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"SELF-COMPASSION  
IS SIMPLY GIVING  
THE SAME KINDNESS  
TO OURSELVES THAT  
WE WOULD GIVE TO  
OTHERS."

-CHRISTOPHER  
GERMER



**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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## Coronavirus requires changes in high school activities

By Dana Hess  
For the S.D. Newspaper Association

BROOKINGS — No handshakes.

No high fives.

No awards ceremonies.

In the age of coronavirus, those are just some of the recommendations for fall high school activities approved Wednesday by the South Dakota High School Activities Association's board of directors.

During a video conference meeting the board considered safety recommendations made by a 30-member task force of medical professionals and educators. Those recommendations covered the fall sports of golf, tennis, soccer, cheer and competitive dance, football and volleyball as well as fall arts activities including journalism, all-state chorus and orchestra and oral interp.

The 17-page document outlining the recommendations of the task force can be found at the association's website at [www.sdhsaa.com](http://www.sdhsaa.com).

In addition to mandatory, optional and impermissible rule changes for each sport and activity, the task force offered overall principles for safety, keeping students active, screening procedures, a protocol for positive cases, new SDHSAA policies in the event of a forfeit or no contest, benchmarks for re-evaluation of the recommendations and guidelines for fan attendance.

In making rule modifications for each activity, the task force split them into low contact/risk, moderate contact/risk and high contact/risk categories.

Low risk sports are golf, tennis and cross-country. Moderate risk are soccer and volleyball with football, competitive cheer and competitive dance deemed as high risk.

In the fine arts, journalism and oral interp are considered low risk while all-state chorus and orchestra are considered high risk.

The final recommendation of the task force about all-state chorus and orchestra is not really final: "Due to the nature of the event (nearly 1,100 students from over 150 different schools), the task force recommends that SDHSAA staff further consider the all-state chorus and orchestra concert, examine the results of the pending NFHS aerosol study, and make a determination on that event at a later date."

The task force offered guidance to schools on fan attendance at events based on a four-tier system. Tier 1 is open attendance in those communities with steady or decreasing cases. Tiers 2 and 3 would allow only parents and students to attend. Tier 2 notes a slow increase in cases in the community and Tier 3 would apply to those communities with a steady increase in cases.

In Tier 4, with a sharp increase in cases and hospitalizations in the community, no fans would be allowed to attend at a high school event.

"None of those are requirements," said SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos. "We heard from some schools that wanted some guidance, especially on fan attendance. We just wanted to put an example out there."

Swartos said schools may choose to go the opposite direction, starting with no fans and working their way up to larger crowds at events.

Since guidance on fan attendance may differ by school district, board chairman Craig Cassens of Faulkton said that communication between officials at the host school and the visiting school would be key.

The task force report also includes a COVID-19 participant/coach monitoring form. The checklist offers eight symptoms that may keep a player or coach from participating.

In the event a player, coach or official tests positive for COVID-19, a return to play form must be completed. The form calls for 10 days to pass after symptoms appear and that symptoms must no longer be present. Athletes are then allowed to return to play with an OK from their doctor. The doctor may also recommend that the player go through a minimum of seven days of increasing training activity before being allowed to participate again.

While the form was approved along with other task force recommendations, Swartos said some of the language in the form is still being tweaked "to make sure this is as clear as can be for medical providers."

Swartos emphasized the need for assigned seating and masks to be used on team buses to aid in contact tracing.

"We really want to stress that," Swartos said. "We really want to recommend that schools do that."

—30—

## **New rules for high school sports emphasize safety against coronavirus**

**By Dana Hess  
For the S.D. Newspaper Association**

BROOKINGS — On Wednesday the board of directors of the South Dakota High School Activities Association approved a variety of rules for fall sports that deal with safety measures schools should take during the coronavirus pandemic.

The rule modifications were developed by a 30-member task force of educators and medical professionals. The complete set of rules can be found at the association's home page on its website, [www.sdhsaa.com](http://www.sdhsaa.com) and also at the board's page at that site, [www.sdhsaa.com/About-Us/Board-of-Directors](http://www.sdhsaa.com/About-Us/Board-of-Directors).

Rules are listed as mandatory, which must be followed until further advised; optional, which school districts can use if they desire; and impermissible, which are not allowed by SDHSAA rule.

All sports include mandatory rules for the frequent cleaning of high-touch areas and a prohibition on

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the common distribution of water to multiple parties. What follows is a sampling of those rules as they pertain to golf, tennis, soccer, cheer and competitive dance, football and volleyball. Check the SDHSAA website for a full list of rule modifications.

**Golf:** Mandatory rules include leaving the flagstick in place and the use of no-touch scorecards. A tutorial is in the works about how to use the scorecards. Optional rules include "putting through" or "uninterrupted putting" to allow golfers to remain socially distanced.

**Tennis:** Mandatory rules include using numbered sets of tennis balls with a different number for each player or doubles team so players handle only their own numbered tennis balls. Tennis balls will be cleaned with Lysol or Clorox. Players will use a racquet or their foot to move tennis balls from their side of the court to their opponent's side.

**Soccer:** Mandatory rules include limiting pre-game conferences to one coach and one captain at midfield with social distancing. Ball holders will maintain six-feet of space from each other throughout the contest when possible and be subject to a pre-game screening like players and officials.

**Competitive cheer and dance:** Mandatory rules say that if participants wear masks, they should be taped and secured in events that involve tumbling. Optional rules say that hands and shoes should be sanitized before going on the performing surface.

**Cross-country:** Mandatory rules call for courses to be widened to ensure six feet of width at the narrowest point. Spectators must not have access to athletes and will be restricted to areas outside the course and a minimum of six feet away from team camps and at start and finish areas.

**Football:** Mandatory rules call for the steady rotation of game balls to ensure cleaning and sanitizing between downs. Only four captains may attend the coin toss and handshakes will be eliminated. An optional rule strongly encourages districts with fields with shared sidelines to reconfigure the field so that both teams have their own sideline to ensure social distancing.

**Volleyball:** Mandatory rules call for suspending the practice of teams switching benches between sets with only team members allowed on the bench. Statisticians and team managers will sit in areas other than the team bench. Optional modifications allow the wearing of long sleeves and long pants.

