit rationale for everyone to wear masks." About time.

I was asked today what you should do if you do get this virus. We've talked here and there about bits and pieces, but I've never pulled it all together in one place, so this seemed like a good time to do that. The things you should do fall into two categories: things you do to protect others and things you do to produce a better outcome for yourself.

As for things you do for others: Stay home. Completely. Only place you go is to the doctor, and that only in a face mask and after notifying them in advance you're coming in and you may be/are infected. Stay home until you have had no fever at all for at least three days without taking any medication, your symptoms have improved, and at least seven days have passed since you first felt sick. If you do not live alone, stay away from others in your home, including pets. Wear a face mask if you will be in the room with another family member. Do not share dishes, glasses, cups, utensils, towels, bedding with anyone else. Clean and disinfect surfaces after you touch them. Wash your hands. A lot.

As for things you do for yourself: Get plenty of rest. Drink lots of fluids. Stay warm. Eat nutritious foods. Knock it off with the root beer and potato chips. Take an over-the-counter medication for fever and aches. Unfortunately, there are no specific therapies available to you that will shorten the course or lessen the

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severity of your infection. And unless you have a particular immunologic dysfunction for which treatment is available, there are also no specific immunity-boosting vitamins or elixirs or magic foods, so the best you can do is these general things to shore up your overall state of health and ability to overcome this virus.

If you're not sick now, this is a great time to see to your general health. Get some exercise, eat well, get enough sleep, temper your alcohol use, stop smoking if you can—all the things that promote a strong immune response and a healthy body. If you're overweight or obese, don't go on some crazy crash diet, but use this time to put diet and exercise to work for you to buy yourself your best chance at surviving this thing if you should become infected. (No judgement here; I'm not particularly svelte myself.) If you are diabetic or have high blood pressure or heart or lung disease, do what you can to keep your condition well-controlled throughout this time. You want to be in the best possible shape to meet this virus head-on, should you encounter it.

And take care of yourself and others. We have a long haul in front of us, and we're all in this together.

There is further interesting news on the non-Covid-19 vaccine front. A week or so ago, we talked about how vaccines for other diseases might confer some protection against Covid-19, mentioning BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine for tuberculosis) and OPV (oral polio vaccine) at the time. We should review that talk so we're all starting out on the same page here. I am adding some information to what we had previously because I've recently read a paper that is relevant to the discussion, so if you were here for our last discussion on this subject, there's something new for you here too.

Vaccines are given to expose you to an antigen—a pathogen or some part of one—in a safe, you-won't-get-sick-and-die way so that you can have a nice big immune response to it at your leisure while not under threat. Because the products of an immune response have what's called immunologic memory, they hang around for a long time, so this prior experience with the antigen will assure a much faster and more efficient response next time you encounter it, typically fast and efficient enough to prevent you from getting sick at all. Thing is, this response, called an adaptive response, is specific to the antigen in the vaccine, so measles vaccine does not protect you against pneumonia or chicken pox, just measles.

Except . . . .

It appears live vaccines induce another kind of response too, a nonspecific one. Nonspecific, or innate, immune responses are sort of your first line of defense against infections and involve a wide array of structures, chemicals, and cells. The particular cells we're interested in here are called myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs), cells from your bone marrow which have, as their name indicates, a suppressive effect on your immune system. (I know this doesn't sound helpful, suppressing your immune response, but hang in there with me for a bit.) We're still learning about how and when these guys function, but we know they can dampen a runaway immune response and we're thinking they may be an important modulator of immune processes.

There's been some work done to characterize which sorts of immune cells are more and less prevalent at various stages of Covid-19, and it appears people have a lot of MDSCs during recovery, which has some folks wondering whether part of the reason the patients are recovering is that those MDSCs are busy tamping down any incipient cytokine storms that tend to cause acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), which is what's killing folks. (We've talked about cytokine storms a bunch of times: Short version is these are self-reinforcing, over-enthusiastic immune responses that damage tissue and cause ARDS. A lot of therapeutic focus has been on calming those storms.)

Now, when you receive a live vaccine, one of the away-from-the-main-event things that happens is that you produce a bunch of MDSCs in response. These MDSCs are long-lived cells, but they don't last as long as the specific (antibody) response you have to the vaccine. So if you've received a vaccine recently, you probably have a fair number of spare MDSCs hanging around, but if your vaccine was years ago (back when you were a kid, for example), then even though the immunity to whatever the vaccine was for may still be strong, the MDSCs are probably pretty much gone.

This has people speculating that one reason kids mostly don't get as sick as often from Covid-19 is MDSCs lingering after their relatively recent vaccinations, the MDSCs that are gone by the time you're old. And that leads to speculation that giving a live vaccine to an older person might stimulate a bunch of new



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MDSCs to be generated, which might just be a good thing.

The interest in the BCG and OPV we talked about the other night is in those MDSCs they seem to elicit. BCG clinical trials are underway now. And the new news is that some folks are looking at the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine too now. Interest in the MMR was piqued when 955 sailors on the USS Theodore Roosevelt tested positive, but were only mildly ill. You see, all new Navy recruits receive MMR vaccine, and although the relatively young age and good fitness of the sailors undoubtedly played a role, that's still a pretty big coincidence. We are also seeing lower death rates in places where the MMR is routinely given.

Clinical trials of MMR for prophylaxis have been proposed for high-risk health care workers and first responders in New Orleans. If this pans out, we're talking about a low-cost, low-risk intervention that might make a real difference. I'll be watching this one with interest.

I read a lot in a day. One of the things I read last night is a paper from a study in rats, which, it turns out, are socially a lot like people. Who knew, right?

The experiments with the rats were inspired by experiments previously done with people. Back in the '60s, there was a very public murder of a young woman in New York City—in full view of several bystanders. None of those people stepped into help, and this terrible incident spurred a great deal of psychological research on what began to be called the bystander effect. You see, people are naturally quite inclined to help someone they perceive as being in some kind of trouble, but if there are other people present at the time, they are less likely to help and, the more others there are, the lower the likelihood a person will help. Experiments with people to illustrate this effect are easy to set up because you can arrange a situation where the bystanders are in on the experiment; they're instructed not to help so the effect of this on the subject can be observed. And when you run the experiment in a different way, where the person in on the experiment is the helper, we can see that, once one person moves to help, others are more willing to do so too.

Now, the experiment with the rats is a cool one. It turns out rats are also naturally helpful. What you do is trap one rat in a clear acrylic tube and introduce other rats to the situation. The free rats will explore the tube and figure out how to release the trapped rat. They do this very willingly, over and over, even for stranger rats, that is, rats they've never met before.

The motivation for the rescue efforts appears to be distress at the trapped rat's situation. Researchers figured this out by giving the free rats anti-anxiety drugs that tamp down feelings of distress. When they did this, the free rats didn't try to help the trapped one. The researchers checked to make sure the drugged rats weren't just too sleepy to go to work by introducing a tube of chocolate; these guys were more than eager to get that one open. So the drug wasn't making them too sluggish to free the trapped rat; it was just relieving their distress at the trapped rat's plight.

So now, the trapped rat is in a cage, and we introduce free rats again, only this time all but one of the free rats has been given the anti-anxiety drug. And what happens? The non-drugged rat tried to help once, then when no help was forthcoming from his companion free rats, he gave up; and he wouldn't help for a couple of days afterward. When none of the rats was drugged, all of them started to help more quickly than they did when they were alone. So we can conclude from this that rats know how to read a room. Just like people. Turns out this isn't a human response; it's a mammalian one.

You know what else the rats did? While they were more than willing to help another rat, even one they didn't know, they were completely uninterested in helping a rat from another, unfamiliar strain of rats, that is, a rat that was not just like them. That's kind of like people too, isn't it?

Now, here's what I'm thinking: Most people don't really like rats; some of us are even scared of them. When we call someone a rat, we never mean it as a compliment. We like to think we are superior to rats—more sophisticated brains and more highly developed moral frameworks, right? Right???

We need to start acting like it. Today more than ever. Food for thought.

Keep yourself well. I'll be back tomorrow.

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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
	July 8	July 9	July 10				
Minnesota	39,133	39,589	40,163				
Nebraska	20,201	20,425	20,623				
Montana	1,327	1,371	1466				
Colorado	34,664	35,116	35,525				
Wyoming	1,378	1,404	1428				
North Dakota	3898	3971	4070				
South Dakota	7,163	7242	7336				
United States	2,994,776	3,055,144	3,118,168				
US Deaths	131,626	132,309	133,291				
Minnesota	+564	+456	+574				
Nebraska	+155	+224	+198				
Montana	+78	+44	+95				
Colorado	+407	+452	+409				
Wyoming	+29	+26	+24				
North Dakota	+49	+73	+99				
South Dakota	+58	+79	+94				
United States	+56,152	+60,368	+63,024				
US Deaths	+1,320	+683	+982				

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

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## July 9th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

South Dakota recorded three deaths today. All three were females with two in the 60-69 age group and one in the 80+. Yankton recorded its first death while Pennington and Todd each recorded one. North Dakota had no deaths recorded today.

We lost Bon Homme and Ziebach counties from the fully recovered list but gained Haakon and Spink counties.

The one that caught my eye was Dewey County with 15 positive cases. They currently have 26 active cases. Brown County has two positive cases and with no recoveries, the active cases increased by two to 18.

Statewide, our active cases increased by 40 to 904.

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: +2 (18)

Recovered: 0 (332)

Total Positive: +2 (352)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (18)

Deaths: 2

Negative Tests: +34 (3258)

Percent Recovered: 94.3% (-.6)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +94 (7336 total)

Negative: +990 (79,974 total)

Hospitalized: +9 (718 total). 61 currently hospitalized (Up 7 from yesterday)

Deaths: +3 (101 total)

Recovered: +51 (6331 total)

Active Cases: +40 (904)

Percent Recovered: 86.3 down 0.4

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding 40, Perkins +1 (96), Potter +5 (189), unassigned +73 (2609).

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: +2 positive, +2 recovered (493 of 551 recovered)

Bon Homme: +1 positive (12 of 13 recovered)

Brookings: +7 recovered (69 of 86 recovered)

Brown: +2 positive (332 of 352 recovered)

Brule: +3 positive (23 of 33 recovered)

Buffalo: +5 positive (66 of 84 recovered)

Charles Mix: +1 positive (39 of 96 recovered)

Clay: +2 positive, +1 recovered (77 of 92 recovered)

Codington: +4 positive, +1 recovered (64 of 90 recovered)

Davison: +1 positive (37 of 51 recovered)

Day: +1 recovered (14 of 19 recovered)



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Dewey: +15 positive (1 of 27 recovered)  
 Faulk: +1 recovered (20 of 23 recovered)  
 Grant: +2 positive (13 of 16 recovered)  
 Gregory: +1 positive (2 of 5 recovered)  
 Haakon: +1 recovered (1 of 1 recovered)  
 Hamlin: +1 recovered (11 of 13 recovered)  
 Hanson: +1 positive (6 of 13 recovered)  
 Hughes: +2 positive, +4 recovered (53 of 68 recovered)  
 Lake: +2 positive (19 of 23 recovered)  
 Lincoln: +5 positive, +2 recovered (337 of 381 recovered)  
 Lyman: +5 positive (47 of 80 recovered)  
 McCook: +1 positive (8 of 15 recovered)  
 Minnehaha: +17 positive, +8 recovered (3431 of 3723 recovered)  
 Moody: +1 recovered (20 of 23 recovered)  
 Oglala Lakota: +5 positive (69 of 108 recovered)  
 Pennington: +10 positive, +14 recovered (447 of 616 recovered)  
 Roberts: +1 positive, +4 recovered (45 of 53 recovered)  
 Spink: +2 recovered (12 of 12 recovered)  
 Todd: +2 positive (52 of 61 recovered)  
 Tripp: +1 recovered (15 of 18 recovered)  
 Turner: +1 positive (24 of 28 recovered)  
 Union: +2 positive, +1 recovered (122 of 140 recovered)  
 Yankton: +1 positive (72 of 83 recovered)  
 Ziebach: +1 positive (1 of 2 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Bon Homme and Ziebach, gained Haakon and Spink): Deuel 4-4, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Kingsbury 6-6, Lawrence 19-19, Sanborn 12-12, Spink 12-12, Sully 1-1.

The NDDoH & private labs report 5,980 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 99 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 4,070. NDDoH reports no new deaths. State & private labs have reported 214,167 total completed tests. 3,464 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	715	10%
Black, Non-Hispanic	981	13%
Hispanic	1119	15%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1166	16%
Other	745	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2610	36%

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	59
Pennington	18
Todd	2
Union	1
Yankton	1

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	34	33	298
Beadle	551	493	1514
Bennett	4	3	433
Bon Homme	13	12	616
Brookings	86	69	1913
Brown	352	332	3258
Brule	33	23	544
Buffalo	84	66	532
Butte	1	0	542
Campbell	1	0	65
Charles Mix	96	39	863
Clark	15	13	334
Clay	92	77	1025
Codington	90	64	2075
Corson	19	17	153
Custer	10	8	606
Davison	51	37	1742
Day	19	14	434
Deuel	4	4	309
Dewey	27	1	995
Douglas	10	4	341
Edmunds	8	7	309
Fall River	13	9	761
Faulk	23	20	134
Grant	16	13	554
Gregory	5	2	253
Haakon	1	1	247
Hamlin	13	11	485
Hand	7	6	211
Hanson	13	6	145
Harding	0	0	40
Hughes	68	53	1274
Hutchinson	15	12	739

Hyde	3	3	103
Jackson	6	2	359
Jerauld	39	37	242
Jones	1	0	40
Kingsbury	6	6	429
Lake	23	19	700
Lawrence	19	19	1519
Lincoln	381	337	4808
Lyman	80	47	738
Marshall	5	4	313
McCook	15	8	509
McPherson	5	4	171
Meade	53	41	1443
Mellette	6	3	229
Miner	10	6	205
Minnehaha	3723	3431	21048
Moody	23	20	493
Oglala Lakota	108	69	2531
Pennington	616	447	7820
Perkins	0	0	96
Potter	0	0	189
Roberts	53	45	1187
Sanborn	12	12	175
Spink	12	12	923
Stanley	14	13	164
Sully	1	1	51
Todd	61	52	1356
Tripp	18	15	476
Turner	28	24	732
Union	140	122	1480
Walworth	16	10	439
Yankton	83	72	2499
Ziebach	2	1	154
Unassigned****	0	0	2609

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3549	56
Male	3787	45

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	789	0
20-29 years	1521	1
30-39 years	1540	3
40-49 years	1167	7
50-59 years	1144	12
60-69 years	685	19
70-79 years	262	14
80+ years	228	45

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## Baseball Schedule

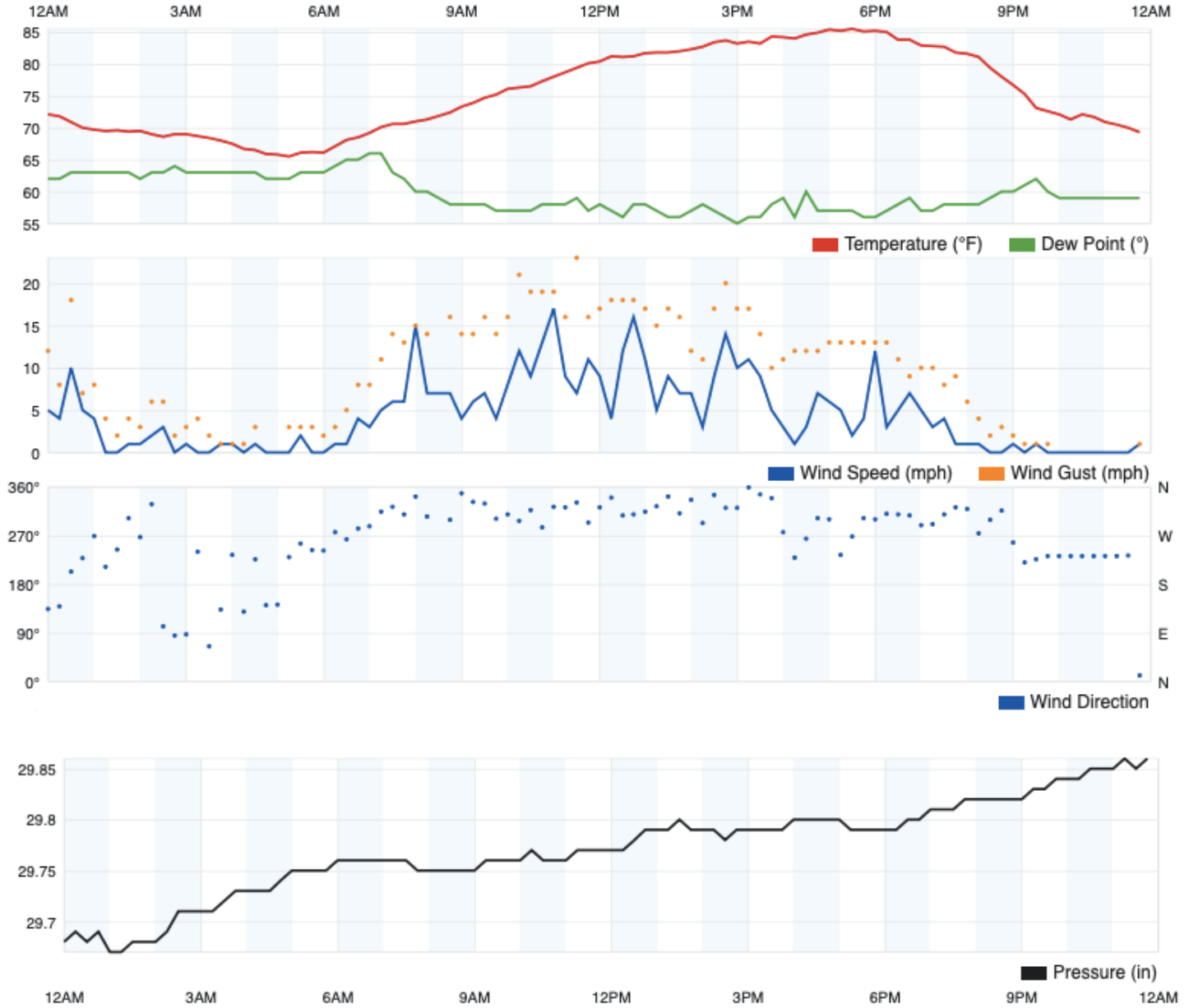
<b>Date</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>July 10</b>	<b>Jr. Legion</b>	<b>Faulkton</b>	<b>Groton</b>	<b>6:00 (2)</b>
<b>July 14</b>	<b>Jr. Legion</b>	<b>Lake Norden</b>	<b>Lake Norden</b>	<b>5:30 (1)</b>
<b>July 14</b>	<b>Legion</b>	<b>Lake Norden</b>	<b>Lake Norden</b>	<b>7:00 (1)</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Jr. Legion</b>	<b>Redfield</b>	<b>Redfield</b>	<b>6:00 (2)</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Legion</b>	<b>Webster</b>	<b>Groton</b>	<b>6:00 (2)</b>
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Jr. Legion</b>	<b>Clark</b>	<b>Clark</b>	<b>6:00 (2)</b>
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Legion</b>	<b>Northville</b>	<b>Groton</b>	<b>6:00 (2)</b>



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny then  
Slight Chance  
T-storms

High: 85 °F

Tonight



T-storms  
Likely

Low: 63 °F

Saturday



Chance  
T-storms

High: 82 °F

Saturday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 55 °F

Sunday



Sunny

High: 85 °F

## ENHANCED RISK OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

### WHAT

Scattered/numerous severe thunderstorms possible. These storms could produce damaging hail and winds, and isolated tornadoes.

### WHERE

Across western/central South Dakota.

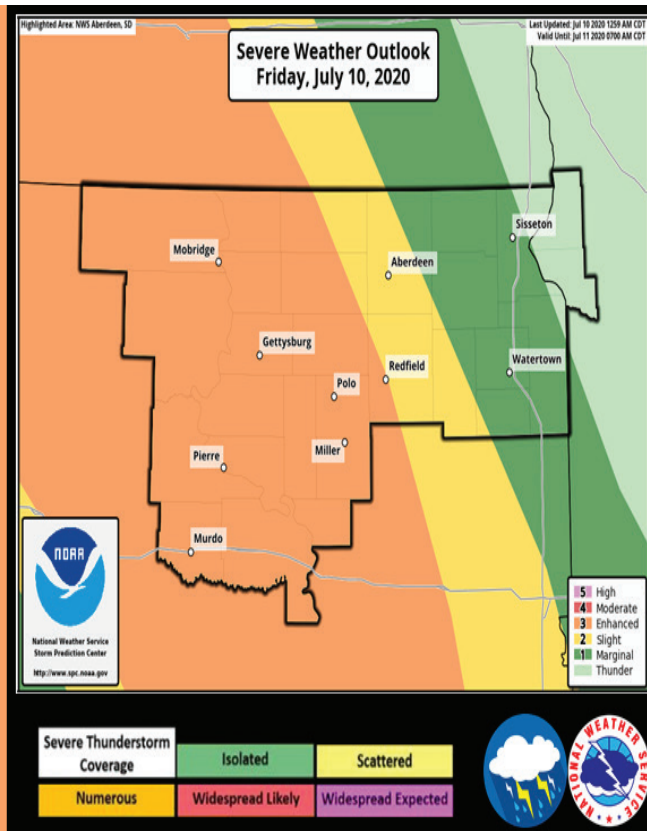
### WHEN

Late afternoon and evening. **The highest risk period will be from 6 pm CDT – Midnight CDT.**

### ACTION

Pay close attention to the weather and be prepared to seek shelter if necessary.

ISSUED: 2:21 AM - Friday, July 10, 2020



Severe storms are expected over mainly western/central South Dakota late this afternoon and evening. Large hail and strong winds are the main threats. #sdwx #mnwx

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## Today in Weather History

July 10, 1998: Flash flooding occurred from Keldron, in Corson County, and areas south, during the late afternoon and evening as a result of up to seven inches of rain that had fallen from slow-moving thunderstorms. Willow Creek and several small tributaries went out of their banks causing the inundation of low areas and county roads. Many county roads were damaged with one farmer losing several pigs and cows as a result of the flooding.

1887: A dam breaks in Zug, Switzerland, killing 70 people in their homes and destroying a large section of the town.

1911: The mercury hit 105 degrees at North Bridgton, Maine the hottest reading of record for Maine. North Bridgton also reached 105 degrees on the 4th of July in 1911.

1913: The mercury hit 134 degrees at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley, California, the hottest reading of record for the World. Sandstorm conditions accompanied the heat.

1926: At the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, lightning struck one of the explosives storage structures during a thunderstorm and started a fire. As a result, several million pounds of explosives detonated over a period of 2–3 days. This explosion not only structural devastation, 187 of 200 buildings destroyed but military and civilian casualties as well. Close to one hundred are injured as explosion spreads havoc within a radius of 15 miles in New Jersey. Otto Dowling was in charge at the time and received a Distinguished Service Cross for his handling of the situation.

1936 - Afternoon highs of 112 degrees at Martinsburg, WV, 109 degrees at Cumberland, MD, and Frederick, MD, 110 degrees at Runyon, NJ, and 111 degrees at Phoenixville, PA, established all-time record highs for those four states. It was the hottest day of record for the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - The temperature at El Paso, TX, hit 112 degrees, an all-time record for that location. The next day was 110 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - The temperature in downtown Kansas City, MO, hit 109 degrees, following a sultry overnight low of 89 degrees. The daily low of 89 degrees was the warmest of record for Kansas City, and overall it was the hottest July day of record. It was the seventh of a record seventeen consecutive days of 100 degree heat, and the mean temperature for the month of 90.2 degrees was also an all-time record for Kansas City.

1987 - An early morning thunderstorm in Minnesota produced wind gusts to 91 mph at Waseca. Later that day, thunderstorms in South Dakota produced wind gusts to 81 mph at Ipswitch, and baseball size hail near Hayes and Capa. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms brought welcome rains to parts of the central U.S., but produced severe weather along the New England coast, in the Great Lakes Region, in North Carolina, and in the Southern Plateau Region. Strong thunderstorm winds gusting to 80 mph at Bullfrog, UT, sank three boats on Lake Powell. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes in the northeastern U.S. A powerful (F-4) tornado struck Hamden CT and New Haven, CT, causing 100 million dollars damage at Hamden, and another 20 million dollars damage around New Haven. Forty persons were injured in the tornado. Seventy persons were injured in a tornado which traveled from Watertown, CT, to Waterbury, CT, and another powerful (F-4) tornado touched down near Ames NY injuring twenty persons along its 43.5 mile track. It was the strongest tornado of record for eastern New York State. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - Hurricane Dennis landed near Pensacola, Florida as a category 3 storm. Maximum sustained winds at the time of landfall were near 120 mph. There were nine hurricane-related fatalities in the U.S. and preliminary estimates of insured losses ranged from \$1 to \$1.5 billion.



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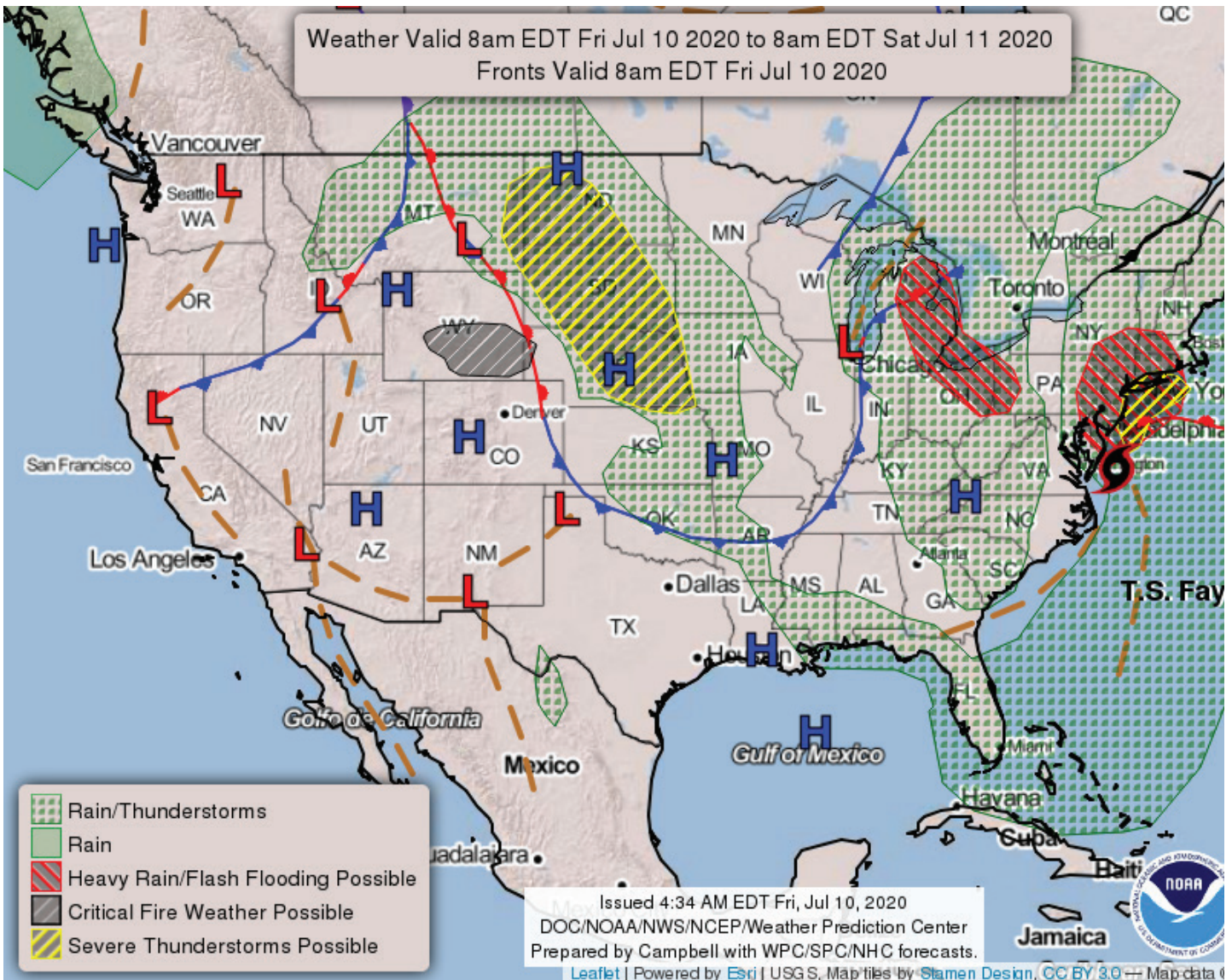
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 86 °F at 5:28 PM**  
**Low Temp: 65 °F at 5:06 AM**  
**Wind: 23 mph at 11:23 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 114° in 1936**  
**Record Low: 42° in 1945**  
**Average High: 83°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in July.: 0.96**  
**Precip to date in July.: 0.32**  
**Average Precip to date: 11.80**  
**Precip Year to Date: 8.64**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:57 a.m.**



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## CHANGE YOUR COURSE!

