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"I SELDOM END UP WHERE I WANTED TO GO, BUT ALMOST ALWAYS END UP WHERE I NEED TO BE."

-DOUGLAS ADAMS



Council passes on WEB water rate increase

WEB Water notified its customers that there will be a 10 cent per 1,000 gallons of water rate increase effective October 1, 2020. The Groton City Council gave first reading Monday night to pass that increase on to its customers, effective with the October billing.

The council thanked those who were involved in installing the flag pole in the city park.

It was a very short council meeting, lasting about 20 minutes.

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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City June Financial Report

June 2020

1st State Bank Checking Acct	\$ 1,849,404.74
General Cash	\$ 300.00
SD FIT Acct	\$ 1,452,093.21
1st State Bank Water CD	\$ 83,654.27
BB Trust CD	\$ 1,500.00
SD FIT CD	\$ 102,514.21
Cemetery Perp Care CD	\$ 32,876.69
Total	\$ 3,522,343.12

Invested In		
Cash	\$ 300.00	0.01%
1st State Bank	\$ 1,967,435.70	55.86%
SD Fit	\$ 1,554,607.42	44.14%
Total	\$ 3,522,343.12	100.00%

	Beginning Cash Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Transfers	Ending Cash Balance
General	\$ 494,709.02	\$ 208,884.75	\$ 141,708.13		\$ 561,885.64
Bed, Board, Booze Tax	\$ 64,265.73	\$ 2,697.71			\$ 66,963.44
Baseball Uniforms	\$ 1,710.20				\$ 1,710.20
Airport	\$ (3,527.07)	\$ 9,847.42	\$ -		\$ 6,320.35
**Debt Service	\$ 326,903.77	\$ 7,000.66	\$ -		\$ 333,904.43
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 34,706.69				\$ 34,706.69
Water Tower	\$ 180,000.00				\$ 180,000.00
Water	\$ 171,671.19	\$ 37,412.23	\$ 20,311.54		\$ 188,771.88
Electric	\$ 1,662,318.80	\$ 127,626.24	\$ 138,273.82		\$ 1,651,671.22
Wastewater	\$ 297,563.15	\$ 17,985.36	\$ 14,063.88		\$ 301,484.63
Solid Waste	\$ 27,558.55	\$ 9,997.89	\$ 16,614.05		\$ 20,942.39
Family Crisis	\$ 6,904.58	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 6,904.58
Sales Tax	\$ 17,974.03	\$ 10,456.61	\$ 9,909.25		\$ 18,521.39
Employment	\$ 1,215.32	\$ -	\$ 710.16		\$ 505.16
Utility Prepayments	\$ 69,052.89	\$ 893.56	\$ 187.95		\$ 69,758.50
Utility Deposits	\$ 77,638.01	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 800.00		\$ 78,088.01
Other	\$ 354.61	\$ -	\$ 150.00		\$ 204.61
Totals	\$ 3,431,019.47	\$ 434,052.43	\$ 342,728.78	\$ -	\$ 3,522,343.12

**Debt to be Paid		
**2015 Refinance	\$ 2,533,062.50	by 12/1/2035
**West Sewer	\$ 82,929.67	by 10/15/2022
**RR Sewer Crossing	\$ 47,404.01	by 7/15/22
Total Debt	\$ 2,663,396.18	

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Early Lead For W.I.N. Legion Seals Fate For Groton Post #39

Groton Legion Post #39 fell behind early and couldn't come back in an 8-3 loss to W.I.N. Legion on Tuesday. W.I.N. Legion took the lead on a single in the first inning.

Groton Legion Post #39 lost despite out-hitting W.I.N. Legion 11 to nine.

W.I.N. Legion opened up scoring in the first inning. Richardt drove in two when he singled.

W.I.N. Legion scored six runs in the third inning. The big inning for W.I.N. Legion came thanks to singles by W Nilson and Kyle Stahl, a walk by Richardt, and by Garson Gohl.

McQuerie got the win for W.I.N. Legion. He surrendered three runs on 11 hits over seven innings, striking out nine and walking one.

Wyatt Locke took the loss for Groton Legion Post #39. He allowed six hits and eight runs over two and two-thirds innings, striking out four.

Groton Legion Post #39 tallied 11 hits. Chandler Larson, Jonathan Doeden, Locke, and Alex Morris all managed multiple hits for Groton Legion Post #39. Larson went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Legion Post #39 in hits.

W.I.N. Legion collected nine hits. Richardt and M. Walton each collected multiple hits for W.I.N. Legion.

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Two Groton Legion Post #39 Pitchers Combine To Shutout Legion Webster Post 40 Legion

Groton Legion Post #39 defeated Legion Webster Post 40 Legion 10-0 on Tuesday as two pitchers combined to throw a shutout. Darien Shabazz struck out Preston Waddle to finish off the game.

Groton Legion Post #39 got things moving in the first inning, when Connor Thaler singled on a 2-2 count, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post #39 notched five runs in the third inning. Groton Legion Post #39 put the pressure on, lead by a walk by Chandler Larson and a single by Garret Schroeder.

One bright spot for Legion Webster Post 40 Legion was a double by Matthew Block in the fourth inning.

Peyton Johnson took the win for Groton Legion Post #39. He allowed zero hits and zero runs over two and a third innings, striking out six and walking one. Shabazz threw two and two-thirds innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Jake Case took the loss for Legion Webster Post 40 Legion. He went four innings, allowing ten runs on 11 hits and striking out four.

Groton Legion Post #39 saw the ball well today, racking up 11 hits in the game. Kayden Kurtz, Alex Morris, and Schroeder all collected multiple hits for Groton Legion Post #39. Schroeder, Morris, and Kurtz each managed two hits to lead Groton Legion Post #39. Groton Legion Post #39 was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Kurtz had the most chances in the field with 12.

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
LGNW	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	3	2
GRTN	3	2	5	0	X	X	X	10	11	0

0 Legion Webster Post
40 Legion

Tuesday, July 21
8:00PM

Groton Legion Post **10**
#39

Legion Webster Post 40 Legion [more stats](#)

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Braden Holland	2	0	0	0	0	0
Logan Block	3	0	0	0	0	3
Matthew Block	1	0	1	0	0	0
Jake Case	2	0	0	0	0	2
Colby Aldrich	1	0	0	0	1	1
Colby Torrence	2	0	1	0	0	1
Jared Schimmel	2	0	0	0	0	1
Blaize Schimmel	2	0	1	0	0	0
Sterling Rausch	2	0	0	0	0	2
Preston Waddle	2	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	19	0	3	0	1	12

Batting
2B: Matthew Block
TB: Blaize Schimmel, Colby Torrence, Matthew Block 2
SB: Matthew Block

Totals
Team QAB: 7 (35.00%)
 Sterling Rausch, Braden Holland, Jake Case, Logan Block 2, Matthew Block, Colby Aldrich
Team LOB: 5

Fielding
E: Colby Aldrich 2
DP: Braden Holland

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Jake Case	4.0	113	.416	11	10	9	4	8	0
Totals	4.0	113	.416	11	10	9	4	8	0

Pitching
L: Jake Case
HBP: Jake Case 2
Pitches-Strikes: Jake Case 113-47
Groundouts-Flyouts: Jake Case 5-1
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: Jake Case 11-31

Groton Post 39 [more stats](#)

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Darien Shabazz	3	2	1	0	1	1
Connor Thaler	1	2	1	1	2	0
Alex Morris	2	0	2	2	1	0
Chandler Larson	1	1	0	1	2	0
Lee Iverson	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wyatt Locke	2	0	1	0	1	0
Peyton Johnson	2	0	0	0	0	0
Riley Thurston	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jonathan Doeden	1	2	1	1	0	0
Kayden Kurtz	3	1	2	0	0	0
Douglas Heminger	2	0	1	0	1	1
Garret Schroeder	2	2	2	1	0	0
Austin Jones	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthony Schinkel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tristan Traphagen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	21	10	11	6	8	4

Batting
3B: Jonathan Doeden
TB: Jonathan Doeden 3, Douglas Heminger, Wyatt Locke, Alex Morris 2, Garret Schroeder 2, Darien Shabazz, Connor Thaler, Kayden Kurtz 2
RB: Jonathan Doeden, Chandler Larson, Alex Morris 2, Garret Schroeder, Connor Thaler
HBP: Jonathan Doeden, Peyton Johnson
GDP: Wyatt Locke
SB: Chandler Larson, Darien Shabazz, Connor Thaler 2, Kayden Kurtz
CS: Douglas Heminger

Totals
Team QAB: 18 (58.06%)
 Jonathan Doeden, Douglas Heminger 2, Lee Iverson, Chandler Larson 2, Wyatt Locke 2, Alex Morris 2, Garret Schroeder, Darien Shabazz, Connor Thaler 3, Kayden Kurtz 3
Team LOB: 9

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Peyton Johnson	2.1	37	.649	0	0	0	6	1	0
Darien Shabazz	2.2	42	.714	3	0	0	6	0	0
Alex Morris	0.0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	5.0	79	.684	3	0	0	12	1	0

Pitching
W: Peyton Johnson
Pitches-Strikes: Peyton Johnson 37-24, Alex Morris 0-0, Darien Shabazz 42-30
Groundouts-Flyouts: Peyton Johnson 0-2, Alex Morris 0-0, Darien Shabazz 0-2
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: Peyton Johnson 5-9, Alex Morris 0-0, Darien Shabazz 6-11

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
W..N	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	8	9	2
GRTN	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	11	1

W.I.N. Legion [more stats](#)

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Kade Stahl	3	1	0	0	1	3
M. Walton	2	1	2	0	2	0
Stroechein	3	2	1	0	1	1
B Fischback	4	0	0	0	0	2
Richardt	3	0	2	3	1	0
Gilbert	3	1	1	0	0	1
McQuerie	3	1	1	0	1	0
Garson Gohl	1	1	0	0	1	1
W Nilson	3	1	1	2	0	0
Kyle Stahl	3	0	1	2	0	0
Totals	28	8	9	7	7	8

Batting

TB: Kyle Stahl, M. Walton 2, McQuerie, Richardt 2, Gilbert, Stroechein, W Nilson
RBI: Kyle Stahl 2, Richardt 3, W Nilson 2
ROE: Kyle Stahl
FC: W Nilson
HBP: Garson Gohl
GIDP: Kyle Stahl
CS: Richardt

Totals

Team QAB: 19 (52.78%)
 Kyle Stahl, M. Walton 4, McQuerie, Richardt 4, Gilbert 2, Stroechein 2, Garson Gohl 3, Kade Stahl, B Fischback

Team LOB: 7

Fielding

E: Gilbert, Stroechein
DP: Gilbert

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
McQuerie	7.0	106	.689	11	3	1	9	1	0
Totals	7.0	106	.689	11	3	1	9	1	0

Pitching

W: McQuerie
Pitches-Strikes: McQuerie 106-73
Groundouts-Flyouts: McQuerie 2-4
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: McQuerie 20-30

Groton Post 39 [more stats](#)

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Darien Shabazz	2	0	0	0	1	1
Jonathan Doeden	3	1	2	0	0	0
Alex Morris	3	2	2	1	0	0
Wyatt Locke	3	0	2	0	0	0
Chandler Larson	3	0	3	1	0	0
Connor Thaler	3	0	1	0	0	2
Tristan Traphagen	3	0	1	0	0	1
Riley Thurston	3	0	0	0	0	1
Peyton Johnson	3	0	0	0	0	2
Garret Schroeder	2	0	0	0	0	1
Lee Iverson	1	0	0	0	0	1
Austin Jones	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthony Schinkel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	29	3	11	2	1	9

Batting

2B: Jonathan Doeden, Alex Morris
TB: Jonathan Doeden 3, Chandler Larson 3, Wyatt Locke 2, Alex Morris 3, Connor Thaler, Tristan Traphagen
RBI: Chandler Larson, Alex Morris
ROE: Wyatt Locke
FC: Riley Thurston
GIDP: Peyton Johnson
PIK: Jonathan Doeden

Totals

Team QAB: 14 (46.67%)
 Jonathan Doeden, Lee Iverson, Peyton Johnson, Chandler Larson, Wyatt Locke, Alex Morris 2, Garret Schroeder 2, Darien Shabazz, Connor Thaler 2, Tristan Traphagen 2

Team LOB: 6

Fielding

E: Riley Thurston
DP: Riley Thurston

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Wyatt Locke	2.2	88	.568	6	8	8	4	5	0
Connor Thaler	4.1	66	.606	3	0	0	4	2	0
Alex Morris	0.0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7.0	154	.584	9	8	8	8	7	0

Pitching

L: Wyatt Locke
HBP: Wyatt Locke
WP: Wyatt Locke
Pitches-Strikes: Wyatt Locke 88-50, Alex Morris 0-0, Connor Thaler 66-40
Groundouts-Flyouts: Wyatt Locke 3-0, Alex Morris 0-0, Connor Thaler 3-3
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: Wyatt Locke 9-20, Alex Morris 0-0, Connor Thaler 9-16

GFP Commission Proposes Improvements to 2020 Pheasant Season

PIERRE, S.D. – At their July meeting, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission made several proposals that would provide more opportunities to hunters in upcoming hunting seasons.

The first proposal is a 10 a.m. CT start time for the resident-only pheasant season and the traditional pheasant season in 2020. Also included is an extension of the season to January 31. Currently, the pheasant season ends the first Sunday in January, which fluctuates with the calendar year.

“Season extensions like these would allow more opportunity for hunters to get into the field and enjoy South Dakota’s great outdoors,” said Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Director for GFP.

If the proposal is passed, the changes would take effect for the upcoming 2020 season.

The commission also proposed an increase to the daily bag limit next season starting December 1, 2021, which would allow hunters to harvest four (4) rooster pheasants per day from December 1 through the end of the season. The possession limit would increase from 15 to 20 rooster pheasants after Dec. 1, 2021.

The 2021 start time of this proposal was set to allow time for preserve operators in the state to prepare for an adjusted release requirement.

“Because they have a license to operate as a preserve, they start hunting earlier in the fall and continue hunting after the traditional season,” said Kirschenmann. “They are also required to release a certain number of pheasants onto the landscape each year. A higher bag limit will result in adjusted release amounts for these operations. With the impacts on businesses due to COVID-19 this year, we want to give them time to prepare.”

To keep other upland bird hunting seasons in alignment, the commission proposed to extend the prairie grouse, quail and partridge seasons to end on January 31.

All these efforts are coming together alongside GFP’s partnership with the Department of Tourism to get more people in the field hunting pheasants in South Dakota.

“With abundant public land hunting opportunities, pheasant hunters have access to some of the greatest spots to chase birds and work their dogs here in South Dakota,” said Hepler. “We have worked hard and will continue to work hard on habitat and access. Our department continues to partner with private landowners to create and improve habitat on their farms and ranches.”

South Dakota has increased public hunting access to private land within the primary pheasant range by adding over 7,500 acres to the Walk-In Area public hunting access program. Each year, GFP provides incentives that help landowners establish over 10,000 acres of food habitat plots and 140 acres of tree and shrub plantings. In the last year, over 4,000 acres of cropland have been planted to grassland habitat through the Second Century Working Lands Habitat program. In addition, over 16,000 acres of new grassland habitat will be created by last winter’s general CRP sign up.

Individuals can comment on the proposals by going online to gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing).

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held on Sept. 2-3, tentatively at the Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City.

#149 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

This was another seriously bad day: 65,700 new cases reported, a 1.7% increase, our 5th-worst day that extends our streak to 22 of our worst-ever days. I have only 10 states or territories showing steady or declining gains in new cases. This is grim.

Texas set a record for seven-day average new cases, 15% higher than it was a week ago, and hospitalization numbers are growing too. Arizona is still in trouble, with a new case average double where it was a month ago and an increasing number of deaths; but it appears things may be leveling off there. Let's hope that trend continues.

There is some early indication new cases in Houston may be leveling off. It's certainly too soon to declare victory, but there may be a developing trend that would be most welcome: Both new cases and hospitalizations appear to be steadying. Several hospitals are into their surge capacity, but there's been a great deal of cooperation among them to accept transfers as needed, which eases the pressure. Staffing shortages have become a serious issue as health care workers are getting sick from Covid-19 themselves, leaving nurses without appropriate experience caring for infected patients. Something to continue watching, however, is the high test positivity rate, still around 25%. So things are still tight and could get worse again, but there may be better times ahead.

California has also reported that transmission rates seem to be declining. They are also reporting that hospital capacity appears to be sufficient. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Mark Ghaly, said it is too soon to show the effects of the statewide masking requirement, but that things look somewhat more hopeful. They are also apparently planning to release new guidance, but no indication was given whether that would be to tighten or loosen restrictions.

We are now at 141,945 deaths; 0.8% over yesterday. 1103 new deaths were reported today. We've been over 1000 deaths only one other day this month, so it's been a long lull. The numbers, however, have been rising all month, consistent with the higher new case rates we've been seeing for some weeks now. This is dismaying, but not at all unexpected. The most deaths were reported in Arizona, Texas, and Florida. Texas and Florida set records for seven-day average deaths six times in the last week. Texas's seven-day average is almost 39% higher than it was a week ago, and Florida broke its record on two consecutive days in the last week.

The military is showing up as a significant source of transmission. The infection rate in the military has doubled since April, and this is having effects not only in foreign countries where personnel are based, but also in the communities around domestic bases as personnel go off base to socialize.

We finally have a fairly broad sampling of the population tested for antibodies to this coronavirus in an attempt to determine what proportion of the population has been infected. Turns out it does, as expected, vary from place to place, so the number of actual infections ranges from six (in Connecticut) to 24 (in Missouri) times the number of reported cases. Blood samples were drawn from 10 geographic regions including places with large numbers of infections. Collection sites were the San Francisco Bay area, Connecticut, south Florida, Louisiana, the Minneapolis-St. Paul-St. Cloud metro area, Missouri, the New York City metro area, the Philadelphia metro area, Utah, and western Washington. They were collected in early spring and then again several weeks later (March 23 to May 12) as part of blood collection for other medical testing, and results were adjusted for test performance characteristics (96% sensitivity and 99.3% specificity). The highest percentages were seen in places like New York (6.9%) which was hard-hit early on, and the lowest percentages (1%) were seen in places like the Bay area.

The conclusion we can draw from this is that we are far from anything approaching herd immunity from natural infections; most of the population remains susceptible. We've lost 140,000 lives to get where we are now, and so to get to 60%, the bottom of the range most experts name for herd immunity, even allowing for somewhat lower mortality as we've learned more about how to treat this, we'd lose a whole lot more.

There's been some new work done on transmission which has led to a modification of CDC guidance

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on isolation and quarantine periods. Generally, the word, isolation, is used for those who have tested positive or show symptoms while quarantine is applied to those who've been in contact with cases. The new recommendations are that people with active cases, that is, symptoms, isolate for 10 days after symptoms begin and 24 hours after their fever is gone. Asymptomatic confirmed positive people should isolate for 10 days after their testing date. Those who were never tested, but had contact with an infected person, are to quarantine for 14 days; this longer period allows a few days' time from exposure for the person to begin shedding virus before the 10-day period begins.

The evidence points to most people being infectious for only a short time, four to nine days with five days covering most of the viral-shedding period for most people. While there is a small number of people who will shed virus for far longer, up to 20 days, this is not considered a common phenomenon. There have been some indications from lab tests that people are producing antibodies as soon as five days into infection so that, in most cases, no replication-competent virus persists by the ninth day. The amount of virus seems to drop off quite rapidly, almost from the first day of symptoms. We have general agreement that we cannot write recommendations which cover every eventuality to absolutely assure no shedding, but these appear to cover the vast majority of cases.

I watched a video of an interview done with a Dr. Richard Bartlett claiming he'd found a "silver bullet" for Covid-19, an inhaled corticosteroid medication used by asthma patients called budesonide. There were dark hints in the video that this is one of the things that nebulous "they" we're always being warned against don't want us to know (likely for nefarious reasons) and some wild claims this is a cure. You know I had to check this one out.

So I did some reading, and there may be something here. This doctor isn't the one who invented this; this drug and some other inhaled corticosteroids have been studied fairly extensively as a potential treatment for coronavirus disease for a while. I read a thorough literature review from June that had a look at prior research done with the two other coronaviruses that cause serious disease, SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV; given the similarities between these and SARS-CoV-2 that causes Covid-19 this is a likely first step. What that review found was evidence from in vitro testing done in the lab on lab-grown tissue cells, a common first step in evaluating a drug. It showed that budesonide was not as effective as another inhaled corticosteroid, ciclesonide. That drug showed some antiviral activity (inhibiting the replication of the virus itself) as well as the anti-inflammatory activity the doctor claims in this YouTube video.

There was a report from Japan on patient outcomes with budesonide, but it involved only three patients, so it's hard to make the case that this is anything but suggestive. It is clear that further study is both warranted and needed before we draw conclusions; and so there is a clinical trial enrolling patients now. It is being conducted by the Queensland University of Technology and Oxford University. This looks like a well-designed controlled study involving 400+ patients and is looking to discover whether use of this drug reduces the need for hospitalization by day 28 of the study.

We should have answers soon. I will say that this doctor is overselling his case at the moment. What he has is a very small, uncontrolled, unblinded study done by a single physician with a few patients. This is what scientists call anecdotal evidence, that is, a few stories of success, not evidence of efficacy, and certainly not evidence he has a "silver bullet"—yet. This study aims to get such evidence if it's out there to get.

So I wouldn't get too excited yet, but it is possible the evidence can be collected to show this drug is effective. And we wait.

We talked last night about the fact that the theatrical summer repertory season appears to be dead because live shows are just too dangerous; we also talked about how an acting program overcame this loss. There's another approach to the problem in Vermont where the Vermont Shakespeare Festival is an annual tradition that has been cancelled by rising coronavirus cases. The Festival floated a different idea for its community of Burlington; they're billing it as Shakespeare to You or, far more memorably, Bard to Your Yard. Turns out you can call and order up some live Shakespeare delivered to your home.

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You can choose from a menu of scenes you'd like to see played: perhaps the famous balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet" or maybe Hamlet's "To be or not to be" speech. Or you might prefer a sonnet; there are some of those available as well. When you've made your selection and scheduled it, an actor will show up on your doorstep at the appointed hour, ring the bell, and then perform for you. No costuming, just an Elizabethan ruff around the neck. When they've finished, that's it; they go home. A friend can order it up for you too as a gift—a cheap one. The cost for this private show? Zero.

Timothy Billings, a Shakespeare expert at Middlebury College pointed out that this is much the way Shakespearean-era performers operated, traveling from town to town to perform where they could find an audience. One of the actors said he appreciated the opportunity to perform in this unique setting, explaining, "Theater is always an ignition point for conversation, dialogue, connection, joy, problem solving, and hope."

Joy, problem solving, and hope all seem like good things to share these days. How about we all look for opportunities to do that too? You don't have to be a Shakespearean actor to spread a little joy and hope, do you? Let's give that a shot this summer; we have weeks left in which to implement.

And be well. We'll talk again.

Happy July, Industry Partners!

After working for more than a year to put it all together (in collaboration with outstanding state and federal partners), the team and I find it hard to believe South Dakota's Mount Rushmore Fireworks Celebration has come and gone! What a day and evening! Here are a few of the results we have been tracking since July 3:

Millions around the globe tuned in to watch the show. Viewership on FOX NEWS alone reached 5.5 million. Our Facebook livestream reached more than 1.45 million viewers.

Using very conservative estimates, the fireworks celebration carried an advertising value of more than \$22 million.

Again, using very conservative estimates, the event generated \$2 million in direct visitor spending and spurred \$160,000 in immediate tax revenues to state and local governments.

Web traffic to South Dakota pages skyrocketed during the celebration. Google searches for "Mount Rushmore" reached their all-time high at a rate 1,250% higher than the previous record, which was the July 4th holiday in 2005. The South Dakota Department of Tourism's web traffic increased by 872% compared to July 3-4 of last year – the equivalent of \$95,000 worth of paid promotion.

The feedback we are receiving about the fireworks show from visitors around the country – and I mean from every region of the country – has been so positive and complimentary about our state, our people, and our industry. I wish you could read or hear these comments. They make us incredibly proud to call South Dakota home. I want to take this opportunity to thank every industry member who assisted us with the celebration in some way, shape, or form. Your assistance and constant encouragement helped us overcome challenges and inspired us to do all we could to put our state's best foot forward. We are so grateful for all of you.

