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Church Services

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church: Worship in the church at 8:30 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215332349572015/>)

Groton Christian & Missinary Alliance Church: Worship in the church at 10:30 a.m.: (<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)

St. John's Lutheran Church: Worship in the church at 9 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/>)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church - No corporate service in the church for the month of June or July:

(<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church-GrotonSD-ELCA-636505039852208/>)

United Methodist Church: Drive-In Worship at 11 a.m. Listen on 106.1 FM at the church site. (<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc>)

Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden, 10:30 a.m. People will stay in their vehicles and listen to the service on their FM radio.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont has worship on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m..

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont / Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden - will have a podcast posted. <https://anchor.fm/paul-irvin-kosel>

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Then the fifth angel sounded:
And I saw a star fallen from heaven
to the earth. To him was given the key to
the bottomless pit. And he opened
the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out
of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace.
So the sun and the air were darkened
because of the smoke of the pit.*

REVELATION 9:1,2 

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Galatians in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Luke 8, Jesus caused swine to rush into what body of water? *River Jordan, Dead Sea, Nile, Sea of Galilee*

3. In which gospel does Jesus say the scripture cannot be broken? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

4. From Matthew 17, what did Peter find with a coin in its mouth? *Ram, Fish, Viper, Raven*

5. Who was Jacob's firstborn as mentioned in Genesis 35? *Reuben, Ehud, Joshua, Elah*

6. Zacchaeus climbed what type tree to see Jesus? *Fig, Carob, Sycamore, Box*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Sea of Galilee; 3) John 10:35; 4) Fish; 5) Reuben; 6) Sycamore

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Luscious Layered Lemon Dessert

Nothing is quite so refreshing on a hot summer day as a cold glass of lemonade. Well, how about all that refreshment in a delicious dessert! This has all the flavor of lemonade, but it's so creamy it will practically melt in your mouth!

12 (2 1/2-inch) graham cracker squares

2 (4-serving) packages sugar-free instant vanilla pudding mix

1 (4-serving) package sugar-free lemon gelatin

1 1/3 cups dry milk powder

2 cups diet lemon-lime soda

1 cup reduced-calorie whipped topping

1. Evenly arrange 9 graham crackers in a 9-by-9-inch cake pan. In large bowl, combine 1 package dry pudding mix, dry gelatin, 2/3 cup dry milk powder and 1 1/4 cups diet lemon-lime soda. Mix well using wire whisk. Blend in 1/4 cup whipped topping. Carefully spread mixture evenly over graham crackers. Refrigerate while preparing topping.

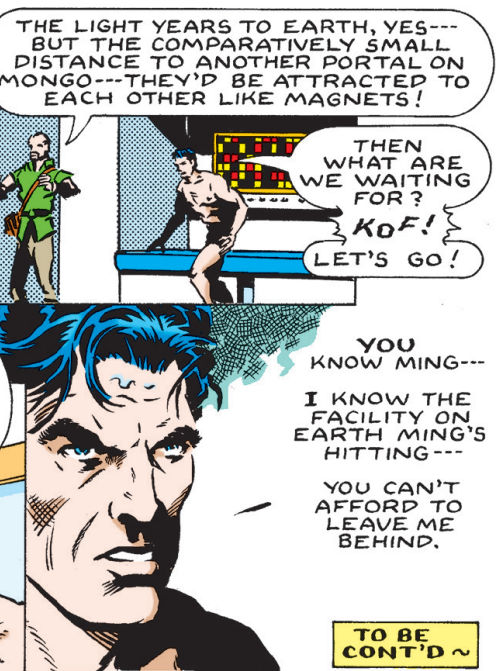
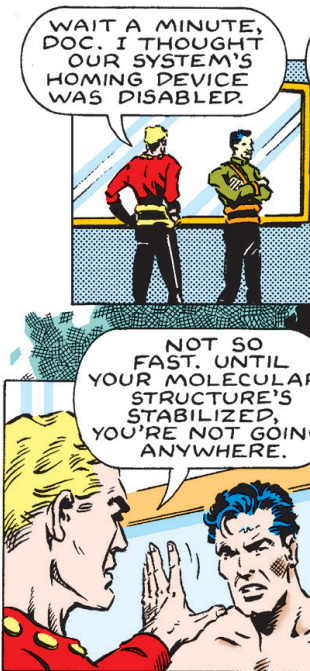
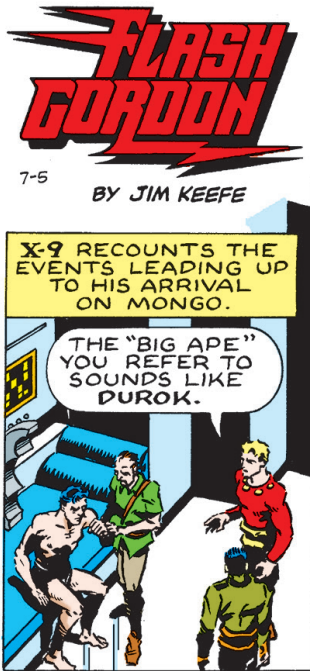
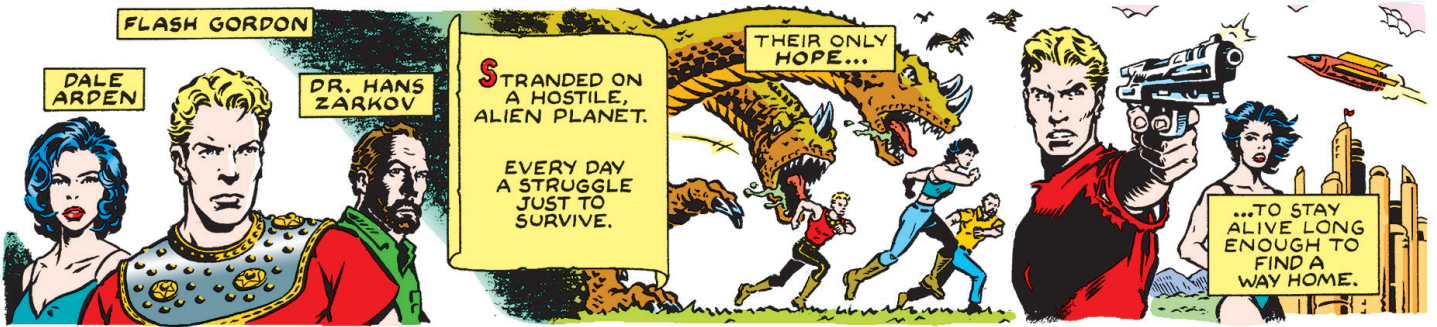
2. In same bowl, combine remaining package of dry pudding mix, remaining 2/3 cup dry milk powder and remaining 3/4 cup soda pop. Mix well using wire whisk. Blend in remaining 3/4 cup whipped topping. Spread topping mixture evenly over filling. Crush remaining 3 graham crackers into fine crumbs; evenly sprinkle over top. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours. Makes 8 servings.

• Each serving equals: 96 calories, 0g fat, 5g protein, 19g carb., 296mg sodium, 0g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1/2 fat-free milk, 1/2 starch.

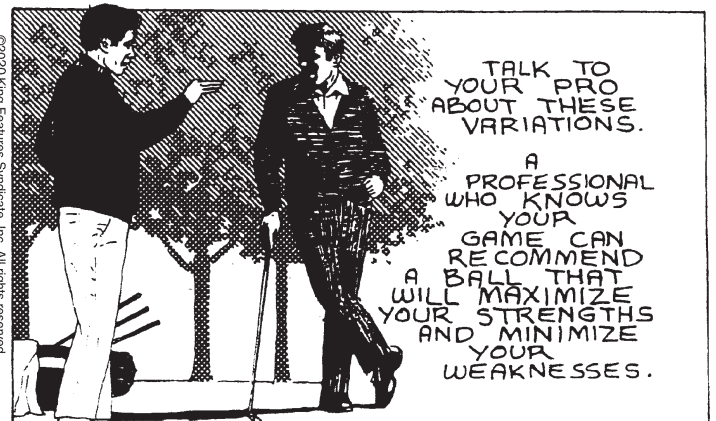
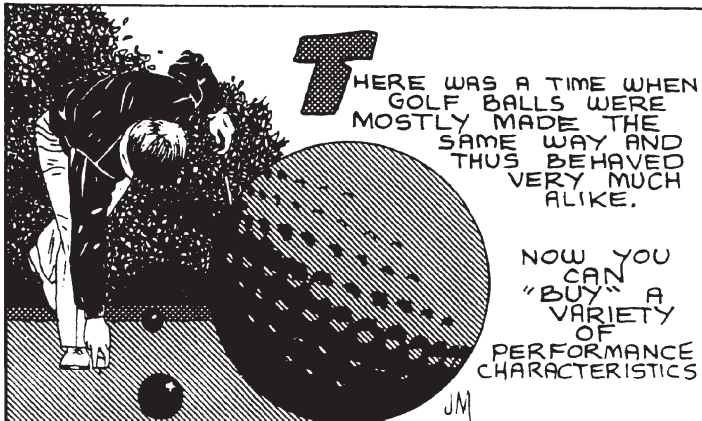
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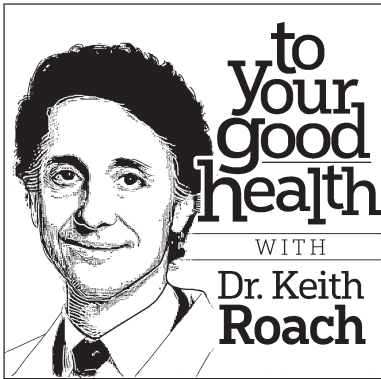
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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Swimmer Fears Repeat of Legionnaire's Disease

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm 73, male and have been swimming a mile in inside pools every day for 10 years. Two months ago, I caught Legionella pneumonia and was in the hospital for three weeks. They said I was critical. I'm afraid to go back to swimming for fear that I'll die if I get that disease again. What are my chances of getting it again if I return to daily swimming? — D.F.

ANSWER: Legionnaire's disease is caused by Legionella pneumophila, a bacteria species that lives in water, especially warm water. Legionella is a dangerous infection. It most commonly affects those over 50 or those with other risk factors, including smoking, alcohol use and a suppressed immune system from a medication or medical condition.

Pools are an occasional cause for Legionella infection; hot tubs are more common. Air conditioning systems and cooling towers are responsible for most large outbreaks. Infection occurs when the aerosolized water droplets contaminated with the bacteria are inhaled deep in the lungs where they can cause infection. I don't know if an investigation was done in your case, but large outbreaks are a significant concern, and often trigger a response by public health officials. The swimming pool is a possibility.

A properly cleaned and treated pool poses little risk. You should discuss your diagnosis with the operator of the pools where you swam in the week or two prior to getting sick, so the water can be tested. I would point them to tinyurl.com/

CDC-legionella-pool for information appropriate to aquatics professionals.

Swimming is a great form of exercise, and you should feel safe and comfortable in your pool.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Does a person with Eustachian tube dysfunction have to be careful when washing her or his hair? I am concerned that the water that gets into the ear can be felt going down the throat. Or is that another problem? — K.C.H.

ANSWER: The ear has three compartments: external, middle and inner. The external ear is all of the part you can touch, all the way to the tympanic membrane (eardrum). It is watertight (unless there is a perforation or a doctor has placed a tube in the eardrum). The middle ear is the location of three bones that connect the eardrum to the cochlea, the organ of hearing. The cochlea and the organ of Corti, from which you derive your sense of balance, comprise the inner ear.

The Eustachian tube runs from the middle of the ear into the back of the throat, and it allows the pressure in the ear to equalize with the pressure in the atmosphere. Eustachian tube dysfunction is when the tube fails to open, causing pressure changes in the ear. This often comes with reduced hearing and a sensation of ear pressure, and sometimes with ear pain, itching or tinnitus, the sensation of ringing in the ears or other noise. Eustachian tube dysfunction is a complicated issue I can't explain fully here.

However, showering with Eustachian tube dysfunction is not a problem. A sensation of water going down the throat during showering could possibly be from a wide-open hole in the eardrum, but it is more likely a referred sensation, meaning the body is misinterpreting the data from its own nerves.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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1. Name the band that originally called itself Salty Peppers.
2. Which group released an album titled "Rumours"?
3. Who released "Some Time in New York City"?
4. What is the stage name of Stuart Leslie Goddard?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "There goes my old girlfriend, there's another diamond ring, All those late night promises, I guess they don't mean a thing."

Answers

1. Earth, Wind & Fire. The name came from astrological elements earth, wind and fire, leaving out water. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, has a Hollywood Walk of Fame star and has won six Grammys.
2. Fleetwood Mac, in 1977. The album, their 11th, included the hits "Go Your Own Way" and "Don't Stop." It took the Album of the Year award at the 20th Grammys in 1978.
3. Plastic Ono Elephant's Memory, in 1972. It was a collaboration between John Lennon, Yoko Ono and Elephant's Memory and Invisible Strings.
4. Adam Ant, originally of Adam and the Ants.
5. "What It Takes," by Aerosmith in 1989. The song appeared on their album "Pump." Have the alternative album? There's a hidden six-minute instrumental track after "What It Takes."

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT

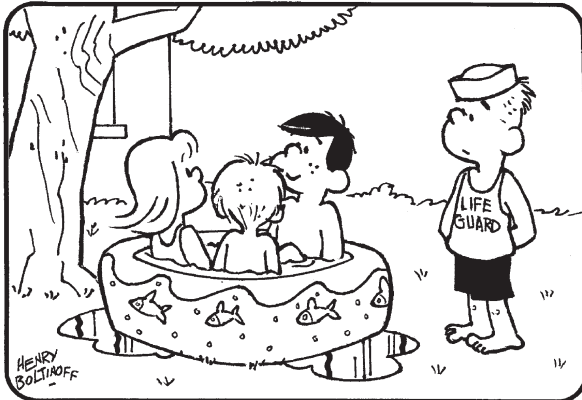
Wayne



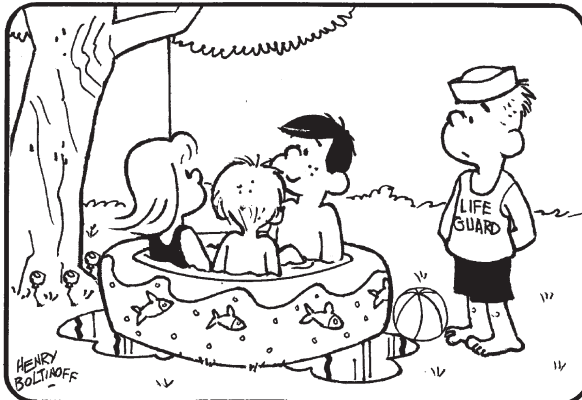
"Yes, I'd love to talk. ... Let me turn my hearing aid off."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Window is gone. 2. Girl's swimsuit is different. 3. Ball has been added. 4. Fish have changed direction. 5. Lifeguard's shirt is different. 6. Flowers have been added.



- If you go to a yard sale and an item catches your eye, don't be afraid to haggle. If the owner can't agree to your price, give him your name and phone number. If it doesn't sell, he might be ready to accept a lower price.

- "You can sprinkle a bit of baking soda on your porcelain sinks for a non-harsh scrub. It serves a double purpose, because it will also freshen and absorb odors, then get washed right down the drain!" — *M.M. in Texas*

- Wash and save yogurt cups for kids to use for painting. You can set several in a jelly roll pan to keep them together and upright.

- "I have a beautiful glass window in my front door. Unfortunately, once a day, the sun comes streaming through it and seems to magnify. I have a couple of hooks that are backed by suc-

tion cups. I can hang a garden flag from the hooks to cover the window. Sometimes I even use it at night for privacy. It still looks pretty from the other side if I don't take it down, and it didn't involve any holes in my door!" — *W.D. in Kentucky*

- Make-up bags make the perfect place to stash extra cords and accessories for your computer or other devices. Put them in a basket and all your tech will stay orderly.

- Car Wash Tips: Use a soap that's made for vehicles, because it's less likely to strip the protective coating off your paint. Don't wash in full sun if possible. If you must, then work in small sections to keep soap from drying on the car. Rinse off your sponge regularly — the dirt and grime can scratch the surface. Use a microfiber cloth to dry.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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TURN-AROUND RIDDLES

1. Turn around a drink and get an insect.
2. Turn around clothes and get boasting.
3. Turn around charts and get luncheon meat.
4. Turn around openings and get exercised.
5. Turn around water grass and get an animal.



Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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1.	A					H
2.		A				H
3.			A		H	
4.				A	H	
5.			H			A
6.		H				A
7.	H					A

AH, HA! IT'S TIME TO FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the seven eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. The letters in the two anagram words, for each definition, must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

- | DEFINITIONS | ANAGRAMS |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. An artist's tool. | (rubs + hair) |
| 2. Turn of century light. | (gash + gilt) |
| 3. Also called checkers. | (shut + drag) |
| 4. North American weapon. | (mako + thaw) |
| 5. Hard to find in restaurants. | (hats + rays) |
| 6. A light dimmer. | (tear + shot) |
| 7. Fits of laughter, crying. | (yeah + stir) |

Answers: 1. Airbrush. 2. Tomahawk. 3. Draughts. 4. Ashtrays. 5. Rhoestat. 6. Hysteria. 7. Rhoestat.

TO SOLVE, turn around the letters in the first word to get the second. Example: Rail-liar.

Answers: 1. Tang-gnat. 2. Garb-brag. 3. Maps-spam. 4. Maws-swam. 5. Reed-deer.

Illustrated by David Coulson

AN INTERESTING REBUS!

All right, students, you have two minutes to solve this puzzle.

STAND TAKE MINE TAKING.
I U 2 MY



Answer: The professor is saying, "I understand you undertake to undermine my understanding."

LET'S TAKE A WORD DRIVE! Find the four five-letter words in the word square that match the definitions below.

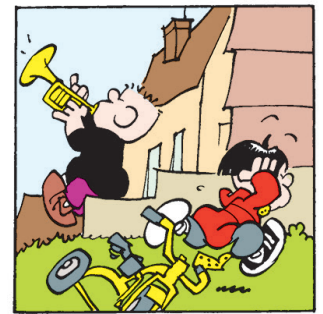
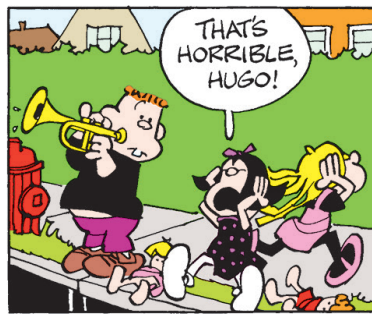
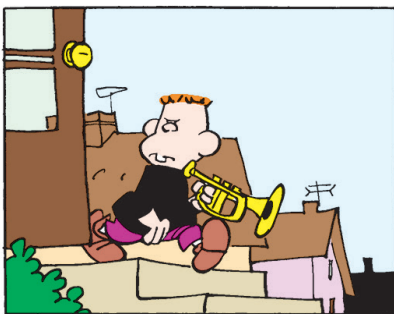
1. A trip (DRIVE, in place).
2. Ran against others
3. A sweet decoration.
4. Where something takes place.
5. Dividing lines, or borders.

1	D	R	I	V	E
2	R				
3	I				
4	V				
5	E				

Answers: 1. Drive. 2. Faced. 3. Icing. 4. Venue. 5. Edges.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Give a darn
- 5 IOU, e.g.
- 9 Trip to Mecca (Var.)
- 12 Like 28-Across
- 13 Top-notch
- 14 Chicken-king link
- 15 The Swedish Nightingale
- 16 Hold sway
- 17 Cartoonist Chast
- 18 Creche trio
- 19 Auto grille cover
- 20 "For cryin' out loud!"
- 21 Id counterpart
- 23 Personal question
- 25 Beckon
- 28 Vast sandy expanse
- 32 Leafy shelter
- 33 Release a deadbolt
- 34 Trolley sounds
- 36 Present from birth
- 37 Common Mkt.
- 38 Pigpen
- 39 Pre-swan
- 42 Puncturing device
- 44 It gets in the whey

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18					19				20			
			21	22			23	24				
25	26	27					28			29	30	31
32								33				
34					35		36					
			37				38					
39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

- 48 Seek restitu-
tion
- 49 Neighbor-
hood
- 50 Quite eager
- 51 Historic time
- 52 Read bar
codes
- 53 — good
example
- 54 Press for pay-
ment
- 55 Cattle group
- 56 A bit unclear
- 4 "Two Tickets
to Paradise"
singer
- 5 Diamonds,
essentially
- 6 Session with
a shrink
- 7 Extended
family
- 8 Shirt shape
- 9 Tortoise's
opponent
- 10 Lotion additive
- 11 Satchmo's
genre
- 20 "I Walk the
Line" singer
- 22 Canyon
- 24 Obsess
- 25 Pouch
- 26 Surfer's desti-
nation
- 27 Biz deg.
- 29 Lawyers' org.
- 30 Snitch
- 31 Exist
- 35 Hard to find
- 36 Gilligan's
home
- 39 Secondhand
- 40 Mentor
- 41 Slender
- 43 Sport
- 45 Eye layer
- 46 "Puttin' on
the —"
- 47 Crucial time
- 49 Blond shade

DOWN

- 1 Tranquil
- 2 Bocelli solo
- 3 Peal

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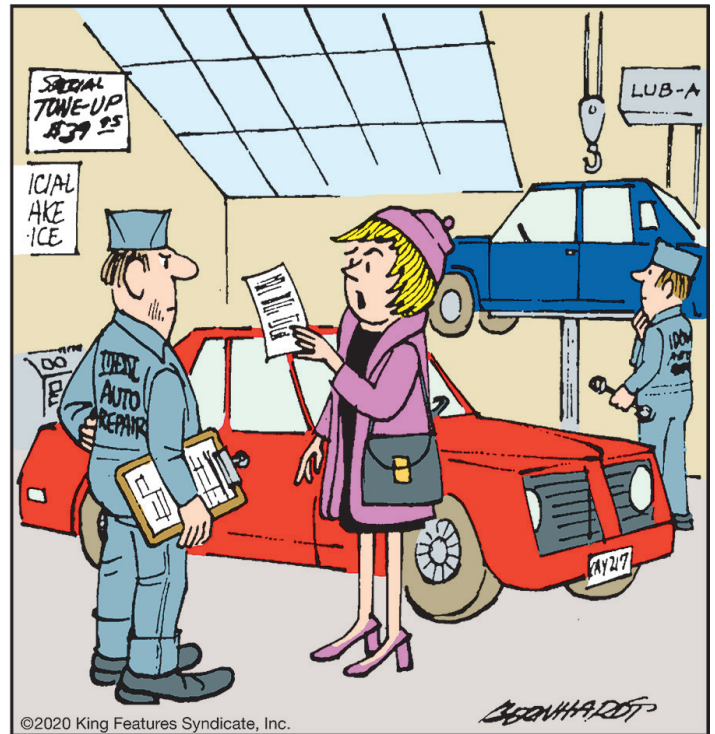
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	A	R	E		C	H	I	T		H	A	J	
A	R	I	D		A	O	N	E		A	L	A	
L	I	N	D		R	U	L	E		R	O	Z	
M	A	G	I		B	R	A			J	E	E	Z
			E	G	O			W	H	O			
S	U	M	M	O	N			S	A	H	A	R	A
A	R	B	O	R				U	N	B	A	R	
C	L	A	N	G	S			I	N	N	A	T	E
			E	E	C			S	T	Y			
U	G	L	Y		A	W	L			C	U	R	D
S	U	E			A	R	E	A		A	V	I	D
E	R	A			S	C	A	N		S	E	T	A
D	U	N			H	E	R	D		H	A	Z	Y

LAFF - A - DAY



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"Is this my bill or my odometer mileage?"

Out on a Limb

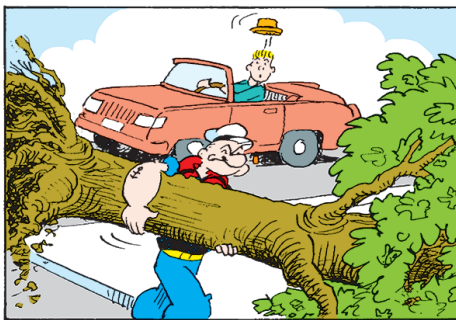
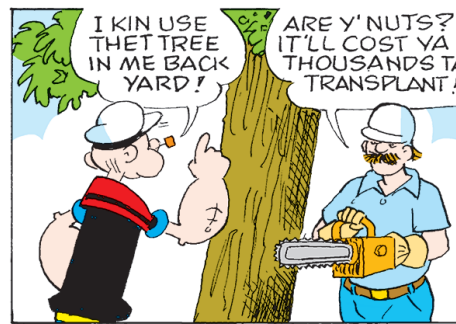
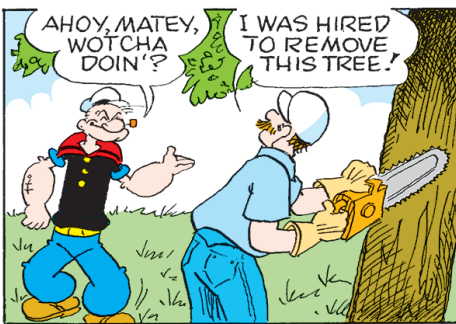
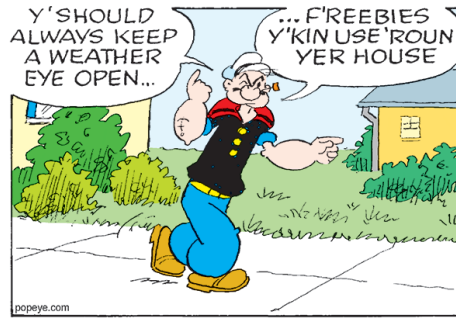
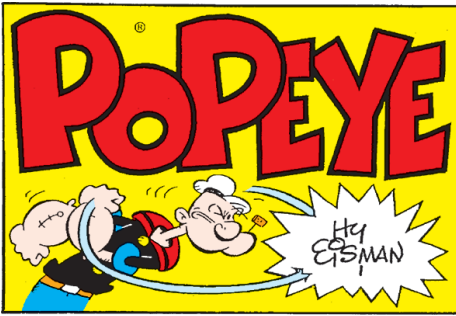
by Gary Kopervas



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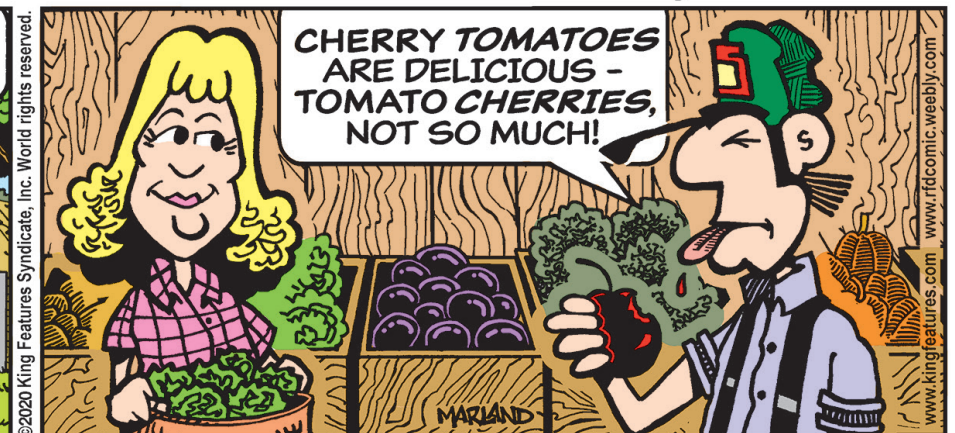
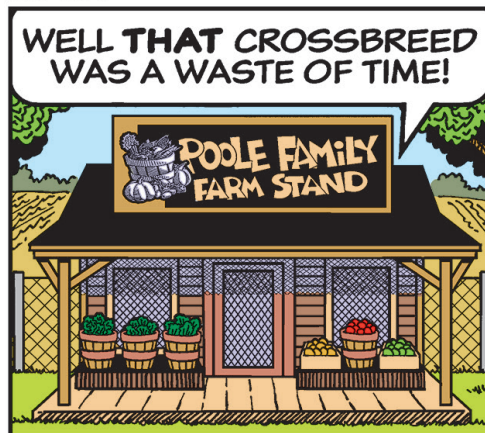
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

Our Story:

NUDDER, BUP AND IG WITNESS BUKOTA'S BID TO PEACEABLY END THEIR HOSTAGE SITUATION SUDDENLY DISPLACED BY FRANTIC ACTIVITY.



"WHAT GOES ON IN THIS MAD PLACE? HAVE THESE SAVAGES FORGOTTEN US?"



THE BEASTMEN CANNOT KNOW THAT GALAHAD RIDES OUT TO MEET THE REPORTED ADVANCE OF A DRAGON! PRUDENTLY, THE KNIGHT TAKES ALONG SUPPORT.

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FROM AROUND THE BEND IN THE ROAD COME THUNDEROUS FOOTFALLS. GALAHAD IS GLAD OF THE EXTRA HANDS. THIS IS NO MERE DRAGON—IT IS AN ANTEDILUVIAN NIGHTMARE!