None of the rule modifications mandate the wearing of cloth masks. Mask wearing is included in the optional rule modifications in golf, tennis and volleyball. Masks are allowed in competitive cheer and dance with mandatory rules about taping down masks in tumbling events.

Cloth face masks are not allowed in football. According to the mandatory rule: "Cloth masks and face coverings are not permissible, as they affect the legality of and ability to properly wear chin straps and mouth guards."

## Regents Adopt Tiered Approach to Face Covering Protocols

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents has adopted a tiered approach to face covering requirements for its six public universities when the fall academic term begins Aug. 19.

Wednesday's action creates a new framework under which the board and its universities are positioned to react quickly to adjust campus operations whenever necessary. Brian Maher, the regents' executive director and CEO, characterized it as "responding in a practical way to the changing COVID-19 landscape at campuses and within their respective communities."

To begin fall semester operations on the campuses, the regents agreed to require face coverings in all public indoor spaces on campus (Level 3). This action will be reviewed 30 days after the start of the fall academic term.

The board's protocol, which applies to all students, staff, faculty, and campus visitors, provides for four differentiated levels of response:

- Level 1 requires face coverings in all classroom or lab settings where course delivery requires close proximity or physical contact and makes Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations on physical distancing impractical. Examples are instructional laboratories, clinical training environments, and design or art studio instruction.
- Level 2 requires face coverings in all public areas of academic buildings on campus (including classrooms, hallways, and common areas), along with other indoor areas where 30 or more individuals frequently congregate or interact in a setting not conducive to maintaining CDC-recommended physical distancing.
- Level 3 requires face coverings in all public indoor spaces on campus.
- Level 4 requires face coverings in all public indoor and outdoor areas of campus.

Significant community spread of the coronavirus in certain areas of the state, or other special circumstances, may result in an individual campus or location operating at a different level within the tiered framework from other institutions.

Pandemic planning continues on all campuses. University-specific news releases and websites will have up-to-date information on the status of campus operations.

## #150 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

We've had another rough day, the third-worst since this thing began in terms of new cases. We're now at 3,978,100 cases, and I do not see any way we don't hit four million tomorrow some time. The day after we hit three million, I wrote this: "We keep this up, we'll hit four million cases before the end of the month." I was sort of thinking we'd be closer to the end of the month than this. Guess not.

There were 69,300 new cases reported, a 1.8% increase, and we are now in our 23rd consecutive day of worst days, that is, our 23 worst days have been the last 23 days. I have just a dozen states and territories stable or declining in their rates of growth.

You know, every night, I look at my dataset for all of the states, and I always start out with it organized in terms of total cases, highest numbers first. Please don't for a moment think that I view this as I would a sporting event—nothing entertaining at all here—but throughout this, I have had sort of a mental leader board of states, thinking in terms of who's leading, who's passing whom, who's at the back of the pack. It's been a convenient mental shorthand for keeping this quantity of information organized in my thinking. If you've ever wondered why I might sound like I'm calling a horse race, that's why—not a lack of seriousness about what's happening here.

This is all preparatory to explaining the US's first case was in Washington, followed fairly soon by California. I started doing these updates in very late February when those were the states to watch; but by March 16, New York had moved in on them and taken over first place. From there, things just completely went to hell in that part of the country, with New Jersey following fairly closely behind. Things never really took off in California, and they moved as low as 6th, which for our country's most populous state was quite a thing. Meanwhile, Washington suppressed its early outbreaks and then just kept moving down the list until yesterday it was at 21st place, which is quite remarkable after the terrible start they had. At one point at its height, New York had something like 45% of the nation's cases, and as they wrestled this thing into an uneasy truce, I looked at the numbers and breathed something of a sigh of relief that it was so far out ahead in first place with no other state even approaching those kinds of numbers, I was sure no one would ever pass them. After all, at that point, New York had nearly 400,000 cases and the nearest contender, California, had less than 250,000—no way they'd ever catch up.

Well, folks, I've been wrong a lot in my life, and sadly, I was wrong about this one too. Today, California moved to the top of my leader board with 421,000 cases to New York's 413,000. I wish that hadn't happened. California had almost 13,000 new cases today, a record. Test positivity rates have remained low, but they're rising; it's now at 7.6%, not terrible, but going the wrong direction. Hospitalization numbers are rising too. We know new suppression measures take two to three weeks to show up in new case numbers; I am sincerely hoping we're almost there with California. I don't think I have the heart to watch another New York unfold. It is concerning that many citizens there are rebelling against the restrictions their governor has announced.

Another not great piece of news is that cases are rising in children, nearly reaching the level seen in the 65-and-over age group. Children 12-17 are being infected at rates higher than younger children, which mirrors some of the research we've been seeing indicating middle school and high school kids are better transmitters than elementary kids. While children under 18 do represent a larger share of the population at 22.3% than over-65s at 16.5%, we really had thought children were less susceptible. We'll see how that develops as we go along.

Lots of other bad news to go around too. We'll start with Texas which set records for deaths and hospitalizations today with nearly two weeks above 10,000. Ohio clocked in with its second-worst day. Florida has just 15% of its ICU beds still available and four counties are full-up, which basically means they can't handle any further surge at this point. The positivity rate there is coming down, a good sign, but still hovers above 10%. South Carolina has a test-positivity rate over 15%, and that number is still on its way up, a sure sign there's plenty of community spread. Deaths are rising in Las Vegas, especially among the most vulnerable, those over 65 with preexisting health conditions. Six out of 38 hospitals report critical staffing

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shortages, and another six expect things to reach the critical stage in the next several days. Louisiana has "broad community spread" all across the state and serious testing shortages in some areas. North Dakota reported a record number of new cases today. Florida finally dropped below 10,000 new cases today—not far below, but that's a step. Nationwide, the number of people in hospitals has almost matched the record set back on April 15 during our last peak; a month ago, we were at roughly half as many. We're averaging more than 66,000 new cases daily, twice as many as mid-June.

We reported 1161 deaths today, bringing us to 143,106, a 0.8% increase. This was our second consecutive day over 1100 deaths; I remember how good it felt to report when we fell below 1000 in early June and then below 500. This is disheartening. Deaths in the US have been rising all this month and are now averaging more than 800 per day. Alabama and Idaho reported record numbers of deaths today. Texas's 197 deaths today is the highest number reported in a single day in any state since May 14.