Jim Hagen
Secretary of Tourism

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Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20	July 21
Minnesota	43,170	43,742	44,347	45,013	45,470	46,204	47,107
Nebraska	21,717	21,979	22,134	22,361	22,481	22,583	22,847
Montana	1,952	2,096	2,231	2,366	2,471	2,533	2,621
Colorado	37,686	38,155	38,726	39,344	39,788	40,142	40,566
Wyoming	1581	1,605	1,644	1,678	1,713	1,728	1,790
North Dakota	4493	4565	4668	4792	4907	5019	5126
South Dakota	7572	7652	7694	7789	7862	7906	7943
United States	3,431,574	3,499,398	3,576,430	3,649,087	3,712,445	3,773,260	3,831,405
US Deaths	136,466	137,419	138,360	139,278	140,120	140,534	140,909

Minnesota	+398	+572	+605	+666	+457	+734	+903
Nebraska	+318	+262	+155	+227	+120	+102	+264
Montana	+109	+144	+135	+135	+105	+62	+88
Colorado	+444	+469	+571	+618	+444	+354	+424
Wyoming	+36	+24	+39	+34	+35	+15	+62
North Dakota	+51	+72	+103	+124	+115	+112	+107
South Dakota	+48	+80	+42	+95	+73	+44	+37
United States	+68,518	+67,824	+77,032	+72,657	+63,358	+60,815	+58,145
US Deaths	+861	+953	+941	+918	+842	+414	+375

	July 22
Minnesota	47,457
Nebraska	23,190
Montana	2,712
Colorado	41,059
Wyoming	1,830
North Dakota	5207
South Dakota	8019
United States	3,902,233
US Deaths	142,073

Minnesota	+350
Nebraska	+343
Montana	+91
Colorado	+493
Wyoming	+40
North Dakota	+81
South Dakota	+76
United States	+70,828
US Deaths	+1,164

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July 21st COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent
from State Health Lab Reports

Grant and Jackson counties joined the list of fully recovered counties as the state has more recoveries than positive cases. There were 76 positive cases with 25 of them in Pennington County and 20 in Minnehaha County. There were 85 recoveries in the state, resulting in a reduction of active cases down to 820. Brown County had two positive cases and Spink County had one.

Brown County:

Active Cases: -1 (16)
Recovered: +3 (350)
Total Positive: +2 (368)
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (19)
Deaths: 2
Negative Tests: +46 (3696)
Percent Recovered: 95.1% (+.3)

South Dakota:

Positive: +76 (8010 total)
Negative: +1115 (90,711 total)
Hospitalized: +2 (776 total). 62 currently hospitalized (down 3 from yesterday)
Deaths: 0 (118 total)
Recovered: +85 (7081 total)
Active Cases: -9 (820)
Percent Recovered: 88.3 +.2

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding (47), Potter (244), unassigned +619 (3943).

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Grant County, Jackson County): Bon Homme 13-13, Campbell 1-1, Deuel 5-5, Grant 17-17, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Jackson 7-7, Jones 1-1, Sanborn 12-12, Stanley 14-14, Sully 1-1, Tripp 19-19.

The following is the breakdown by all counties. The number in parenthesis right after the county name represents the number of deaths in that county.

Aurora: +1 recovered (1 active case)

Beadle (9): +5 recovered (38 active cases)	Clark: 2 active cases
Bennett: 2 active cases	Clay: +2 positive (11 active cases)
Bon Homme: Fully Recovered	Codington: +4 positive, +1 recovered (20 active cases)
Brookings: +1 positive, +4 recovered (10 active cases)	Corson: +1 positive, +1 recovered (4 active cases)
Brown (2): +2 positive, +3 recovered (16 active cases)	Custer: 1 active case
Brule: +1 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)	Davison: +2 positive, +2 recovered (15 active cases)
Buffalo (3): 24 active cases	Day: 1 active case
Butte: +2 positive (5 active cases)	Deuel: Fully Recovered
Campbell: Fully Recovered	Dewey: 44 active cases
Charles Mix: +1 recovered (38 active cases)	Douglas: 5 active cases

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Edmunds: +1 recovered (1 active case)
 Fall River: 3 active cases
 Faulk (1): 2 active cases
 Grant: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 17-17)
 Gregory: +1 recovered (1 active case)
 Haakon: Fully Recovered
 Hamlin: 1 active case
 Hand: 1 active case
 Hanson: +1 positive (3 active cases)
 Harding: No infections reported
 Hughes (3): +1 recovered (11 active cases)
 Hutchinson: +1 recovered (5 active cases)
 Hyde: Fully Recovered
 Jackson (1): +2 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 6-7)
 Jerauld (1): 1 active cases
 Jones: Fully Recovered
 Kingsbury: 1 active case
 Lake (1): +2 recovered (8 active cases)
 Lawrence: +1 positive (4 active cases)
 Lincoln (1): +4 positive, +11 recovered (31 active cases)
 Lyman (1): 10 active cases
 Marshall: 1 active case
 McCook (1): 4 active cases
 McPherson: 1 active case
 Meade (1): +1 positive (6 active cases)
 Mellette: +3 positive (8 active cases)
 Miner: 1 active case
 Minnehaha (62): +20 positive, +26 recovered (225 active cases)
 Moody: +1 recovered (5 active cases)
 Oglala Lakota (1): +3 positive (27 active cases)
 Pennington (23): +25 positive, +9 recovered (160 active cases)

Perkins: +1 recovered (1 active case)
 Potter: No infections reported
 Roberts: +2 recovered (6 active cases)
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered
 Spink: +1 positive (3 active cases)
 Stanley: Fully Recovered
 Sully: Fully Recovered
 Todd (3): +1 recovered (5 active cases)
 Tripp: Fully Recovered
 Turner: 8 active cases
 Union (2): +2 positive, +4 recovered (20 active cases)
 Walworth: 4 active cases
 Yankton (2): +2 recovered (7 active cases)
 Ziebach: 2 active cases

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, July 21:

- 3,739 tests (1,315)
- 5,207 positives (+ 82)
- 4,319 recovered (+ 100)
- 94 deaths (+ 1)
- 794 active cases (- 20)

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	715	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	994	12%
Hispanic	1157	14%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1316	16%
Other	819	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	3018	38%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	9
Brown	2
Buffalo	3
Butte	1
Faulk	1
Hughes	2
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
Lincoln	1
Lyman	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	62
Oglala Lakota	1
Pennington	23
Todd	3
Union	2
Yankton	2

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	35	34	334
Beadle	571	524	1706
Bennett	5	3	463
Bon Homme	13	13	665
Brookings	105	95	2208
Brown	368	350	3696
Brule	38	32	633
Buffalo	104	77	570
Butte	7	2	647
Campbell	1	1	75
Charles Mix	98	60	1013
Clark	16	14	357
Clay	99	88	1127
Codington	107	87	2374
Corson	23	19	233
Custer	11	10	690
Davison	71	56	1984
Day	19	18	505
Deuel	5	5	337
Dewey	45	1	1534
Douglas	15	10	371
Edmunds	10	9	354
Fall River	14	11	852
Faulk	24	21	154
Grant	17	17	623
Gregory	6	5	322
Haakon	1	1	264
Hamlin	13	12	551
Hand	7	6	238
Hanson	15	12	156
Harding	0	0	47
Hughes	78	64	1467
Hutchinson	21	16	798

Hyde	3	3	113
Jackson	7	6	398
Jerauld	39	37	253
Jones	1	1	45
Kingsbury	8	7	477
Lake	48	39	795
Lawrence	24	20	1793
Lincoln	422	390	5424
Lyman	84	73	829
Marshall	5	4	358
McCook	21	16	563
McPherson	6	5	183
Meade	59	52	1672
Mellette	17	9	288
Miner	11	10	223
Minnehaha	3889	3602	23118
Moody	26	21	537
Oglala Lakota	132	104	2812
Pennington	750	567	9269
Perkins	4	3	115
Potter	0	0	244
Roberts	62	56	1410
Sanborn	12	12	193
Spink	17	14	994
Stanley	14	14	210
Sully	1	1	61
Todd	65	57	1743
Tripp	19	19	544
Turner	33	25	781
Union	166	144	1655
Walworth	18	14	484
Yankton	91	82	2717
Ziebach	3	1	234
Unassigned****	0	0	3943

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

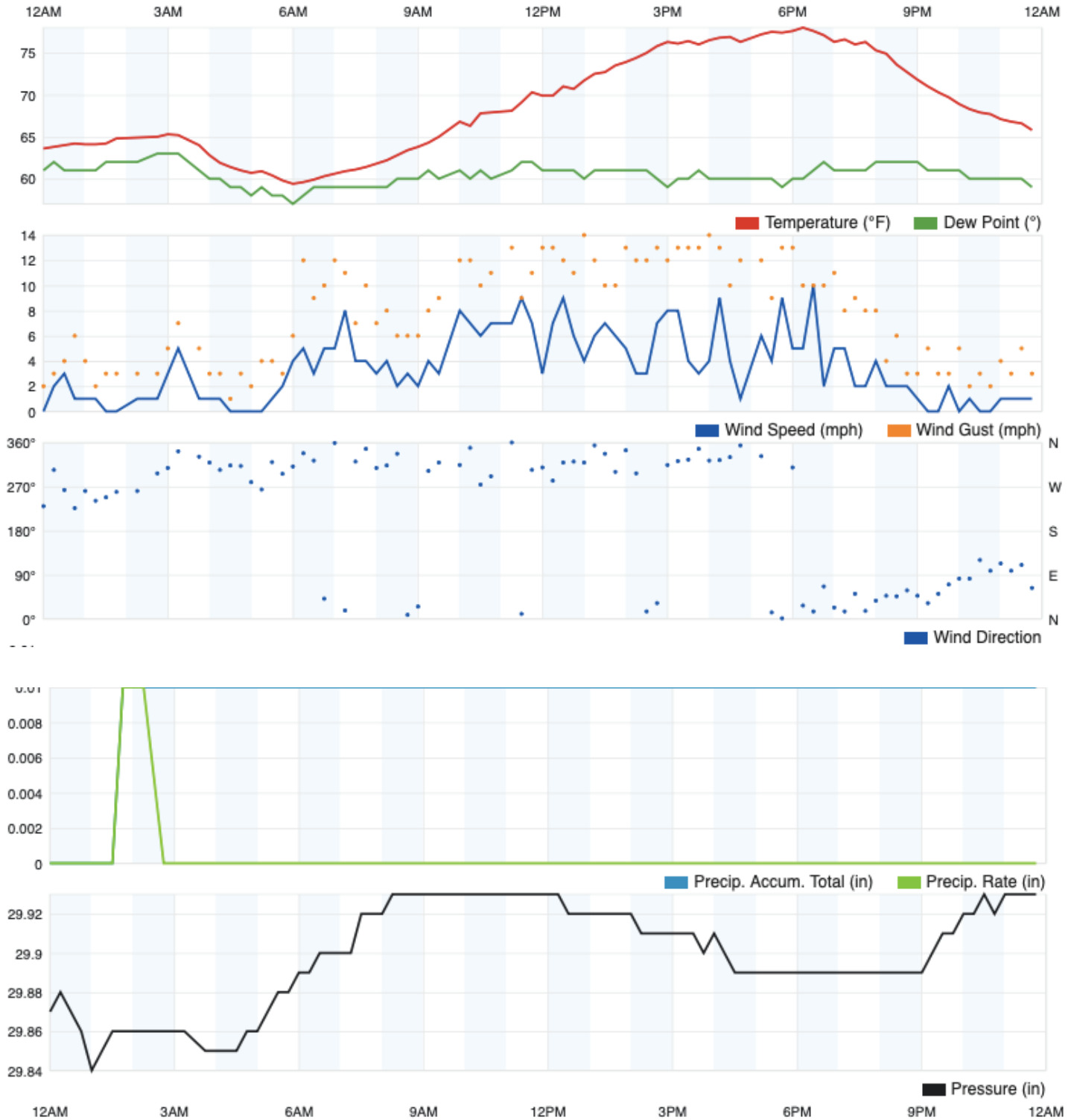
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3895	61
Male	4124	57

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	928	0
20-29 years	1678	1
30-39 years	1651	6
40-49 years	1250	7
50-59 years	1226	14
60-69 years	730	23
70-79 years	291	17
80+ years	265	50

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 84 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 67 °F

Thursday



Mostly Sunny

High: 89 °F

Thursday
Night



Chance
T-storms

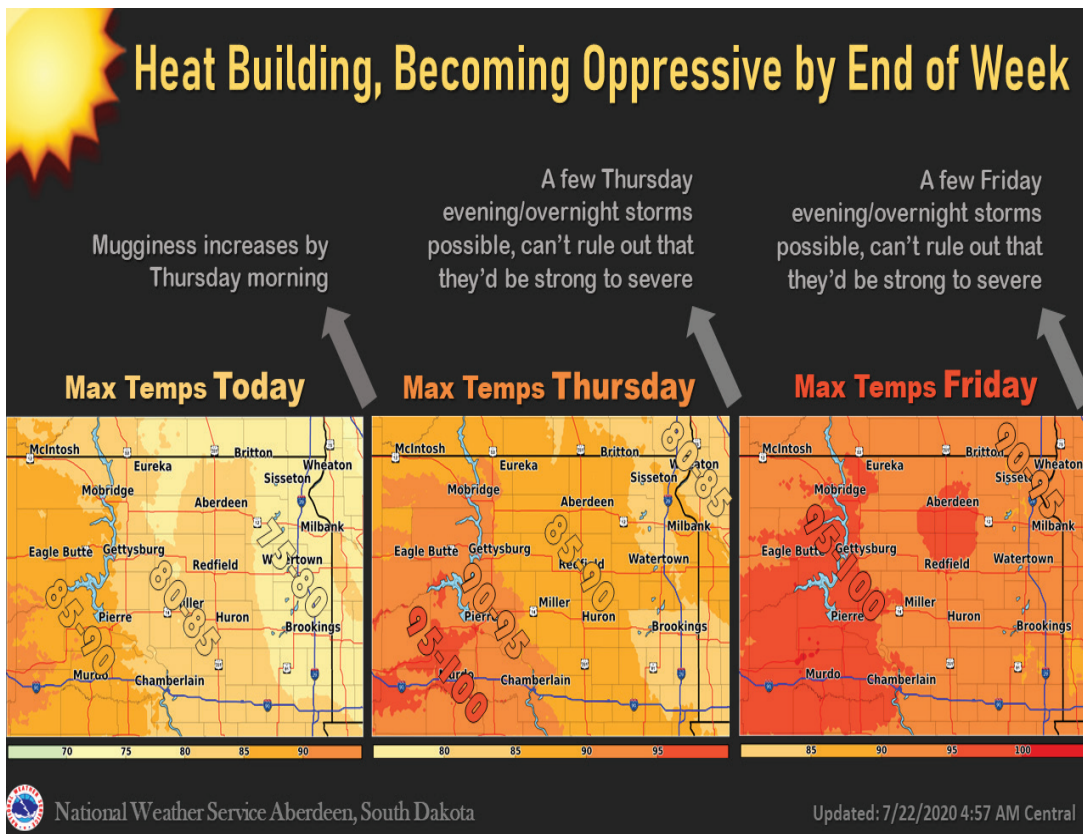
Low: 75 °F

Friday



Hot

High: 97 °F



A few thunderstorms currently across Central SD will continue sliding east this morning, before dissipating as they approach the James Valley. Relatively comfortable temperatures today will become less-so in the days to follow as heat and humidity builds. 100+ degree heat index values are possible by Friday.

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Today in Weather History

July 22, 1926: An estimated F2 tornado moved east across the northern part of Hyde County, destroying two barns.

July 22, 1999: An F0 tornado touched down briefly on a farm southeast of Onida. Over half of the roof of a 40 by 45-foot building was torn off and deposited in a tree belt 200 yards to the north. A grain auger was also damaged when it was pushed up against a granary. A semi-trailer was blown over. About 400 acres of ripe wheat was also flattened, and some sunflowers suffered damage as a result of the tornado.

July 22, 2011: Numerous severe thunderstorms brought hail up to the size of golf balls, damaging winds over 70 mph, along with flash flooding to parts of north central and northeast South Dakota. Most of the hail occurred in Grant and Codington counties. Several roads were flooded by nearly 4 inches of rain in Grant County. Five miles west of South Shore in Codington County, over 3 inches of rain brought flash flooding to several roads. The strong winds were observed in Corson, Walworth, and McPherson counties. About 9 miles west of Long Lake, eighty mph winds ripped a grain bin from the fasteners, pushed the north wall of a garage in, snapped several corral poles, moved a semitrailer four feet, and caused some minor damage to the house. Also, many branches were broken off along with several trees uprooted.

1988: Dust devils are not a unique phenomenon, but usually they stay minimal. This was not the case in Dickinson County, Iowa where a powerful dust devil developed on the edge of Lake Okoboji. It picked up whole sections of several docks and swept away all of the loose dirt in the area. Estimated winds exceeded 60 mph.

1993: The levee, holding back the flooding Mississippi River at Kaskaskia, Illinois, ruptures, forcing the town's people to flee on barges. The incident at Kaskaskia was the most dramatic event of the flood. At 9:48 a.m., the levee broke, leaving the people of Kaskaskia with no escape route other than two Army Corp of Engineers barges. By 2 p.m., the entire town was underwater.

1918 - A single bolt of lightning struck 504 sheep dead in their tracks at the Wasatch National Forest in Utah. Sheep often herd together in storms, and as a result the shock from the lightning bolt was passed from one animal to another. (David Ludlum)

1986 - Hurricane Estelle passed 120 miles south of the Hawaiian Islands creating a ten to twenty foot surf. The large swells resulted from a combination of high tides, a full moon, and 50 mph winds. The hurricane also deluged Oahu Island with as much as 6.86 inches of rain on the 24th and 25th of the month. (Storm Data)

1987 - Barrow, AK, receives 1.38 inches in 24 hours on the 21st and 22nd, an all-time record for that location. The average annual precipitation for Barrow is just 4.75 inches. Thunderstorms in Montana produced 4 to 6 inches of rain in Glacier County causing extensive flooding along Divide Creek. Missoula, MT, received 1.71 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Six cities in the south central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Pueblo, CO, with a reading of 48 degrees. Thunderstorms over the Atlantic Coast Region drenched Wilmington, NC, with 6.49 inches of rain in about eight hours. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms prevailed across the southeastern third of the country. Afternoon thunderstorms in Florida produced wind gusts to 86 mph at Zephyrhills, and gusts to 92 mph at Carrollwood and Lutz. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 69 mph at Crystal Lake damaged nineteen mobile homes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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DOING OR BEING

Cathy Rigby was a member of the United States Women's Gymnastics team in the Olympics in Munich, Germany in 1972. Many remember the tragedy caused by terrorists at the Olympics that year. No one remembers Cathy for her one and only desire that year - to win a gold medal.

She trained hard and did very well. But she did not win the gold medal. After her event, she sought out her mother. Weeping uncontrollably, she threw her arms around her and said, "I'm sorry, but I did my best."

"We know that you did, and God knows that you did," replied her mother. She then added, "Doing your best is much better than being recognized for being the best."

Winning an event in track and field, or any other athletic contest requires three things: purpose, determination, and dedication. If an athlete lacks any of the three, victory is doomed.

Paul describes training for and winning a race as a way to illustrate how the Christian life demands the same characteristics that are necessary for an athlete to "win the gold:" self-denial and a grueling training program. As Christians, we are running toward our reward, which we will receive when we arrive in heaven. If we want to "win the race" and receive the prize that God offers us, we must sacrifice the things in life that keep us from placing Him first in our lives.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we all want to "win the prize" You have waiting for us. Give us the courage and willingness to discipline ourselves and become victorious. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

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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
- 07/25/2020 City-Wide Rummage Sales
- **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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

14-25-26-41-43, Mega Ball: 15, Megaplier: 3

(fourteen, twenty-five, twenty-six, forty-one, forty-three; Mega Ball: fifteen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$113 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$106 million

South Dakota lawmakers criticize Noem on tribal checkpoints

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers on Tuesday called for formal consultation processes between tribal and state governments following Gov. Kristi Noem's handling of a conflict over coronavirus checkpoints set up by tribes.

Legislators on a committee tasked with navigating the relationship between tribes and the state criticized the governor for escalating the conflict and suggested that an established process for reaching agreements could help avoid future disputes.

The Republican governor and the leaders of several tribes have exchanged legal threats and barbs after Noem threatened to sue tribes in May if they didn't remove checkpoints on federal and state highways. Several tribes, including the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Rosebud Sioux Tribe, have set up checkpoints on roads leading to their reservations in an effort to keep unnecessary visitors away during the pandemic. Tribal leaders have feared the coronavirus could decimate their members, including many who have health conditions and lack access to a robust health care system.

Noem and the tribes differed in their accounts of how the dispute evolved. The governor claimed that her threat of a lawsuit only happened after weeks of behind-the-scenes communication because the tribes had not received permission to set up the road stops on highways that belonged to the federal or state government. They are illegal, she argued. But the tribes countered they had consulted with federal and state authorities and that their position as sovereign nations allowed them to set up the checkpoints.

While Noem backed away from her threat to sue, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe filed its own lawsuit against the federal government over the issue. That lawsuit alleges that federal authorities have tried to coerce and threaten the tribe ever since Noem asked for federal help to end the checkpoints.

Republicans and Democrats on the State-Tribal Relations Committee criticized Noem's communication with tribes and lawmakers on the issue. In the days after Noem threatened to sue the tribes, the lawmakers sent a letter to the governor requesting a conversation on how to handle tribal relationships and offering their help in navigating discussions. But the committee chairman Shawn Bordeaux, a Democrat from Mission, said they never received a response from her office.

"That is so disrespectful," said state Sen. Lance Russell, a Hot Springs Republican who is a frequent critic of the governor. "I think that is what has driven this whole issue to brinksmanship."

Lawmakers said they planned to reach out to the governor again and request that her office meet with the committee.

But the governor's office fired back at the criticism.

"It's odd to me that a few legislators— those who write laws— are comfortable with some groups picking and choosing which ones to follow," said Ian Fury, a spokesman for the governor.

He indicated that the governor is sticking to her stance that the checkpoints are illegal and added that Noem's administration has "spent countless hours working closely with tribes, and that will continue."

Noem's Secretary of Tribal Relations Dave Flute, a former chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, distanced himself from Noem's claim that the checkpoints are illegal. He said he has never called them illegal, adding that some tribes including the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe have not worked with the governor's office to establish their checkpoint.

The governor seems to favor an informal relationship with tribal leaders, saying repeatedly that they have her cell phone number if there are any issues.

But Rep. Tamara St. John, a Sisseton Republican who is a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, said that defined consultation processes would help avoid future conflicts. Tribes have established methods for negotiating with the federal government, but there is no established process with the state, according to St. John. Each tribe has a set of protocols for those consultations.

St. John added that issues from the checkpoints could have been resolved with "some basic, old-fashioned, sit-down talk type of communication."

Lawmakers have considered inviting tribal leaders to a discussion in Fort Pierre in the coming months.

South Dakota reports 76 COVID-19 cases, no deaths

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota on Tuesday reported 76 new cases of COVID-19 while the state saw a slight increase in the number of daily cases reported over the last two weeks, according to data from the Department of Health.

While several states have seen large spikes in cases, South Dakota has not experienced a significant increase. Both active cases and hospitalizations from the virus have declined in recent days. The state has recorded 8,019 total cases of COVID-19, but 88% of those have recovered, according to the Department of Health.

So far, 118 people have died from the virus, but no new deaths were reported on Tuesday.

Pennington County, which contains Rapid City, saw the largest increase in cases with 25 new infections recorded. Influxes of tourists for events like the Mount Rushmore fireworks display on July 3 caused some doctors to be wary of an increase in cases, but the Department of Health has not yet reported an outbreak from the event.

Couple arrested in ax, crowbar attack in dispute over TV

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls couple is facing criminal charges after police say they broke into an apartment armed with an ax and crowbar in a dispute over a TV.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the 23-year-old woman and 21-year-old man are facing charges of aggravated assault, burglary and cruelty to a minor.

Clemens says the two went to an apartment building Friday, climbed over a fence and the woman used the ax to break the patio door glass. There were two children and three adults in the apartment.

Police say the woman struck a man in the hand while her partner continued to swing the crowbar. The injury required stitches at the hospital, the Argus Leader reported.

The residents inside the apartment eventually started throwing things back at the pair and they left. They were arrested a short time later. Clemens says the confrontation involved a dispute over who owned a TV.

AP Exclusive: Aid from top donors drops even as need soars

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A new snapshot of the frantic global response to the coronavirus pandemic shows some of the world's largest government donors of humanitarian aid are buckling under the strain: Funding commitments, for the virus and otherwise, have dropped by a third from the same period last year.

The analysis by the U.K.-based Development Initiatives, obtained in advance by The Associated Press, offers a rare real-time look at the notoriously difficult to track world of aid.

At a time when billions of people are struggling with the pandemic and the ensuing economic collapse

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— on top of long-running disasters like famine, drought or unrest — more, not less, money is urgently needed. New virus protection equipment must be bought for almost everything, from maternity wards in African villages to women's shelters in Syrian refugee camps.