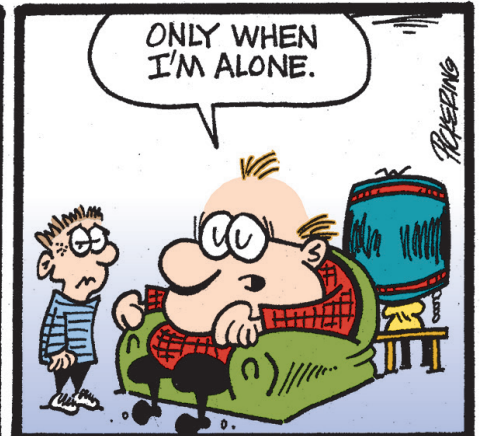
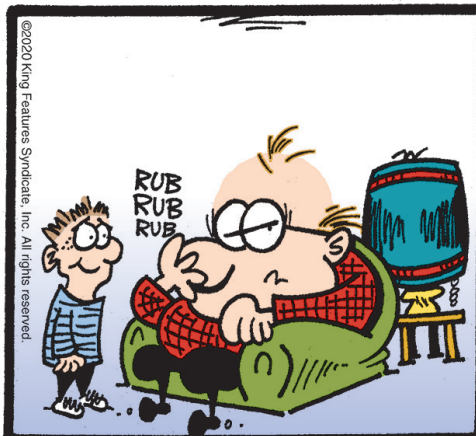
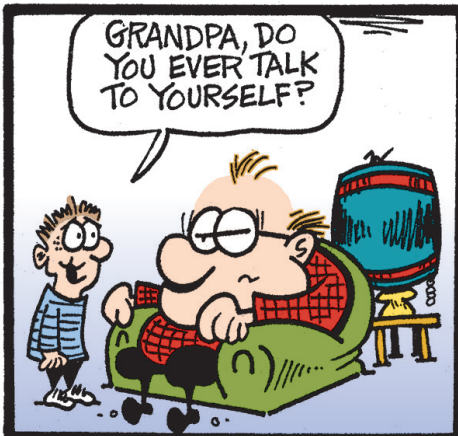
GALAHAD, TOO, IS A CREATURE OF ROUGHER TIMES, AND HIS RESPONSE IS NOT SUITABLE FOR MODERN SENSIBILITIES. HIS WORDS MUST BE OF YOUR OWN INVENTION, DEAR READER.



NEXT:
Into the breach

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Free Entertainment

To help us stay away from the mainstream news that has nothing but disturbing commentary and visuals, I've compiled a list of more upbeat places to investigate online. Best of all — they're free!

Games — Do online searches for your favorite games to play on your computer, such as Scrabble, crossword puzzles, mahjong and vintage Pac Man, Myst and Donkey Kong. (Use "classic games" or "retro games" as your search terms for the old ones.)

Language classes — Duolingo (www.duolingo.com) is the best language learning site I've found, and you don't have to pay anything! They keep track of your progress and move you right along once you've mastered a section. At this point there are over 30 languages you can study.

E-books — Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org) has over 60,000 books on its site, mostly old classics and all of

them free to read. If you have an e-reader, you can download books, or you can read them right on your computer. If you have an editing or education background, Gutenberg is always looking for volunteer proofreaders to help add more books to the catalog.

Classic TV shows — See if you have MeTV (www.metv.com) on your cable TV lineup. It shows all classics. You'll find "The Andy Griffith Show," "The Twilight Zone," "Mannix," "Barnaby Jones," "The Flintstones," "Wagon Train," "The Waltons," "The Carol Burnett Show," "I Love Lucy," "Perry Mason" and much more. Check the website for the shows and schedule for your area.

Vintage music — While you're on the MeTV website, click Music at the top for free vintage tunes. Or you can search in a browser for "free online music" and find dozens of vintage music archives. Even Gutenberg has free music, everything from Bach to Irving Berlin. However, you need to listen to only one at a time on Gutenberg.

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1. The Washington Kastles, San Diego Aviators, Philadelphia Freedoms and Springfield Lasers are teams competing in what pro sports league?

2. Two Denver Nuggets players led the NBA in points per game for the 1982-83 season. Who were they?

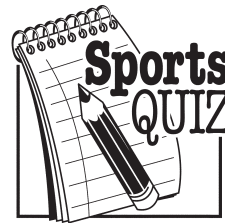
3. NFL quarterback Tom Brady was selected in the 18th round of the 1995 Major League Baseball Draft by what team?

4. The likeness of golf great Chi Chi Rodriguez appeared on the cover of the 1978 single "Be Stiff" by what American new wave band?

5. What barnstorming basketball team was founded in 1952 by Louis "Red" Klotz?

6. What two NHL players scored the first playoff hat tricks of their careers in Game 2 of the 2009 Eastern Conference Semifinals?

7. In the lyrics to "The Super Bowl Shuffle," which member of the Chicago Bears Shufflin' Crew professed to



by Ryan A. Berenz

"run like lightning, pass like thunder"?

Answers

1. World Team Tennis.
2. Alex English (No. 1) and Kiki Vandeweghe.
3. The Montreal Expos.
4. Devo.
5. The Washington Generals.
6. Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby.
7. Steve Fuller.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



School Re-Entry is Crucial

August is just around the corner – can you believe it? It is almost hard to process. For more than five months, most of the country has had their K-12 aged kids at home, full-time. Five months.

That's five months without face-to-face interaction with teachers and fellow students. Five months without in-classroom learning. Five months without access to many of the special learning programs our students desperately need. Our country still has a ways to go – we are still getting COVID-19 under control. Our actions need to continue to be data driven, but if there is a way for America to safely get kids and teachers back in the classroom in August, we absolutely should. It needs to be one of our nation's top priorities.

With three young children of my own, I have seen the effects school closures place on our youth first-hand. It's an unfortunate reality, but it is the reality – working parents cannot dedicate the time necessary to ensure our children are given a learning experience the classroom normally would provide. It's too soon to fully quantify the setbacks this generation of youth will face for being out of the classroom, but we do know that on top of an education, our system provides a safe environment many children do not have at home, reliable nutrition, and fundamental social and emotional skills that will be utilized forever. State and local governments should do everything in their power to avoid prolonging irreversible impacts on an entire generation of students.

School closures also place a disproportionate impact on children in low-income homes. The American Academy of Pediatrics, an organization dedicated to the health of all children, raised a strong point in their recent guidance for school re-entry: "Policy makers should acknowledge that COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk." We are facing a tough reality – we must balance the health and safety risks COVID-19 presents to teachers and communities, while also acknowledging the potential long-term damage children face by being kept out of the classroom.

It's not lost on me – I know this is a tough situation and every state is unique. South Dakota's school reopenings will look differently than New York's. That is why it is so important local governments and individual schools remain in control of reopening decisions, but I urge localities to consider the long-term impact our students will face if we keep schools closed into the fall. This can't be a one-size-fits-all approach, but our goals should be the same: reopen our schools safely and expediently for the benefit of children across the nation.

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Half-Time Pep Talk

The year 2020 is only half written, but already it's one for the history books. Everyone, whether 8 or 78, will remember this year as one unlike any other. While it is very common to set resolutions and goals on New Year's Day, this year is unique enough to deserve a half-time review, and possibly even a little pep talk.

Farmers probably always subconsciously perform a half-time transition in July. You put away the planter and fertilizer while you tune up the combines. The old, outdated saying, "knee-high by the 4th of July" means farmers are starting to anticipate harvest. While farming always has an element of uncertainty that is beyond our control, 2020 has delivered previously unexperienced obstacles due to COVID-19. These include processing and ethanol plant shutdowns and shortages in supply chains. Despite these uncertainties, our farmers and ranchers continue to be innovative and adapt to a tough year.

Our kids, mid-summer, are usually beginning to consider the transition back to school after a summer packed with sports and recreation. This year has been different, however, as our kids haven't had the same rigorous summer recreation activities. They also have been away from their classrooms for an extended period of time, instead of the normal short summer.

This week, I met virtually with superintendents from schools all across the state. Their message was consistent: we need to safely and efficiently get our kids back in school this fall. What August and September will look like still remains to be seen. One thing that is certain is that those decisions will be made by those who know their students and teachers best: local school board members and administrators. What works best in Sioux Falls might not be what's best in Rapid City, and what works in Spearfish might not work in Sisseton. The people who know their communities best will make the best decision for their communities.

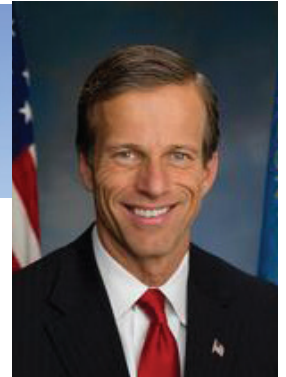
This time of year, our main street businesses are usually holding their summer crazy days, clearing out inventory to make room for a new season. Prior to the March outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, our economy was soaring. Jobs were being created, unemployment was at record lows and wages were rising. But when businesses needed to isolate for health safety due to the virus, our economy took an immediate and sharp downturn.

So this July, instead of our hospitality industry being at the height of its activity, we're just moving toward reopening our economy and getting people back to work. South Dakotans have done a good job of distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and we must continue to take precautions to open our economy safely and effectively.

We will need to be prepared to continue to deal with this public health crisis until our scientists and doctors successfully develop, test and deploy vaccines and therapeutic treatments to combat COVID-19.

It's halftime, South Dakota. We've had a tough first half, but the year is not over. This year has been a game unlike one we've ever played. We need to dig deeper than we have before, and figure out how to put in our strongest effort during this challenging time. We come from tough stock, and I know we can do it.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Rules for the Digital Road

I currently serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, and I'm the senior Republican on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Both panels play an integral role in developing federal technology policy and providing oversight of some of the nation's largest technology companies, including Twitter, Facebook, and Google, just to name a few.

My goal as a federal policymaker has always been to apply a light-touch approach to internet regulation that creates a positive environment for consumers and entrepreneurs, while ensuring users are protected and online platforms follow all of the appropriate rules and regulations. It's that type of balanced approach that has allowed the internet to flourish as much as it has in its relatively short history.

An overly regulated internet hinders innovation and growth, but an under-regulated internet would create its own set of problems. For example, think of the internet as a new interstate highway system that's been built from the East Coast of the United States to the West Coast. In a completely regulation-free environment, a driver could access the highway without a driver's license and travel as fast as he or she wanted through big cities, small towns, and the open road.

If you multiplied that unregulated driver by hundreds of thousands of people, that would obviously be unsafe for the people on the highway and in the towns through which it travels. That's why governments and regulators apply speed limits, stops signs, traffic lights, and licensing requirements to ensure drivers, and those people around them, have the freedom to travel as safely and efficiently as possible.

As traffic patterns, volume, and other needs on our nation's roadways evolve, so too does the internet. That's why it's so important for Congress to stay ahead of the curve and always work toward striking the right balance on internet regulation. If we don't, we risk creating a system where the rules that apply in the offline world for certain conduct do not apply in the online world, a situation that will tilt against consumers.

I recently joined Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), my Democrat counterpart on the subcommittee I chair, in introducing the Platform Accountability and Consumer Transparency Act – or PACT Act – which would update a decades-old federal law that provides the rules of the road for certain technology companies that host user-generated content. For example, most social media platforms would fall into this category.

Under current law, if a user posts illegal content, the platform that hosts it isn't held liable for it, in most circumstances. The law also protects companies that choose to moderate content on their platforms (in other words, decide whether user-generated content stays or is removed). The law was effective while many of these online companies were in their infancy, but there's a growing bipartisan concern that social media platforms are often not transparent and accountable enough to consumers with respect to the platform's moderation of user-generated content. That's why our PACT Act is so relevant.

At its core, the PACT Act is about transparency, accountability, consistency, and consumer protection. It would require companies that moderate content to provide a clear and easily accessible user policy that explains how, when, and why user-generated content might be removed. It would also require these online platforms to create a defined complaint system that processes reports and notifies users of moderation decisions within 14 days. Our legislation would require large technology companies to have a toll-free customer service phone line with live customer support to take customer complaints. This requirement is geared toward consumers who are less familiar with technology and who want to talk to a real person about a complaint about their service. And, among other things, the PACT Act would allow users to file an appeal if a platform removes a post and the user disagrees with the decision.

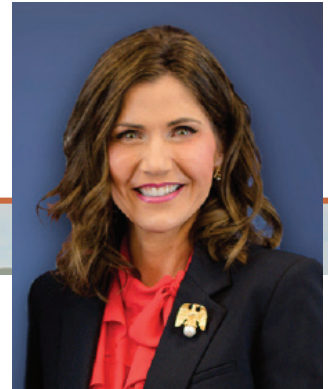
Again, regulating the internet is all about striking the right balance, and I believe our bill is a step in the right direction. Anyone on either end of the political spectrum who is worried about potential bias or too much top-down control on online platforms should be able to support the basic principles of the PACT Act and its modernization of the rules for the digital road throughout the United States.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



A Historic Day at Mount Rushmore

On July 3rd, South Dakota got to showcase our state to not only the rest of the nation but also the world. For the first time in more than a decade, we celebrated America's birthday with fireworks at Mount Rushmore. The excitement leading up to the event could be felt by everyone in attendance. Over just three days, more than 125 thousand people tried to get tickets to the event, and the lucky 7,500 who witnessed it in person saw quite a show.

South Dakotans know just how beautiful and magnificent the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore are, but it was wonderful to share them with millions of viewers from around the globe. Early estimates suggest more than 5.5 million people tuned in to watch our celebration on just one cable news network.

Our team at the Department of Tourism spent countless hours pulling together this great event. The Department of the Interior's Secretary David Bernhardt was instrumental in helping us overcome countless obstacles to make it a reality. And of course, none of this would have been possible without President Trump's dedication to making this event happen. Before I was even sworn in as Governor, I asked for his help to bring fireworks back to Mount Rushmore, and he went to work on it immediately.

In addition to the wonderful fireworks display, we were also thrilled to be the audience for President Trump's best ever speech. It was unifying and focused on his dedication to the things that make America the greatest country in the world. But he also warned of a sinister threat to that greatness: the radical movement to re-write American history.

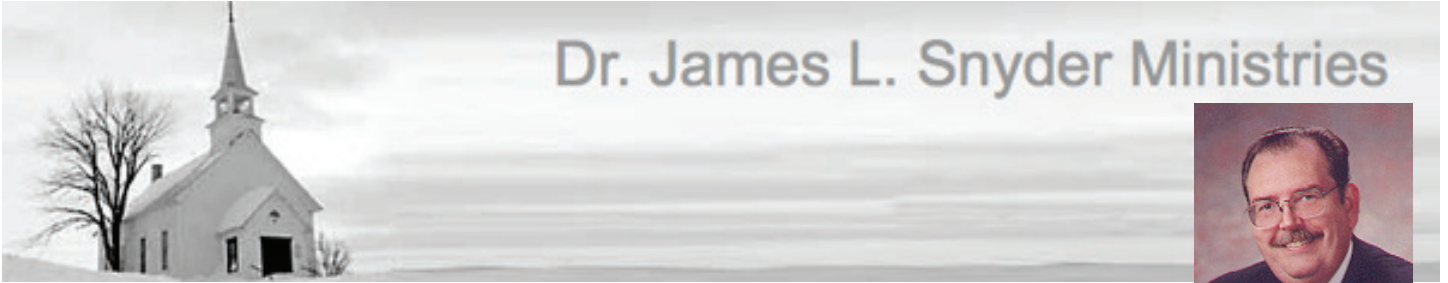
Make no mistake, this movement is not about equality. This movement's attempt to "cancel" the founding generation is an attempt to cancel our own freedoms. Our Founders had their flaws, certainly. But every person has flaws. Without our Founders' words, ideals, and sacrifice, the world would not have a ringing example of true freedom. We can write, worship, work, defend ourselves, and even protest as we see fit because of these men and their ideals.

That's what the celebration of America's birthday is about. It's about our core American ideal: "All men are created equal." It's about the day our ideal was forever enshrined in one of the most important statements of purpose ever written, the Declaration of Independence. It's about the work of countless brave men and women, including the four presidents enshrined on Mount Rushmore, to live up to that ideal and make America the greatest country ever.

Everyone who tuned in for our celebration also learned about South Dakota's commitment to that American ideal, to freedom, and to trusting our citizens to exercise their personal responsibility to do what's best for themselves and their loved-ones. Let us, like our Founding Fathers, pledge our own lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the cause of liberty and self-government, so that we may continue to have the freedom to follow our consciences, build our lives, and live in peace. And let's continue to celebrate America's birthday with fireworks at Mount Rushmore!

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It's Not Always What It Seems

There are times when my bad hearing is a blessing. I'm not sure if I'm not listening or not hearing. It's hard for me to tell.

For example, the other night, right after midnight, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were pretty much sound asleep. There was more sound on the other side of the bed than on mine, but that's a different story.

There was this tremendous boom, several flashes of lightning, and the rooftop was bombarded with rain. It sounded like some invasion.

I didn't hear it when it happened, but my wife shook me radically and asked, "What's that noise?"

Being the veteran husband that I am, I don't jump to an answer unless I fully understand the question. In the middle of the night, there is no way I'm going to understand anything. That's just the way it is.

Being in a groggier frame of mind more than usual, I asked, "What did you say?"

Then my wife went into this long explanation of the noise and the lightning and the rain that woke her up. "What in the world is that?"

From the tone of her voice, I was guessing she was confused as to the sound outside. Of course, I did not hear the sound, and therefore I was not a witness or at least a reliable witness.

I had two ways to approach this. First, she was setting me up for something. Or, second, she didn't know what was happening outside.

Correcting your wife or explaining something to your wife is hazardous territory.

"Oh, that's nothing," I said as I was yawning. "Just go back to sleep."

And with that, I went back to sleep. Or I tried to.

"No, no," she said. "Something's going on outside, and I'm not quite sure what it is."

About that time, the boom and the lightning and the rain exploded again in our backyard.

"See," she said rather excitedly, "something's going on outside in the backyard. I wonder if it's our neighbors with their firecrackers?"

In the last few weeks, almost everybody in our neighborhood set off firecrackers right after supper to nearly breakfast time. I never do that because I never like burning money. But some people get a thrill out of setting their money on fire and watching it explode in the air.

I knew that the sound we just heard was not associated with any firecrackers. And the lightning was not related to firecrackers either.

I had a very naughty thought dance in my mind at that point—some things I just can't refuse.

We had been watching on the news the rioting and looting going on all across our country. Most distressing as we watched it.

I sat up in bed, listened very intently and then said, "I wonder if it's a riot in our neighborhood."

Somebody's eyes, and they weren't on my face, widened as I've never seen before.

"Remember, we were watching that on the news before we went to bed last night? They may have come to our neighborhood without us knowing it."

I'm from the country in Pennsylvania, and I know how to milk a cow. I thought I would milk this cow as long as I could.

She leaned over and whispered, "Do you think we ought to call the police?"

I've never had a scam go this far in my life. I wasn't quite sure what to do. I confess I was having fun

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with this. It is not always I can have this kind of fun. Is it wrong for a husband to have this kind of fun with his wife? I'm not up on all of the PC activities that are prevalent today.

Nothing I wanted more than for her to call the police. That would have not only made my day but the rest of my life. Whenever there would be a silent moment, I could always bring up the question, "Do you remember when you called the police because you thought there was a riot in our backyard?"

It was hard for me to hold back my infamous snicker. I tried as best I could, but I guess I failed.

Looking at me, she said, "Why are you snickering?"

"I'm not."

"Look at me. Yes, you are snickering. Why are you snickering?"

I guess it was time for me to come clean about the whole situation. I would have loved for it to go just a little longer. After all, such things only come once in a lifetime.

I cleared my throat and finally told her that what she was hearing was a severe thunderstorm with lightning. That's all it was, just mother nature clearing her throat.

She stared at me, one of her stares, then turned over and went back to sleep.

The next morning I got up, went to the kitchen and turned on the coffee pot. In a few moments, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into the kitchen.

"Well," I chirped, "how was your night?"

I got a stare still burning in my brain now.

Throughout the day a verse of Scripture came to my mind. "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts" (Proverbs 21:2).

What we may think something is may not be exactly what it is. I need to rest my thoughts on God.

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.





Child-care options in S.D. dwindling at a time more parents are returning to work

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota parents trying to return to work after pandemic-caused layoffs, furloughs or job changes may have a hard time finding child care as state day-care providers struggle to survive amid decreased business and increased costs.

Day-care centers, preschools and state registered in-home day-care providers were struggling against high costs, slim profit margins and a shortage of workers even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

With more parents now working from home, and fewer jobs available due to a slowed economy, many child-care providers find themselves paying for enhanced cleaning measures and extra staff at a time they are serving fewer children and bringing in less revenue.

Industry leaders have begun to worry that without a fully reopened economy and more state and federal support, child-care providers will be forced to close permanently, which could reduce the ability of people to go back to work and prolong the COVID-19 economic recession.

"I have heard from other agency directors and CEOs that they are getting to their breaking point," said Rebecca Wimmer,, CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire, which operates after-school and child-care programs for working parents. "You definitely feel like when you're having those conversations that there's not a whole lot further that these organizations can stretch. And then at that point, I do believe we will be in a serious predicament in terms of not having the available care for our children."

South Dakota was struggling to build its workforce well before the pandemic hit and a shortage of child care was part of the problem. Between 2015 and 2019, the number of in-home, family day-care providers registered with the Department of Social Services dropped from 689 to 445, a loss of 244 providers and space for up to 2,928 children, according to data gathered by the Kids Count program at the University of South Dakota. In the same time period, just 19 new out-of-home day care centers were added to the market. The pandemic likely made the situation worse due to child-care closures.

As South Dakota tries to claw out of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, the economic consequences of a lack of child-care options could be significant, said Rob Grunewald, an economist with the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank. If a state becomes too short on child care, its entire economy can be slowed by people staying out of the workforce to care for their children, which can increase reliance on public assistance and decrease economic productivity.



Day-care centers in South Dakota were facing financial challenges before the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created new hurdles to financial stability. Photo:

Stock image

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"Without child care, there's a sizable portion of the workforce that won't be able to go back to their jobs," Grunewald said. "If there is a business looking to expand but the workforce doesn't have enough child care, it can be harder to find workers."

While unemployment in South Dakota remained much higher than normal in May at 9.4%, businesses are recalling workers. So far, there have been spaces open in child-care programs for the children of returning workers because so many parents were out of work. But those openings will likely be filled quickly, Wimmer said.

In March 2020, Dawn Wall closed her 24-hour, in-home child care operation in Rapid City and took an early retirement after 27 years due to COVID-19. Both she and her husband, who is also retired, are over 60 and are considered to be at higher risk from the potentially deadly disease.

"I didn't feel that it was worth the risk to stay open," Wall said. "By the time a vaccine comes out, I'd be at retirement age ... it's not fair to families to open up for a short time and then say, 'Oh by the way, I'm retiring.'"

Many of the children who needed overnight care were the children of single parents who were nurses, certified nursing assistants, nursing home employees and overnight workers in the hospitality industry. Wall was one of only three 24-hour child-care providers in Rapid City when she retired. Her decision to retire was a blow to some clients who were forced to scramble to find alternate arrangements for their children.

"One client flew a relative into Rapid City to live with them" and help care for the children, Wall said. "Others had to get help from family or work from home."

Child care is especially important in South Dakota, a state that is near the top in the nation for the number of households in which both parents work one or more jobs.

Exactly what the child-care industry in South Dakota will look like once the thousands of out-of-work parents go back to their jobs is unknown. There are unanswered questions about whether there will be enough support for day cares and whether schools will reopen at full capacity, re-open part time or return to remote learning where children must stay at home, said Janessa Bixel, president of the South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children.

"We've got a lot of advocacy work going on right now," Bixel said. "We've reached out to more economic development people to try to work with them to see how they can potentially provide support, but also how they could loop in other entities across the state because our economy needs child care for people to go back to work."

Child-care industry hurt by pandemic

Even before the pandemic, the child care industry was approaching a crisis and was ill-equipped to handle a severe economic crisis.

The costs of providing quality early childhood education or child care include providing staff, supplies, food diapers, baby formula and utilities. But there is only so much a day-care provider can charge their clients, who include many young, low-paid workers who cannot afford to pay high rates, Grunewald said.

"Before the pandemic, the business model for child care was one of thin margins and it was a challenging business model to make a profit with," Grunewald said. "The extra costs, now, to address COVID-19 have created more pressure."

Outside of Sioux Falls and Rapid City, the Department of Social Services estimates the market rate providers charge for child care at between \$3 and \$4 per hour at child-care centers or between \$2.50 and \$2.65 per hour for in-home child care providers. In Sioux Falls and Rapid City, rates can vary between \$3 and \$4.20 per hour depending on location and provider type, and many providers charge more than the DSS market rates.

Child care is one of the biggest items on most family balance sheets. Many parents pay more than \$6,000 a year for child care, according to the national nonprofit Committee for Economic Development. For day-care providers, setting rates attractive to clients while covering the actual cost of care is difficult, Bixel said.



Rob Grunewald

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"It's pretty well known, nationally, that we don't make big bucks working in early childhood education," Bixel said. "In part, that is because it costs quite a bit to send kids to child care, and child-care programs try to keep those fees as low as they possibly can for families."

High costs combined with low rates have made keeping the doors open at many child-care centers a challenging prospect. For example, Bixel said, a child-care center must have one adult staff member for every five children under the age of three. Even at the highest DSS market rate of \$4.20 per hour, a center would only be bringing in about \$33.60 per day on each toddler or infant.

In South Dakota, the average child-care worker makes about \$10.55 an hour, \$1.45 more than minimum wage. Subtracting the cost of diapers, formula and food for each of those five kids leaves little left over to pay administrators, invest in new programming or to turn a profit, Bixel said.

Low pay has helped make finding workers difficult, she said, which also was a major problem facing the child-care industry prior to the pandemic.

"You know, some people just aren't cut out for it or think that it's gonna be an easy job; it's not easy," Bixel said. "And, honestly, people who work at McDonald's probably make more money than early childhood providers."

The financial pressures facing child-care providers were a big reason that the state's in-home or family child care industry was shrinking prior to the pandemic, said Wall, the Rapid City provider.

The child-care business wasn't an easy way to make a living even during the best of times, she said. As a 24-hour provider who also took children over weekends, Wall said she took, at most, two days each year during her 27 years on the job. Just before the pandemic hit, she had a total of 15 children — up to 12 at a time — in her care each week. State law allows in-home day cares to care for up to 12 children at a time. For most of her time as a provider, Wall was working alone.

"From the time I hit the floor in the morning to the time I fell asleep in bed, I was working," Wall said.

She made sure each child was learning every day and had positive relationships with Wall and with the other children. Wall also had to manage parental expectations and was responsible for preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner for at least some of the children.

"Child care was really a hard job," Wall said. "You have to be good at bookkeeping. You have to be good at time management and be good at really managing your own stress levels because it's a very stressful job."

Adapting to the pandemic has only added to the financial stress on child-care providers, Bixel said. For large day cares or preschools, new cleaning requirements can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars per week as more supplies are needed, more staff time is devoted to cleaning or if a third-party cleaning service is hired. Even at in-home family day cares, extra cleaning can be expensive, Bixel said.

Still, if the extra cleaning costs were the only issue, things might be OK. But child care providers are contending with another problem — there are fewer kids to serve because parents have been laid off, furloughed or are working from home. Revenues are down at a time when costs have gone up, Bixel said, and it is only a matter of time before child care providers start deciding to close permanently.

"I know it's been extremely taxing on programs' finances. We barely make it as is in most early childhood programs," Bixel said. "I've had even big programs say that just with the (new) financial burden, they really have no idea what the future holds right now."

Several day-care centers around the state have closed temporarily after employees or children tested positive for COVID-19. In early July, the Leap 2 Learn Educational Childcare in Rapid City closed for two weeks after two employees and a child tested positive for the disease. No large outbreaks of COVID-19 have been associated with day-care providers in South Dakota, though in Texas, the state's roughly 880 child-care facilities had reported 894 staff members and 441 children had become infected as of early July.

Government assistance held off closures

So far, most of South Dakota's child care centers and registered in-home day-care providers have been



Rebecca Wimmer

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able to stave off permanent closure owing to government financial assistance. Many providers have stayed afloat through financial support from the federal government through the CARES Act. But such assistance won't last forever.

"That's not sustainable. That's not the long term," Bixel said. "If you take a family child-care provider that's used to having 12 families in their care and now they're down to three families in their care, plus they're having to do all this extra work, cleaning and all that, they kind of have to wait to see if it's really worth it to them to stay in business."

There also is an entire class of low-cost child-care providers, known as unregistered family day cares, that are unregulated and also ineligible for assistance.

South Dakota doesn't require in-home child care services to be licensed, so virtually anyone with a clean criminal record can start an in-home day care and care for up to 12 children at a time. While there is not an official tally of how many unregistered day cares exist, the South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children has estimated the number is likely more than 1,000. Unregistered day cares don't get access to state or federally funded resources such as emergency funding or training. Parents who send their children to unregistered day cares also cannot ask DSS for help to pay for the service.