It was a stormy night. The waves were high, the winds fierce, and the stars hidden behind angry clouds. Suddenly, from the bridge of his ship, the captain saw lights in front of him in the distance. He immediately had his signalman send a message: "I'm the captain of a large battleship. Change your course ten degrees."

Back came a reply: "I'm a seaman first class, Sir. You change your course ten degrees."

"I said I'm a captain. You are a seaman. I order you to change your course ten degrees," replied the captain.

"I would, Sir, but I'm in a lighthouse and can't change my course," came the message from the seaman.

We find some great advice in the book of Proverbs: "There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death." It is one of the most famous Proverbs for its significant and predictable advice. The paths that many individuals travel may "seem right" but are not right. Their "enticing" ways may offer many options and choices that seem exciting and fun-filled, but ultimately, and unfortunately, destroys their lives and ends in despair and death.

The right choice often requires hard work, difficult decisions, self-sacrifice, and even ridicule. Many times the "right choice" may demand a change in lifestyle and force us to give up attractive surroundings and pleasurable experiences.

We must always remember that giving in to the passing pleasures of life often requires us to give up what matters most in life: living to please God and being blessed by Him.

Prayer: Often in life, Heavenly Father, we know the right thing to do. But knowing what is right and doing it is often difficult. Give us Your strength, we pray, to "do right." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12

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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

### **South Dakota plans speedy coronavirus testing for Sturgis**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials said Thursday they will send 20 COVID-19 testing machines capable of producing tests in a matter of minutes to help carry out the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The 80th edition of the annual rally is expected to attract thousands of people to western South Dakota next month, which previous estimates have found that the event draws in \$800 million. About 500,000 people have shown up in previous years, according to estimates from the city of Sturgis. The city council decided to cautiously proceed with the 10-day rally, scaling back some of the events, after realizing motorcycle enthusiasts planned to show up regardless, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Sturgis is making 1,300 tests available for residents. Additionally, the Department of Health plans to send the machines made by Abbott and called "ID NOW" to the area. The machines can produce COVID-19 tests in as little as 13 minutes, according to the company that makes them.

Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon said the state intends to use the machines at universities after Sturgis.

Meanwhile, South Dakota's death toll stemming from the coronavirus pandemic surpassed 100 on Thursday as health officials reported three people who died from COVID-19.

The people who died were all men and came from Pennington, Todd and Yankton counties. Two were in their 60s, while the other was over 80, according to data from the Department of Health.

Health officials also reported 94 new cases. There have been a total of 7,336 cases recorded in the state, but 86% of them have recovered.

### **Setbacks hamper pipeline industry backed by Trump**

By MATTHEW BROWN and CATHY BUSSEWITZ Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — After a U.S. energy boom and strong backing from President Donald Trump propelled a major expansion of the nation's sprawling oil and gas pipeline network, mounting political pressures and legal setbacks have put its future growth in doubt even as the pandemic saps demand for fuel.

Two major oil pipeline projects suffered courtroom blows this week: The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the cancellation of a key permit for the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline from Canada, and a federal judge ordered the Dakota Access Pipeline shut down more than three years after it started moving oil across the U.S. Northern Plains.

The rulings came a day after utilities cancelled an \$8 billion natural gas pipeline through West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina amid mounting delays and bitter opposition from environmentalists.

Industry representatives took consolation from the Supreme Court's decision that the permit it denied for Keystone XL can once again be used for other projects. That would allow more than 70 pipeline projects that faced potentially billions of dollars of delays to proceed.

But that outcome may be "too little too late" for some companies already making changes to their plans, said Ben Cowan, who represents pipeline companies as an attorney with Locke Lord LLP.

The recent blows against the industry have emboldened environmentalists and Native American activists, who routinely oppose fossil fuel pipelines because of potential spills and their contribution to climate change.

Montana farmer Dena Hoff, a Keystone opponent, witnessed the environmental damage that pipelines can cause in 2015 when a pipeline broke beneath the Yellowstone river adjacent to her farm and spilled 31,000 gallons (117,000 liters) of crude that fouled downstream water supplies serving 6,000 people.

She said the years of protests against Keystone and other lines have made the public listen. "There's more to this argument than jobs and tax dollars," Hoff said Thursday.

Industry executives acknowledged pipeline opponents have found some success in the courts, but insist

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that continued demand for oil and gas means new lines will be needed.

"We will meet them at the courthouse and fight these battles out legally at every opportunity," said American Petroleum Institute President Mike Sommers. "The activist community doesn't want to build anything, anywhere."

Construction crews installed almost 30,000 miles (48,000 kilometers) of new oil pipelines and nearly 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometers) of new interstate gas transmission lines over the past 10 years, according to government data and figures provided by the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America. Most projects attracted far less attention than huge endeavors like the 600-mile (965-kilometer) Atlantic Coast line. That shows companies can successfully balance landowner concerns, environmental impacts and similar issues, said Joan Dreskin, vice president of the gas association.

The building spree came after breakthroughs in drilling techniques allowed fossil fuel companies to ramp up production and make the U.S. the world's top oil and gas producer.

That steep rise toppled off a cliff earlier this year, when a price dispute between Russia and Saudi Arabia combined with the onset of the pandemic caused oil prices to crater. Natural gas prices also have fallen in recent years, driven in part by oversupply.

A loss by Trump in November could add to the industry's troubles. Since his election, the Republican president has issued directives to speed up pipeline permitting and even interceded personally with Keystone XL, issuing a special presidential permit for the 1,200-mile (1,900-kilometer) pipeline that would stretch from Alberta to Nebraska after it was stalled by an earlier court ruling.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's campaign has said he would rescind Keystone's permit. His administration also could make it harder for Dakota Access to resume operations and prolong the court-ordered environmental review of the project, said Aaron Brady, vice president of energy at IHS Markit.

Dakota Access is by far the largest pipeline out of the Bakken shale formation of North Dakota and Montana. An extended shutdown could force oil companies to use more costly and risky transport methods, such as by rail.

Similar constraints loom over natural gas producers with the defeat of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and successful attempts to block pipelines in the Northeast. That could rein in future growth of the Marcellus gas fields, which boosted U.S. production to record highs last decade, said Rich Redash, head of global gas planning at S&P Global Platts.

"It's going to be more challenging to expand, particularly if you're in an area where the opposition is organized, better funded and supported by state and local elected officials," Redash said.

The Keystone case was referred back the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals for further consideration. That could leave unresolved for another year or longer the fate of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' permit program that pipeline companies use for quick approval of the hundreds of river and wetlands crossings involved with large pipeline projects.

Environmentalists and local officials already are using the original ruling that cancelled the permit as justification to seek court orders against other projects, such as the Permian Highway pipeline in Texas.

Despite high-profile spills and fatal gas transmission explosions, the industry for years has avoided proposed safety regulations that would require companies to install costly automatic shut-off valves for pipelines. Meanwhile, courtroom fights and protests against pipelines have only gotten more intense.

As that opposition gets more sophisticated, it will mean more delays and higher costs for projects that rely on federal permits, said Jason Bordoff, founding director at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy.

"Trump's energy dominance agenda backfired, as his Administration was taken to task for cutting corners in their environmental reviews," Bordoff said in an email. "With a more careful and thorough environmental review process, other pipeline projects may yet be able to move forward."

\_\_\_ Bussewitz reported from New York.

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

## Mount Rushmore fireworks cost South Dakota \$1.5 million

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota spent approximately \$1.5 million for its Independence Day celebration that featured a speech from President Donald Trump and fireworks above the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, the Department of Tourism announced on Thursday.

The estimate covers all security, transportation and pyrotechnics for the event, with the fireworks display alone costing the state \$350,000. But the Department of Tourism said the advertising exposure and tourism spending more than made up for the expense.

“Our goal with the fireworks celebration was to put a spotlight on the grandeur of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and position South Dakota front and center in the minds of potential visitors,” said Jim Hagen, Secretary of the Department of Tourism.

The Department of Tourism estimated that tourists who spent \$2 million brought in about \$160,000 in tax revenue. It also estimated the media coverage of the fireworks was worth about \$22 million in advertising.

The state paid for the fireworks out of a fund designed to spur research and economic development. The Department of Tourism said it will pick up the bill for the rest of the expenses.

## AP EXPLAINS: Why India cases are rising to multiple peaks

By EMILY SCHMALL and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — In just three weeks, India went from the world’s sixth worst-affected country by the coronavirus to the third, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. India’s fragile health system was bolstered during a stringent monthslong lockdown but could still be overwhelmed by an exponential rise in infections.

Here is where India stands in its battle against the virus:

### STEADY CLIMB, MULTIPLE PEAKS

India has tallied 793,802 infections and more than 21,600 deaths, with cases doubling every three weeks. It’s testing more than 250,000 samples daily after months of sluggishness, but experts say this is insufficient for a country of nearly 1.4 billion people.

“This whole thing about the ‘peak’ is a false bogey because we won’t have one peak in India, but a series of peaks,” said Dr. Anant Bhan, a bioethics and global health researcher. He pointed out that the capital of New Delhi and India’s financial capital, Mumbai, had already seen surges, while infections had now begun spreading to smaller cities as governments eased restrictions. The actual toll would be unknown, he said, unless India made testing more accessible.

### DUBIOUS DATA

The Health Ministry said Thursday that India was doing “relatively well” managing COVID-19, pointing to 13 deaths per 1 million people, compared to about 400 in the United States and 320 in Brazil. But knowing the actual toll in India is “absolutely impossible” because there is no reporting mechanism in most places for any kind of death, said Dr. Jayaprakash Muliyl, an epidemiologist at the Christian Medical College in Vellore who has been advising the government.

Official data shows 43% of the people who have died from the coronavirus were between the ages of 30 and 60, but research globally indicates that the disease is particularly fatal to the elderly, suggesting to Muliyl that many virus deaths among older Indians “don’t get picked up” or counted in the virus fatality numbers.

### “NO CENTRAL COORDINATION”

In India, public health is managed at a state level, and some have managed better than others. The southern state of Kerala, where India’s first three virus cases were reported, has been held up as a model. It isolated patients early, traced and quarantined contacts and tested aggressively. By contrast, Delhi, the state that includes the national capital, has been sharply criticized for failing to anticipate a surge of cases in recent weeks as lockdown measures eased. Patients have died after being turned away from COVID-designated hospitals that said they were at capacity. It led the Home Ministry to intervene and allocate 500 railway cars as makeshift hospital wards.



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But as the capital rushes to conjure new beds, officials admit that they're worried about the lack of trained and experienced health care workers. According to Jishnu Das, a professor of economics at Georgetown University, there is "no central coordination" to move health care staff from one state to another, exposing India's relative inability to use data to guide policy decisions.

"The one big thing that we're learning from this pandemic is it takes any cracks in our systems and it drives a chisel to them. So, it's no longer a crack, it's a huge chasm," Das said.

## INDIA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL FIGHT

India has seven vaccines in various stages of clinical trial, including one by Bharat Biotech that the Indian Council on Medical Research pledged would have results from human trials by Aug. 15, the country's Independence Day. The top medical research body quickly backtracked, but regardless of whether India comes out on top in the global race for a vaccine, the country will play a critical role in the world's inoculation against COVID-19.

The Serum Institute of India in the central Indian city of Pune is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer. India makes about 1,000 ventilators and 600,000 personal protective equipment kits per day, according to government think-tank Niti Aayog, making it the second largest kit maker in the world after China.

## THE ECONOMIC CURVE

Although Indian airspace remains closed to commercial airlines from abroad, India's economy has largely reopened. Consumer activity has rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, government data showed, and factory workers who fled cities when India imposed its lockdown March 24 have begun to return, enticed, in some cases, by employers offering free room and board.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has used the health crisis along with a military standoff with China over a disputed border region to rally the country around the idea of a "self-reliant India" whose home-grown industries will emerge stronger. Approval ratings that U.S. pollster Morning Consult estimate at 82% suggest many Indians are with him, even after the hasty lockdown triggered a humanitarian crisis, with thousands of migrant workers fleeing on foot toward their natal villages, and as two top government scientists on the front lines of the coronavirus fight stepping down in recent weeks. With the coronavirus nowhere near abating in India, how Modi will fare as the toll of infections and deaths continues to rise is still unclear.

## Authorities search for 'Glee' star believed to have drowned

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

Authorities planned Friday to renew the search for "Glee" star Naya Rivera, who is believed to have drowned in a Southern California lake while boating with her 4-year-old son.

Rivera, 33, disappeared after renting the pontoon boat for three hours Wednesday afternoon and taking it out on Lake Piru in Ventura County, the Sheriff's Office said Thursday.

The lake an hour's drive from Los Angeles was searched by dozens of people, most of them divers, with help from helicopters, drones and all-terrain vehicles. The search to recover Rivera's body continued into the night Thursday before ending for that day.

The area where the boat was found is about 30 feet (9 meters) deep. Murky waters heavy with plants made it difficult for divers to see more than about a foot ahead of them, sheriff's Sgt. Kevin Donoghue said Thursday.

"If the body is entangled on something beneath the water, it may never come back up," Donoghue said.

Rivera played Santana Lopez, a singing cheerleader in 113 episodes of the musical-comedy "Glee," which aired on Fox from 2009 until 2015. She also had recurring roles on "The Bernie Mac Show" and "The Royal Family."

Rivera, a Los Angeles resident, had experience boating on the lake in Los Padres National Forest, Donoghue said.

Surveillance video taken at about 1 p.m. Wednesday shows Rivera and her son, Josey Hollis Dorsey, leaving on the rented boat.

When the boat failed to return, its vendor found the vessel drifting in the northern end of the lake late

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Wednesday afternoon with the boy asleep on board. He told investigators that he and his mother had been swimming and he got back into the boat but she didn't, according to a sheriff's office statement.

The boy was wearing a life vest and another life jacket was found in the boat along with Rivera's purse and identification.

Rivera is believed to have drowned "in what appears to be a tragic accident," the statement said.

The boy, Rivera's son from her marriage to actor Ryan Dorsey, was safe and healthy and with family members, authorities said. The couple finalized their divorce in June 2018 after nearly four years of marriage.

She called the boy, her only child, "my greatest success, and I will never do any better than him" in her 2016 memoir "Sorry Not Sorry."

The most recent tweet on Rivera's account, from Tuesday, read "just the two of us" along with a photo of her and her son.

It appeared increasingly likely she would become the third major cast member from the show to die in their 30s.

Co-star Mark Salling, who Rivera dated at one point, killed himself in 2018 at age 35 after pleading guilty to child pornography charges.

Cory Monteith, one of the show's leads, died at 31 in 2013 from a toxic mix of alcohol and heroin.

Rivera was engaged to rapper Big Sean in 2013, but their relationship ended a year later. The pair met on Twitter and collaborated musically, with the rapper appearing on Rivera's debut single "Sorry." She married Dorsey a few months later.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

## Seoul mayor's death prompts sympathy, questions of his acts

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The sudden death of Seoul's mayor, reportedly implicated in a sexual harassment complaint, has prompted an outpouring of public sympathy even as it has raised questions about a man who built his career as a reform-minded politician and self-described feminist.

Park Won-soon was found dead on a wooded hill in northern Seoul early Friday, about seven hours after his daughter reported to police he had left her a "will-like" verbal message and then left their home. Authorities launched a massive search for the 64-year-old Park before rescue dogs found his body.

Police said there was no sign of foul play at the site though they refused to disclose the cause of death. On Friday morning, Seoul officials said they were releasing what they called Park's "will" found at his residence at the request of his family.

"I feel sorry to everyone. I thank everyone who has been with me in my life," the note shown on TV said. It continued with a request that his remains be cremated and scattered around his parents' graves.

Park was a huge figure in South Korean politics. As a former human rights lawyer, he led two of South Korea's most influential civic groups and was mayor of Seoul, the South Korean capital city with 10 million people, since 2011. He was widely considered a leading liberal candidate for president when his political ally and current President Moon Jae-in's single five-year term ends in 2022.

His death shocked many.

His supporters wailed and shouted slogans like "We love you" and "We are sorry" when his body arrived at a Seoul hospital. His name was the most popular search word on main internet portal sites, and condolence messages flooded social media. On one TV program Friday morning, a panelist choked up and couldn't continue talking about Park.

"I really respected him ... I hope he can realize all his dreams in heaven," Kim Young-hyun, a small business owner, said near Seoul City Hall.

But anti-Park sentiment also erupted amid media reports that one of his female secretaries had lodged a complaint with police on Wednesday night over alleged sexual harassment over an extend period. Po-

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lice only confirmed that a complaint against Park had been filed but cited privacy issues in refusing to elaborate, including about whether the complaint was about sexual behavior.

The Associated Press made numerous calls to police, who declined to provide more details about the complaint.

Some critics questioned the image of a man who had portrayed himself as "a feminist mayor" dedicated to gender equality and a vocal supporter of the "#MeToo" movement.

During his days as a human rights lawyer, Park won South Korea's first sexual harassment conviction in 1998, following a yearslong legal battle in which he represented a Seoul National University research assistant who accused a professor of making sexual advances and firing her after she rejected them. As mayor, he appointed a special adviser on gender equality issues and introduced policies aimed at designing safer urban environments for women and providing affordable housing for working single women.

"I think Park did something wrong. It's also regrettable for anyone in public service to be embroiled in such an allegation regardless of whether it's true or not," said Lee Ji-hye, a resident near Seoul. "As a former human rights lawyer, he was accused of doing something bad but we cannot directly ask him about his position because he's gone now. That's very disappointing, too."

Professor Yi Han Sang at Korea University criticized the Seoul city government for planning to establish a public mourning area near its building and use official funds for Park's funeral next week. He said the city government must stop acts that could lead to public criticism of the alleged victim and focus on thinking about how to protect her and find the truth about the allegation.

A stream of Park's fellow politicians affiliated with the governing Democratic Party and senior presidential officials visited a private mourning site at Seoul National University Hospital. Media photos showed sympathy flowers bearing President Moon Jae-in's name placed there. Presidential chief of staff Noh Young-min told reporters at the hospital that Moon called Park's death "very shocking," Yonhap news agency reported.

When Lee Hae-chan, the Democratic Party chief, confronted journalists there, one asked him how the harassment allegations should be handled. Lee scolded the journalist for asking a "rude" question that he said shouldn't be raised in that place.

There are worries that the public mourning for Park could lead to criticism of the alleged victim, whose identify is largely unknown. Ryu Ho-jeong of the small liberal opposition Justice Party wrote on Facebook that she won't pay respects to Park, saying she doesn't want the alleged victim to "feel lonely." Her message drew both strong support and opposition online.

Though women's rights have gradually improved in recent years, South Korea largely remains a male-centered society. The #MeToo movement that began in 2018 in South Korea successfully targeted many male celebrities, but the women who raised allegations sometimes faced strong online attacks and other backlash from supporters of the alleged abusers.

The most prominent South Korean man caught in the #MeToo movement was South Chungcheong Province Gov. Ahn Hee-jung, a liberal who is now serving a prison term of three and a half years for raping his former secretary. Earlier this year, Oh Keo-don, the former mayor of Busan, the country's second-largest city, stepped down after a female public servant accused him of sexually assaulting her in his office.

## Trump looks for political edge in latest high court rulings

By JESSICA GRESKO and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump won the White House on the promise of bringing a conservative shift to the Supreme Court. But this year and last, even with two justices Trump hand-picked, the court has shown it is no rubber stamp for him or his administration's policies. That's drawn the president's ire and teed up a renewed battle over the court as Trump seeks political advantage ahead of November's election.

In the last few weeks, as the court has handed down its biggest decisions of the term, Trump found himself with mounting losses and just a few wins. Trump's high-profile defeats began in mid-June. First, the court ruled that a landmark civil rights law protects gay, lesbian and transgender people from dis-



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crimination in employment. Then, it said the Trump administration hadn't acted properly in ending the 8-year-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which protects some 650,000 young immigrants from deportation.

Finally, on Thursday, in two cases about access to Trump's financial records, the justices rejected broad arguments by Trump's lawyers and the Justice Department that the president is absolutely immune from investigation while he holds office or that a prosecutor must show a greater need than normal to obtain the records.

Despite White House's claims of victory in the Thursday cases, Trump was livid — lashing out on Twitter about the high court and painting its ruling as part of a pattern of "political prosecution" against him.

The rejection of Trump's assertions of executive power was tempered by the practical impact of the Supreme Court's decision to remand the cases to lower courts — all but assuring that the potentially embarrassing disclosures won't be required before his political fate is decided on Nov. 3.

Trump did notch two wins in important religious liberty cases on Wednesday, but he wasn't in a celebratory mood after Thursday's decisions.

"Courts in the past have given 'broad deference'. BUT NOT ME!" he tweeted. And: "Now the Supreme Court gives a delay ruling that they would never have given...for another President."

Last month, after the administration lost the DACA case, Trump tweeted: "Do you get the impression that the Supreme Court doesn't like me?"

He followed with an appeal to his base supporters, perhaps hinting at a future campaign theme: "These horrible & politically charged decisions coming out of the Supreme Court are shotgun blasts into the face of people that are proud to call themselves Republicans or Conservatives. We need more Justices or we will lose our 2nd. Amendment & everything else. Vote Trump 2020!"

The attacks on the court marked a return for Trump to a key issue in his 2016 campaign.

Four years ago, it was clear the incoming president would fill a Supreme Court seat left vacant by the death of conservative Justice Antonin Scalia and the Republican-held Senate's refusal to hold hearings on President Barack Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland. To reassure wary conservatives, Trump took the unprecedented step of releasing lists of judges he said he'd likely select from if elected president.

"If you really like Donald Trump, that's great, but if you don't, you have to vote for me anyway. You know why? Supreme Court judges," he said at a July 2016 rally in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Once elected, Trump delivered.

He selected conservative justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to fill the seats of Scalia and Anthony Kennedy, who retired in 2018. Their selection, however, hasn't meant automatic wins for Trump at the court, which has a 5-4 conservative majority. The DACA ruling was 5-4, with Chief Justice John Roberts joining the court's liberals. In the LGBT ruling, Gorsuch joined with Roberts and the court's liberals in ruling 6-3 against the administration.

On Thursday, Gorsuch and Kavanaugh joined the majority in both cases along with Roberts and the four liberal justices. Roberts wrote both opinions.

"The justices did not rule against him, in fact it was a unanimous opinion saying that this needs to go back to the district court, and they even recognized that the president has an ample arsenal of arguments that he can make," White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany claimed. Still, she acknowledged, Trump "takes issue with the point that the majority made on absolute immunity."

Trump has seen mixed results in past terms too. In 2018, the court's conservatives upheld the president's travel ban. Last year, Roberts' vote with the court's liberals kept the administration from putting a controversial citizenship question on the 2020 census.

Those losses were at least in part due to legal strategies that lawyers for Trump and his administration embraced in pursuing rapid changes and using what experts called weak legal arguments.

But Trump, in an effort to draw a contrast with presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden and stoke enthusiasm among social conservatives who played a pivotal role in electing the president four years ago, is using his defeats to argue that work in reshaping the court is only just getting started.

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After the stinging losses in the DACA and LGBT cases, Trump last month promised to release a new list of “conservative” judges he would choose from should a new vacancy arise.

Elizabeth Wydra, president of the liberal Constitutional Accountability Center, said that presidential candidates of both parties should make judicial nominations and the courts part of their campaigns, particularly because while a presidency lasts four or eight years, judges sit for decades. And she noted judicial nominations took on singular importance in Trump’s 2016 campaign because Republican voters were uncomfortable with some other aspects of his candidacy.

“Republican voters have focused on the courts probably more than Democratic voters have. I think that might be starting to change,” she said, adding that she believes “progressives have been a little late to the game” in focusing on judicial nominations.

“With abortion rights so clearly in the balance I think progressives are really waking up to the crucial importance of the courts,” she said.

Biden months ago made something of a promise related to the Supreme Court, saying he’d be “honored to appoint the first African American woman” to the court.

## Oxygen already runs low as COVID-19 surges in South Africa

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The coronavirus storm has arrived in South Africa, but in the overflowing COVID-19 wards the sound is less of a roar than a rasp.

Oxygen is already low in hospitals at the new epicenter of the country’s outbreak, Gauteng province, home to the power centers of Johannesburg and the capital, Pretoria.

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, visiting a hospital Friday, said authorities are working with industry to address the strained oxygen supply and divert more to health facilities.

Some of the hospital’s patients spilled into heated tents in the parking lot. They lay under thick blankets in the middle of winter in the Southern Hemisphere, with a cold front arriving this weekend and temperatures expected to dip below freezing.

South Africa overnight posted another record daily high of confirmed cases, 13,674, as Africa’s most developed country is a new global hot spot with 238,339 cases overall. More than a third are in Gauteng.

“The storm that we have consistently warned South Africans about is now arriving,” Mkhize said this week.

A nurse at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital — the third largest hospital in the world with more than 3,000 beds — painted a bleak picture, saying new patients with the virus are now being admitted into ordinary wards as the COVID-19 ones are full.

“Our hospital is overloaded already. There has been an influx of patients over the last two weeks,” the nurse said, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give interviews.

More and more colleagues at the hospital are testing positive daily for the virus, the nurse said, “even people who are not working in COVID wards.”

Already more than 8,000 health workers across Africa have been infected — half of them in South Africa.

Any struggles in how the country manages the pandemic will be amplified in other nations across Africa, which has the world’s lowest levels of health funding and health staffing.

The continent as of Friday had 541,381 confirmed cases, but shortages in testing materials means the real number is unknown.

South Africa’s surge in cases comes as the country loosens what had been one of the world’s strictest lockdowns, with even alcohol sales banned until June 1. Now restaurants have sit-down service and religious gatherings have resumed. The economy was hurting and needed reopening, authorities said.