"We have not seen substantial funding for COVID, yet the situation is going to get worse," Rosalind Crowther, South Sudan country director for the aid group CARE, told the AP in May, saying "some donors have backtracked on earlier commitments." The group runs two dozen health centers, more than 40 feeding centers and a safe house in one of the world's most fragile countries following civil war.

In Somalia, a mother of twin baby boys told Amnesty International she had to give birth in her makeshift home in a camp for displaced people because no local health clinic was open. Aid workers told Amnesty researcher Abdullahi Hassan the newly reduced services were due to lack of funding.

"You can imagine how risky this is," he told the AP.

During the first five months of this year, overall aid commitments from the largest government donors were \$16.9 billion, down from \$23.9 billion in the same period last year, according to the new analysis, which drew on data from the United States, the United Kingdom, European Union institutions, Germany, France, Canada and others.

Many of these donors — notably the U.K., whose aid commitments have dropped by nearly 50% from last year, according to the analysis — are struggling as their economies contract. The sheer magnitude of the crisis is another challenge as every part of the world needs help — and now.

The reality on the ground could be even worse than the analysis indicates: Crucially, it only shows promises of aid. Just how much of the billions of dollars pledged have reached those in need is not yet clear.

In some cases, the response to the pandemic has been alarmingly slow. In June, more than two dozen international aid groups wrote to the U.S. about its pledged coronavirus aid, saying that "little to no U.S. humanitarian assistance has reached those on the front lines" and calling the uncharacteristic delays "devastating."

Their letter came as the U.S. promoted global leadership on the COVID-19 response with more than \$1 billion committed. Aid groups are now waiting to see whether the U.S. will deliver millions of dollars this month as indicated.

This new analysis, like any measure of aid, is imperfect — it looks at data published to the International Aid Transparency Initiative, which is voluntary but widely used. It is also more current than other measures: The data was downloaded on July 10.

The drop in funding is keenly felt by aid groups on the ground.

A survey in May of 92 members of Bond, the U.K. network for nongovernmental organizations working in international development, found just 16% had received any new funding from the U.K.'s Department for International Development while fighting the pandemic in developing countries, and 41% were responding without any extra funding at all.

Some aid groups are warning the window to prevent the pandemic's worst effects is narrowing while the global humanitarian response "remains woefully underfunded," as Refugees International said last week.

Meanwhile, "we are concerned that we are seeing a repurposing of existing funds ... rather than a release of new funding," Selena Victor, Mercy Corps' senior director for policy and advocacy, has said of the EU's response.

An U.N.-run emergency delivery service that has kept tons of humanitarian aid flowing to scores of countries hurt by travel restrictions could shut down in the coming weeks because "there has been no significant funding" from donor countries, the World Food Program said. Just 19% of the \$965 million request has come in.

While individual governments struggle, the largest so-called multilateral organizations including the World Bank and the Global Fund have stepped up, perhaps not yet affected by budget constraints.

Their commitments this year are \$48.8 billion, or 70% greater than the same period last year, according to the analysis. That's a positive sign but "must be sustainable to tackle the whole crisis," according to the analysis.

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The challenges remain vast as various streams of assistance, including remittances, falter. "All resources ... are set to fall," according to a separate new Development Initiatives report.

That drop could continue for months. Official development assistance — government aid for developing countries' economic development and welfare — could shrink by almost \$20 billion worldwide between last year and 2021 under a worst-case scenario that envisages an extended pandemic. The cuts could continue "as government assess domestic priorities," that report says.

COVID-19 arrived in a world already facing a growing number of humanitarian crises, from Yemen to Myanmar to West Africa's Sahel. Now the pandemic "threatens to create a funding vacuum," the report says.

As of the end of June, it says, U.N.-coordinated calls for aid for this year were up 25% from last year because of additional needs created by the pandemic, reaching more than \$37 billion.

Last week, the United Nations again increased its request for the pandemic response alone to \$10.3 billion — the largest appeal in its history.

Only \$1.7 billion has been received. Up to \$40 billion might be needed.

"The response of wealthy nations so far has been grossly inadequate and dangerously short-sighted," U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said. "Failure to act now will leave the virus free to circle 'round the globe."

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

5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. SILENT SPREAD OF VIRUS Baffles Scientists If people who appear healthy can transmit the illness, it may be impossible to contain as 4 in 10 infected people don't ever have symptoms.
2. TRUMP ALL OVER MAP ON STATES' RIGHTS To battle the coronavirus, he has told states they are largely on their own. But when it comes to stamping out protests in cities led by Democrats, Trump is sending in federal troops and agents.
3. BITTER RIVALS NO MORE Elizabeth Warren has become an unlikely confidant and adviser to Joe Biden, collaborating closely with the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.
4. US, CHINA TENSIONS RISE China expresses outrage after the U.S. ordered it to close its consulate in Houston, a move the State Department said was to protect "American intellectual property and America's private information."
5. POWERFUL QUAKE STARTLES ALASKA The magnitude 7.8 temblor struck the Alaska Peninsula, triggering a tsunami warning that sent residents fleeing to higher ground before it was called off.

US orders China to close its consulate in Houston

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The United States said Wednesday that it has ordered China to close its consulate in Houston "to protect American intellectual property" and the private information of Americans.

China strongly condemned the move, the latest in a series of steps by the Trump administration as it ratchets up pressure on the world's second-largest economy over trade, technology, human rights and security.

Firefighters responded to reports of papers being burned on the consulate grounds Tuesday night but were barred entry, according to Houston news media reports.

The U.S., in a brief statement, did not provide any details on why the consulate in Texas was targeted.

"The United States will not tolerate (China's) violations of our sovereignty and intimidation of our people, just as we have not tolerated (its) unfair trade practices, theft of American jobs, and other egregious behavior," said the statement, which was attributed to State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus.

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The consulate was informed of the decision Tuesday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said, calling it "an outrageous and unjustified move that will sabotage relations between the two countries."

"The unilateral closure of China's consulate general in Houston within a short period of time is an unprecedented escalation of its recent actions against China," Wang said at a daily news briefing in Beijing.

He warned of firm countermeasures if the U.S. does not reverse itself. Besides its embassy in Beijing, the U.S. has five consulates in mainland China, according to its website. They are in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Wuhan and Shenyang.

Houston media reports said authorities responded to reports of a fire at the Chinese Consulate. Witnesses said people were burning paper in what appeared to be trash cans, the Houston Chronicle reported, citing police.

Police were told that occupants were given until 4 p.m. Friday to leave the property, the Chronicle said.

Houston police said in a tweet that officers responded to "a meet the firefighter" call at the Chinese Consulate building at 3417 Montrose Blvd. The tweet said smoke was observed in an outdoor courtyard area, and that officers were not allowed to enter the building.

Wang accused the U.S. of opening Chinese diplomatic pouches without permission multiple times, confiscating Chinese items for official use and imposing restrictions on Chinese diplomats in the U.S. last October and again in June. He also said that U.S. diplomats in China engage in infiltration activities.

"If we compare the two, it is only too evident which is engaged in interference, infiltration and confrontation," Wang said.

He also said that the Chinese Embassy in Washington has received bomb and death threats, and accused the U.S. government of fanning hatred against China.

President Donald Trump, his reelection prospects damaged by the coronavirus outbreak, has blamed China repeatedly for the pandemic. Almost every day brings a fresh U.S. action against what Trump has called the rising Asian superpower's exploitation of America.

Already this week, the Commerce Department has sanctioned 11 Chinese companies over alleged human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region and the Justice Department said two Chinese stole intellectual property and targeted companies developing coronavirus vaccines.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to continue the attacks Thursday in a speech on U.S.-China relations at the Nixon Library in California.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, saying U.S.-China relations face their most severe challenge since diplomatic ties were established in 1979, asked recently if the two nations would be able to stay the course after a more than four-decade voyage.

Associated Press diplomatic writer Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

Cops: 15 injured after shooting outside Chicago funeral home

By HERBERT G. McCANN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Fifteen people were injured, one person was being questioned and multiple suspects were being sought after gunfire erupted outside a funeral home on Chicago's South Side where at least one squad car was present, police said.

First Deputy Superintendent Eric Carter said mourners outside a funeral home in the Gresham neighborhood were fired upon Tuesday from a passing vehicle. Carter said several targets of the shooting returned fire. The vehicle later crashed and the occupants fled in several directions. Carter said all the victims were adults.

A person of interest was being questioned Tuesday night but no arrests had been made, said police spokesman Hector Alfaro.

The shooting comes as the Department of Homeland Security is planning to deploy dozens of federal agents to Chicago to deal with an uptick in violent crime in the city.

Most victims were taken by the Chicago Fire Department to nearby hospitals in serious condition, said

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spokesman Larry Langford. They include 10 women from the ages of 21 and 65, including one of whom was shot in the chest, police said. The 65-year-old was treated at the scene.

Other victims include a man who was shot in the chest, arm and forearm, and two men, 32 and 22, who were shot in a hand, police said.

Police said the shooting happened at or near the site of a funeral or post-funeral event for a man fatally shot last week in the Englewood neighborhood.

Arnita Geder and Kenneth Hughes said they heard gunshots while in their home watching television, adding that they came outside to find bodies that were shot up and "laying everywhere."

"We thought it was a war out here," Geder told the Chicago Sun-Times. "It's ridiculous all the shooting that's going on out here, it really has to stop."

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said Tuesday night in a series of Twitter posts that "far too many people" have attended funerals and attempted to begin the process of healing entire communities following another "senseless tragedy." She added that people with information should speak up, even if anonymously.

"When a person picks up a gun, we suffer as a city. This cannot be who we are. Too many guns are on our streets and in the hands of people who should never possess them," Lightfoot continued. "These individuals will be held accountable."

Carter said at least 60 shell casings were found at the scene of the shooting. It wasn't immediately known if anyone other than attendees of the funeral were victims, nor if anyone in the SUV had been wounded. The person being questioned was uninjured, according to authorities. Investigators haven't determined how many people were involved in the shooting.

A squad car was assigned to monitor the funeral as a precaution because of the sizable number of mourners attending, Carter said, adding that he was unaware of any warnings from community activists that trouble at the funeral was imminent.

"The district commander took every precaution that he could," Carter said.

Lightfoot, after threatening to sue if President Donald Trump acted without her permission, also noted earlier Tuesday that the city would be working with federal agents to fight crime.

Lightfoot has been skeptical of federal agents being sent to Chicago by Trump due to the controversy in Portland, Oregon, where the Trump administration sent federal officers after weeks of protests there over police brutality and racial injustice that followed the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Lightfoot said she expects Chicago will receive resources that will plug into existing federal agencies that already work with the city, including the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Oregon's governor and Portland's mayor have expressed anger with the presence of the federal agents, saying that the city's protests had started to ease just as the federal agents started taking action.

Trump has framed such protests in the nation's large cities as a failure by "liberal Democrats" who run them, praised the officers' actions and said he was looking to send agents to other cities.

He pointed to rising gun violence in Chicago, the nation's third-largest city, where more than 63 people were shot, 12 fatally, over the weekend.

Associated Press writer Torrance Latham contributed to this report.

Powerful 7.8 quake hits Alaska isles; tsunami threat over

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A powerful 7.8 earthquake struck the Alaska Peninsula late Tuesday, triggering a tsunami warning that sent residents fleeing to higher ground before it was called off without any damaging waves. Hundreds wore masks against the spread of the coronavirus as they gathered in shelters.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the quake struck Tuesday at 10:12 p.m. local time. It was centered in waters 65 miles (105 kilometers) south-southeast of Perryville, Alaska at a depth of 17 miles (28 km), deeper than an earlier estimate.

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"No reports of any damage," Kodiak Police Sgt. Mike Sorter told The Associated Press early Wednesday morning. "No injuries were reported. Everything is nominal."

The quake triggered tsunami warning for a South Alaska, the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands that was called off early Wednesday about two hours after the quake.

Tsunami warning sirens could be heard blaring in videos posted on social media as residents heeded warnings to evacuate.

On Kodiak Island, the local high school opened its doors for evacuees, as did the local Catholic school, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

"We've got a high school full of people," said Larry LeDoux, superintendent of the Kodiak School District. "I've been passing out masks since the first siren sounded," he told the Daily News.

"Everything's as calm as can be. We've got probably 300, 400 people all wearing masks," he said.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center later called off the tsunami threat for other U.S. and Canadian Pacific coasts in North America as well.

"There was actually even no reported wave activity for our area," Sorter said of the tsunami that was eventually canceled.

According to the USGS, since 1900 there have been six other earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 and higher within 155 miles (250 km) of Tuesday's quake. The largest of those was a 8.2 quake in 1938.

The Alaska-Aleutian Trench was also where a magnitude 9.2 quake in 1964 was centered.

Trump has been on both sides of the states' rights argument

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When it comes to states' rights, President Donald Trump is all over the map.

To battle the coronavirus, he's told states they're largely on their own. But when it comes to stamping out protests in cities led by Democrats, Trump is sending in federal troops and agents — even when local leaders are begging him to butt out.

It's a driven-by-expedience approach that's been a hallmark of his stormy presidency, one that has little to do with ideology and more to do with reelection efforts.

"After seeing Trump in the White House for three and a half years, anyone expecting to find classical ideological consistency is bound to be mistaken," said Andrew J. Polsky, a political science professor at Hunter College. "All of this is done for partisan political purposes with an eye toward the election."

For months now as he's tried to skirt responsibility for the nation's flawed response to the coronavirus, Trump has put the onus on states, first to acquire protective gear and testing agents and then to scale testing and contact tracing.

"The federal government is not supposed to be out there buying vast amounts of items and then shipping. You know, we're not a shipping clerk," Trump said in March when testing in the U.S. severely lagged behind other countries and governors were pleading for help as they competed against one another on the open market.

Just a month later, Trump flipped to asserting vast executive authority as he pushed states to reopen their economies fast.

"When somebody is the president of the United States, the authority is total," he declared in April, in an inaccurate interpretation of the Constitution.

He quickly reversed course, saying he'd leave reopening plans up to the states, but continued to threaten to intervene if he didn't like what they were doing. Now, he's pressuring schools to fully reopen in September, saying he'll pull funding from school districts that continue to keep kids home.

That approach stands in stark contrast with Trump's view of "law and order," the mantle under which he's decided to run his 2020 race.

After National Guard troops were deployed to Washington, D.C., to quell protests near the White House following the police killing of George Floyd, the Department of Homeland Security now has agents patrolling Portland, Oregon, to protect federal buildings, despite pleas from the mayor, governor and local

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activists to leave.

And DHS is poised to deploy about 150 Homeland Security Investigations agents to Chicago to bolster local law enforcement, according to an official with direct knowledge of the plans who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Keep your troops in your own buildings, or have them leave our city," Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said Friday.

"We are trying to help Portland, not hurt it," Trump tweeted in response. "Their leadership has, for months, lost control of the anarchists and agitators. They are missing in action. We must protect Federal property, AND OUR PEOPLE."

Chad Wolf, the acting DHS secretary, whose agency was created after the Sept. 11 attacks to protect the country from terrorist threats, said Monday on Fox News the agency had every right to protect some 9,000 federal facilities across the country.

"I don't need invitations by the state, state mayors or state governors to do our job," Wolf said. "We're going to do that, whether they like us there or not."

But Jann Carson, interim executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, said federal agents dressed in camouflage, indiscriminately using munitions and abducting people in unmarked vans have escalated tensions and made the situation worse.

"What the federal agents are doing in Portland should concern people everywhere in the United States," she said. "We know that the president is trying to change the narrative (and say) that cities like Portland are in crisis, that he's got to send in federal agents to bring about law and order, and that couldn't be further from the truth.

"He wants to be a law-and-order president," she said. "But he is not bringing law and order. This is lawlessness and needs to be stopped."

Oregon's two U.S. senators and two of its House members have demanded U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Wolf immediately withdraw "these federal paramilitary forces from our state." And top leaders in the U.S. House said Sunday they've called on federal inspectors general to investigate.

Still, Jennifer Selin, an assistant professor of constitutional democracy at the University of Missouri whose work has focused, in part, on the separation of powers, said that, while Trump has been unusually blatant in his efforts, presidents have relied on politicized interpretations of federalism since George Washington and the Whiskey Rebellion over taxes.

Selin pointed to the 1950s and 1960s as the country grappled with the extent to which it should be up to states to integrate schools and allocate housing.

"I think that the short answer is that federalism can be used strategically and politically, which, to be 100% honest, is nothing new," she said.

Polsky said that, when it comes to the virus, Trump has attempted "to displace responsibility for dealing with the pandemic onto states, onto governors. I don't think that was driven by ideology. I think that was driven by wanting to keep responsibility as far from him as possible."

But when it comes to law enforcement, Polsky sees "an attempt to stroke unrest in sites that can then be broadcast on television, at least in the conservative and right-wing media" to rouse the Republican base and scare suburban voters into believing a strong approach is needed.

"It's selective federalism," added Julian Zelizer, a historian at Princeton University. "I think obviously when it comes to closing and how to do reopening, he has been incredibly hands-off ... he hasn't used his presidential hand in ways that he could have. And then you have protests in the city of Portland, which really shouldn't be a center of discussion right now, and then you have these troops being sent."

"Obviously with President Trump, there's no logic to it," Zelizer said — other than what may serve his political interests.

'Very frightening': Opposition grows to US agents in cities

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Trump administration is facing growing pushback — in the courts and on the streets — to sending federal agents to Portland, Oregon, where protests have spiraled into violence, and vowing to do the same in other Democratic-led cities.

Far from tamping down the unrest that followed George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police, the presence of federal agents on the streets of progressive Portland — and particularly allegations they have whisked people away in unmarked cars without probable cause — has energized two months of nightly protests that had begun to devolve into smaller, chaotic crowds.

President Donald Trump's administration also faces multiple lawsuits questioning its authority to use broad policing powers in cities. One filed Tuesday says federal agents are violating protesters' 10th Amendment rights by engaging in police activities designated to local and state governments. The legal action was filed by the Portland-based Western States Center, which helps organize and promote the rights of communities of color and low-income people.

Oregon's attorney general sued last week, asking a judge to block federal agents' actions. The state argued that masked agents have arrested people on the street, far from the U.S. courthouse that's become a target of vandalism, with no probable cause.

"It is time for the Trump troops to go home and focus their attention on other activities," Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said on MSNBC.

Federal authorities, however, said state and local officials had been unwilling to work with them to stop the vandalism and violence against federal officers and the U.S. courthouse in Portland.

"We need to find a peaceful outcome," acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said at a news conference Tuesday in Washington. "At the end of the day, we have to protect the federal property and the law enforcement officers."

The use of federal agents against the will of local officials also has set up the potential for a constitutional crisis, legal experts say. It could escalate if Trump sends federal agents elsewhere, as he says he plans to do, including to Democratic-led Chicago.

Federal forces were deployed to Portland in early July, and tensions have grown since: A protester was hospitalized this month with critical injuries after a U.S. Marshals Service officer struck him in the head with a round of less-lethal ammunition. Anger flared again over the weekend after video surfaced of a federal agent hitting a U.S. Navy veteran repeatedly with a baton while another agent sprays him in the face with pepper spray.

Crowds had recently numbered fewer than 100 people but swelled to more than 1,000 over the weekend, again attracting a broader base in a city that's increasingly unified and outraged.

Among the protesters was Mardy Widman, who watched demonstrations against racial injustice unfold in her hometown for weeks but stayed away because, at 79, she feared getting the coronavirus.

When Trump sent in federal officers, that changed: A masked Widman took to the street Monday with other Portland residents.

"It's like a dictatorship," Widman, a grandmother of five, said, holding a sign that read: "Grammy says: Please feds, leave Portland."

"I mean, that he can pick on our city mostly because of the way we vote and make an example of it for his base is very frightening," she said.

Federal agents again used force to scatter protesters early Tuesday and deployed tear gas and rubber bullets as some in the crowd tried to pull plywood off the shuttered entryway of the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse.

Portland police said some protesters lit fires in the street and tried several times to set them at the courthouse doors.

Wolf defended the federal response, saying the Department of Homeland Security has clear authority to protect government property and detain people suspected of threatening personnel or damaging such

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property.

Wolf said agents have been assaulted with lasers, bats, fireworks, bottles and other weapons and "yet the city of Portland takes little to no action." While he said federal agencies have made 43 arrests since July 4, he disputed that they were done by unidentified agents, noting that they have the word "police" on their uniforms.

"These police officers are not storm troopers, they are not Gestapo. That description is offensive," Wolf said.

Trump plans to send about 150 Homeland Security Investigations agents to Chicago to help local law enforcement deal with a spike in crime, an official with direct knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

The Trump administration also has sent more than 100 federal officers to Kansas City to help quell a rise in violence after the shooting death of a young boy there.

The Democratic leaders of Illinois and Chicago have pushed back on the planned deployment there. On Tuesday, Gov. J.B. Pritzker called it a "wrongheaded move." Mayor Lori Lightfoot softened her previous opposition, however, saying, "I've been very clear that we welcome actual partnership. But we do not welcome dictatorship."

Associated Press writers Colleen Long and Ben Fox in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>.

Crisis hits Lebanon's hospitals, among the best in Mideast

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's hospitals, long considered among the best in the Middle East, are cracking under the country's financial crisis, struggling to pay staff, keep equipment running or even stay open amid a surge in coronavirus cases.

Private hospitals, the engine of the health system, warn they may have to shut down. Chronically underfunded public hospitals, which have led the fight against the virus, fear they will be overrun.

Across the country, hospitals and doctors are reporting shortages in vital medical supplies such as anesthesia drugs and sutures. With power cuts that run through most of the day, they pour money into fuel for generators, and many are turning away non-critical cases to conserve resources.

"The situation is really catastrophic, and we expect a total collapse if the government doesn't come up with a rescue plan," said Selim Abi Saleh, the head of the Physicians Union in northern Lebanon, one of the country's poorest and most populated regions.

One of the country's oldest and most prestigious university hospitals, the American University Medical Center, laid off hundreds of its staff last week citing the "disastrous" state of the economy and causing uproar and concern.

Medical facilities have let go of nurses and reduced salaries, their finances running dry in part because they can't collect millions owed to them by the state. Nearly a third of Lebanon's 15,000 physicians aim to migrate or already have, a doctors' union official said, based on the number who have sought union documents they can use abroad to prove their credentials.

So far Lebanon has kept a handle on its pandemic outbreak, through strong lockdowns, aggressive testing and a quick response, largely by public hospitals. The country has reported fewer than 3,000 infections and 41 deaths.

But with cases rising, many in the field fear the health sector can't hold up under a surge and a financial crisis worsening every day.

Lebanon's liquidity crunch has crippled the government's ability to provide fuel, electricity and basic services. The shortage of dollars is gutting imports, including medical supplies and drugs.

Prices have spiraled, unemployment is above 30% and nearly half the population of 5 million now live

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in poverty.

Private hospitals, which make up around 85% of the country's facilities, emerged dominant after the country's brutal 15-year civil war to become the pride of Lebanon's system, drawing patients from around the region with specialized services and advanced surgeries.

But the entire health sector, like much of the country, has also run on political jockeying and patronage in Lebanon's sectarian system. Medical practitioners say politics determine how much payment from the state private hospitals receive while public facilities remain understaffed.

The insurance system, with multiple health funds, is chaotic, making collection difficult and coverage patchy. For years, state insurance funds failed to reimburse hospitals. Private hospitals say they are owed \$1.3 billion, some of it dating back to 2011.

"We can't fight COVID and at the same time keep looking behind our backs to see whether I have enough financial and material resources," said Firas Abiad, director general of Rafik Hariri University Hospital, the public hospital leading the coronavirus fight.

Abiad, who has won praise for his transparency in handling the pandemic, is getting by with stop-gap measures. When he raised alarm this month that the hospital was running out of fuel, a rush of private donations flowed in. The government pledged to provide fuel for public facilities.

"I doubt anybody has any long-term strategy," Abiad said. "We are doing it one fight at a time, and we are surviving one day at a time."

Financing must be priority, he said. "Generators can't run on empty, without fuel. Hospitals can't run without financing."

Minister of Health Hamad Hassan told The Associated Press Monday he was counting on government support to keep hospitals as a "red line." But he urged hospitals to do their part to push through the crisis.

"Hospitals have invested in this sector for 40 years. Whoever has invested that long should have the courage to invest for six months or a year to help his people and not give up on them," he said.

Private hospitals' struggles are compounded by a banking sector crisis that has locked down foreign currency accounts and complicated imports and the issuing of letters of credit.

In the northern village of Majdalaia, the state-of-the-art, 100-bed Family Medical Center hospital stood nearly empty last week. Its owner, oncologist Kayssar Mawad, said he had to shut down one of the five floors to save costs.

Mawad has had to refuse patients with state insurance. The government already owes him millions of dollars, he said.

"It has to be a life or death situation," Mawad said. "This is not sustainable."