In an emailed statement in response to an interview request from News Watch, Department of Social Services Secretary Laurie Gill said the state has not heard from parents unable to find child care.

"DSS staff are diligently keeping a pulse on providers who have openings in the event shortages do occur," Gill said in the statement.

Any shortages in child-care availability will not become apparent until the service is needed most — the time when parents are recalled to work, said Wimmer. By then, it could take years to rebuild capacity in response to demand.

For many years, organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, Lutheran Social Services and SDAEYC have pushed for more public investment in child care and early childhood education, though without much success. Wimmer said the pandemic could bring much-needed attention to the long-term problems facing state child-care providers.

"We collaborate very well and we help carry each other's burdens to some degree, and so I don't know that the magnitude of the issue really was visible," Wimmer said. "It just happened that COVID was kind of that last piece that made child-care issues more pronounced and, hopefully, has pushed child care into the spotlight so that we can get some things accomplished."

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#139 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Still grim: 61,200 new cases today, 1.9% increase to 3,258,400. Second only to yesterday. We're up to our 12 worst days being the past 12 days. 40 states showing increases in 14-day rolling new case average; only three showing declines. And worse yet, we are still plagued with persistent testing shortages. Try to imagine what those numbers would be with adequate testing. It boggles the mind. Here's a tidbit you don't want to hear that illustrates how fast it's getting worse: It took 99 days for us to reach one million cases, 43 days to reach two million, and just 28 days to reach three million. We are on pace to reach four million in about 12. Let that sink in.

Cases are rising fastest in Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Tennessee, Georgia, Delaware, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico. Six states had record numbers of new cases: Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon, Arkansas, North Carolina, and South Carolina. South Carolina also set a record for test positivity rate today. Louisiana's per capita case count is higher than every state except New York and New Jersey, and its positivity rate is still above 10%.

Another university has suspended football workouts due to infections; this time it's Maryland, which has had nine athletes and staff test positive. Two of the major athletic conferences have adjusted their schedules to eliminate non-conference games; and more leaders are starting to voice concern about whether there can be a season at all. Not surprising. I'm wondering that too.

There were 712 deaths reported today, a 0.5% increase. The seven-day average here has gone up since last week. Eight states set records: Arizona, South Dakota, Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Florida.

Still in debunking mode from yesterday, I'll first dispose of a thing I've seen circulating on the interwebs about masks; I'm guessing you've seen it too. Purporting to come from someone who has "OSHA 10 and 30" certification, it proceeds to make claims that masks don't work and are dangerous to the wearer. Sigh. So here we go:

First claim is that N95s are designed for contaminated environments, not to keep you from spreading infections. They have an exhale port which allows bacteria and viruses to escape. This is true of N95 masks designed for work sites where workers need protection. These are not medical masks; medical N95s don't have the port. I would think a mask expert like the guy who wrote this post would know that, but I have learned to live with disappointment. Those that have the port will not do a good job of protecting others from virus you are shedding, which is why they are not recommended for protection against viruses; they will, however, do a good job of protecting you. You should not use them because they do not protect others; it's kind of a jerk move to protect yourself at the risk of others, which is exactly the same sort of argument I'd make against walking around without a mask entirely. N95s without the port are very protective of you and others; they trap most viruses going both directions. They are, however, in limited supply, so should not be used outside the health care setting for that reason.

The next claim is that surgical masks are useless because they are designed for sterile environments, so particles in the air in a non-sterile environment will quickly clog them, rendering them useless if you come into contact with Covid-19 because your clogged mask will actually trap it, making you a "walking virus dispenser." The claim is that the mask loses effectiveness after 20 minutes of wear. OK, this is just silly. This is a mask that protects others more than it protects the wearer; but it is capable of trapping

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droplets moving in either direction. It doesn't "clog" within minutes; the wearer does not become a virus dispenser. Despite the repeated invocations of OSHA's name in this post, OSHA does, in fact, recommend these masks for non-sterile environments for use by dentists and some other professionals; guessing OSHA vetted the clogging problem before making its recommendation. These should not be worn outside the medical setting either, not because they're virus dispensers, but because they, too, are in short supply.

Next up: Cloth masks (per the post: "I can't even believe I'm having to explain this . . . ") "do not filter anything." Also they make you sicker because the thing they do trap is carbon dioxide. Also moisture, which can generate mildew overnight which will stir up allergies in the wearer. Here in the real world, cloth masks work in the same way surgical ones do—to protect others. Like surgical masks, they also provide some level of protection to the wearer, so there's some benefit that way too. They trap respiratory droplets and, since those are a primary means of transmission, are useful to stop the spread of coronavirus. Also, by trapping droplets, they prevent the formation of smaller particles, so there's some benefit that way too. And I find it fascinating that we have a claim a mask that can't filter anything can somehow trap molecules of carbon dioxide, which are orders of magnitude smaller than the smallest virus. How does that work anyhow? There is a small increase in carbon dioxide concentration inside the mask, but since you are not wearing them 24/7, both this and any moisture has plenty of time to dissipate before you put it on again—molecules again, slipping through those pores. Fabric masks will not mildew unless you're storing them in your shoe or some such, and they're designed to be laundered, which should solve the problem anyhow.

This is a bunch of specious arguments wrapped in a blanket of arrogance tied up with false authority. Not my favorite kind of thing. Word to the wise: If someone claims to be an OSHA expert while opining on all matters Covid, your first question should be how OSHA training qualifies someone to weigh in on medical matters. Spoiler: It does not.

I have just a couple of quick updates, and I'm signing off early tonight. First, if you've been wondering who signs up for those clinical trials for things like vaccines, the answer is people who volunteer. If you'd like to be one of those people, you can check it out here: <https://www.coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org/> It might be kind of cool to help science beat this thing back, so if you're able and interested, there's where you can sign up. No guarantee you'll be selected—there will be a particular demographic mix sought, and there may be geographic requirements—but you can give it a shot.

I read an intriguing item today about a paper recently published in Materials Today Physics. I was unable to access the original paper, but I did read a summary, and it sounds promising. A group has designed an air filter which captures and inactivates 99.8 percent of SARS-CoV-2 with one pass. The filter is made from nickel foam and works using heat to inactivate the virus pretty much instantly. It has been suggested these filters would find application in office buildings, schools, cruise ships, airports, and airplanes, and a desktop model is in the works too to purify the air in the immediate surroundings. I have no idea what the pricing will look like, but this shows us there are angles of approach to controlling this virus that might not immediately come to mind.

Our last item comes from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Marcela Alvarez was struggling with the solitude of quarantine. When she couldn't stand it anymore, she sort of lost it, and dug out the Christmas lights. She decorated up the balcony of her home, then set up a speaker and started playing music. Loud. She was a little worried about what her neighbors would think, but she needed to do something.

She didn't get complaints. Instead of complaining, her neighbors went and dug out their Christmas lights. Speakers and music too. Also the disco lights and smoke machines. And so the "festival of the balconies"

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became a thing. And now, if you were to talk down Alvarez's street in Buenos Aries, you would see people who used to be strangers dancing at their windows and balconies to rock music, Latin music, and reggae, complete with lights and smoke. Instead of solitude and separation, they enjoy community and celebration together apart. There we go again.

Take care and stay well. I'll see you tomorrow.

COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLDWIDE

3 Weeks Ago 2 Weeks Ago Last Week This Week

Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed
8,809,872	10,004,643	11,288,094	12,739,269
2,255,119 US	2,510,323 US	2,839,917 US	3,247,782 US
1,032,913 Brazil	1,313,667 Brazil	1,577,004 Brazil	1,839,850 Brazil
583,879 Russia	633,542 Russia	680,283 Russia	849,522 India
410,451 India	528,859 India	673,165 India	726,036 Russia
304,580 United Kingdom	311,739 United Kingdom	299,080 Peru	322,710 Peru
251,338 Peru	275,989 Peru	291,847 Chile	312,029 Chile
245,938 Spain	267,766 Chile	286,414 United Kingdom	295,268 Mexico
238,275 Italy	248,469 Spain	252,165 Mexico	290,504 United Kingdom
236,748 Chile	240,136 Italy	250,545 Spain	264,184 South Africa
202,584 Iran	222,669 Iran	241,419 Italy	257,303 Iran

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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	July 11	July 12
Minnesota	39,133	39,589	40,163	40,767	41,571
Nebraska	20,201	20,425	20,623	20,777	20,998
Montana	1,327	1,371	1466	1,593	1,677
Colorado	34,664	35,116	35,525	36,191	36,591
Wyoming	1,378	1,404	1428	1,445	1,488
North Dakota	3898	3971	4070	4154	4243
South Dakota	7,163	7242	7336	7401	7454
United States	2,994,776	3,055,144	3,118,168	3,187,270	3,247,782
US Deaths	131,626	132,309	133,291	134,117	134,815

Minnesota	+564	+456	+574	+604	+804
Nebraska	+155	+224	+198	+154	+221
Montana	+78	+44	+95	+127	+84
Colorado	+407	+452	+409	+666	+400
Wyoming	+29	+26	+24	+17	+43
North Dakota	+49	+73	+99	+84	+99
South Dakota	+58	+79	+94	+65	+55
United States	+56,152	+60,368	+63,024	69,102	+60,512
US Deaths	+1,320	+683	+982	+826	+698

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

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July 11th COVID-19 UPDATE

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from State Health Lab Reports

Two males have died from COVID-19. One was 70-79 and the other was 80-89. One was in Beadle County and the other in Yankton County. North Dakota also recorded two more deaths. To date, 87 have died in North Dakota and 109 have died in South Dakota.

Only Potter and Harding County remain COVID-19 free as Perkins numbers were adjusted from yesterday to reflect its first positive case.

The fully recovered list is adjusted today as Deuel and Lawrence counties fell off and McPherson came back on.

Whatever was going on in Dewey County has stalled as there are no new cases there.

The active cases are on the way back down with 11 fewer cases. There are 875 active cases in South Dakota while there are 710 active cases in North Dakota.

Brown County has two fewer active cases with the total now at 17. There were two positive and four recovered cases today.

Brown County:

Active Cases: -2 (17)

Recovered: +4 (337)

Total Positive: +2 (356)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (18)

Deaths: 2

Negative Tests: +22 (3331)

Percent Recovered: 94.7% (+.6)

South Dakota:

Positive: +55 (7454 total)

Negative: +1011 (82,152 total)

Hospitalized: +12 (738 total). 65 currently hospitalized (No Change)

Deaths: +2 (109 total)

Recovered: +88 (6470 total)

Active Cases: -11 (875)

Percent Recovered: 86.8 +0.2

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests (Lost Perkins): Harding 42, Potter +5 (197), unassigned +106 (2666).

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: +3 recovered (501 of 551 recovered)

Brookings: +4 positive, +4 recovered (75 of 94 recovered)

Brown: +2 positive, +4 recovered (337 of 356 recovered)

Buffalo: +2 positive (68 of 85 recovered)

Butte: +1 positive (0 of 3 recovered)

Clay: +1 recovered (80 of 93 recovered)

Codington: +1 recovered (67 of 92 recovered)

Corson: +1 positive (17 of 20 recovered)

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Custer: +1 recovered (9 of 10 recovered)
 Davison: +2 positive, +1 recovered (38 of 54 recovered)
 Day: +1 recovered (16 of 19 recovered)
 Deuel: +1 positive (4 of 5 recovered)
 Gregory: +2 recovered (4 of 5 recovered)
 Hanson: +1 recovered (9 of 13 recovered)
 Hughes: +1 positive, +3 recovered (57 of 69 recovered)
 Lake: +3 positive (20 of 29 recovered)
 Lawrence: +1 positive (19 of 20 recovered)
 Lincoln: +6 positive, +9 recovered (349 of 390 recovered)
 Lyman: -2 positive, +4 recovered (60 of 82 recovered)
 McCook: +1 positive (10 of 16 recovered)
 McPherson: +1 recovered (5 of 5 recovered)
 Mellette: +3 positive (4 of 9 recovered)
 Minnehaha: +13 positive, +11 recovered (3459 of 3751 recovered)
 Oglala Lakota: +1 positive, +2 recovered (77 of 109 recovered)
 Pennington: +6 positive, +8 recovered (463 of 630 recovered)
 Perkins: First positive case
 Roberts: +3 positive, +1 recovered (47 of 56 recovered)
 Tripp: +1 recovered (17 of 19 recovered)
 Tuner: +1 positive (24 of 29 recovered)
 Union: +2 positive, +2 recovered (125 of 150 recovered)
 Walworth: +1 recovered (11 of 16 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Deuel, Lawrence, gained McPherson): Campbell 1-1, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Kingsbury 6-6, McPherson 5-5, Sanborn 12-12, Spink 12-12, Sully 1-1.

The NDDoH & private labs report 4,327 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 90 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 4,243. NDDoH reports two new deaths. State & private labs have reported 224,050 total completed tests. 3,533 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	984	13%
Hispanic	1126	15%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1195	16%
Other	749	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2685	36%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	8
Brown	2
Buffalo	3
Faulk	1
Hughes	2
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
Lincoln	1
Lyman	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	60
Pennington	21
Todd	2
Union	1
Yankton	2

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	34	33	299
Beadle	551	501	1550
Bennett	4	3	440
Bon Homme	13	12	626
Brookings	94	75	1963
Brown	356	337	3331
Brule	33	24	580
Buffalo	85	68	548
Butte	3	0	567
Campbell	1	1	66
Charles Mix	96	39	921
Clark	15	14	342
Clay	93	80	1053
Codington	92	67	2127
Corson	20	17	154
Custer	10	9	617
Davison	54	38	1792
Day	19	16	450
Deuel	5	4	315
Dewey	33	1	1080
Douglas	10	4	345
Edmunds	8	7	318
Fall River	13	9	781
Faulk	24	20	137
Grant	16	14	566
Gregory	5	4	262
Haakon	1	1	247
Hamlin	13	11	511
Hand	7	6	217
Hanson	13	9	149
Harding	0	0	42
Hughes	69	57	1328
Hutchinson	15	13	753

Hyde	3	3	103
Jackson	6	2	365
Jerauld	39	37	245
Jones	1	0	40
Kingsbury	6	6	436
Lake	29	20	711
Lawrence	20	19	1563
Lincoln	390	349	4938
Lyman	82	60	757
Marshall	5	4	323
McCook	16	10	516
McPherson	5	5	178
Meade	53	45	1476
Mellette	9	4	268
Miner	10	6	210
Minnehaha	3751	3459	21471
Moody	23	20	499
Oglala Lakota	109	77	2611
Pennington	630	463	8076
Perkins	1	0	99
Potter	0	0	197
Roberts	56	47	1219
Sanborn	12	12	177
Spink	12	12	934
Stanley	14	13	170
Sully	1	1	55
Todd	65	52	1453
Tripp	19	17	489
Turner	29	24	744
Union	150	125	1535
Walworth	16	11	440
Yankton	84	72	2550
Ziebach	3	1	161
Unassigned****	0	0	2666

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3606	58
Male	3848	51

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	816	0
20-29 years	1552	1
30-39 years	1558	5
40-49 years	1174	7
50-59 years	1158	12
60-69 years	690	21
70-79 years	270	15
80+ years	236	48

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Baseball Schedule

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

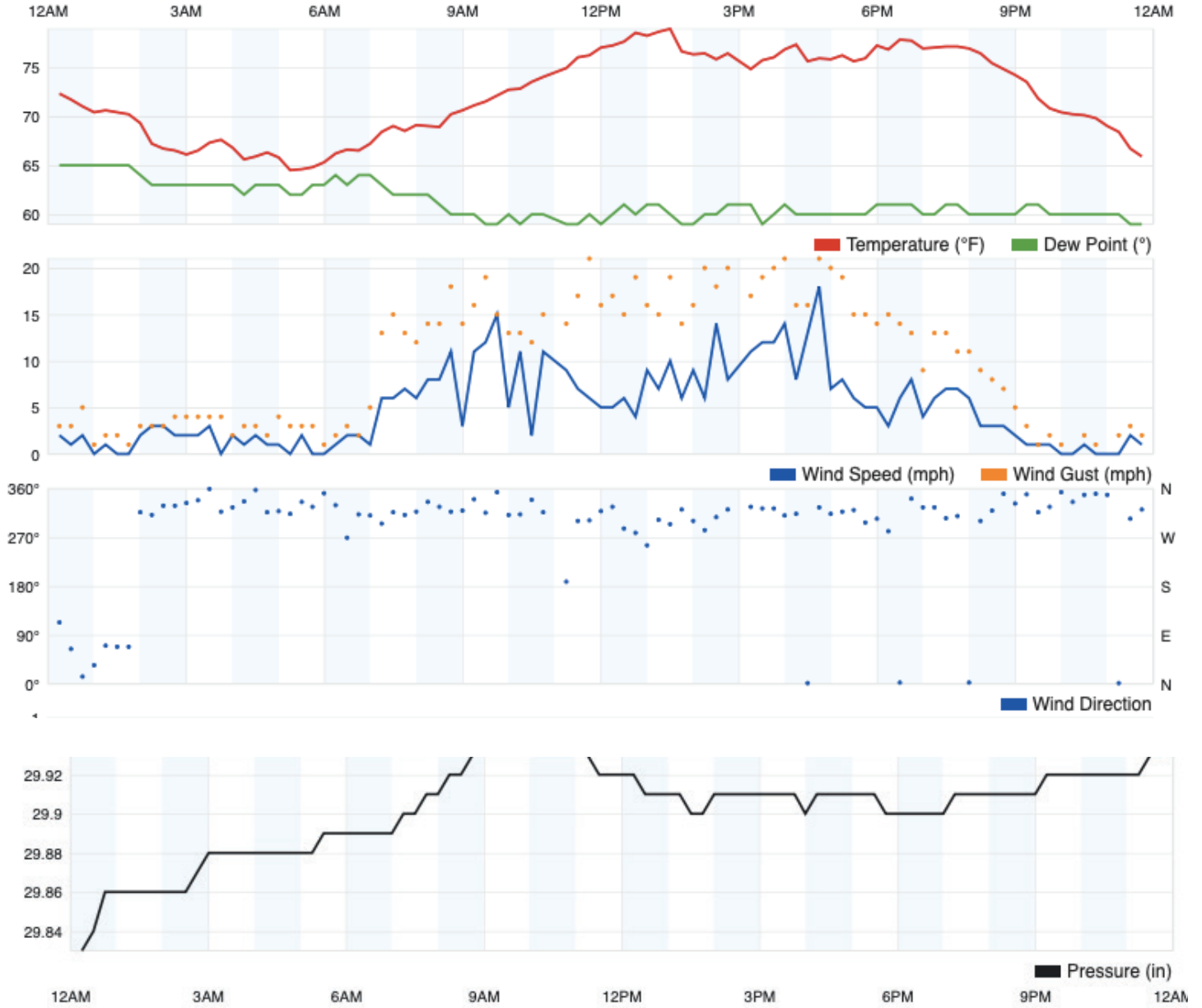
First Round State VFW Jr. Teener Schedule in Webster

DATE	AWAY TEAM	HOME TEAM	Result/Time
Fri, Jul 17	SDVFW 14U Castlewood	SDVFW 14U Groton	12:00PM CDT
Fri, Jul 17	SDVFW 14U Canova Gang	SDVFW 14U Parker	2:30PM CDT
Fri, Jul 17	SDVFW 14U Mt. Vernon-Plankinton	SDVFW 14U Gregory	5:00PM CDT
Fri, Jul 17	SDVFW 14U FH Hitmen	SDVFW 14U Webster	7:30PM CDT

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 86 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 65 °F

Monday



Chance
T-storms

High: 90 °F

Monday
Night



Chance
T-storms

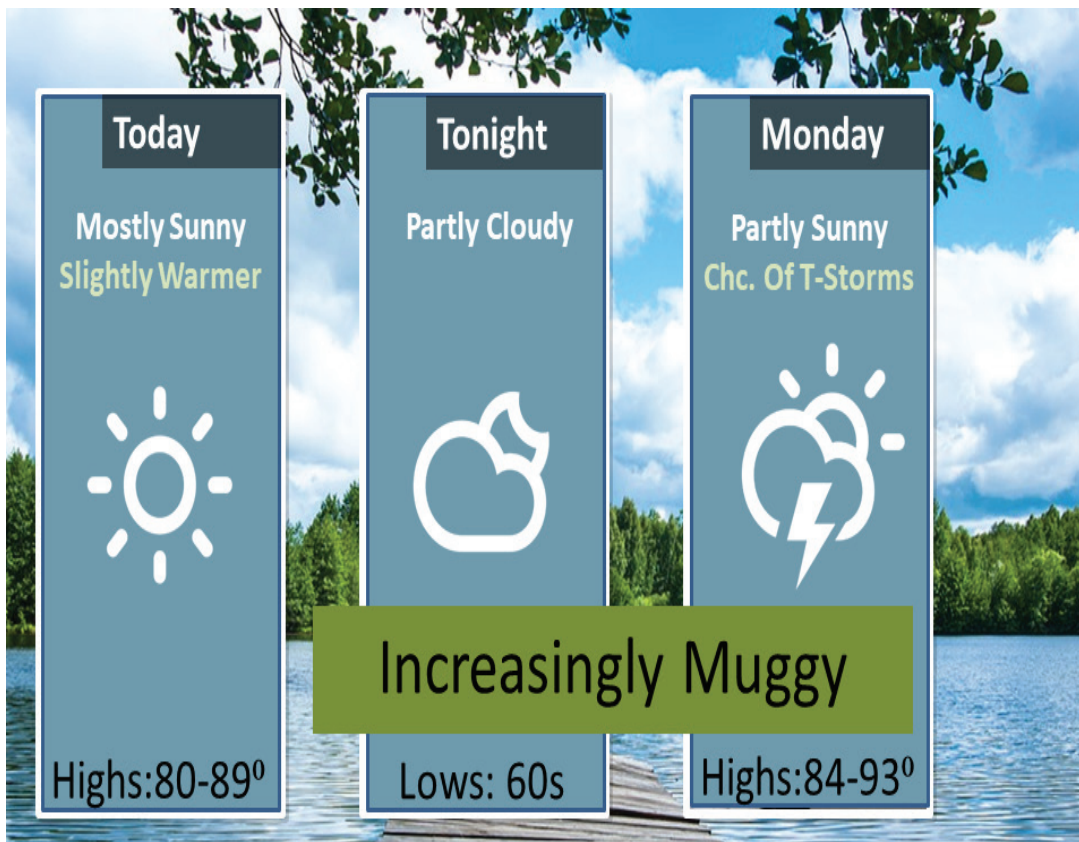
Low: 60 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 81 °F



Another pleasant day is expected across the area today as high pressure will remain in control leading to plenty of sunshine and slightly warmer temps. Winds will become more southerly through the day leading to afternoon readings to reach the 80s. As the high slides east, increasing humidity values will return tonight into Monday. A low pressure system and cold front will begin to move into the region on Monday. Warm and humid conditions will build in during the day and lead to a good chance for showers and thunderstorms by later in the day into Monday night. Some storms could be strong to severe by Monday evening, especially across areas east of the Missouri valley.

SLIGHT RISK of Severe T-Storms

ISSUED: 2:12 AM - Sunday, July 12, 2020

WHEN

Late **Monday afternoon/evening**. The highest risk period will be from 5pm - 9pm.

WHAT

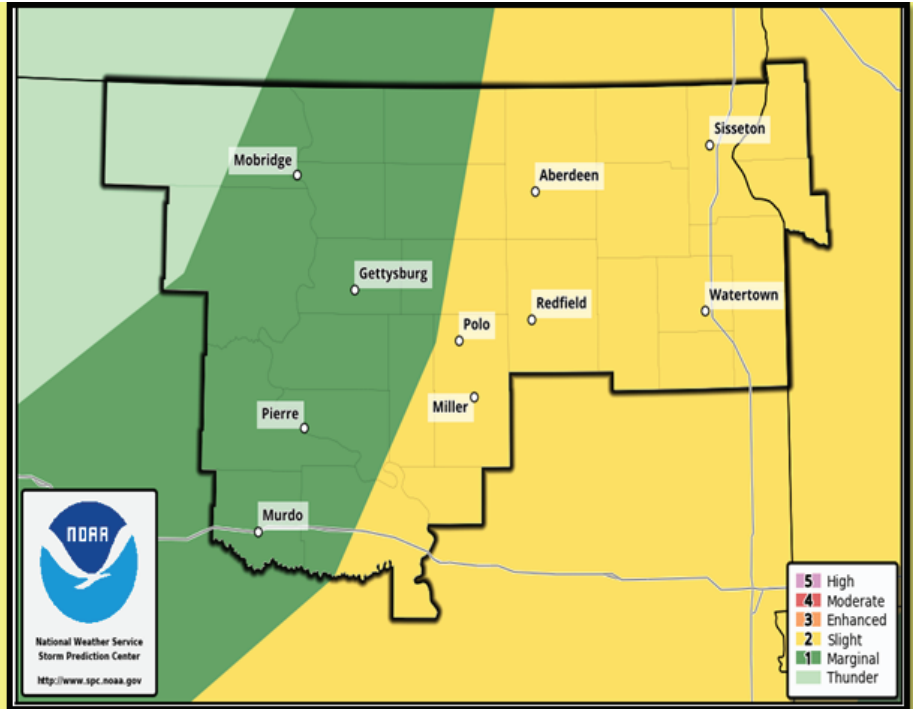
Scattered severe thunderstorms possible. These storms could produce **wind gusts up to 70 mph**, **large hail up to golf ball size**, and an **isolated tornado**.

WHERE

Much of northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota, including Milbank, Watertown and Ortonville.

ACTION

Monitor the weather and have a plan of action if severe weather approaches your area.



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

Severe thunderstorms with large hail, strong winds and even isolated tornadoes are possible come late afternoon and evening on Monday.

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Today in Weather History

July 12, 1993: A thunderstorm dumped up to four inches of rain in 30 minutes, 25 miles west of Pierre. This storm washed hay into big blocks up to five feet high. The heavy rains also caused water to spill over an irrigation dam. Another severe thunderstorm occurred over Dewey County and produced strong winds, damaging hail, and flooding rains which destroyed crops and hay fields. The storm knocked out windows and screens in the Lantry area. Runoff from the storm rushed through the streets of Eagle Butte causing water damage to homes and businesses. Water was reported flowing four to five feet deep through a cafe. High winds also tipped over a house trailer.

July 12, 2004: Hail up to the size of softballs fell in and around Onaka, in Faulk County, damaging vehicles, farm equipment, and homes. Lightning struck a house in Britton starting a fire in the attic, which resulted in significant damage to the home. High winds along with hail up to the size of baseballs caused some structural, vehicle, crop, and tree damage in and around Astoria and Toronto in Duel County.

1995: An intense heat wave affected much of the Midwest for a 4-day period beginning on this day. The worst effects of the heat were noted in the Chicago metropolitan area, where 583 people died from the heat. Temperatures across the region reached as high as 104 degrees, overnight lows on falling to the upper 70s to low 80s. Dew point temperatures in the upper 70s to low 80s created heat indexes peaking at 125 degrees. Electricity and water usage reached record levels, causing periodic outages.

1996: Hurricane Bertha makes landfall near Wrightsville Beach, NC with maximum winds of 105 mph, but the storm surge dealt the most devastation. The U.S. Virgin Islands, along with North Carolina, were declared federal disaster areas. Surveys indicate that Bertha damaged almost 2,500 homes on St. Thomas and St. John. For many, it was the second hit in the ten months since Hurricane Marilyn devastated the same area. The primary effects in North Carolina were to the coastal counties and included storm surge flooding and beach erosion, roof damage, piers washed away, fallen trees and damage to crops. Over 5,000 homes were damaged, mostly from storm surge. Storm total rainfall amounts ranged from 5 to 8 inches along a coastal strip from South Carolina to Maine. Overall, as many as 12 deaths resulted with 8 in the U.S. and territories.