Today I read a compilation of studies and expert opinion on face masking, following links to original papers as I could. The brief summary is that it appears mask-wearing has increased appreciably in the US, according to surveys, from 61.9% in April to 76.4% in mid-May. A more recent Gallup survey shows over 80% of us have used one in the past week, which seems pretty good; but when you consider the number of stores requiring them, it's reasonable to suppose some share of those people are donning one only when forced by such policies. The break-down in responses showed 44% said they "always" wear a mask outside their homes, 28% do "very often," 11% "sometimes," 4% "rarely," and 14% "never."

I don't think "always" is necessary. If you're working in your yard, out for a walk on a deserted street, or hiking in the woods, then there's no need to mask up. If you would do so outdoors when distancing isn't possible and always indoors except at home, you're going to be in pretty good territory. Insofar as I have a choice, I shop only in stores with mandatory mask policies. Depending on your locale, you may have more or less choice about that than I do based on local mandates and retailers' decisions. Whatever the policy, this is not a great time for a leisurely perusal of the goods on offer while shopping; best to have a list, have a certain degree of certainty about what you need, and think about the store's layout before going in so you can get in and out as quickly as reasonable.

We've talked many times about the growing body of research that indicates masks, even homemade cloth ones, are effective in reducing transmission of this virus. There's another one now, done at Mass General Brigham health care system, showing significantly decreased rates of infection among health care workers in the system with the adoption of universal masking policies.

All along, we've been touting masks as something you wear to protect others: My mask protects you, and your mask protects me. That's certainly still true, but we are now getting some hints in the research that a mask may offer some personal protection to the wearer as well. There is work underway, and I'll let you know when I see something on this. One piece of news is that you can increase the effectiveness of your fabric mask by rubbing the outer surface with a latex glove before putting it on is beneficial. That builds an electrostatic charge on that outer surface, and researchers believe electrostatic charges make masks far more effective in filtering air—that's one of the benefits of the N95. I figure it can't hurt.

Once again, I will point out that all the other precautions—handwashing and distancing in particular—are still necessary. I will also remind you that exposure dose matters: Exposure to fewer viruses makes it far less likely you'll get sick and far less likely you'll get seriously sick. Every strategy you layer onto your precautionary measures reduces the likelihood of exposure to virus and the exposure dose if you are exposed; and every reduction in the exposure dose reduces the chance of real trouble.

There is a fascinating research project about to get underway in Germany: an indoor concert for 4000 people intended to study how viruses spread at large events. I will say up front that everyone involved is required to be tested within 48 hours before the event and will be masked throughout, so the risk of infection, while not zero, will be small. The concert is scheduled for August 22, and nearly a quarter of the tickets have already been spoken for. It features a singer-songwriter with whom I am not familiar (not saying much—afraid I'm not very up-to-the-minute), but who is apparently well-known in Germany, Tim Bendzko.

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Attendees will wear contact-tracing devices and use fluorescent hand sanitizer that is visible under ultraviolet light so researchers can track who is how close to whom and which surfaces are most touched. There will actually be three different concerts over the course of the day. For one, things will be done just as they have in the past before the pandemic; in another, they will enter through eight entrances instead of two, and every other seat will be blocked off; and in yet another, there will strict social distancing and a 2000-person limit. The purpose is to learn more about how transmission occurs at these events and to determine how large gatherings can be safely resumed. I will be most interested to see what conclusions come from this experiment.

I got a question today about how we can expect to develop herd immunity, either through natural infection or through vaccination, when antibodies don't last very long as some recent research seems to indicate. That's a very good question, and so I thought I'd tackle that here tonight.

Every discussion of immunity should begin with the caveat that we simply don't know enough—either whether the immunity you develop as a result of infection is protective (we think it is) or how long that presumed protection lasts (we think it will be somewhere between a few months and a couple of years). We won't know either of those things for sure until some more time passes and we see what actually happens in recovered individuals. So we need to keep that recognition up front.

For the rest, let's first talk about just what immunity is. This is a bit of a recap of some things we've talked about before, so if you remember all of the details, you can skim through it fairly quickly; I've included only a couple of new tidbits. For those who haven't been with us so long or who might have lost track of the details, here's a basic picture.

You have layers of protection against pathogens (organisms that make you sick). It starts with things like your skin, which is fairly difficult to penetrate; secretions like sweat and mucus and tears and stomach acid, all of which are at least a little bit antibacterial and many of which have something of a cleansing effect; reactions like blinking and sneezing and coughing, all of which are intended to expel potential trouble; even hairs like eyelashes and nose hairs. And there is a whole constellation of activities that are nonspecific, that is, they work with pretty much any pathogen, and give pretty good general protection—some clean-up cells that remove foreign particles, other cells that get rid of damaged tissue, and inflammatory responses that move immune cells into the area of damaged tissue. (Many of us have this idea that inflammation is bad—and it can be; but a good share of the time, it's a sign things are working exactly as they're designed to do. Inflammation can do damage, but it is frequently protective and is an essential part of your natural protection.) All of this is, as I mentioned, nonspecific and comes under the general heading of innate immunity. Good first line of defense.

After that, a pathogen that manages to evade everything you've thrown at it so far comes up against your adaptive immunity or what's called an acquired response. That one's specific, that is, different for each pathogen encountered. It is also not ready to go at the first minute; it requires cells of the system to be exposed to the pathogen, recognize it as a threat, and then do their thing. This whole process takes some time, and it's sort of a foot race between the response and the pathogen as to whether you manage to mount a response that will eliminate the pathogen before it causes enough damage that you notice it as illness.

In real life, you win some and you lose some. Often, even when you do get sick, your response kicks up sufficiently that you cure yourself, which is what happens with colds and most cases of the flu and that infected cut and a lot of other diseases. This system works amazingly well indeed; so if you're wondering why, if it's so great, it lets you get sick so often, you're asking the wrong question. Instead, consider the stew of bacteria and fungi and viruses that is the world we live in, and ponder what a wonder it is that we don't get sick a whole lot more. In the middle of a pandemic, it's hard to remember this; but your immune responses are actually quite remarkable in their efficiency.

There are basically two elements to adaptive immunity: humoral responses and cell-mediated responses. The first depends on the activity of chemicals, and the second depends on the more direct activity of cells.