But nervous officials in Gauteng province have called for stricter lockdown measures to return. On Friday, Gauteng Premier David Makhura announced he had tested positive with mild symptoms.

“We must double our efforts,” he said in a statement, urging people to wear face masks, wash their hands and distance themselves.

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Warning signs keep flashing. Hospital beds in all provinces could be full within the month, the health minister said this week. On Friday he said a team is looking at 2,000 additional beds for field hospitals in Gauteng.

In addition to the shortage of beds, many hospitals are grappling with limited oxygen supplies to treat patients with the respiratory disease.

Guy Richards, director of clinical care at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital in Johannesburg, told the AP they are extremely worried about potential shortages.

"Even a big hospital like ours has difficulty supplying sufficient amounts of oxygenation for our patients. The same thing is happening at Helen Joseph (Hospital), and this is a major problem," he said.

Tshwane District Hospital, which the health minister visited Friday, has been devoted completely to COVID-19 patients, said Veronica Ueckermann, head of the COVID-19 response team at Steve Biko Academic Hospital, which includes Tshwane District Hospital.

"Currently we are stretched but we are still coping in terms of our wards, our sisters and doctors are working extremely hard," she said.

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

## Homeland Security gets new role under Trump monument order

By BEN FOX and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Protesters who have clashed with authorities in the Pacific Northwest are not just confronting local police. Some are also facing off against federal officers whose presence reflects President Donald Trump's decision to make cracking down on "violent mayhem" a federal priority.

The Department of Homeland Security has deployed officers in tactical gear from around the country, and from more than a half-dozen federal law enforcement agencies and departments, to Portland, Oregon, as part of a surge aimed at what a senior official said were people taking advantage of demonstrations over the police killing of George Floyd to commit violence and vandalism.

"Once we surged federal law enforcement officers to Portland, the agitators quickly got the message," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing operation.

The deployment represents somewhat of a departure for DHS, which was created after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and is primarily focused on threats from abroad and border security. During the Trump presidency, its focus has been largely on carrying out the president's tough immigration agenda. Now it is in the role of supporting Trump's law-and-order campaign, raising questions about overstepping the duties of local law enforcement.

Portland Deputy Police Chief Chris Davis said his department did not request the assistance and did not coordinate efforts with the federal government amid often chaotic clashes that have ranged across several downtown blocks after midnight for weeks.

"I don't have authority to order federal officers to do things," Davis said. "It does complicate things for us."

The DHS officers' presence comes at an incredibly tense moment for Portland. After Floyd's death, the city for days saw marches and rallies that attracted more than 10,000 generally peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters to the downtown area. The police took a "mostly hands-off approach" to those events because they were orderly, Davis said.

Civil liberties advocates and activists have accused federal authorities of overstepping their jurisdiction and excessive use of crowd-control measures, including using tear gas and patrolling beyond the boundaries of federal property. Portland police are prohibited from using tear gas under a recent temporary court order unless they declare a riot.

"DHS should go back to investigating the rise of white supremacist activity and actors who are seeking



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to cause violence against these peaceful protests, that is under the purview of the agency's mission," said Andrea Flores, the deputy director of immigration policy at the American Civil Liberties Union who was a DHS official during the Obama administration.

Trump issued an executive order on June 26 to protect monuments after protesters tried to remove or destroy statues of people considered racist, including a failed attempt to pull down one of Andrew Jackson near the White House.

The president has denounced the Black Lives Matter movement and protests calling for the removal of statues honoring racist figures, associating peaceful protests with the sporadic outbursts of vandalism and looting at some demonstrations. He referred to "the violent mayhem we have seen in the streets of cities that are run by liberal Democrats," as well as the "merciless campaign to wipe out our history," in his July 3 Mount Rushmore speech.

Following the executive order, DHS created the Protecting American Communities Task Force and sent officers from Customs and Border Protection and other agencies to Washington, D.C., Seattle and Portland. Others were ready to deploy elsewhere if needed.

Improving coordination among law enforcement agencies is part of DHS's mission. It also oversees the Federal Protective Service, which guards federal government buildings around the nation.

But the FPS doesn't have the resources to respond to the kind of sustained attacks that have taken place in Portland and elsewhere on the margins of protests over the May 25 killing of Floyd in Minneapolis.

Federal Protective Service Officer David Underwood was shot and killed outside a federal building in Oakland during a protest in May. Authorities charged an Air Force staff sergeant affiliated with the far-right, anti-government "boogaloo" movement with his murder.

As local governments in Washington, D.C., and Portland have stepped back to allow space for peaceful demonstrations, the Trump administration has stepped up its effort against what the senior official called "opportunistic criminals."

Attorney General William Barr says there have been more than 150 arrests on federal charges around the country, with about 500 investigations pending related to recent protests. There were at least seven in Portland in recent days.

Portland police officials say the cycle of nightly attacks, which have shut down much of the downtown, has been unprecedented. Early Thursday, a man in a SUV fired several times into the air as he drove away from protesters who had surrounded his car. "We've never seen this intensity of violence and focused criminal activity over this long period of time," Davis said.

Among the federal forces deployed in Portland are members of an elite Border Patrol tactical team, a special operations unit that is based on the U.S.-Mexico border and has been deployed overseas, including to Iraq and Afghanistan.

BORTAC members, identifiable by patches on their camouflage sleeves, are mixed in with Federal Protective Service outside the courthouse. Others in the unit, which includes snipers, have been stationed in "overlook" positions on the courthouse's ninth floor, where a protester in a black hoodie shined a green laser into the eyes of one of the officers on Monday, according to court documents.

The night before, a BORTAC agent tackled and arrested a demonstrator suspected of pointing a laser at him and others from a park across the street from the courthouse.

A former DHS official said BORTAC agents were viewed as "highly trained, valuable, scarce resources" and would typically be used for domestic law enforcement in extraordinary circumstances. "These units don't normally sit around idle," said the official, who spoke on condition anonymity because he no longer works at the agency, after serving under Trump and President Barack Obama, and is not authorized to discuss operations.

"What did they get pulled off of in order to watch over statues?"

— Fox reported from Washington.

## **AP: After lobbying, Catholic Church won \$1.4B in virus aid**

By REESE DUNKLIN and MICHAEL REZENDES Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Roman Catholic Church used a special and unprecedented exemption from federal rules to amass at least \$1.4 billion in taxpayer-backed coronavirus aid, with many millions going to dioceses that have paid huge settlements or sought bankruptcy protection because of clergy sexual abuse cover-ups.

The church's haul may have reached -- or even exceeded -- \$3.5 billion, making a global religious institution with more than a billion followers among the biggest winners in the U.S. government's pandemic relief efforts, an Associated Press analysis of federal data released this week found.

Houses of worship and faith-based organizations that promote religious beliefs aren't usually eligible for money from the U.S. Small Business Administration. But as the economy plummeted and jobless rates soared, Congress let faith groups and other nonprofits tap into the Paycheck Protection Program, a \$659 billion fund created to keep main street open and Americans employed.

By aggressively promoting the payroll program and marshaling resources to help affiliates navigate its shifting rules, Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools and other ministries have so far received approval for at least 3,500 forgivable loans, AP found.

The Archdiocese of New York, for example, received 15 loans worth at least \$28 million just for its top executive offices. Its iconic St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue was approved for at least \$1 million.

In Orange County, California, where a sparkling glass cathedral estimated to cost over \$70 million recently opened, diocesan officials working at the complex received four loans worth at least \$3 million.

And elsewhere, a loan of at least \$2 million went to the diocese covering Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, where a church investigation revealed last year that then-Bishop Michael Bransfield embezzled funds and made sexual advances toward young priests.

Simply being eligible for low-interest loans was a new opportunity. But the church couldn't have been approved for so many loans -- which the government will forgive if they are used for wage, rent and utilities -- without a second break.

Religious groups persuaded the Trump administration to free them from a rule that typically disqualifies an applicant with more than 500 workers. Without this preferential treatment, many Catholic dioceses would have been ineligible because -- between their head offices, parishes and other affiliates -- their employees exceed the 500-person cap.

"The government grants special dispensation, and that creates a kind of structural favoritism," said Micah Schwartzman, a University of Virginia law professor specializing in constitutional issues and religion who has studied the Paycheck Protection Program. "And that favoritism was worth billions of dollars."

The amount that the church collected, between \$1.4 billion and \$3.5 billion, is an undercount. The Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference, an organization of Catholic financial officers, surveyed members and reported that about 9,000 Catholic entities received loans. That is nearly three times the number of Catholic recipients the AP could identify.

The AP couldn't find more Catholic beneficiaries because the government's data, released after pressure from Congress and a lawsuit from news outlets including the AP, didn't name recipients of loans under \$150,000 -- a category in which many smaller churches would fall. And because the government released only ranges of loan amounts, it wasn't possible to be more precise.

Even without a full accounting, AP's analysis places the Catholic Church among the major beneficiaries in the Paycheck Protection Program, which also has helped companies backed by celebrities, billionaires, state governors and members of Congress.

The program was open to all religious groups, and many took advantage. Evangelical advisers to President Donald Trump, including his White House spiritual czar, Paula White-Cain, also received loans.

### 'TRULY IN NEED'

There is no doubt that state shelter-in-place orders disrupted houses of worship and businesses alike.

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Masses were canceled, even during the Holy Week and Easter holidays, depriving parishes of expected revenue and contributing to layoffs in some dioceses. Some families of Catholic school students are struggling to make tuition payments. And the expense of disinfecting classrooms once classes resume will put additional pressure on budgets.

But other problems were self-inflicted. Long before the pandemic, scores of dioceses faced increasing financial pressure because of a dramatic rise in recent clergy sex abuse claims.

The scandals that erupted in 2018 reverberated throughout the world. Pope Francis ordered the former archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, to a life of "prayer and penance" following allegations he abused minors and adult seminarians. And a damning grand jury report about abuse in six Pennsylvania dioceses revealed bishops had long covered for predator priests, spurring investigations in more than 20 other states.

As the church again reckoned with its longtime crisis, abuse reports tripled during the year ending June 2019 to a total of nearly 4,500 nationally. Meanwhile, dioceses and religious orders shelled out \$282 million that year — up from \$106 million just five years earlier. Most of that went to settlements, in addition to legal fees and support for offending clergy.

Loan recipients included about 40 dioceses that have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in the past few years paying victims through compensation funds or bankruptcy proceedings. AP's review found that these dioceses were approved for about \$200 million, though the value is likely much higher.

One was the New York Archdiocese. As a successful battle to lift the statute of limitations on the filing of child sexual abuse lawsuits gathered steam, Cardinal Timothy Dolan established a victim compensation fund in 2016. Since then, other dioceses have established similar funds, which offer victims relatively quick settlements while dissuading them from filing lawsuits.

Spokesperson Joseph Zwilling said the archdiocese simply wanted to be "treated equally and fairly under the law." When asked about the waiver from the 500-employee cap that religious organizations received, Zwilling deferred to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

A spokesperson for the bishops' conference acknowledged its officials lobbied for the paycheck program, but said the organization wasn't tracking what dioceses and Catholic agencies received.

"These loans are an essential lifeline to help faith-based organizations to stay afloat and continue serving those in need during this crisis," spokesperson Chieko Noguchi said in a written statement. According to AP's data analysis, the church and all its organizations reported retaining at least 407,900 jobs with the money they were awarded.

Noguchi also wrote the conference felt strongly that "the administration write and implement this emergency relief fairly for all applicants."

Not every Catholic institution sought government loans. The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy based in Stamford, Connecticut, told AP that even though its parishes experienced a decline in donations, none of the organizations in its five-state territory submitted applications.

Deacon Steve Wisnowski, a financial officer for the eparchy, said pastors and church managers used their rainy-day savings and that parishioners responded generously with donations. As a result, parishes "did not experience a severe financial crisis."

Wisnowski said his superiors understood the program was for "organizations and businesses truly in need of assistance."

## LOBBYING FOR A BREAK

The law that created the Paycheck Protection Program let nonprofits participate, as long as they abided by SBA's "affiliation rule." The rule typically says that only businesses with fewer than 500 employees, including at all subsidiaries, are eligible.

Lobbying by the church helped religious organizations get an exception.

The Catholic News Service reported that the bishops' conference and several major Catholic nonprofit agencies worked throughout the week of March 30 to ensure that the "unique nature of the entities

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would not make them ineligible for the program" because of how SBA defines a "small" business. Those conversations came just days after President Trump signed the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which included the Paycheck Protection Program.

In addition, federal records show the Los Angeles archdiocese, whose leader heads the bishops' conference, paid \$20,000 to lobby the U.S. Senate and House on "eligibility for non-profits" under the CARES Act. The records also show that Catholic Charities USA, a social service arm of the church with member agencies in dioceses across the country, paid another \$30,000 to lobby on the act and other issues.

In late April, after thousands of Catholic institutions had secured loans, several hundred Catholic leaders pressed for additional help on a call with President Trump. During the call, Trump underscored the coming presidential election and touted himself as the candidate best aligned with religious conservatives, boasting he was the "best (president) the Catholic church has ever seen," according to Crux, an online publication that covers church-related news.

The lobbying paid off.

Catholic Charities USA and its member agencies were approved for about 110 loans worth between \$90 million and \$220 million at least, according to the data.

In a statement, Catholic Charities said: "Each organization is a separate legal entity under the auspices of the bishop in the diocese in which the agency is located. CCUSA supports agencies that choose to become members, but does not have any role in their daily operations or governance."

The Los Angeles archdiocese told AP in a survey that reporters sent before the release of federal data that 247 of its 288 parishes -- and all but one of its 232 schools -- received loans. The survey covered more than 180 dioceses and eparchies.

Like most dioceses, Los Angeles wouldn't disclose its total dollar amount. While the federal data doesn't link Catholic recipients to their home dioceses, AP found 37 loans to the archdiocese and its affiliates worth between \$9 million and \$23 million, including one for its downtown cathedral.

In 2014, the archdiocese paid a record \$660 million to settle sex abuse claims from more than 500 victims. Spokespeople for Los Angeles Archbishop Jose M. Gomez did not respond to additional questions about the archdiocese's finances and lobbying.

In program materials, SBA officials said they provided the affiliation waiver to religious groups in deference to their unique organizational structure, and because the public health response to slow the coronavirus' spread disrupted churches just as it did businesses.

SBA did not respond to written questions and requests for comment.

Meanwhile, some legal experts say that the special consideration the government gave faith groups in the loan program has further eroded the wall between church and state provided in the First Amendment. With that erosion, religious groups that don't pay taxes have gained more access to public money, said Marci Hamilton, a University of Pennsylvania professor and attorney who has represented clergy abuse victims on constitutional issues during bankruptcy proceedings.

"At this point, the argument is you're anti-religious if in fact you would say the Catholic Church shouldn't be getting government funding," Hamilton said.

## CASHING IN FAST

After its lobbying blitz, the Catholic Church worked with parishes and schools to access the money.

Many dioceses -- from large ones such as the Archdiocese of Boston to smaller ones such as the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin -- assembled how-to guides to help their affiliates apply. The national Catholic fiscal conference also hosted multiple webinars with legal and financial experts to help coach along local leaders.

Federal data show that the bulk of the church's money was approved during the loan program's first two weeks. That's when demand for the first-come, first-served assistance was so high that the initial \$349 billion was quickly exhausted, shutting out many local businesses.

Overall, nearly 500 loans approved to Catholic entities exceeded \$1 million each. The AP found that



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at least eight hit the maximum range of \$5 million to \$10 million. Many of the listed recipients were the offices of bishops, headquarters of leading religious orders, major churches, schools and chapters of Catholic Charities.

Also among recipients was the Saint Luke Institute. The Catholic treatment center for priests accused of sexual abuse and those suffering from other disorders received a loan ranging from \$350,000 to \$1 million. Based in Silver Spring, Maryland, the institute has at times been a way station for priests accused of sexual abuse who returned to active ministry only to abuse again.

Perhaps nothing illustrates the church's aggressive pursuit of funds better than four dioceses that sued the federal government to receive loans, even though they entered bankruptcy proceedings due to mounting clergy sex-abuse claims. Small Business Administration rules prohibit loans to applicants in bankruptcy.

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico -- once home to a now-closed and notorious treatment center for predator priests -- prevailed in court, clearing the way for its administrative offices to receive nearly \$1 million. It accused the SBA of overreaching by blocking bankruptcy applications when Congress didn't spell that out.

Yet even when a diocese has lost in bankruptcy court, or its case is pending, its affiliated parishes, schools and other organizations remain eligible for loans.

On the U.S. territory of Guam, well over 200 clergy abuse lawsuits led church leaders in the tiny Archdiocese of Agana to seek bankruptcy protection, as they estimated at least \$45 million in liabilities. Even so, the archdiocese's parishes, schools and other organizations have received at least \$1.7 million as it sues the SBA for approval to get a loan for its headquarters, according to bankruptcy filings.

The U.S. church may have a troubling record on sex abuse, but Bishop Lawrence Persico of Erie, Pennsylvania, pushed back on the idea that dioceses should be excluded from the government's rescue package. Approximately 80 organizations within his diocese received loans worth \$10.3 million, the diocese said, with most of the money going to parishes and schools.

Persico pointed out that church entities help feed, clothe and shelter the poor -- and in doing so keep people employed.

"I know some people may react with surprise that government funding helped support faith-based schools, parishes and dioceses," he said. "The separation of church and state does not mean that those motivated by their faith have no place in the public square."

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Data journalist Justin Myers contributed from Chicago.

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Contact AP's global investigative team at [investigative@ap.org](mailto:investigative@ap.org).

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Contact the reporters on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ReeseDunklin> or <https://twitter.com/MikeRezendes>.

## 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. **CATHOLIC CHURCH WON \$1.4 BILLION IN VIRUS AID** Millions of dollars in taxpayer-backed aid went to dioceses that have paid huge settlements or sought bankruptcy protection because of clergy sexual abuse cover-ups, AP finds.

2. **HIGH COURT DRAWS TRUMP'S IRE** Even with two justices the president hand-picked, the Supreme Court has shown it is no rubber stamp for him or his administration's policies.

3. **'THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS AND CRUEL'** Students from countries as diverse as India, China and Brazil say they are scrambling to devise plans after a new U.S. immigration policy could potentially cost them their visas.

4. **'SORRY TO ALL PEOPLE'** Seoul's mayor left a note before he was found dead as South Koreans begin mourning the liberal legal activist seen as a potential presidential candidate.

5. TRUMP REBOOTS CAMPAIGN Trailing in the polls, the president will hold his first in-person fundraiser in a month in Florida and then a rally on Saturday night in New Hampshire.

## Foreign students weigh studying in person vs. losing visas

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM, CHEYANNE MUMPHREY and HILARY POWELL Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — International students worried about a new immigration policy that could potentially cost them their visas say they feel stuck between being unnecessarily exposed during the coronavirus pandemic and being able to finish their studies in America.

The students from countries as diverse as India, China and Brazil say they are scrambling to devise plans after federal immigration authorities notified colleges this week that international students must leave the U.S. or transfer to another college if their schools operate entirely online this fall. Some say they are thinking about returning home or moving to nearby Canada.

"I'm generating research, I'm doing work in a great economy," said Batuhan Mekiker, a Ph.D. student from Turkey studying computer science at Montana State University in Bozeman. He's in the third year of a five-year program.

"If I go to Turkey, I would not have that," he said. "I would like to be somewhere where my talent is appreciated."

Mathias, a Seattle-based student who spoke on condition his last name not be used for fear of losing his immigration status, said he is set to sell his car, break his lease, and get his cat Louis permission to fly back to his home in Paris in the next two weeks.

"Everyone's very worried," he said. "We have our whole lives here."

Many American universities have come to depend on the revenue from more than 1 million international students, who typically pay higher tuition. President Donald Trump has insisted that schools and colleges return to in-person instruction as soon as possible — and some universities have accused the administration of issuing the guidelines to force the schools into reopening. Trump has alleged that schools are being kept closed for political reasons.

Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology filed a lawsuit this week to block the decision. The guidance was released the same day Harvard announced it would keep all undergraduate classes online this fall and several graduate schools have said they would as well. The university says the directive would prevent many of its 5,000 international students from remaining in the U.S.

The University of Southern California sent a letter to students and faculty, saying it is "deeply troubled" by the decision.

"The policy could negatively impact countless international students," it said.

Like other universities, USC said it was pushing back and working to ensure students' academic careers aren't harmed, while exploring ways they can study in person safely if they wish.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said the directive could inflict "significant harm" on colleges, students, the business community and the economy.

The U.S. State Department said in a release that international students are welcome in the U.S., but the policy "provides greater flexibility for non-immigrant students to continue their education in the United States, while also allowing for proper social distancing on open and operating campuses."

A day after Harvard sued to block the policy, the university notified the court that immigration authorities appear to be already enforcing the guidance. A lawyer for Harvard said at a preliminary conference Thursday that a first-year student from Belarus was turned away from his flight at a Minsk airport and urged the judge to suspend the rule. There is another hearing Friday.

"This is very dangerous and cruel," said Jessie Peng, a Chinese graduate student in analytics at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology.

"We have nowhere to go," said Peng, 27. "Either risk our lives and go to school or we risk our lives flying back to China."

Jasdeep Mandia, a doctoral candidate from India studying economics at Arizona State University, is

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also worried.

Mandia, 35, said he has breathing problems that could exacerbate his symptoms if he contracted COVID-19.

Mandia originally planned to conduct all his fall studies online.

While the university has showed concern for international students, Mandia said the directive underscores their shaky standing.

"It has never been a level playing field," he said. "But this makes it more apparent."

At Indiana University, American scholar Dakota Murray wrote in the school newspaper about his uncertainty over how the guidance would affect him and his wife, a fellow doctoral candidate who is from South Korea.

Murray, 27, said he and his wife had discussed the possibility of going to live in South Korea or maybe Canada, where she has relatives. He spoke on condition that his wife's name not be used because she is trying to obtain a green card that will let her work and reside in the U.S. after she finishes her studies.

Vanderbilt University student Safa Shahzad went home to Manchester, England, for a visit in March but got stuck there when the U.S. imposed travel restrictions to slow the spread of the virus.

Still in England, the 19-year-old, who is double majoring in politics and computer science, completed her freshman year from afar after the university transitioned online.

Although Vanderbilt has said courses will be a hybrid of online and in person this fall, Shahzad cannot travel to the U.S. until the Trump administration lifts the travel restrictions.

"I'm just kind of waiting," she said.

Computer science student Vivian Degasperi, 23, from Brazil, said the new guidelines "are going to make my life harder" at Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York.

Degasperi said the college has announced most all classes will be taught remotely, and is examining how to keep international students from losing their visa status.

Because she lives near the northern U.S. border, Degasperi said she would consider moving to Canada.

"My family is worried," she said. "Everyone is calling me all the time."

Natalia Afonso, a Brooklyn College student, also from Brazil, said she hopes the school will adopt a hybrid model of remote and in-person classes — but she fears riding the subway to campus could increase her chances of catching the virus.

"I don't see myself moving back to Brazil at this point," said the 27-year-old, who is studying education and just finished her first semester. "It's very unfair."

Naishadham reported from Atlanta and Powell from Washington. AP writers Collin Binkley in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Anita Snow in Phoenix contributed to this report.

## Israelis angry at Netanyahu over new outbreak, economic pain

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — With an unprecedented new surge in coronavirus cases battering Israel's economy, one of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's closest confidants was dispatched to a TV studio recently to calm the nerves of a jittery nation. Instead, he dismissed expressions of some of the public's economic pain as "BS."

The flippant comment by Cabinet minister Tzachi Hanegbi is symptomatic of what critics see as a bloated, out-of-touch government. It also has become a rallying cry for anti-Netanyahu protests spreading, like the virus, across the country.

One out-of-work Israeli erupted in anger during a live television interview, berating Netanyahu and warning the country is "going to burn" if aid is not given soon.

It is a dramatic turn of events for Netanyahu, who claimed credit and was widely praised for Israel's successful management of the early stages of the crisis. Now his approval ratings are plummeting, and public health experts warn that Israel is close to being unable to cope.

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At the start of the pandemic, Netanyahu moved quickly to close the country's borders and impose strict measures to contain the virus. By May, Israel was among the first in the world to reopen its economy. Netanyahu boasted on TV that other countries were looking to Israel as a model.

But the exit strategy appears to have been bungled. Now facing a drastic surge in confirmed COVID-19 cases, the country has begun re-imposing restrictions, such as limits on public gatherings. Critics warn the government waited too long to respond.

"The management of the corona crisis is a humiliating national failure, it is dangerous and without precedent," opposition leader Yair Lapid said this week. "People are furious, and they are right to be furious."

Just two months ago, Netanyahu had sounded optimistic.

After three costly and inconclusive elections in just under a year, he had managed to convince his chief challenger, retired military chief Benny Gantz, to join him in an "emergency" government with a mandate to tackle the coronavirus. Despite steep criticism, they established the largest government in Israeli history, arguing that its 34 ministers, some with dubious job titles and responsibilities, were essential to provide stability in uncertain times.

By late May, as the number of infections subsided, the country triumphantly reopened for business. The new government got distracted by ambitious plans to annex parts of the West Bank in the face of international criticism.

"We want to make your lives easier, to allow you to go out and get some air, to go back to routine as much as possible, to drink a cup a coffee, and to have a beer as well. So, first of all, enjoy yourselves," Netanyahu said at the time.

From just a handful of cases, contagion quickly spread. Authorities now report record levels of more than 1,000 new cases a day, higher than any peak in the spring.

Experts charge that Israel let its guard down. Ran Balicer, a professor of public health and member of the national epidemic management team, said Israel reopened too quickly and slammed the brakes too late.

"For weeks we have been seeing the illness spread in Israel at one of the fastest rates in the world," he wrote in the Haaretz daily. "A large proportion of experts believe that the critical time for intervention, for the 'final braking point,' is right before us. And the problem is that it is coming at a time when we don't have enough effective tools to halt the spread of the illness."

Israel, like other countries, is struggling to balance containing infections and protecting the economy. Unemployment shot up to more than 25% during the first surge and many jobs have yet to come back. Small businesses, the self-employed and particularly the dining, entertainment and tourism industries are warning that another large-scale shutdown will be a death blow.

In the face of an angry electorate, Netanyahu's support has tumbled. A Midgam Research & Consulting poll on Channel 12 TV found just 46% of respondents approved of Netanyahu's job performance, down from 74% in May.

Scrambling to respond, Netanyahu said Thursday that the government would pay monthly stipends over the coming year to help the unemployed, self-employed and business owners hurt by the corona crisis. "The government will do everything that is required to ease the economic distress," he said.

The sight of desperate Israelis lining up at soup kitchens and near-daily protests by out-of-work people has been damaging to Netanyahu's populist brand.

Hanegbi's gaffe on TV added fuel. Asked about families struggling to put food on the table, he said: "This nonsense that people don't have anything to eat is BS."

He apologized and Netanyahu distanced himself. But the damage was done. Protesters demanded the government deliver on a promised relief package and attacked it for being obtuse to their suffering.

"Minister Hanegbi, what he did in this situation is that he gave the people on the ground a green light," screamed Eyal Altratz, an unemployed sound technician, in a Channel 13 TV interview. "I'm promising the prime minister: Listen carefully. Liar. If we don't get the money in the next few days, you're going to have a world war here."