He said in recent weeks, he admitted 20 patients at most, while treating others as outpatients to save costs. His facility is prepared to deal with COVID-19 patients but he said it won't because it is too expensive.

"We don't want to get to a Venezuela-scenario where we diagnose the patient but ask them to bring their own medicine, food, and sheets," he said. "I hope we don't get there."

There was only one baby in the hospital's 13-bed neonatal unit. On the adults' floor, there were three patients.

One of them, an 83-year-old man recovering from arterial surgery, had to pay out of pocket because his private insurance won't cover the room or the stent. If a brother hadn't come from Germany to cover the costs, "he would have died," said his daughter, Mayada Qaddour.

The 32 public hospitals won't be able to fill the place of private hospitals threatened with closure, said Ahmad Moghrabi, chairman of Orange Nassau, Lebanon's only government-run maternity hospital.

Moghrabi, now in his 70s, rebuilt the hospital in the northern city of Tripoli from scratch since he took it over in 2003, almost totally through foreign donations. Still, it relies on state funds and insurance payments — both minimal — so it has never been able to operate at full capacity of 5,000 births a year.

Now desperately short of funds and fuel, the hospital has to juggle priorities. It suspended its neonatal unit to keep life-saving dialysis running.

"In 2020, (a hospital) can't do without a neonatal unit," Moghrabi said. "With the current circumstances

in Lebanon, we are going back to the 1960s, even further.”

MLB players taking visible stance on social justice

By DAVID BRANDT AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Major League Baseball hasn't always been at the forefront of the social justice movement in recent years, with leagues like the NBA and NFL usually taking center stage.

But in the aftermath of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis — and because of the quirks of a coronavirus-altered sports schedule — baseball is in the position of having the American sports world largely to itself for the next week.

Even before Thursday's opening day, players and coaches in the sport are taking a more active approach to supporting racial justice.

Among the examples: San Francisco manager Gabe Kapler and several players kneeling during the national anthem before an exhibition game and several Dodgers — including NL MVP Cody Bellinger and three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw — speaking out about racial injustice in a video message.

“I wanted to demonstrate my dissatisfaction with our clear systemic racism in our country and I wanted them (players) to know that they got to make their own decisions and we would respect and support those decisions,” Kapler said after Monday's game. “I wanted them to feel safe in speaking up.”

The most recent protests during the anthem seemed to draw the ire of President Donald Trump, who wrote on social media Tuesday morning: “Looking forward to live sports, but any time I witness a player kneeling during the National Anthem, a sign of great disrespect for our Country and our Flag, the game is over for me!”

Baseball's show of support for social justice continued Tuesday.

The Milwaukee Brewers posted a picture on social media of nearly 20 players and coaches wearing shirts that read “Justice, Equality, Now.” The Brewers wore the shirts during their intrasquad game.

It's a marked change for baseball, which has dealt with a slow decline in the number of Black players for several decades. In recent seasons, the percentage of Black players has hovered around 8%. For a sport that proudly recognizes Jackie Robinson — who broke MLB's color barrier in 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers — the decline has long been a source of frustration.

Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Lorenzo Cain, who is Black, said that recent discussions with teammates have been encouraging.

“There's been a lot going on over the last few months, but with me and a few guys on the team, we've been holding Zoom calls about the issue at hand,” Cain said earlier this month. “We're all coming together, talking about it. I'm educating them, I'm educating myself on everything that's going on. We all just want things to change, want things to get better.”

Miami Marlins pitcher Stephen Tarpley agreed that it's something players are “actively talking about.” He said within the Marlins there “are a lot of good discussions, and a lot of open minds and open hearts.”

He said the Marlins were still discussing ways to show on-the-field support.

“I don't know if we're necessarily formulating anything huge, but little things are going to be what's important to keep this thing rolling in the right direction,” Tarpley said. “I don't think anything big needs to be necessarily done. Discussion is the first step. If we have everybody stand on that line and understand what the message is, that's another step.”

Kapler's kneeling Monday was on the same field where former A's catcher Bruce Maxwell in 2017 became the first major leaguer to kneel for the anthem. Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick started taking a knee in 2016 to protest racial inequality and police mistreatment of minorities.

Kaepernick and Maxwell were outliers during those days, when such actions were roundly criticized. But as baseball has shown during the past week, views have changed vastly in 2020.

Arizona Diamondbacks GM Mike Hazen and manager Torey Lovullo said they've had several discussions at the team level about the ways it wants to support social justice. They also said organizations were in talks with MLB about ways to show league-wide unity.

Hazen said any show of support shouldn't be a one-day event.

"Opening day will be another marker in that, but it's going to continue to endure beyond that as well," Hazen said. "The changes, in terms of highlighting systemic racism, injustice, equality, those issues are going to be here forever.

"It's on all of us to do what we should be doing to stamp those things out."

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley, Steven Wine and Steve Megargee contributed to this story.

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

Silent spread of virus keeps scientists grasping for clues

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, MATT SEDENSKY and CANDICE CHOI Associated Press

One of the great mysteries of the coronavirus is how quickly it rocketed around the world.

It first flared in central China and, within three months, was on every continent but Antarctica, shutting down daily life for millions. Behind the rapid spread was something that initially caught scientists off guard, baffled health authorities and undermined early containment efforts — the virus could be spread by seemingly healthy people.

As workers return to offices, children prepare to return to schools and those desperate for normalcy again visit malls and restaurants, the emerging science points to a menacing reality: If people who appear healthy can transmit the illness, it may be impossible to contain.

"It can be a killer and then 40 percent of people don't even know they have it," said Dr. Eric Topol, head of Scripps Research Translational Institute. "We have to get out of the denial mode, because it's real."

Researchers have exposed the frightening likelihood of silent spread of the virus by asymptomatic and presymptomatic carriers. But how major a role seemingly healthy people play in swelling the ranks of those infected remains unanswered — and at the top of the scientific agenda.

The small but mighty coronavirus can unlock a human cell, set up shop and mass produce tens of thousands of copies of itself in a single day. Virus levels skyrocket before the first cough, if one ever arrives. And astonishing to scientists, an estimated 4 in 10 infected people don't ever have symptoms.

"For control, to actually keep the virus from coming back, we're going to have to deal with this issue," said Rein Houben, a disease tracker at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The dire toll of more than 580,000 worldwide deaths from the coronavirus has faded to the background as cities lift restrictions. But the slyness of the virus remains on the minds of many scientists, who are watching societies reopen, wondering what happens if silent spreaders aren't detected until it's too late.

Travelers with no coughs can slip past airport screens. Workers without fevers won't be caught by temperature checks. People who don't feel tired and achy will attend business meetings.

And outbreaks could begin anew.

THE FIRST HINTS

As early as January, there were signs people could harbor the virus without showing symptoms. A 10-year-old boy in China who traveled to Wuhan had no symptoms but tested positive along with six others in his family who had coughs and fevers. More troubling was a report out of Germany: A business traveler from China spread the virus to colleagues in Munich, even though she appeared healthy.

Still, many scientists remained unconvinced. Some questioned whether the Chinese businesswoman truly didn't have symptoms. They suggested she might have had mild ones she attributed to jet lag.

The concept of people unwittingly spreading disease has never been an easy one to grasp, from the polio epidemic of mid-century America to the spread of HIV decades later.

At the turn of the 20th century, a seemingly healthy New York cook named Mary Mallon left a deadly trail of typhoid infections that captivated the public and led to her being forced into quarantine on an East River island. "Typhoid Mary" remains a haunting symbol of silent spread.

As COVID-19 emerged, health officials believed it would be like other coronaviruses and that people

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were most infectious when showing symptoms like cough and fever, with transmission rare otherwise.

"We were thinking this thing is going to look like SARS: a long incubation period and no transmission during the incubation period," said Lauren Ancel Meyers, a disease modeler at the University of Texas at Austin.

At U.S. airports around the country, travelers returning from hot spots including China who didn't have symptoms were allowed to go on their way.

"We were reassuring ourselves and the public that contact with an asymptomatic person was not a risk," said Dr. Jeff Duchin of King County, Washington, where the first major U.S. cluster of coronavirus cases broke out at the Life Care nursing home.

Behind the scenes, scientists like Meyers were sharing their alarming finding with health officials.

Meyers had assembled a team of students who scoured websites of Chinese health departments looking for dates of symptom onset in situations where there was enough information to figure out who infected whom.

Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 8, they found several cases where the person who brought the virus home didn't develop symptoms until after infecting a family member. For example, a woman in a Chinese city with few cases got sick after her husband returned from a trip to a city with a large outbreak. He didn't get sick until later.

"When we looked at the data, we said, 'Oh no, this can't be true,'" Meyers said. "It was shocking."

Finding more than 50 such cases, Meyers immediately shared the analysis with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — on Feb. 20 at precisely 1:18 a.m., according to her records. The agency responded a few hours later with questions.

Meyers and the CDC exchanged extensive emails, going over what could be behind the numbers. Was the virus really spreading that fast and before people felt sick?

SPREAD AT A COCKTAIL PARTY

Rebecca Frasure, who contracted the virus while aboard the Diamond Princess cruise, sat in bed in Japan in late February, frustrated to be kept hospitalized even though she didn't have any symptoms.

"I'm perfectly healthy except having this virus in my body," Frasure said while waiting for her release.

Without widespread and frequent testing, it's impossible to know how many people without symptoms might carry it. The Diamond Princess, which idled in the Port of Yokohama, Japan, while the virus exploded onboard, enticed researchers.

After an ill passenger tested positive, only those with symptoms initially got tests.

Houben and his London research team set out to build a mathematical model to estimate how many infected people without symptoms were being missed. After four weeks, their model indicated a startling three-quarters of infected people on the Princess were asymptomatic.

Could that really be right? At first, the researchers worried they might have done something wrong. They continued fine-tuning the model, directing a post-graduate student to locate any error.

"Check for this, check for that," Houben said. "That wasn't it. That wasn't it. That wasn't it."

They spent weeks making sure it was foolproof. It indeed was right.

They had their answer: Asymptomatic carriers "may contribute substantially to transmission."

In Washington state, similar clues emerged for Duchin as a team of investigators probed the Life Care outbreak and found health care workers were spreading the virus to other elder care facilities. They believed at least some of them were working while infected but before feeling symptoms.

Then in March, at another nursing home, more than half the residents who tested positive didn't have symptoms, though most would go on to develop them.

"This disease is going to be extremely hard to control," Duchin recalled thinking.

That underscored the need to shift gears and acknowledge the virus couldn't be totally stopped.

About the same time, Washington state officials had become aware of a cocktail party at a Seattle apartment where about 40% of the guests they later interviewed became sick with the virus, even though nobody seemed sick at the time.

Elizabeth Schneider, who was among the 30 or so attendees, recalled it as a low-key evening themed

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around a coconut-lime cocktail, with some guests getting in the spirit with Hawaiian shirts or other tropical attire. The host had hired a bartender to serve drinks and keep an eye on the food.

"We never really figured out who it was at the party," said Schneider, who fell ill three days later, after continuing to socialize through the weekend. "I definitely could've spread it."

That same week, Kenneth Hunt fell ill and was hospitalized with the virus. His friend and neighbor, Jessie Cornwell, thought back to how she had watched the Democratic debates with Hunt at Ida Culver House, their assisted living facility in Seattle, and how they had eaten meals together in the dining room.

Not long after, a second resident — who, like Hunt and Cornwell, lived on Culver House's second floor — also became sick and went to the hospital, prompting the facility to beg health officials to test all residents and staff.

Hunt died March 9, becoming one of the first American casualties of COVID-19. A day later, 82-year-old Cornwell tested positive, along with two other residents, all of whom were put into isolation.

None of them showed any symptoms.

Elsewhere, as testing efforts have widened, huge proportions of asymptomatic people have shown up, from a neighborhood in San Francisco to an aircraft carrier in the Pacific.

An outbreak linked to a South Korean nightclub showed more than 30% of cases were asymptomatic. At one New York maternity ward, some 88% of those who tested positive had no symptoms.

When Cornwell learned she was positive, her thoughts immediately turned to her pastor, the Rev. Jane Pauw, who had driven her to a Bible study meeting. Pauw lost her sense of taste and smell, came down with a high fever and was out of breath after walking a few steps. Cornwell wondered if she could have been the one to infect Pauw. She alerted her pastor, who made calls to clinics until she found one that would give her a virus test.

It came back with the answer she feared: She was positive, too.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

The nose and mouth are convenient entryways for the coronavirus. Once inside, the virus commandeers the cell's machinery to copy itself, while fending off the body's immune defenses. Virus levels skyrocket in the upper airway, all without symptoms in the early days of an infection. Many scientists believe that during these days, people can spread virus by talking, breathing, singing or touching surfaces.

In the truly asymptomatic, the immune system wins the battle before they ever feel sick.

As it became clearer that healthy people could spread the virus, U.S. health authorities opted not to wait for scientific certainty. During a meeting in early March, top U.S. health officials said they believed transmission could be occurring before people displayed symptoms, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press. A few weeks later, the CDC recommended people cover their nose and mouth in public with masks, bandannas, even T-shirts.

Days later, Chinese researchers published a paper saying patients are most infectious two to three days before developing symptoms. Evidence continues to accumulate, and the CDC now estimates 40% of transmission is occurring before people feel sick. The agency is telling public health officials in states that rely on mathematical models to use that number in their calculations.

A small Chinese study published May 27 found infected patients without symptoms shed virus, on average, for fewer days than those with symptoms, nine days vs. 15 days. But they do shed virus.

Still, doubts remain among scientists, most notably among the World Health Organization, which has discounted the importance of asymptomatic infection. For months, WHO maintained that asymptomatic spread was not a driver of the pandemic but recently began to acknowledge the possibility and advised people to wear masks.

U.S. health officials blame China for delays in sharing information on silent spread. But Topol contends the U.S. could have mounted its own testing program with viral genome sequencing.

That's no small matter: Gaining scientific clarity earlier would have saved lives.

"We've been slow on everything in the United States," Topol said. "And I have to say it's shameful."

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Associated Press writers Maria Cheng in London and Victoria Milko in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this story.

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Trump's show of federal force sparking alarm in cities

By COLLEEN LONG, BEN FOX and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is using the Department of Homeland Security in unprecedented ways as he tries to bolster his law and order credentials by making a heavy-handed show of force in cities around the nation in the lead-up to the November elections.

His plan to deploy federal agents to Chicago and perhaps other Democratic-run cities where violence is spiking represents Trump's latest effort to use an agency that was created after the Sept. 11 attacks to thwart terrorists to instead supplement local law enforcement in ways that bolster his reelection chances.

Trump has already deployed Homeland Security agents to Portland, Oregon, on the grounds of protecting federal buildings from protesters, drawing intense criticism from local leaders who say the federal presence has only exacerbated tensions rather than promoting public safety.

"This is precisely the type of tyrannical deployment of power that the Founding Fathers were specifically worried about," said Jeffrey A. Engel, director of Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University.

Under Trump's latest plan, yet to be publicly announced, about 150 Homeland Security Investigations agents would go to Chicago to help local law enforcement deal with a spike in crime, according to an official with direct knowledge of the plans who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

Those agents, who are generally used to investigate human trafficking, drugs and weapons smuggling, are expected to stay in Chicago at least two months, according to the official. It's not clear exactly when they would arrive or how their mission would play out, but they would work under the Justice Department.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said no one had been sent to Chicago yet. She added, "The bottom line is that this president stands with law and order, which leads to peace."

In a tweet Sunday, Trump blamed local leaders for a growing spate of violence in cities like Chicago that has left dozens dead, including young children. He added a dire warning that "The Radical Left Democrats, who totally control Biden, will destroy our Country as we know it," referring to Democratic rival Joe Biden.

Trump has also intervened in other cities, including Washington, D.C. In the protests following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Trump deployed U.S. National Guard troops and federal law enforcement officials from agencies including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Drug Enforcement Administration to patrol the city.

The show of force came to a head when federal authorities in riot gear dispersed crowds from Lafayette Square across from the White House, where the president then posed with a Bible in front of a church.

The Chicago plan appears to be an extension of a separate operation in which the administration sent more than 100 federal law enforcement officers to Kansas City, Missouri, to help quell a record rise in violence after the shooting death of a young boy there. The Justice Department doesn't have the manpower to surge agents to high-crime areas, so it is borrowing from Homeland Security.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot was at first highly resistant, but her tone changed after she and members of her administration, along with Police Superintendent David Brown, talked with officials about the government's plan.

"I've been very clear that we welcome actual partnership," Lightfoot said. "But we do not welcome dictatorship. We do not welcome authoritarianism, and we do not welcome unconstitutional arrest and detainment of our residents. That is something I will not tolerate."

The comments from Lightfoot, a former federal prosecutor, slightly deescalated a days-long war of

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words with Trump over violent crime in the city, which has seen 414 homicides this year, compared with 275 during the same period in 2019.

Throughout his presidency, Trump has leaned on Homeland Security to carry out his political objectives, including cracking down on illegal immigration and slowing legal immigration applications. The 240,000-person agency manages border security as well as natural disasters and the Transportation Security Administration.

But with the border largely shuttered because of the coronavirus and the number of illegal crossings plummeting, Trump is now using the department to combat crime and demonstrations demanding justice and racial equality.

While the protests have largely been peaceful, Trump and his allies in conservative media have portrayed the cities as out of control as he tries to contrast himself with Biden and make the case to voters — especially the suburban women who turned against Republicans in the 2018 midterms — that failing to elect him for a second term will lead to lawlessness.

Critics say the federal forces have stoked tensions, creating new images of violence that could lead frightened viewers to vote for Trump.

Homeland Security first jumped into the federal response to the Floyd protests in May as some demonstrations erupted into sporadic violence around the country. But effort shifted into high gear over the July Fourth weekend as Homeland Security agents and officers from at least a half a dozen components of the sprawling organization were arriving in Portland.

Protesters there have been staging nightly demonstrations since May in a section of downtown that includes the federal courthouse, forcing most businesses in the zone to close.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said federal personnel have been assaulted with lasers, bats, fireworks, bottles and other weapons and “yet the city of Portland takes little to no action.” Wolf said the people committing the vandalism should not be considered legitimate protesters.

But former Homeland Security officials say they’ve seen nothing like the Portland deployment, which has included using highly trained Border Patrol agents to confront protesters outside the downtown courthouse, without the cooperation or consent of local law enforcement or government officials.

“Urban policing and crowd control and civil unrest isn’t something that is in their wheelhouse,” said Gil Kerlikowske, a former commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection under President Barack Obama. “It’s not something they are trained for. It’s not something they have any experience or expertise in.”

Arrests made by federal officers over the July Fourth weekend and several days after were for relatively minor offenses not typically prosecuted in federal court, including misdemeanor assault and disorderly conduct. Officials have accused some demonstrators of assaulting federal officers, by shining lasers in their eyes or other means, and said at least one person was detained with the ingredients for a pipe bomb.

John Cohen, a former senior DHS official under Obama and President George W. Bush, said such a high-profile presence of federal agents without local support created the risk of escalating the situation, and that appears to be what happened.

The protests have grown in recent days, particularly after federal officers in unmarked vans and with generic “police” patches last week detained several people on downtown streets without identifying themselves — a move some critics have compared to kidnappings.

“If the public begins to perceive that they are being partisan in how they operate, they lose credibility, and if they lose credibility, they lose public trust,” said Cohen. “And for a security or law enforcement organization, the loss of public trust can be fatal.”

David Lapan, a retired Marine colonel who served as Homeland Security press secretary as well as a public affairs officer for the Defense Department, said he worried about a blurring line between military and law enforcement that “creates the impression the military is being used to suppress the public.”

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo in Washington and Katherine Foody in Chicago contributed to this report.

Cops: 14 injured after shooting outside Chicago funeral home

By HERBERT G. McCANN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Fourteen people were injured, one person was being questioned and multiple suspects were being sought after gunfire erupted outside a funeral home on Chicago's South Side where at least one squad car was present, police officials said Tuesday.

First Deputy Superintendent Eric Carter said mourners outside a funeral home in the Gresham neighborhood were fired upon from a passing vehicle. Carter said several targets of the shooting returned fire. The vehicle later crashed and the occupants fled in several directions. Carter said all the victims were adults.

A person of interest was being questioned Tuesday night but no arrests had been made, said police spokesman Hector Alfaro.

The victims were taken by the Chicago Fire Department to nearby hospitals in serious condition, said spokesman Larry Langford. They include at least four women between the ages of 25 and 38, one of whom was shot in the chest, police said. Other victims include a 40-year-old man who was shot in the chest, arm and forearm, and two men, 32 and 22, who were shot in a hand, police said.

Police said the shooting happened at or near the site of a funeral or post-funeral event for a man fatally shot last week in the Englewood neighborhood.

Arnita Geder and Kenneth Hughes said they heard gunshots while in their home watching television, adding that they came outside to find bodies that were shot up and "laying everywhere."

"We thought it was a war out here," Geder told the Chicago Sun-Times. "It's ridiculous all the shooting that's going on out here, it really has to stop."

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said Tuesday night in a series of Twitter posts that "far too many people" have attended funerals and attempted to begin the process of healing entire communities following another "senseless tragedy." She added that people with information should speak up, even if anonymously.

"When a person picks up a gun, we suffer as a city. This cannot be who we are. Too many guns are on our streets and in the hands of people who should never possess them," Lightfoot continued. "These individuals will be held accountable."

Carter said at least 60 shell casings were found at the scene of the shooting. It wasn't immediately known if anyone other than attendees of the funeral were victims, nor if anyone in the SUV had been wounded. The person being questioned was uninjured, according to authorities. Investigators haven't determined how many people were involved in the shooting.

A squad car was assigned to monitor the funeral as a precaution because of the sizable number of mourners attending, Carter said, adding that he was unaware of any warnings from community activists that trouble at the funeral was imminent.

"The district commander took every precaution that he could," Carter said.

The shooting comes as the Department of Homeland Security is planning to deploy dozens of federal agents to Chicago to deal with an uptick in violent crime in the city.

Lightfoot, after threatening to sue if President Donald Trump acted without her permission, also noted earlier Tuesday that the city would be working with federal agents to fight crime.

Lightfoot has been skeptical of federal agents being sent to Chicago by Trump due to the controversy in Portland, Oregon, where the Trump administration sent federal officers after weeks of protests there over police brutality and racial injustice that followed the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Lightfoot said she expects Chicago will receive resources that will plug into existing federal agencies that already work with the city, including the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Oregon's governor and Portland's mayor have expressed anger with the presence of the federal agents, saying that the city's protests had started to ease just as the federal agents started taking action.

Trump has framed such protests in the nation's large cities as a failure by "liberal Democrats" who run them, praised the officers' actions and said he was looking to send agents to other cities.

He pointed to rising gun violence in Chicago, the nation's third-largest city, where more than 63 people

were shot, 12 fatally, over the weekend.

Associated Press writer Torrance Latham contributed to this report.

Elizabeth Warren's new role: Key Joe Biden policy adviser

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden accused Elizabeth Warren last year of holding an “angry, unyielding viewpoint.” She embraced that label and slammed Biden as “naive” for thinking he could work with Republicans as president. She warned Democrats against picking a “Washington insider” and pointedly refused to endorse Biden until weeks after exiting the race.

Now, those bitter primary clashes are a distant memory.

Warren, a Massachusetts senator and leading progressive, has become an unlikely confidant and adviser to Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee. They talk every 10 days or so, according to aides to both politicians who spoke on condition of anonymity to freely describe their relationship. Those forums have provided opportunities for Warren to make a case on top policy issues to Biden, who ran a more centrist primary campaign.

He adopted Warren-endorsed plans on personal bankruptcy, expanding Social Security benefits and canceling student-loan debt for millions of Americans. She also helped devise important portions of his post-pandemic economic recovery proposals.

Warren, meanwhile, is lending Biden her progressive credentials and frequently hosts campaign events for him, including one recent fundraiser that brought in \$6 million. Only former President Barack Obama secured a greater haul.

Vanquished presidential hopefuls are often called on to rally around the nominee, especially if they want to become vice president, a role Warren has expressed interest in. But the relationship between Warren and Biden is notable given that they were never particularly close before. It also illustrates a more pragmatic side of Warren, whose presidential campaign was built around economic populism that championed everyday Americans over the rich with the slogan “Dream Big. Fight Hard.”

“She’s interested in problem-solving. She’s more practical than she sometimes seemed during the campaign,” said Deval Patrick, the former Massachusetts governor who briefly ran for president himself. “She fights for the outcome, but because she’s so smart and she’s so creative, she can think of more than one way to get there.”

Biden has promised to pick a woman as his vice president and has faced pressure from African American activists to choose a Black running mate as an acknowledgment of their political importance and a response to institutional racism. Warren, who is white, nevertheless remains a finalist.