The humoral response involves the production of chemicals (proteins) called antibodies. These are



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produced by a kind of white blood cell called a B lymphocyte or B cell. B cells are sensitized by contact with the pathogen and sort of lock in to that particular pathogen as a result. After this, some of them develop into little protein factories, pumping out large quantities of proteins that are also specific to the pathogen and which then react very specifically with that pathogen. Some of these antibodies are called binding antibodies; they hook up with the surface of the pathogen, which doesn't hurt it, but does label it for destruction by other immune cells that hunt down antibody-labeled cells and destroy them. It's like a warning flag for drawing the attention of those cells. Others of these are called neutralizing antibodies, and they're more powerful in a way because they directly interfere with the pathogen's ability to make you sick. Neutralizing antibodies against coronaviruses, for example, most of the time interfere with those spike proteins we've talked about so much, the proteins that enable the virus to enter and infect your cells. Once these neutralizing antibodies get into the act, the virus can't do any more damage because, as you may recall from our earlier conversations, viruses are completely helpless if they can't get inside your cells and hijack them for viral replication.

[As for the name, humoral immunity, humors, according to Hippocratic medical theory, are the four fluids in your body, one of which is blood, which is where you find antibodies. Since they float around in one of the humors, this is humoral immunity. For the record, the other three humors are yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm, and the theory basically went that when these humors get out of balance, you get sick, which is where the practice of bloodletting came from—drain off a little blood and bring things back into balance. A couple of possibly interesting digressions: (1) In American history, barbers had a side-gig of bloodletting—perhaps due to their skill with sharp blades—and they would often advertise their services by hanging a blood-tinged cloth beside the door to their shops. This is thought by some to be the origin of the red-and-white barber pole. (2) At one time, "in a bad humor" meant sick, not grumpy, although it's pretty easy to see the association.]

The cell-mediated response is more important against some pathogens than others, and we're not yet sure (as with so many things) how important this is against this particular coronavirus. There is some evidence cell-mediated responses are important, and some vaccine candidates in development are meant to elicit this sort of response in addition to the usual humoral (antibody) response. Cell-mediated responses are pretty complicated, so we'll just mention that these involve T cells being sensitized in much the same way B cells are and those sensitized T cells then destroying any tissue cells with virus in them; that prevents viral replication. This is a useful response because virus inside cells is pretty successful at hiding there from antibodies; cell-mediated responses can quite effectively take care of this problem.

So antibodies formed in response to SARS-CoV-2 do appear to be relatively short-lived—a few weeks to (maybe) a few months; the titer has been shown in some studies to drop off fairly rapidly after recovery. I will note first here that neutralizing antibody titers do not seem to drop off as quickly as binding antibody titers, and those, you will remember, are the really good ones. Also, you don't need as many neutralizing antibodies as you would of binding ones, so a few may be enough. Also, remember that antibodies are just chemicals. The sensitized B and T cells hang around for much longer; and they have memory, that is, they retain their sensitization to the pathogen so that they can respond very quickly if they encounter that same pathogen again in the future. We call those sensitized cells memory cells, and they are available upon subsequent encounters to respond before the pathogen can reproduce and cause trouble. This means the response upon a second or subsequent exposure is going to be far faster and more efficient than it was the first time; this rapid-response ability, essentially, is what immunity is. And it does not rely on the presence of antibodies; what it really needs is those memory cells.

And that is how you might be able to get to herd immunity even if the antibodies themselves are relatively short-lived. The longevity of the memory cells, that is, the exact duration of individual immunity is, however, as mentioned above, still up for grabs. We'll have to see.

When I learned over the weekend of the death of Representative John Lewis, the icon of the Civil Rights movement and life-long servant of our society, I was reminded of a story from a couple of years ago about a little boy he had met and befriended, and so was pleased to find a follow-up to their story.

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Tybre Faw, 12, was in the third grade when he learned about the Civil Rights movement of the '50s and '60s and of its brave heroes from a teacher whose father had gone to seminary with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When he learned John Lewis was still alive, he formed a determination to meet him, and so in 2018, his grandmothers drove with him for seven hours to Selma, Alabama, for the annual commemoration of Bloody Sunday. He stood in the crowd holding a sign that said, "Thank you Rep. John Lewis. You have shown me how to have courage." Reporters connected him to Lewis's staff, and the Congressman came over to the boy, offered him a hug, and spoke with him as his eyes welled up with tears. Those reporters said of the meeting, "None of us who witnessed the meeting could keep from crying. Even Capitol Police officers there—trained to be stoic—were unable to hold back their tears. It was one of the most powerful moments any of us had ever witnessed, and we all knew it."

Lewis took the boy with him as he marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and later invited him to Washington to spend time with him on the floor of the House. Tybre has decided he wants to be a congressman like Lewis one day. They stayed in touch as Tybre dove into activism, joining Lewis for the Atlanta March for Our Lives and marching for human rights and children. In 2019, they did the whole day in Selma together, and then they had their last meeting in March of this year at the same event. A great man makes time for the smallest and least among us. This was a great man.

My purpose in sharing this story should be clear as I bring you Tybre's statement upon Rep. Lewis's death: "The first year I met John Lewis I never thought I'd have the opportunity to meet someone who had so much courage. I felt blessed to be there. Over the years, I had the chance with John Lewis to spread the word that our world can be better—to find a way to get in the way—get into good trouble. He will always be my hero."

Be well. We'll talk again.

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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	July 23
Minnesota	47,457	47,961
Nebraska	23,190	23,486
Montana	2,712	2,813
Colorado	41,059	41,698
Wyoming	1,830	1,864
North Dakota	5207	5367
South Dakota	8019	8077
United States	3,902,233	3,971,343
US Deaths	142,073	143,193

Minnesota	+350	+504
Nebraska	+343	+296
Montana	+91	+101
Colorado	+493	+639
Wyoming	+40	+34
North Dakota	+81	+160
South Dakota	+76	+58
United States	+70,828	+69,110
US Deaths	+1,164	+1,120

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## July 22nd COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

One death in South Dakota - she was 50-59 years of age from Pennington County. Day County and Marshall County each picked up an active case while Brown County had one positive and one recovered. Edmunds County and Kingsbury County join the fully recovered list today. That makes 14 counties that are now fully recovered.