Though most of the anger has been focused on livelihoods, those involved in fighting the pandemic have been more concerned about public health.



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A top Health Ministry official credited with helping contain the initial outburst stepped down this week over differences on how the new government was handling the current spike. In her resignation letter, Sigal Sadetsky, the outgoing head of the public health services department, bemoaned how the "handling of the pandemic had lost direction."

Unlike the initial response, she said recent actions have been clumsy, dismissive of health considerations and leading Israel to a "bad place."

Yuval Karni, a commentator for the Yediot Ahronot daily, said Netanyahu was suffering the consequences of his centralized management style in which he has taken credit for success, blamed others for failures and sidelined potential rivals and experts.

"Netanyahu is paying a political price for a decade of smugness," he wrote. "Now Netanyahu is alone, at his most difficult time. And ours."

Follow Aron Heller on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/aronhellerap](http://www.twitter.com/aronhellerap)

## Scenes from hell: 1995 Srebrenica genocide in photos

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — It's been 25 years since the slaughter of men and boys in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica, but every year more bodies are found and reburied, and every year the survivors — mostly women — return to commemorate their fathers and brothers, husbands and sons.

At least 8,000 mostly Muslim men and boys were chased through woods in and around Srebrenica by Serb troops in what is considered the worst carnage of civilians in Europe since World War II. The slaughter has been confirmed as an act of genocide.

On Saturday, eight newly identified victims of the 1995 massacre will be laid to rest in the memorial cemetery at Potocari, just outside Srebrenica. Among them will be Bajro Salihovic, whose partial remains were unearthed from a mass grave discovered last November and identified through DNA testing.

"They found just a few of his bones, but my mother and I decided to bury him this year so we will know where his grave is, where to go to say a prayer, to find some peace," said his son Bahrudin, who himself survived the massacre by fleeing through the woods.

The Bosnian war pitted the country's three main ethnic factions — Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims — against each other after the break-up of Yugoslavia. More than 100,000 people were killed in the conflict before a peace deal was brokered in 1995.

What took place in Srebrenica was a mark of shame for the international community as the town had been declared a U.N. "safe haven" for civilians in 1993.

When Bosnian Serb forces broke through two years later, about 15,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys fled into the woods. And twice as many terrified residents rushed to the U.N. compound in what was formerly an industrial zone at the entrance to town, in the hope that Dutch U.N. peacekeepers would protect them.

However, the outgunned peacekeepers watched helplessly as Serb troops took around 2,000 men and boys from the compound for execution while bussing the women and girls to Bosnian government-held territory. Meanwhile, in the woods around Srebrenica, Serb soldiers hunted the fleeing Bosniaks, as Bosnian Muslims are otherwise known, killing them one by one.

The killers sought to hide evidence of the genocide, piling most of the bodies into hastily made mass graves, which they subsequently dug up with bulldozers and scattered the bodies across numerous burial sites.

In the years since, bodies have been unearthed and the victims identified through DNA testing. About 1,000 victims remain to be found.

A special U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague and courts in the Balkans have sentenced close to 50 Bosnian Serbs, including their top civilian war-time leader, Radovan Karadzic, and his military commander, Ratko Mladic, to more than 700 years in prison for Srebrenica crimes.

And every year, the women return to mourn their dead.

## Lives Lost: Young Venezuelan dreamed of better life in Peru

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Yurancy Castillo did not want to leave her family.

But as inflation in Venezuela soared, rendering her salary as a social worker nearly worthless, the young woman known for her beaming smile and wild amber-colored curls decided her future rested far away, in Peru.

One of her three brothers sold his motorcycle to help her buy the expensive bus ticket for the long journey across four vast nations.

"Don't worry," she told her tearful mother before leaving. "I'm going for a better future."

Those dreams would be stifled time and again.

In Peru, she found jobs selling sewing machines and waitressing, but they paid little. Peruvians, skeptical of Venezuelan arrivals, often made her feel unwelcome. But the biggest thief of dreams proved a diminutive, silent foe.

In May, she came down with a fever and a week later went to the hospital. She was admitted and given oxygen but did not improve. After three weeks in an intensive care unit deep in southern Peru, she died at 30.

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

"Children are supposed to bury their parents," Mery Arroyo, 54, her mother, says. "I never thought my girl would leave before me, in another country."

Castillo grew up in the city of Barquisimeto, a sprawling metropolis located along the banks of the winding Turbio River. Her father, a transportation coordinator at a milk and yogurt factory, made a modest living but the five Castillo children lived comfortably. Those were the days when Venezuela was still one of Latin America's wealthiest nations, and there was always plenty of food at the dinner table.

Castillo, the middle child and one of two daughters, stood out at school, where she was chosen multiples times as "class queen." At school dances, she'd energetically break into the quick footed, percussive dances popular in the region. Her jovial demeanor attracted a bevy of friends who affectionately called her "La Pelua," a Venezuelan moniker used to refer to women with a bountiful head of curly hair.

As a young adult she took a job with the mayor's office, surveying vulnerable, elderly residents arriving at a social assistance center in need of medical care. Just as she was embarking on life in her 20s, Venezuela's economy began to implode. Corruption, mismanagement and political turmoil sent oil production plummeting.

At Castillo's family home, the power was frequently out and the refrigerator increasingly sparse. Her father's pension was barely enough to purchase a bag of flour.

So when her boyfriend took off for Peru, she decided to join him - embarking on a new life abroad just as millions of other Venezuelans fleeing their country's crisis have chosen to do in the last several years.

"In this country, you can no longer live," her mother says. "We just survive."

The couple settled in Arequipa, a colonial-era city surrounded by four volcanoes. The money she made working odd jobs was meager but still enough for her parents back home to buy pasta, rice and sometimes chicken. But living in a foreign country was lonely. She asked her siblings to come be with her.

"At least here if you work you can make money," she told them.

A year later her two older siblings boarded buses to Peru.

The three siblings, along with her 6-year-old nephew, rented a two-bedroom apartment together in the bustling, gray capital of Lima. Castillo worked six days a week selling sewing machines. Life was hard, but at least they were together, they said. Every 15 days the siblings alternated sending money back to their parents.

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On Sundays, Castillo's day off, her sister would make pabellon, a Venezuelan beef stew served with rice and beans. Then they'd explore Lima, visiting the zoo, the parks, and the beach – set alongside a sea of frigid, dark blue water, far different than the warm aqua-colored ocean they had grown up visiting in Venezuela.

Earlier this year, Castillo decided to visit her boyfriend in Arequipa. While there, President Martín Vizcarra ordered the nation on lockdown. All domestic travel ceased. In phone calls, she urged her siblings to stay inside and promised to do the same. Talking to her mother, she expressed frustration about being in Peru. She wanted to go back to Venezuela, start a business, buy her parents new furniture and take them to the beach.

"As soon as this quarantine is over, I'm leaving," her mom recalled.

In mid-May, she called her sister, worried: She'd come down with a relentless fever and raspy cough. Maybe it was chikungunya, the mosquito-transmitted virus that has some similar symptoms, she reasoned.

Her relatives feared otherwise. They urged her to see a doctor.

The last photograph Castillo's mother received of her daughter shows her sitting in a chair at the Honorio Delgado Hospital wearing an oxygen mask.

"She could barely speak," Arroyo says.

Despite having no pre-existing conditions, she deteriorated steadily. Doctors called her boyfriend every day asking for pricey medicines. Friends and family around the continent mounted a campaign on social media to raise funds. Miraculously, they were always able to pull together just enough to buy what she needed.

"She was young, strong, brave," Emilio Cañizalez, a friend, says. "I thought they could save her."

Her death on June 17th has stirred sadness and anger. Her mother is angry with a government that she says is responsible for her daughter's decision to migrate. Her friends are angry with opposition leaders they contacted about Castillo's illness but did nothing to help. They're all angry with how Castillo's story ends.

"This has scarred me," Cañizalez says. "Now I don't believe in anybody."

For now, her ashes rest in a tiny wooden box in Arequipa.

One day, when the pandemic is over, her sister will carry her back to Venezuela.

## **Hanging death of Black man in California park ruled suicide**

By STEFANIE DAZIO and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The death of a Black man found hanging from a tree in a Southern California city park last month was ruled a suicide Thursday following a police investigation prompted by outrage from the family who said authorities initially were too quick to rule out the possibility he was lynched.

The manner of 24-year-old Robert Fuller's death on June 10 in Palmdale intensified the racial angst that already was at a boiling point following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Family members said they couldn't imagine Fuller taking his own life and community activities noted the Antelope Valley area north of Los Angeles where the death occurred has a history of racist incidents.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva promised a thorough investigation and at a news conference to announce the findings it was revealed that Fuller had a history of mental illness and suicidal tendencies.

Sheriff's Commander Chris Marks outlined three hospitalizations since 2017 where Fuller told doctors he was considering taking his life. The last was in November, when he was being treated for depression at a hospital in Nevada and "disclosed that he did have a plan to kill himself," Marks said.

Marks also said the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department investigated an incident in February in which Fuller "allegedly tried to light himself on fire."

Last month, after Fuller's body was reported by a passerby in the Palmdale park, deputies reported finding no evidence of a crime at the scene. An autopsy conducted the next day resulted in an initial finding of suicide.

That determination outraged Fuller's family, who said authorities were too quick to dismiss the possibility

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of a crime. They hired an attorney who said an independent autopsy would be conducted, and the FBI and state attorney general's office pledged to monitor the investigation.

The Fuller case came in the midst of intense protests over police brutality following the police killing of death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Following Fuller's death, more than 1,000 people attended a peaceful protest and memorial around the tree where his body was found.

His family and friends described him as a peacemaker who loved music and video games, and mostly stayed to himself. He had gone to a Black Lives Matter protest days before he died, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Racism has plagued the desert city of Palmdale for years. Community members have described seeing Confederate flags in the city and wider Antelope Valley, and residents of color have been blamed for crime and gang problems.

The Sheriff's Department has also contributed to the racial tension: Five years ago, the county reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice regarding accusations that deputies had harassed and discriminated against Black people and Latinos in Palmdale and nearby Lancaster.

As recently as September, a photo circulated on social media of four elementary school teachers smiling and holding a noose. While an investigator concluded the teachers apparently were not motivated by racism, they were "ignorant, lacked judgment, and exhibited a gross disregard for professional decorum in a school setting."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who represents Palmdale and had asked the attorney general to look into Fuller's death, said she is now waiting for the state's "completed assessment."

The city of Palmdale and Rev. V. Jesse Smith, a co-founder of the Community Action League, also said they want to see Attorney General Xavier Becerra's report.

Villanueva said the findings of the investigation and the final determination of suicide were shared with Fuller's family and they were invited to attend the news conference but were out of town.

The sheriff acknowledged the outcry that transpired after Fuller's death and called for county officials to fund more mental health initiatives and housing.

"In the timing of it and in the wake of the civil unrest that's transpired across the nation, it brought a lot of attention," Villanueva said.

He also blamed elected officials on the Board of Supervisors — whom he has been feuding with for weeks over the department's funding and power — and some people in the community for casting doubt on the initial investigation and promoting what he called a "conspiracy" theory in Fuller's death that forced additional detectives to be detailed to the case.

The family's attorney, Jamon Hicks, plans to hold a news conference Friday to respond to the determination.

A week after Fuller's death, his half-brother, Terron J. Boone, was fatally shot by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies. Police say Boone opened fire on deputies as they were about to arrest him on charges that he beat his girlfriend and held her captive for nearly a week. He died at the scene, where a handgun was found. Authorities said Thursday that detectives do not believe Boone's case is related to Fuller's death.

Fuller was the second Black man recently found hanged in Southern California. Malcolm Harsch, a 38-year-old homeless man, was found in a tree on May 31 in Victorville, a desert city in San Bernardino County east of Palmdale. Publicity surrounding Fuller's case prompted Harsch's family to seek further investigation of his death.

Police were able to obtain surveillance footage from a vacant building near where Harsch's body was found that "confirmed the absence of foul play," according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The family was shown the video and said they accepted the finding of suicide.

## 'Glee' star Naya Rivera believed drowned in California lake

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Authorities said Thursday that they believe "Glee" star Naya Rivera drowned in



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a Southern California lake but they are continuing the search for her a day after her 4-year-old son was found alone in a rented boat.

"Investigators believe Rivera drowned in what appears to be a tragic accident," a Ventura County Sheriff's Office statement said.

The boy, who was found asleep and wearing a life vest late Wednesday afternoon, told investigators that he and his mother went swimming and he got back on the boat, but "his mom never made it out of the water," Sheriff's Sgt. Kevin Donoghue said.

Surveillance video taken at about 1 p.m. Wednesday shows Rivera and the boy leaving on the boat at Lake Piru, something she had done before.

"She had experience boating out here at the lake," Donoghue said.

The boy was discovered by the vendor who rented the boat to the pair. Rivera's identification and an adult life vest were on the boat, and her car was found in a parking area, Donoghue said.

In a news conference more than 24 hours after the two had set out, Donoghue said that the effort had shifted from an attempt to rescue the 33-year-old to an attempt to recover her body.

Dozens of people, most of them divers, with help from helicopters, drones and all-terrain vehicles were involved in the search on Lake Piru, 55 miles (90 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles in the Los Padres National Forest.

The search ended late Thursday night and was to resume Friday at daybreak.

In the area where the boat was found, the water was about 30 feet (9 meters) deep, authorities said.

Murky waters heavy with vegetation made it difficult for divers to see more than about a foot ahead of them.

"In the lake, the visibility is terrible," Donoghue said.

He said the plants proving challenging for divers may have been a problem for Rivera herself.

"If the body is entangled on something beneath the water, it may never come back up," Donoghue said.

The search was to continue into the night.

The boy, Rivera's son from her marriage to actor Ryan Dorsey, was safe and healthy and with family members, authorities said. The couple finalized their divorce in June 2018 after nearly four years of marriage.

She called the boy, her only child, "my greatest success, and I will never do any better than him" in her 2016 memoir "Sorry Not Sorry."

The most recent tweet on Rivera's account, from Tuesday, read "just the two of us" along with a photo of her and her son.

Rivera played Santana Lopez, a singing cheerleader in 113 episodes of the musical-comedy "Glee," which aired on Fox from 2009 until 2015.

It appeared increasingly likely she would become the third major cast member from the show to die in their 30s.

Co-star Mark Salling, who Rivera dated at one point, killed himself in 2018 at age 35 after pleading guilty to child pornography charges.

Cory Monteith, one of the show's leads, died at 31 in 2013 from a toxic mix of alcohol and heroin.

There have been occasional drownings through the years in the popular recreation area of the lake, which is about an hour's drive from downtown LA. It was shut down Thursday for the search.

Fire department helicopters hovered over the water on a sunny afternoon in the search's second day, and boats of several sizes could be seen skimming the water, the smaller ones searching up creeks and tributaries.

Rivera was engaged to rapper Big Sean in 2013, but their relationship ended a year later. The pair met on Twitter and collaborated musically, with the rapper appearing on Rivera's debut single "Sorry." She married Dorsey a few months later.

Singer Demi Lovato, who played a Rivera love interest in a guest stint on the show, posted an Instagram story Thursday morning that showed a candle with the text, "Please pray for @nayarivera to be found safe and sound."

Other co-stars were expressing similar sentiments on social media.

"We need all the prayers we can get to bring our Naya back home to us," Heather Morris said on Instagram.

Jackée Harry, who starred in the sitcom "The Royal Family" with Rivera when Rivera was a child, said on Twitter that "I've watched her career blossom ever since. Please God, don't cut this life short."

This story has been corrected to show the name of the agency is the Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

## Brazil LGBTQ group hides from virus in Copacabana building

By YESICA FISCH Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — In a courtyard a few blocks from Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach, a dozen people get settled on broken couches beneath a banner reading "Cure Your Prejudice." They face the makeshift stage where a transgender woman appears in a short, tight dress and performs to a song about transgender visibility.

It's a standard Saturday night in coronavirus times at the squat known as Casa Nem.

The six-floor building is home to about 50 LGBTQ people riding out the pandemic behind closed doors. They receive food donations and are barred from leaving unless facing medical emergency or other exceptional circumstances. Self-imposed lockdown is one of few ways this traditionally marginalized group has found to minimize COVID-19 risks, while others remain vulnerable on the streets.

"Based on the experience we had during the AIDS epidemic, when we were accused of being the vector of the virus and were left to die, we are now protecting the community," said Indianara Siqueira, 49, a transgender sex worker and activist who leads Casa Nem.

In 2016, her organization took over the balconied building with small bedrooms, shared bathrooms and a big common kitchen. The residents found it dirty and abandoned, including one room with artwork, bronze busts and taxidermied animals. Casa Nem became a shelter for LGBTQ victims of violence and those who, rejected by their families, have nowhere to live.

New residents during the pandemic have to isolate on one of the building's floors for 15 days to ensure they don't develop symptoms before fully joining the community.

While some found refuge at Casa Nem, others like transgender prostitute Alice Larubia, 25, are stuck on the streets, hustling to earn enough to get by as the economy tanks. Normally quick to smile and joke, Larubia grows serious when discussing her future after the pandemic. She wants out of prostitution, and likes the idea of working in a beauty salon.

Data from Brazil's National Cross-dresser and Transgender Association show about 90 percent of the people it represents are sex workers due to lacking opportunities and discrimination in the job market.

After a month quarantining at home with some financial support from family, Larubia resumed work in Niteroi, a city across the bay from Rio.

"Necessity spoke louder (than the pandemic) and I had to come back to the street," Larubia said while waiting for clients with a small group of colleagues.

She keeps hand sanitizer in her purse and wears a mask on public transport, but said she can't while working. She earns around \$15 per night, less than half her payday before the onset of the outbreak.

"I'm scared," she said. "I know I'm at risk."

Back at Casa Nem, residents spend their days cooking and chatting, playing games and organizing workshops. They're eager to leave the building, once it's safe.

"We have increased our activities to help our psychological state," said Micaelo Lopes, a 22-year-old transgender man. "It's a very tense moment where we are waiting to see what's going to happen afterward, without really knowing."

## Ex-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen back in federal prison

By JIM MUSTIAN and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer and fixer, Michael Cohen, was returned to federal prison Thursday, after balking at certain conditions of the home confinement he was granted because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Records obtained by The Associated Press said Cohen was ordered into custody after he "failed to agree to the terms of Federal Location Monitoring" in Manhattan.

But Cohen's attorneys disputed that, saying Cohen took issue with a condition of his home confinement that forbid him from speaking with the media and publishing a tell-all book he began working on in federal prison. The rules also prohibited him from "posting on social media," the records show.

"The purpose is to avoid glamorizing or bringing publicity to your status as a sentenced inmate serving a custodial term in the community," the document says.

Cohen has written a tell-all book that he had been preparing to publish about his time working for the Trump Organization, his lawyers said.

"Cohen was sure this was written just for him," his attorney, Jeffrey Levine, said of the home confinement conditions. "I've never seen anything like this."

A Justice Department official pushed back on that characterization and said Cohen had refused to accept the terms of home confinement, specifically that he submit to wearing an ankle monitor. The official could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Cohen legal adviser Lanny Davis called that "completely false," adding that "at no time did Michael ever object to the ankle bracelet."

Cohen later agreed to accept all of the requirements of home confinement but was taken into custody nevertheless, Davis said. "He stands willing to sign the entire document if that's what it takes" to be released.

Cohen was being held late Thursday at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, Levine said. His legal team, meanwhile, was preparing an emergency appeal to spring him from custody.

Cohen, who pleaded guilty to tax evasion, campaign finance fraud and lying to Congress, had been released May 21 on furlough as part of an attempt to slow the spread of the virus in federal prisons. Cohen, 53, began serving his sentence in May 2019 and had been scheduled to remain in prison until November 2021 but was permitted to serve the remainder of this three-year term at home.

The conditions restricting the publication of his book would only extend through the end of his term.

Cohen was once one of Trump's closest advisers but became a loud critic after pleading guilty.

Cohen's convictions were related to crimes including dodging taxes on \$4 million in income from his taxi business, lying during congressional testimony about the timing of discussions around an abandoned plan to build a Trump Tower in Russia, and orchestrating payments to two women to keep them from talking publicly about alleged affairs with Trump. Prosecutors said the payments amounted to illegal campaign contributions. Trump, who denied the affairs, said any payments were a personal matter.

Roger Adler, one of Cohen's attorneys, told the AP that the FBI had agreed to return to Cohen two smartphones it seized as part of its investigation, adding Cohen had planned to pick them up Thursday after an appointment at the federal courthouse in Manhattan concerning his home confinement.

Davis added the appointment with federal authorities was intended to finalize the conditions of Cohen's home confinement. Cohen also had been expected to receive an ankle bracelet, he said.

"It was nothing other than routine," Davis said, adding the appointment with his probation officers had nothing to do with him being photographed dining out. Days before Cohen's return to prison, the New York Post had published photos of Cohen and his wife enjoying an outdoor meal with friends at a restaurant near his Manhattan home.

"It's not a crime to eat out and support local businesses," Adler said, adding Cohen had been "thrown back into a petri dish of coronavirus."

A federal judge had denied Cohen's attempt for an early release to home confinement after serving 10 months in prison and said in a May ruling that it "appears to be just another effort to inject himself into the

news cycle." But the Bureau of Prisons can move prisoners to home confinement without a judicial order.

Prison advocates and congressional leaders had pressed the Justice Department to release at-risk inmates, arguing that the public health guidance to stay 6 feet (2 meters) away from other people is nearly impossible behind bars.

Attorney General William Barr ordered the Bureau of Prisons to increase the use of home confinement and expedite the release of eligible high-risk inmates, beginning at three prisons identified as coronavirus hot spots. Otisville, where Cohen was housed, was not one of those facilities.

Balsamo reported from Little Rock, Arkansas. AP investigative researcher Randy Herschaft contributed to this report.

## **Big Ten scraps nonconference football games due to pandemic**

By JOHN ZENOR AP Sports Writer

The Big Ten Conference announced Thursday it will not play nonconference games in football and several other sports this fall, the most dramatic move yet by a power conference because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The conference cited medical advice in making its decision and added ominously that the plan would be applied only "if the conference is able to participate in fall sports."

Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren said it was "much easier if we're just working with our Big Ten institutions" in terms of things like scheduling and traveling.

"We may not have sports in the fall," Warren told the Big Ten Network. "We may not have a college football season in the Big Ten.

"So we just wanted to make sure that this was the next logical step to always rely on our medical experts to keep our student-athletes at the center of all of our decisions and make sure that they are as healthy as they possibly can be from a mental, a physical, an emotional health and wellness standpoint."

There has been deep unease that the pandemic will deal a blow to fall sports after wiping out hundreds of games, including March Madness, this past spring. More than a dozen schools have reported positive tests for the virus among athletes in the past month but the bad news picked up this week as the Ivy League canceled all fall sports and Stanford announced it was cutting 11 varsity sports.

The Big Ten decision is the biggest yet because Bowl Subdivision football games — more than 40 of them, all moneymakers in different ways — were simply erased. And the move didn't wash away fears the entire fall season could be in jeopardy.

"I am really concerned, that is the question of the day," Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith said on a conference call after the announcement. "I was cautiously optimistic. I'm not even there now."

Besides football, the sports affected include men's and women's cross country, field hockey, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball.

"By limiting competition to other Big Ten institutions, the conference will have the greatest flexibility to adjust its own operations throughout the season and make quick decisions in real-time based on the most current evolving medical advice and the fluid nature of the pandemic," the Big Ten said.

The other big conferences, the SEC, ACC, Big 12 and Pac-12, have all indicated they intend to play fall sports.

"The Big Ten decisions are interesting and provide additional information to inform our discussions," Big 12 commissioner Bob Bowlsby said. "At this time our medical and scientific advisors have suggested we should move ahead slowly and with constant re-evaluation. We plan to continue to prepare for all available scenarios until we are informed that some are no longer viable."

Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey said league officials "will continue to meet with regularly with our campus leaders in the coming weeks, guided by the medical advisors, to make the important decisions necessary to determine the best path forward related to the SEC fall sports."

The marquee nonconference matchups in the Big Ten this season included Notre Dame vs. Wisconsin on Oct. 3 at Lambeau Field, home of the NFL's Green Bay Packers. Other big matchups included Michigan



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at Washington, Ohio State-Oregon, Penn State-Virginia Tech and Miami-Michigan State.

Much of the pain will be felt at smaller schools that lean heavily on the big-money games to help fund their athletic budgets. Hours before the Big Ten announcement, Northern Iowa, which will lose a Sept. 5 game at Iowa, said it expected an athletics budget shortfall to exceed \$1 million.

A handful of teams were scheduled to play two Big Ten opponents, including Bowling Green, Central Michigan and Northern Illinois. Bowling Green athletic director Bob Moosbrugger said the Big Ten's decision "is the tip of the iceberg."

"Ten FBS conferences have signed a college football playoff agreement with an expectation that we will work together for the good of college football," Moosbrugger said. "If we are to solve these challenges and be truly dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our student-athletes, we need to do a better job of working together."

Illinois State was scheduled to play at Illinois on Sept. 4.

"Obviously, we are disappointed by the decision, as there are many people affiliated with both universities that have had this game circled on their calendars for a long time," Illinois State athletic director Larry Lyons said. He said the budget is in a "constant state of flux," but there are no plans to cut sports.

Memphis, which had been scheduled to visit Purdue on Sept. 12, announced Thursday it was cutting administrative and sports operation budgets 14% in addition to some other personnel savings.

The Big Ten said it would release detailed schedules later and continue to evaluate other sports. The league said its schools will honor scholarships for athletes who choose not to compete in the upcoming academic year because of concerns about the coronavirus.

Indiana athletic director Scott Dolson said he and his Big Ten colleagues "know that there remain many questions that still need to be answered, and we will work toward finding those answers in the coming weeks."

In the SEC, Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk was asked about the possible rationale for a conference-only schedule.

"Probably, it's a comfort level of how protocols are being enacted, how testing is done and then keeping it within that family, if you will — your expanded social circle or social pod," said Sterk, whose Tigers play in the SEC. "You might be able to control things more that way, or feel like you can, anyway versus the unknown of people coming from outside our 11 states."

AP Sports Writers Tom Withers, Teresa Walker, Steve Megargee, Cliff Brunt and Stephen Hawkins contributed to this report.

## Practices begin at Disney, as teams begin restart routines

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

Nikola Vucevic had to raise his voice a bit to answer a question. He had just walked off the court after the first Orlando Magic practice of the restart, and some of his teammates remained on the floor while engaged in a loud and enthusiastic shooting contest.

After four months, basketball was truly back.

Full-scale practices inside the NBA bubble at the Disney complex started Thursday, with the Magic — the first team to get into the campus earlier this week — becoming the first team formally back on the floor. By the close of business Thursday, all 22 teams participating in the restart were to be checked into their hotel and beginning their isolation from the rest of the world for what will be several weeks at least. And by Saturday, all teams should have practiced at least once.

"It's great to be back after four months," Vucevic said. "We all missed it."

The last eight teams were coming in Thursday, the Los Angeles Lakers and Philadelphia 76ers among them. Lakers forward LeBron James lamented saying farewell to his family, and 76ers forward Joel Embiid — who raised some eyebrows earlier this week when he said he was "not a big fan of the idea" of restarting the season in a bubble — showed up for his team's flight in what appeared to be a full hazmat suit.