Even if Warren isn’t chosen, she could easily take on the role of treasury secretary or lead the Federal Reserve, where chair Jerome Powell’s term ends in 2022. That would ensure Warren continues to be an important voice in a Biden administration.

Adam Green, a close Warren ally and co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee advocacy group, said the health and economic fallout of the coronavirus has made the policies she championed as a presidential candidate more vital than ever. He said her strength is “pulling and pushing the levers of power to maximize big results” no matter “the hand she happens to be dealt at the time.”

Warren displayed that adaptability with other rivals during the primary, incorporating into her campaign key parts of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee’s climate plan, New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand’s family-leave proposal and California Sen. Kamala Harris’ efforts to promote abortion rights after all had left the presidential race. She also built a close friendship with former Obama administration official Julián Castro, who later campaigned around the country on her behalf.

They weren’t all feel-good moments, however. Warren feuded with former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and her scalding attack on Mike Bloomberg during the Las Vegas debate was the beginning of the end for the former New York mayor’s once-promising White House bid.

Indeed, it was a perceived hard edge that made Warren a star on the left long before she ran for president. Ironically, a clash with then-Sen. Biden during a 2005 congressional hearing over a bankruptcy law was the first time many Americans laid eyes on Warren, who was teaching law at Harvard University at the time. It ended with him conceding, "You're a very good teacher, professor."

Warren later conceived of a watchdog group that became the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and, while its creation was still being debated in Congress in 2010, suggested that a watered-down version was unacceptable. Warren said then that she'd rather have "no agency at all and plenty of blood and teeth left on the floor." After the agency was created, Warren's polarizing nature came through when the Obama administration passed her over to become its first full-time director, fearing a Senate fight.

While running for Senate herself in 2012, Warren squared off with popular Republican incumbent Scott Brown, who tried to use the "blood and teeth" quote against her.

"This is not someone who's willing to be at all flexible and compromise on anything," said Colin Reed, a veteran of Brown's 2012 campaign. He said that now Warren has "been helpful to a guy who, in a prior life, she had been pretty disdainful of" in Biden.

"Her presidential campaign didn't go particularly well," Reed said. "I don't know if this is her saying, 'For my next political act, I have to offer something new.'"

A Warren spokesperson declined to comment for this story, and Biden's campaign has refused to speak publicly about its running mate selection process. But Warren has lately become a visible face of the Biden campaign.

During a recent virtual event meant to appeal to younger voters, she talked about her aversion to coffee by laughing at her own reputation for being extremely high energy: "Can you imagine me with caffeine?" Warren also showed off her golden retriever, Bailey, who was a staple of her own presidential campaign, declaring, "Bailey for Biden."

During the virtual fundraiser she hosted for Biden last month, Warren described how the former vice president called after her eldest brother died of the coronavirus "when I needed some kindness and comfort." The moment was so intimate — despite coming via video conference — that Biden responded by calling her "Elizabeth" before catching himself and going back to the more formal "Sen. Warren."

"We're so lucky to have you on the front line," Biden said.

GOP splits as virus aid package could swell past \$1 trillion

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The price tag for the next COVID-19 aid package could quickly swell above \$1 trillion as White House officials negotiate with Congress over money to reopen schools, prop up small businesses, boost virus testing and keep cash flowing to Americans while the virus crisis deepens in the U.S.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday promised a new round of direct payments to earners below a certain income level, similar to the \$1,200 checks sent in the spring. President Donald Trump insists on a payroll tax holiday for workers. And Democrats want billions to outfit schools and shore up local governments.

"Regretfully, this is not over," McConnell said after a raucous private GOP lunch, urging Americans to learn to live with the new virus by wearing masks and practicing social distancing until a vaccine can be found.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and acting chief of staff Mark Meadows spent the day on Capitol Hill, meeting separately with McConnell, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others trying to broker a compromise between the GOP's emerging \$1 trillion proposal with the House's more sweeping \$3 trillion bill.

The lunch session grew heated as key Republican senators complained about big spending, vowing to stall the relief bill's passage.

Supporters of the package "should be ashamed of themselves," Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky said as he emerged.

Paul compared GOP backers of the spending to "Bernie bros" — referring to the young supporters of Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. "This is insane. ... There's no difference now between the two parties."

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As a long line of senators rose to speak about aspects of the bill, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz asked his colleagues, "What in the hell are we doing?"

Cruz warned if the economy is still shut down come November, Joe Biden will win the White House, Democrats will control the Senate and "we'll be meeting in a much smaller lunch room," according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the closed-door session.

Sen. Rick Scott of Florida left saying it's wrong to "bail out" cash-strapped states. "Florida taxpayers are not going to pay for New York's expenses," he said.

With the pandemic showing no signs of easing, officials acknowledge the daunting challenge of trying to contain the coronavirus and prevent further economic distress. The U.S. has rising infections and a death toll nearing 142,000, more than anywhere else in the world. The health crisis is worsening just as emergency aid is about to expire.

Meadows told reporters the president wants to ensure the funding package "meets the legitimate needs that are before the American people."

Democratic leaders said the Republicans are in disarray, and Pelosi later blamed the pandemic's mounting toll on the president's inaction.

"It is the Trump virus," she said on CNN.

The Republicans are poised to roll out a \$1 trillion package, what McConnell called a "starting point" in talks. It's a counter-offer to Pelosi's \$3 trillion House-passed plan as they race to strike a deal by the end of the month. That's when a \$600 weekly unemployment benefits boost and other aid, including a federal rental moratorium on millions of apartment units, expires.

McConnell's package would send a fresh round of direct cash payments to Americans below a certain income level, likely \$75,000 for singles, extend small business loans under the Paycheck Protection Program and create a five-year liability shield against what he warns is a potential "epidemic" of coronavirus lawsuits.

It's also expected to include at least \$105 billion for education, with \$70 billion to help K-12 schools reopen, \$30 billion for colleges and \$5 billion for governors to allocate. The Trump administration wanted school money linked to reopenings, but in McConnell's package the money for K-12 would be split 50-50 between those that have in-person learning and those that do not.

Republicans want to replace the \$600 weekly federal jobless benefit with a lower amount, to prevent the unemployed from receiving more aid than they would through a normal paycheck, Republicans said.

Over lunch, Mnuchin explained the unemployment boost could be phased down to a percentage of a worker's previous income, according to a Republican granted anonymity to discuss the private meeting. Some Republicans prefer simply eliminating the \$600 benefit.

But the president's priorities are splitting his GOP allies and giving momentum to Democrats.

Trump wants a full repeal of the 15.3% payroll tax, which is shared among employers and employees, and funds Social Security and Medicare. Experts say that alone would cost \$600 billion. At a White House meeting on Monday, GOP leaders told Trump they preferred to include only a partial payroll tax cut.

Easing the payroll tax is dividing Trump's party because it does little to help out-of-work Americans and adds to the debt load. The tax is already being deferred for employers under the previous virus relief package. Supporters say cutting it now for employees would put money in people's pockets and stimulate the economy.

The administration also panned McConnell's proposed \$25 billion for more virus testing, saying earlier allotments remain unspent.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Tuesday the administration wants "targeted" funds for the next round of aid, rather than adding more to the existing pot. She said no one is holding it up.

Senate Democrats began investigating why the Trump administration has left almost half the testing money unspent.

After meeting with Mnuchin, Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Republicans must quit stalling. They broadly dismissed the emerging GOP effort as inadequate.

The political stakes are high for both parties before the November election, and even more so for the nation, as amid the virus crisis and economic fallout.

Biden, the Democrats' presumed presidential nominee, stated his own priorities, urging "a lifeline to those who need it most: working families and small businesses."

Trump's renewed focus on therapeutics and a vaccine is falling flat among lawmakers who understand that any COVID-19 cures remain months, if not a year, from widespread distribution in the U.S. The federal government is still struggling to provide basic medical supplies and personal protective equipment to health care providers.

Mnuchin vowed to stay on Capitol Hill for the next two weeks, determined to reach a deal by month's end.

The proposed virus aid package would be the fifth, following the \$2.2 trillion bill passed in March, the largest U.S. intervention of its kind. The jobless rate has remained in double digits, higher than in the last decade's Great Recession, and a federal eviction moratorium on millions of rental units approved in the last bill is about to expire.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor, Darlene Superville, Alexandra Jaffe and Padmananda Rama in Washington contributed to this report.

Facing federal agents, Portland protests find new momentum

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Mardy Widman has watched protests against racial injustice unfold in her hometown of Portland, Oregon, for more than seven weeks but stayed away because, at age 79, she feared contracting the coronavirus.

But that calculus changed for Widman when President Donald Trump sent federal law enforcement agents to the liberal city to quell violent demonstrations — a tactic he's said he'll use for other cities. On Monday, a masked Widman was in the street with more than 1,000 other Portland residents — a far larger crowd than the city had seen in recent days as it entered its eighth week of nightly protests.

"It's like a dictatorship," Widman, a grandmother of five, said, holding up a sign that read: "Grammy says: Please feds, leave Portland."

"I mean, that he can pick on our city mostly because of the way we vote and make an example of it for his base is very frightening," she said.

Far from tamping down the unrest, the presence of federal agents — and particularly allegations they have whisked people away in unmarked cars without probable cause — has given new momentum and a new focus to protests that had begun to devolve into smaller, chaotic crowds. The use of federal agents against the will of local officials has also set up the potential for a constitutional crisis, which could escalate if Trump sends federal agents elsewhere.

Federal forces were deployed to Portland in early July, and tensions have risen since: On July 11, a protester was hospitalized with critical injuries after a U.S. Marshals Service officer struck him in the head with a round of less-lethal ammunition.

Then, anger flared again over the weekend after video surfaced of a federal agent hitting a Navy veteran repeatedly with a baton while another agent sprays him in the face with pepper spray. Richard Cline, principal deputy director of the Federal Protective Service, told reporters Tuesday that the officers are part of the Marshals Service and that the Justice Department's inspector general is investigating.

Crowds in Portland had recently numbered fewer than 100 people but swelled to more than 1,000 over the weekend — and they're once again attracting a broader base in a city that's increasingly outraged.

Federal agents again used force to scatter protesters early Tuesday and deployed tear gas and rubber bullets as some banged on the doors of the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse and tried to pull plywood off the shuttered entryway. The boarded-up courthouse, which has been a focus of protests, is now covered with graffiti.

Portland police said some protesters lit fires in the street and tried several times to set them at the courthouse doors.

"It is time for the Trump troops to go home and focus their attention on other activities," Democratic

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Gov. Kate Brown said on MSNBC.

State and local authorities didn't ask for federal help and are awaiting a decision on a lawsuit seeking to restrain the federal agents' actions. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said in court papers that masked federal agents have arrested people on the street, far from the courthouse, with no probable cause and whisked them away in unmarked cars.

The federal government was sued again Tuesday by the Western States Center, two state representatives and others who argued that agents violated protesters' 10th Amendment rights by engaging in police activities designated to local and state governments.

Federal agencies defended the actions in Portland. Some in the crowd this weekend used radio frequency jammers and shot pellet and airsoft guns to injure officers, according to the Justice Department. It's also investigating "suspicious devices" outside the courthouse that could have caused "serious harm to those in the building," spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said.

Some of the demonstrators also tried to barricade federal officers inside the courthouse and set the building on fire, Kupec said.

In a news conference in Washington, acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said agents have been assaulted with lasers, bats, fireworks, bottles and other weapons and "yet the city of Portland takes little to no action."

Wolf said the agency has clear authority to protect government property and detain people suspected of threatening personnel or damaging that property. He disputed that unidentified agents have made arrests, noting they have the word "police" on their uniforms and that officers wear camouflage like they do when working on the border.

"These police officers are not storm troopers, they are not Gestapo. That description is offensive," Wolf said.

He said federal agencies have made 43 arrests since July 4.

While U.S. authorities can enforce federal laws on federal property, state and local officials say the agents have operated beyond their jurisdiction. Constitutional law experts said federal officers' actions are "unprecedented" and a "red flag" in what could become a test case of states' rights as the Trump administration expands federal policing.

Homeland Security plans to deploy about 150 of its agents to Chicago to help local law enforcement deal with a spike in crime, according to an official with direct knowledge of the plans who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly. The Trump administration also sent more than 100 federal law enforcement officers to Kansas City, Missouri, to help quell a rise in violence after the shooting death of a young boy there.

For days after the death of George Floyd — a Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck — protests against racial injustice in Portland attracted thousands and were largely peaceful, though smaller groups vandalized federal property and police buildings and clashed violently with authorities.

Portland police used tear gas on multiple occasions until a federal court order banned them from doing so without declaring a riot. Now, anger is building as federal officers deploy tear gas.

As crowds have swelled again, most prominent are the Wall of Moms and PDX Dad Pod, self-described parents who have shown up by the hundreds each night since the weekend, wearing yellow T-shirts and bicycle helmets and ski goggles for protection.

Some wielded leaf blowers Monday night to help disperse tear gas as they marched down a downtown street.

"It's appalling to me, and it's a unifying thing. Nobody wants them here," said Eryn Hoerster, a mother of two children, ages 4 and 8, who was attending her first nighttime protest.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Ben Fox and Michael Balsamo in Washington and Sara Cline in Salem, Oregon, contributed to this report.

This story has been updated to correct that Wolf spoke Tuesday, not Wednesday.

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>.

Trump says virus in US will get worse before it gets better

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump warned on Tuesday that the “nasty horrible” coronavirus will get worse in the U.S. before it gets better, but he also tried to paint a rosy picture of efforts to conquer the disease that has claimed more than 140,000 American lives in just five months.

He also professed a newfound respect for the protective face masks he has seldom worn. He pulled one from his pocket in the White House briefing room but didn’t put it on.

After a three-month hiatus from his freewheeling daily virus briefings, Trump returned to the podium, keeping the stage to himself without the public health experts who were staples of his previous events but keeping close to scripted remarks prepared by aides.

Besides declaring support for masks as a way to fight the pandemic, he admonished young people against crowding bars and spreading the disease.

It all marked a delayed recognition by Trump that the economic reopening he’s been championing since April — and, more importantly, his reelection — were imperiled by spiking cases nationwide.

There were no guarantees how long Trump’s more measured tone, delivered with an eye to halting a campaign-season erosion of support, would last. Along the way Tuesday, the president still worked in jabs at the news media and Democrats for focusing on disease-fighting shortcomings in the U.S. as the rest of world also struggles with the virus. He also belatedly addressed bipartisan criticism of virus-testing delays that have hampered reopening plans.

“It will probably unfortunately get worse before it gets better,” Trump said from the White House. But he also touted a reduction in deaths and progress on vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, which he referred to repeatedly as a the “China virus.” He continued his recent encouragement of Americans to wear masks when social distancing is not possible.

“Whether you like the mask or not, they have an impact,” he said. “I’m getting used to the mask,” he added, pulling one out after months of suggesting that mask-wearing was a political statement against him.

Swaths of the country are now battling rising infections and growing deaths, and some states are once again having to close businesses and rethink school in the fall. Many retailers themselves are insisting their customers don masks.

For months, the nation’s top health experts have pleaded with Americans to wear masks in public and steer clear of crowds -- calling those simple steps life-saving -- even as the president’s stance fueled a partisan social divide.

The early evening show at the White House came as the next stage of the federal government’s response to the pandemic was being crafted on Capitol Hill. Lawmakers and White House officials were opening negotiations on a trillion-dollar-or-more “phase four” rescue package.

For weeks, White House aides have pressed Trump to grow more disciplined in his public statements about the pandemic. On Tuesday, he steered clear of what has been a favored talking point: that wide-spread testing for the virus in the U.S. “created” more cases, as aides noted that was false and projected a lack of responsibility.

Little more than three months from Election Day, Trump and his political team hoped that the podium spotlight would give him an edge against Democratic rival Joe Biden.

“The vaccines are coming, and they’re coming a lot sooner than anybody thought possible,” Trump promised anew.

As early as next week, the first possible U.S. vaccine is set to begin final-stage testing in a study of 30,000 people to see if it really is safe and effective. A few other vaccines have begun smaller late-stage studies in other countries, and in the U.S. a series of huge studies are planned to start each month through fall

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in hopes of, eventually, having several vaccines to use. Already, people can start signing up to volunteer for the different studies.

Health authorities warn there's no guarantee -- it's not unusual for vaccines to fail during this critical testing step. But vaccine makers and health officials are hopeful that at least one vaccine could prove to work by year's end. Companies already are taking the unusual step of brewing hundreds of millions of doses so that mass vaccinations could begin if the Food and Drug Administration signs off.

Trump also acknowledged bipartisan criticism of delays processing testing results.

"We'll be able to get those numbers down," Trump said, saying his administration was working to improve the availability of rapid, point-of-care tests like those used to protect him at the White House.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, told NPR Tuesday that he was glad Trump has begun to promote mask-wearing.

"If we, during those conferences, come out and have consistent, clear, noncontradictory messages, I believe it will be very helpful in getting people on the track of knowing the direction that we need to go to get this pandemic under control," he said.

Biden, for his part Tuesday, launched into scathing criticism of Trump as he outlined the latest plank of his economic recovery plan, charging that Trump "failed his most important test as an American President: the duty to care for you, for all of us."

"He's quit on you, he's quit on this country," Biden said.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump took to Twitter to claim that "by comparison to most other countries, who are suffering greatly, we are doing very well — and we have done things that few other countries could have done!"

In fact, the U.S. leads the world in confirmed cases and deaths from the virus -- and ranks near the top on a per capita basis as well.

On Capitol Hill, some Republicans have broken with the White House in seeking additional federal funding for testing and contact-tracing in the next relief bill.

Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, in a news conference, encouraged White House aides to "keep Trump away from the podium," calling the president "a threat to public health."

Trump's daily turns in the White House briefing room largely ended in late April after the president's widely derided suggestion that injecting toxic disinfectant could help treat the coronavirus. The comment prompted widespread medical warnings against the potentially deadly move.

Scrapping the briefings was welcomed by aides who believed they were dragging down the president's poll numbers, particularly with older voters. However, with his trademark rallies largely on hold because of the coronavirus, the view in Trump's circle is that he needs an alternate means to reach voters.

And Trump missed the days when he would dominate cable television ratings with his early evening briefings. Tellingly, when he announced Monday that the sessions could return, he did so with an eye toward their time slot and a boast about ratings.

Trump's new immigration fight: how to redraw House districts

By KEVIN FREKING and MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed a memorandum Tuesday that seeks to bar people in the U.S. illegally from being included in the headcount as congressional districts are redrawn, a move that drew immediate criticism and promises of court challenges on constitutional grounds.

Trump said including them in the count "would create perverse incentives and undermine our system of government." Seats in U.S. House of Representatives are redistributed every 10 years based on changes in population found in the census.

The Supreme Court blocked the administration's effort to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census form, with a majority saying the administration's rationale for the citizenship question — to help enforce voting rights — appeared to be contrived.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, who, along with civil rights groups, fought the citizenship question in court, vowed to challenge the order.

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"No one ceases to be a person because they lack documentation," James said. "Under the law, every person residing in the U.S. during the census, regardless of status, must be counted."

Dale Ho, director of the ACLU's Voting Rights Project, predicted Trump's latest effort also would be found unconstitutional.

"The Constitution requires that everyone in the U.S. be counted in the census," Ho said. "President Trump can't pick and choose. He tried to add a citizenship question to the census and lost in the Supreme Court ... We will see him in court, and win, again."

Trump's latest move comes in the lead-up to the November election as he is trying to motivate his base supporters with fresh action against illegal immigration, which was a mainstay of his 2016 campaign

"There used to be a time when you could proudly declare, 'I am a citizen of the United States.' But now, the radical left is trying to erase the existence of this concept and conceal the number of illegal aliens in our country," Trump said in a statement. "This is all part of a broader left-wing effort to erode the rights of Americans citizens, and I will not stand for it."

More than 92 million households have already responded to the 2020 Census, with the majority doing it online. People can still respond on their own online, over the phone or by mail — all without having to meet a census taker. Only last week, door-knockers started heading out to households whose residents haven't yet answered the questionnaire.

Trump's efforts to add the citizenship question drew fury and backlash from critics who alleged that it was intended to discourage participation in the nation's head count, not only by people living in the country illegally but also by citizens who fear that participating would expose noncitizen family members to repercussions.

The financial and political stakes in the 2020 Census are huge, with Democratic-leaning metropolitan areas with large immigrant populations worried about losing dollars and political representation through Trump's efforts.

After the Supreme Court blocked the citizenship question from being asked, Trump ordered the Census Bureau to gather citizenship data from the administrative records of federal and state agencies. The administration hopes that will help it determine how many people are in the U.S. illegally.

That order is being challenged in the courts and the overwhelming majority of states have refused to share information about driver's licenses and ID cards.

However, four states with Republican governors are cooperating. Iowa, South Carolina and South Dakota recently joined Nebraska in agreeing to share state driver's license information with the Census Bureau.

Democratic members of Congress called the president's memo an effort to depress participation in the 2020 census, especially in minority communities.

"Trump's unlawful effort is designed to again inject fear and distrust into vulnerable and traditionally undercounted communities, while sowing chaos with the Census," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "The House of Representatives will vigorously contest the President's unconstitutional and unlawful attempt to impair the Census."

It's not the first time that an attempt had been made to keep out immigrants living here illegally from the once-a-decade census and the subsequent allocation of congressional seats. In 1979, the Federation for American Immigration Reform and several members of Congress sued, demanding that the 1980 census exclude undocumented immigrants from apportionment. The case was dismissed, said Margo Anderson, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

When a congressman unsuccessfully introduced legislation in 1980 that would have kept undocumented immigrants out of the apportionment count, U.S. Census Bureau director Vincent Barabba expressed concerns about entangling the bureau with immigration policy. He testified that doing so might entail procedures done in other countries, such as maintaining registration lists, that Americans would find disagreeable, Anderson said.

In Alabama, state officials and Republican U.S. Congressman Mo Brooks are suing the Census Bureau to exclude people in the country illegally from being counted when determining congressional seats for

each state.

Trump's memo Tuesday is an blatant attempt to suppress the growing political power of Latinos in the U.S., said Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The fund, also known as MALDEF, and other civil rights groups are challenging Alabama's effort to exclude people in the country illegally from being counted during apportionment, and they pre-emptively challenged the very issues raised by Trump's memo on Tuesday in a cross-claim, Saenz said in an interview.

"It's lawless but that's characteristic of this administration. We are already challenging it. We anticipated this ridiculousness," Saenz said.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report. Schneider reported from Orlando, Fla.

Trump's show of federal force sparking alarm in cities

By COLLEEN LONG, BEN FOX and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is using the Department of Homeland Security in unprecedented ways as he tries to bolster his law and order credentials by making a heavy-handed show of force in cities around the nation in the lead-up to the November elections.

His plan to deploy federal agents to Chicago and perhaps other Democratic-run cities where violence is spiking represents Trump's latest effort to use an agency that was created after the Sept. 11 attacks to thwart terrorists to instead supplement local law enforcement in ways that bolster his reelection chances.

Trump has already deployed Homeland Security agents to Portland on the grounds of protecting federal buildings from protesters, drawing intense criticism from local leaders who say the federal presence has only exacerbated tensions rather than promoting public safety.

"This is precisely the type of tyrannical deployment of power that the Founding Fathers were specifically worried about," said Jeffrey A. Engel, director of Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University.

Under Trump's latest plan, yet to be publicly announced, about 150 Homeland Security Investigations agents would go to Chicago to help local law enforcement deal with a spike in crime, according to an official with direct knowledge of the plans who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

Those agents, who are generally used to investigate human trafficking, drugs and weapons smuggling, are expected to stay in Chicago at least two months, according to the official. It's not clear exactly when they would arrive or how their mission would play out, but they would work under the Justice Department.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said no one had been sent to Chicago yet. She added, "The bottom line is that this president stands with law and order, which leads to peace."

In a tweet Sunday, Trump blamed local leaders for a growing spate of violence in cities like Chicago that has left dozens dead, including young children. He added a dire warning that "The Radical Left Democrats, who totally control Biden, will destroy our Country as we know it," referring to Democratic rival Joe Biden.

Trump has also intervened in other cities, including Washington, D.C. In the protests following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Trump deployed U.S. National Guard troops and federal law enforcement officials from agencies including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Drug Enforcement Administration to patrol the city.

The show of force came to a head when federal authorities in riot gear dispersed crowds from Lafayette Square across from the White House, where the president then posed with a Bible in front of a church.

The Chicago plan appears to be an extension of a separate operation in which the administration sent more than 100 federal law enforcement officers to Kansas City, Missouri, to help quell a record rise in violence after the shooting death of a young boy there. The Justice Department doesn't have the manpower to surge agents to high-crime areas, so it is borrowing from Homeland Security.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot was at first highly resistant, but her tone changed after she and members

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of her administration, along with Police Superintendent David Brown, talked with officials about the government's plan.