In a side note from SDPB: High school fall sports and activities will start on-time in South Dakota. On Wednesday, the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors unanimously voted in favor of a proposal for teams to start practice on schedule next month.

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: 0 (16)  
Recovered: +1 (351)  
Total Positive: +1 (369)  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (19)  
Deaths: 2  
Negative Tests: +32 (3728)  
Percent Recovered: 95.1% (--)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +58 (8077 total)  
Negative: +2270 (92,981 total)  
Hospitalized: +14 (790 total). 56 currently hospitalized (down 6 from yesterday)  
Deaths: +1 (119 total)  
Recovered: +78 (7159 total)  
Active Cases: -21 (799)  
Percent Recovered: 88.6 +.3

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

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Edmunds County and Kingsbury County): Bon Homme 13-13, Campbell 1-1, Edmunds 10-10, Deuel 5-5, Grant 17-17, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Jackson 7-7, Jones 1-1, Kingsbury 8-8, 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 positive (2 active cases)  
Beadle (9): +3 positive, +2 recovered (39 active cases)  
Bennett: 2 active cases  
Bon Homme: Fully Recovered  
Brookings: +2 positive (12 active cases)  
Brown (2): +1 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)  
Brule: +1 recovered (5 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +1 positive, +2 recovered (23 active cases)  
Butte: +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
Campbell: Fully Recovered  
Charles Mix: 38 active cases  
Clark: 2 active cases  
Clay: +1 positive (12 active cases)  
Codington: +4 positive, +1 recovered (20 active cases)  
Corson: +2 recovered (2 active cases)  
Custer: 1 active case  
Davison: +2 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)

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cases)

Day: +1 positive (2 active cases)  
 Deuel: Fully Recovered  
 Dewey: 44 active cases  
 Douglas: 5 active cases  
 Edmunds: +1 recovered FULLY RECOVERED 10-10  
 Fall River: +1 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Faulk (1): 2 active cases  
 Grant: Fully Recovered  
 Gregory: 1 active case  
 Haakon: Fully Recovered  
 Hamlin: +1 positive (2 active cases)  
 Hand: 1 active case  
 Hanson: 3 active cases  
 Harding: No infections reported  
 Hughes (3): 11 active cases  
 Hutchinson: +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Hyde: Fully Recovered  
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered (6-7)  
 Jerauld (1): 1 active cases  
 Jones: Fully Recovered  
 Kingsbury: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 8-8)  
 Lake (1): +6 positive, +3 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Lawrence: +2 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Lincoln (1): +9 positive, +5 recovered (35 active cases)  
 Lyman (1): +2 recovered (8 active cases)  
 Marshall: +1 positive (2 active case)  
 McCook (1): +2 recovered (2 active cases)  
 McPherson: 1 active case  
 Meade (1): +1 positive (7 active cases)  
 Mellette: 8 active cases  
 Miner: 1 active case  
 Minnehaha (62): +18 positive, +20 recovered (223

active cases)

Moody: +2 recovered (3 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (1): +3 recovered (24 active cases)  
 Pennington (23): +6 positive, +22 recovered (144 active cases)  
 Perkins: 1 active case  
 Potter: No infections reported  
 Roberts: 6 active cases  
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered  
 Spink: 3 active cases  
 Stanley: Fully Recovered  
 Sully: Fully Recovered  
 Todd (3): +1 positive (6 active cases)  
 Tripp: Fully Recovered  
 Turner: 8 active cases  
 Union (2): +2 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Walworth: 4 active cases  
 Yankton (2): 7 active cases  
 Ziebach: 2 active cases

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, July 22:

- 4,259 tests (1,973)
- 5,367 positives (+160)
- 4,407 recovered (+ 88)
- 96 deaths (+ 2)
- 864 active cases (+ 70)

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	716	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	995	12%
Hispanic	1162	14%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1320	16%
Other	813	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	3071	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	24
Todd	3
Union	2
Yankton	2

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	36	34	336
Beadle	574	526	1715
Bennett	5	3	463
Bon Homme	13	13	677
Brookings	107	95	2245
Brown	369	351	3728
Brule	38	33	639
Buffalo	105	79	576
Butte	7	3	654
Campbell	1	1	75
Charles Mix	98	60	1078
Clark	16	14	359
Clay	100	88	1134
Codington	108	88	2395
Corson	23	21	234
Custer	11	10	694
Davison	73	57	2003
Day	20	18	514
Deuel	5	5	341
Dewey	47	1	1663
Douglas	15	10	373
Edmunds	10	10	354
Fall River	14	12	855
Faulk	24	21	155
Grant	17	17	628
Gregory	6	5	325
Haakon	1	1	266
Hamlin	14	12	553
Hand	7	6	238
Hanson	15	12	157
Harding	0	0	47
Hughes	78	64	1477
Hutchinson	21	17	799

Hyde	3	3	113
Jackson	7	6	401
Jerauld	39	37	253
Jones	1	1	45
Kingsbury	8	8	477
Lake	54	42	802
Lawrence	24	22	1808
Lincoln	431	395	5501
Lyman	84	75	834
Marshall	6	4	363
McCook	21	18	567
McPherson	6	5	184
Meade	60	52	1680
Mellette	17	9	292
Miner	11	10	224
Minnehaha	3907	3622	23372
Moody	26	23	544
Oglala Lakota	132	107	2815
Pennington	756	589	9330
Perkins	4	3	117
Potter	0	0	248
Roberts	62	56	1427
Sanborn	12	12	195
Spink	17	14	1015
Stanley	14	14	211
Sully	1	1	61
Todd	66	57	1772
Tripp	19	19	548
Turner	33	25	787
Union	166	146	1663
Walworth	18	14	491
Yankton	91	82	2738
Ziebach	3	1	249
Unassigned****	0	0	4104