1951 - The Kaw River flood occurred. The month of June that year was the wettest of record for the state of Kansas, and during the four days preceding the flood much of eastern Kansas and western Missouri received more than ten inches of rain. Flooding in the Midwest claimed 41 lives, left 200 thousand persons homeless, and caused a billion dollars property damage. Kansas City was hardest hit. The central industrial district sustained 870 million dollars property damage. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1980 - Lightning struck a large broiler house in Branford, FL, and the ensuing fire broiled 11,000 nearly ready broilers. Firemen were able to save a few thousand chickens, however. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Cool air invaded the High Plains Region. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Sheridan, WY, with a reading of 37 degrees. Thunderstorms developing along the cold front in the central U.S. produced 6.5 inches of rain at Fort Dodge, IA, and 2.5 inches in one hour at St. Joseph MO. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Dakotas, including baseball size hail at Aberdeen, SD, and softball size hail near Fullerton, ND. Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in Arkansas and northeastern Texas, with 6.59 inches reported at Mesquite, TX, in just an hour and fifteen minutes. Garland, TX, reported water up to the tops of cars following a torrential downpour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms over eastern Kansas deluged McFarland with more than six inches of rain. Afternoon thunderstorms in Wyoming produced up to eighteen inches of dime size hail near Rock Springs, along with torrential rains, and a three foot high wall of mud and water swept into the town causing more than 1.5 million dollars damage. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Oklahoma and Arkansas, deluging Dardanelle, AR, with 3.50 inches of rain in less than twenty minutes. About seventy cows were killed when lightning struck a tree in Jones County, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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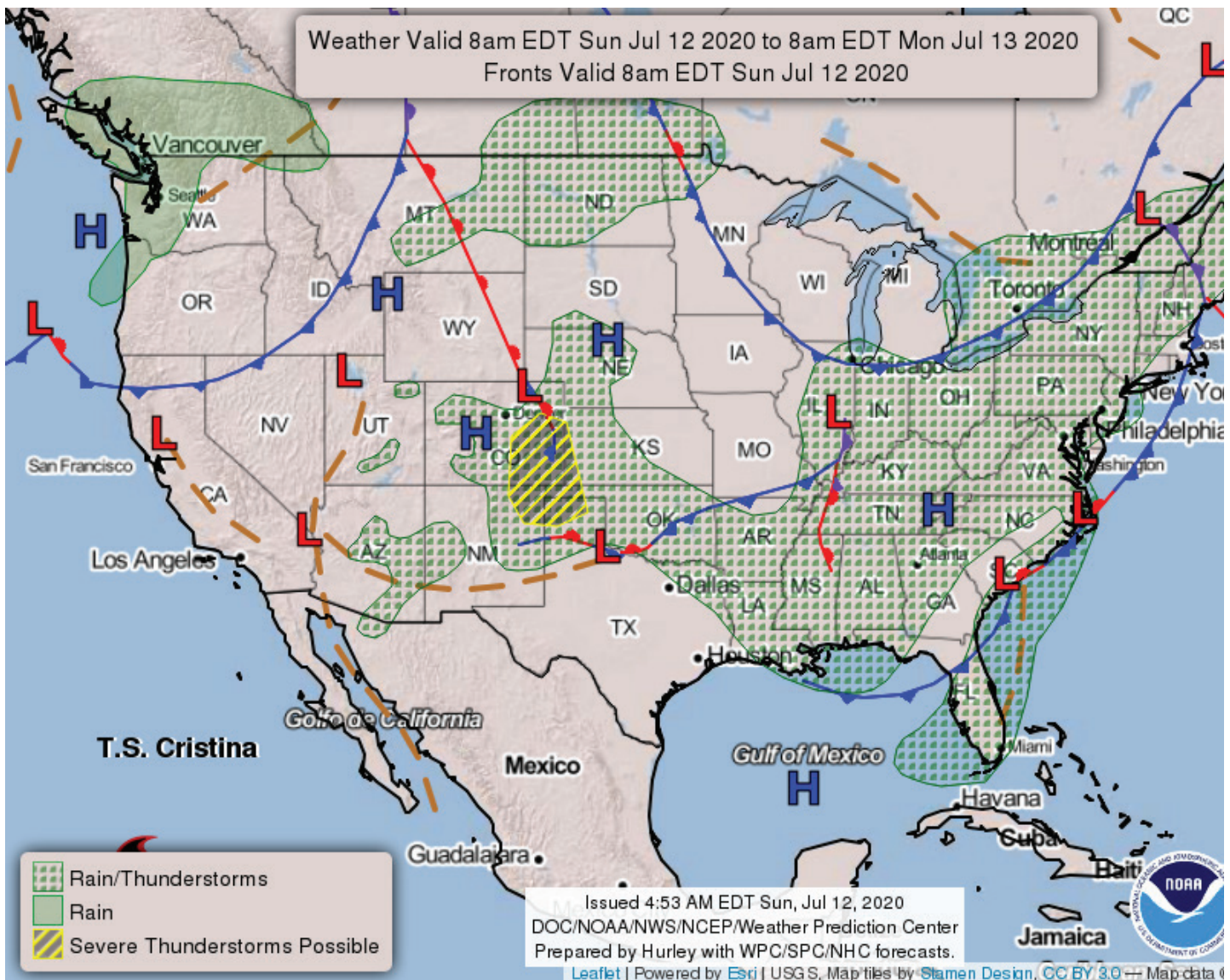
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 79 °F at 1:09 PM
Low Temp: 64 °F at 5:17 AM
Wind: 22 mph at 4:50 PM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1936
Record Low: 40° in 1941
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July.: 1.18
Precip to date in July.: 0.32
Average Precip to date: 12.02
Precip Year to Date: 8.64
Sunset Tonight: 9:21 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58 a.m.



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VICTORY AT SEA!

Lord Nelson was England's most famous naval officer. He was highly esteemed for his inspirational leadership and brilliant grasp of naval strategies and unconventional tactics. His supreme knowledge of warfare at sea enabled him to win many significant victories for England. In fact, in one battle, with only 27 small vessels, he destroyed 33 large battleships of Napoleon.

However, despite his brilliant career as a naval officer, he suffered from seasickness all of his life. Yet, he refused to allow this illness to become an excuse from what he believed he was called to do.

There is an essential lesson in the life of Lord Nelson for each of us to learn. All of us can find excuses not to do something whenever we want to. We can all "talk" ourselves into a headache or turn a small task into an overwhelming, mountain-sized, life-threatening project. We can always choose - if we want - to find a way out of doing what is right or what God calls us to do.

Imagine standing before our Lord someday, and He asks: "Do you remember when I asked you to teach remedial reading?" And the answer was, "I'm too busy to help those who can't read!" Or: "Can you explain why you didn't have time to help with Sunday School...sing in the choir...volunteer to work at the homeless shelter...feed the poor...go camping with the youth...contribute more...?" Excuses are Satan's most used "gifts" to keep us from serving God!

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to serve You as You deserve. May we not look for excuses to refuse Your call. May we look for opportunities to serve You consistently. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Romans 12:11

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

05-23-30-31-33

(five, twenty-three, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$53,000

Lotto America

03-12-22-26-31, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 3

(three, twelve, twenty-two, twenty-six, thirty-one; Star Ball: three; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.4 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$91 million

Powerball

14-19-61-62-64, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 2

(fourteen, nineteen, sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-four; Powerball: four; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$79 million

South Dakota sheriff, protest organizer differ on escalation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Pennington County Sheriff and an organizer of a July 3 demonstration near Mount Rushmore have continued to clash over their account of who escalated confrontations between protesters and law enforcement.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Nick Tilsen, a protest organizer who is facing felony charges for his actions during the protest, accused law enforcement of mismanaging the situation and committing violence. But Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom said demonstrators broke the plans they had communicated to him and escalated the protest to confront law enforcement.

Thom also defended the decision to deploy the National Guard, who used shields, pepper spray and pepper balls to try to disperse protesters. He said the action was a success because no one was injured.

A group of protesters, led by Lakota activists, blocked the road leading to Mount Rushmore ahead of President Donald Trump's visit for a fireworks celebration on July 3. The demonstration ended when protesters either dispersed or were voluntarily arrested.

21 people were arrested and charged with misdemeanor offenses. The organization that Tilsen operates, NDN Collective, has said the charges are "trumped-up" and called for them to be dropped.

Thom has said he expects to make more arrests in the demonstration.

South Dakota reports two more COVID-19 deaths, 55 cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota on Saturday recorded two more deaths from COVID-19 a day after state health officials reported a record number of deaths from the virus.

The two people who died were men, with one in his 60s and the other in his 70s, according to data from the Department of Health. Officials reported six deaths on Friday, the highest number since the pandemic began. A total of 109 people have died from COVID-19.

The number of daily confirmed cases statewide has remained mostly steady over the last two weeks, with health officials adding 55 more cases on Saturday. Although 7,454 people in South Dakota have been confirmed to have the virus over the course of the pandemic, nearly 87% of those people have recovered. There are currently 65 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, according to the Department of Health.

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For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

Tribes struggle to meet deadline to spend virus relief aid

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — As the coronavirus ripped through the Navajo Nation, it spotlighted longstanding inequities on the reservation where thousands of tribal members travel long distances for medical care, internet service is spotty at best and many homes lack electricity and even running water.

Now, the tribe, facing severe issues and fractured priorities, must decide how to spend more than \$714 million in federal virus relief money. And they must do it quickly to meet a deadline that also requires state and local governments to spend the money on emergency needs.

The task is daunting on the 27,000-square-mile reservation that stretches across northeastern Arizona and into New Mexico and Utah. Delivering drinking water, building adequate housing and getting residents online would take more money than the government made available and more time than allotted.

"It's going to come down to what projects will meet the timelines," Navajo Nation Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty said. "It's not going to be what we would want to spend every dime on, just what we can get on the ground to expend by Dec. 30."

The dilemma on the Navajo Nation isn't unique in Indian Country. Tribes are wrestling with competing needs, restrictive laws and inadequate staffing to deal with the financial windfalls on a tight deadline amid the debilitating pandemic. They must meet strict federal guidelines on the spending or risk having to send the money back.

Congress approved \$8 billion for tribes in March under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. The money was supposed to go out within 30 days. But the payments to tribes were delayed as the Treasury Department grappled with how to dole out the funding, and some tribal nations sued the federal agency over which entities are eligible for a share.

The Navajo Nation, one of the country's largest tribes, so far has signed off on about \$60 million in spending on front-line workers against the virus, protective equipment, disinfecting of buildings, care packages and health care. Tribal President Jonathan Nez last week vetoed more than \$70 million in other proposed spending, including \$1 million for a group of traditional practitioners, exposing the rifts between branches of tribal government that have delayed putting more of the money to use.

Choosing how it's spent, selecting contractors and processing the payments will be a huge undertaking, even for the Navajo Nation that's more robustly staffed than most in Indian Country. Navajo Controller Pearlline Kirk said her office already processes nearly \$40 million in monthly payments made by the tribe and will have to hire extra help to handle the virus relief funding and compliance.

Kanazbah Crotty said tribal officials also must consider how they can speed up projects by waiving Navajo laws and taking other actions.

The tribe is juggling multiple proposals with price tags that exceed the amount of money available. Among them are water systems, broadband access, power lines, housing and economic development that are meant to address the current pandemic and plan for any future outbreaks.

"It's a lot and our people don't want to hear any excuses," Kanazbah Crotty said.

Under the Treasury Department guidelines, the money can't be spent on items already budgeted, back-filling lost revenue or per-capita payments. Tribes nationwide are lobbying their congressional delegation to extend the spending deadline and allow for more flexibility.

Eric Henson, an adjunct lecturer in public policy at Harvard University, said tribes should have greater leeway, considering no one knows how long the virus will stick around or whether tribes will have to pivot on reopening businesses.

"Those things don't pay attention to the timeline at all," said Henson, a member of the Chickasaw Nation. "It seems like in this case, it's pretty arbitrary."

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Councilman Michael Langley of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Oregon said the pandemic and the tribal budget are inseparable. The tribe has continued paying the wages of its casino employees, and it provides law enforcement services outside its reservation, he said.

Unlike states and local governments, tribes have no tax base and rely on tribal enterprises to generate revenue.

"To have this parenting thing where 'we can't trust you with your money' is somewhat insulting," Langley said of the federal restrictions.

The tribe is focusing its virus relief funding on supplementing its budget, supporting housing and social service programs, and direct financial support for adult tribal members who have a documented need related to coronavirus.

The Osage Nation in Oklahoma received nearly \$45 million and will direct some of it to ensuring a food supply by investing in a meat-packing plant, farms and ranches. Tribal members have few nearby options to buy food, and meat prices have soared amid the pandemic, tribal officials said.

More than \$10 million will go to \$500 payments to adult tribal members who can document a virus-related need.

"The core of what we believe is to take care of our elders and our children," said Addie Roanhorse, who works in communications for the tribe. "So anything in relation to that, be it education, health care and making sure that families that couldn't leave and didn't have means to get groceries or to the doctor, to help them as well."

Another federal relief package in the works includes \$20 billion for tribes and language to amend the CARES Act to include more flexibility in spending. It has passed the House but hasn't been taken up in the Senate.

Some tribes argued in federal court that they were shortchanged when the Treasury Department relied on federal population data for some of the CARES Act funding.

For example, the data showed the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma has zero members and it received the minimum \$100,000 in relief money. The tribe said its actual population is more than 3,000.

A federal judge ruled against a Kansas tribe in a similar case, saying the Treasury Department has discretion in how it distributes the funding. The ruling has been appealed.

A federal judge ruled last month that Alaska Native corporations are eligible for some of the CARES funding. The funding was halted this week while tribal nations appeal the decision. The tribes have argued that the money should go only to the 574 tribes with a political relationship with the U.S. Alaska Native corporations don't have such a relationship.

Attorneys for the corporations, known as ANCs, have said the money could be used for housing and medical facilities, lighting at an airstrip where supplies are delivered for remote communities, and for storing food and protective equipment.

"Every day the disbursement of CARES Act funds allocated for ANCs is delayed is another day that the Alaska Natives they serve are not fully equipped with the tools to combat the public health emergency," they wrote in court documents.

The Latest: Hungary reimposing restrictions on some arrivals

By The Associated Press undefined

BUDAPEST, Hungary — The Hungarian government said Sunday that it will reimpose restrictions, such as mandatory two-week quarantines or bans, on people arriving from countries where the rate of coronavirus infections is considered to be moderate or high.

"We see worrisome signs about an increase in the number of cases in the neighboring countries, Europe and the whole world," said Gergely Gulyas, Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff.

Gulyas said only Hungarian citizens will be allowed to enter from countries in the "red" category — those with a high rate of infections — including Albania, Ukraine, Belarus and practically all of Asia, Africa and South and Central America. They will have to stay in quarantine for two weeks, but will be allowed out

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earlier if they get two negative test results 48 hours apart.

Both Hungarians and foreigners arriving from countries in the “yellow” category — which includes, among others, Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania and Sweden, as well as Britain, Russia, Serbia, Japan, China and the United States — will have to quarantine for two weeks, but will be allowed out if they test negative for the virus: once in the case of Hungarians, or two negative tests 48 hours apart in the case of foreigners.

Gulyas said the new measures, which will take effect Wednesday, will be reviewed at least once a week

Hungary registered five new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, with no new deaths linked to the pandemic. In total, Hungary has registered 4,234 cases, including 595 deaths.

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

- Coronavirus deaths take a long-expected turn for the worse
- Video calls, separate bedrooms: Bolsonaro's first COVID week
- Virus cases up sharply in Africa, India as inequality stings
- The governor of Japan's Okinawa island is demanding a top U.S. military commander take tougher prevention measures and more transparency hours after officials were told that more than 60 Marines at two bases have been infected with the coronavirus over the past few days.
- Serbian police say they have detained 71 people after clashes erupted during the fourth night of anti-government protests that were initially sparked by an announced lockdown against the new coronavirus.
- Black people are facing a combination of stressors experts worry could affect the suicide rate. Isolation, a shortage of mental health providers and racial trauma are some of the factors hitting simultaneously.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is repeating his promise to provide speedy financial help for self-employed workers after thousands protested against what they see as a failed government response to the economic crisis wrought by the coronavirus.

Netanyahu said at his weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday that workers would receive an immediate stipend and could expect a safety net for the next 12 months. He said he would work to ease bureaucratic hurdles and would hold dialogues with workers' representatives to solve outstanding issues.

Netanyahu's remarks come after some 10,000 people demonstrated in central Tel Aviv on Saturday, demanding that the government fulfill the promises it made to assist Israelis imperiled financially because of virus restrictions.

The protest came as anger has swelled over Netanyahu's handling of the crisis. Critics say the money promised in previous plans hasn't been doled out or has been insufficient.

Israel recently reimposed restrictions because of a spike in coronavirus cases, closing bars, events spaces and other venues.

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican is highlighting the plight of maritime workers during the pandemic, saying bans on shore leave are severely stressing crews stuck aboard ship, some to the point of suicide.

Cardinal Peter A. Turkson, who heads a Vatican office dealing with issues of human development, said in a message Sunday that maritime workers “really deserve our esteem and gratitude” for ensuring movement of goods for a “healthy global economy” while much of the world is in lockdown to combat spread of COVID-19 infection.

He said that tens of thousands of seafarers who were due to fly home for leave between long stints at sea were prevented from doing so due to lockdown rules.

Similarly, thousands of seafarers due to head to sea on new tours of duty were stranded in hotels and dormitories.

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Turkson lamented that those stranded on board vessels "suffer isolation, severe physical and mental stress that brings many crews on the verge of desperation and, unfortunately" suicide.

The cardinal said Catholics worldwide during August are being encouraged to pray for all those who work and live from the sea, including sailors and fishers and their families.

MADRID — Spaniards in two northern regions are voting in regional elections Sunday amid tight security measures to avoid more outbreaks of the coronavirus.

Regional authorities in both Basque Country and Galicia have prohibited over 400 people who have tested positive for the virus from leaving their homes to vote.

Spain's Supreme Court backed the decision in a ruling Friday in response to a complaint by opposition parties in both regions.

Voters must wear face masks to vote and remain 1.5 meters (5 feet) apart in polling stations, which are equipped with hand sanitizers.

Both regional governments originally called elections to be held on April 5 but postponed them due to the rapid rise in infections that Spain could only rein in by locking down the country until June.

Health authorities are watching small outbreaks in both regions, as well as in other parts of Spain. Over 28,000 COVID-19 deaths have been confirmed in Spain.

The conservative Popular Party in Galicia and the Basque regionalist party PNV are hoping to remain in power.

NEW DELHI — India's coronavirus caseload is nearing 850,000 with a record surge of 28,637 in the past 24 hours, prompting authorities to announce a weeklong lockdown in the key southern technology hub of Bangalore.

The new confirmed cases took the national total to 849,553. The Health Ministry on Sunday also reported another 551 deaths for a total of 22,674.

India has overtaken Russia in the number of cases and is currently behind the United States and Brazil, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Southern Karnataka state, whose IT hub Bangalore is home to Microsoft, Apple and Amazon offices, extended Sunday lockdowns to one week beginning Tuesday.

New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune are among the key Indian cities witnessing a surge in infections. Several states also have announced stringent lockdowns in high-risk areas.

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Nevada lawmakers have pumped the brakes on their emergency special session because someone in the legislative building has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Gov. Steve Sisolak has convened the session so lawmakers can balance the state budget amid a projected \$1.2 billion shortfall stemming from the economic damage of the pandemic.

But on Friday staff members announced that someone in the building is infected with the virus, though the person shows no symptoms.

On Saturday, 13 Nevada lawmakers decided they would now participate remotely in the emergency session and both chambers agreed to recess until Monday morning. That will give time for legislators time to get tested and staff to answer a long list of questions that lawmakers have asked in hearings.

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan has wrapped up an annual film festival with an awards ceremony as it stages more public events after keeping its coronavirus outbreak to a few hundred cases.

Actors and others lined up for photo shoots with no social distancing Saturday night, and participants didn't wear face masks in historic Zhongshan Hall in the capital of the self-governing island off China's east coast.

Government officials say there have been 451 confirmed coronavirus cases and seven deaths on the island, which has a population of about 23 million people.

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Also on Saturday, a baseball game in the city of Taichung drew more than 10,000 fans for the first time this season. Health authorities have been gradually allowing larger crowds since the baseball season began in April with no fans.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas authorities have reported a state-record of 1,061 newly confirmed coronavirus cases for a single day but no new deaths related to the virus.

State health officials said Saturday that the total for COVID-19 cases now stood at 27,864. The state says the death toll remainw at 313 for the outbreak for which tracking began in early March.

The true number of cases in Arkansas is likely higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel sick.

Arkansas' virus cases have dramatically risen since May, when the state began allowing businesses to reopen.

SANTA FE, N.M. -- Work safety regulators in New Mexico have ordered Walmart to close a store in the city of Las Cruces after four employees tested positive for the coronavirus in the past three weeks.

The New Mexico Environment Department said Saturday that the order also requires Walmart to test the store's workers for the cordonavirus and thoroughly disinfect the building,

Walmart spokesman Pedro Mucciolo says in a statement is "taking all measures necessary to safeguard the well-being of those inside our stores, fulfillment centers and distribution centers."

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Oklahoma has reported 687 more cases confirmed cases of the new coronavirus — the second greatest daily increase since tracking of the outbreak began in March.

Saturday's daily count was second only to the record 858 new cases reported Tuesday. The latest rises brings the total of confirmed cases to 19,779 since tracking began in March. Oklahoma authorities say 15,136 patients have recovered.

Health officials also reported five new deaths related to COVID-19, bringing the state's death toll for the outbreak to 421.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation officials have reported 10 additional deaths from COVID-19 as the tribe's sprawling reservation remains under the latest weekend lockdown imposed to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

The tribe's death toll rose to 396 as of Friday.

Tribal officials also reported 56 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases, increasing the reservation's total to nearly 8,100. The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested. Studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

The lockdown began Friday night and ends at 5 a.m. Monday. All businesses on the Navajo Nation are also required to close during the lockdown.

SALT LAKE CITY -- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is asking all its members in Utah to wear face coverings when in public.

The area leaders say the use of masks is a sign of good citizenship.

The Deseret News reports that the Utah Area Presidency sent out the request in an email Friday evening. The area presidency operates under the authority of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

According to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, nearly 900 confirmed virus cases were reported Friday in Utah. Overall, Utah has had more than 28,000 confirmed cases and 207 deaths due to the virus as of Saturday.

AUSTIN, Texas -- The new coronavirus continues to cut a swath through Texas, with state officials reporting a record 10,351 new confirmed cases for the day.

The increase reported Saturday brought the state's total cases of COVID-19 to just over a quarter-million

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since the start of tracking in early March.

A record 10,083 COVID-19 patients are hospitalized, while 99 new fatalities were reported Saturday. The total is second only to the record 105 reported Thursday and brought the state's overall death toll to 3,112.

Harris County, which includes the bulk of Houston and many of its suburbs, had the most active cases, with almost 27,000. Dallas County, which includes Dallas and many of its suburbs, came in a distant second at almost 13,000.

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa is reporting another 13,497 confirmed coronavirus cases for a total of 264,184 including 3,971 deaths. More than a third of cases are in the new hot spot of Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg and the capital, Pretoria.

Already public hospitals are expressing concerns about shortages of available beds and medical oxygen. The percentage of tests that are positive is now over 25% but the National Institute of Infectious Diseases says that could reflect both the rise in infections and more targeted testing.

The country's health minister has said the "storm" that authorities have been warning citizens about has arrived.

PHOENIX — Arizona health officials have reported an additional 69 deaths from the coronavirus outbreak. So far, there's been more than 2,150 confirmed deaths from the virus in Arizona.

The state added 3,038 confirmed cases in the last day, bringing the total to 119,930. Arizona also set a record with 3,485 patients hospitalized for COVID-19 as of Friday.

Hospital caseloads have surged since Arizona became one of the hot spots for the coronavirus after Gov. Doug Ducey relaxed stay-home orders and other restrictions in May.

PARIS — The wife of a French bus driver who died of injuries after he asked four passengers to wear face masks wants "exemplary punishment."

Four people are in custody for the assault of Philippe Monguillot on July 5 at a bus stop in Bayonne, southwest France.

The Bayonne prosecutor says Monguillot was assaulted after he asked four passengers on his bus to wear face masks, which are required aboard French public transportation because of the coronavirus. He was insulted, pushed off the bus and violently beaten and kicked in the head, the prosecutor said.

President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday dispatched the interior minister to meet the driver's widow after his death was announced Friday. He had been hospitalized in critical condition.

Veronique Monguillot told minister Gerald Darmanin that she and her three daughters were "destroyed" by the death.

NEW DELHI -- Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan says he has tested positive for the coronavirus and is hospitalized in Mumbai.

In a tweet on Saturday, the 77-year-old Bachchan said his family and staff have also undergone tests and are awaiting results.

His 44-year-old son and fellow actor, Abhishek Bachchan, tweeted Saturday night that he also has tested positive for the virus and is hospitalized. He described their symptoms as mild.

The elder Bachchan has acted in more than 200 Indian films over the past five decades. He is also a former politician and television host.

Poland holds momentous, tight presidential election runoff

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Voting started Sunday in Poland's razor-blade-close presidential election runoff between the conservative incumbent, President Andrzej Duda, and liberal, pro-European Union Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski.

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Duda is backed by the ruling right-wing party and the government, as he seeks a second 5-year term. Trzaskowski, a former European Parliament lawmaker, runs for the main opposition Civic Platform party that was in power in from 2007 to 2015. Both candidates are 48.

Latest polls showed that the race may be decided by a very small margin. Amid calls from both sides to some 30 million eligible voters to cast ballots, turnout is expected to be higher than the 64.51% in the first round on June 28.

In the first round, Duda got 43.5% and Trzaskowski 30.5%, but in the second round he is expected to get support from many voters who backed candidates who have now been eliminated.

Lines started forming at some voting stations early Sunday, and cars could be seen bringing elderly or disabled people.

"We should vote because otherwise we have no right to complain about our politics," said Eugeniusz Kowalski, 67, a retired office clerk.

"We could use some change," he said after voting in Warsaw.

The State Electoral Commission said there were some incidents of people putting up new posters and destroying others, but the voting procedure was going smoothly.

Voting stations remain open until 9 p.m. (1900 GMT), when exit polls will be released. The final official results are expected early in the week.

The outcome of the election will decide the shape of politics in deeply divided Poland at least until 2023, when parliamentary elections are scheduled.

The head of Poland's influential Roman Catholic Church, Archbishop Wojciech Polak, said the new president should be conciliatory.

"In the situation when we see constant discord, divisions, the rift in society, let him be a unifying one, the president of all Poles," Polak said after voting in Gniezno.

If Duda is reelected, the right-wing Law and Justice party that backs him will continue to have a close ally in the president and maintain its hold on almost all key instruments of power in the country.

The party and Duda have won popularity through a welfare program that improved the lives of many families and elderly people, especially in rural and small town areas, and also through its attachment to Poland's traditional Roman Catholic values.

But the party has drawn criticism from EU leaders for steps allowing it to influence the justice system. It has also exposed and deepened social rifts between the conservatives and the liberals.

Trzaskowski's win would give him the power to veto laws passed by the ruling party. Poland's tone would also be softened on the international arena and especially with the EU. He has vowed to close the social rifts and to continue the social benefits policy.

His support is strongest in larger cities and among more highly educated people, according to data from the first round.

The voting is being held under strict sanitary conditions due to the still spreading coronavirus. Poland has registered over 37,000 infections and almost 1,600 deaths.

Voters must wear masks and gloves, maintain a safe distance and use hand sanitizer. They can use their own pens to mark ballots. Election officials must wear masks, too, and sit wide apart from each other. Ballot boxes will be regularly disinfected and the polling stations will be ventilated.

Asia Today: No masks on red carpet as Taiwan logs few cases

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan wrapped up an annual film festival with an awards ceremony Saturday night as it holds more public events after keeping its coronavirus outbreak to a few hundred cases.

Actors and others lined up for photo shoots with no social distancing, and participants didn't wear masks in historic Zhongshan Hall in Taipei. Taiwan, with a population of about 23 million people, has had 451 confirmed cases and seven deaths.

A baseball game in the city of Taichung on Saturday drew more than 10,000 fans for the first time this season, the official Central News Agency said. Health authorities said last month that fans would be al-

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lowed to sit in alternate seats and no longer would have to wear masks, except when leaving their seats. Authorities have been gradually allowing larger crowds since play began in April with no fans.

The horror film "Detention," set during martial law in Taiwan in the 1960s, was the biggest winner at the Taipei Film Festival, taking six awards including the Grand Prize and Best Actress for 22-year-old Gingle Wang.

Chang Jung-chi, the Best Director winner for "We Are Champions," said the virus outbreak had forced him to slow down his work. "This comes to me like a friend patting my shoulder and saying, 'Hang in there,'" he said.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— Australia's worst-hit Victoria state reported 273 new cases on Sunday, the sixth straight-day of triple-digit increases. State Premier Daniel Andrews said a man in his 70s died overnight, bringing Australia's death toll to 108, including 24 in Victoria, which currently has 1,484 active cases. A sudden surge in COVID-19 saw Victoria report a record 288 infections on Friday and 216 Saturday. Australia's most populous state New South Wales reported five new cases on Saturday. Andrews warned Victorians "this is a dangerous time." The major city of Melbourne is in virtual lockdown and Andrews said "we simply have no choice but to acknowledge the reality that we face and to do what must be done. That is to follow (the) rules, to only go out when you need to and to only go out for purposes that are lawful." Meanwhile, eight health care workers at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital have tested positive for the virus. Hospital authorities said five of the cases are not linked and are believed to have been acquired through the community. Three workers deemed close contacts also tested positive.

— India's coronavirus caseload is nearing 850,000 with a record surge of 28,637 in the past 24 hours, prompting authorities to announce a weeklong lockdown in the key southern technology hub of Bangalore. The new confirmed cases took the national total to 849,553. The Health Ministry on Sunday also reported another 551 deaths for a total of 22,674. India has overtaken Russia in the number of cases and is currently behind the United States and Brazil, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Southern Karnataka state, whose IT hub Bangalore is home to Microsoft, Apple and Amazon offices, extended Sunday lockdowns to one week beginning Tuesday. New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune are among the key Indian cities witnessing a surge in infections. Several states also have announced stringent lockdowns in high-risk areas.