"I've been very clear that we welcome actual partnership," Lightfoot said. "But we do not welcome dictatorship. We do not welcome authoritarianism, and we do not welcome unconstitutional arrest and detention of our residents. That is something I will not tolerate."

The comments from Lightfoot, a former federal prosecutor, slightly deescalated a days-long war of words with Trump over violent crime in the city, which has seen 414 homicides this year, compared with 275 during the same period in 2019.

Throughout his presidency, Trump has leaned on Homeland Security to carry out his political objectives, including cracking down on illegal immigration and slowing legal immigration applications. The 240,000-person agency manages border security as well as natural disasters and the Transportation Security Administration.

But with the border largely shuttered because of the coronavirus and the number of illegal crossings plummeting, Trump is now using the department to combat crime and demonstrations demanding justice and racial equality.

While the protests have largely been peaceful, Trump and his allies in conservative media have portrayed the cities as out of control as he tries to contrast himself with Biden and make the case to voters — especially the suburban women who turned against Republicans in the 2018 midterms — that failing to elect him for a second term will lead to lawlessness.

Critics say the federal forces have stoked tensions, creating new images of violence that could lead frightened viewers to vote for Trump.

Homeland Security first jumped into the federal response to the Floyd protests in May as some demonstrations erupted into sporadic violence around the country. But effort shifted into high gear over the July Fourth weekend as Homeland Security agents and officers from at least a half a dozen components of the sprawling organization were arriving in Portland.

Protesters there have been staging nightly demonstrations since May in a section of downtown that includes the federal courthouse, forcing most businesses in the zone to close.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said federal personnel have been assaulted with lasers, bats, fireworks, bottles and other weapons and "yet the city of Portland takes little to no action." Wolf said the people committing the vandalism should not be considered legitimate protesters.

But former Homeland Security officials say they've seen nothing like the Portland deployment, which has included using highly trained Border Patrol agents to confront protesters outside the downtown courthouse, without the cooperation or consent of local law enforcement or government officials.

"Urban policing and crowd control and civil unrest isn't something that is in their wheelhouse," said Gil Kerlikowske, a former commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection under President Barack Obama. "It's not something they are trained for. It's not something they have any experience or expertise in."

Arrests made by federal officers over the July Fourth weekend and several days after were for relatively minor offenses not typically prosecuted in federal court, including misdemeanor assault and disorderly conduct. Officials have accused some demonstrators of assaulting federal officers, by shining lasers in their eyes or other means, and said at least one person was detained with the ingredients for a pipe bomb.

John Cohen, a former senior DHS official under Obama and President George W. Bush, said such a high-profile presence of federal agents without local support created the risk of escalating the situation, and that appears to be what happened.

The protests have grown in recent days, particularly after federal officers in unmarked vans and with generic "police" patches last week detained several people on downtown streets without identifying themselves — a move some critics have compared to kidnappings.

"If the public begins to perceive that they are being partisan in how they operate, they lose credibility, and if they lose credibility, they lose public trust," said Cohen. "And for a security or law enforcement organization, the loss of public trust can be fatal."

David Lapan, a retired Marine colonel who served as Homeland Security press secretary as well as a public affairs officer for the Defense Department, said he worried about a blurring line between military and law enforcement that "creates the impression the military is being used to suppress the public."

AP writers Michael Balsamo in Washington and Katherine Foody in Chicago contributed to this report.

Tesla's spent a year terrifying, electrifying Wall Street

By TOM KRISHER and MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Tesla's losses were mounting last summer, massive debt payments were looming, and both Wall Street and federal regulators had run out of patience with the erratic behavior of CEO Elon Musk. One year ago this week, shares plunged 14% after Tesla posted another quarterly loss, this one for \$408 million, wiping out about \$6 billion of the company's worth.

Since then the stock has blasted off like a rocket at SpaceX, another Musk-led company. The electric car and solar panel maker has successfully opened a factory in China, introduced the Model Y electric SUV, made debt payments and posted profits for three straight quarters. Musk has also toned down his inflammatory posts on Twitter that had cost him and the company \$40 million in penalties from U.S. securities regulators.

Today, Tesla's market value is three times that of Ford, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler, combined. A single share of Tesla now goes for nearly \$1,600 — a seven-fold increase from a year ago — making it one of the most expensive publicly traded shares in the world.

"Things just turned on a dime," said Garrett Nelson, an analyst at CFRA who specializes in the automotive industry. "It's just been one positive announcement after another."

The dizzying performance on Tuesday qualified Musk for his second huge payday in less than three months, this one worth more than \$2 billion. His net worth has soared to an estimated \$72 billion, just behind Warren Buffett on the Forbes Billionaires list after passing the famed investor earlier this month. In total, Musk and other Tesla shareholders have made about \$240 billion since March 18 when the stock stood at \$361 — its low point for this year.

With second-quarter sales of Tesla vehicles outpacing the first despite a global pandemic, shares could jump again if Tesla surprises on Wednesday with a fourth consecutive profitable quarter. That could lead to Tesla's admission into the club of corporate giants: the S&P 500 stock index.

But analysts have begun to question if the shares are running too hot. Analysts polled by FactSet expect a \$228 million net loss from April through June. Only one analyst has a 12-month stock price target above the current value. A message was left Tuesday seeking comment from Tesla.

Nelson says shares have outpaced Tesla's fundamental performance, and he's telling clients to sell. He placed a price target at about two-thirds the current value of shares.

In an interview, Nelson said April-to-June registrations of Tesla vehicles fell by nearly half in California, the company's biggest U.S. market. That's an indication of waning demand for its vehicles, which start at \$37,990 for a base Model 3 but the car can easily hit \$60,000 with options.

Tesla also cut the price of its long-range Model Y by \$3,000, which Nelson sees as a red flag. And the company is about to engage in a bout of heavy spending with new factories going up in Germany and the U.S.

There are also market factors that have flung share prices far higher, Nelson said.

Short sellers who perceived flaws at Tesla have since been buying shares to cover massive losses as the stock price leaped, Nelson said. Short-sellers now account for only 7.5% of Tesla's outstanding stock, down from over 23% a year ago, he said.

Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas has a \$740 price target on Tesla, arguing that the market overestimates the company's share of future electric vehicle and connected car revenue.

Investors are treating Tesla like tech stocks Apple and Amazon, which took off years ago after hitting \$300 billion in market value, Jonas wrote in an investor note. Tesla hit that mark last week, but its rev-

enue and pretax earnings are far smaller than either tech company when they reached the \$300 billion valuation, he wrote.

Those who buy Tesla at around \$1,500 per share have to believe that long-term U.S.-China trade relations will remain stable, older automakers will fail to make competitive electric vehicles, and big tech companies such as Google, Amazon and Apple won't be successful in developing electric vehicle systems, he wrote.

Jonas, who is uneasy about deteriorating relations between the world's two biggest economies, says traditional automakers are ready to spend over \$400 billion on electric vehicles in the next five years, and he expects tech companies to enter the transportation business.

In the meantime, Musk is sitting pretty. The run-up in Tesla's stock positioned him for a big payday after the Palo Alto, California, company awarded him a stock package worth more than \$700 million in May.

That compensation is part of an incentive-laden deal that Tesla's board worked out two years ago to inspire Musk to build a company that eventually generates \$175 billion in revenue, and is valued at \$650 billion.

Musk cleared another hurdle Tuesday when Tesla's market value averaged \$150 billion for a six-month stretch, according to data compiled by FactSet Research. Hitting that threshold means Musk is in line to receive 1.69 million stock options valued at \$350.02, or nearly 80% below Tuesday's closing price of \$1,568.36.

The huge gap would make those stock options worth \$2.06 billion on paper, although Musk can't sell the shares for at least five years.

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga contributed from Los Angeles. Liedtke reported from San Ramon, California.

Heavily armed US agents on city streets: Can Trump do that?

By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has deployed agents with tactical gear to confront protesters in downtown Portland, Oregon. That has sparked debate over the use of federal power as local and state officials, and many in the community, condemn their tactics and demand they leave. Far from backing down, the administration plans to send agents to Chicago to respond to gun violence. And President Donald Trump says federal agents could be deployed elsewhere as he makes law and order a central element in his struggling re-election campaign.

A look at some of the issues behind this unconventional, if not unprecedented, use of federal forces:

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN PORTLAND?

Protests over the killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis have taken place in downtown Portland for more than 50 consecutive days, drawing at times more than 10,000 mostly peaceful demonstrators. A relatively small number of activists have vandalized downtown buildings, including the federal courthouse, and attacked police and federal agents.

Trump issued an executive order June 26 to protect monuments and federal property after protesters tried to remove or destroy statues of people considered racist, including a failed attempt to pull down one of Andrew Jackson near the White House. The Department of Homeland Security dispatched agents to Portland as well as Seattle and Washington, D.C., starting around the Fourth of July weekend.

WHY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY?

DHS, which was formed after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to improve the nation's response to the threat of international terrorism, oversees some of the largest U.S. law enforcement agencies. That includes the Border Patrol as well as Immigration Customs and Enforcement, which are seeing less of their usual activity because of COVID-19. DHS also oversees the Federal Protective Service, which guards federal buildings along with the U.S. Marshals Service. DHS sent members of the Border Patrol, along with Secret Service officers, Air Marshals and others, to Portland to protect the downtown courthouse complex.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER FEDERAL FORCES ARRIVED?

Federal officers and protesters clashed in the streets outside the federal courthouse. Demonstrators

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broke windows and did other damage, hurled rocks at the officers and shined lasers in their eyes. Agents have fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators and arrested about 43 people since July 4, mostly for minor offenses. Tensions escalated after an officer with the Marshals Service fired a less-lethal round at a protester's head on July 11, critically injuring him. They ratcheted up further when agents in unmarked vehicles with generic "police" patches on their camouflage uniforms arrested people at night without identifying themselves.

DHS officials defended the arrests Tuesday, saying they were carried out lawfully and intended to protect officers from violent crowds. They also noted it is routine to use unmarked vehicles. But it seemed to many like the U.S. had created a secret police force, and it drew lawsuits as well as more protesters into the streets.

IS IT LEGAL FOR FEDERAL FORCES TO BE USED LIKE THIS?

Yes, to a certain extent. Federal authorities can enforce federal laws on federal property, like the courthouse in downtown Portland. But state and local officials say the federal agents have operated beyond their jurisdiction, and that has raised constitutional issues now being challenged in court. As Michael Dorf, a professional of constitutional law at Cornell University, told The Associated Press, "The idea that there's a threat to a federal courthouse and the federal authorities are going to swoop in and do whatever they want to do without any cooperation and coordination with state and local authorities is extraordinary outside the context of a civil war."

EVEN IF IT'S LEGAL, IS IT A GOOD IDEA?

DHS has assisted with local enforcement before, but not without consent. It sent agents to Puerto Rico to help confront a spike in crime linked to drug trafficking in 2013 and dispatched the Border Patrol's tactical team to track two escaped convicts in rural upstate New York in 2015. But as John Cohen, a former senior DHS official under Obama and President George W. Bush, noted, those were conducted in close cooperation with state and local authorities. Employing DHS on its own, in a mission that seems to be suspiciously aligned with the president's reelection campaign, appears to be unprecedented. "If the public begins to perceive that they are being partisan in how they operate they lose credibility, and if they lose credibility, they lose public trust," said Cohen, who now teaches at Georgetown University.

WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAPPEN NEXT?

The Oregon attorney general filed a lawsuit Friday arguing that the federal government had violated the rights of citizens of the state by detaining people without probable cause. The American Civil Liberties Union has also sued, seeking to stop the federal government's use of rubber bullets, tear gas and acoustic weapons against journalists and other legal observers. These and other legal actions could force the federal agents to change tactics or perhaps downsize their mission in the city.

Acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf at a news conference Tuesday urged state and local authorities in Portland to work with the federal government to stop the violence directed at federal personnel and property. He also sought to draw a sharp distinction between people demonstrating against police brutality and those attacking the courthouse. "If you're looking to peacefully protest in Portland, the department respects your right to do so," he said.

Trump has praised the DHS response and criticized local officials for letting a situation get "out of control." An official told the AP that Homeland Security was planning to deploy about 150 agents to Chicago for at least two months in a mission expected to focus on gun crime, not the protection of federal property. Trump, who sees the use of federal officers as a way to embarrass Democratic local officials, wants them used in other cities. "We're going to have more federal law enforcement, that I can tell you," Trump said Monday.

Associated Press writers Gillian Flaccus in Portland, Ore., and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

Feds probe men's rights lawyer in 2nd killing

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal investigators are examining whether a suspect in the ambush shooting of a federal judge's family in New Jersey also killed a fellow men's rights lawyer in California, a law enforcement official said.

The federal agents are trying to determine whether Roy Den Hollander, who was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound the day after an attack that killed the judge's son and wounded her husband, had any role in the killing earlier this month of Marc Angelucci.

Angelucci, like Den Hollander, was involved in lawsuits alleging gender discrimination against men. He was shot to death July 11 at his home in San Bernardino County, California.

The official cautioned the investigation was in its early stages and federal officials were working with local homicide detectives. In both cases, the suspect appeared to pose as a delivery driver, the official said.

Investigators are also examining Den Hollander's financial and travel records, as well as misogynistic screeds he posted online, said the official, who could not discuss an ongoing investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The San Bernardino County sheriff's department referred questions to the FBI.

Den Hollander, 72, described himself as an "anti-feminist" attorney who filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of "ladies night" promotions at bars and nightclubs, sued Columbia University for providing women's studies classes, and sued news organizations over what he said was biased coverage.

The FBI said Den Hollander was the "primary subject in the attack" Sunday at the home of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas in North Brunswick, New Jersey, where 20-year-old Daniel Anderl was killed and his father, Mark Anderl, 63, was wounded. Mark Anderl remained hospitalized and was expected to have more surgery Tuesday, according to Mayor Francis "Mac" Womack, a family friend.

Salas, 51, was in another part of the house and was unharmed.

Den Hollander was found dead Monday in Sullivan County, New York.

Investigators found items in his possession that raised concerns about whether he had targeted, or planned to target, other people, including a photograph of New York Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and the address of a state appeals courthouse, a state court spokesperson said.

Both Den Hollander and Angelucci, 52, were involved in lawsuits seeking to force the U.S. government to require all young women to join men in registering for a possible military draft.

Den Hollander's lawsuit, filed in 2015 on behalf of a woman in New Jersey, was assigned to Salas. He withdrew as the lawyer in the case a year ago after being diagnosed with cancer.

Harry Crouch, president of the National Coalition for Men, told The Associated Press that Den Hollander was furious that he hadn't been involved in a similar case being handled by Angelucci.

"Roy was just not happy that we did not involve him as a co-counsel. I think unhappy is an understatement," Crouch said. "He called me up and threatened me."

Crouch said Den Hollander did not have a good reputation among other men's rights advocates.

"I think he was very hostile, very, very hostile that he finally went over the hill," Crouch said.

In more than 2,000 pages of often misogynistic, racist writings posted online, Den Hollander had sharply criticized Salas and other female judges.

He also wrote about wanting to use the rest of his time on earth to "even the score" with his perceived enemies, using "cowboy justice."

J. Steven Svoboda, a spokesman for the National Coalition for Men who said he was speaking personally and not on behalf of the organization, said Angelucci was "beloved" for his "groundbreaking legal work all in his mind, to make the world a better place."

Dazio reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press reporters Michael R. Sisak in New York and Maryclaire Dale in Philadelphia also contributed to this report.

Going in the water again: 'Jaws' boat clone supports sharks

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

The Orca is headed back to the waters of New England, but this time, its mission isn't to hunt sharks. It's to help save them.

A group of ocean advocates and movie buffs is turning an old lobster fishing vessel into a replica of the Orca, the boat captained by the grizzled shark hunter Quint in "Jaws." The work is taking place on Martha's Vineyard, where Steven Spielberg shot the blockbuster movie in the 1970s.

The occasion doesn't call for a bigger boat so much as one with a different purpose, said Vineyard native David Bigelow, who acquired the craft and is heading up the project. When finished, he said, Orca III will be used as an educational tool to help the public understand sharks and as a research vessel for scientists.

The project is dear to the heart of Bigelow, who appeared as an extra in "Jaws." His drama teacher Lee Fierro, who died in April, also played the mother of a shark attack victim in the film. Reports of shark sightings on some New England beaches in recent years moved Bigelow to take on the project.

"The need to educate people about the new ecosystem we're living in, because of climate change and the seal population, is probably our only defense," Bigelow said, sighting two possible drivers of increased shark sightings. "We have basically taken on this role where the boat is going to be used for education."

Bigelow said that he believes the retrofitting work can be completed by this fall and that the boat can start helping people study sharks by next spring. The boat will be called Orca III because there were actually two vessels in "Jaws" — Orca and Orca II. Orca is seen in much of the film, and Orca II was a prop vessel.

Others working on the mission to bring back the Orca have a connection to "Jaws," too. Joe Alves, production designer on the movie, is on board, as is Chris Crawford, who retrofitted a boat called Warlock into the original Orca in 1974.

The conservation group Beneath The Waves has signed on to use the new Orca on expeditions. The group's board of directors includes Wendy Benchley, widow of Peter Benchley, who wrote the 1974 novel on which the movie is based.

"The return of the Orca is a celebration for the fans of 'Jaws,' as well as an exciting new resource in the pursuit of a greater understanding about our oceans and the life teeming in it," she said.

This story has been corrected to show that Lee Fierro died in April.

Biden unveils caregiver plan, says Trump 'quit' on country

By WILL WEISSERT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

NEW CASTLE, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden offered a massive plan on Tuesday to create 3 million jobs and improve care for children and the elderly as he accused President Donald Trump of having "quit" on the country during a deadly pandemic.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee promised to spend more than three quarters of a trillion dollars — \$775 billion over 10 years — to increase tax credits for low-income families, bolster caregiving services for veterans and other seniors and provide preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds.

"This is about easing the squeeze on working families" and showing families the "dignity and respect they deserve," he said during a speech in New Castle, Delaware.

It's the third plank of Biden's larger economic recovery plan, following a \$2 trillion environmental proposal he released last week and a \$700 billion package unveiled the week before seeking to increase government purchasing of U.S.-based goods and invest in new research and development. Biden is attempting to illustrate for voters how the coronavirus can present opportunities for job growth and new policy priorities in contrast to Trump, who has promised to rebuild the economy stronger than ever but otherwise struggled to articulate what he hopes to accomplish with a second term.

"For all his bluster about his expertise about the economy, he's unable to explain how he'll help working families hit the hardest," Biden said. He added that Trump "failed his most important test as an American president: the duty to care for you, for all of us."

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"He's quit on you. He's quit on this country," Biden said. "A president's supposed to care, to lead, to take responsibility, to never give up."

Biden wore a black face mask and addressed a small, socially distanced crowd, as he has done in recent weeks while scheduling a series of campaign stops within driving distance of his Wilmington home. The former vice president still had the mask briefly dangling from his ear as he began Tuesday's remarks.

"We're trapped within a caregiving crisis, within an economic crisis, within a health care crisis," Biden said. "You're doing everything you can, but this president is not."

Biden promised to pay for his latest plan by reducing tax breaks for real estate investors with annual incomes of more than \$400,000, while increasing compliance with existing tax law for high earners. As he spoke, the Trump reelection campaign released a statement accusing Biden of embracing an "unaffordable left-wing agenda" that would force him to raise taxes on the middle class. Biden has vowed not to do that but has endorsed rolling back the GOP-led tax cuts that are the Trump administration's signature policy accomplishment.

Biden's campaign also announced a \$15 million advertising buy that will feature three television spots as well as ads for radio and digital platforms and target battlegrounds Trump won in 2016. The campaign is increasing spending in states including Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, while adding national cable advertising on news and sports channels — including at times when the Major League Baseball season opens later this week.

Throughout his speech, Biden continued what has become a centerpiece of his campaign, working to project empathy and tying families struggling to cope with the health and economic crisis with his own experience as a single father to two young sons after his wife and toddler daughter were killed in a car crash just before Christmas in 1972.

"I know it's hard to think about the future when you're just trying to get through the crisis at hand," Biden said.

Under the proposal, Biden vows to provide for the estimated 800,000 people waiting for home and community services under Medicaid. He wants to expand alternatives to institutional care for all older Americans while helping veterans by filling tens of thousands of vacancies at Veterans Affairs facilities around the country. And he's pledging to train and hire 150,000 new community health workers in underserved communities and 35,000 more to combat the opioid crisis besides creating a 100,000-member public health job corps.

Biden also called for a joint federal-state universal prekindergarten program while offering low-income and middle-class families a tax credit of up to \$8,000 to help pay for child care. He plans to offer pay increases to child caregivers and early educators and bonuses to child care providers working during nontraditional hours, while expanding families' access to after-school, weekend and summer care.

Biden further promised to increase the number of child care facilities around the country by offering tax credits for and direct federal funding to businesses willing to build them.

He argued that his caregiver plan is "a moral and economic imperative," noting that the jobs it would create would be immediately available and would immediately affect the economy, while freeing up Americans who have been forced to leave jobs to care for elderly family members or children.

"It's the right thing to do for our families and our most essential workers," he said. "It's the smart thing to do for our economy."

Senate panel approves Trump's controversial Fed nominee

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday approved President Donald Trump's choice of Judy Shelton for the Federal Reserve board of governors on a party-line vote, overcoming widespread questions about her qualifications for the Fed.

Committee Chairman Sen. Mike Crapo, Republican of Idaho, said that Shelton had reassured him and other GOP senators that she recognizes the Federal Reserve's independence from the rest of the government

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and also supports insuring bank deposits — widely accepted policies that she had previously questioned.

Crapo also noted Shelton's comments during a February hearing that she does not support returning to the gold standard, in which the value of the dollar is tied to gold, even though she had advocated doing so in the past. Instead, Crapo said, Shelton regards the gold standard as a topic worthy of study.

"Many have tried to characterize her views on the gold standard ... as outside the mainstream and disqualifying for this position," Crapo said. "I strongly disagree with that characterization."

The committee also voted to back the nomination of Christopher Waller, the research director at the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, to fill a final open seat on the Fed's seven-member board of governors. Waller was approved 18 to 7, with all dissenting votes from Democrats.

Sen. Sherrod Brown from Ohio, the top Democrat on the committee, charged that Shelton had flip-flopped on many of her positions to align them with Trump. Shelton had, for example, criticized the Fed for holding short-term interest rates at nearly zero under President Barack Obama but now supports very low rates, as Trump has urged. Shelton has also long supported free trade and even called for a North American currency union but has since backpedaled on those views.

"She was an interest rate hawk and opposed tariffs on China, but now that President Trump doesn't like those things, magically, neither does she," Brown said.

Shelton's unorthodox views and questionable credentials had drawn broad opposition from economists and many former Fed officials. In a Wall Street Journal editorial in 2009, she wrote, "Let's return to the gold standard." And in another Journal column from 2019, she said the Fed should "pursue a more coordinated relationship with both Congress and the president," which would undermine the central bank's independence.

A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declined to comment on when the full Senate would take up the nominations of Shelton and Waller. The vote could take place any time this year, including after the November election.

On her own, it's unlikely that Shelton would have much effect on Fed policy, analysts say. The central bank has cut its short-term rate to near zero, is buying more than \$100 billion in bonds a month to keep a lid on longer-term rates and is also providing a wide range of emergency loans, including purchasing corporate bonds for the first time.

Stephanie Aaronson, a vice president at the Brookings Institution and a former top economist at the Fed, said it's hard to change Fed policy as an outlier, or as a steadfast opponent of the chair.

"The Fed and the board have historically been much more consensus-driven," Aaronson said. "There is a very high value placed on collegiality within the system."

Fed governors, who are based in Washington, rarely dissent from the chair's view, though the presidents of the regional Fed banks often will.

When Shelton was first nominated last year, Trump was highly critical of the chair, Jerome Powell, whom he attacked for raising the Fed's benchmark rate and for not lowering rates again fast enough for Trump's satisfaction. But Powell stopped raising rates before the pandemic and then slashed them deeply, eventually drawing praise from Trump.

Shelton's approval by the Senate Banking Committee represents a turnaround from February, when several senators had expressed reservations about her after a hearing.

One of them, Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, said he was bothered by "some of your writings." Another, Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, criticized her view that the Fed should cheapen the dollar if other nations appeared to be manipulating their own currencies. And after the hearing, Louisiana Republican Sen. John Kennedy expressed skepticism about her nomination.

Kennedy had grilled Shelton on how she would respond to a recession if she were able to unilaterally set Fed policy. Shelton replied that she would cut the central bank's benchmark short-term interest rate to zero and start buying \$80 billion a month in Treasury bond purchases — policies that she had denounced when the Fed pursued them after the Great Recession.

But Shelton's prospects eventually brightened. Toomey said he would support Shelton after she had reas-

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sured him that she would not seek to lower the value of the dollar. Shelby said that if all other Republicans supported her nomination, he wouldn't block it.