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

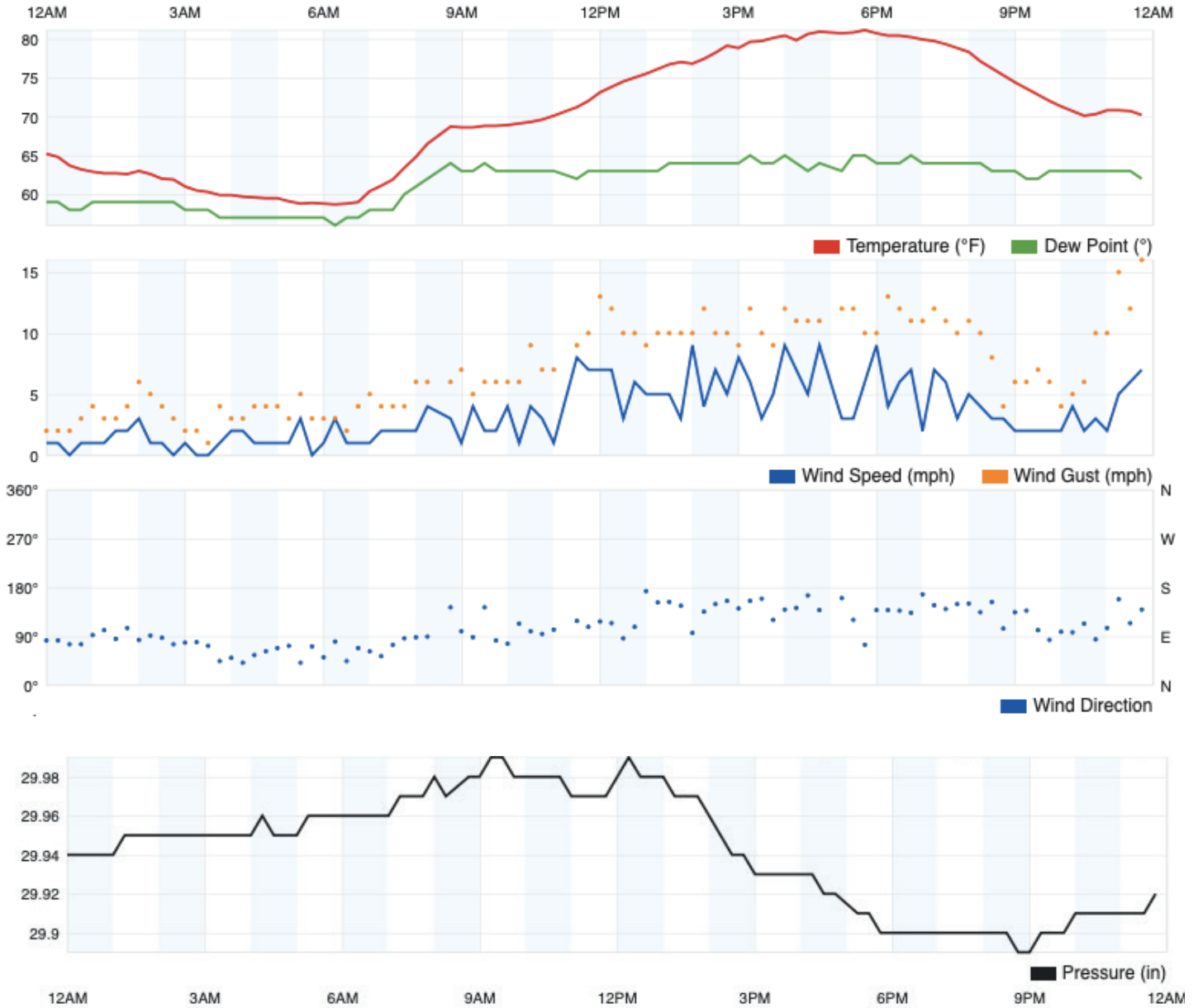
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3929	62
Male	4148	57

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	940	0
20-29 years	1690	1
30-39 years	1658	6
40-49 years	1258	7
50-59 years	1233	15
60-69 years	735	23
70-79 years	294	17
80+ years	269	50

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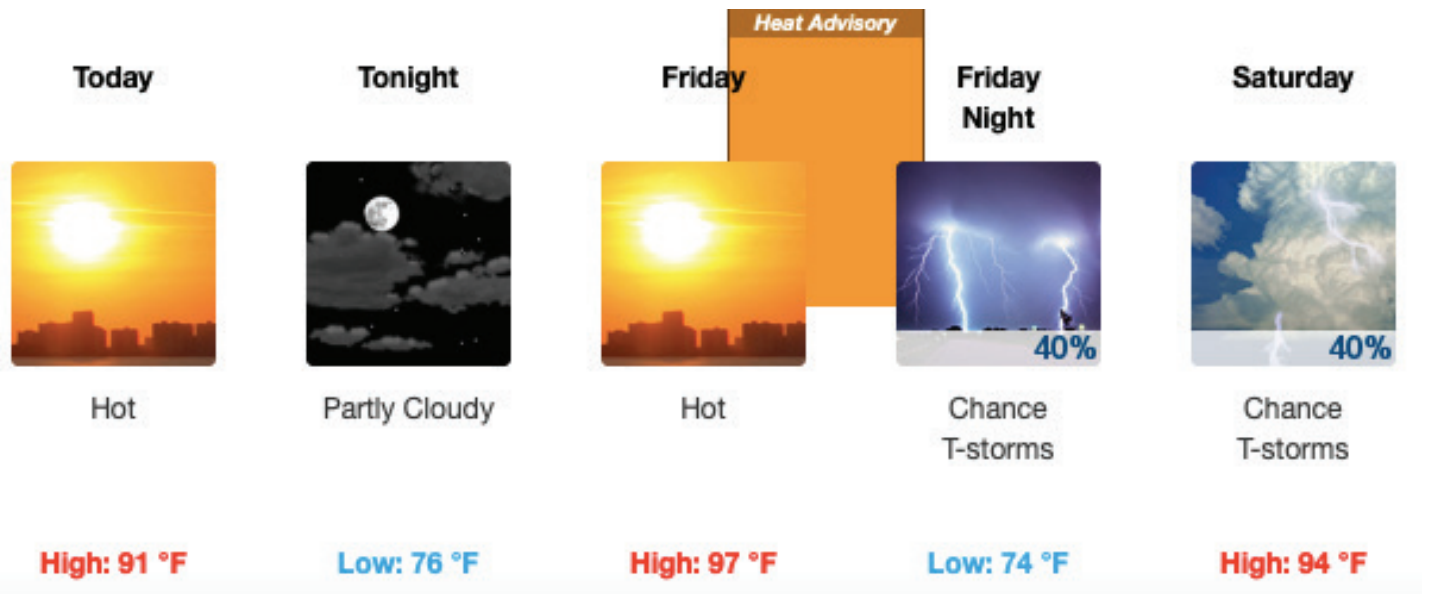
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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A string of days with uncomfortable to dangerous heat and humidity begins today. Heat Advisories go into effect this afternoon for some, and for all by Friday. Strong to severe thunderstorms are possible as well, particularly Friday evening/night. Keep safety in mind especially if spending time outdoors!