— South Korea has reported 44 additional cases of the coronavirus over the past 24-hours, maintaining an uptick in new infections in the greater Seoul area and central cities. The additional figures released Sunday took the country's total to 13,417 with 289 deaths. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 21 of the newly reported cases were local transmissions, all of them recorded either in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area or two central cities. The agency says the 23 other cases were linked to international arrivals. South Korea has been reporting roughly 30-60 cases every day since it eased social distancing rules in early May.

— Chinese health authorities on Sunday reported seven new coronavirus cases that they said came from abroad and said there were no additional domestic infections. Four of the confirmed cases reported in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday were in Tianjin, east of Beijing, two in Shanghai and one in the southeastern province of Zhejiang, the National Health Commission reported. That raised China's total number of confirmed cases to 83,594, with 4,634 deaths, according to the NHC.

— The premier of Australia's most populous state has called on staff and patrons of a popular Sydney pub to self-isolate for 14 days and test for COVID-19 after a staff member was confirmed on Sunday to be infected. More than 1,000 people visited the venue in the week between July 3 and 10 when the 18-year-old staff member was present. Six cases are now linked to the hotel — three who visited on July 3 and three contacts of one of those cases. Health officials fear the pub will become the source of a new outbreak in New South Wales, which had mostly suppressed community transmission of the coronavirus, recording only five new cases on Saturday. New South Wales premier Gladys Berejiklian said her state was "literally at a crossroads" in its effort to control spread. "We have literally the next few weeks to

continue on the strong path we've been on, otherwise we will go down the path of Victoria," Berejikian said. She was referring to Victoria state, which recorded 273 new infections Sunday, its sixth-straight day of triple-digit increases.

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

UK-China ties freeze with debate over Huawei, Hong Kong

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Only five years ago, then-British Prime Minister David Cameron was celebrating a "golden era" in U.K.-China relations, bonding with President Xi Jinping over a pint of beer at the pub and signing off on trade deals worth billions.

Those friendly scenes now seem like a distant memory.

Hostile rhetoric has ratcheted up in recent days over Beijing's new national security law for Hong Kong. Britain's decision to offer refuge to millions in the former colony was met with a stern telling-off by China. And Chinese officials have threatened "consequences" if Britain treats it as a "hostile country" and decides to cut Chinese technology giant Huawei out of its critical telecoms infrastructure amid growing unease over security risks.

All that is pointing to a much tougher stance against China, with a growing number in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party taking a long, hard look at Britain's Chinese ties. Many are saying Britain has been far too complacent and naive in thinking it could reap economic benefits from the relationship without political consequences.

"It's not about wanting to cut ties with China. It's that China is itself becoming a very unreliable and rather dangerous partner," said lawmaker and former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith. He cited Beijing's "trashing" of the Sino-British Joint Declaration — the treaty supposed to guarantee Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy when it reverted from British to Chinese rule — and aggressive posturing in the South China Sea as areas of concern.

"This is not a country that is in any way managing itself to be a good and decent partner in anything at the moment. That's why we need to review our relationship with them," he added. "Those who think this is a case of separating trade from government ... you can't do that, that's naïve."

Duncan Smith has lobbied other Tory lawmakers to cut Huawei out from Britain's superfast 5G network. Not only that: He says all existing Huawei technology in the U.K. telecoms infrastructure also needs to be eliminated as soon as possible.

The company has been at the center of tensions between China and Britain, as U.K. officials review how the latest U.S. sanctions — imposed over allegations of cyber spying and aimed at cutting off Huawei's access to advanced microchips made with American technology — will affect British telecom networks.

Johnson decided in January that Huawei can be deployed in future 5G networks as long as its share of the market is limited, but officials have since hinted that that decision could be reversed in light of the U.S. sanctions. A new policy is expected within weeks.

Huawei says it is merely caught in the middle of a U.S.-China battle over trade and technology. It has consistently denied allegations it could carry out cyber espionage or electronic sabotage at the behest of the Chinese Communist Party.

"We've definitely been pushed into the geopolitical competition," Vice President Victor Zhang said Wednesday. U.S. accusations about security risks are all politically motivated, he said.

Nigel Inkster, senior adviser to the International Institute for Strategic Studies and former director of operations and intelligence at Britain's MI6 intelligence service, said the issue with Huawei was not so much about immediate security threats. Rather, he said, the deeper worry lies in the geopolitical implications of China becoming the world's dominant player in 5G technology.

"It's less about cyber espionage than generally conceived because, after all, that's happening in any

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place," he said. "This was never something of which the U.K. was lacking awareness."

Still, Inkster said he's been cautioning for years that Britain needed a more coherent strategy toward China that balances the economic and security factors.

"There was a high degree of complacency" back in the 2000s, he said. "There was always less to the 'golden era' than met the eye."

Britain rolled out the red carpet for Xi's state visit in 2015, with golden carriages and a lavish banquet at Buckingham Palace with Queen Elizabeth II. A cyber security cooperation deal was struck, along with billions in trade and investment projects — including Chinese state investment in a British nuclear power station. Cameron spoke about his ambitions for Britain to become China's "best partner in the West."

Enthusiasm has cooled significantly since. The English city of Sheffield, which was promised a billion-pound deal with a Chinese manufacturing firm in 2016, said the investment never materialized. Critics have called it a vanity project and a "candy floss deal."

Economic and political grumbles about China erupted into sharp rebukes earlier this month when Beijing imposed sweeping new national security laws on Hong Kong. Johnson's government accused China of a serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, and announced it would open a special route to citizenship for up to 3 million eligible Hong Kong residents.

That amounts to "gross interference," Chinese Ambassador Liu Xiaoming said. Liu also warned that a decision to get rid of Huawei could drive away other Chinese investment in the U.K., and derided Britain for succumbing to U.S. pressure over the company.

Rana Mitter, an Oxford history professor specializing in China, said that the security law — combined with broader resentment about Chinese officials' handling of information about the coronavirus — helped set the stage for a perfect storm of wariness among Britain's politicians and the public.

Mitter added that Britain has careened from "uncritically accepting everything about China" to a confrontational approach partly because of a lack of understanding about how China operates.

Some have cautioned against escalating tensions. Philip Hammond, the former British Treasury chief, warned that weakening links with the world's second-largest economy was particularly unwise at a time when Britain is severing trade ties with Europe and seeking partners elsewhere. Hammond also said he was concerned about an "alarming" rise of anti-Chinese sentiment within his Conservative Party.

Duncan Smith rejected that, saying concerns about China's rise are cross-party and multinational. He is part of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, a newly launched group of lawmakers from more than a dozen countries — from the U.S. to Australia to Japan — that want a coordinated international response to the Chinese challenge.

"We need to recognize that this isn't something one country can deal with," he said.

— Kelvin Chan and Danica Kirka in London contributed to this story.

2 officers, suspect killed in Texas border town shooting

MCALLEN, Texas (AP) — Two police officers were shot and killed Saturday by a suspect who later fatally shot himself in a South Texas border town after responding to a domestic disturbance call, authorities said.

McAllen Police Chief Victor Rodriguez identified the slain officers as Edelmiro Garza, 45, and Ismael Chavez, 39. Garza was an officer with the police department for more than eight years while Chavez had over two years of experience.

"We have lost two brave public servants who sought only to keep peace in our City," Rodriguez, visibly distraught, told The (McAllen) Monitor.

The officers first met with two people who reported assaults that took place inside a nearby home on the south side of McAllen around 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Rodriguez said. But the alleged shooter, whom police identified as 23-year-old Audon Ignacio Camarillo, opened fire when officers attempted to enter the home.

"They were doing their job. That is what they were supposed to do. The person was a suspect of the incident, met our officers at the door, and shot at both officers," Rodriguez said. "Both officers suffered

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fatal wounds, they have both passed away as a result. The officers never had a chance to suspect deadly assault on them, much less death."

Camarillo shot and killed himself shortly after opening fire on the officers, Rodriguez said, adding that the suspect hid behind a vehicle after other officers responded to the scene. Camarillo had a few run-ins with police beginning in 2016 to his most recent arrest last month on assault charges, according to public records.

More details surrounding the domestic disturbance Garza and Chavez responded to were not immediately known. Rodriguez said the attack happened suddenly and fellow police officers didn't learn of the officers' deaths until arriving to the area moments later.

Rodriguez said he doesn't expect his department to get over the deaths of their fellow officers anytime soon.

"The next few days for us, moving forward as well, will be very, very difficult, for ourselves at the department and at the city of McAllen, but our strength will get us through," the chief said. "We gather our strength from our police officers, and we gather our strengths from our colleagues, as you can see here."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who spoke with Rodriguez, offered the full backing of the state and expressed his support via social media.

"Two of our finest were killed in the line of duty while working to protect residents in their community," Abbott wrote on Twitter. "We unite to #BackTheBlue."

Lt. Christopher Olivarez, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety, said DPS was among the agencies assisting McAllen police on Saturday.

Olivarez noted that DPS sent troopers to secure the scene after the McAllen Police Department requested their assistance. He said his agency received a call about the incident around 4:30 p.m.

McAllen is located at the southern tip of Texas, about 70 miles (113 kilometers) west of the Gulf of Mexico.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton tweeted that his office will provide the McAllen Police Department with any help needed.

"Our prayers and full support are with the valiant men and women of the #CityofMcAllen PD this evening," the tweet read. "We are grateful for police in McAllen and around this great state."

U.S. Rep. Vicente Gonzalez of McAllen said in a statement that receiving news of the two officers' deaths was "devastating."

"This is devastating news to our community. My heart breaks for these fallen officers and their families," Gonzalez said. "They served McAllen bravely and honorably and I will keep them in my prayers."

Rodriguez said that while the police are "weakened for the moment," he expects a resilient law enforcement community to stand tall and persevere through it.

"The strength and the resolve we have to serve our communities, all of us here, will allow us to do what we do every day," Rodriguez said.

Law enforcement from several cities in Hidalgo County gathered Saturday evening at McAllen Medical to honor Garza and Chavez. More than 50 police cars were part of a procession that accompanied the bodies of the officers, who were taken to Hidalgo County pathology for an autopsy.

As beach towns open, businesses are short foreign workers

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — At this time of the year, The Friendly Fisherman on Cape Cod is usually bustling with foreign students clearing tables and helping prepare orders of clam strips or fish and chips.

But because of a freeze on visas, Janet Demetri won't be employing the 20 or so workers this summer. So as the crowds rush back, Demetri must work with nine employees for her restaurant and market — forcing her to shutter the business twice a week.

"It's really disturbing because we are really busy," said Demetri. "We can't keep up once the doors are open."

The Trump administration announced last month that it was extending a ban on green cards and add-

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ing many temporary visas to the freeze, including J-1 cultural exchange visas and H-2B visas. Businesses from forestry to fisheries to hospitality depend on these visas, though there are exceptions for the food processing sector.

The move was billed as a chance to free up 525,000 jobs to Americans hard hit by the economic downturn, though the administration provided no evidence to support that. Supporters of immigration reform have hailed the move and insisted it should be easy to find Americans to bus tables and sell souvenirs at popular tourist destinations.

"The work that people on H-2B visas do or on J-1 summer work travel is not something that is alien to Americans," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for restrictions. "Those jobs are already mostly done by Americans whether its landscaping, making beds or scooping ice cream. The employers are just going to have to up their game in recruitment because there are 20 million people who are unemployed whom they could be drawing from."

Hardest hit by the ban are beach communities and mountain getaways up and down the East Coast from parts of New Hampshire to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Businesses said they want to hire Americans but are in regions with tiny labor pools that are no match for the millions of tourists visiting each summer. Companies also face the challenge of convincing unemployed workers, many who are still collecting federal benefits, to take a job in the hospitality industry amid a pandemic. Rising housing prices as well as a lack of child care amid the pandemic also pose hurdles.

Mark Carchidi, whose company Antioch Associates USA II Inc. processes paperwork for H-2B visas on the East Coast, said businesses he works with were counting on an additional 30,000 visas this year beyond the 66,000 already allowed under the program.

More than 108,000 J-1 summer work travel visas were issued last year, according to the State Department, but only 1,787 so far this year.

"Any seasonal resort area or seasonal business that you can think in whatever part of the country has really been hurt terribly hard by this," Carchidi said.

The ban has left seasonal businesses scrambling to fill openings just as economies are restarting. Many are forced to scale back hours and amenities or close completely.

Patrick Patrick, who has relied upon 10 to 15 J-1 visa holders to work at his army navy surplus store in Provincetown, Massachusetts, got none this year. He reduced the store's hours and isn't offering dressing rooms or customer services.

"If you are in hospitality, accommodations or restaurants and you truly have no staff, you can't fake it," said Patrick, who is also the local chamber of commerce president. "We are faking it. We're throwing merchandise on the floor and letting customers walk on it and hopefully, they buy it. You can't do that in a restaurant."

In Myrtle Beach, businesses only got a fraction of the 3,000 J-1 and H-2B visas they were expecting, according to Stephen Greene, president & CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Hospitality Association.

Mark Lazarus, the president and owner of Lazarus Entertainment Group, employs 1,000 workers at his three theme parks. About 150 of those are usually J-1 visa holders but none came this year. As a result, he has cut his hours and reduced the number of cashiers.

Lazarus agrees with Trump's efforts to crackdown on illegal immigration but admits the J-1 ban "baffles me." There aren't enough students to fill seasonal jobs in Myrtle Beach, he said, and worries the ban will hurt the fragile economy.

"Our revenues are going to be down because we are cutting our hours and they will be down because we can't open all the amenities that everyone has," he said.

The shortage, however, has been eased somewhat by the pandemic's continued impact on the tourism industry.

In Myrtle Beach, bars, theaters and larger venues are still shuttered and visitor numbers are down. Maine, too, is not seeing widespread labor shortage, since business is a fraction of what the state sees in a normal summer.

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Still, the visa ban adds another layer of uncertainty for businesses like the 145-bed Meadowmere, one of the largest hotels in Maine. It received only half of its requested H-2B visas and likely won't be getting seven or eight J-1 student visas.

Other businesses are soldiering on and adjusting to the new reality. In Hampton, New Hampshire, businesses have hired relatives and are working longer hours. Some were able to hire local students to replace the visa holders.

"I have a group of kids now that are 17-years-old replacing the J-1s who hopefully will be here for the next five years," said Tom McGuirk, who owns a hotel and restaurant and was able to replace seven J-1 visa workers with teenagers who worked in shuttered movie theaters and camps. "That is exactly what we have been missing from the market for the past few years."

At the Friendly Fisherman, Demetri hasn't been as fortunate. She advertised in newspapers and online for prep cooks, cashiers and counter help. Despite offering to pay \$14 an hour for training and starting wages of \$16 an hour plus tips, she had few takers beyond "14-year-old kids" who are limited by the hours they can work and jobs they can do.

"These students aren't taking any jobs away from locals, not a single one," Demetri said of the J-1 visa holders.

AP reporter David Sharp in Portland, Maine, contributed to this report.

US Navy welcomes 1st Black female Tactical Aircraft pilot

KINGSVILLE, Texas (AP) — The U.S. Navy has welcomed its first Black female Tactical Aircraft pilot.

"MAKING HISTORY!" the U.S. Navy tweeted Thursday in response to a post that Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle had completed naval flight school and would later this month receive the flight officer insignia known as the "Wings of Gold."

The Naval Air Training Command tweeted that Swegle is the Navy's "first known Black female TACAIR pilot."

According to Stars and Stripes, Swegle is from Burke, Virginia, and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2017.

Officials said she is assigned to the Redhawks of Training Squadron 21 in Kingsville, Texas.

Swegle's milestone comes more than 45 years after Rosemary Mariner in 1974 became the first woman to fly a tactical fighter jet, according to news outlets.

Mueller defends Russia probe, says Stone remains a felon

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former special counsel Robert Mueller sharply defended his investigation into ties between Russia and Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, writing in a newspaper opinion piece Saturday that the probe was of "paramount importance" and asserting that a Trump ally, Roger Stone, "remains a convicted felon, and rightly so" despite the president's decision to commute his prison sentence.

The op-ed in The Washington Post marked Mueller's first public statement on his investigation since his congressional appearance last July. It represented his firmest defense of the two-year probe whose results have come under attack and even been partially undone by the Trump administration, including the president's extraordinary move Friday evening to grant clemency to Stone just days before he was due to report to prison.

Mueller wrote that though he had intended for his team's work to speak for itself, he felt compelled to "respond both to broad claims that our investigation was illegitimate and our motives were improper, and to specific claims that Roger Stone was a victim of our office.

"The Russia investigation was of paramount importance. Stone was prosecuted and convicted because he committed federal crimes. He remains a convicted felon, and rightly so," Mueller wrote.

Mueller did not specify who was making the claims, but it appeared to be an obvious reference to Trump,

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who as recently as Saturday derided the investigation as this "whole political witch hunt and the Mueller scam."

The mere publication of the op-ed was striking for a former FBI director who was exceedingly tight-lipped during the investigation, refusing to respond to attacks by the president or his allies or to make public appearances explaining or justifying his work. In his first public statement after the investigation's conclusion, Mueller said he intended for his 448-page report to speak for itself. When he later testified to House lawmakers, he was similarly careful not to stray beyond the report's findings or offer new evidence.

But that buttoned-up approach created a void for others, including at the Justice Department, to place their own stamp on his work. Even before the report was released Attorney General William Barr issued a four-page summary document that Mueller privately complained did not adequately capture the gravity of his team's findings.

In the months since, Barr assigned a U.S. attorney to investigate the origins of the Russia probe, and the Justice Department moved to dismiss the criminal case against former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn even though Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about contacts with the Russian ambassador during the presidential transition period. That request is the subject of an ongoing court dispute.

The op-ed chronicled the basis for the Stone prosecution, with Mueller recounting how Stone had not only tampered with a witness but also lied repeatedly about his efforts to gain inside information about Democratic emails that Russian intelligence operatives stole and provided to WikiLeaks, which published them in the run-up to the election.

Those efforts, including his discussions with Trump campaign associates about them, cut to the heart of Mueller's mandate to determine whether anyone tied to the campaign coordinated with Russia in the hacking or disclosure of the stolen Democratic emails.

Stone was particularly central to the investigation, Mueller writes, because he claimed to have inside knowledge about WikiLeaks' release of the emails and because he communicated during the campaign with people known to be Russian intelligence officers. He also updated members of the Trump campaign about the timing of the WikiLeaks releases, something that he denied.

"We did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired with the Russian government in its activities," Mueller wrote. "The investigation did, however, establish that the Russian government perceived it would benefit from a Trump presidency and worked to secure that outcome. It also established that the campaign expected it would benefit electorally from information stolen and released through Russian efforts."

Stone was found guilty last fall of witness tampering, false statements and obstructing a congressional investigation into Russian election interference. He was sentenced in February to 40 months in prison and was due to surrender on Tuesday, until the president commuted his sentence.

"Roger Stone was treated horribly. Roger Stone was treated very unfairly," Trump told reporters on Saturday.

He was one of six former Trump associates or advisers to be convicted in the Russia investigation. In total, the investigation produced charges against 34 individuals, including 25 Russians accused either of hacking into Democratic email accounts or engaging in a covert social media campaign to divide American public opinion ahead of the election.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Trump wears mask in public for first time during pandemic

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump wore a mask during a visit to a military hospital on Saturday, the first time the president has been seen in public with the type of facial covering recommended by health officials as a precaution against spreading or becoming infected by the novel coronavirus.

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Trump flew by helicopter to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in suburban Washington to meet wounded servicemembers and health care providers caring for COVID-19 patients. As he left the White House, he told reporters: "When you're in a hospital, especially ... I think it's a great thing to wear a mask."

Trump was wearing a mask in Walter Reed's hallway as he began his visit. He was not wearing one when he stepped off the helicopter at the facility.

The president was a latecomer to wearing a mask during the pandemic, which has raged across the U.S. since March and infected more than 3.2 million and killed at least 134,000. Most prominent Republicans, including Vice President Mike Pence, endorsed wearing masks as the coronavirus gained ground this summer. Republican governors have been moving toward requiring or encouraging the use of masks as the pandemic has grown more serious in some states in the South and West.

Trump, however, has declined to wear a mask at news conferences, coronavirus task force updates, rallies and other public events. People close to him have told The Associated Press that the president feared a mask would make him look weak and was concerned that it shifted focus to the public health crisis rather than the economic recovery. They spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private matters.

While not wearing one himself, Trump has sent mixed signals about masks, acknowledging that they would be appropriate if worn in an indoor setting where people were close together. But he has accused reporters of wearing them to be politically correct and has retweeted messages making fun of Democratic rival Joe Biden for wearing a mask and implying that Biden looks weak.

Questions remain whether Trump will wear a mask with any regularity.

The wearing of masks became another political dividing line, with Republicans more resistant to wearing them than Democrats. Few masks were seen at recent Trump campaign events in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Phoenix and South Dakota's Mount Rushmore.

The only time Trump has been known to wear a mask was during a private part of a tour of a Ford plant in Michigan.

A spokesman for the Biden campaign cast the president's action as too little, too late.

"Donald Trump spent months ignoring the advice of medical experts and politicizing wearing a mask, one of the most important things we can do to prevent the spread of the virus," spokesman Andrew Bates said in a statement. "Rather than taking responsibility and leading, he wasted four months that Americans have been making sacrifices by stoking divisions and actively discouraging people from taking a very basic step to protect each other."

On its website, Walter Reed carries this recommendation: "Whenever you're out in public, like at your local grocery store or pharmacy, where it's difficult to maintain 6 feet of social distance, you should wear a cloth face covering." The facility also notes that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the coronavirus."

The Latest: Nevada lawmakers suspend session over virus case

By The Associated Press undefined

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Nevada lawmakers have pumped the brakes on their emergency special session because someone in the legislative building has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Gov. Steve Sisolak has convened the session so lawmakers can balance the state budget amid a projected \$1.2 billion shortfall stemming from the economic damage of the pandemic.

But on Friday staff members announced that someone in the building is infected with the virus, though the person shows no symptoms.

On Saturday, 13 Nevada lawmakers decided they would now participate remotely in the emergency session and both chambers agreed to recess until Monday morning. That will give time for legislators time to get tested and staff to answer a long list of questions that lawmakers have asked in hearings.

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

— Florida sets 1-week record of nearly 500 coronavirus deaths

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- Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan has coronavirus
- Tribes struggle to meet deadline to spend virus relief aid
- Johns Hopkins University has filed a lawsuit seeking to block the Trump administration's decision to make international students leave the U.S. if they intend to take classes entirely online starting this fall.
- The nation's capital has declared beekeepers to be essential workers during the coronavirus outbreak.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan has wrapped up an annual film festival with an awards ceremony as it stages more public events after keeping its coronavirus outbreak to a few hundred cases.

Actors and others lined up for photo shoots with no social distancing Saturday night, and participants didn't wear face masks in historic Zhongshan Hall in the capital of the self-governing island off China's east coast.

Government officials say there have been 451 confirmed coronavirus cases and seven deaths on the island, which has a population of about 23 million people.

Also on Saturday, a baseball game in the city of Taichung drew more than 10,000 fans for the first time this season. Health authorities have been gradually allowing larger crowds since the baseball season began in April with no fans.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas authorities have reported a state-record of 1,061 newly confirmed coronavirus cases for a single day but no new deaths related to the virus.

State health officials said Saturday that the total for COVID-19 cases now stood at 27,864. The state says the death toll remains at 313 for the outbreak for which tracking began in early March.

The true number of cases in Arkansas is likely higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel sick.

Arkansas' virus cases have dramatically risen since May, when the state began allowing businesses to reopen.

SANTA FE, N.M. -- Work safety regulators in New Mexico have ordered Walmart to close a store in the city of Las Cruces after four employees tested positive for the coronavirus in the past three weeks.

The New Mexico Environment Department said Saturday that the order also requires Walmart to test the store's workers for the coronavirus and thoroughly disinfect the building,

Walmart spokesman Pedro Mucciolo says in a statement is "taking all measures necessary to safeguard the well-being of those inside our stores, fulfillment centers and distribution centers."

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Oklahoma has reported 687 more cases confirmed cases of the new coronavirus — the second greatest daily increase since tracking of the outbreak began in March.

Saturday's daily count was second only to the record 858 new cases reported Tuesday. The latest rises brings the total of confirmed cases to 19,779 since tracking began in March. Oklahoma authorities say 15,136 patients have recovered.

Health officials also reported five new deaths related to COVID-19, bringing the state's death toll for the outbreak to 421.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation officials have reported 10 additional deaths from COVID-19 as the tribe's sprawling reservation remains under the latest weekend lockdown imposed to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

The tribe's death toll rose to 396 as of Friday.

Tribal officials also reported 56 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases, increasing the reservation's total

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to nearly 8,100. The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested. Studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

The lockdown began Friday night and ends at 5 a.m. Monday. All businesses on the Navajo Nation are also required to close during the lockdown.

SALT LAKE CITY -- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is asking all its members in Utah to wear face coverings when in public.

The area leaders say the use of masks is a sign of good citizenship.

The Deseret News reports that the Utah Area Presidency sent out the request in an email Friday evening. The area presidency operates under the authority of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

According to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, nearly 900 confirmed virus cases were reported Friday in Utah. Overall, Utah has had more than 28,000 confirmed cases and 207 deaths due to the virus as of Saturday.

AUSTIN, Texas -- The new coronavirus continues to cut a swath through Texas, with state officials reporting a record 10,351 new confirmed cases for the day.

The increase reported Saturday brought the state's total cases of COVID-19 to just over a quarter-million since the start of tracking in early March.

A record 10,083 COVID-19 patients are hospitalized, while 99 new fatalities were reported Saturday. The total is second only to the record 105 reported Thursday and brought the state's overall death toll to 3,112.

Harris County, which includes the bulk of Houston and many of its suburbs, had the most active cases, with almost 27,000. Dallas County, which includes Dallas and many of its suburbs, came in a distant second at almost 13,000.

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa is reporting another 13,497 confirmed coronavirus cases for a total of 264,184 including 3,971 deaths. More than a third of cases are in the new hot spot of Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg and the capital, Pretoria.

Already public hospitals are expressing concerns about shortages of available beds and medical oxygen. The percentage of tests that are positive is now over 25% but the National Institute of Infectious Diseases says that could reflect both the rise in infections and more targeted testing.

The country's health minister has said the "storm" that authorities have been warning citizens about has arrived.

PHOENIX — Arizona health officials have reported an additional 69 deaths from the coronavirus outbreak. So far, there's been more than 2,150 confirmed deaths from the virus in Arizona.

The state added 3,038 confirmed cases in the last day, bringing the total to 119,930. Arizona also set a record with 3,485 patients hospitalized for COVID-19 as of Friday.

Hospital caseloads have surged since Arizona became one of the hot spots for the coronavirus after Gov. Doug Ducey relaxed stay-home orders and other restrictions in May.

PARIS — The wife of a French bus driver who died of injuries after he asked four passengers to wear face masks wants "exemplary punishment."

Four people are in custody for the assault of Philippe Monguillot on July 5 at a bus stop in Bayonne, southwest France.

The Bayonne prosecutor says Monguillot was assaulted after he asked four passengers on his bus to wear face masks, which are required aboard French public transportation because of the coronavirus. He was insulted, pushed off the bus and violently beaten and kicked in the head, the prosecutor said.

President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday dispatched the interior minister to meet the driver's widow after his death was announced Friday. He had been hospitalized in critical condition.

Veronique Monguillot told minister Gerald Darmanin that she and her three daughters were "destroyed"

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by the death.

NEW DELHI -- Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan says he has tested positive for the coronavirus and is hospitalized in Mumbai.

In a tweet on Saturday, the 77-year-old Bachchan said his family and staff have also undergone tests and are awaiting results.

His 44-year-old son and fellow actor, Abhishek Bachchan, tweeted Saturday night that he also has tested positive for the virus and is hospitalized. He described their symptoms as mild.

The elder Bachchan has acted in more than 200 Indian films over the past five decades. He is also a former politician and television host.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Florida set a one-week record of nearly 500 confirmed coronavirus deaths. The state health department reported 96 new deaths Saturday, bringing the total for the week to 496 or an average of nearly 71 per day.

A record 120 deaths were reported Thursday. Three weeks ago, Florida's weekly average for deaths stood at 30 per day.

The state on Saturday confirmed 9,960 new coronavirus cases and 421 addition hospitalizations. Since March 1, when the first Florida infections were recorded, the state has reported 254,511 confirmed cases and 4,301 deaths.

The previous weekly record average of 60 deaths per day was set May 8. Throughout May and into June, the state reopened much of its economy with some restrictions.

Testing has increased, but the percentage of people testing positive has risen. A month ago, fewer than 5% of tests came up positive on a daily average. Over the past week, the daily average exceeded 19%.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has scheduled a news conference Saturday to discuss the outbreak.

ROME — Italy has confirmed another 188 coronavirus infections, a third in the hard-hit Lombardy region.

Public health officials say the outbreak remains under control in Italy, the onetime epicenter of the outbreak in Europe, but they are paying attention to clusters of domestic and international infections.