As a member of the Fed's powerful board of governors, Shelton would vote on the Fed's rate decisions and on banking regulation. The governors also vote on whether to institute emergency measures, such as the Fed's decision in March to start buying corporate bonds for the first time.

Shelton served as an economic adviser to Trump's transition team and then as U.S. executive director for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which helps former communist countries transition to market economies. She holds a Ph.D. in business administration from the University of Utah.

Waller drew much less attention at the same February hearing where Shelton appeared and is seen as a far more conventional and qualified choice for the Fed. Some of his research examines the benefits of the central bank's independence from political interference.

Still, Brown said he opposed Waller's nomination because he felt Waller would support easing regulations on large Wall Street banks.

Facebook's voting labels on candidate posts sow confusion

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Facebook has started adding informational labels to all posts about voting by federal elected officials and candidates in the U.S., as it said it would do. But the move appears to be sowing confusion rather than dispelling it.

This week, the social network applied labels to posts by President Donald Trump and by Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, among others. The simple labels read "get official voting info" and direct people to a hub with information from authoritative election sources such as state and local officials.

The intention, as Facebook laid it out in late June, was to provide links to unbiased information about when and how to vote on election-related posts. Instead, though, they're being misinterpreted — in some cases as an endorsement of misleading or false claims.

Trump's Tuesday morning Facebook post read: "Mail-In Voting, unless changed by the courts, will lead to the most CORRUPT ELECTION in our Nation's History! #RIGGEDELECTION." Facebook's label, placed under the post, says "Get official voting info on how to vote in the 2020 US Election at usa.gov" and directs people to the government website's section on absentee and early voting and voting amid the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Facebook labeled at least two Biden posts in 24 hours. In one, the former vice president put "the Kremlin and other foreign governments on notice" about interfering in U.S. elections. Another asked for donations, noting that "it may be hard to believe, but we have just over 100 days until Election Day."

"There is inherently no problem with Facebook deciding to add labels to all posts about elections and voting," said Nina Brown, a professor at Syracuse University who studies misinformation. But Facebook "missed the opportunity to do so in a clear and meaningful way."

When it announced the rollout of the labels last week, Facebook said they are not a judgment "of whether the posts themselves are accurate, but we want people to have access to authoritative information either way."

That may be the problem, Brown said.

"Facebook is so reluctant to be seen as weighing in on an issue or as favoring one politician or another," she said. "So instead of just false posts, it will label all posts. But social media users are not used to seeing flags on content that is not problematic."

When Twitter labeled a post about mail-in voting by Trump — earning the president's ire — it looked like a warning label, one punctuated with a circled exclamation mark and reading, "Get the facts about mail in ballots." Rather than label every politician's tweet about voting, Twitter is only doing it with those that are false or misleading. This, Brown said, had the intended effect.

Facebook, meanwhile, has "tried to act as this neutral arbiter," she said, adding that it may ultimately do more harm than good.

Further adding to the confusion, Facebook also announced in June that it will start labeling all “news-worthy” posts from politicians that break its rules, including those from Trump. But that’s a different label, not the one on election posts, which do not currently break Facebook’s rules, even if they are false.

Pandemic poses challenges for Argentines seeking therapy

By ALMUDENA CALATRAVA Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Romina Caira has hidden in her bathroom, the door closed tightly so she doesn’t wake her 4-year-old daughter. Mariana Fevre finds privacy in her parked car or sitting in the stairwell of her apartment building.

Coronavirus quarantines pose a special challenge for Argentines seeking a quiet moment to talk their problems over with their therapist.

Finding private time for counseling is a problem around the world during the pandemic, but it is particularly acute in Argentina, which has the world’s highest number per capita of psychologists, according to World Health Organization statistics. With 223 per 100,000 residents, that’s more than double the number in Finland and many times more than France, with 48.7 per 100,000, and the U.S., with nearly 30.

The phenomenon is concentrated mostly in the capital, Buenos Aires, where it seems almost everyone has a therapist and weekly counseling sessions are as essential as food shopping or medical checkups. After more than four months of strict quarantine, Porteños, as the city’s residents are known in Argentina, are going to extreme lengths to get in their sessions in as much privacy as possible.

In the chill of the Southern Hemisphere’s fall and winter, Caira, a 46-year-old single mother, lays a sweater or coat on the closed toilet against the cold, puts on another over her pajamas, then sits there for 45 minutes talking to her therapist every Thursday morning.

“It was really strange at first,” she said. “I would tell my psychologist, ‘I’m literally sitting on the toilet.’”

Fevre, a 37-year-old human resources manager, had to find ways to escape from her apartment and the demands of her infant daughter. When her husband returns from his job at a food-processing factory, she sits in the stairwell or in her car to talk to her psychologist.

“At first I thought, ‘This is like something out of the movies,’” she said.

Argentina’s tradition of psychotherapy is rooted in its ties to Europe, which sent millions of immigrants to the country in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

The practice spread throughout Argentina in the 1940s and ‘50s. Psychoanalysis was discouraged and persecuted during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship, then flourished again after the country’s return to democracy.

Some Argentines are in therapy for most of their adult life, while others use it to get through a difficult period and then stop. Therapy is affordable for much of the middle- and wealthier classes, often costing less than \$30 per session.

Only narrowly defined categories of essential workers have been able to leave their homes in Buenos Aires since March 20, measures that are loosening to allow patients to visit psychologists in their offices starting on July 29. Such visits are already permitted in other areas of the country with relatively low numbers of coronavirus cases.

Argentina, with a population 44.5 million, has more than 123,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and more than 2,200 dead, lower numbers than many neighboring countries but still enough to prompt concern about whether to loosen anti-virus measures.

María Inés Sotelo, a member of the World Association of Psychoanalysis, said she was able to adapt swiftly to voice and video chats with her patients who are stuck at home, or wherever they could find privacy.

However, the Argentine Psychological Foundation and the country’s Association of Academic Psychology have been pushing the government to allow in-person sessions for patients with serious problems requiring face-to-face — if socially distanced — contact, said Jorge Biglieri, the dean of the School of Psychology at the University of Buenos Aires.

The school’s Center for Applied Social Psychology found in a study this month that Buenos Aires residents were suffering “deep cognitive-emotional exhaustion,” due to isolation, inactivity and drops in income,

with 65% of people saying they felt much or somewhat worse than before the pandemic. It said that 82% were in favor of psychologists opening their offices.

María Clara Benítez Caamaño, a specialist in cognitive and behavioral therapy, said psychologists often needed to see their patients' expressions and gestures in person in order to properly treat problems as such as depression, eating disorders or phobias.

Medical student Sofia Azar, one of Benítez Caamaño's patients, said she would go on her family's balcony or in a bedroom and talk softly so as not to be heard.

She said she missed "being behind closed doors" with her psychologist and doing relaxation exercises in Benítez Caamaño's office. Another problem: her Wi-Fi signal kept cutting in and out, interrupting sessions at key moments.

Caira, the single mother, said the remote sessions were a big help in tough times, if not ideal.

"It's much better to have 45 minutes by phone than nothing," she said.

Safe at home? Social distancing difficult around MLB plates

By JAKE SEINER and STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Sports Writers

Just like his strong arm and limber legs, Joe Girardi made good use of his mouth over 15 seasons as a big league catcher. So much so that slugger Chili Davis once told him to shut it.

"He was like, 'You're bothering me, I'm trying to hit,'" recalled Girardi, now manager of the Philadelphia Phillies. "I said, 'Well, I'm trying to bother you, Chili.'"

Girardi doesn't think that kind of chatter will happen as much this season amid the coronavirus pandemic.

There's some concern that home plate could become a hot spot for transmission as baseball attempts to play a shortened 60-game season starting Thursday.

Social distancing elsewhere around the diamond is fairly easy. But with the batter, catcher and umpire gathered within a few feet of each other around home plate, it might not be possible for all parties to follow government guidance to avoid 10 to 15 minutes of close exposure to others.

"It's been a little weird. Just from being back there for so long, you get used to having people around," Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Carson Kelly said. "But now you get some second thoughts. 'Oh wait, should I be this close to this guy?' ... We've got a job to do but at the same time we need to be safe."

Like with so much in everyday life during the pandemic, the interactions at home — whether cordial exchanges or distracting chatter — will feel far from normal for the trio around that 17-inch wide plate.

"This is something everybody's talking about, everybody's trying to figure out," Texas Rangers catcher Robinson Chirinos said. "But in the end hopefully we can do our part and be safe at the plate, because of having those three guys right there so close."

Chirinos plans to wear a face covering under his catcher's mask, but knows that it will have "to be on and off just because I still need to be vocal out there being a catcher," and make sure pitchers and fielders can hear and understand what he is saying.

Just by the nature of their responsibility to calls balls and strikes, umpires are directly behind catchers and peering over catchers' shoulders. Within that close contact it's not uncommon — at least not in the past — for umpires to put their hands on crouching catchers. There is also the back-and-forth talk between them at times about those calls, though that is rarely face-to-face.

Some plate umpires are expected to wear their own face coverings. In addition, umpires have been given plastic shields to go over the bottom of their masks. That could reduce contact and droplets, but there might be some concern about those shields fogging up.

About 10 Major League Baseball umpires have opted out of working games this season because of concerns about the coronavirus.

Umpires are being tested regularly for the coronavirus, like players, managers, coaches and other essential staff members have to be so they can be on the field.

Kurt Suzuki, catcher for the World Series champion Washington Nationals, said it would be "really tough" for him to wear a medical mask when behind the plate, though he would like to do that.

"But we have good protocols, good testing. Everybody who's here shows up negative, so that's kind of where we're at right now," Suzuki said. "We're all in this together. We have to follow the rules if we want to make this work."

Even with all the testing, precautions and protocols, there will still be an uneasy feeling for some around home plate.

"In the big picture, I'm worried because if one gets it, everyone gets it. That's how the virus is. That's what gets me scared about it," Milwaukee Brewers catcher Omar Narvaez said. "Everyone knows the healthiest team is going to win. We're all going to try and help each other stay healthy. Everybody knows it's a dangerous position we're in right now, but I'm trying not to think about it."

The New York Yankees have two players who say they'll wear masks at least some of the time around home plate — outfielder Clint Frazier and backup catcher Kyle Higashioka.

Frazier was among the first MLB players to declare he'd wear a face covering full-time, and he's been experimenting with different models to see what feels best in the batter's box.

"I'm just trying to show that it's easy to do and it's the right thing to do," Frazier said. "If it helps a little bit, it's not hard to do, so I'm going to try to do it as much as I can. Hopefully someone sees it and maybe they do it, too."

Yankees manager Aaron Boone supports players wearing masks if they're comfortable doing it, but isn't mandating it. Neither is MLB — players must use face coverings elsewhere in the ballpark, but not during on-field activities.

Higashioka has settled on a lightweight gaiter covering that fits comfortably under his catcher's mask. He won't wear it while hitting because it restricts his ability to turn his head, but said "for catching, there's nothing that really bugs me about it."

"I'm kind of in close vicinity with a couple other people," he said. "Might as well just throw the face covering on just in case. Not sure if it'll help much, but anything works."

AP Baseball Writer Ben Walker, and AP Sports Writers David Brandt, Howard Fendrich and Steve Mega-gee contributed.

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

Virus hits frontline workers in taxed public health system

By LAURA UNGAR KHN and The Associated Press

As a veteran public health worker, Chantee Mack knew the coronavirus could kill. She already faced health challenges and didn't want to take any chances during the pandemic. So she asked — twice — for permission to work from home.

She was deemed essential and told no.

Eight weeks later, she was dead.

Mack, a 44-year-old disease intervention specialist, lost her life this spring after COVID-19 struck the Prince George's County Health Department in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. The coronavirus infected at least 20 department employees, some of whom had attended a staff meeting where they sat close together, union leaders said.

The spread of COVID-19 underscores the stark dangers facing the nation's public health army — the very people charged with leading the pandemic response.

"We're the ones called to the fire to do this during an emergency. We are essential. People don't look at us as first responders, but we are," said Mack's co-worker Rhonda Wallace, leader of a local branch of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees who, like other union members, stressed she wasn't speaking for the health department.

Such outbreaks are a grim threat facing overburdened and underfunded health departments across the nation. An ongoing Associated Press-KHN investigation found that public health spending per person fell

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16% from 2010 to 2018 nationally when adjusted for inflation — and 17% in Maryland.

Public health workers in other states, including Ohio, Oregon, California and Georgia, have also contracted the coronavirus, and in some cases even worked throughout their sickness to address the ongoing pandemic. But the Prince George's department outbreak was among the worst — and occurred as workers dealt with a community caseload that eventually surpassed 21,000, more than any other county in Maryland.

Department leaders declined to answer specific questions, citing health privacy laws. Instead, county health officer Dr. Ernest Carter said in a statement they were heartbroken over the loss of a valued employee who had worked there since 2001.

"She was a dedicated public health professional who made a difference in the health and well-being of Prince Georgians," the statement said.

In the pandemic's early days, department leaders said, they followed a countywide policy on telework devised in 2016, not one developed for the coronavirus threat. At the same time, some employees said, the department failed to provide enough personal protective equipment to keep workers and those they encountered safe — all this in an agency helping shepherd the community through the worst health crisis in a century.

Prince George's officials did not respond to questions about how the employee illnesses affected the department's operations. But Dr. Sandra Elizabeth Ford, district health director for Georgia's DeKalb County Board of Health, said her department, which has lost funding and staff over the years, had to shorten hours when four workers contracted COVID-19 and others had to quarantine.

Ford, president-elect of the board of directors of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, said the need to protect employees and the community weighs heavily on the nation's health department directors.

"It's just so many difficult decisions," she said. "We're looked at for guidance by everyone — the business community, the schools. We're learning as we go along."

STALKED BY A VIRUS

Mack worked in the county's sexually transmitted diseases program, where one of her jobs was to tell people the results of their tests for infections like HIV, gonorrhea and syphilis. Though she didn't work on COVID-19, she was among the 100 staffers deemed essential during the pandemic out of the more than 500-employee health department.

In mid-March, the county executive sent an email saying employees should be evaluated to see if they should telework.

Within days, Mack asked to work from home.

So did her colleague Candace Young, another disease intervention specialist and union member who was nine months pregnant.

Young said management rejected her request to telework for five days a week just before her maternity leave began, but approved three days a week.

Meanwhile, both of Mack's requests were supported by her immediate supervisors but rejected by upper management, according to union documents. Her brother Roland Mack, 38, said he can't understand why, since her duties involved mostly paperwork, computer work and phone calls. Back problems made it too difficult for her to work face-to-face with clients.

The department's telework policy considers, among other things, an employee's responsibilities and work history. In a managers' conference call, recounted in an internal union document obtained by KHN, Diane Young, associate director, said all family health services' workers were essential. Only those 65 or older, those with an "altered" immune system or with small children, would be eligible to work from home. Decisions would be made case by case.

Mack had a key COVID-19 risk factor, obesity. But even after the intervention of Anthony Smith, president of her union chapter, management refused to approve Mack's request for telework.

The decision put Mack in the office on Candace Young's last day there.

Young, 31, now suspects she was unknowingly spreading the coronavirus. She said she has "no doubt in my mind" she contracted it on the job from a client or co-worker; work was the only place she came into

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contact with anyone outside her household. Young avoided even the grocery store because her pregnancy was high-risk.

At the time, the department "didn't take any mitigation measures in terms of limiting contact between employees," Smith said. "They were very spotty with their PPE."

That day — Thursday, March 19 — proved fateful.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced he was ordering government buildings to post recommendations about social distancing, and he banned social and community gatherings of more than 10 people.

Young, who like the other specialists worked in a cubicle, mingled with co-workers as usual. She, Mack and some 20 others were called to a routine staff meeting, where they sat in a U shape. Someone mentioned the paradox of recommending social distancing in the community while sitting much less than six feet apart, Young recalled.

Later, union documents show, nine of 19 disease intervention specialists in family health services, at least some of whom attended the meeting, tested positive for COVID-19.

VIRUS TAKES ITS TOLL

Young noticed mild symptoms the next day and felt worse over the weekend. She said she notified her supervisors on March 24. Two days later, she became the first in the program to be diagnosed with COVID-19.

A day after her diagnosis, her colleagues received texts and calls saying they had been exposed to an employee who tested positive, a union report says. All of them would be quarantined at home, including Mack. Young began recovering only after giving birth by cesarean section on April 2. Her 5-pound, 9-ounce daughter tested negative.

Mack, who knew about Young's illness, began feeling sick and got tested for the coronavirus in early April.

On April 4, in a department memo obtained by KHN, health officer Carter said additional staff members had contracted the virus or reported illness.

Mack was one of at least four employees who union officials say were hospitalized. She entered Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center in mid-April. She stayed on a ventilator for four weeks. She needed a blood transfusion. Her kidneys failed. She developed a brain bleed.

On May 11, Mack's heart stopped, and she slipped away.

"She was a good soul — strong," said her brother. "It's so messed up."

A TERRIBLE PRICE

Three employees who worked at Oregon's Multnomah County Health Department also contracted the virus. In Ohio, it struck workers at the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, forcing the community's main COVID-19 response team into quarantine. Some of the staffers continued to work through their illnesses while in isolation, though, because the county's caseload was still growing.

In California's Coachella Valley, Fernando Fregoso, 52, died of COVID-19 and three colleagues in the local mosquito control district later tested positive. The district — which had already put in place safety measures such as social distancing — shut down for two weeks.

In the wake of Mack's death in Prince George's, union leaders said the health department has stepped up its workplace COVID-19 protections, as have other departments. By mid-June, employees in Mack's division who had been teleworking had returned to working some days in the office.

"The health and safety of our employees is our top priority," Carter's statement said, adding that all employees must wear protective equipment at work, stay six feet from others and wash their hands. Those working with clients must take even more precautions.

"I do believe we're making progress," Smith said. "But we've paid the price."

Mack's brother said his family has been devastated.

"I feel alone now that she's gone," he said. "From the time I was 5 years old, she was taking care of me like a second mom."

Before Mack died, her brother said, she'd begun to talk about moving on from the health department. She wanted to make good on a long-held dream — following their late mother, the woman she considered her best friend, into nursing.

Instead, the two are buried side by side.

KHN Midwest correspondent Lauren Weber, senior correspondent Anna Maria Barry-Jester and data reporter Hannah Recht contributed to this story.

This story is a collaboration between The Associated Press and KHN (Kaiser Health News), which is a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation) that is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

Virus antibodies fade fast but not necessarily protection

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

New research suggests that antibodies the immune system makes to fight the new coronavirus may only last a few months in people with mild illness, but that doesn't mean protection also is gone or that it won't be possible to develop an effective vaccine.

"Infection with this coronavirus does not necessarily generate lifetime immunity," but antibodies are only part of the story, said Dr. Buddy Creech, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University. He had no role in the work, published Tuesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The immune system remembers how to make fresh antibodies if needed and other parts of it also can mount an attack, he said.

Antibodies are proteins that white blood cells called B cells make to bind to the virus and help eliminate it. The earliest ones are fairly crude but as infection goes on, the immune system becomes trained to focus its attack and to make more precise antibodies.

Dr. Otto Yang and others at the University of California, Los Angeles, measured these more precise antibodies in 30 patients diagnosed with COVID-19 and four housemates presumed to have the disease. Their average age was 43 and most had mild symptoms.

Researchers found that the antibodies had a half-life of 73 days, which means that half of them would be gone after that much time. It dovetails with a previous report from China also suggesting antibodies quickly fade.

The results "call for caution regarding antibody-based 'immunity passports,' herd immunity, and perhaps vaccine durability," the California authors write.

That's true, Creech said, but other parts of the immune system also help confer protection. Besides churning out antibodies, B cells develop a memory so they know how to do that again if needed.

"They would get called into action very quickly when there's a new exposure to the virus. It's as if they lie dormant, just waiting," he said.

Other white blood cells called T cells also are better able to attack the virus the next time they see it, Creech said.

Although circulating antibodies may not last long, what we need to know is if and how people remake antibodies if exposed to the coronavirus again and if they protect against another infection, Alison Criss, an immunologist at the University of Virginia, wrote in an email. "We also need to know if there is a protective T cell response" that reappears.

Vaccines, which provoke the immune system to make antibodies, might give longer-lasting protection than natural infection because they use purified versions of what stimulates that response, she noted.

Creech agreed.

"This shouldn't dissuade us from pursuing a vaccine," he said. "Antibodies are only a part of the story."

Marilynn Marchione can be followed on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP>

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Private proms during pandemic: 'Footloose' or loose cannons?

By HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Bedford High School canceled its senior prom, and a persistent pandemic means prospects for dances to be held this fall are slim to none.

But nearly 100 recent grads got dressed up last weekend for a private prom, one of several held around the country just as the debate over safely reopening schools ramps up.

In some places still ravaged by the virus, plans were called off. In New Hampshire, at least, officials are largely staying out of the way as long as organizers and participants follow distancing guidelines meant to keep the coronavirus in check.

"We're asking folks to be smart about it, but I'm not going to be the guy in 'Footloose' who says, 'No dancing in my town,'" Gov. Chris Sununu, a Republican, said last month.

New Hampshire rules for wedding and event venues don't prohibit dancing but strongly discourage it unless dancers stick with members of their own household or remain 6 feet (2 meters) apart.

In Missouri, Jefferson City High School seniors organized their own June 30 prom after their original event was canceled. In Michigan, Chippewa Valley High School parents have scheduled a combined prom, after party and senior awards banquet for Wednesday.

But plans to host private proms were abandoned this month in Montana and Georgia amid rising numbers of COVID-19 infections. And health officials in Illinois said 10 people associated with an "unofficial prom" held at a home in June later tested positive for the virus.

The Bedford High prom was held Saturday in a tent at the Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown. While more than 300 seniors graduated, attendance was capped at 100 tickets, and not all were sold.

Carol Justic, whose daughter attended and who was there herself as a chaperone, said she had initial concerns about food service and dancing but ended up being impressed. Chaperones made sure no more than six teens were at each table, and students wore their masks when entering and exiting the tent, she said.

"As a mom it makes you proud and teary because they're doing the right thing," she said.

Though the students posed together for a group photo, they were instructed to stand near friends with whom they had arrived or were sitting, said Andrea Gately, who helped organize the prom for her son and his classmates.

She cited two main reasons: The "right of passage" the event often represents and "the girls who had always dreamed of going to senior prom and they buy these fabulous dresses, and they don't have an opportunity to wear them."

"Everyone I've talked to is saying, 'Thank you for doing this for the kids,'" she said.

Justic said she did see some criticism on social media, but that most parents were supportive. And unlike in the 1984 Kevin Bacon movie "Footloose," in which rebellious teens defy authority figures to hold a dance of their own, there wasn't much dancing on Saturday.

"They were a little nervous, but they also were a little done at that point," she said. "Once they got to see each other and say their goodbyes, I think they'd turn the page a little bit."

Running legend Jim Ryun to receive Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is awarding the nation's highest civilian honor to Jim Ryun, a former Kansas congressman who was the first high school runner to clock a mile in under 4 minutes.

Trump is scheduled to honor the three-time Olympian with the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House on Friday.

The Wichita native entered the record books in 1964 at age 17 by becoming the first high school runner to break the 4-minute barrier in the mile with a time of 3 minutes, 59 seconds.

Ryun, now 73, went on to compete in three Olympic Games, winning a silver medal in 1968 in Mexico City. He later served 10 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The White House said Ryun is one of the most accomplished American runners.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is awarded to individuals who have made meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors, the White House said.

Astronauts squeeze in last spacewalk before SpaceX departure

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Astronauts squeezed in one last spacewalk Tuesday before turning their attention to the all-important end to SpaceX's first crew flight.

Making their fourth and final spacewalk in under a month, NASA's Bob Behnken and Chris Cassidy whipped through a variety of maintenance tasks outside the International Space Station.

Instead of swapping batteries, they routed cables, hooked up a tool storage chest and removed thermal shielding from a docking port that will house a commercial airlock later this year.

Behnken had to scrape away a shiny metallic blob — some sort of debris — from the round rim of the port. This port is the future home of a domed airlock provided by the Houston-based company Nanoracks to release satellites and experiments into open space.

SpaceX will launch this first-ever commercial airlock this fall.

It was the 10th spacewalk in each astronaut's career, tying the U.S. record set by previous space station residents. Tuesday's 5 1/2-hour outing put Behnken's total time out in the vacuum of space at 61 hours and Cassidy's at nearly 55 hours.

"It's a little more comfortable on the 10th one than the first one," said Cassidy. "The view's always amazing, though."

In less than two weeks, Behnken and Doug Hurley, who monitored the spacewalk from inside, will depart the orbiting complex in the same SpaceX Dragon crew capsule in which they arrived at the end of May.

SpaceX is aiming for a splashdown off the Florida coast in August — the first splashdown for astronauts in 45 years.