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## Today in Weather History

July 23, 2007: High heat indices along with very little wind contributed to the deaths of over 2800 cattle in Brown, Spink, Day, and Marshall Counties. Most of the cattle deaths occurred on July 23rd. The high heat indices continued through the 25th with some more cattle deaths, but protective measures kept the death count down. Most of the cattle that died were on feedlots. The total loss was around 3 million dollars.

July 23, 2010: A United States record setting hailstone fell from a powerful supercell thunderstorm moving southeast across central South Dakota. The record setting hailstone fell near Vivian, South Dakota and measured 8 inches in diameter, 18.625 inches in circumference, and weighed 1.9375 pounds. This hailstone broke the previous United States record for diameter (7.0 inches - 22 June 2003 in Aurora, NE) and weight (1.67 pounds - 3 September 1970 in Coffeyville, KS). The Aurora, Nebraska hailstone will retain the record for circumference (18.75 inches). Several other stones of 6 inches or more in diameter were measured during the storm survey.

Along with the huge hail, damaging winds more than 70 mph along with an isolated tornado occurred. The large hail and high winds caused extensive damage to homes, outbuildings, and vehicles as it moved southeast across the region. Some of the hail went entirely through car windshields, roofs, garages, and campers. The hail caused five minor injuries to motorists on Interstate 90 as it went through their windshields. A child was severely injured when the large hail completely shattered the glass in the mini-van he was traveling. The child suffered numerous cuts, many requiring stitches. Click [HERE](#) for more information from NOAA.

1788: Called the George Washington's Hurricane, this storm originated near Bermuda on the 19th before making landfall in Virginia. It passed directly over the Lower Chesapeake Bay and Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. This track is very similar to the path of the Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane of 1933. At Norfolk, winds increased at 5 p.m. on the 23rd with the wind originating from the northeast. At 12:30 a.m., the wind suddenly shifted to the south and "blew a perfect hurricane, tearing down chimneys, fences"...some corn was also leveled. Also, large trees were uprooted, and houses were moved from their foundations.

Port Royal and Hobb's Hole experienced a violent northeast gale which drove several vessels ashore. In Fredricksburg, vast quantities of corn, tobacco, and fruit were destroyed. Houses and trees fell in significant numbers across Northumberland, Lancaster, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties. Crops were destroyed, and many livestock perished in Lower Mathews County. Many plantations saw their houses leveled. Homes were flooded with water six feet deep, and several inhabitants drowned.

Historical figures of the time logged the storm's antics. George Washington noted the sinking of the small ship Federalist and uprooted trees. Colonel James Madison, the father of the future president, experienced the passing of great winds and rains near Orange. In Alexandria, damage to wheat, tobacco, and corn was "beyond description." The information above is from the Weather Prediction Center and noted American historian David Ludlum.

2011: Chicago set an all-time daily record rainfall when 6.86 inches fell during the early morning hours of Saturday, July 23, 2011, at O'Hare airport. The previous daily record was 6.64 inches set on September 13, 2008.

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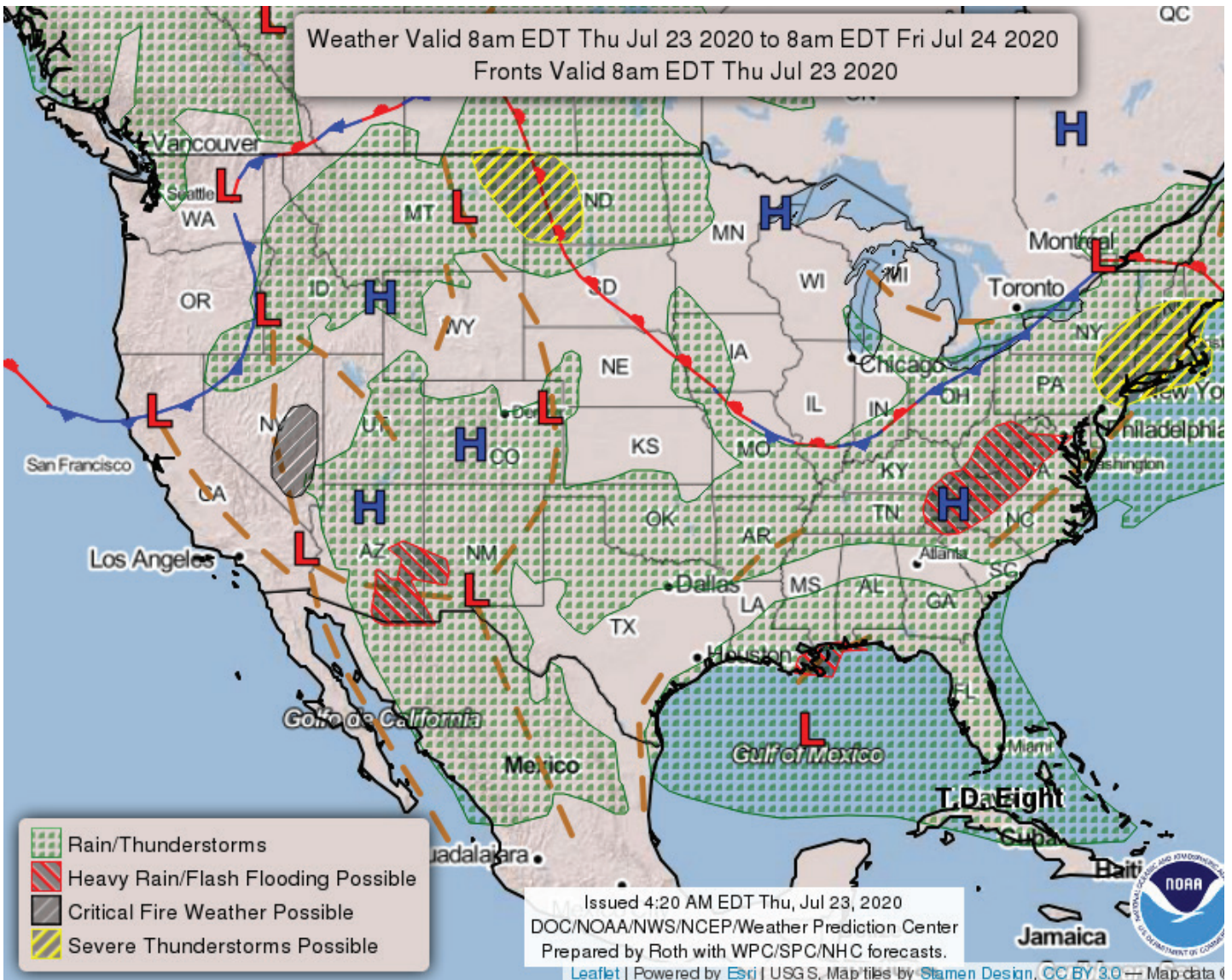
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 81 °F at 4:35 PM**  
**Low Temp: 59 °F at 6:12 AM**  
**Wind: 14 mph at 6:45 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 109° in 1941**  
**Record Low: 41° in 1904**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 60°F**  
**Average Precip in July.: 2.25**  
**Precip to date in July.: 0.69**  
**Average Precip to date: 13.09**  
**Precip Year to Date: 9.01**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:11 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:09 a.m.**