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"Just left the crib to head to the bubble. ... Hated to leave the (hashtag)JamesGang," James posted on Twitter.

Another last-day arrival at the Disney campus was the reigning NBA champion Toronto Raptors, who boarded buses for the two-hour drive from Naples, Florida — they've been there for about two weeks, training at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers — for the trip to the bubble. The buses were specially wrapped for the occasion, with the Raptors' logo and the words "Black Lives Matter" displayed on the sides.

Brooklyn, Utah, Washington and Phoenix all were down to practice Thursday, along with the Magic. Denver was originally scheduled to, then pushed back its opening session to Friday. By Saturday, practices will be constant — 22 teams working out at various times in a window spanning 13 1/2 hours and spread out across seven different facilities.

Exhibition games begin July 22. Games restart again for real on July 30.

"It just felt good to be back on the floor," said Brooklyn interim coach Jacque Vaughn, who took over for Kenny Atkinson less than a week before the March 11 suspension of the season because of the coronavirus. "I think that was the most exciting thing. We got a little conditioning underneath us. Didn't go too hard after the quarantine, wanted to get guys to just run up and down a little bit and feel the ball again."

Teams, for the most part, had to wait two days after arriving before they could get on the practice floor. Many players have passed the time with video games; Miami center Meyers Leonard, with the Heat not practicing for the first time until Friday, has been giving fans glimpses of everything from his gaming setup to his room service order for his first dinner at Disney — replete with lobster bisque, a burger, chicken strips and some Coors Light to wash it all down.

The food has been a big talking point so far, especially after a handful of players turned to social media to share what got portrayed as less-than-superb meals during the brief quarantine period.

"For the most part, everything has been pretty good in my opinion," Nets guard Joe Harris said. "They've done a good job taking care of us and making sure to accommodate us in every area as much as possible."

Learning the campus has been another key for the first few days, and that process likely will continue for a while since teams will be using all sorts of different facilities while getting back into the practice routine.

"We have to make the best out of it," Vucevic said. "You know, this is our job. We're going to try to make the best out of it. I really think the NBA did the best they could to know make this as good as they can for us. And once we start playing, you're not going to be thinking about the little things."

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

## Police: Black man's hanging death in California was suicide

By STEFANIE DAZIO and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The death of a Black man found hanging from a tree in a Southern California city park last month was ruled a suicide Thursday following a police investigation prompted by outrage from the family who said authorities initially were too quick to rule out the possibility he was lynched.

The manner of 24-year-old Robert Fuller's death on June 10 in Palmdale intensified the racial angst that already was at a boiling point following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Family members said they couldn't imagine Fuller taking his own life and community activities noted the Antelope Valley area north of Los Angeles where the death occurred has a history of racist incidents.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva promised a thorough investigation and at a news conference to announce the findings it was revealed that Fuller had a history of mental illness and suicidal tendencies.

Sheriff's Commander Chris Marks outlined three hospitalizations since 2017 where Fuller told doctors he was considering taking his life. The last was in November, when he was being treated for depression at a hospital in Nevada and "disclosed that he did have a plan to kill himself," Marks said.

Marks also said the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department investigated an incident in February in which Fuller "allegedly tried to light himself on fire."

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Last month, after Fuller's body was reported by a passerby in the Palmdale park, deputies reported finding no evidence of a crime at the scene. An autopsy conducted the next day resulted in an initial finding of suicide.

That determination outraged Fuller's family, who said authorities were too quick to dismiss the possibility of a crime. They hired an attorney who said an independent autopsy would be conducted, and the FBI and state attorney general's office pledged to monitor the investigation.

The Fuller case came in the midst of intense protests over police brutality following the police killing of death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Following Fuller's death, more than 1,000 people attended a peaceful protest and memorial around the tree where his body was found.

His family and friends described him as a peacemaker who loved music and video games, and mostly stayed to himself. He had gone to a Black Lives Matter protest days before he died, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Racism has plagued the desert city of Palmdale for years. Community members have described seeing Confederate flags in the city and wider Antelope Valley, and residents of color have been blamed for crime and gang problems.

The sheriff's department has also contributed to the racial tension: Five years ago, the county reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice regarding accusations that deputies had harassed and discriminated against Black people and Latinos in Palmdale and nearby Lancaster.

As recently as September, a photo circulated on social media of four elementary school teachers smiling and holding a noose. While an investigator concluded the teachers apparently were not motivated by racism, they were "ignorant, lacked judgment, and exhibited a gross disregard for professional decorum in a school setting."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who represents Palmdale and had asked the attorney general to look into Fuller's death, said she is now waiting for the state's "completed assessment."

The city of Palmdale and Rev. V. Jesse Smith, a co-founder of the Community Action League, also said they want to see Attorney General Xavier Becerra's report.

Villanueva said the findings of the investigation and the final determination of suicide were shared with Fuller's family and they were invited to attend the news conference but were out of town.

The sheriff acknowledged the outcry that transpired after Fuller's death and called for county officials to fund more mental health initiatives and housing.

"In the timing of it and in the wake of the civil unrest that's transpired across the nation, it brought a lot of attention," Villanueva said.

He also blamed elected officials on the Board of Supervisors — whom he has been feuding with for weeks over the department's funding and power — and some people in the community for casting doubt on the initial investigation and promoting what he called a "conspiracy" theory in Fuller's death that forced additional detectives to be detailed to the case.

The family's attorney, Jamon Hicks, plans to hold a news conference Friday to respond to the determination.

A week after Fuller's death, his half-brother, Terron J. Boone, was fatally shot by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies. Police say Boone opened fire on deputies as they were about to arrest him on charges that he beat his girlfriend and held her captive for nearly a week. He died at the scene, where a handgun was found. Authorities said Thursday that detectives do not believe Boone's case is related to Fuller's death.

Fuller was the second Black man recently found hanged in Southern California. Malcolm Harsch, a 38-year-old homeless man, was found in a tree on May 31 in Victorville, a desert city in San Bernardino County east of Palmdale. Publicity surrounding Fuller's case prompted Harsch's family to seek further investigation of his death.

Police were able to obtain surveillance footage from a vacant building near where Harsch's body was found that "confirmed the absence of foul play," according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The family was shown the video and said they accepted the finding of suicide.

## Watchdog details storm of political pressure in Sharpiegate

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Political pressure from the White House and a series of “crazy in the middle of the night” texts, emails and phone calls caused top federal weather officials to wrongly admonish a weather office for a tweet that contradicted President Donald Trump about Hurricane Dorian in 2019, an inspector general report found.

Commerce Department Inspector General Peggy Gustafson concluded in a report issued Thursday that the statement chastising the National Weather Service office in Birmingham, Alabama, could undercut public trust in weather warnings from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and for a short time even hindered public safety. Agency officials downplayed and disputed the findings.

“Instead of focusing on NOAA’s successful hurricane forecast, the Department unnecessarily rebuked NWS forecasters for issuing a public safety message about Hurricane Dorian in response to public inquiries — that is, for doing their jobs,” the report concluded.

Former Obama NOAA chief Jane Lubchenco, a scientist at Oregon State University, said in an email that high-level officials “put politics and their own jobs above public safety. In my view, this is shameful, irresponsible, and unethical.”

At issue was a Sept. 1 tweet from the Birmingham weather office that “Alabama will NOT see any impacts from #Dorian.”

The tweet came out 10 minutes after Trump had tweeted that Alabama was among states that “will most likely be hit (much) harder than anticipated.” Forecasters in Alabama said they didn’t know about the president’s tweet, which was based on outdated information, and that they were instead responding to calls from a worried public.

By the time the two tweets were posted, Alabama was no longer in the hurricane center’s warning cone, although it had been in previous days. One hurricane center graphic at the time showed a “non-zero” chance of tropical storm force winds for a tiny corner of Alabama, something NOAA officials later scurried to highlight, according to the report.

However, NOAA acting chief Neil Jacobs told the inspector general’s office that he was baffled by Trump’s reference to Alabama: “(T)hat was the first time when I was wondering why are we still talking about Alabama, you know?”

The dust-up came to be referred to as “Sharpiegate” after the president later displayed a National Hurricane Center warning map that had been altered with a black marker to include Alabama in the potential path of the storm. The president is known for his use of Sharpies.

Four days after the tweets, then acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney sent Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross an email after 9 p.m., saying “it appears as if the NWS intentionally contradicted the president. And we need to know why. He wants either a correction or an explanation or both.”

That triggered a series of texts, emails and phone calls involving Ross underlings, especially Department of Commerce Chief of Staff Michael J. Walsh Jr. from 1 a.m. to 3:43 a.m., laying the groundwork for a NOAA statement that came out the next day.

Jacobs said “things went crazy in the middle of the night.”

Then-NOAA communications chief Julie Kay Roberts told the inspector general’s office that Walsh told her “there are jobs on the line. It could be the forecast office in Birmingham. Or it could be someone higher than that. And the higher is less palatable.”

Walsh denied that to the inspector general. The report said there was no credible evidence found to say that jobs were threatened. However, Jacobs told the inspector general’s office he “definitely felt like our jobs were on the line” but that “nobody told me I was going to get fired.”

The eventual unsigned statement from NOAA said: “The Birmingham National Weather Service’s Sunday morning tweet spoke in absolute terms that were inconsistent with probabilities from the best forecast products available at the time.”

Dorian made landfall in North Carolina and had no major impact on Alabama, which is about 600 miles



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(965 kilometers) away.

"By requiring NOAA to issue an unattributed statement related to a then-5-day-old tweet, while an active hurricane continued to exist off the east coast of the United States, the Department displayed poor judgment in exercising its authority over NOAA," the inspector general report said.

The report also criticized Roberts for deleting text messages, which is contrary to government document retention rules.

In a statement attached to the report, Walsh said the report's conclusions "are completely unsupported by any of the evidence or factual findings that the report lays out. The Inspector General instead selectively quotes from interviews, takes facts out of context."

The White House declined to comment. The Department of Commerce attached a letter to the report saying the report doesn't dispute the accuracy of the Sept. 6 statement that criticized the Birmingham office nor does it find that the agency suppressed scientific communication.

Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Commerce Committee, said she could not support Jacobs' nomination to be the full-time chief of NOAA, saying the report shows Jacobs "failed to protect scientists from political influence."

## Biden pledges New Deal-like economic agenda to counter Trump

By BILL BARROW and MARC LEVY Associated Press

DUNMORE, Pa. (AP) — Democrat Joe Biden turned his campaign against President Donald Trump toward the economy Thursday, introducing a New Deal-like economic agenda while drawing a sharp contrast with a billionaire incumbent he said has abandoned working-class Americans amid cascading crises.

The former vice president presented details of a comprehensive agenda that he touted as the most aggressive government investment in the U.S. economy since World War II. He also accused Trump of ignoring the coronavirus pandemic and the climate crisis while encouraging division amid a national reckoning with systemic racism.

"His failures come with a terrible human cost and a deep economic toll," Biden said during a 30-minute address at a metal works firm near his childhood hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania. "Time and again, working families are paying the price for this administration's incompetence."

Biden's shift to the economy meets Trump on turf the Republican president had seen as his strength before the pandemic severely curtailed consumer activity and drove unemployment to near-Great Depression levels. Now, Biden and his aides believe the issue is an all-encompassing opening that gives Democrats avenues to attack Trump on multiple fronts while explaining their own governing vision for the country.

The former vice president began Thursday with proposals intended to reinvigorate the U.S. manufacturing and technology sectors.

Biden called for a \$400 billion, four-year increase in government purchasing of U.S.-based goods and services, plus \$300 billion in new research and development in U.S. technology firms. He proposed tightening current "Buy American" laws that are intended to benefit U.S. firms but that government agencies can circumvent.

The procurement overhaul is based on ideas Biden has discussed with his former presidential rival, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who offered similar proposals during the Democratic primary. Those moves would create 5 million new jobs, Biden said.

He also emphasized previous pledges to establish a \$15-per-hour minimum wage, strengthen workers' collective bargaining rights and repeal Republican-backed tax breaks for U.S. corporations that move jobs overseas. And his campaign pledged that those investments in domestic markets would come before Biden entered negotiations for any new international trade agreements.

His opening emphasis on manufacturing and labor policy is no coincidence: Biden wants to capitalize on his union ties and win back working-class white voters who fueled Trump's upset win four years ago. He noted his middle-class upbringing and alluded to Trump's childhood as the son of a multimillionaire real estate developer.

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Underscoring the difference, Biden took a side trip after his speech to see his boyhood home in Scranton and briefly greeted the family who resides there now.

Biden will continue presenting his energy and infrastructure plan to combat the climate crisis, as well as a third package focused on making child care and elder care more affordable and less of an impediment to working-age Americans. The energy and infrastructure proposals, some of which Biden has detailed already, are likely to carry the largest price tag as the former vice president attempts to use the federal purse to spur economic growth.

"It's not sufficient to build back. We have to build back better," Biden said, promising he'd "ensure all Americans are in on the deal."

Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday was also in Pennsylvania, where he cast Biden as a threat to the economy. Pence touted job gains before the pandemic and said Trump is now leading a "great American comeback." He said the company where Biden spoke received federal pandemic aid that Trump signed into law.

Biden's agenda carries at least some rhetorical echoes of Trump's "America First" philosophy, but the former vice president's aides describe his approach as more coherent. They cast Trump's imposition of tariffs and uneven trade negotiations as a slapdash isolationism compromised further by tax policies that enrich multinational corporations. The Biden campaign also pointed to an uptick in foreign procurement and continued outsourcing of jobs by U.S.-based corporations during Trump's presidency.

Still, as with Pence's remarks Thursday, Republicans have made clear they'll attack Biden on trade and the economy, framing him as a tool of the far left on taxes and a willing participant in decades of trade policy that gutted American workers. Trump also has lampooned Biden as "weak on China."

On trade, at least, it's a line of attack Biden withstood from the Democratic primary runner-up, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. But it's one Trump used effectively against Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016.

As a senator, Biden voted for the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994. One of Trump's signature achievements is an overhaul of NAFTA, which he accomplished with backing from many Democrats on Capitol Hill. Since the 1990s, Biden has advocated tighter controls in trade deals, and he's promised to involve organized labor and environmental activists.

The campaign's policy outline emphasizes that Biden wants a resurgence in U.S. markets before engaging in new trade agreements abroad. That includes the Trans-Pacific Partnership that Biden advocated when he was President Barack Obama's vice president. Trump opposed the TPP as a 2016 candidate. Neither China nor the United States is a TPP member.

Trump and Biden have called out China for unfair trade practices, but Biden accuses Trump of instigating a trade war with Beijing that he cannot win.

For now, Biden has not said how he'd pay for the proposed new spending for manufacturing and technology. Revenue from repealing GOP tax cuts on corporations and the wealthiest Americans, Biden says, would cover his proposed annual spending, including expanded health insurance access. But his aides have indicated that he's willing to use deficit spending for one-time or short-term investments he sees as stimulus to combat the pandemic recession.

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Barrow reported from Atlanta.

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Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

## **New extra-inning format stirs debate as teams plot strategy**

By STEVE MEGARGEE AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Baseball has its answer to penalty kicks, overtimes and shootouts, and it figures to stir just as much debate as all those other tiebreakers.

Major League Baseball will start each extra inning in this abbreviated, 60-game season by putting a runner on second base. The rule has been used since 2018 in the minor leagues, where it created more

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action and settled games sooner.

"It's like 'arena baseball,'" said Scott Thorman, who managed the Kansas City Royals' Single-A Carolina League affiliate in Wilmington, Delaware, last season.

Those words may cause traditionalists to shudder.

"I haven't met anyone so far that likes it," Washington Nationals manager Dave Martinez said.

Dave Martinez, meet Christian Yelich.

"I think it's great," said Yelich, the Brewers outfielder and 2018 National League MVP. "As a player, there's nothing worse than extra innings. Especially in a season like this, where you literally can't take on that 15- or 16-inning game with just how rosters are constructed and pitchers not being built up to where they usually are and not really having the option to draw from this minor league talent pool."

Indeed, MLB is experimenting with the rule this year in part to prevent marathon games from causing long-term damage to pitching staffs.

Brady Williams, who manages the Tampa Bay Rays' Triple-A affiliate in Durham, North Carolina, said he initially considered the extra-inning format "Mickey Mouse baseball" but eventually appreciated how it reduced his bullpen's workload.

According to minor league data, 71% of extra-inning games ended after one or two more innings in 2016 and it was about the same in 2017 (74%). With the new rule in place, that number climbed to 93% each of the last two seasons.

Brewers general manager David Stearns, who backs the change, noted a game that lasts at least 15 innings "can impact you for weeks after that if they are compounded by other challenging games."

"I think it makes sense in terms of trying to bring some finality to the game in this short season," Chicago White Sox general manager Rick Hahn said. "And, frankly, in a year where we're playing 60 games, why not try something different? Why not experiment a little bit?"

There will be experimentation in dugouts as baseball adjusts to the change.

Will road teams try to bunt that runner over to third or play for the big inning? How often will pitchers walk the leadoff batter to set up a double play? How frequently will teams pinch-run for the guy on second?

"It's a whole different realm strategy-wise," Arizona Diamondbacks general manager Mike Hazen said.

Minor league managers already know that.

Thorman used to make sure he saved at least one or two relievers in case a game ended up lasting 14-plus innings. He said he doesn't have to worry about that anymore because games rarely last that long.

Matt Erickson, who manages the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers of the Single-A Midwest League, said the cold weather had road teams often bunting and playing for one run early in the first season under the new rule.

"But as the summer went on, you find out you're not really playing for a run as the visiting team," Erickson said. "You're pretty much playing for multiple runs if you're on the road, trying to get a big inning."

Williams believes road teams have an advantage because the runner on second scores so often, putting immediate pressure on the home team.

"As the season went on, I was talking to my coaches and I'd say that I wish you had a rule where if you're the home team, you had the option of hitting first or pitching first (in extra innings)," Williams said.

The other side of it is that when a road team doesn't score, the home team can win the game without another batter even reaching base safely.

Home teams won minor-league extra-inning games 50.5% of the time in 2019 and 51% of the time in 2018. That's down from 52% in 2016 and 53.8% in 2017 — the two years before the rule change.

Some players wonder if all these tactical decisions could defeat the purpose of the format change by lengthening time between pitches.

"I think you've all seen, with a runner on second base these days, we have to be pretty complicated with our sequences," Minnesota Twins closer Taylor Rogers said. "I don't see that speeding up the game. In fact, I see that slowing it down."

That hasn't been the case in the minors.

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Extra-inning games in the minors lasted 29.3 minutes longer than an average nine-inning game in 2018 and 29.7 minutes longer last year. That's down from a 45-minute difference in 2016 and a 43-minute margin in 2017.

Skeptics of this format may need to get used to it even though MLB has indicated this is a one-year deal put in place because of this season's unusual circumstances.

"I wouldn't necessarily say I support it or don't moving forward," New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "In the short term, I'm OK with it. I do think there's some tactical advantages to be taken advantage of there if you can be smart about it."

AP sports writers David Brandt, Dave Campbell, Jake Seiner, Andrew Seligman and Dave Skretta contributed to this report.

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

## Late Seoul mayor was outspoken liberal who eyed presidency

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Park Won-soon, the three-term mayor of South Korea's capital, a fierce critic of economic inequality who was seen as a potential presidential candidate in 2022, was found dead early Friday. He was 64.

Police said Park's body was found near a restaurant nestled in wooded hills stretching across northern Seoul after a more than seven-hour search involving hundreds of police officers, firefighters, drones and dogs.

They said there were no signs of foul play, but gave no further details on the cause of death.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government earlier said Park did not come to work on Thursday and had canceled his schedule for the day.

His daughter reported him missing Thursday afternoon, saying he had given her a "will-like" verbal message and left home. He was last seen on security video entering a park at the mouth of the hills late Thursday morning.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused Park's disappearance and death. When asked about local media reports that one of his secretaries had filed a complaint against him involving alleged sexual harassment, Seoul police official Choi Ik-su confirmed that a complaint against Park had been filed with police on Wednesday but didn't specify what he was accused of.

Park, a liberal human rights lawyer who once led two of South Korea's most influential civic groups, was credited with winning the country's first sexual harassment conviction as an attorney. He was elected Seoul mayor in 2011, upsetting his conservative opponent as an independent candidate backed by opposition liberals. He became the city's first mayor elected to a third term in June 2018 and had been considered a potential presidential candidate in the next election in 2022.

Park mostly maintained his activism as mayor, lamenting the country's growing gap between rich and poor, gender inequality, and corrupt ties between large businesses and politicians.

He was also a vocal critic of Japan, which ruled the Korean Peninsula as a colony from 1910 to the end of World War II, over what he described as Tokyo's refusal to sincerely repent for atrocities such as forced labor and a system of sexual slavery for Japanese troops.

Despite positioning himself as a champion of the poor and powerless, Park was criticized for pushing ahead with aggressive redevelopment projects that razed old commercial and housing districts and drove out tenants who couldn't afford the spike in rents.

During his first terms, Park established himself as a fierce opponent of former conservative President Park Geun-hye and openly supported the millions of protesters who flooded the streets of his city in late 2016 and 2017 calling for her ouster over a corruption scandal. Months after her impeachment, Park Geun-hye was formally removed from office by a court ruling in March 2017 and is currently serving a decades-long



prison term for bribery, abuse of power and other charges.

In recent months, Park Won-soon led an active campaign against the coronavirus as it spread in the city, shutting down thousands of nightspots and issuing an administrative order banning rallies in major downtown streets.

South Korea has seen the sudden deaths of key political figures before.

Former liberal President Roh Moo-hyun, who was a close friend and mentor of current President Moon Jae-in, leapt to his death in 2009, a year after leaving office, amid allegations that family members had taken bribes from a businessman during his presidency. Former military dictator Park Chung-hee, the father of Park Geun-hye, was assassinated by his spy chief during a late-night drinking session in 1979.

## **Bolivian president has COVID-19 as virus hits region's elite**

By PAOLA FLORES Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivia's interim president and Venezuela's No. 2 leader announced Thursday that they have been infected with the new coronavirus, just days after Brazil's leader tested positive as the pandemic hits hard at some of Latin America's political elite.

Three Cabinet ministers in the administration of Bolivian leader Jeanine Áñez have also tested positive for the virus, including Health Minister Eidy Roca and Presidency Minister Yerko Nuñez, who is hospitalized.

The infections in Venezuela, Brazil and Bolivia, which is seeing a spike in cases, come after Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández tested positive in June and was briefly hospitalized.

Áñez said she will remain in isolation for 14 days when another test will be done, but she will continue to work remotely from the presidential residence.

"I feel good, I feel strong," she wrote on her Twitter account.

Bolivia's Health Ministry says the Andean country has 42,984 confirmed coronavirus cases and 1,577 deaths, and is seeing a rebound in the number of new cases amid reports that hospitals are being overwhelmed in some regions. In the highland city of Cochabamba, scenes have emerged of bodies lying in the streets and coffins waiting for days in homes to be taken away.

Bolivia is scheduled to hold a presidential election Sept. 6. Áñez is running third in opinion polls. Former Economy Minister Luis Arce, who represents the party of ousted President Evo Morales, is in front, with ex-President Carlos Mesa in second.

In Venezuela, meanwhile, socialist party chief Diosdado Cabello revealed that he had tested positive for COVID-19, making him the highest-ranking leader in the distressed South American nation thus far to come down with the virus.

Cabello is considered the second-most powerful person in Venezuela after President Nicolás Maduro and made the announcement on Twitter, stating that he is isolated, getting treatment and will overcome the illness.

"We will win!" he wrote in conclusion.

Economically struggling Venezuela is considered one of the world's least prepared countries to confront the pandemic. Hospitals are routinely short on basic supplies like water, electricity and medicine.

The nation has registered considerably fewer COVID-19 cases than others in the region, but the number of infections has grown in recent weeks. As of Wednesday, the government had reported 8,010 confirmed cases and 75 deaths.

Cabello was last seen Tuesday, when he met with South Africa's ambassador, Joseph Nkosi. Photographs released by the government showed him standing alongside and bumping fists with the diplomat while wearing a black mask.

The 57-year-old politician is head of the National Constituent Assembly, an all-powerful legislative body created by Maduro's government in 2017. He had missed his weekly television program Wednesday, stating at the time that he was "fighting against a strong allergy" and resting.

Maduro said in a broadcast Thursday that Cabello's diagnosis was confirmed with a molecular exam — a test that is usually conducted with a nasal swab sample. Venezuela has done far fewer of these tests

than neighboring countries, instead largely deploying rapid blood antibody tests. Some experts fear that relying so heavily on the rapid tests, which don't detect signs of illness early in an infection, means cases are being missed.

"Venezuela is with Diosdado," Maduro said. "I am sure soon enough we will continue on in this fight."

In Brazil, President Jair Bolsonaro was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Tuesday.

He appeared Thursday on an online broadcast from the presidential residence as defiant as on previous occasions. He coughed once, but did not show other symptoms of the disease that has killed more than 69,000 people in the South American nation.

Bolsonaro repeated his view that the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic is more dangerous than the coronavirus itself. He insisted that mayors and governors need to reopen the country for business.

"We need governors and mayors, within their responsibilities, to reopen commerce. Otherwise the consequences will be harmful for Brazil," Bolsonaro said, wearing a gray shirt and sitting comfortably in front of two national flags.

## Medical experts: Floyd's speech didn't mean he could breathe

By AMY FORLITI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — As George Floyd repeatedly pleaded "I can't breathe" to police officers holding him down on a Minneapolis street corner, some of the officers responded by pointing out he was able to speak. One told Floyd it takes "a lot of oxygen" to talk, while another told angry bystanders that Floyd was "talking, so he can breathe."

That reaction -- seen in police restraint deaths around the country -- is dangerously wrong, medical experts say. While it would be right to believe a person who can't talk also cannot breathe, the reverse is not true -- speaking does not imply that someone is getting enough air to survive.

"The ability to speak does not mean the patient is without danger," said Dr. Mariell Jessup, chief science and medical officer of the American Heart Association.

"To speak, you only have to move air through the upper airways and the vocal cords, a very small amount," and that does not mean that enough air is getting down into the lungs where it can supply the rest of the body with oxygen, said Dr. Gary Weissman, a lung specialist at the University of Pennsylvania.

The false perception that someone who can speak can also take in enough air is not part of any known police training curriculum or practices, according to experts on police training and use of force.

"I'm not aware of any standard training of police officers that lets them know, 'Hey, if someone is still able to talk they are not having difficulty breathing, so you can just keep doing what you are doing,'" said Craig Futterman, professor at University of Chicago Law School and an expert on use of force.

Floyd, a Black man who was handcuffed, died May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly 8 minutes, keeping Floyd pinned even after he stopped moving. In the moments before he died, Floyd told police he couldn't breathe more than 20 times.

A transcript from one of two police body camera videos released Wednesday shows that at one point after Floyd said he couldn't breathe and was being killed, Chauvin said: "Then stop talking, stop yelling. It takes a heck of a lot of oxygen to talk."

Widely viewed bystander video shows Tou Thao, the officer who was managing people who had gathered, told the concerned crowd, "He's talking, so he can breathe."

The medical community disagrees.