Italy halted all air traffic with Bangladesh and 13 other countries after more than two dozen cases were linked to charter flights of returning Bangladeshi immigrants. On Saturday, eight of the 19 new infections in the Lazio region around Rome were linked to the Bangladeshi community cluster.

Another cluster has been identified in a TNT delivery company in Bologna, where 12 of the region's 47 new infections are linked. TNT has registered more than 40 total cases.

Another seven people with the coronavirus died in the past day, bringing Italy's total confirmed deaths to 34,945.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Tribes across the United States are wrestling with competing needs, restrictive laws and inadequate staffing as they try to meet a tight federal deadline on spending billions of dollars in virus relief funds.

Congress set aside \$8 billion for tribes that must be spent by the end of the year and meet strict federal guidelines. Otherwise, the tribes risk having to send it back.

Officials on the vast Navajo Nation have received \$714 million in aid but approved just \$60 million for health care, protective equipment and front-line workers against the virus.

Rifts between the tribal government's legislative and executive branches have delayed putting more of the money to use.

Under the Treasury Department guidelines, the money can't be spent on items already budgeted, back-filling lost revenue or per-capita payments. Tribes nationwide are lobbying their congressional delegation to extend the spending deadline and allow for more flexibility.

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NEW YORK — The number of New Yorkers hospitalized with the coronavirus has fallen to the lowest point in nearly four months.

However, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is concerned a resurgence in cases is inevitable amid outbreaks in other states.

Cuomo told WAMC radio on Friday the state's quarantine rules for travelers returning from hard-hit areas are difficult to enforce. He says the only question is how high New York's rate will rise.

State officials reported 799 COVID-19 hospitalizations on Saturday, which is the lowest number since March 18.

ATHENS, Greece — Greek authorities announced 41 new cases of coronavirus over the past 24 hours on Saturday, with 11 detected in incoming tourists.

There were no new confirmed deaths.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases stands at 3,772 and 193 deaths.

RALEIGH, N.C. — A North Carolina state senator says he's tested positive for COVID-19, the first known public case for a General Assembly member.

Sen. Danny Britt, a Robeson County Republican, told The Associated Press he received the positive test on Friday.

Britt, an attorney and National Guard officer, was on the Senate floor on Wednesday as the chamber debated bills and cast votes. The full legislature isn't expected to return to work until September.

Building administrators at the legislative complex in downtown Raleigh have initiated health and social distancing measures since April. There is no mandate for wearing masks indoors in the two buildings. That's frustrated Democrats who serve in the Republican-controlled House and Senate.

Nationwide, at least 75 legislators in at least 28 states have tested positive for the coronavirus since the start of the outbreak, according to an AP tally.

NEW DELHI — India's coronavirus cases have passed 800,000 after the biggest spike of 27,114 cases in the past 24 hours, causing nearly a dozen states to impose a partial lockdown in high-risk areas.

The new confirmed cases took the national total to 820,916. The Health Ministry on Saturday reported another 519 deaths for a total of 22,123.

A surge in infections went from 600,000 to more than 800,000 in nine days. The ministry says the recovery rate was continuing to improve at more than 62%.

Eight of India's 28 states, including the worst-hit Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and New Delhi, account for nearly 90% of all infections.

The most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, with nearly 230 million people, imposed a weekend lockdown. Several others announced restrictions in districts reporting major spikes.

Trump's defiant help for Stone adds to tumult in Washington

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's intervention into a criminal case connected to his own conduct drew fierce rebukes Saturday from Democrats and a few lonely Republicans, with calls for investigations and legislation.

But it remained to be seen if Trump's most recent defiance of the conventions of his office to commute the sentence of political confidant Roger Stone, just four months before Election Day, would matter to voters grappling with a deadly COVID-19 surge and a national discourse on racial justice.

Shortly before heading out Saturday morning for his Virginia golf club, Trump made unfounded accusations against his political foes while taking another swipe at special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, which led to convictions for six Trump aides or advisers, including Stone, a larger-than-life political character who embraced his reputation as a dirty trickster.

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"Roger Stone was targeted by an illegal Witch Hunt that never should have taken place," Trump tweeted. "It is the other side that are criminals, including Biden and Obama, who spied on my campaign - AND GOT CAUGHT!"

Trump has long sought vengeance against the Russia investigation that helped define his first two years in office. And now that the coronavirus pandemic has imperiled his reelection chances by crushing the economy and sending his poll numbers sliding, he has taken to testing the limits of his power in order to reward loyalty and fire up his conservative base.

Mueller himself spoke out — a rarity for the former FBI director — in an op-ed posted Saturday by The Washington Post in which he defended his investigation as "of paramount importance" and added: "Stone was prosecuted and convicted because he committed federal crimes. He remains a convicted felon, and rightly so."

The decision to commute the sentence of the 67-year-old Stone, who was convicted of lying to help the president and set to report to prison on Tuesday, was loudly celebrated by some in Trump's orbit as a triumph over deep state prosecutorial overreach.

But the move announced Friday evening came over the advice of a number of the president's senior advisers, who warned him it would be politically self-destructive to reward Stone for his silence. Trump had long floated the idea of clemency for Stone — as well as for other associates in legal trouble, including his former national security adviser Michael Flynn and campaign chairman Paul Manafort — which itself was viewed by some as witness tampering by encouraging them not to cooperate with prosecutors.

The reaction from Democrats was swift and furious.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Saturday called it "an act of staggering corruption," saying legislation is needed to prevent a president from pardoning or commuting the sentence of someone who acted to shield that president from prosecution. House Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff called it "offensive to the rule of law and principles of justice."

And Trump's Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, resurfaced a 2019 tweet in which he said that "Trump has surrounded himself with people who flout our laws — we shouldn't be surprised that he thinks he is above the law." He added: "Still true."

Republicans largely stayed silent on the issue Saturday, reluctant again to challenge a president who remains very popular with rank-and-file GOP voters. But one loud voice was Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, who was also the lone GOP senator to vote to convict the president during his impeachment trial earlier this year.

"Unprecedented, historic corruption: an American president commutes the sentence of a person convicted by a jury of lying to shield that very president," Romney tweeted Saturday.

Sen. Pat Toomey, a Pennsylvania Republican, signaled dismay with the commutation, saying in a statement Saturday that it was a mistake while calling the Russia investigation "badly flawed" and a source of "frustration." He added that Stone had been duly convicted and that any objections to the conviction and trial "should be resolved through the appeals process."

Mark Sanford, the former South Carolina congressman who made a short-lived primary challenge to Trump, wrote: "So much for the Republican Party being the party of law and order. Have we not lost our minds in not condemning as a party the president's corruption by Roger Stone?"

But most of Republicans who did speak out about the decision supported it. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Trump confidant, said Stone was convicted of a "nonviolent, first-time offense" and the president was "justified" in commuting the sentence.

Advisers who had previously talked Trump out of acting on Stone's behalf awaited the possible fallout, but they considered that Congress may be too consumed with virus relief packages while wondering if the electorate long ago tuned out any talk of the complicated Russia investigation, particularly during a pandemic.

But Trump likely could not afford more political damage. He is decidedly trailing Biden, per his campaign's own private admissions, and his effort to reboot his reelection bid took another blow when his planned rally Saturday night in New Hampshire was postponed. Campaign officials had deeply worried about low turnout. While an impending storm was blamed for the cancellation, sunny skies were seen in Portsmouth

an hour before the president had been due to arrive.

By commuting Stone's sentence, Trump evoked other controversial acts of clemency by his predecessors, though his was done in the height of an election year.

President George H. W. Bush pardoned former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on Christmas Eve 1992, six weeks after he was defeated for reelection, prompting an uproar from Democrats and the independent counsel investigating the Iran-Contra affair. And President Bill Clinton waited until his final hours in office in 2001 to issue a raft of pardons, including of financier Marc Rich.

But one president who resisted the use of pardon was Richard Nixon, who privately discussed acts of clemency but never followed through even as many of his associates faced legal trouble during the Watergate scandal.

A few months after resigning, Nixon himself received a pardon from his successor Gerald Ford.

Stone, a former Nixon aide, told the AP he expressed his gratitude to Trump in a phone call.

"You know, he has a great sense of fairness," Stone said. "We've been friends for many, many years, and he understands that I was targeted strictly for political reasons."

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Eric Tucker and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Fire destroys much of 249-year-old church in California

By MARCIO SANCHEZ and DAISY NGUYEN Associated Press

SAN GABRIEL, Calif. (AP) — A fire early Saturday destroyed the rooftop and most of the interior of a Catholic church in California that was undergoing renovation to mark its upcoming 250th anniversary celebration.

Fire alarms at the San Gabriel Mission rang around 4 a.m. When firefighters arrived, they saw smoke rising from the wooden rooftop in one corner of the historic structure, San Gabriel Fire Capt. Paul Negrete said.

Firefighters entered the church and tried to beat back the flames, but they had to retreat when roofing and other structural materials began to fall, Negrete said.

"We were trying to fight it from the inside. We weren't able to because it became unsafe," he said.

After evacuating the church, the crew was joined by up to 50 firefighters who tried to douse water on the 50-foot-high structure from ladder trucks, he said.

"The roof is completely gone," the captain said. "The fire traversed the wood rapidly. The interior is pretty much destroyed up into the altar area."

The cause of the fire was under investigation, Negrete said. He said the recent toppling of monuments to Junipero Serra, the founder of the California mission system who has long been a symbol of oppression among Indigenous activists, will be a factor in the investigation.

"This will be another box that they're going to check off," Negrete said.

Robert Barron, the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, tweeted that he was "deeply troubled" by the fire as he awaits further information about its cause.

The church was the fourth of a string of missions established across California by Serra during the era of Spanish colonization. The Franciscan priest has long been praised by the church for bringing Roman Catholicism to what is now the western United States, but critics highlight a darker side to his legacy. In converting Native Americans to Catholicism, they said he forced them to abandon their culture or face brutal punishment.

Depictions of Serra have been protested and vandalized over the years, and Pope Francis' decision in 2015 to elevate him to sainthood reopened old wounds. More recently, protests focusing on the rights and historical struggle of Black and Indigenous people led activists to topple statues of Serra in San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles.

In response, the San Gabriel Mission recently moved a bronze statue of Serra from the church entrance to its garden, away from public view, Terri Huerta, a spokeswoman for San Gabriel Mission, told the Los Angeles Times.

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Police increased patrol and officials stepped security around the mission's grounds about two weeks ago, she said.

The interior wall of the church was redone a week ago. Crews had just finished installing the pews as part of a larger renovation of the property to mark the anniversary of the founding of the mission in 1771, Huerta said.

The firefighters' aggressive stance and "a little bit of a miracle" kept the flames from reaching the altar, she said.

The church had been preparing to reopen next weekend following a four-month closure to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Selena Quezada, 26, was in tears when she drove to the mission after she heard about the fire. She said she grew up in the parish and attended the elementary school on the church's grounds.

"I was baptized here, I had my first communion here ... I was getting ready to get married here next year so this hurts," Quezada said. "It's just really sad to see such a historic place burned down because this place means a lot to us."

The church, built of stone, brick and mortar, originally had a vaulted ceiling that was damaged by two earthquakes in the early 1800s, Huerta said. Franciscan fathers replaced the ceiling with a wood-paneled ceiling, and the roof was last repaired following damage caused by the 1994 Northridge earthquake, she said.

This version corrects the spelling of the church member's name to Selena Quezada, not Casada.

Nguyen reported from San Francisco.

LeBron won't wear social justice message on Lakers jersey

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

LeBron James says his thoughts on social justice can't be contained on the back of a basketball jersey.

The Los Angeles Lakers superstar won't wear one of the NBA-approved social justice messages on the back of his jersey when the NBA resumes competition later this month in the Orlando bubble.

"It was no disrespect to the list that was handed down to all the players," James said Saturday in a conference call from Florida. "I commend anyone that decides to put something on the back of their jersey. It's just something that didn't seriously resonate with my mission, with my goal."

As part of the NBA's recognition of the nationwide invigoration of the social justice movement sparked by the death of George Floyd, NBA players are allowed to choose from a lengthy list of possible messages for their jerseys during the league's restart. James is among just a few who declined to choose one of the messages, he said.

"I would have loved to have a say-so on what would have went on the back of my jersey," James said. "I had a couple of things in mind, but I wasn't part of that process, which is OK. ... Everything that I do has a purpose, has a meaning. I don't need to have something on the back of my jersey for people to understand my mission or know what I'm about and what I'm here to do."

The 35-year-old superstar has a long history of social involvement and advocacy for progressive causes. James speaks frequently of what he feels is a responsibility to campaign for positive social change from his powerful position in sports and pop culture.

"This is the mission I've been on for a long time now," James said. "It's great that a lot of people's ears are opening. A lot of people are understanding, a lot of people are recognizing. A lot of people still don't get it, and a lot of people are still afraid to talk about the racism that goes on in America, especially for our people. ... But we have some ears, and we will continue to push the envelope and let everyone know that we are human as well. We don't want to be just be used for our God-given abilities."

JaVale McGee, the Lakers' veteran center, said he will wear "Respect Us" on his jersey in Orlando.

"It's a blessing to have this platform," said McGee, whose asthma has him being particularly cautious

during the pandemic. "We have way more of a voice playing basketball ... Our fans are basketball fans over anything. This is the biggest platform we can speak about social injustices. That's the best time to talk about it."

James also said he didn't consider not playing in the NBA's restart, believing the league can be a positive force through its visibility and competition. He expressed no concerns for his health inside the bubble.

"I believe the NBA and (Commissioner) Adam Silver, they took all precautionary measure to make sure that we as a league are as safe as we can be," James said. "Obviously, in anything that you do, there can be things that can happen, so we will cross that line if it happens. But we're doing everything to make sure everyone stays safe during this pandemic. Adam Silver has given me no reason to not believe him since he took over. I have no concerns. I'm here 100% and in great health."

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

Tucker Carlson writer resigns after racist posts revealed

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Tucker Carlson's top writer has resigned from Fox News after secretly posting racist and sexist remarks online.

CNN reported Friday that writer Blake Neff used a pseudonym to write bigoted comments about Black and Asian people, as well as women, on the online forum AutoAdmit.

Neff began working on "Tucker Carlson Tonight" in 2016 and was known as Carlson's top writer. Neff previously worked as a reporter for the right-wing news outlet The Daily Caller, which Carlson co-founded.

Fox News executives on Saturday said they condemned Neff's "horrendous and deeply offensive" comments.

"We want to make abundantly clear that Fox News Media strongly condemns this horrific racist, misogynistic and homophobic behavior," Fox News Media CEO Suzanne Scott and President Jay Wallace said in a memo to staffers.

"Neff's abhorrent conduct on this forum was never divulged to the show or the network until Friday, at which point we swiftly accepted his resignation. Make no mistake, actions such as his cannot and will not be tolerated at any time in any part of our work force," they wrote.

Scott and Wallace said Carlson would address Neff's conduct on his show Monday.

Video calls, separate bedrooms: Bolsonaro's first COVID week

By DANIEL CARVALHO Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — After months in which Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro downplayed COVID-19 by flouting social distancing recommendations and mostly shunning masks, both coronavirus precautions became part of his cloistered life this week at the official residence in capital Brasilia.

Bolsonaro, 65, announced on Tuesday that he tested positive for the virus and had experienced fever, aches and malaise. He scrapped a trip he had planned to northeastern Piau  state, and all his meetings for the week were converted to video calls.

One was with former congressman Roberto Jefferson, president of the conservative PTB party. Jefferson told The Associated Press that he went to the presidential Planalto Palace and sat in front of a large television where he could see Bolsonaro in a makeshift office at his residence.

"I found the president well, flushed, willing. In very good health," Jefferson said Saturday. "I only saw him cough once, when I made a joke."

Since his diagnosis, Bolsonaro has held virtual meetings almost every day with Jorge Oliveira, secretary-general of government, to sign official documents. According to Oliveira's office, a protocol was created so work could be carried out digitally.

This was also how Bolsonaro interviewed candidates to head the education ministry, he said on Facebook on Thursday. The following day, he named to the post Milton Ribeiro, a former deputy dean of Mackenzie

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University in Sao Paulo who preaches at a Presbyterian church in Santos, outside the metropolis.

Only a few aides who were previously infected by the new coronavirus could get close to Bolsonaro during the week, one of them said on Tuesday. The person declined to be named, citing lack of authorization to speak with journalists. Bolsonaro also spent some time in the afternoons in front of the palace with photojournalists 400 yards away, on the other side of a garden. He had met his supporters by that garden until his diagnosis, but no longer.

The new routine marks a stark change for Bolsonaro, who spent months attending rallies with his fans, heading out to bakeries and food trucks to mix and mingle. He sometimes declined to wear a mask. He has scoffed at the restrictions mayors and governors implemented to contain the spread of the virus, arguing their economic impacts would cause more suffering than the virus, which he repeatedly called "a little flu."

Bolsonaro took hydroxychloroquine pills for five days, Monday through Friday, according to a member of the presidential medical team who asked to not be identified, citing patient confidentiality and because the person isn't authorized to speak publicly. The drug has no proven effect on the treatment of COVID-19 and can cause side effects such as cardiac arrhythmia, according to medical studies. As a result, Bolsonaro was subjected to electrocardiograms and blood tests, the person said.

Brazil's presidential press office said in a statement that the president has experienced no medical problems with his treatment.

The aide who spoke on condition of anonymity said Bolsonaro slept in a different bedroom to keep the first lady, Michelle Bolsonaro, safe. He lives with her, his daughter and step-daughter.

On Saturday, the first lady shared a photo of her COVID-19 test results showing she was not infected.

"My daughters and I tested negative for COVID-19," she wrote in the post on her verified Instagram account. "I appreciate the prayers."

On Thursday, Jair Bolsonaro held his weekly live broadcast on Facebook. This time, he was not accompanied by a minister or a sign language interpreter, as usual. Despite saying he felt well, he said he should still be isolated next week, so as to avoid contaminating anyone.

"I'm sorry I can't interact with you here. Not even next week will it be possible, because I think I will not yet be completely free of the virus, so I will not have anyone on my side here," Bolsonaro said on the broadcast.

During the broadcast, he wasn't wearing a mask. But the aide said Bolsonaro now regularly wears the equipment to protect both his family and the more than 100 employees who work at the residence.

Coronavirus deaths take a long-expected turn for the worse

By MIKE STOBBE and NICKY FORSTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A long-expected upturn in U.S. coronavirus deaths has begun, driven by fatalities in states in the South and West, according to data on the pandemic.

The number of deaths per day from the virus had been falling for months, and even remained down as states like Florida and Texas saw explosions in cases and hospitalizations — and reported daily U.S. infections broke records several times in recent days.

Scientists warned it wouldn't last. A coronavirus death, when it occurs, typically comes several weeks after a person is first infected. And experts predicted states that saw increases in cases and hospitalizations would, at some point, see deaths rise too. Now that's happening.

"It's consistently picking up. And it's picking up at the time you'd expect it to," said William Hanage, a Harvard University infectious diseases researcher.

According to an Associated Press analysis of data from Johns Hopkins University, the seven-day rolling average for daily reported deaths in the U.S. has increased from 578 two weeks ago to 664 on July 10 — still well below the heights hit in April. Daily reported deaths increased in 27 states over that time period, but the majority of those states are averaging under 15 new deaths per day. A smaller group of states has been driving the nationwide increase in deaths.

California is averaging 91 reported deaths per day while Texas is close behind with 66, but Florida, Arizona, Illinois, New Jersey and South Carolina also saw sizable rises. New Jersey's recent jump is thought

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to be partially attributable to its less frequent reporting of probable deaths.

The impact has already been felt by families who lost kin — and by the health care workers who tried to save them.

Rublas Ruiz, a Miami intensive care unit nurse, recently broke down in tears during a birthday dinner with his wife and daughter. He said he was overcome by the number of patients who have died in his care.

"I counted like 10 patients in less than four days in our ICU and then I stopped doing that because there were so many," said the 41-year-old nurse at Kendall Regional Medical Center who lost another patient Monday.

The virus has killed more than 130,000 people in the U.S. and more than a half-million worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University, though the true numbers are believed to be higher.

Deaths first began mounting in the U.S. in March. About two dozen deaths were being reported daily in the middle of that month. By late in the month, hundreds were being reported each day, and in April thousands. Most happened in New York, New Jersey and elsewhere in the Northeast.

Deaths were so high there because it was a new virus tearing through a densely populated area, and it quickly swept through vulnerable groups of people in nursing homes and other places, said Perry Halkitis, the dean of the Rutgers University School of Public Health in New Jersey.

Many of the infections occurred before government officials imposed stay-at-home orders and other social-distancing measures. The daily death toll started falling in mid-April — and continued to fall until about a week ago.

Researchers now expect deaths to rise for at least some weeks, but some think the count probably will not go up as dramatically as it did in the spring — for several reasons.

First, testing was extremely limited early in the pandemic, and it's become clear that unrecognized infections were spreading on subways, in nursing homes and in other public places before anyone knew exactly what was going on. Now testing is more widespread, and the magnitude of outbreaks is becoming better understood.

Second, many people's health behaviors have changed, with mask-wearing becoming more common in some places. Although there is no vaccine yet, hospitals are also getting better at treating patients.

Another factor, tragically, is that deadly new viruses often tear through vulnerable populations first, such as the elderly and people already weakened by other health conditions. That means that, in the Northeast at least, "many of the vulnerable people have already died," Halkitis said.

Now, the U.S. is likely in for "a much longer, slower burn," Hanage, the Harvard researcher, said. "We're not going to see as many deaths (as in the spring). But we're going to see a total number of deaths, which is going to be large."

In other virus-related developments:

— Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom are reopening Saturday; Epcot and Disney's Hollywood Studios will follow four days later. The move comes as there has been a surge in the number of Floridians testing positive for the coronavirus and the state set a record of nearly 500 confirmed deaths in a week.

— The number of New Yorkers hospitalized with the coronavirus — 799 — has fallen to the lowest point since March 18. But Gov. Andrew Cuomo fears a resurgence in cases is inevitable amid outbreaks in other states.

Kristin Urquiza is worried things may get dramatically worse soon in at least some American cities, like Phoenix, where her 65-year-old father died recently.

When the dangers of the virus first became known, Mark Anthony Urquiza, a quality assurance inspector, took precautions such as wearing a face mask and staying home as much as possible, his daughter said.

But that changed after Gov. Doug Ducey ended Arizona's stay-at-home order on May 15, eased restrictions on businesses, and initially blocked local lawmakers from requiring residents to wear masks.

By June 11, the elder Urquiza had developed a fever and cough. He was hospitalized and eventually placed on a ventilator. He died June 30.

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"His life was robbed. I believe that terrible leadership and flawed policies put my father's life in the balance," Kristin Urquiza said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Ducey, a Republican, has more recently changed direction, closing many businesses and allowing mayors to make mask-wearing mandatory.

But Kristin Urquiza is worried. Her father received the care at a time when beds in intensive care units were readily available. Now some Arizona ICUs are becoming swamped.

"Other families are not going to be reassured the hospitals will have the capacity to give (coronavirus) victims the dignity and the health care that they deserve. And that breaks my heart," she said.

Associated Press writers Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this report.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Pandemic, racism compound worries about Black suicide rate

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Jasmin Pierre was 18 when she tried to end her life, overdosing on whatever pills she could find. Diagnosed with depression and anxiety, she survived two more attempts at suicide, which felt like the only way to stop her pain.

Years of therapy brought progress, but the 31-year-old Black woman's journey is now complicated by a combination of stressors hitting simultaneously: isolation during the pandemic, a shortage of mental health care providers and racial trauma inflicted by repeated police killings of Black people.

"Black people who already go through mental health issues, we're even more triggered," said Pierre, who lives in New Orleans. "I don't think my mental health issues have ever, ever been this bad before."

Health experts have warned of a looming mental health crisis linked to the coronavirus outbreak, and the federal government rolled out a broad anti-suicide campaign. But doctors and researchers say the issues reverberate deeper among Black people, who've seen rising youth suicide attempts and suffered disproportionately during the pandemic.

Mental health advocates are calling for more specialized federal attention on Black suicides, including research funding. Counselors focusing on Black trauma are offering free help. And Black churches are finding new ways to address suicide as social distancing has eroded how people connect.

"There has been a lot of complex grief and loss related to death, related to loss of jobs and loss of income," said Sean Joe, an expert on Black suicides at Washington University in St. Louis. "There's a lot of hurt and pain in America going on right now, and you only are getting a sense of depth in the months ahead."

Suicides overall have increased. Roughly 48,000 people in the U.S. died by suicide in 2018, with the rate increasing 35% since 1999, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among all ages. For ages 10 to 19, it's second after accidents.

The rates of suicides and suicide attempts for Black adults have trailed white and Native American adults. But newer research shows an alarming rise in Black young people trying to take their own lives.

Suicide attempts rose 73% between 1991 and 2017 among Black high school students while suicidal thoughts and plans for suicide fell for all teens, according to a study published in November in the journal *Pediatrics*. The findings, including troubling suicide trends among Black children, prompted the Congressional Black Caucus to issue a report in December deeming the situation a crisis.

Experts say the reasons are a complex mix requiring more study.

Suicide risk factors include a diagnosis like depression or trauma or having a parent who died by suicide. Many factors are amplified for Black families, who often face higher poverty rates, disproportionate exposure to violence and less access to medical care.

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The pandemic has heightened the disparities.

Black people are dying from COVID-19 at higher rates, leaving them to grieve more in isolation with restrictions on funerals and gatherings. Added to the mix is a national reckoning with racism after George Floyd's killing.

"Dealing with racism and stereotypes and all the inequity that we have to face, it's bandaged up," said Arielle Sheftall, an author of the Pediatrics study. "It feels like the bandage is ripped off and everybody is looking at it and staring at it, and we are bleeding profusely."

Part of the problem is the study of suicide remains largely white, with little race research. There's also been a misconception of suicide as only a "white problem."

Michigan psychologist Alton Kirk was among the first to study Black suicides in the 1970s, outlined in his 2009 book, "Black Suicide: The Tragic Reality of America's Deadliest Secret."

"When I first started, a lot of Black people were in denial about suicide," he said. "We had suffered enough. We survived slavery and segregation and all this other stuff. They almost saw it as being a weakness."

While many attitudes have changed, obstacles to health care persist.

For one, there aren't enough mental health professionals. Also, treatment has traditionally been based on white experiences, potentially leaving some clinicians unprepared.

Each time there's a publicized episode of police brutality against Black people, calls to the Trevor Project's suicide-prevention lines spike immediately. The organization focuses on LGBTQ youth, including addressing racial disparities.

"You're already starting at a different point because you spent your life fighting back racism," said Tia Dole, the organization's chief clinical operations officer. "People are walking around with a half-filled tank of emotional resources because of their identity."

For suicide attempt survivors, navigating the pandemic means more uncertainty.

Kiauna Patterson, who graduated from Pennsylvania's Edinboro University this year, tried to end her life in 2018 as she felt pressure from school and working three jobs to help support family.

Since losing university health care, she meditates daily and focuses on her goal of becoming a doula.

"You don't really know what's going on or what's going to happen," she said. "You're taking each day, just one at a time, to try and grasp some type of control or calmness."

Pierre, who uses her experiences to counsel others, doesn't want people struggling alone. She created The Safe Place, a free Black-oriented mental health app that's seen more signups during the pandemic.

Others are also trying to fill care gaps.

Donna Barnes, who runs the National Organization For People of Color Against Suicide, plans a free online support group. After losing her son to suicide in 1990, she noticed a lack of resources for Black families and started the organization.

"It took me four years before I could smile again," Barnes said. "It wasn't easy. My friends and family didn't know what to do with me."

Trinity United Church of Christ, an influential Black church once attended by former President Barack Obama, has met increased need in Chicago with Zoom chats and calls.

The Rev. Otis Moss III used a recent podcast to discuss his sister's suicide, which occurred before his wedding in the 1990s.

He called it an effective medium as people remain isolated with services canceled. Moss said it took years to talk openly about his sister's schizophrenia and to stop blaming himself.

"It is an appropriate time to let people know there are many people who are walking the same road they are walking," he said. "I found how to punch holes in the darkness and witness light shine through."

This story has been updated to correct that Barnes is planning a support group not a counseling course.

Sophia Tareen is a member of The Associated Press' Race and Ethnicity Team. Follow her on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sophiatareen>.

Pistons' onetime home, the Palace of Auburn Hills, torn down

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — One of Michigan's most beloved sports and entertainment venues was turned into rubble on Saturday with a series of controlled explosions.

The shell and roof of the Palace of Auburn Hills, which was home to three championship Detroit Pistons teams and three Detroit Shock teams and played host to some of the world's biggest musical acts during its nearly 30-year run, crumbled to the ground following a series explosive pops. The rest of the arena had already been removed.

The Palace, which opened in 1988, held more than 22,000 people for NBA games and up to 23,000 for concerts and other shows, according to nba.com.

After the Pistons relocated in 2017 to downtown Detroit, the arena about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of the city continued to host concerts and music events, the last in September 2017 by rocker Bob Seger.

It also became the second suburban Detroit arena that found little real use after its main sports tenant took its games back to the city.