Weather permitting, the Dragon capsule will parachute into the Gulf of Mexico off the Florida Panhandle.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said once Tuesday's spacewalk is finished, the astronauts are "going to be focused like a laser on coming home."

Bridenstine said the SpaceX test flight has gone exceedingly well so far. "And I'm knocking on wood because it is not over until Bob and Doug are home," he said at a Space Foundation panel discussion Monday.

The first-stage booster used to launch Behnken and Hurley on May 30 blasted off for a second time Monday from Cape Canaveral. It landed on a floating platform in the Atlantic after hoisting a satellite for South Korea's military, to be used again for another flight.

Cassidy and two Russians will remain aboard the orbiting lab until October.

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Virus concerns nudge some teachers toward classroom exits

By KANTELE FRANKO Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — As pressure mounts for teachers to return to their classrooms this fall, concerns about health risks from the coronavirus are pushing many toward alternatives, including career changes, as others mobilize to delay school reopenings in hard-hit areas.

Among those opting for early retirement is Liza McArdle, a 50-year-old high school language instructor in New Boston, Michigan. She considered the health risks and the looming instructional challenges — trying to teach French and Spanish with a mask obstructing her enunciation, or perhaps a return to virtual learning — and decided it was time to go.

"We're always expected to give, give, give. You're a teacher. You have to be there for the kids," McArdle

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said. "And now it's like, 'Oh, yeah, now you have to put your life on the line for the kids because they need to be in school.'"

Teachers unions have begun pushing back on what they see as unnecessarily aggressive timetables for reopening. The largest unions say the timing should be guided by whether districts have the ability — and funding — to implement protocols and precautions to protect students and teachers, even if that means balking at calls from President Donald Trump to resume in-person instruction.

On Monday, a teachers union filed a lawsuit to block the reopening of schools in Florida, where state officials have ordered school districts to reopen campuses as an option unless local health officials deem that to be unsafe. Educators in several cities have called for the school year to start with remote instruction. Some have joined demonstrations in Arizona, where three teachers sharing a classroom during summer school tested positive for the virus and one died.

"The conversation is being driven by what they want to do for the economy," said Regina Fuentes, a high school English instructor in Columbus, Ohio, who is entering her 22nd year of teaching. "Teachers and students shouldn't have to go back to school just to save the economy."

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said her union is focused on advocating for safety in reopening schools, though she isn't ruling out the possibility of strikes.

"When I say that nothing's off the table, it means that nothing is off the table in our focus and our push to make this safe," she said.

A recent analysis from the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation estimated nearly one-quarter of the nation's teachers — nearly 1.5 million — are considered higher-risk for serious illness from the coronavirus because of other health conditions or age.

In a Michigan Education Association survey last month of 15,000-plus educators, 23% indicated they were considering retiring early or leaving the profession because of COVID-19, and 7% said they were actually doing so, according to the union.

Not all educators are concerned. Karen Toenges said she is eager to resume face-to-face lessons with her elementary students in Orlando, Florida, and she disagrees with those contending it isn't safe. Even as cases spiked in the state, Toenges, 60, she said she hasn't been wearing a mask and isn't worried about getting COVID-19.

"It really has become a political issue, which really bothers me," Toenges said. "But, you know, I'm a very small voice in a very large sea. And so I just go about doing my stuff, getting myself ready, preparing curriculum."

But school reopening plans could be complicated by any widespread departures of those who are worried about the virus, or who are not eager to return for more distance learning.

Mary Morris, for one, will not be back this fall at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a Catholic school in Toledo, Ohio, for her 30th year of teaching. Even after a temporary switch to remote learning left her in tears this spring, she had initially signed on for another year.

Then she tried to start planning for kindergarten lessons under virus precautions. Keep kids separated. Don't share toys. Constantly sanitize all the magnetic letters and the little cubes for counting. It didn't add up for her.

"Everything that I believe in, I can't do," Morris said. "It's all going to be paper and pencil. And that's when I sat down and I thought, 'What am I doing?'"

Other teachers feel they have little choice but to return.

Retiring now isn't financially feasible for science teacher Deb Waddell, 61, who misses her students but worries because she and her immediate family have health conditions that make them higher risk. She's hoping to get a virtual teaching role for her rural district in Columbia, Kentucky.

In case not, Waddell said she has spent part of her summer working out adjustments to her classroom routines. She got masks and backup masks, but isn't thrilled to imagine wearing one all day in a room where the ventilation system is, she figures, older than her. She also ordered goggles to help her avoid touching her eyes, which dry out because of an autoimmune disease.

David Kitzmann, a 61-year-old high school shop teacher in Minnetonka, Minnesota, said that explaining

his own higher risk to students could help illustrate what's at stake and encourage them to keep wearing masks, washing their hands and social distancing.

"I'd hate to see any of my kids die or any my fellow teachers die from this," he said. "And if we're smart, we don't have to."

Follow Franko on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/kantele10>. Follow all of AP's pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

Federal agents, local streets: A 'red flag' in Oregon

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Federal officers' actions at protests in Oregon's largest city, hailed by President Donald Trump but done without local consent, are raising the prospect of a constitutional crisis — one that could escalate as weeks of demonstrations find renewed focus in clashes with camouflaged, unidentified agents outside Portland's U.S. courthouse.

Demonstrators crowded in front of the U.S. federal courthouse and the city's Justice Center late Monday night, before authorities cleared them out as the loud sound and light of flash bang grenades filled the sky.

State and local authorities, who didn't ask for federal help, are awaiting a ruling in a lawsuit filed late last week. State Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said in court papers that masked federal officers have arrested people on the street, far from the courthouse, with no probable cause and whisked them away in unmarked cars.

Trump says he plans to send federal agents to other cities, too.

"We're going to have more federal law enforcement, that I can tell you," Trump said Monday. "In Portland, they've done a fantastic job. They've been there three days, and they really have done a fantastic job in a very short period of time."

Constitutional law experts said federal officers' actions in the progressive city are a "red flag" in what could become a test case of states' rights as the Trump administration expands federal policing.

"The idea that there's a threat to a federal courthouse and the federal authorities are going to swoop in and do whatever they want to do without any cooperation and coordination with state and local authorities is extraordinary outside the context of a civil war," said Michael Dorf, a professor of constitutional law at Cornell University.

"It is a standard move of authoritarians to use the pretext of quelling violence to bring in force, thereby prompting a violent response and then bootstrapping the initial use of force in the first place," Dorf said.

Homeland Security was planning to deploy about 150 of its agents to Chicago, according to an official with direct knowledge of the plans who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

They were expected to stay in Chicago at least two months and could be deployed to other locations at some point, the official said. Homeland Security said in a statement that the department does not comment on "allegedly leaked operations."

The ACLU of Oregon has sued in federal court over the agents' presence in Portland, and the organization's Chicago branch said it would similarly oppose a federal presence.

"This is a democracy, not a dictatorship," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, said on Twitter. "We cannot have secret police abducting people in unmarked vehicles. I can't believe I have to say that to the President of the United States."

The Department of Homeland Security tweeted that federal agents were barricaded in Portland's U.S. courthouse at one point and had lasers pointed at their eyes in an attempt to blind them.

"Portland is rife with violent anarchists assaulting federal officers and federal buildings," the tweet said. "This isn't a peaceful crowd. These are federal crimes."

Top leaders in the U.S. House said Sunday that they were "alarmed" by the Trump administration's tactics in Portland and other cities. They have called on federal inspectors general to investigate.

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Trump, who's called the protesters "anarchists and agitators," said the DHS and Justice Department agents are on hand to restore order at the courthouse and help Portland.

Nightly protests, which began after George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police, have devolved into violence.

The Trump administration's actions run counter to the usual philosophies of American conservatives, who typically treat state and local rights with great sanctity and have long been deeply wary of the federal government — particularly its armed agents — interceding in most situations.

But Trump has shown that his actions don't always reflect traditional conservatism — particularly when politics, and in this case an impending election, are in play.

One prominent Republican, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who is from the libertarian-leaning flank of the party, criticized federal policing.

"We cannot give up liberty for security. Local law enforcement can and should be handling these situations in our cities but there is no place for federal troops or unidentified federal agents rounding people up at will," Paul said in a tweet Monday.

The protests have roiled Portland for 52 nights. Many rallies have attracted thousands and been largely peaceful. But smaller groups of up to several hundred people have focused on federal property and local law enforcement buildings, at times setting fires to police precincts, smashing windows and clashing violently with local police.

Portland police used tear gas on multiple occasions until a federal court order banned its officers from doing so without declaring a riot. Now, concern is growing that the tear gas is being used against demonstrators by federal officers instead.

Anger at the federal presence escalated on July 11, when a protester was hospitalized with critical injuries after a U.S. Marshals Service officer struck him in the head with a less-lethal round. Video shows the man, identified as Donovan LaBella, standing across the street from the officers holding a speaker over his head when he was hit.

Court documents filed in cases against protesters show that federal officers have posted lookouts on the upper stories of the courthouse and have plainclothes officers circulating in the crowd. Court papers in a federal case against a man accused of shining a laser in the eyes of Federal Protective Service agents show that Portland police turned him over to U.S. authorities after federal officers identified him.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who's has been under fire for his handling of the protests, said on national TV talk shows Sunday that the demonstrations were dwindling before federal officers engaged.

"They are sharply escalating the situation. Their presence here is actually leading to more violence and more vandalism. And it's not helping the situation at all," Wheeler said on CNN's "State of the Union."

"They're not wanted here. We haven't asked them here," Wheeler said. "In fact, we want them to leave."

Indeed, crowds of demonstrators had begun to dwindle a week ago, and some in the liberal city — including Black community leaders — had begun to call for the nightly demonstrations to end.

But by the weekend, the presence of federal troops and Trump's repeated references to Portland as a hotbed of "anarchists" seemed to give a new life to the protests and attract a broader base.

On Sunday night, a crowd estimated at more than 500 people gathered outside the courthouse, including dozens of self-described "moms" who linked arms in front of a chain-link fence outside the courthouse. The demonstration continued into Monday morning.

"It seems clear that there were at least some federal crimes committed here," said Steve Vladeck, a constitutional law professor at the University of Texas. "But the notion that a handful of federal crimes justifies a substantial deployment of federal law enforcement officers ... to show force on the streets is, to my mind, unprecedented."

"Federal law enforcement," Vladeck said, "is not a political prop."

Associated Press writer Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>.

Amber Heard says Depp tried to throw her sister down stairs

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Amber Heard dismissed accusations Tuesday that she fabricated allegations of domestic violence against ex-husband Johnny Depp, and told a British court that the first time she struck him after years of abuse was to defend her sister from being thrown down the stairs.

Taking to the witness box for a second day during Depp's libel case against a British tabloid at the High Court in London, the actress faced a barrage of questions over alleged incidents that are central to The Sun's labeling of Depp in an April 2018 article as a "wife beater."

She also admitted striking Depp for the first time in March 2015, after years of alleged abuse, to defend her sister, Whitney. When asked whether she had punched Depp "with a closed fist," Heard conceded she had struck him after he had hit both of them.

"He was about to push her down the stairs and the moment before that happened, I remembered information I had heard that he pushed a former girlfriend — I believe it was Kate Moss — down the stairs," she said. Depp dated the top model in the 1990s.

"I will never forget this incident," she said. "It was the first time after all these years."

Depp's counsel, Eleanor Laws, wondered why Heard had not mentioned the Moss allegation previously. "I've not had the liberty of time or space or energy even to list every thought that crossed my mind," Heard said.

Depp, 57, is suing The Sun's publisher, News Group Newspapers, and the paper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over the article. The Hollywood star strongly denies abusing Heard, and claimed in court that she had been violent to him. He was present to hear Heard's testimony.

His lawyer sought to show inconsistencies in Heard's allegations, accusing her of weaving a "web of lies" and "making this up as you go along."

Heard, 34, insisted through the day that she was being truthful.

"I can just tell you after everything I had been through; I had been strangled, punched, sexually assaulted, among other things," she said.

Laws made much of a series of video clips from an elevator at the couple's Los Angeles apartment building that she claimed showed no evidence of any injuries on Heard's face after an incident on May 21, 2016, which ended up with police arriving on the scene. Laws also wondered why others in the building did not notice injuries in the days after.

The actress has alleged that Depp threw a phone at her "like he was a baseball pitcher," hitting her on the right cheek and eye. She said she wears makeup when leaving home that could have camouflaged signs of an injury.

Heard also denied she had an "illicit relationship" with anyone during her time with Depp, specifically with either Tesla CEO Elon Musk or actor James Franco. "Not that that matters much," Heard said.

Laws read out text messages on May 22, 2016, in which Heard allegedly tells Musk she is going to obtain a restraining order against Depp, and the billionaire offers to "arrange 24/7 security." Musk allegedly said the offer would stand, "even if you never wanted to see me again ... anyway, sorry for being an idiot. The radio silence hurts a lot. It only matters because I really like you."

Depp and Heard met on the set of the comedy "The Rum Diary," released in 2011. They married in Los Angeles in February 2015. Heard filed for divorce the following year, and it was finalized in 2017.

In the first nine days of testimony at the High Court, judge Andrew Nicol heard from Depp and from several current or former employees who backed his version of events. In his testimony, Depp said he was the one being abused by Heard and that she had a history of being violent against him.

Via audio recordings of the couple discussing various incidents played in court, Depp's lawyer sought to show that Heard admitted she had been violent against Depp. Heard said any contact was purely self-defense.

"I knew better than to fight with him about the details of the fight, and what he perceived as injuries to him," she said. "My job was to say sorry and get him on track, and move on to bigger things."

Heard denied the allegation made in court in the first week of the trial that she, or one of her friends,

defecated on the couple's bed the morning after her 30th birthday party in April 2016.

"That's absolutely disgusting," Heard said. "I can't imagine what kind of human being would have a sense of humour like that, other than Johnny, but I don't think that's funny, I think it's horrific."

Heard suggested the feces came from one of their Yorkshire Terriers, Pistol and Boo, but that Boo had had issues ever since he had allegedly eaten some of Depp's marijuana as a puppy, or as she phrased it "since the weed."

In written testimony released to the court, Heard said that at various times during their relationship she endured "punching, slapping, kicking, head-butting and choking." She said some incidents were "so severe" she was "afraid he was going to kill me, either intentionally or just by losing control and going too far." She said he blamed his actions on "a self-created third party" that he referred to as "the monster."

Heard's testimony is expected to last for four days, through Thursday.

Poll: Pandemic hurting Americans' finances in disparate ways

By TAMMY WEBBER Associated Press

BURTON, Mich. (AP) — Crystal and Chris Martin put off some payments on their home in this blue-collar town near Flint and are pinching pennies to make ends meet until they return to work. In Windsor, Connecticut, Anne Druce's family canceled home improvement projects out of an abundance of caution but remains financially secure.

As the coronavirus pandemic drags on, a new poll finds it is having different effects on Americans' economic well-being. For some, the virus has meant lost income or struggles to pay bills on time — particularly among Hispanic, Black and younger Americans. Others, most notably college-educated and older Americans, have transitioned to working from home or have experienced the nation's economic decline through a dip in the value of their investments.

"It's just all been kind of frustrating," said Crystal Martin, who lost her job managing a roller skating rink in March and waited 10 weeks for her first unemployment check. Her husband, an X-ray technician at a Flint hospital, was laid off for about month, then took parental leave after Crystal had a baby in July, to reduce the chances of bringing home the virus.

"We had to go into our savings, and we were crunching numbers to see how long it would last," said Martin, adding that the couple, who have six children in their blended family, still aren't sure if their mortgage company will add the deferred house payments to the end of their loan or demand the money all at once later this year.

Overall, roughly a quarter of Americans say they have lost savings and about as many have lost income, according to the latest COVID Response Tracking Study, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. About 2 in 10 report losing a job and roughly another 2 in 10 say they have put themselves at risk of exposure to the virus for work.

Meanwhile, the survey also finds about a third of Americans say their investments were negatively impacted during the pandemic. About a quarter say they have had to change their work routine, including having to work from home.

That includes Druce, who said she and her husband, James, are fortunate to have well-paying jobs — she's a process engineering consultant for an insurance company and he works for a mutual fund company — that allow working from home.

While feeling financially stable, they're saving as much money as possible — aside from spending to take a beach vacation in August with their two young boys — because "anything can change," Druce said.

"I know it sounds insanely privileged," said Druce, "but I 1,000% feel fortunate."

The poll finds that disparities of economic experience during the pandemic by race and ethnicity, age and education are stark.

— More college-educated Americans have lost investments, 45%, compared with 28% of those without a college degree. By contrast, Americans without a degree were more likely to have delayed paying bills — 26%, compared with 10% of college graduates.

— Hispanic and Black Americans were more likely than white Americans to have lost income (42% and 32% vs. 21%) and to have delayed paying bills (38% and 35% vs. 14%).

— Thirty-one percent of Hispanics say they have put themselves at risk of exposure for work, compared with 19% of white Americans.

— Younger Americans were more likely to have lost a job, put themselves at risk of exposure or delayed paying bills, while more older Americans lost investments.

Beyond the dollars-and-cents impacts of the pandemic, the survey found the economic effects taking a toll on Americans' mental health, with stress rising among those who report a loss of income, a loss of savings and trouble paying bills.

Tom W. Smith, director of the Center for the Study of Politics and Society at NORC and the study's lead investigator, said people are also feeling more lonely than might be expected given the recent easing of restrictions and the reopening of businesses. That could be because people still are severely restricting normal activities, perhaps because of finances or because they're "not willing to take the chance yet" on potentially exposing themselves to the virus.

Adding to the uncertainty and anxiety: Some initiatives meant to help people get through the crisis — including extra unemployment compensation and moratoriums on evictions and utility shut-offs — are set to expire soon, said Joy Peterman, development director at the Salvation Army in Flint.

Her organization has seen a 25% increase in requests for assistance during the pandemic, mostly from people who were forced to seek help for the first time and many of whom were still working.

"They just didn't have enough money to continue to pay their bills (because of) shorter hours and less pay," said Peterman, who believes needs will increase in coming months. "You still have rent, you still have utilities, you still have a car payment, insurance and the phone bill. And you still have to feed your children."

The survey of 2,012 adults was conducted June 22-July 6 with funding from the National Science Foundation. It uses a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Breached levees trap thousands as flooding in China worsens

BEIJING (AP) — Breached levees have trapped more than 10,000 people in an eastern Chinese town as flooding worsens across much of the country, local authorities said Tuesday.

High waters overcame flood defenses protecting Guzhen, a town in Anhui province, on Sunday, the provincial government said on its official microblog.

Flood waters rose as high as 3 meters (10 feet), the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Wang Qingjun, Guzhen's Communist Party secretary, as saying.

About 1,500 firefighters were rushed to carry out rescues in the province, where weeks of heavy rains have disrupted the lives of more than 3 million people, Xinhua said.

China's Meteorological Administration said more heavy rainfall along the Yellow River and Huai River is expected over the next three days.

At least 141 people have died or gone missing in flooding since the beginning of June, with more than 150,000 houses damaged and direct economic losses estimated at about \$9 million.

On Sunday, a dam in Anhui was blasted to allow flood waters to flow downriver. The province's Wangjiaba dam on the Huai River opened its 13 sluice gates on Monday, flooding cropland and forests to prevent more extensive damage down river.

The move forced more than 2,000 people to seek safety in the middle of the night, some loading blankets and furniture onto three-wheel motorcycles.

Built in 1953, the Wangjiaba dam is a key defense against flooding along the Huai and has only opened its sluice gates on 15 occasions, the last time in 2007.

Other parts of Anhui have also been forced to take extreme measures, with the Liu'an city government

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reporting that Huai River waters had been directed into seven flood retention areas on Tuesday.

Both the Yangtze, China's mightiest river, and the Yellow River to the north have become engorged following torrential rains.

The western city of Lanzhou, on the Yellow River, has already seen a second flood crest as the river speeds past it toward eastern China and the Bohai Gulf.

In the central province of Hubei, authorities in Enshi prefecture that lies to the south of the Yangtze warned residents Tuesday to prepare to evacuate because a nearby newly formed barrier lake could burst anytime. Such lakes are usually formed when rivers become blocked by earth, stones and other debris.

While rainfall has been heavier than usual this year, the level of death and destruction is below the annual average for the last few years, according to Xinhua.

China experienced its worst flooding in recent years in 1998, when more than 2,000 people died and almost 3 million homes were destroyed, mostly along the Yangtze.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, July 22, the 204th day of 2020. There are 162 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln presented to his Cabinet a preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

On this date:

In 1587, an English colony fated to vanish under mysterious circumstances was established on Roanoke Island off North Carolina.

In 1933, American aviator Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world as he returned to New York's Floyd Bennett Field after traveling for 7 days, 18 and 3/4 hours.

In 1934, bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where he had just seen the Clark Gable movie "Manhattan Melodrama."

In 1937, the U.S. Senate rejected President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

In 1942, the Nazis began transporting Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp. Gasoline rationing involving the use of coupons began along the Atlantic seaboard.

In 1946, the militant Zionist group Irgun blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people.

In 1957, Walter "Fred" Morrison applied for a patent for a "flying toy" which became known as the Frisbee.

In 1967, American author, historian and poet Carl Sandburg died at his North Carolina home at age 89.

In 1975, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in voting to restore the American citizenship of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In 1991, police in Milwaukee arrested Jeffrey Dahmer, who later confessed to murdering 17 men and boys (Dahmer ended up being beaten to death by a fellow prison inmate).

In 1992, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar escaped from his luxury prison near Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN'). (He was slain by security forces in December 1993.)

In 2011, Anders Breivik (AHN'-durs BRAY'-vihk), a self-described "militant nationalist," massacred 69 people at a Norwegian island youth retreat after detonating a bomb in nearby Oslo that killed eight others in the nation's worst violence since World War II.

Ten years ago: President Hugo Chavez severed Venezuela's diplomatic relations with neighboring Colombia over claims he was harboring leftist guerrillas. The city manager, assistant manager and police chief of Bell, California, resigned after outraged residents found out through a Los Angeles Times investigation that the officials were making a total of more than \$1.6 million a year. Six people were killed when a Greyhound bus crashed into an overturned SUV on a highway in Fresno, California. (Authorities later said the SUV driver, who died in the collision, was drunk.)

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Five years ago: A Soyuz space capsule blasted off for the International Space Station, docking with the orbiting outpost nearly six hours later. Prosecutors in Colorado urged the death penalty for Aurora movie theater shooter James Holmes, saying he deliberately and cruelly killed 12 people (Holmes ended up being sentenced to life in prison when the jury could not unanimously agree on execution). A federal grand jury indictment charged Dylann Roof, the young man accused of killing nine Black church members in Charleston, South Carolina, with 33 counts including hate crimes that made him eligible for the death penalty. (Roof would become the first person sentenced to death for a federal hate crime; he is on death row at a federal prison in Indiana.)

One year ago: Teammates, family and friends gathered at a Catholic church in Santa Monica, California, to mourn Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs, who had been found dead in his Texas hotel room on July 1. "Old Town Road," by Lil Nas X, remained at the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart for a 16th week, tying a record set by Mariah Carey and Luis Fonsi. Equifax agreed to pay at least \$700 million to settle lawsuits over a 2017 data breach that exposed the Social Security numbers and other private information of nearly 150 million Americans.

Today's Birthdays: Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., is 97. Author Tom Robbins is 88. Actress Louise Fletcher is 86. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chuck Jackson is 83. Actor Terence Stamp is 82. Game show host Alex Trebek is 80. Singer George Clinton is 79. Actor-singer Bobby Sherman is 77. Former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is 77. Movie writer-director Paul Schrader is 74. Actor Danny Glover is 74. Singer Mireille Mathieu is 74. Actor-comedian-director Albert Brooks is 73. Rock singer Don Henley is 73. Movie composer Alan Menken is 71. Singer-actress Lonette McKee is 67. Jazz musician Al Di Meola (mee-OH'-lah) is 66. Actor Willem Dafoe is 65. Actor John Leguizamo is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keith Sweat is 59. Actress Joanna Going is 57. Actor Rob Estes is 57. Folk singer Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls) is 57. Actor-comedian David Spade is 56. Actor Patrick Labyorteaux is 55. Rock musician Pat Badger is 53. Actress Irene Bedard is 53. Actor Rhys Ifans (rees EYE'-fanz) is 53. Actress Diana Maria Riva is 51. Actor Colin Ferguson is 48. Actor/singer Jaime Camil is 47. Rock musician Daniel Jones is 47. Singer Rufus Wainwright is 47. Actress Franka Potente (poh-TEN'-tay) is 46. Actress Parisa Fitz-Henley is 43. Actress A.J. Cook is 42. Actor Keegan Allen is 33. Actress Camila Banus is 30. Actress Selena Gomez is 28. Britain's Prince George of Cambridge is seven.