In a recent article in the medical journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, Weissman and others wrote that when air is inhaled, it first fills the upper airway, trachea and bronchi, where speech is generated. The article says this "anatomical dead space" accounts for about one third of the volume of an ordinary breath, and only air that gets beyond this space goes to air sacs in the lungs for gas exchange, which is when oxygen is sent to the bloodstream and carbon dioxide is removed as waste.

The volume of an ordinary breath is about 400 to 600 mL, but normal speech requires about 50 mL of gas per syllable, so saying the words "I can't breathe" would require 150 mL of gas, the authors wrote.

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A person can utter words by exhaling alone, using reserve left over after a normal breath is exhaled. But, the article says, "adequate gas exchange to support life requires inhalation. ... Waiting until a person loses the ability to speak may be too late to prevent catastrophic cardiopulmonary collapse."

Minneapolis police spokesman John Elder said there is nothing in current training that instructs officers that a person who can talk while restrained is able to breathe. He said training surrounding the issue of talking and ability to breathe comes up only when discussing whether someone can speak or cough while choking on a foreign object – and even then, the person's condition must be reassessed. Chief Medaria Arradondo has also said the restraint used by Chauvin was not taught by his department.

But the misperception that a talking person is able to breathe has also come up in other high-profile in-custody deaths.

Craig McKinnis died in May 2014 in Kansas City, Kansas, after he was restrained by police during a traffic stop. According to a federal lawsuit, McKinnis' girlfriend said that after McKinnis cried, "I can't breathe," one of the officers said, "If you can talk, you can breathe."

Eric Garner cried out "I can't breathe" 11 times on a street in Staten Island, New York, in July 2014 after he was arrested for selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. Video shot by a bystander showed officers and paramedics milling around without any seeming urgency as Garner lay on the street, slowly going limp.

Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who performed the chokehold, was fired. Pantaleo's defenders have included Rep. Peter King, a New York Republican, who said at the time that police were right to ignore Garner's pleas that he couldn't breathe.

"The fact that he was able to say it meant he could breathe," said King, the son of a police officer.

"And if you've ever seen anyone locked up, anyone resisting arrest, they're always saying, 'You're breaking my arm, you're killing me, you're breaking my neck.' So if the cops had eased up or let him go at that stage, the whole struggle would have started in again."

Futterman said best practices offer police training on positional asphyxiation and teach officers to roll a person onto his or her side for recovery, if necessary. And, he said, chokeholds or other restraints that restrict oxygen are considered deadly force, and can only be used as a last resort to prevent imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm.

He said just because a person is struggling does not give an officer the right to use deadly force.

According to a transcript of his interview with state investigators, Thomas Lane, the officer who was at Floyd's legs, said that he'd had past experiences in which someone who was overdosing would pass out and then come to and be more aggressive. He told investigators that he asked if Floyd should be rolled onto his side, and after Chauvin said they would stay in position, he thought it made sense since an ambulance was on the way. Lane said he watched Floyd and believed he was still breathing.

Randy Shrewberry, executive director of the Institute for Criminal Justice Training Reform, said officers are supposed to ease up on any restraint once a person is under control.

"In the moment they are under control, or the moment you have someone restrained, is when everything stops," Shrewberry said.

AP Medical Writer Marilynn Marchione contributed to this report from Milwaukee. Colleen Long contributed from Washington.

Follow Amy Forliti on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/amyforliti>

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump team distortions on Biden and police

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's campaign team is misrepresenting Democratic rival Joe Biden's stance on improving police practices following George Floyd's death.

In ads and emails this week, the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee assert that Biden would "defund the police." That's not Biden's position. The former vice president has repeatedly

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made clear he would boost money for social services and condition federal dollars on police adhering to standards of decency.

Meanwhile, Biden left out some context when he asserted that Trump had ordered the government to slow down coronavirus testing.

A look at some of the claims from the campaign:

TRUMP on BIDEN

TRUMP campaign ad, playing out a scenario where a person needing help calls the police during a Biden presidency and gets a voice recording: "You have reached the 911 police emergency line. Due to defunding of the police department, we're sorry but no one is here to take your call." The ad closes with the message: "You won't be safe in Joe Biden's America."

THE FACTS: Biden has not joined the call of protesters who demanded "defund the police" after Floyd's killing in Minneapolis. Biden has proposed more money for police, conditioned on improvements in their practices.

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

Biden added in remarks Wednesday to reporters: "We don't have to defund the police departments, we have to make sure they meet minimum basic standards of decency."

Biden's criminal justice agenda, released long before he became the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee, proposes more federal money for "training that is needed to avert tragic, unjustifiable deaths" and hiring more officers to ensure that departments are racially and ethnically reflective of the populations they serve.

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

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

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

Democrats, meanwhile, have pointed to Trump's repeated proposals in the administration's budget to cut community policing and mediation programs at the Justice Department. Congressional Republicans say the program can be effectively merged with other divisions, but Democrats have repeatedly blocked the effort. The program has been used to help provide federal oversight of local police departments.

Despite proposed cuts, Attorney General William Barr last month said the department would use the COPS program funding to hire over 2,700 police officers at nearly 600 departments across the country.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE email: "In the wake of rioting, looting, and tragic murders ripping apart communities across the country, Joe Biden said 'Yes, absolutely' he wants to defund the police." — email Wednesday from Steve Guest, RNC's rapid response director.

THE FACTS: That's misleading, a selective use of Biden's words on the subject.

The email links to an excerpted video of Biden's conversation with liberal activist Ady Barkan, who endorsed Biden on Wednesday after supporting Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Bernie Sanders of Vermont during the Democratic primaries. A full recording of that conversation provided by the Biden campaign to The Associated Press shows he once again declined to support defunding police.

Barkan raises the issue of police reform and asks whether Biden would funnel money into social services, mental health counseling and affordable housing to help reduce civilian interactions with police.

Biden responds that he is calling for more money for mental health providers but "that's not the same as getting rid of or defunding all the police" and that both approaches are needed, including additional dollars for community police.

Asked again by Barkan, "so we agree that we can redirect some of the funding," Biden then answers "absolutely yes."

Biden then gives the caveat that he means "not just redirect" federal money potentially but "condition" it on police improvements.



"If they don't eliminate chokeholds, they don't get (federal) grants, if they don't do the following, they don't get any help," Biden replied.

"The vast majority of all police departments are funded by the locality, funded by the municipality, funded by the state," he added. "It's only the federal government comes in on top of that, and so it says you want help, you have to do the following reforms."

## BIDEN on TRUMP

BIDEN: "President Trump claimed to the American people that he was a wartime leader, but instead of taking responsibility, Trump has waved a white flag, revealing that he ordered the slowing of testing and having his administration tell Americans that they simply need to 'live with it.' — statement Wednesday marking the rise in U.S. coronavirus infections to more than 3 million.

THE FACTS: To be clear, the government did not slow testing on the orders of the president.

Trump at first denied he was joking when he told a Tulsa, Oklahoma, rally on June 20 that he said "to my people, 'Slow the testing down, please'" because "they test and they test." Days later he said he didn't really mean it.

In any event, a succession of his public health officials testified to Congress that the president never asked them to slow testing and that they were doing all they could to increase it. But testing remains markedly insufficient.

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

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## CDC head sticking to school-opening guides Trump criticized

By JEFF AMY and CAROLE FELDMAN Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Federal health officials won't revise their coronavirus guidelines for reopening schools despite criticism from President Donald Trump, the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday. What they will do, he said, is provide additional information to help states, communities and parents decide what to do and when.

"Our guidelines are our guidelines," Dr. Robert Redfield declared.

In draft CDC documents obtained by The Associated Press, the agency says there are steps that schools can take to safely reopen but that it "cannot provide one-size-fits-all criteria for opening and closing schools or changing the way schools are run."

"Decisions about how to open and run schools safely should be made based on local needs and conditions," the documents say.

They also include a checklist that encourages parents to carefully consider whether they should send their kids back to school in person or seek virtual instruction. Many districts nationwide are offering parents a choice of either mode of instruction. New York City, among other school districts, has announced that students will only return part-time in the fall.

That runs counter to Trump's messaging. He has been repeatedly pressuring state and local officials to reopen schools this fall, even threatening to withhold federal funds from those that keep teaching and learning remote.

Trump on Wednesday criticized the CDC's guidelines as "very tough and expensive" and said the agency was "asking schools to do very impractical things." Speaking of CDC officials, he tweeted, "I will be meeting with them!!!" And Vice President Mike Pence said revised guidelines would be issued next week.

But in an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America," Redfield firmly stuck to the existing CDC guidelines.

"It's really important, it's not a revision of the guidelines, it's just to provide additional information to

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help schools be able to use the guidance that we put forward.”

Asked about the apparent discrepancy between Redfield’s and Pence’s statements, White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany said they were on the same page. She said “supplemental guidelines” would be forthcoming.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has said that schools will be failing kids if they don’t provide full-time, in-person instruction.

But the draft CDC documents, which have yet to be released publicly, say decisions like that should be left to local officials. They say, “Each school and each community will have different needs and should implement the strategies best designed to meet them.”

The documents say that in-person schooling will lead to at least some infections but that there are steps schools can take to lessen the risk.

A graph of the CDC’s disease modeling indicates there’s likely to be significantly more virus spread if all students attend school five days a week. The graph projects alternate schedules could cut infections by as much as 80%, although the agency acknowledges there is much more to learn about the disease.

“Scientists are still learning about how it spreads, how it impacts children and what role children may play in its spread,” the introduction to the parent checklist states.

Redfield said the upcoming reference documents in part would cover how to monitor for symptoms and use face masks in schools.

The CDC’s current guidance recommends that students and teachers wear masks whenever feasible, spread out desks, stagger schedules, eat meals in classrooms instead of the cafeteria and add physical barriers between bathroom sinks.

When asked about the documents AP obtained, CDC spokesman Benjamin Haynes wrote in an email that the agency would distribute additional guidance next week and pointed to what has already been released.

The White House declined to comment on the documents.

The 30-question parent checklist asks about a child’s health, use of special education services, comfort with local school plans and whether parents can facilitate at-home learning. It warns that if parents check multiple items on the “stay-at-home” column, that “could be an indicator that your family should consider alternative learning formats other than in-person schooling.”

The checklist says parents should evaluate school district plans, including how districts are “preparing for when someone gets sick.”

“If your child, members of your household, or individuals with whom you interact frequently are at increased risk for severe illness, the best way to reduce risk of getting sick is to limit your interaction with other people,” it states.

In his tweet on Wednesday, Trump did not clarify which of the CDC guidelines he opposed. But McEnany said, for example, that the president takes issue with the CDC’s suggestion that students bring their own meals to school when feasible.

“There are 22 million children in this country who depend on these meals at schools, who depend on access to nutrition in schools,” she said.

Democrats have warned Trump to keep out of the CDC’s work. Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, ranking Democrat on the Education Committee, said the agency needs to be trusted to make decisions based on scientific evidence, “not on President Trump’s Twitter outbursts.”

Feldman reported from Washington.

## Mississippi seeing big virus outbreak in state legislature

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Packed elevators and crowded committee rooms. Legislators sitting shoulder-to-shoulder on the House and Senate floor. People standing close to each other and talking, sometimes

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leaning in to whisper, without a mask in sight.

Those were common scenes at the Mississippi Capitol in June — a month that saw a historic vote to remove the Confederate emblem from the state flag — and now at least 26 lawmakers have been diagnosed with the coronavirus in the biggest known outbreak in any state legislature in the nation.

That works out to about 1 in 7 Mississippi legislators.

Among those testing positive in the heavily Republican body are the GOP presiding officers, House Speaker Philip Gunn and Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann.

None of the lawmakers has been hospitalized, according to state officials.

President Donald Trump has resisted wearing a mask, and many other Republicans around the country have cast face coverings and social distancing as an infringement on their freedom.

But around the Mississippi Capitol, not wearing a mask — or wearing one pushed below the chin — was a bipartisan activity in recent weeks. At the same time, plenty of other lawmakers from both parties covered their faces and took other precautions.

Mississippi has seen a rapid rise in confirmed cases in the past two weeks, with the total hitting nearly 33,600 by Wednesday, including at least 1,200 deaths.

In addition to the legislators, at least 10 people who work in the Capitol have been diagnosed with the virus, the state health officer said Wednesday. And the numbers could well be higher: The figures are based only on Health Department testing done in Jackson, including drive-thru testing Monday at the Capitol. Some members were tested after returning to their hometowns beginning July 1.

“If you have been in contact with anyone in the Legislature, or if you have been in contact with any staff person that works at the Legislature, you need to get tested,” warned Republican Gov. Tate Reeves, who has tested negative.

Reeves has urged people to wear masks and maintain social distancing, but he has not always done those things himself. He went bare-faced at the funeral of a deputy sheriff and while signing a bill to change the flag.

Republican Sen. Chad McMahan, who has tested negative, said Thursday that he washed his hands often and did his best to keep his distance from others at the Capitol. But he skipped wearing a mask because “it’s quite uncomfortable.”

Mississippi legislators — there were 172 most of this session — were supposed to meet from January through April but went home in mid-March because of the outbreak. They returned briefly in May during a feud with the governor over spending coronavirus relief money from the federal government.

From the start of the crisis, people entering the Capitol had to undergo a screening each day, with a temperature check and a few questions. Chairs in committee rooms were spaced apart, hand sanitizer was widely available and signs told people to take precautions.

When legislators met in May, they took social distancing seriously. Only a few people at a time were allowed on the House floor, with voting conducted in small groups, and senators had to sit far from each other in their chamber.

They returned in June, facing a July 1 deadline to write a state budget and handle other business. The longer they were together, the more the safety precautions slipped.

Legislators were soon pulled into the flag debate, and the Capitol became crowded in late June with ministers, college coaches and others urging legislators to ditch the 126-year-old banner. After the final votes, spectators cheered and hugged in the galleries, and legislators embraced and posed for photos.

A count by The Associated Press shows at least 73 lawmakers in 27 states have tested positive for the coronavirus since the outbreak began. Three lawmakers have died, in Louisiana, Michigan and South Dakota.

In Mississippi, Democratic Rep. Tom Miles tested negative in recent days. His 60-year-old mother, who was an emergency room nurse, died of the virus May 1. Miles said he wore a mask at the Capitol.

“When you get in a fishbowl of people, you’re at risk,” Miles said.

Rep. John Faulkner, a Democrat, consistently wore a mask at the Capitol — one marked “8:46” to remember George Floyd, the African American man who died after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his

knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes.

Faulkner posted a video to Facebook saying he tested positive and has had mild symptoms akin to a sinus infection with an occasional cough.

"Even if you do all that you can do, there's still a possibility that you can be infected with this," he said. "If you're not practicing, following the guidelines from the CDC, then we're basically playing Russian roulette with our health and our lives and the lives of our friends and families."

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

## Ousted NY prosecutor tells panel Barr 'urged' him to resign

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ousted U.S. attorney who was leading investigations into President Donald Trump's allies told the House Judiciary panel on Thursday that Attorney General William Barr "repeatedly urged" him to resign during a hastily arranged meeting that sheds light on the extraordinary standoff surrounding his departure.

Geoffrey Berman, the former federal prosecutor for the Southern District of New York, provided the committee with a detailed account behind closed doors of three days in June as he was pushed out, according to his opening statement, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

Berman said Barr, over a 45-minute session at the Pierre Hotel in New York, "pressed" him to step aside and take on a new job heading up the Justice Department's Civil Division so the administration could install Jay Clayton, chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to the top prosecutor post in Manhattan.

"I told the attorney general that I was not interested," Berman told the panel.

Berman explained, "There were important investigations in the office that I wanted to see through to completion." He told Barr that, while he liked Clayton, he viewed the SEC commissioner as "an unqualified choice" for the job.

"He had had no criminal experience," Berman said.

When Barr warned that if he didn't go, he would be fired, "I told him that while I did not want to get fired, I would not resign," Berman said.

The Judiciary Committee interview, which is being transcribed for public release later, comes as the panel deepens its probe of politicization at the Justice Department.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., has called Berman's dismissal "part of a clear and dangerous pattern" of behavior by Barr. The panel's Democratic majority is pursuing its investigation of the attorney general, who they say operates more like Trump's personal lawyer than the nation's top law enforcement official. Barr is set to testify before the committee later this month.

The Southern District, known for its high-profile prosecutions, is where Berman oversaw several ongoing investigations of Trump associates, including some who figured prominently in the House impeachment inquiry of the president.

Berman's office is looking into the business dealings of Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer and a former New York mayor. It has also prosecuted Trump's former personal lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen, who went to prison for lying to Congress and campaign finance crimes.

The closed-door interview with Berman spanned three hours. He was not expected to disclose information about the investigations into Trump's circle, but rather to discuss only his removal, according to a person familiar with the proceeding who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss it. He arrived without a lawyer.

The session comes as the Capitol remains partially shut down during the COVID-19 crisis. A handful of lawmakers, but not all those on the panel, attended.

Berman, a Republican lawyer and donor to Trump, was tapped by the administration in 2018 as the U.S. attorney for SDNY.

He ultimately agreed to step down from his post, but only after being assured his office's probes of



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Trump's circle would continue.

As he sat alone before the committee, Berman told the panel of the series of events that started with a Thursday email from Barr's office requesting the meeting. He said he was not told what it was about.

When he arrived at Barr's hotel suite the next day, there "were sandwiches on the table, but nobody ate."

Barr told him he wanted to make changes at the office. Berman resisted, saying he "loved" his job and asked if Barr was "dissatisfied" with his performance.

Barr assured him the move was solely because Clayton wanted to relocate to New York and the administration wanted to "keep him on the team."

Back and forth it went, with Barr saying the move would be good for Berman's resume and eventual return to the private sector, Berman said. Berman would "only have to sit there" for five months until the presidential election determined next steps, Barr said. He told Berman it would be an opportunity to accumulate a "book of business" — clients — to bring to a private firm.

As Berman remain unmoved, Barr told him "he was trying to think of other jobs in the administration" that might be of interest. "I said that there was no job offer that would entice me to resign from my position," Berman recalled.

Late that Friday the Justice Department issued a statement saying Berman was stepping down, launching the standoff. Berman issued his own statement saying he had "no intention of resigning." He showed up for work Saturday.

On Saturday night, Barr publicly released a letter saying Berman had been fired by the president.

At the time, Trump told reporters it was "all up to the attorney general," adding, "I wasn't involved."

Berman told the panel the letter also contained a "critical concession" from Barr. In it, Barr stated that Berman's hand-picked deputy would take over as acting U.S. attorney until the permanent successor was in place. Berman said that with "full confidence" the work of the office would continue, "I decided to step down and not litigate my removal."

It's not the first ouster of a U.S. attorney from the SDNY. Preet Bharara, a former federal prosecutor appointed by President Barack Obama, announced that he was fired in March 2017, shortly after Trump took office.

Berman had worked from 1987 to 1990 for the independent counsel who investigated the administration of President Ronald Reagan in the Iran-Contra affair.

He previously served in the SDNY office as an assistant U.S. attorney from 1990 to 1994 before joining private practice, including time at the same firm as Giuliani. He reportedly met with Trump before being assigned the top federal prosecutor job in Manhattan.

SDNY has probed Trump's inaugural fundraising and overseen the prosecution of two Florida businessmen, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, who were associates of Giuliani and tied to the Ukraine impeachment investigation. The men were charged in October with federal campaign finance violations.

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Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report from Washington.

## US sanctions Chinese officials over repression of minorities

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on three senior officials of the Chinese Communist Party, including a member of the ruling Politburo, for alleged human rights abuses targeting ethnic and religious minorities that China has detained in the western part of the country.

The decision to bar these senior officials from entering the U.S. is the latest of a series of actions the Trump administration has taken against China as relations deteriorate over the coronavirus pandemic, human rights, Hong Kong and trade. Just a day earlier, the administration had announced visa bans against officials deemed responsible for barring foreigners' access to Tibet. Thursday's step, however, hits a more senior level of leadership and is likely to draw a harsh response from Beijing.

The measures come as President Donald Trump has increasingly sought to blame China for the spread

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of COVID-19 in the United States and beyond and accuse his presumptive challenger in November's election, former Vice President Joe Biden, of being soft on China. They follow an allegation in a new book by former national security adviser John Bolton that Trump told Chinese President Xi Jinping he was right to build detention camps to house hundreds of thousands of ethnic minorities.

The sanctions were announced a week after an Associated Press investigation showed forced population control of the Uighurs and other largely Muslim minorities, one of the reasons cited by the State Department for the sanctions

"The United States will not stand idly by as the Chinese Communist Party carries out human rights abuses targeting Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and members of other minority groups in Xinjiang, to include forced labor, arbitrary mass detention, and forced population control, and attempts to erase their culture and Muslim faith," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement.

Pompeo's statement, accompanied by a similar announcement from the Treasury Department, said additional visa restrictions are being placed on other Chinese Communist Party officials believed to be responsible for, or complicit in, the unjust detention or abuse of Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and members of other minority groups.

The three officials targeted by name were: Chen Quanguo, the party secretary of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in northwest China and a member of the Politburo; Zhu Hailun, party secretary of the Xinjiang political and legal committee; and Wang Mingshan, party secretary of the Xinjiang public security bureau.

They and their immediate family members are banned from entering the United States. The AP profiled Zhu as part of a package of stories last year.

Pompeo also announced that he was placing additional visa restrictions on other Chinese Communist Party officials believed to be responsible for or complicit in "unjust detention or abuse" of Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and members of other minority groups in Xinjiang. Their family members also are subject to the travel restrictions.

The sanctions come as pressure mounts for action on the forced detention and abuse of largely Muslim minorities in China. In response to the AP investigation, 78 senators and members of Congress signed a letter urging the Trump administration to sanction Chinese officials and call for a U.N. probe into whether the actions in Xinjiang constitute genocide. Biden issued a statement calling the Chinese government's actions "unconscionable crimes" and said he would work to "support a pathway for those persecuted to find safe haven in the United States and other nations." And in the first attempt to enlist international law over the human rights abuses, Uighur exiles asked the International Criminal Court to investigate Beijing for genocide.

In recent years, the Chinese government has detained an estimated 1 million or more ethnic Turkic minorities. The ethnic minorities are held in internment camps and prisons where they are subjected to ideological discipline, forced to denounce their religion and language and physically abused. China has also placed the children of detainees into dozens of orphanages, where they too are indoctrinated, former detainees and their families say.

China has long suspected the Uighurs, who are mostly Muslim, of harboring separatist tendencies because of their distinct culture, language and religion. China's officially atheist Communist government at first denied the existence of the internment camps in Xinjiang, but now says they are vocational training facilities aimed at countering Muslim radicalism and separatist tendencies.

China says Xinjiang has long been its territory and claims it is bringing prosperity and development to the vast, resource-rich region. Many among Xinjiang's native ethnic groups say they are being denied economic options in favor of migrants from elsewhere in China and that their Muslim faith and culture and language are being gradually eradicated.

Last December, Xinjiang authorities announced that the camps had closed and all the detainees had "graduated," a claim difficult to corroborate independently given tight surveillance and restrictions on reporting in the region. Some Uighurs and Kazakhs have told the AP that their relatives have been released,

but many others say their loved ones remain in detention, were sentenced to prison or transferred to forced labor in factories.

In October 2019, the United States imposed visa restrictions on Chinese officials “believed to be responsible for, or complicit in” the detention of Muslims in Xinjiang. It also blacklisted more than two dozen Chinese companies and agencies linked to abuses in the region — including surveillance technology manufacturers and Xinjiang’s public security bureau — effectively blocking them from buying U.S. products.

Last month, Trump signed legislation, passed with overwhelming support from Congress, mandating that individuals, including Chen, face sanctions for oppressing Uighurs. The law also requires that U.S. businesses and individuals selling products to or operating in Xinjiang ensure their activities don’t contribute to human rights violations, including the use of forced labor. An AP story two years ago linked products sold in the U.S. to Uighur forced labor in China.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

## Officers in deadly Breonna Taylor raid thought she was alone

By DYLAN LOVAN Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Louisville police officers who fatally shot Breonna Taylor while serving a warrant were told she should be home alone because the main target of the narcotics investigation was elsewhere, according to an interview with one of the detectives who served the warrant.

Taylor was shot eight times after officers used a battering ram to knock down her door and fired into the apartment after midnight March 13. One officer was shot by Taylor’s boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, who said he thought an intruder was breaking into the home.

The slaying set off weeks of protests, policy changes and a call for the officers who shot Taylor to be criminally charged. Global protests on behalf of Taylor, George Floyd in Minnesota and others have been part of national reckoning over racism and police brutality.

Sgt. Johnathan Mattingly, who was shot in the leg by Walker, spoke to Louisville Police internal investigators about two weeks after the raid. NBC News obtained the interview with Mattingly and another with Walker and released them Thursday. Several key parts of the interviews were played for the public in May when an attempted murder charge against Walker was dropped.

Mattingly said ahead of the raid officers were told Taylor’s ground floor apartment was a “soft target” and Taylor “should be there alone, because they knew where their target was and I guess they thought that he was her only boyfriend or only acquaintance.” Police were conducting a wide-ranging drug investigation that night.

That target was an alleged drug dealer named Jamarcus Glover, who was arrested on trafficking charges the same night 10 miles (16 kilometers) away on a separate warrant. Taylor had a previous relationship with Glover.

Earlier this week, lawyers for Taylor’s mother filed an amended civil lawsuit that alleged police initially called off the warrant search at Taylor’s apartment but then went ahead with it to attempt to locate other drug suspects that had no connection to Taylor. Glover had already been apprehended, the lawsuit said.

Mattingly told investigators in the interview recording that officers briefed on the raid were told Glover had packages sent to her apartment in her name.

Taylor “possibly held dope for him, received the packages and held his money,” Mattingly said he was told of Taylor’s involvement. No drugs were found at Taylor’s home.

Police had secured a “no-knock” warrant for Taylor’s apartment, but both Walker and Mattingly confirmed that police knocked on Taylor’s door. The warrants have since been banned by a Louisville ordinance named for Taylor. State legislators on Thursday were also discussing a bill for a statewide ban of the controversial warrants. The bill would be introduced in January.

Mattingly told investigators officers knocked for about 45 seconds to a minute before using the ram. He entered the home after the door was breached and saw two people, one with a gun, he said.

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It was Walker, who moments earlier was lying in bed with Taylor and watching a movie, Walker told investigators in a 90-minute interview.

"I'm trying to protect her, she didn't have a gun," Walker said of Taylor. Walker said he fired one shot toward the ground just as the door was being bashed in. That bullet hit Mattingly in the left thigh. Mattingly then fired about six shots, he said, and then scooted himself out of the apartment.

Mattingly and another Louisville officer, Myles Cosgrove, were placed on administrative leave after the shooting. Another officer who was at the scene, Brett Hankison, has been fired for violating use of force procedures, for "blindly" firing 10 shots into the home, according to police.

Mattingly said Hankison "was a little worked up" that night, and pointed his gun at a neighbor who was yelling at the officers.

Walker spoke to investigators just hours after Taylor was shot, and without an attorney present, according to the interview. Walker said on his way to the interview, riding in a police car, the car stopped for another person who told Walker there was a "misunderstanding."

Walker said the man, driving a silver SUV, told him: "I just wanted to let you know right now ... we had a misunderstanding."

"It seems like to me they realized they were at the wrong place," Walker said. Attorneys for Taylor's family have argued that police had no cause to go search her house.

Mattingly said the bullet hit his femoral artery, and he was undergoing physical therapy. He spoke to investigators for about 40 minutes with his attorney in the room.