The Detroit Lions played at the nearby Pontiac Silverdome from 1975-2001 before moving to Ford Field in Detroit. The Pistons also called the Silverdome home for a decade before The Palace opened.

The Silverdome was taken down with a partial implosion in 2017.

William Hall, a project manager for Schostak Brothers & Co., told the Oakland Press of Pontiac that the Palace site should be cleared of debris by the end of the year.

A new mixed-use development project is planned for the site.

"There have been some companies we've already talked to about possible development of the property," Hall said. "I would say we've had conversations with at least half-a-dozen people. This property is very interesting and for a lot of businesses, its proximity is very attractive."

Puerto Rico questions Spain's legacy as statues tumble in US

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Statues, street names, plazas and even the body of conquistador Juan Ponce de León himself: Spain left a nearly indelible legacy in Puerto Rico that attracts hordes of tourists every year, but some activists are trying to erase it as they join a U.S. movement to eradicate symbols of oppression.

Dozens of activists marched through the historic part of Puerto Rico's capital on Saturday, some wearing traditional Taino clothing as they banged on drums and blew on conch shells to demand that the U.S. territory's government start by removing statues including those of explorer Christopher Columbus.

"These statues represent all that history of violence, of invasion, of looting, of theft, of murder," said an activist who goes by the name of Pluma and is a member of Puerto Rico's Council for the Defense of Indigenous Rights. "These are crimes against humanity."

Columbus landed in Puerto Rico in 1493 accompanied by Spaniard Ponce de León, who later became the island's first governor and quelled an uprising by the native Tainos, a subgroup of the Arawak Indians. Historians and anthropologists believe that up to 60,000 Tainos lived in Puerto Rico at the time, but they were soon forced into labor and succumbed to infectious disease outbreaks.

Centuries later, local government officials honored both explorers by erecting statues and naming streets and plazas after them across Puerto Rico. The Columbus Plaza is located at the entrance of Old San Juan and bears a statue of Columbus unveiled in 1893 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of his arrival. Meanwhile, a nearby statue of Ponce de León stands facing south with his left hand on his hip and right finger pointed toward the first settlement he founded. The ruins still mark the spot of the island's first Spanish capital and is a U.S. National Historic Landmark. The statue made of melted steel from British cannons also points in the same direction of the nearby San Juan Bautista Cathedral that bears Ponce de León's remains and is a popular tourist spot.

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Activists on Saturday demanded that both statues be removed as the first step in taking down symbols of oppression across Puerto Rico.

"No, it won't be easy," acknowledged activist Francisco Jordán García, who helped organize the march. "It's going to be a long process."

But he quickly offered alternatives: "We can melt them and create a different statue of someone who truly deserves it."

Activists recently contacted the office of San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz and said an assistant told them officials would evaluate the cost of taking down the statues. A Cruz spokesman did not return a message for comment.

The march comes as Puerto Ricans' interest in the territory's indigenous past continues to grow. In the 2010 Census, some 42,000 of the 3.7 million people living on the island at that time identified themselves as at least partially Taino.

Statues of Columbus have been removed or toppled elsewhere in the U.S. mainland following an uproar over racism after the police killing of George Floyd. Protesters in Baltimore threw a Columbus statue into a harbor, while they beheaded another one in Boston. Meanwhile, officials in states including New York, Ohio, California, Missouri and Connecticut have removed similar statues.

However, one colossal statue of Columbus remains upright and rooted in U.S. soil. The creation, titled "Birth of a New World," rises defiantly along Puerto Rico's north coast, a 660-ton statue that is more than twice the size of the Statue of Liberty without its pedestal. It was once homeless for two decades as several U.S. cities refused to accept it for reasons ranging from cost to appearance until Puerto Rico's government accepted it as a gift in 1998 and used \$2.4 million in public funds to bring it to the island.

Widow condemns "barbaric" death of driver beaten over masks

BAYONNE, France (AP) — The wife of a French bus driver who was beaten to death after he asked four passengers to wear face masks aboard his vehicle called Saturday for "exemplary punishment" for his killers.

The assault on Philippe Monguillot has scandalized France. President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday dispatched the interior minister to meet the driver's widow after his death was announced Friday. He had been hospitalized in critical condition after the July 5 attack.

Veronique Monguillot said she told the minister, Gerald Darmanin, that she and their three daughters were "destroyed" by the attack on her husband at a bus stop in Bayonne, southwest France.

"We must bang a fist on the table, so this never happens again," she said. "It's barbaric, not normal. We must stop this massacre."

The Bayonne prosecutor said Monguillot was assaulted after he asked four passengers on his No. 810 bus to wear face masks, which are required aboard French public transport because of the coronavirus pandemic. The driver was insulted, pushed off the bus and violently beaten and kicked in the head, the prosecutor said.

Four people are in custody.

"This bus driver was only doing his job," Darmanin said. "He left his home in the morning and did not come back, leaving a widow and three orphan girls. It is an absolutely odious act."

France has battled hard to tame its coronavirus outbreak, which saw over 208,000 confirmed infections and over 30,000 virus-related deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say the true toll is higher, due to testing limitations and missed mild cases.

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

Disney World reopens as coronavirus cases surge in Florida

By TAMARA LUSH and MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — "The Most Magical Place on Earth" has reopened after nearly four months with

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new rules in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom are reopening Saturday, while Epcot and Disney's Hollywood Studios will follow four days later.

"It's the chance to come back and be in the magic," said Diane Watkins, a preschool teacher from Helena, Alabama, who visits the park about eight times a year. "Hot or not, mask or not, we're just happy to be here. I feel like everybody here is in the same frame of mind. Everybody is just so excited to be here."

Watkins said that when she and her 16-year-old daughter walked into the Magic Kingdom on Saturday morning, then saw all the cast members lined up and clapping on Main Street, she cried.

"It was very emotional," she said.

The reopening comes as a huge surge of Floridians have tested positive for the new coronavirus in recent weeks. On Saturday, there were about 10,000 new cases reported, according to state statistics. Many cities and counties around the state have recently reinstated restrictions that had been lifted in May, when cases seemed to drop.

All of Disney's Orlando parks closed in mid-March in an effort to stop the virus's spread. Universal Orlando and SeaWorld Orlando closed around the same time but reopened several weeks ago after instituting similar rules to protect employees and customers from the virus.

Lori Lovell of Evansville, Indiana, strolled around Frontierland on Saturday morning with friends.

"I have missed coming here. It just feels really good to be back. This is where I've made so many memories. It's kind of our second home. Not being able to come here was hard."

Disney's new rules include mandatory masks and social distancing. Visitors will need reservations to enter a park, and they won't be allowed to hop between parks. Both visitors and employees will receive temperature checks when they enter. Fireworks shows and parades have been suspended to prevent drawing too many people together.

Park-goers say that nearly everyone in sight wore masks on Saturday morning. Capacity is nowhere near where it is under normal circumstances, they said.

"I've been here on spring breaks where you can barely walk around. The walkways are very wide open," said Lovell.

There were lots of hand sanitizer stations around, and people were respecting the physical distancing cues and guidelines. Since the park is at lower capacity, there was only a five-minute wait for the popular Buzz Lightyear ride — normally it's about 90 minutes, Watkins said.

Some attractions and dining areas aren't yet open. Another change: visitors can't hug and greet the costumed Disney characters. Instead, the characters are in "cavalcades," or motorcades, as they make their way through the park.

Disney has been opening its parks back up around the globe for the past two months. In May, the company opened Disney Springs, a complex of shops, restaurants and entertainment venues in Lake Buena Vista.

Tamara Lush reported from St. Petersburg, Fla.

Leaders, survivors mark 25 years since Srebrenica massacre

By SABINA NIKSIC Associated Press

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Virtually joined by world leaders, the survivors of Bosnia's 1995 Srebrenica massacre on Saturday remembered the victims of Europe's only acknowledged genocide since World War II and warned of the perpetrators' persistent refusal to fully acknowledge their responsibility.

Speaking at a commemoration ceremony for the thousands of massacre victims, held in the memorial center and cemetery just outside Srebrenica, a top Bosnian official warned that the extent of the 1995 slaughter is still being systematically denied despite irrefutable evidence of what happened.

"I am calling on our friends from around the world to show, not just with words but also with actions, that they will not accept the denial of genocide and celebration of its perpetrators," said Sefik Dzaferovic, the Bosnian Muslim member of the country's tripartite presidency.

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"The Srebrenica genocide is being denied (by Serb leaders) just as systematically and meticulously as it was executed in 1995 ... we owe it not just to Srebrenica, but to humanity, to oppose that," he added.

In July 1995, at least 8,000 mostly Muslim men and boys were separated by Serb troops from their wives, mothers and sisters, chased through woods around Srebrenica and killed by those forces in what is considered the worst massacre on European soil since the Third Reich.

The killing spree was the most brutal episode of the 1992-95 war in Bosnia, which began after the break-up of Yugoslavia. More than 100,000 people, an overwhelming majority of them Bosnian Muslim civilians, were killed in the war between Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims before a peace deal was brokered in 1995.

After murdering their victims in Srebrenica a quarter of a century ago, Bosnian Serb soldiers dumped their bodies in numerous mass graves scattered around the eastern town in an attempt to hide the evidence of the crime.

Thanks to an international forensic effort, body parts are still being found in death pits, put together and identified through DNA analysis. Close to 7,000 of those killed have already been found and identified.

Newly identified victims are reburied each year on July 11 — the anniversary of the day the killing began in 1995 — in the vast and still expanding memorial cemetery outside Srebrenica. On Saturday, 9 newly identified men and boys were laid to rest there.

What took place in Srebrenica was a mark of shame for the international community because the town had been declared a U.N. "safe haven" for civilians in 1993. But two years later, the outnumbered, out-gunned U.N. peacekeepers could only watch as the Bosnian Serb troops separated the town's men and boys for execution, bussing the women and girls to Bosnian government-held territory.

Dozens of world leaders, who were prevented by the coronavirus pandemic from attending the commemoration service in person, sent video messages Saturday in which they urged tolerance and reconciliation in Bosnia, a nation that remains deeply ethnically divided. They included Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prince Charles.

Some international speakers also addressed the continued refusal by Serb leaders in Bosnia and neighboring Serbia to acknowledge the extent of the Srebrenica slaughter and the ongoing suffering of its survivors.

Judge Carmel Agius, president of the U.N. court that is completing war crimes trials stemming from the breakup of Yugoslavia, warned in his video message that the victims of the Srebrenica massacre "continue to be tormented by those who attempt to deny their lived experiences, and, thereby, their very existence."

Similar sentiment was echoed by U.K. leader Johnson.

"I want to join with you once more in mourning the victims of those terrible events, and to stand with the families in their fight for justice," Johnson said in his video message. "There are those who would prefer to forget or deny the enormity of what took place (in Srebrenica in 1995). We must not allow that to happen."

Bosnian Serb wartime political leader, Radovan Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic were both convicted of and sentenced for genocide in Srebrenica by a special U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague. In all, the tribunal and courts in the Balkans have sentenced close to 50 Bosnian Serb wartime officials to more than 700 years in prison for the Srebrenica killings.

Bosnian Serbs, however, still celebrate Karadzic and Mladic as heroes. Some were even staging celebrations of "the 1995 liberation of Srebrenica" on the anniversary of the crime.

In fact, Bosnian Serb political leaders have consistently prevented the country from adopting a law that would ban genocide denial, with the Serb member of Bosnia's presidency, Milorad Dodik, even publicly describing the Srebrenica slaughter as a "fabricated myth."

Virus cases up sharply in Africa, India as inequality stings

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's confirmed coronavirus cases have doubled in just two weeks to a quarter-million, and India on Saturday saw its biggest daily spike as its infections passed 800,000. The surging cases are raising sharp concerns about unequal treatment in the pandemic, as the wealthy hoard

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medical equipment and use private hospitals and the poor crowd into overwhelmed public facilities.

Globally more than 12.5 million people have been infected by the virus and over 560,000 have died, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say the pandemic's true toll is much higher due to testing shortages, poor data collection in some nations and other issues.

Some of the worst-affected countries are among the world's most unequal. South Africa leads them all on that measure, with the pandemic exposing the gap in care.

In Johannesburg, the epicenter of South Africa's outbreak, badly needed oxygen concentrators that help COVID-19 patients who are struggling to breathe are hard to find as private businesses and individuals are buying them up, a public health specialist volunteering at a field hospital, Lynne Wilkinson, told The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, South Africa's public hospitals are short on medical oxygen — and they are now seeing a higher proportion of deaths than private ones, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases says.

South Africa now has more than 250,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, including more than 3,800 deaths. To complicate matters, the country's troubled power utility has announced new electricity cuts in the dead of winter as a cold front brings freezing weather. Many of the country's urban poor live in shacks of scrap metal and wood.

And in Kenya, some have been outraged by a local newspaper report that says several governors have installed intensive care unit equipment in their homes. The country lost its first doctor to COVID-19 this week.

"The welfare, occupational safety & health of frontline workers is a non-negotiable minimum!!" the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union tweeted after her death. On Saturday, the union and other medical groups urged President Uhuru Kenyatta to implement a promised compensation package to ease the "anxiety and fear that has now gripped health care workers."

More than 8,000 health workers across Africa have been infected, half of them in South Africa. The continent of 1.3 billion has the world's lowest levels of health staffing and more than 560,000 cases, and the pandemic is reaching "full speed," the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

Many parts of the world are facing fresh waves of infections as they try to reopen their economies.

In India, which reported a new daily high of 27,114 cases on Saturday, nearly a dozen states have imposed a partial lockdown in high-risk areas. Cases jumped from 600,000 to more than 800,000 in nine days. People are packing India's public hospitals as many are unable to afford private ones that generally uphold higher standards of care.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged top officials to improve infection testing and tracking, especially in states with high positivity rates.

Officials on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa said dozens of U.S. Marines have been infected at two bases there in what is feared to be a massive outbreak. The officials said the U.S. military asked that the exact figure not be released.

"We now have strong doubts that the U.S. military has taken adequate disease prevention measures," Gov. Denny Tamaki told reporters.

In Australia, the beleaguered state of Victoria reported 216 new cases in the past 24 hours, down from the record 288 the previous day. It hopes a new six-week lockdown in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city with a population of 5 million, will curb the spread.

"We cannot pretend that doing anything other than following the rules will get us to the other side of this," said Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews.

In Latin America, where inequality is sharp and Brazil and Peru are among the world's top five most badly hit countries, the COVID-19 pandemic is sweeping through the continent's leadership, with two more presidents and powerful officials testing positive in the past week.

Yet developing countries are not the only ones overwhelmed. Confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S. have hit 3 million, with over 130,000 deaths — the worst outbreak by far in the world. The surge has led to equipment shortages as well as long lines at testing sites.

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Texas is among the U.S. states setting records for infections, virus hospitalizations and deaths almost daily after embarking on one of America's fastest reopenings. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott on Friday extended a statewide disaster as the state surpassed 10,000 hospitalized patients for the first time.

"Things will get worse," Abbott told Lubbock television station KLBK. "The worst is yet to come as we work our way through that massive increase in people testing positive."

Associated Press writers around the world contributed.

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

Conservation groups upset by North Cascades grizzly decision

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The forested mountains in and around North Cascades National Park in north central Washington state have long been considered prime habitat for threatened grizzly bears, so environmental groups are upset the Trump administration scrapped plans to reintroduce the apex predators there.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt on Tuesday announced his agency will not conduct the environmental impact statement needed to move forward with the idea.

That drew rebukes from conservation groups, who have worked for decades to grow the tiny population of about 10 grizzlies in the vast North Cascades, where writer Jack Kerouac spent the summer of 1956 as a lookout for wildfires.

"Grizzlies have been an integral part of the North Cascades ecosystem for 20,000 years but are now one of the most threatened populations in North America," said Rob Smith, northwest director of the National Parks Conservation Association. "This purely political decision ignores science, Park Service recommendations and overwhelming public support."

He noted that former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke supported grizzly recovery efforts there before leaving the Trump administration.

In 2015, under President Barack Obama, the federal government began an environmental impact statement planning process on restoring the bears in the North Cascades.

Grizzly bears play a vital environmental role in the park and the broader ecosystem, Smith said. But there have been no verified sightings in the region in several years, raising concerns about their survival.

While Bernhardt pointed to local opposition to introducing bears into the North Cascades, Smith said a majority of Washington residents have supported the proposal in the past.

The Center for Biological Diversity also called the decision political.

"Grizzly bears only occupy less than 5% of their historic range, and the North Cascades presents prime habitat for grizzly bears," said Andrea Zaccardi, an attorney with the group. "Their recovery there is critical to the overall recovery of grizzly bears in the U.S."

The center contends the North Cascades could support more than 700 grizzly bears over 9,000 square miles of habitat. About 41% of the recovery zone is within the national park, and about 72% has no motorized access.

But Rep. Dan Newhouse, a Republican who represents central Washington state in Congress, said local residents don't want a larger population of grizzlies there.

"This announcement is welcomed by my constituents in central Washington who have consistently shared my same concerns about introducing an apex predator into the North Cascades," Newhouse said.

Bernhardt's announcement came at a meeting in Omak, Washington, 100 miles (161 kilometers) east of the national park, where opposition to the bears is strong.

Bernhardt said the Trump administration will continue to focus on growing grizzly bear populations across their existing range, which includes parts of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and eastern Washington state.

The recovery of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states is already an amazing success story, the agency said.

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The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has been the primary focus of grizzly recovery efforts to date, and grizzly populations have increased to about 700 bears there since the animals were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1975.

The environmental group Conservation Northwest was disappointed by the decision, but did not think it was the final word on the bears.

"We are still confident they will be restored there," spokesman Chase Gunnell said.

Federal grizzly bear recovery plans are mandated by the Endangered Species Act and require grizzly recovery in the North Cascades, Gunnell said.

It is the largest federally designated Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone and the only such zone outside the Rocky Mountains, he said.

North Cascades National Park and surrounding back country areas also receive far fewer visitors each year than places such as Yellowstone or Glacier national parks, where the majority of the nation's grizzlies roam, Gunnell said.

Despite the excellent habitat, recovery of the animals in the North Cascades will require that some bears be imported into the back country, Gunnell said.

Given their isolation from other grizzly populations, their very slow reproductive rate and other constraints, the tiny population of North Cascades grizzly bears is considered the most at-risk bear population in the United States, Gunnell said.

Grizzly bears were listed as a threatened species in 1975. They have slowly regained territory and increased in numbers in the ensuing decades.

An estimated 50,000 bears once roamed the lower 48. Government-sponsored programs led to most being poisoned, shot and trapped by the 1930s. Now the largest concentration of grizzlies, numbering less than 1,800, are around Montana's Glacier National Park and around Yellowstone National Park.

Grizzlies did win a victory over the Trump administration on Wednesday. A U.S. appeals court ruled that a federal judge was right to restore protections for grizzly bears in the Yellowstone region of the Rocky Mountains, after federal officials sought to turn over management of the animals to states that would have allowed them to be hunted.

AP FACT CHECK: If he's said it once, he's said it 100 times

By CALVIN WOODWARD, HOPE YEN and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — If saying things 100 times could make them true, President Donald Trump's account of how the U.S. is doing with the coronavirus would be true.

COVID-19 testing would be the envy of the world, the economy would be on the cusp of roaring back, the threat would be receding in a pandemic that has sickened more than 3.1 million Americans and killed more than 134,000.

But repetition doesn't make for reality. The U.S. is taking a disproportionate hit from the coronavirus globally and does not have it under control.

A look at how rhetoric from the past week compares with the facts on various fronts:

VIRUS

TRUMP: "Deaths in the U.S. are way down." — tweet Monday, one of at least a half dozen heralding a drop in daily deaths from the virus.

THE FACTS: It's true that deaths dipped as infections spiked in many parts of the country. But deaths lag sickness. And now, the widely expected upturn in U.S. deaths has begun, driven by fatalities in states in the South and West, according to data analyzed by The Associated Press.

"It's a false narrative to take comfort in a lower rate of death," Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Tuesday. He advised Americans: "Don't get yourself into false complacency."

The new AP analysis of data from Johns Hopkins University shows the seven-day rolling average for daily reported deaths in the U.S. increased to 664 on Friday from 578 two weeks ago, as deaths rose in

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more than half the states. That's still well below the lethal numbers of April.

"It's consistently picking up," said William Hanage, a Harvard University infectious diseases researcher. "And it's picking up at the time you'd expect it to."

TRUMP: "For the 1/100th time, the reason we show so many Cases, compared to other countries that haven't done nearly as well as we have, is that our TESTING is much bigger and better. We have tested 40,000,000 people. If we did 20,000,000 instead, Cases would be half, etc. NOT REPORTED!" — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: His notion that infections are high only because the U.S. diagnostic testing has increased is false. His own top public health officials have shot down this line of thinking. Infections are rising because people are infecting each other more than they were when most everyone was hunkered down.

It's true that increased testing also contributes to the higher numbers. When you look harder, you're going to see more. But the testing has uncovered a worrisome trend: The percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus is on the rise across nearly the entire country.

That's a clear demonstration that sickness is spreading and that the U.S. testing system is falling short. "A high rate of positive tests indicates a government is only testing the sickest patients who seek out medical attention and is not casting a wide enough net," says the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, a primary source of updated information on the pandemic.

Americans are being confronted with long lines at testing sites, often disqualified if they are not showing symptoms and, if tested, forced to wait many days for results.

TRUMP on the coronavirus: "We have the lowest Mortality Rate in the World." — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: This statement is wholly unsupported.

An accurate death rate is impossible to know. Every country tests and counts people differently, and some are unreliable in reporting cases. Without knowing the true number of people who become infected, it cannot be determined what portion of them die.

Using a count kept by Johns Hopkins University, you can compare the number of recorded deaths with the number of reported cases. That count shows the U.S. experiencing more deaths as a percentage of cases than most other countries now being hit hard with the pandemic. The statistics look better for the U.S. when the list is expanded to include European countries that were slammed early on by the virus but now appear to have it under control. Even then, the U.S. is not shown to be among the best in avoiding death.

Such calculations, though, do not provide a reliable measurement of actual death rates, because of the variations in testing and reporting, and the Johns Hopkins tally is not meant to be such a measure.

The only way to tell how many cases have gone uncounted, and therefore what percentage of infected people have died from the disease, is to do another kind of test comprehensively, of people's blood, to find how many people bear immune system antibodies to the virus. Globally, that is only being done in select places.

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "Job growth is biggest in history." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Yes, but only because it is following the greatest job losses in history, by far.

The U.S. economy shed more than 22 million jobs in March and April, wiping out nearly a decade of job growth in just two months, as the viral outbreak intensified and nearly all states shut down nonessential businesses. Since then, 7.5 million, or about one-third, of those jobs have been recovered as businesses reopened. Even after those gains, the unemployment rate is 11.1%, down from April and May but otherwise higher than at any point since the Depression.

TRUMP: "Economy and Jobs are growing MUCH faster than anyone (except me!) expected." — tweet Wednesday.

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THE FACTS: Not really. It's true that May's gain of 2.7 million jobs was unexpected. Economists had forecast another month of job losses. But most economists projected hiring would sharply rebound by June or at the latest July, once businesses began to reopen. The gains kicked in a month earlier than forecast.

Now, though, coronavirus cases are rising in most states, imperiling the climb back. In six states representing one-third of the economy — Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, and Texas — governors are reversing their reopening plans, and the restart is on pause in 15 other states. Such reversals are keeping layoffs elevated and threatening to weaken hiring.

TRUMP ON BIDEN

TRUMP campaign ad, playing out a scenario where a person needing help calls the police in 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. He's proposed more money for police, conditioned to 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'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 existing federal community policing grant programs.

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

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

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 that 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 clip of Biden's conversation with liberal activist Ady Barkan, who endorsed Biden on Wednesday after supporting Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders during the Democratic primaries. A full recording of that conversation, provided by the Biden campaign to The Associated Press, shows he 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 increased funding 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 more money 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.

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"If they don't eliminate choke holds, 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.

Associated Press writers Mike Stobbe and Nicky Forster in New York contributed to this report.

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

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Trump lags Biden on people of color in top campaign ranks

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid a summer of racial unrest and calls for more diversity in leadership, President Donald Trump lags Democratic rival Joe Biden in the percentage of people of color on their campaign staffs, according to data the campaigns provided to The Associated Press.

Twenty-five percent of the Republican president's senior staff are nonwhite, compared to 36% of Biden's senior staff. Biden's overall campaign team is 35% nonwhite; Trump's campaign did not provide a comparable number.

And neither campaign provided racial breakdowns for their nonwhite staff, nor the total number of staffers who are on their payrolls, including senior staff.

Advocates for minority groups say staff diversity is necessary to ensure political candidates hear a full range of voices and viewpoints to help them understand the concerns of various communities and interest groups — especially at a time when racial injustice is front and center in the national conversation. And while Biden has an edge on Trump, there is plenty more to be done in presidential campaigns overall.

Jennifer Lawless, commonwealth professor of politics at the University of Virginia, said "there are still a lot of milestones that haven't been hit" by political campaigns, such as a Black man or woman directing — and winning — a presidential campaign. And she said having diverse staff at lower levels in campaigns can help increase the pool of future managers, finance chairs and others.

"It's all part of the pipeline," Lawless said.

Trump's campaign makeup got a double-take in June when Vice President Mike Pence tweeted — and later deleted — a photo from his visit to campaign headquarters. The photo at first drew attention for the lack of social distancing and use of face masks among the staff. But it also was notable for the sea of mostly white faces.

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Eric Rodriguez, senior vice president of policy and advocacy at UnidosUS, said the Biden team had more Latinos in senior positions than Trump.

"You need people from those communities to be able to make those connections," said Rodriguez, whose organization used to be called the National Council of La Raza.

The rival campaigns fared better — and are about even — on employing women, with females filling more than half of all jobs overall, and more than half of all senior positions.

The president's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, who is white, former White House aide Mercedes Schlapp, who is Cuban American, and Katrina Pierson, who is Black and worked on Trump's 2016 campaign, are among the highest-profile senior female staffers working to help reelect him.

Others include former Fox News host Kimberly Guilfoyle, now a top campaign fundraiser and the girlfriend of Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr., and Hannah Castillo, the campaign's coalitions director. Guilfoyle's late mother was from Puerto Rico. Castillo is Mexican American.

Biden senior adviser Symone Sanders, who is Black, is the campaign's highest-ranking person of color and, at 30, is the youngest member of his inner circle. The candidate also recently brought on several African Americans who worked for President Barack Obama, including Karine Jean-Pierre, formerly an NBC News and MSNBC political analyst.

Jamal Brown, a spokesperson for Biden, said the former vice president's campaign reflects the "diversity, breadth and promise of America."

"He believes our democracy is strongest when people see themselves reflected in their government," added Brown, who is Black.

The killing in May of George Floyd, who was Black, by a white Minneapolis police officer sparked nationwide protests against racial injustice and calls for greater minority representation across the board in society that brought fresh scrutiny to the presidential campaigns.

Biden had faced questions earlier in the campaign about the lack of diversity on his staff. Along with adding more people of color to his campaign, Biden has promised an administration that "looks like America" if he is elected on Nov. 3.

The U.S. population is about 60% white, 19% Latino and 13% Black, according to Census Bureau estimates.

Trump has not made a similar pledge about a potential second term. His campaign declined to discuss minority representation on the campaign staff.

Four women currently serve in Trump's Cabinet: CIA Director Gina Haspel and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, both of whom are white; Jovita Carranza, a Latina who leads the Small Business Administration; and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, who was born in Taiwan.

Housing Secretary Ben Carson is the only Black member of the Cabinet.

Rodriguez summed up the Biden campaign strategy as focused on winning support from a diverse pool of voters, especially in battleground states where large numbers of Latino and Black voters live. He characterized Trump's strategy as being "really all about the base" and attempting to replicate his successful 2016 campaign playbook, which used immigration as a wedge issue.

"The strategy is to run on racial division," Rodriguez said of the president, who has begun to use the racial tensions that surfaced after Floyd's killing in his reelection pitch.

Still, Trump and his campaign make regular appeals to Black and Latino voters.

The president regularly cites employment gains for these groups before the coronavirus pandemic struck, and he continues to showcase legislation he signed to overhaul criminal sentencing procedures and provide permanent funding for historically Black colleges and universities.

This week, Trump was surrounded by Latino American leaders as he announced a new advisory commission to help Hispanic Americans with economic and educational opportunities.

But the event also highlighted how far Trump has to go in winning support from people of color. Critics of Trump's record with Hispanics called for a boycott of the Goya food company after its president praised Trump at the event.

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The president does have strong support among some people of Cuban and Venezuelan descent, though, because of his tough stance against authoritarian leaders in those countries.

The Biden campaign said LGBTQ staff and staff of color hold such positions as senior advisers, deputy campaign managers, national coalitions director, chief financial officer, chief operating officer and national press secretary, among others.

Trump's campaign defined its senior staff as "senior leaders who meet regularly to make decisions. People with authority," and did not elaborate.