## US economy may be stalling out as viral outbreak worsens

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy is stumbling as the viral outbreak intensifies, threatening to slow hiring and deepening the uncertainty for employees, consumers and companies across the country.

Coronavirus case counts are rising in 38 states, and the nation as a whole has been shattering single-day records for new confirmed cases. In six states representing one-third of the economy — Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, and Texas — governors are reversing their reopening plans. Reopening efforts are on pause in 15 other states.

The reversals are keeping layoffs elevated and threatening to weaken hiring. More than 1.3 million people applied for unemployment benefits last week, the Labor Department said Thursday, down from 1.4 million the previous week but still roughly double the pre-pandemic weekly record. Applications had fallen steadily in April and May but have barely declined in the past month.

Jobless claims "are stalled out at a new normal of over a million new claims every week," said Daniel Zhao, an economist at Glassdoor. "The virus is in the driver's seat and we're along for the ride until the current public health crisis is resolved."

Some economists have even warned that a so-called "double-dip" recession, in which the economy shrinks again after rebounding, could develop. Consumers, the primary driver of U.S. economic growth, are pulling back on spending in restaurants and bars, especially in the hardest-hit states. Some small businesses are closing, either under government orders or because of a lack of customers, according to private data.

Several companies have warned in recent days that more layoffs are coming. Levi's, the iconic jeans maker, said it will cut 700 corporate jobs. United Airlines has warned 36,000 of its employees — nearly half its workforce — that they could lose their jobs in October. (Airlines aren't allowed to cut jobs until then as a condition of accepting billions of dollars in government rescue aid.) Motorcycle maker Harley Davidson said it will eliminate 700 corporate jobs.

The pandemic drove Walgreens to a deep loss in the most recent quarter, with customers staying home or limiting shopping to essential supplies from grocery stores. Walgreens will cut 4,000 jobs at its pharmacy chain Boots in the United Kingdom. Bed Bath & Beyond said it will close 200 stores over the next two years as its sales have slid.

The uncertainty fanned by the pandemic has led many CEOs to abandon their forecasts for second-



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quarter results. Just as with the economy, forecasters say it could take years for corporate earnings to return to the levels they were at before the pandemic.

With reported viral cases surging, restaurant visits are falling in Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas, which together account for half of new confirmed infections. This week, in Arizona, restaurant traffic was down 65% from a year earlier, worse than the 50% year-over-year drop two weeks earlier, according to data from reservation app OpenTable. In Florida, traffic was down 57%, compared with 45% two weeks before.

Last week, applications for U.S. unemployment benefits spiked in Texas, Nevada, Tennessee and Louisiana — states where confirmed cases of the virus are intensifying. They also jumped in New Jersey and New York, where the pandemic is mostly under control, but where reopening steps have been postponed.

Applications dropped in California and Florida, though in California they remained high, with more than 267,000 claims. That is more people than were applying each week for unemployment benefits in the entire country before the pandemic hit. Jobless claims also declined in Michigan and Colorado.

The total number of people receiving jobless benefits fell 700,000 to 18 million. That suggests that some companies are continuing to rehire a limited number of workers. An additional 1 million people sought benefits last week under a separate program for self-employed and gig workers that has made them eligible for aid for the first time. These figures aren't adjusted for seasonal variations, so the government doesn't include them in the official count.

In New Jersey, about 4,000 people had expected to return to their jobs last week at casinos in Atlantic City, after Gov. Phil Murphy said they could fully reopen. But Murphy later said the casinos couldn't reopen their restaurants and bars because indoor dining was too risky. Employees who had hoped to return to work feel whipsawed.

"I wanted this nightmare to go away," said Mineli Polanco, a beverage server at Borgata, a hotel and casino. "That first call was such a relief: things were going back to normal. Then the second call came, and it was a new nightmare."

Signs of a weakening jobs picture suggest a turnaround from last week's jobs report for June, which showed a solid gain of 4.8 million jobs and an unemployment rate that fell to 11.1% from 13.3%. But the June jobs report reflected surveys of Americans that were conducted in the middle of that month — before the pandemic flared up again. And even counting that hiring gain, the economy has regained only about one-third of the jobs that vanished in March and April.

Credit card data from both Bank of America and J.P.Morgan Chase show that spending has slipped in the past two weeks, even in states that don't have sharp outbreaks.

"This suggests that renewed fears about the virus, rather than government restrictions, are driving the pullback in activity," said Andrew Hunter, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, a forecasting firm.

Among retailers, the number of shifts worked changed little last week after steady increases in previous weeks, according to data from Kronos, which makes scheduling software. David Gilbertson, a vice president at Kronos, said this indicates that consumer demand in many cases hasn't picked up enough to justify more employees.

"Everything that's going to be open is open," Gilbertson said. "Now, we just need more people to come in and start spending money before things can pick up again."

The renewed threat of job losses is arising just as a federal program that provides \$600 a week in unemployment benefits, on top of whatever jobless aid each state provides, is to expire at the end of this month. Congressional leaders have said they will take up some form of a new rescue package when lawmakers return later this month from a recess.

Administration officials have expressed support for additional stimulus. But Senate Republicans have opposed extending the \$600 a week in unemployment benefits, mainly on the ground that it discourages laid-off people from returning to work. House Democrats have pushed to extend the \$600 a week through January.

In an interview Thursday on CNBC, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin suggested that the administration might support an extension of supplemental unemployment aid but at a reduced level.

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"We're going to make sure people are (incentivized) to go back to jobs," Mnuchin said.

AP Writer Wayne Parry in Atlantic City contributed to this report.

## Soap opera's kisses outwit virus with tests, spouses, dolls

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood's technical expertise can awe us with monsters and imaginary worlds. But is it capable of delivering a simple screen kiss during a pandemic marked by masks and social distancing?

Yes, according to the soap opera producer who is making that happen with a strategic approach to romance. "The Bold and the Beautiful," in the vanguard of TV series that have resumed taping after an industry-wide shutdown in March, is relying on health advisers and coronavirus safeguards to bring cast and crew together.

There's also ingenuity involved, which includes employing actors' real-life partners as smooching stand-ins and, for more limited purposes, using a mannequin to eliminate the risk of breaching a co-star's infection safety zone.

"We feel almost like television pioneers all these years later because we're the first ones out, blazing new ways of producing the shows with the current safety standards, and we're getting the job done. It's very exciting," said Bradley Bell, executive producer of CBS' "The Bold and the Beautiful," which debuted in 1987 and is at roughly 8,300 episodes and counting.

Denise Richards, who plays Shauna Fulton, said she was excited to be back at work and pleased with the protective measures in place for the soap opera that, true to form, includes "a lot of love scenes."

When "The Bold and the Beautiful" scripts written pre-coronavirus were reviewed in preparation for the new normal of production, the clinches initially were dropped. That was the cue for Hollywood creativity.

The solution: A carefully remote actor recites lines as their on-camera scene partner responds in a "low, intimate voice" and engages in "beautiful, yearning eye contact" with an off-camera doll, Bell said.

"But the fact is they're all alone on the stage, making television magic," he said, with dramatic flair.

One of the stand-ins is a mannequin relegated to the prop room some 15 years ago after starring in a cemetery scene about the faked death of character Taylor Hayes (Hunter Tylo). The other is a life-sized doll with no known TV credits.

But what about the payoff, the embrace and heart-stopping lip-lock? That's where actors' partners come in, which recently included cast member Katrina Bowden's husband, musician Ben Jorgensen.

When Bowden's Flo Fulton (daughter to Richard's Shauna) is kidnapped and chained to a radiator, it's co-star Darin Brooks, as Wyatt Spencer, who comes to the rescue.

"It really called for a big embrace and a kiss," Bell said. "So once she was freed, we stopped tape, Katrina's husband came in and they finished the scene. We see the back of his head, and I think it's very convincing it's really Darin."

Richards was looking forward to taping a love scene with her husband, Aaron Phypers, standing in for co-star Thorsten Kaye's character, Ridge Forrester.

"The Bold and the Beautiful," which had never before halted production, remains among the TV and movie outliers in getting back to work.

The industry's reboot has been "gradual and cautious" since state and local bans were lifted in June, the Los Angeles film office for location shooting, said Wednesday. The office, FilmLA, has tallied about 14 permit applications daily since its June 19 reopening, about 20% of what would be received in a typical period.

Among the other network serials, CBS' "The Young and the Restless" plans to resume production next week, NBC's "Days of our Lives" is targeting September, and ABC's "General Hospital" has yet to announce a date. Prime-time shows also are in limbo, including those intended for the fall season. In the UK, the soap "Emmerdale" resumed filming last month.

The "learning curve" is steep, said Ken Corday, executive producer of "Days of our Lives," which has been airing since 1965 and has efficiency down pat. When the shutdown occurred, the serial had enough

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banked new episodes to air through October.

Before the pandemic, "we were producing eight, one-hour episodes a week. That's basically 40 or 50 scenes a day," Corday said. "That's going to be basically impossible to reopen, so to speak, at that pace. We're going to have to be more careful. So will there be five shows a week, or more? Yet to be determined."

It will certainly cost more, he said. Preventing the disease's spread is labor and time intensive, as "The Bold and the Beautiful" is demonstrating.

Cast and crew are tested weekly for coronavirus, with temperatures taken daily when they arrive at the studio and again on the set. They answer health screening questions and are given a mask and sometimes a face shield, along with a small bin for scripts, water and hair and makeup brushes to be kept from contact with others.

A designated coronavirus coordinator is tasked with overseeing the production, including keeping people safely separated, masks or not. An initial testing glitch, which resulted in a high rate of inconclusive results, forced a production pause and revised procedures.

So far, all cast and crew have tested negative, Bell said.

Reel Health, which launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to serve the entertainment industry, hires medically trained workers to monitor sets and enforce protocols developed by a company epidemiologist and in accordance with industry and government standards, said Mario Ramirez, president and CEO.

"You need to be able to make sure that everyone entering the site, first and foremost, is healthy," and that safeguards can keep a production running, Ramirez said.

Finding ways to put romance on the screen is inevitable and necessary, said Alicia Rodis, a veteran intimacy coordinator who helped the actors guild develop guidelines for taping scenes of romance and simulated sex.

"At the end of the day, intimacy isn't going anywhere. Physical intimacy is a part of the human experience," Rodis said. "And we're going to have to find a way to be able to continue to tell these stories, even in extraordinary circumstances."

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AP writer Alicia Rancilio in New York contributed to this report.

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Lynn Elber can be reached on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/lynnelber>.

## **No peeking, voters: Court keeps Trump taxes private for now**

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rejecting President Donald Trump's complaints that he's being harassed, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday in favor of a New York prosecutor's demands for the billionaire president's tax records. But in good political news for Trump, his taxes and other financial records almost certainly will be kept out of the public eye at least until after the November election.

In a separate case, the justices kept a hold on banking and other documents about Trump, family members and his businesses that Congress has been seeking for more than a year. The court said that while Congress has significant power to demand the president's personal information, it is not limitless.

The court turned away the broadest arguments by Trump's lawyers and the Justice Department that the president is immune from investigation while he holds office or that a prosecutor must show a greater need than normal to obtain the tax records. But it is unclear when a lower court judge might order the Manhattan district attorney's subpoena to be enforced.

Trump is the only president in modern times who has refused to make his tax returns public, and before he was elected he promised to release them. He didn't embrace Thursday's outcome as a victory even though it is likely to prevent his opponents in Congress from obtaining potentially embarrassing personal and business records ahead of Election Day.

In fact, the increasing likelihood that a grand jury will eventually get to examine the documents drove the president into a public rage. He lashed out declaring that "It's a pure witch hunt, it's a hoax" and

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calling New York, where he has lived most of his life, "a hellhole."

The documents have the potential to reveal details on everything from possible misdeeds to the true nature of the president's vaunted wealth – not to mention uncomfortable disclosures about how he's spent his money and how much he's given to charity.

The rejection of Trump's claims of presidential immunity marked the latest instance where his broad assertion of executive power has been rejected.

Trump's two high court appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, joined the majority in both cases along with Chief Justice John Roberts and the four liberal justices. Roberts wrote both opinions.

"Congressional subpoenas for information from the President, however, implicate special concerns regarding the separation of powers. The courts below did not take adequate account of those concerns," Roberts wrote in the congressional case.

But Roberts also wrote that Trump was asking for too much. "The standards proposed by the President and the Solicitor General—if applied outside the context of privileged information—would risk seriously impeding Congress in carrying out its responsibilities," the chief justice wrote.

The ruling returns the congressional case to lower courts, with no clear prospect for when it might ultimately be resolved.

Promising to keep pressing the case in the lower courts, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday's decision "is not good news for President Trump."

"The Court has reaffirmed the Congress's authority to conduct oversight on behalf of the American people," Pelosi said in a statement.

The tax returns case also is headed back to a lower court. Mazars USA, Trump's accounting firm, holds the tax returns and has indicated it would comply with a court order. Because the grand jury process is confidential, Trump's taxes normally would not be made public.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. said his investigation, on hold while the court fight played out, will now resume.

"This is a tremendous victory for our nation's system of justice and its founding principle that no one — not even a president — is above the law," Vance said.

Even with his broadest arguments rejected, Jay Sekulow, Trump's personal lawyer, said he was pleased that the "Supreme Court has temporarily blocked both Congress and New York prosecutors from obtaining the President's financial records. We will now proceed to raise additional Constitutional and legal issues in the lower courts."

Justice Samuel Alito, who dissented with Justice Clarence Thomas in both cases, warned that future presidents would suffer because of the decision about Trump's taxes.

"While the decision will of course have a direct effect on President Trump, what the Court holds today will also affect all future Presidents—which is to say, it will affect the Presidency, and that is a matter of great and lasting importance to the Nation," Alito wrote.

The case was argued by telephone in May because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The fight over the congressional subpoenas has significant implications regarding a president's power to refuse a formal request from Congress. In a separate fight at the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., over a congressional demand for the testimony of former White House counsel Don McGahn, the administration is making broad arguments that the president's close advisers are "absolutely immune" from having to appear.

In two earlier cases over presidential power, the Supreme Court acted unanimously in requiring Richard Nixon to turn over White House tapes to the Watergate special prosecutor and in allowing a sexual harassment lawsuit against Bill Clinton to go forward.

In those cases, three Nixon appointees and two Clinton appointees, respectively, voted against the president who chose them for the high court. A fourth Nixon appointee, William Rehnquist, sat out the tapes case because he had worked closely as a Justice Department official with some of the Watergate conspirators whose upcoming trial spurred the subpoena for the Oval Office recordings.

The subpoenas are not directed at Trump himself. Instead, House committees want records from



Deutsche Bank, Capital One and Mazars.

Appellate courts in Washington, D.C., and New York brushed aside Trump's arguments in decisions that focused on the fact that the subpoenas were addressed to third parties asking for records of his business and financial dealings as a private citizen, not as president.

Two congressional committees subpoenaed the bank documents as part of their investigations into Trump and his businesses. Deutsche Bank has been one of the few banks willing to lend to Trump after a series of corporate bankruptcies and defaults starting in the early 1990s.

Vance and the House Oversight and Reform Committee sought records from Mazars concerning Trump and his businesses based on payments that Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, arranged to keep two women from airing their claims of decade-old extramarital affairs with Trump during the 2016 presidential race.

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Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## **WHO: Indoor airborne spread of coronavirus possible**

LONDON (AP) — The World Health Organization is acknowledging the possibility that COVID-19 might be spread in the air under certain conditions — after more than 200 scientists urged the agency to do so.

In an open letter published this week in a journal, 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."

The researchers, along with more than 200 others, appealed for national and international authorities, including WHO, to adopt more stringent protective measures.

WHO has long dismissed the possibility that the coronavirus is spread in the air except for certain risky medical procedures, such as when patients are first put on breathing machines.

In a change to its previous thinking, WHO noted on Thursday that studies evaluating COVID-19 outbreaks in restaurants, choir practices and fitness classes suggested the virus might have been spread in the air.

Airborne spread "particularly in specific indoor locations, such as crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces over a prolonged period of time with infected persons cannot be ruled out," WHO said.

Still, officials also pointed out that other modes of transmission — like contaminated surfaces or close contacts between people in such indoor environments — might also have explained the disease's spread.

WHO's stance also recognized the importance of people spreading COVID-19 without symptoms, a phenomenon the organization has long downplayed.

WHO has repeatedly said such transmission is "rare" despite a growing consensus among scientists globally that asymptomatic spread likely accounts for a significant amount of transmission. The agency said that most spread is via droplets from infected people who cough or sneeze, but added that people without symptoms are also capable of transmitting the disease.

"The extent of truly asymptomatic infection in the community remains unknown," WHO said.

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## **Mayor helps paint 'Black Lives Matter' outside Trump Tower**

By KAREN MATTHEWS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio grabbed a roller Thursday to paint "Black Lives Matter" in front of the namesake Manhattan tower of President Donald Trump, who tweeted last week that the street mural would be "a symbol of hate."

De Blasio was flanked by his wife, Chirlane McCray, and the Rev. Al Sharpton as he helped paint the racial justice rallying cry in giant yellow letters on Fifth Avenue in front of Trump Tower. Activists watching chanted, "Whose streets? Our streets!"

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"When we say 'Black Lives Matter,' there is no more American statement, there is no more patriotic statement because there is no America without Black America," de Blasio said. "We are acknowledging the truth of ourselves as Americans by saying 'Black Lives Matter.' We are righting a wrong."

The mayor announced the plan to paint "Black Lives Matter" in front of Trump Tower last month after earlier saying the slogan would be painted on streets at several locations around the city. Trump responded via Twitter that the mural would denigrate "this luxury Avenue" and "further antagonize New York's Finest." De Blasio tweeted back that Black Lives Matter is "a movement to recognize and protect the lives of Black people."

Rahima Torrence, 20, who was among the people slapping yellow paint onto Fifth Avenue, said that even though the mural might be a symbol, "it's the beginning of something more." She said the location in front of Trump's own skyscraper "shows that we matter and it shows to him that you can't ignore us."

Washington, D.C. was the first U.S. city to get a giant yellow "Black Lives Matter" mural when Mayor Muriel Bowser had it painted on the street leading to the White House. Bowser said the painting was intended to show solidarity with Americans outraged over the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Trump lived in Trump Tower before he took office as president but has spent little time there since. He changed his official residence from New York to Florida last year. His business empire is still headquartered there.

Associated Press video journalist Joe Frederick contributed to this report.

## Country musician Charlie Daniels honored at memorial service

MOUNT JULIET, Tenn. (AP) — Country Music Hall of Fame musician Charlie Daniels received military honors at a memorial service in Tennessee on Wednesday night.

The country music icon, who penned the hit "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," died at the age of 83 on Monday after a stroke, according to his publicist.

The singer, guitarist and fiddler was also an honorary brigadier general in the Tennessee State Guard and founded the Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center at Middle Tennessee State University, officials for the school said.

Tennessee's adjutant general, Army Maj. Gen. Jeff Holmes, was joined by the university's president and senior adviser for veterans and leadership initiatives to render the military honors at the outdoor service at a Mount Juliet funeral home.

The ceremony began with a flyover of Army Blackhawk helicopters. Holmes and university representatives later presented American flags to Daniels' wife, Hazel, and son Charlie Daniels Jr.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee delivered remarks and country musician Trace Adkins, among others, performed.

Daniels, a native of Wilmington, North Carolina, started out as a session musician, playing on Bob Dylan's "Nashville Skyline" sessions. Beginning in the early 1970s, his five-piece band toured extensively, sometimes doing 250 shows a year. Throughout his career, Daniels performed at the White House, the Super Bowl, throughout Europe and often for troops in the Middle East.

## In court, Depp denies violence during 'tailspin' marriage

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Johnny Depp said Thursday that his relationship with Amber Heard was "a crime scene waiting to happen," but denied assaulting her during a drug-fueled rampage in Australia while he was filming a "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie.

The Hollywood star was giving evidence for a third day in his libel suit against a U.K. tabloid newspaper that called him a "wife-beater."

Depp is suing News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the paper's executive editor, Dan

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Wootton, over an April 2018 article that said he'd physically abused Heard.

The Sun's defense relies on a total of 14 allegations by Heard of Depp's violence between 2013 and 2016. He strongly denies all of them.

Under cross-examination by The Sun's lawyer, Sasha Wass, Depp depicted a volatile relationship with Heard during a period when he was trying to kick drugs and alcohol, and sometimes lapsing. He said he came to feel he was in a "constant tailspin" and recalled telling Heard several times: "Listen, we are a crime scene waiting to happen." But he denied being violent.

Depp rejected Heard's claim that he subjected her to a "three-day ordeal of assaults" in March 2015 in Australia, where Depp was appearing as Capt. Jack Sparrow in the fifth "Pirates of the Caribbean" film.

"I vehemently deny it and will go as far as to say it's pedestrian fiction," he said.

Depp and Wass sparred over disputed details of the Australia episode, which ended up with the couple's rented house being trashed and Depp's fingertip being severed to the bone.

Depp accuses Heard of cutting off his fingertip by throwing a vodka bottle at him. She denies being in the room when the digit was severed.

According to Heard, Depp snorted cocaine, swigged Jack Daniels from the bottle, broke bottles, screamed at Heard, smashed her head against a refrigerator, threw her against a pingpong table and broke a window.

"These are fabrications," he said.

He denied taking drugs but agreed that the couple had argued and he "decided to break my sobriety because I didn't care anymore. I needed to numb myself."

Depp agreed with the lawyer that the house was "wrecked" after the couple's argument, which he said was triggered by Heard's unhappiness about being asked to sign a postnuptial agreement.

The court was shown photographs of graffiti-covered mirrors, which Depp acknowledged he'd written on by dipping his bloody fingertip in paint.

But he said Heard was responsible for most of the damage to the house.

"That is completely untrue," Wass said.

"Thank you, but it's not," Depp replied.

Wass also alleged that Depp had lashed out at Heard during an attempt to break an addiction to the opioid Roxicodone on his private island in the Bahamas in 2014.

Wass said that at the time Depp praised Heard's efforts to help him get clean. The lawyer read from a message Depp sent to Heard's mother, saying "your daughter has risen far above the nightmarish task of taking care of this poor old junkie" and speaking of her "heroism."

Heard alleges that Depp became violent towards her. He denied physical violence, but said Heard's claim that he was "flipping" and "screaming" might be accurate.

"I was not in good shape. It was the lowest point I believe I've ever been in in my life," he said.

Depp accused Heard of telling "porky pies" — slang for lies — about his behavior. He acknowledged striking out at objects, saying it was better than "taking it out on the person that I love."

Depp has admitted in court that he may have done things he can't remember while he was under the influence of alcohol and drugs. But he denied he could have been physically abusive and not remember it.

"There were blackouts, sure, but in any blackout there are snippets of memory," Depp said.

The case is shining a light on the tempestuous relationship between Depp, 57, and Heard, 34, who met on the set of the 2011 comedy "The Rum Diary" and married in Los Angeles in February 2015. Heard, a model and actress, filed for divorce the following year and obtained a restraining order against Depp on the grounds of domestic abuse. The divorce was finalized in 2017.

The former spouses now accuse each other of being controlling, violent and deceitful during their marriage.

In a text message to his doctor after the Australia altercation, Depp called Heard "malicious, evil and vindictive" and said she was "desperate" for fame, adding "that is probably why I was acquired."

Heard has claimed Depp felt threatened by her career and was jealous of her male co-stars, including James Franco and Billy Bob Thornton.

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On Wednesday Wass read the court an email to Depp that Heard had composed in 2013 but never sent, saying he was "like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Half of you I love madly, and the other half scares me."

Depp accused Heard of compiling a dossier of "hoax" abuse claims and said her claim that drugs and alcohol made him a monster was "delusional."

He also denied claims he hit Heard when she laughed at one of his tattoos, dangled her Yorkshire terrier, Pistol, out a car window and threatened to put the dog in a microwave.

Wass alleged to Depp that by the waning months of the marriage in December 2015, "you were routinely using violence against Ms. Heard when you were intoxicated and when you were angry."

She said that during one fight at the couple's LA penthouse, Depp trashed Heard's wardrobe, threw a decanter at her, slapped her, pulled her by the hair and headbutted her, causing two black eyes.

The lawyer said Depp was "in an uncontrollable rage" and "screaming you were going to kill her."

Depp claimed Heard was the aggressor, and he had only tried to restrain her "to stop her flailing and punching me."

Heard is attending the three-week trial and is expected to give evidence later.

## Trump faced issues with Asian Americans even before virus

By SALLY HO Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Sonny Vinuya hasn't decided if he'll vote again for Donald Trump in the battleground state of Nevada.

The Filipino American businessman in Las Vegas is personally offended by the president's use of a racist slur at recent re-election rallies, where he mocked China and the COVID-19 pandemic's origins in Asia. But most important to Vinuya is the economy, which has also been sinking into a pandemic-triggered recession despite a robust stimulus package.

Though it's tough for the registered Republican to swallow the racism against his own community, Vinuya said he doesn't think Trump is trying to alienate Asian American voters when the president uses derogatory terms at campaign events or continues to call COVID-19 the "Chinese virus."

The Pew Research Center recently declared Asian Americans to be the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S. electorate, but they are also arguably the least competitive voter block for Trump when considering where they live and how they relate to the Republican party.

In Nevada, where Vinuya lives, Asians make up more than 10% of voters in a state both Democrats and Republicans will fight for in the fall.

With his anti-Asian rhetoric, Trump is making the calculation that he has more to gain with his loyal base of older white voters thrilled by his inflammatory statements, than to lose among the Asian American community, said Karthick Ramakrishnan, a public policy professor at the University of California, Riverside and founder of AAPI Data, which tracks Asian Americans.

That's because Asian Americans largely vote in very blue districts and otherwise non-competitive states, Ramakrishnan said. A third of all such voters live in California alone.

"Part of the reason we don't see very much outreach is because Asian Americans tend to live in non-competitive states in presidential elections," Ramakrishnan said.

Trump's words have angered many Asian Americans and drawn condemnation from Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden and former President Barack Obama. Republicans have also denounced the racist slur, notably Kellyanne Conway, a White House counselor who is married to an Asian American, George Conway, whose mother was from the Philippines.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany defended the president's rhetoric, saying he's not being racist but merely linking the virus to its place of origin. Trump in March also insisted that Asian Americans were "amazing people" and not at fault for spreading the virus.

The coronavirus, as of Thursday, has killed more than 132,000 people in the United States, and 550,000 people total worldwide.

Since the virus took hold of the U.S. in March, advocates have also reported a rise in anti-Asian aggression



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and violence from people blaming them for the pandemic. A group called Stop AAPI Hate on July 1 said that it has tracked 832 incidents of discrimination and harassment in California over the past 12 weeks.

Biden at a June 27 town hall for Asian American voters slammed Trump's "dangerous theories" as xenophobic.

"Words matter and the president's words matter even more," Biden said.

The number of Asian Americans aligning themselves with the Democratic party has increased over the past 20 years while support for the GOP has trended down. A different Pew analysis in 2018 showed Democrats held a 2-to-1 advantage among Asian American registered voters. The 27% who identified as or leaned Republican represented a 6% drop since 1998.

For Trump, AAPI Data found nearly all major Asian American ethnic groups held an unfavorable view of the president. The only exception was the 62% of Vietnamese surveyed in 2018 who said they held a favorable impression of him. On the other end of the spectrum, just 14% of Japanese voters felt the same way.