Dozens of US Marines in Japan's Okinawa get coronavirus

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Dozens of U.S. Marines at two bases on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa have been infected with the coronavirus in what is feared to be a massive outbreak, Okinawa's governor said Saturday, demanding an adequate explanation from the U.S. military.

Gov. Denny Tamaki said he could say only that a "few dozen" cases had been found recently because the U.S. military asked that the exact figure not be released. The outbreaks occurred at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which is at the center of a relocation dispute, and Camp Hansen, Tamaki said.

Local media, citing unnamed sources, said about 60 people had been infected.

"Okinawans are shocked by what we were told (by the U.S. military)," Tamaki told a news conference. "We now have strong doubts that the U.S. military has taken adequate disease prevention measures."

Tamaki demanded transparency in the latest development and said he planned to request talks between the U.S. military and Okinawan officials. He said Okinawan officials also asked the Japanese government to demand that the U.S. provide details including the number of cases, seal off Futenma and Camp Hansen, and step up preventive measures on base.

Okinawan officials made similar requests to the U.S. military on Friday in order to address local residents' concerns, Tamaki said.

The Marines said in a statement Friday that the troops were taking additional protective measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus and were restricting off-base activities. The statement said measures are "to protect our forces, our families, and the local community," without providing details on the infections.

The Marines did not immediately respond Saturday to an Associated Press inquiry about the latest outbreak.

Okinawa is home to more than half of about 50,000 American troops based in Japan under a bilateral security pact, and the residents are sensitive to U.S. base-related problems. Many Okinawans have long complained about pollution, noise and crime related to U.S. bases.

Okinawans also oppose a planned relocation of the Futenma air base from the current site in a densely populated area in the south to a less populated area on the east coast.

Local media reported that the Okinawan assembly adopted a resolution Friday protesting the U.S. military's lack of transparency about its outbreak on base.

Okinawa has about 150 cases of the coronavirus. In all, Japan has about 21,000 cases and 1,000 deaths, with Tokyo reporting more than 200 new cases for a third straight day Saturday.

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

5 dead in hostage situation at troubled South Africa church

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Five people are dead and more than 40 have been arrested after an early-morning hostage situation at a long-troubled church near Johannesburg, police in South Africa said Saturday.

A statement said police and military who responded to reports of a shooting at the International Pentecostal Holiness Church headquarters in Zuurbekom found four people "shot and burned to death in a car" and a security guard shot in another car. Six other people were injured.

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Police said they rescued men, women and children who had been held hostage and appeared to have been living at the church. It was not clear how many were rescued.

The attack by a group of armed people "may have been motivated by a feud" between church members, the police statement said.

The church is one of the largest — and reportedly richest — in South Africa.

Photos tweeted by the police showed more than a dozen men lying on the ground, subdued, along with rifles, pistols, a baseball bat and boxes of ammunition —including at least one marked "law enforcement."

The response by security forces "averted what could have been a more severe bloodbath," national police commissioner Khehla John Sitole said.

Among those arrested were members of the police, defense forces and correctional services.

The church's Zuurbekom headquarters has been the scene of violence between factions more than once in recent years, with shots fired, rocks thrown and cars smashed, according to local news reports.

"Trouble has been brewing at the church following the death of its leader' Glayton Modise' in February 2016," The Sowetan newspaper reported in 2018.

Poland faces momentous choice in tight presidential runoff

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Voters in Poland on Sunday will decide a tight runoff election between populist incumbent President Andrzej Duda and his liberal pro-European Union challenger, Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski.

Recent opinion polls show a race so close that it could hinge on a narrow margin of voters, which added urgency to the final days of campaigning in the central EU nation of 38 million people.

If Duda is reelected, he and the right-wing Law and Justice party that backs him will maintain a hold on almost all key instruments of power in the country, possibly until the next parliamentary election, which is scheduled for 2023.

The party's welfare policies have helped reduce income inequality, creating reservoirs of admiration, especially in rural areas where the party's attachment to Roman Catholic traditions also goes far.

But Law and Justice has exacerbated divisions in society with rhetoric marginalizing liberals, the LGBT community and other minority groups. It has also drawn criticism from some EU leaders for laws increase political influence over Poland's justice system.

A victory for Trzaskowski, who belongs to the main opposition party, Civic Platform, would give him veto power over the laws passed by the ruling party. Also, since the Polish president represents the country abroad, Trzaskowski would bring in a more pro-European side of Poland to European forums.

"If Trzaskowski wins, it will be a clear sign that the society has had enough and wants a kind of politics where compromise is a value," said Wojciech Przybylski, editor in chief of Visegrad Insight, a policy journal focused on Central Europe.

Duda and Trzaskowski, both 48, eliminated nine other candidates in the first round on June 28. Duda got 43.5% support and Trzaskowski got 30.5% but is expected to pick up many of the votes that went to other candidates in the first round. There are nearly 30 million eligible voters and the new president will serve a five-year term.

Duda has the support of the powerful ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

He has traveled across Poland visiting open-air markets and vowing to protect the government's signature spending policies. He was especially well received in farming regions and small towns, where government-paid bonuses have helped alleviate poverty and have given families with children more money to spend.

"This election will decide Poland's development in the future, whether it will continue on the path to development," Duda said at a rally in Starachowice, an industrial town of 50,000 in central Poland.

Duda has claimed that Trzaskowski would cut the popular welfare spending programs — but Trzaskowski has vowed to preserve them, acknowledging the "mistake" his pro-business party made in not introducing

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such help earlier.

Ryszard Sadowski, a 72-year-old who turned out to cheer Duda, praised him as a "reliable" man who kept his promises to help improve the lives of regular people. The retired biology and gym teacher said he benefited from a new yearly cash bonus for senior citizens and others in his family have received payments for children.

"From the moment when the money started coming to the families, suddenly everyone is happy," Sadowski said.

Trzaskowski, a former European Parliament lawmaker, has vowed to heal Poland's social divide and respect democratic rules. His support is strongest in larger cities and among more highly educated people, according to data from the first round.

"The stakes in this election are extremely high," he told reporters this week.

Law and Justice will either "continue to destroy independent institutions, further try to politicize courts, destroy local governments and threaten the freedom of the media, or we will have a democratic state where the president restores the balance," he said. "It's now or never."

At a Trzaskowski rally in Gniezno, Włodzimierz Mokracki, a 74-year-old who still teaches at technical schools, believes Poland's 30-year-old democracy is at stake in this vote.

If Trzaskowski wins, Mokracki said, "we will go back to a democratic state. I will not be afraid to say what I think, because today they are taking the first small steps toward intimidating us."

A text message Saturday to all mobile phones from a government public safety office said the elderly, the disabled and pregnant women need not wait in line to vote Sunday, drawing angry comments on Twitter. Users said it violated the mandatory ban on campaigning Saturday and was an abuse of the office that warns against dangerous weather and other safety threats.

The election was originally scheduled for May, but was put off amid political wrangling over concerns for public health during the coronavirus pandemic. To date, Poland has 37,000 confirmed infections and almost 1,600 virus-related deaths.

Sunday's vote, just like the first round, will be held under strict sanitary conditions.

Voters must wear masks and gloves, maintain a safe distance and use hand sanitizer. They can use their own pens to mark ballots. Election officials must wear masks and sit apart from each other, and ballot boxes will be regularly disinfected in the well-ventilated polling stations.

Morawiecki, the prime minister, said the virus is "retreating" and urged everyone to vote, which was seen as encouraging Duda's older supporters, some of whom did not vote in June's first round out of health concerns.

"The political situation is tense, the outcome may be a very close call, and that has pushed the coronavirus theme into the background," Jaroslaw Flis, a political scientist with the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, was quoted as saying by the Gazeta Prawna newspaper.

Concerns were raised in the first round that some voters outside the country were disenfranchised because many mail-in ballots reached voters too late.

Trzaskowski won 48.1% of votes cast from abroad, while Duda got 20.9%, according to official results.

It remained to be seen if those voting procedures, carried out by Poland's government-controlled diplomatic missions abroad, will improve for the presidential runoff.

25 years since Srebrenica, some victims finally laid to rest

By RADUL RADOVANOVIC Associated Press

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bahrudin Salihovic always knew his father had perished 25 years ago in the storm of violence unleashed after Serb forces overran the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica in the final months of the Balkan country's 1992-95 war. He himself barely survived.

But over the years, he has been waiting for his father's remains to be found in one of dozens of mass graves scattered around his hometown.

On Friday, Salihovic finally huddled over a coffin holding a few of his father's bones, unearthed from a

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death pit found near Srebrenica last November and identified through DNA testing.

"His remains are incomplete, but mother and I decided to bury the part of him that was found, to know where his grave is, to know where to go to pray for him," Salihovic said.

"I know that many people will never be found," he added.

On Saturday, the anniversary of the day the killing began in 1995, Salihovic was finally laying his father to rest in a memorial cemetery at Potocari, just outside Srebrenica, next to 6,610 previously identified victims. Draped in green covers, his father's coffin, and the coffins of eight other victims, were moved to the memorial center several days ago to give surviving relatives time to say their final goodbyes.

Bahrudin cried and prayed over the coffin, but his mother could not muster the strength to join him.

"It means a lot to have at least a few of his bones because for all these years ... we did not know where he is," Hajrija Salihovic said. But she said it will not stop her from agonizing over his last moments on Earth: "His bones do not tell the story of how he met his death. Did he suffer?"

In July 1995, 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 Srebrenica massacre is the only episode of the Bosnian war to be defined as a genocide, including by two U.N. courts.

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 because the town had been declared a U.N. "safe haven" for civilians in 1993.

However, two years later, the outgunned U.N. peacekeepers watched helplessly as Serb troops separated men and boys for execution, bussing the women and girls to Bosnian government-held territory.

Bahrudin Salihovic, then 25, fled through the woods, reaching safety after several days of wandering through the countryside. He was hungry, thirsty, and terrified by the constant echo of Serb machine guns executing others who had been caught.

The Serbian 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. The bodies were scattered across numerous burial sites.

In the years since the war, remains of nearly 7,000 victims of the massacre have been dug out and 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 to more than 700 years in prison for Srebrenica crimes.

However, adding to the suffering of the survivors, many Serbs still deny the extent of the 1995 Srebrenica killings and often even celebrate the executioners. Last year, top Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik called the massacre "a fabricated myth."

"On this sombre anniversary, we are reminded that peace (in Bosnia) is still fragile. We cannot let up in working toward genuine reconciliation," Antonio Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, said in a video message released Friday.

"Reconciliation means rejecting denial of genocide and war crimes and of any effort to glorify convicted war criminals," he added.

In Srebrenica, Bahrudin Salihovic stared into the distance, saying he has constantly thought about "the past 25 years of yearning for a part of my heart that had been hacked away, killed" in the massacre.

"I survived a genocide," he said with a heavy sigh.

Biden forges brand of liberal populism to use against Trump

By BILL BARROW and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden stood in a Pennsylvania metal works shop, just miles from his boyhood home, and pledged to define his presidency by a sweeping economic agenda beyond anything Americans

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have seen since the Great Depression and the industrial mobilization for World War II.

The prospective Democratic presidential nominee promised the effort would not just answer a pandemic-induced recession, but address centuries of racism and systemic inequalities with "a new American economy" that "finally and fully (lives) up to the words and the values enshrined in the founding documents of this nation — that we're all created equal."

It was a striking call coming from Biden, a 77-year-old establishment figure known more as a back-slapping deal-maker than visionary reformer. But it made plain his intention to test the reach of liberal populism as he tries to create a coalition that can defeat President Donald Trump in November.

Trump and his Republican allies argue that Biden's positioning, especially his ongoing work with progressives, proves he's captive to a "radical" left wing. Conversely, activists who backed Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren in the Democratic primary were encouraged, yet cautious, about Biden's ability to follow through while conceding that his plans on issues including climate action and criminal justice still fall short of their ideals.

Biden's inner circle insists his approach in 2020 is the same it's been since he was elected to the Senate in 1972: Meet the moment.

"He's always evolved," said Ted Kaufman, Biden's longest-serving adviser. "The thing that's been consistent for his entire career, almost 50 years, is he never promises things that he doesn't think he can do."

Kaufman, who succeeded Biden in the Senate when he ascended to the vice presidency, said Biden's core identity hasn't changed: "progressive Democrat," friendly to labor and business, consistent supporter of civil rights, believer in government and the private sector. What's different in 2020, he said, are the country's circumstances — a public health crisis, near-Depression level unemployment, a national reckoning on racism — and the office Biden now seeks.

"If you want to get something done, encourage it," Kaufman said. "What he learned over history watching campaigns is that you put forth a program, and then you come into office, and everybody involved knows that's the program you're offering."

Biden's evolution has been on display from the start of his campaign as he's tacked left both in substance and style while trying to preserve his pragmatist brand.

At the start of the Democratic primary, Biden was positioned as offering a moderate alternative to Sanders' call for a "political revolution" and Warren's push for "big structural change."

The former vice president countered their proposed universal government-funded health insurance with a government insurance plan that would compete alongside private insurance. Progressives wanted tuition-free public higher education; Biden offered tuition subsidies for two-year schools. Biden called the climate crisis an "existential threat" and offered a clean energy plan with a trillion-dollar price tag, but resisted the full version of progressives' Green New Deal. He promised hefty tax hikes for corporations and the investor class but opposed a "wealth tax" on individuals' net worth.

Biden noted that his health care platform put him to the left of 2016 nominee Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama, who had jettisoned a "public option" from his 2010 health care law, angering liberal Democrats.

And on race, even before the recent national uprising against police violence, Biden spoke often of the nation's systemic failure "to live up to" the Declaration of Independence. "Thomas Jefferson didn't," he said often in early speeches, alluding to the fact that the Declaration's author and the third U.S. president owned slaves.

Still, Biden isn't immune from the kind of internal party tensions that cost Clinton progressive support in 2016, and he's spent the last three months shoring up his left flank.

Biden and Sanders created policy groups to write recommendations for Democrats' 2020 platform. Those committees unveiled 110 pages of policy plans Wednesday, ahead of Biden's speech in Pennsylvania. They left Biden short of endorsing single-payer health insurance and the most aggressive timelines to achieve a carbon-neutral economy, but ratified his claims of a more progressive slate than his predecessors'.

Further, Biden already had moved toward Sanders' tuition position, endorsing four years of full subsidies for most middle-class households. He adopted Warren's proposed bankruptcy law overhaul and her ideas

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for a government procurement campaign to benefit U.S. companies.

Progressives promise continued pressure.

"I think our job is really to sometimes push him," Washington Rep. Pramila Jayapal said. Jayapal, who helped lead the Biden-Sanders health care task force, said that means being "alongside him, of course, and then sometimes be out in front."

Likewise, Varshini Prakash of the Sunrise Movement, a leading environmental advocacy group, said her group won't abandon the Green New Deal. But she credited Biden for embracing a level of public investment that would remake the energy economy during the pandemic recession.

Biden has managed party unity that wasn't present four years ago.

"I don't consider Biden's proposals a political hat tip to progressives as much as rising to the moment we're living in," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee and a Warren ally.

The former vice president also has amassed an impressive slate of endorsements and built a stable of regular campaign surrogates, including all his major primary rivals. Many of them held events in the hours and days following his speech Thursday in a show of force that Trump, even with his intense online presence and fervent base, would be hard-pressed to match.

For his part, Trump accused Biden of "plagiarizing" his economic populism but also tarred Biden as a leftist who can't win.

"It's a plan that is very radical left, but he said the right things because he's copying what I've done," Trump said Friday before departing the White House for Florida.

Kaufman said Biden will continue campaigning as a nominee unconcerned about such labels. "What's allowed him to survive all these years," Kaufman said, "is that he's not into any of those characterizations."

England World Cup winner Jack Charlton dies at 85

By STEVE DOUGLAS and ROB HARRIS AP Sports Writers

Jack Charlton, an uncompromising central defender who won the 1966 World Cup with England alongside his brother, Bobby, before coaching Ireland to its first major tournaments, has died. He was 85.

Nicknamed "Big Jack," and celebrated for his earthy "beer and cigarettes" image, Charlton was Footballer of the Year in England in 1967. He spent all his club career at Leeds from 1952-73, tying its all-time record of 773 appearances. He won every domestic honor, including the league title in 1969.

Charlton died at home on Friday in his native Northumberland in northeast England, surrounded by his family.

"As well as a friend to many, he was a much-adored husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather," the family said in a statement on Saturday. "We cannot express how proud we are of the extraordinary life he led and the pleasure he brought to so many people in different countries and from all walks of life.

"He was a thoroughly honest, kind, funny and genuine man who always had time for people. His loss will leave a huge hole in all our lives but we are thankful for a lifetime of happy memories."

Premier League games will be preceded by a minute's silence this weekend as a tribute to Charlton and players will wear black armbands.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson remembered Charlton as a "football great whose achievements brought happiness to so many."

The England team Twitter account said "we are devastated." Charlton was one of the players who helped to deliver England's first and only major international title, featuring at the heart of defense alongside captain Bobby Moore as Germany was beaten 4-2 after extra time in the 1966 World Cup final.

"Jack was the type of player and person that you need in a team to win a World Cup," said Geoff Hurst, who scored a hat trick in the final. "He was a great and lovable character."

Charlton had younger brother, midfielder Bobby, on the field at Wembley Stadium to celebrate with him. They embraced in tears at the final whistle.

"Nobody can ever take this moment away from us," Bobby Charlton was quoted as telling Jack.

Jack celebrated the victory by partying in a random person's house in north London, ending up sleeping

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on the floor. That was typical of the man who kept the common touch despite his fame and remained an affable character, fond of life's simple pleasures.

"I got a lift back the following morning and my mother was playing hell as I hadn't been to bed all night," Charlton recalled. "I said, 'Mother, we've just won the World Cup!'"

Charlton made 35 appearances for England between 1965-70, also playing in the 1968 European Championship and the 1970 World Cup. A very different player to Bobby, who was once all-time top scorer for both England and Manchester United, Jack was in the shadow of his brother during his playing career.

It was obvious from an early age that Bobby "was going to play for England and would be a great player," Jack recalled in a 1997 BBC interview. "He was strong, left- and right-footed, good balance, good skills. He had everything, our kid. I was over 6 foot (1.8 meters). Leggy. A giraffe, as I finished up being called."

There were tensions in the relationship between the siblings over Bobby's wife, Norma. But there was a public reconciliation in 2008 when Bobby received a lifetime achievement award at a BBC sports ceremony and Jack told the audience: "Bobby Charlton is the greatest player I've ever seen and he's my brother."

Of all the England World Cup winners to go into management, Jack Charlton was the most successful. He had brief but impressive spells at northeast clubs Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle before being hired by Ireland in 1986 as its first foreign coach.

Adopting a direct, physical and attack-minded style, Charlton got the best out of Ireland's hard-working players and ensured they qualified for the World Cup for the first time in 1990 and again in 1994.

"He was an Englishman becoming the Irish national team manager at a time when it wasn't always easy politically," said Andy Townsend, Ireland's captain at the 1994 World Cup in the United States. "But as Jack always did he breezed into it and took it by the scruff of the neck."

In 1990, the Irish shocked Romania to reach the World Cup quarterfinals where they lost to host Italy. "He brought us ... to places we never thought possible," former Ireland striker Niall Quinn said. "He changed lives. For his players, he gave us the best days of our lives."

Ireland also played at Euro 1988 and the 1994 World Cup under Charlton.

"You get the ball forward, you compete, you close people down, you create excitement, you win balls when you shouldn't win balls, commit yourself to the game," Charlton said of Ireland's style. "A lot of the pundits didn't like it but the teams we played against hated it."

Charlton said his best memory as Ireland coach was beating Brazil 1-0 in a friendly at Lansdowne Road in 1987. He resigned in 1995 after losing in a Euro 1996 playoff to the Netherlands.

"It was not just the success on the field of play," Ireland president Michael D. Higgins said. "Jack's endearing popularity also had much to do with the warmth and personality of the person who quickly became such a legendary sporting icon."

He was awarded honorary Irish citizenship in 1996. A life-size statue of him was erected at Cork Airport, depicting him wearing fishing gear and holding a salmon — recalling Charlton's favorite pastime of fishing.

"I am as much Irish as I am English," said Charlton, who was given the freedom of Dublin.

Born May 8, 1935, in a gritty area of northern England, Charlton worked down the mines as a teenager before going for a trial at Leeds. He grew up in a footballing family, cousin to Newcastle great Jackie Milburn while his uncles Jack, George, Jimmy and Stan all played professionally.

"It left me no choice but to be a footballer," Charlton said.

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

COVID-19 heroes must jump through hoops for workers' comp

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lauded for their service and hailed as everyday heroes, essential workers who get the coronavirus on the job have no guarantee in most states they'll qualify for workers' compensation to cover lost wages and medical care.

Fewer than one-third of the states have enacted policies that shift the burden of proof for coverage

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of job-related COVID-19 so workers like first responders and nurses don't have to show they got sick by reporting for a risky assignment.

Debate over workers' comp in the states is part of a much larger national discussion about liability for virus exposure, with Republicans in Congress seeking a broad shield for businesses in the next coronavirus relief bill.

And for most employees going back to job sites as the economy reopens, there's even less protection than for essential workers. In nearly all states, they have to prove they got the virus on the job to qualify for workers' comp.

Nurse Dori Harrington of Manchester, Connecticut, said she got COVID-19 caring for infected patients at a nursing home, with limited protective gear. Harrington was severely ill and missed five weeks of work, yet her workers' comp claim was initially denied on grounds that her disease was "not distinctively associated with, nor peculiar" to her job.

"It's great to be appreciated, but we need to be taken care of, too," said Harrington, who eventually won her claim with union help. "Nobody should have to fight to be taken care of when they were simply doing their job taking care of other people. It's obnoxious to me."

Workers' compensation is not health insurance, or an unemployment benefit. The \$56 billion, state-level insurance system is one of the nation's oldest forms of a social contract. In exchange for coverage, workers give up the right to sue their employers for job-related harms. Employers pay premiums to support the system. Complex rules differ from state to state.

Dealing with job-related injuries is fairly straightforward, but diseases have always been trickier for workers' comp, and COVID-19 seems to be in a class of its own.

"You don't know per se where you inhaled that breath whereby you became infected," said Bill Smith, president of the Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group, or WILG, a professional association of lawyers representing workers.

You can still reach a logical conclusion, says University of Wyoming labor law professor Michael Duff.

"When you are talking about certain kinds of frontline workers, out in the trenches, day in and day out, that person starts to look like the coal miner who is routinely exposed to a hazardous health condition because of their work," he explained.

Think hospital and nursing home clinical staff, first responders, and meat packing workers, among others.

Acknowledging such realities, more than a dozen states have enacted policies known as "presumptions" that relieve essential workers like Dori Harrington, the nurse from Connecticut, of having to prove how they actually got COVID-19 on the job.

The list includes liberal states like California and conservative states like Kentucky, according to WILG, the lawyers' group. California's policy stands out because it protects all workers, not just those in frontline roles.

At the federal level, there's a push to protect workers at the Transportation Security Administration and the Postal Service.

Duff predicts most states will be reluctant to expand protections.

The issue involves significant costs and hard lobbying. It pits workers, labor groups, lawyers, and social welfare advocates against employers, insurers, and even local and state governments that employ frontline workers.

In Colorado, a drive to enact a COVID-19 presumption for essential workers stalled in the legislature over cost concerns.

"At a time of community spread of a disease like this, it is not appropriate for a workers' comp system to act as a public safety net," said Edie Sonn, head of public affairs for Pinnacol Assurance, Colorado's leading workers' comp insurer, which opposed the effort.

Certain businesses would have seen premiums rise up to 27%, she added.

Industry expert Stefan Holzberger of the AM Best credit rating agency said there's a risk of significant losses for workers' comp insurers, but there are also potential mitigating factors. The bottom line isn't clear yet.

"From what we see so far, the average claims cost associated with a COVID-19 claim is less than the

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loss associated with a typical workers' comp claim," said Holzberger. "Going to the hospital and getting a test is a lot less than getting neck or back surgery."

Another mitigating factor: workplace injuries went down dramatically in the economic shutdown.

For essential workers who got COVID-19 and suffered through fever, fatigue, shortness of breath, racking cough, and other symptoms, the denial or acceptance of a workers' comp claim can have a profound impact.

Fire alarm inspector Kenneth Larkin of Montevallo, Ala., said he was rebuffed by his former employer when he requested workers' comp for a coronavirus test. He had gotten sick soon after inspecting systems in the COVID-19 wing of a hospital.

"I think a certain number of workers are being villainized because they want to take care of themselves," said Larkin, who's retained a lawyer. "It's hard for me as a human being to swallow that, when you place the value of a person's health at less than the cost of a test."

But nurse Debbie Koehler of Warren, Ohio, said she felt validated when her claim was accepted by the insurer for the rehab hospital where she works.

"It's just knowing that my employer is actively admitting that this wrong happened and they are paying for my therapy," she said.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 12, the 194th day of 2020. There are 172 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 12, 1967, rioting erupted in Newark, New Jersey, over the police beating of a Black taxi driver; 26 people were killed in the five days of violence that followed.

On this date:

In 1543, England's King Henry VIII married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr.

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the Army Medal of Honor.

In 1909, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, allowing for a federal income tax, and submitted it to the states. (It was declared ratified in February 1913.)

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was flown by helicopter from the White House to a secret mountaintop location as part of a drill involving a mock nuclear attack on Washington.

In 1962, The Rolling Stones played their first-ever gig at The Marquee in London.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon signed a measure creating the Congressional Budget Office. Former White House aide John Ehrlichman and three others were convicted of conspiring to violate the civil rights of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

In 1984, Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale announced his choice of U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York to be his running-mate; Ferraro was the first woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

In 1991, a Japanese professor (Hitoshi Igarashi) who had translated Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" was found stabbed to death, nine days after the novel's Italian translator was attacked in Milan.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, visiting Germany, went to the eastern sector of Berlin, the first U.S. president to do so since Harry Truman.

In 2003, the USS Ronald Reagan, the first carrier named for a living president, was commissioned in Norfolk, Va.

In 2001, Abner Louima, the Haitian immigrant tortured in a New York City police station, agreed to an \$8.7 million settlement with the city and its police union.

In 2005, Prince Albert II of Monaco acceded to the throne of a 700-year-old dynasty.

Ten years ago: Roman Polanski was declared a free man, no longer confined to house arrest in his

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Alpine villa, after Swiss authorities rejected a U.S. request for the Oscar-winning director's extradition because of a 32-year-old sex conviction. NBA commissioner David Stern fined Cleveland owner Dan Gilbert \$100,000 for releasing a sharp-tongued statement shortly after LeBron James announced he was leaving the Cavaliers for Miami.

Five years ago: On the final day of his three-nation South American tour, Pope Francis put into practice his call for the world's poor and powerless to not be left on the margins of society by visiting a flood-prone slum in Paraguay and insisting that the Catholic Church be a place of welcome for all — sick and sinners especially. Defending champion Novak Djokovic outplayed Roger Federer in four sets, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (10), 6-4, 6-3, to win his third Wimbledon title and ninth Grand Slam championship. Olivia Jordan of Oklahoma was crowned Miss USA during the pageant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

One year ago: The major U.S. stock indexes closed at record highs, with the S&P 500 ending above 3,000 for the first time. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta announced that he was stepping down, amid renewed focus over his handling of a 2008 secret plea deal with financier Jeffrey Epstein when Acosta was the U.S. attorney in Miami. Roger Federer beat longtime rival Rafael Nadal in four sets in a Wimbledon semifinal, advancing to a final against defending champion Novak Djokovic.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Monte Hellman is 91. Actor-comedian Bill Cosby is 83. Singer-musician Christine McVie is 77. Actress Denise Nicholas is 76. Singer-songwriter Butch Hancock is 75. Fitness guru Richard Simmons is 72. Singer Walter Egan is 72. Writer-producer Brian Grazer is 69. Actress Cheryl Ladd is 69. Gospel singer Ricky McKinnie is 68. Country singer Julie Miller is 64. Gospel singer Sandi Patty is 64. Actress Mel Harris is 64. Actor Buddy Foster is 63. Rock guitarist Dan Murphy (Soul Asylum) is 58. Actress Judi Evans is 56. Rock singer Robin Wilson (Gin Blossoms) is 55. Actress Natalie Desselle Reid is 53. Actress Lisa Nicole Carson is 51. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi is 49. Country singer Shannon Lawson is 47. Rapper Magoo is 47. CBS newsman Jeff Glor is 45. Actress Anna Friel is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tracie Spencer is 44. Actress Alison Wright is 44. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., is 44. Actor Steve Howey is 43. Actor Topher Grace is 42. Actress Michelle Rodriguez is 42. Actress Kristen Connolly is 40. Country singer-musician Kimberly Perry (The Band Perry) is 37. Actor Matt Cook (TV: "Man With a Plan") is 36. Actress Natalie Martinez is 36. Actor Bernard David Jones is 35. Actress Ta'Rhonda Jones is 32. Golfer Inbee Park is 32. Actress Melissa O'Neil is 32. Actress Rachel Brosnahan is 30. Actor Erik Per Sullivan is 29. Olympic gold medal gymnast Jordyn Wieber is 25. Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai is 23.