In the top 10 states with the largest Asian American voting populations, Trump in 2016 won only Texas and Florida. But the ultimate swing state in this year's election, Ramakrishnan said, is unlikely to be determined by the 3.6% of Florida voters who are Asian American given how large the state is.

That means in smaller states like Nevada, the deeper concentration of eligible Asian American voters -- the fourth highest behind Hawaii, California and Washington state -- could potentially move the needle. About 11% of Nevada's voters are Asian.

Trump lost the Silver State in 2016 to rival Democrat Hillary Clinton by just 2.4 percentage points, though Nevada now leans more blue.

For Vinuya, who has been courted by the Trump campaign as the president of the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce, he knows he could be one of the few Asian American voters nationally who can make a difference for the president's re-election prospects.

Vinuya said he's expressed his concerns about the anti-Asian slur to Trump's team, especially as he's trying to help his 600-plus members overcome the virus-related stigma and discrimination evident against Asian American and Asian immigrant small business owners in Las Vegas.

"I gave them my two cents. That's pretty much it," Vinuya said. "I don't want to waste my time on something I cannot control."

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Associated Press writer Lynn Berry contributed from Washington.

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

## AP Explains: Confederate flags draw differing responses

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

Public pressure amid protests over racial inequality forced Mississippi to furl its Confederate-inspired state flag for good, yet Georgia's flag is based on another Confederate design and lives on. Why the difference?

The Confederacy used more than one flag while it was fighting the United States to preserve slavery, and most of the designs are largely forgotten more than 150 years after the Civil War ended. Here are some facts about the flags of the Confederacy and how those symbols are viewed today.

HOW MANY FLAGS DID THE CONFEDERACY USE?

It depends on how you count, but lots. The Confederate States of America had three different national flags during its brief existence from 1861 through 1865, and multiple other flags were used by individual states, army and naval groups.

The flag that's best known today — a red background split by a blue X that's decorated with white stars — is often called the "Confederate battle flag." It originated in late 1861 as the fighting flag of the nation's main eastern force, the Army of Northern Virginia, said John M. Coski, a historian and author with the American Civil War Museum in Richmond, Virginia.

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Other Confederate units to the west adopted the battle flag as the war went on, and it became the banner most commonly carried by troops, said Peter Ansoff, president of the North American Vexillological Association. The X design was incorporated into the nation's national flag in 1863 and remained there through the end of the war.

## THE FLAG OF THE "LOST CAUSE" MOVEMENT

With multiple variations in size, shape and decorations, the battle flag of the defeated South lived on after the war, largely because of the soldiers who fought under it, Coski said.

"This was a continuation of its wartime prominence. I think the reason for it is that it was the flag most closely associated with Confederate soldiers," he said. The banner took hold across the defeated region like nothing else.

The battle flag became an unofficial symbol of the "lost cause" movement that sought to emphasize the supposed nobility and righteousness of the South while downplaying the fact that the Confederacy was meant to perpetuate slavery. White supremacists in South Carolina during Reconstruction used at least one wartime flag, Coski said, and the Ku Klux Klan began using the battle flag in the 1930s or early '40s.

Today's KKK still uses the battle flag, which also is part of the emblem of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, a Southern history and heritage organization. A similar group for women, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, uses the first Confederate national flag, which has two red stripes, one white stripe and a blue square with stars.

## CONFEDERATE NATIONAL FLAGS LARGELY FORGOTTEN

While the battle flag is recognized almost universally as "the Confederate flag," its association with hate and white supremacy has taken a toll. The flag has lost much of its official prominence, a trend that accelerated during protests over the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota. With biracial and bipartisan support, Mississippi last month retired the final state flag with the rebel design.

Meanwhile, Confederate national flags like the "Stainless Banner" and the "Blood-Stained Banner" or the unofficial "Bonnie Blue Flag" are virtually unknown to many. Southern historical parks and museums, some of which perpetuated the lost cause mythology, often display and store them, but generally without the controversy attached to the battle flag.

Georgia's current state flag, adopted after the state removed the battle flag from its state flag in 2003, even includes the design of the first Confederate national flag, the "Stars and Bars." While some complained that the new design also was Confederate, the national flag design generally doesn't have the "racist associations" of the battle flag, Ansoff said.

The state flags of Alabama and Florida resemble the battle flag, with a red X on a white background; Florida's also has a state seal in the middle. Both one-time Confederate states adopted the flags while the "lost cause" movement was growing after the war.

## Europe fears complacency; virus hits 'full speed' in Africa

By JOVANA GEC and GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Asian and European officials pleaded with their citizens Thursday to respect modest precautions as several countries saw coronavirus outbreaks accelerate or sought to prevent new flare-ups, while the virus showed no signs of slowing its initial advance in Africa and the Americas.

Following two nights of anti-lockdown protests in Serbia, authorities banned mass gatherings in the capital of Belgrade amid an uptick in confirmed COVID-19 cases. Officials elsewhere in Europe warned of the risk of new flareups due to lax social distancing, while officials in Tokyo and Hong Kong reviewed nightclubs, restaurants and other public gathering spots as a source of their latest cases.

Infections mounted at a frightening speed in the countries with the world's highest confirmed caseloads — the United States, India and Brazil. Between them, the three account for the majority of new cases worldwide reported daily.

India on Thursday reported 25,000 new cases; the United States on Wednesday reported just short of the record 60,000 cases set a day earlier, and Brazil reported nearly 45,000. In the U.S., the total number

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of confirmed cases has passed 3 million — meaning nearly one in every 100 people has been confirmed as infected

The head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the continent would be wise to prepare for the worst-case scenario as virus-related deaths passed 12,000 and confirmed cases climbed fast. A day after confirmed virus cases across Africa surpassed half a million, the total was over 522,000, and the actual number of cases is unknown since testing levels are low.

"We've crossed a critical number here," Africa CDC chief John Nkengasong said of the half-million milestone. "Our pandemic is getting full speed."

Much of Europe appeared to have put the worst of the crisis behind it, at least for now. But Serbia has emerged as a new focus of concern — and of unrest. On Thursday, authorities banned gatherings of more than 10 people in Belgrade, the capital, in what they said was an effort to prevent the further spread of the virus. They also ordered shorter working hours for businesses such as cafes and shops.

"The health system in Belgrade is close to breaking up," Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said. "That is why I can't understand what we saw last night and the night before."

"It will cost us, there is no doubt," Brnabic said, referring to the possible spread of the virus after large protests which featured little social distancing or mask-wearing.

Serbia, which has a population of about 6.9 million, has confirmed more than 17,000 cases of the new coronavirus, including 341 deaths. A few hundred new infections are being reported daily. Critics accuse President Aleksandar Vucic of letting the crisis spin out of control by lifting an earlier lockdown to allow for an election last month that tightened his grip on power.

Vucic's announcement this week that new measures would include a lockdown sent thousands into the streets, and rock-throwing demonstrators fought running battles with special police forces. The new government measures don't include the originally planned weekend curfew, but effectively ban further protests.

Flare-ups of new virus cases are causing concern in several parts of the world, and in some cases leading to the reintroduction of restrictions on public activity.

In France and Greece, officials warned that people were too frequently ignoring safety guidance. The French government's leading coronavirus adviser, Jean-Francois Delfraissy, lamented that "the French in general have abandoned protective measures."

"Everyone must understand that we are at the mercy of a return (of the virus) in France," Delfraissy said. "It suffices to have one super-spreader in a gathering and it will take off again."

Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas said authorities were "determined to protect the majority from the frivolous few." He said the government may announce new restrictions, if needed, on Monday.

Petsas said authorities were focused on the rising number of cases in nearby Balkan countries and tourists who traveled to Greece over the land border with Bulgaria.

In Australia, which had initial success containing the outbreak, authorities on Thursday reported 179 new cases, most in Melbourne, where authorities are battling a resurgence and have imposed a new six-week lockdown.

Tokyo confirmed more than 220 new cases Thursday, exceeding its record daily increase from mid-April and prompting concerns of widening of the infections. Tokyo's more than 7,000 cases are about one-third of Japan's total.

"It's a wake-up call," Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike told reporters. "We need to use extra caution against the further spread of the infections."

Experts on Tokyo's virus task force said the majority of recent cases were linked to night clubs but rising infections from households, workplaces and parties raised concerns the virus is spreading in the wider community.

Hong Kong moved to tighten social-distancing measures after it reported 42 new infections on Thursday. Rules for restaurants, bars and fitness centers will be tightened for two weeks starting Saturday.

In India, research by the Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Chennai shows that the reproduction

rate of the virus ticked up in the first week of July to about 1.2 after it had steadily fallen from a peak of 1.8 in March. The rate needs to be below one for new cases to start falling.

Moulson reported from Berlin. Nick Perry in Wellington, New Zealand, Dusan Stojanovic in Belgrade and Associated Press reporters around the world contributed to this report.

## Virus causes uncertainty for state lotteries

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

Boston (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic has been a rollercoaster for state lotteries across the country, with some getting a boost from the economic downturn and others scrambling to make up for revenue shortfalls.

Since March, Texas, Arkansas and Montana and several other states have seen an increase in sales, in part, driven by housebound residents putting cash down for scratch-off tickets. But lottery officials say other states, like Massachusetts and Oregon, confronted revenue drops due to stay-at-home orders that forced the closure of restaurants, bars and some retailers selling tickets. Some also blamed a lack of an online presence, something only a handful of states currently allow.

"We got used to lottery as a constant companion supporting the system and it was a gut punch to realize we don't have the time to react," said Chris Havel, spokesperson for Oregon Parks and Recreation, which laid off 47 people and closed more than two dozen parks due to a \$22 million projected budget shortfall through next year driven in part by a drop in lottery revenues.

State lottery revenues do not make up a huge portion of a state budget. But because the monies are often directed to specific programs like education, environment or veterans programs, they can have an outsized impact when there are upticks or declines in sales.

Massachusetts Treasurer Deborah Goldberg told lawmakers in April that the lottery was hobbled by the closure of claims centers and the lack of an online presence — something that helped neighboring New Hampshire and several other states attract new players. Currently, at least nine states allow online lottery sales, according to the North American Association of State & Provincial Lotteries.

"This pandemic has dramatically exposed the limitations and vulnerabilities of the Lottery's all-cash, in person business model," Goldberg said.

The pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn were expected to be a good thing for lottery sales. Past studies have shown a correlation between a rise in unemployment and increase in lottery sales — a trend that prompted an anti-gambling group to unsuccessfully call for states to shut down their lotteries until the coronavirus pandemic ended.

"We have known for some time that people end up playing the lottery more often or with more of their dollars when they get put in dire circumstances, when they have a drop in income," said Cornell University business professor David Just, who has studied lottery purchases.

"Unemployment is one of the potential big drivers for something like that. We saw that at the beginning of the pandemic," he said. "Massive rises in unemployment, you would expect, would lead people to this place where they want to take more risks to try and get back what they've lost."

That was the trend in several states, including Arkansas, which saw strong sales in April and May.

Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Director Bishop Woosley attributed the sales spike in his state to low gas prices, a lack of other entertainment options and "people simply being bored and looking for activities that they can do in their own homes.

Similar trends were seen in Montana, which has seen sales increase \$1.4 million from March through May to more than \$16 million. Much of that has been driven by scratch-off tickets, which jumped 83% compared to a year ago, according to state figures.

Minnesota's stay-at-home order led to lottery sales dropping in March but roared back in April and May. According to the monthly data, sales in April increased more than \$13 million compared to year ago and more than \$29 million in May. A majority of lottery proceeds go to the general fund and another



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portion to environmental programs.

Texas also saw lottery sales increase more than \$155 million this fiscal year and more than \$753 million compared to the 2018 fiscal year. A big driver was scratch-off tickets, which increased 10% over the last fiscal year and 22% over sales from 2018 mostly because 20,000 retail locations were deemed essential services, according to Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery Commission.

But not all state lotteries have benefited from the pandemic.

Delaware's lottery sales are off almost \$40 million through May compared to the last fiscal year, mostly due the closure of casinos with video poker and table games, according to state data. Other factors in several states was a drop in revenue from big-money games like Powerball, which saw lower some jackpots.

Virginia saw sales drop 21%, or just over \$45 million in March and in April by 8%, or more than \$15 million compared to a year ago. They were up nearly 9% in May but are still down 8% for the fiscal year.

In Massachusetts, sales were down by about 13% in March, 30% in April and around 10% in May, leaving the lottery down 5% for the fiscal year. Unlike Texas, which kept many retail outlets open, Massachusetts temporarily closed more than 1,500 due to the pandemic. That left players with fewer places to spend their money.

Lottery profits go into a larger municipal aid program for the state's 351 cities and towns, but it's too early to say the impact on local budgets.

"Declining state tax revenues and Lottery proceeds are a serious budget concern, yet the Massachusetts Municipal Association firmly believes that the state's future depends on protecting local aid and K-12 education funding," Massachusetts Municipal Association's Executive Director Geoff Beckwith said in a statement.

But as states begin to reopen, some of the hardest hit lotteries are bouncing back.

Along with Virginia, Maryland saw its lottery sales recovery after a rocky few weeks. In the midst of the pandemic, lottery officials feared profits would be \$50 million below the state's projections for the fiscal year that ended June 30. Now, officials are expecting profits to be about \$10 million below those projections.

Gordon Medenica, Maryland's lottery and gaming director, recalled weeks in April when sales were down as much as 30% and "we really didn't know where the bottom was at that point. We were just seeing sales absolutely collapse."

"Since then, they have rebounded remarkably well. In the month of May, we actually had our all-time best month for the year in both sales and profits," Medenica said. "Instant tickets have been booming. Our daily numbers games have been booming. Lottery is doing really well."

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This story has been corrected to show that Texas has 20,000 retailers, not 200,000.

## Rolling Stones to release unheard tracks from 1973 album

By The Associated Press undefined

The Rolling Stones will release a new version of their 1973 album "Goats Head Soup" featuring three unheard tracks, including one featuring Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page.

The band announced on Thursday that the release on Sept. 4 will include a four-disc CD and vinyl box set editions that includes 10 bonus tracks, including outtakes and alternative versions.

Page appears on a song called "Scarlet," and the Stones also released a video for one of the unheard songs, called "Criss Cross."

"Goats Head Soup" features one of the band's well known acoustic ballads, "Angie."

## Bolsonaro now 'poster boy' for dubious COVID-19 treatment

By DAVID BILLER, MARCELO DE SOUSA and MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — After months of touting an unproven anti-malaria drug as a treatment for the new coronavirus, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is turning himself into a test case live before millions of people as he swallows hydroxychloroquine pills on social media and encourages others to do the same.

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Bolsonaro said this week that he tested positive for the virus but already felt better thanks to hydroxychloroquine. Hours later he shared a video of himself gulping down what he said was his third dose.

"I trust hydroxychloroquine," he said, smiling. "And you?"

On Wednesday, he was again extolling the drug's benefits on Facebook, and claimed that his political opponents were rooting against it.

A string of studies in Britain and the United States, as well as by the World Health Organization, have found chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine ineffective against COVID-19 and sometimes deadly because of their adverse side effects on the heart. Several studies were canceled early because of adverse effects.

U.S. President Donald Trump has promoted hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19 but chloroquine — a more toxic version of the drug, produced in Brazil — has been even more enthusiastically promoted by Bolsonaro, who contends the virus is largely unavoidable and, what is more, not a serious medical problem.

"He has become the poster boy for curing COVID with hydroxychloroquine," said Paulo Calmon, a political science professor at the University of Brasilia. "Chloroquine composes part of the denialist's political strategy, with the objective of convincing voters that the pandemic's effects can be easily controlled."

Trump first mentioned hydroxychloroquine on March 19 during a pandemic briefing. Two days later, and a month after Brazil's first confirmed case, Bolsonaro took one of his only big actions to fight the coronavirus. He announced he was directing the Brazilian army to ramp up output of chloroquine.

The army churned out more than 2 million pills — 18 times the country's normal annual production — even as Brazil's intensive care medicine association recommended it not be prescribed and doctors mostly complied.

The White House on May 31 said it had donated 2 million hydroxychloroquine pills to Brazil. Two weeks later the U.S. Food & Drug Administration revoked authorization for its emergency use, citing adverse side effects and saying it is unlikely to be effective.

Brazil's audit court on June 18 requested an investigation into alleged overbilling from local production of chloroquine, which it called unreasonable given the drug's ineffectiveness and cited the FDA decision. Meantime, stocks of sedatives and other medications used in intensive care ran out in three states, according to a late-June report from Brazil's council of state health secretariats.

A former defense minister, Aldo Rebelo, told The Associated Press that he is concerned the army will be wrongly blamed for its involvement in production of a drug that most experts call ineffective against the coronavirus.

"All they did was to follow a legal order and produce the pills," said Rebelo. "The problem is the health ministry and the decision that the president made."

Brazil's interim health minister, an army general with no health experience before April, endorsed chloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment days after assuming the post in May. His predecessor, a doctor and health consultant, quit rather than do so.

As Brazil's death toll continued to climb — nearing 68,000 on Wednesday, the second-most in the world — the health ministry distributed millions of chloroquine pills across Brazil's vast territory. They have reached small cities with little or no health infrastructure to handle the pandemic and even a far-flung Indigenous territory.

"They're trying to use the Indigenous people as guinea pigs to test chloroquine, use the Indigenous to advertise for chloroquine like Bolsonaro has done on his live broadcasts, like a poster boy for chloroquine," Kretã Kaingang, an executive coordinator of the Indigenous organization APIB, said by phone from Brazil's capital, Brasilia.

In Brazil's largest city, Sao Paulo, three doctors treating COVID-19 in different hospitals told AP that patients routinely requested chloroquine as the pandemic spread, often citing Bolsonaro. In recent weeks, inquiries about the drug were less frequent after scientific doubts arose about its effectiveness, two physicians said.

All say they worry Bolsonaro's cheerleading will spur a new wave of desperate patients and relatives clamoring for chloroquine.

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"I tell them that I don't prescribe it because there's no study proving it improves patients, that there are important risks with the indiscriminate use of this drug," said Dr. Natalia Magacho, an attending physician at the Hospital das Clinicas. "Some even get angry at first. But all prescriptions are the doctor's responsibility and, as the risk outweighs the benefit, I don't prescribe it."

Most doctors oppose any protocols for the use of chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine, but some physicians continue to believe and have pressured local authorities to permit its use, said João Gabbardo, the former No. 2 official at Brazil's health ministry.

"This issue has been framed in a very polarizing, politicized manner," said Gabbardo, who is now executive coordinator of Sao Paulo's COVID-19 contingency center. "We are moving away from the discussion of science, of scientific evidence, toward a discussion of political positions."

Bolsonaro's supporters and aides have amplified his message. Eduardo Bolsonaro, the president's son and a federal lawmaker, said his father will beat the disease because he is taking the anti-malarial drug.

"Treatment with chloroquine is rather effective at the start of the illness (and should be available for any Brazilian who needs it)," the younger Bolsonaro wrote on Twitter, without distinguishing between the two types of the drug.

Margareth Dalcolmo, a clinical researcher and prominent respiratory medicine professor at the state-funded Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, said she has no objection to Bolsonaro and his doctor agreeing on hydroxychloroquine treatment. The problem, she said, is broadcasting that information to an impressionable public that, if he recovers, will believe a potentially dangerous drug was responsible.

Dalcolmo treats patients and contracted COVID-19 herself. Before she bounced back, some friends asked if she would authorize administration of either chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine were she unable to grant consent.

"Over my dead body, dear," she said. "I said if I'm in a coma, intubated, none of you are authorized to put me on chloroquine. I would never authorize its use on me. And I haven't used it on my dozens of patients."

## **VIRUS DIARY: In Saudi Arabia, a photographer finds new focus**

By AMR NABIL Associated Press

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — I moved to Saudi Arabia from Egypt last year, eager to photograph a national awakening that was once unimaginable in a country so beholden to ultraconservative mores.

Permission to have fun had been suddenly granted. It jolted this nation of 34 million — almost half of whom are under 30 years old — into a nation of budding movie theaters, concerts and raves, a place where women could dine alongside men, drive without fear of arrest, travel without permission and enter stadiums.

As a photographer, I was for the first time welcomed to document far-flung parts of the country. A cultural festival in the mountains of Abha. Newly discovered diving spots in the Red Sea.

Then, just as quickly the country had opened up, it closed off.

No longer would tourists be permitted to visit. The kingdom's borders were shut entirely.

The coronavirus had slipped into Saudi Arabia, evading early and stringent attempts to keep the contagion out. Entire cities, including the capital, Riyadh, were placed under 24-hour curfew. The holy city of Mecca was sealed off. The year-round Muslim umrah pilgrimage was suspended.

In March, I stood atop the upper floors of Mecca's Grand Mosque and turned my camera toward an empty white marble expanse surrounding the cube-shaped Kaaba as the final group of pilgrims was told to depart. I was stunned. Tears streamed down my face.

I'd stood here so many times before. I'd been here during the hajj pilgrimage, when more than 2 million faithful from around the world circle the Kaaba counterclockwise, their hearts leaning toward it, their palms stretched toward the sky, their shoulders brushing against a sea of humanity.

Now I was photographing scenes of sterility and calls to prayer without worshippers.

At home, in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, life for my wife, my daughters and me was curtailed by lock-

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downs and curfews. For months, only grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and hospitals opened. Curfew sometimes extended until 6 p.m.; other times it was in place for 24 hours. For one week in April, the curfew eased and mosques reopened with strict guidelines. Then a spike in infections brought more days under a 3 p.m. curfew.

Like all residents of Saudi Arabia, I receive constant text messages from the government reminding me to wear a mask, wash my hands, obey the curfew, socially distance. Still, the country remains a hotspot for the virus in the Middle East, with more than 2,000 deaths and at least 220,000 confirmed cases.

Unable to move about freely with my camera, I instead spent days vicariously exploring photographs from my peers around the world.

I also found company in my lovebird, "Sugar." From the moment Sugar hatched in the palm of my hands, I have showered him with love and attention. I have researched and taken notes on what my pampered friend likes to eat and what his sounds could mean.

Unlike me, my bird spends his days uncaged. He's learned to rest in my palm when I beckon him, but he prefers to stand atop my laptop, especially during Zoom calls. His favorite pastimes are looking outside the window and calling me to prepare food and water for the other birds less fortunate in the sweltering heat outside.

It's been about two weeks since curfews in Jiddah were lifted. Malls, restaurants and movie theaters are open once more. The country's borders, though, remain shut. And even as Sugar flies uncaged around me, it's hard not to still feel locked in.

Virus Diary, an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus pandemic through the eyes of Associated Press journalists around the world. Amr Nabil is an AP photographer in Saudi Arabia. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/amrpix7777777>

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, July 10, the 192nd day of 2020. There are 174 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 10, 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as the Luftwaffe started attacking southern England. (The Royal Air Force was ultimately victorious.)

On this date:

In 1908, William Jennings Bryan was nominated for president by the Democratic national convention in Denver.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') to the Senate and urged its ratification. (However, the Senate rejected it.)

In 1925, jury selection took place in Dayton, Tennessee, in the trial of John T. Scopes, charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (Scopes was convicted and fined, but the verdict was overturned on a technicality.)

In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong.

In 1973, the Bahamas became fully independent after three centuries of British colonial rule. John Paul Getty III, the teenage grandson of the oil tycoon, was abducted in Rome by kidnappers who cut off his ear when his family was slow to meet their ransom demands; Getty was released in December 1973 for nearly \$3 million.

In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic. President George H.W. Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa.

In 1992, a New York jury found Pan Am guilty of willful misconduct and responsible for allowing a terrorist bomb to destroy Flight 103 in 1988, killing 270 people, opening the way for civil lawsuits.

In 1999, the United States women's soccer team won the World Cup, beating China 5-4 on penalty kicks



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after 120 minutes of scoreless play at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

In 2002, The House approved, 310-113, a measure to allow airline pilots to carry guns in the cockpit to defend their planes against terrorists (President George W. Bush later signed the measure into law).

In 2004, President George W. Bush said in his weekly radio address that legalizing gay marriage would redefine the most fundamental institution of civilization, and that a constitutional amendment was needed to protect traditional marriage.

In 2005, a search-and-rescue team found the body of a missing U.S. commando in eastern Afghanistan, bringing an end to the desperate search for the last member of an ill-fated, four-man special forces unit that had disappeared the previous month.

In 2018, a daring rescue mission in Thailand was completed successfully, as the last four of the 12 boys who were trapped in a flooded cave for more than two weeks were brought to safety along with their soccer coach; the other eight had been brought out in the two preceding days.

Ten years ago: Robotic submarines removed a leaking cap from a gushing oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, sending crude flowing freely into the sea until BP installed a new seal that stopped the oil days later. Australia's Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde headed a class of seven inductees into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Grammy-winning country singer Carrie Underwood married NHL player Mike Fisher at a resort in Greensboro, Georgia.

Five years ago: Katherine Archuleta, the embattled head of the government's Office of Personnel Management, abruptly stepped down, bowing to mounting pressure following the unprecedented breach of private information her agency was entrusted to protect. To the cheers of thousands, South Carolina pulled the Confederate flag from its place of honor at the Statehouse after more than 50 years. Actor Omar Sharif, 83, died in Cairo. Actor Roger Rees, 71, died in New York. Opera singer Jon Vickers, 88, died in Ontario, Canada.

One year ago: Britain's ambassador to the United States, Kim Darroch, resigned following the leak of diplomatic cables that reflected his unflattering opinions about the Trump administration. Fans packed New York City's Canyon of Heroes for a parade honoring the U.S. women's national soccer team, winner of the women's World Cup. Former New York Yankees pitcher Jim Bouton, who exposed the off-field carousing of former teammates including Mickey Mantle in his tell-all book "Ball Four," died at his Massachusetts home at the age of 80. The independent Atlantic League became the first American professional baseball league to let a computer call balls and strikes at its All-Star Game in York, Pa.

Today's Birthdays: Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 93. Actor William Smithers is 93. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 81. Singer Mavis Staples is 81. Actor Mills Watson is 80. Actor Robert Pine is 79. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 77. International Tennis Hall of Famer Virginia Wade is 75. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 73. Rock musician Dave Smalley is 71. Country-folk singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler is 69. Rock singer Neil Tennant (Pet Shop Boys) is 66. Banjo player Bela Fleck is 62. Actress Fiona Shaw is 62. Country musician Shaw Wilson (BR549) is 60. Bluegrass singer-musician Tim Surrent (Balsam Range) is 57. Actor Alec Mapa is 55. Country singer-songwriter Ken Mellons is 55. Rock musician Peter DiStefano (Porno for Pyros) is 55. Actor Gale Harold is 51. Country singer Gary LeVox (leh-VOH') (Rascal Flatts) is 50. Actor Aaron D. Spears is 49. Actress Sofia Vergara is 48. Rockabilly singer Imelda May is 46. Actor Adrian Grenier (grehn-YAY') is 44. Actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (CHOO'-ih-tehl EHJ'-ee-oh-for) is 43. Actress Gwendoline Yeo is 43. Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas is 40. Singer-actress Jessica Simpson is 40. Rock musician John Spiker is 39. Actress Heather Hemmens is 36. Actress Emily Skeggs (TV: "When We Rise") is 30. Rapper/singer Angel Haze is 29. Pop singer Perrie Edwards (Little Mix) is 27.