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## GREAT WORK TO DO TODAY

John Tyndall was a nineteenth-century physicist who was highly respected and widely recognized for his scientific research in physics. He was the author of seventeen books, and his work led to many discoveries that advanced our knowledge about the universe. Many believe that it was his work that led to an interest in studying the science of physics.

Once a colleague asked him, "Where did your greatest inspiration come from?"

"A servant," he replied casually. "Every morning he'd knock at my door and say, 'Arise, Sir! You have great work to do today.'"

We do, too.

Paul talks about the attitude and perspective we who are Christians should possess. "Work hard," he says, "and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than people." In other words, focus on what you are doing to honor God, not praise from people.

Ever since the dawn of creation, God has given us work to do. And, if we view this work as Paul asks us to view it, it will be done as an act of service and worship to our Creator. Having this view of our daily responsibilities will take away much of the drudgery and dissatisfaction that often makes our work boring and appear meaningless to us. We might even end our complaining and have less resentment for what we do. If we believe that God has called us to do whatever we are doing, we will gain a new perspective on life. Life then becomes all about Him, not us!

Prayer: Lord, give us thankful hearts, healthy bodies, and sound minds that enable us to work. May we see all that we do as an opportunity to bring You honor and glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than people. Colossians 3:23-24

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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

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

07-22-26-32-33

(seven, twenty-two, twenty-six, thirty-two, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$69,000

Lotto America

18-25-46-49-51, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 3

(eighteen, twenty-five, forty-six, forty-nine, fifty-one; Star Ball: seven; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.55 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$124 million

Powerball

16-25-36-44-55, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 3

(sixteen, twenty-five, thirty-six, forty-four, fifty-five; Powerball: fourteen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$106 million

### Noem meets with Pence, senior Trump officials on DC trip

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem met with senior members of President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday in Washington, D.C.

The Republican governor discussed the response to the coronavirus pandemic in meetings with Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Health Alex Azar. The governor's spokesman Ian Fury said Noem discussed with Azar how a vaccine for COVID-19 could be distributed.

Pence tweeted after their meeting, "I ensured her that we will make sure South Dakota has whatever it needs to protect the health and safety of its people."

Fury said that Noem planned to meet with several other members of the president's team during her trip, but a meeting with Trump was not scheduled.

Noem has seen her national profile rise among conservatives as she took a hands-off approach to the pandemic, avoiding orders for lockdowns or business closures. The governor's pursuit of a national spotlight has led to speculation that she has political ambitions beyond South Dakota, but she has said she is content to remain in her home state.

### USDA study shows gulf between cattle, processed beef prices

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A study released Wednesday by the U.S. Agriculture Department into the disparity between cattle prices paid to ranchers and the higher prices earned by meat processors offers more details about the factors that have led to the situation.

The 20-page analysis by the USDA explains how after a 2019 fire at a Tyson Foods beef plant in Holcomb, Kansas, and this year's temporary closure of slaughterhouses amid the coronavirus pandemic, ranchers saw cattle prices drop while concerns about meat scarcity caused prices at grocery stores to rise.

Some members of Congress have called for an investigation into possible violations of the Packers and Stockyard Act, which is designed to protect ranchers and consumers. They have noted increasing consolidation within the beef industry, which now is largely controlled by four giant processing companies.

The study specified that it wasn't an examination of potential violations of the Packers and Stockyard

Act but that an investigation was ongoing.

South Dakota Sen. John Thune, who was among those seeking an investigation, said he would continue pushing for the Department of Justice to finish its investigation of possible market manipulation.

"South Dakota's cattle producers are facing extreme volatility in the cattle market, and I remain concerned about potential anticompetitive activity in the highly concentrated meatpacking industry," Thune said in a statement.

Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer, whose family owns a ranch, also has sought an investigation.

"The report confirms our serious misgivings about the many factors that are working to destabilize the marketplace," Fischer said. "In light of these events and this report, I will be introducing legislation soon in the Senate aimed at providing equity and transparency for all market participants."

The study details how both the Kansas fire and the coronavirus caused backups in the processing industry, which in turn caused demand for cattle to drop and prices to decline. At the same time, consumer demand continued and even increased amid supply concerns when the coronavirus led to an emptying of grocery shelves.

Although the study focused on documenting the price disparities, it also finds that the situation could benefit from more clearly disseminating market conditions and reinvigorating competition.

## US asks judge to toss North Dakota suit over protest costs

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The federal government is asking a judge to dismiss a lawsuit from the state of North Dakota that seeks to recoup \$38 million for policing the monthslong Dakota Access Pipeline protests almost four years ago.

The state filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last July, and a hearing on the government's request to dismiss it was held Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Bismarck, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

Much of the hearing focused on the fact that protesters did not have a permit to camp on land managed by the Corps and on the Corps' effort to create a designated protest area, called a "free speech zone," in 2016.

Judge Daniel Traynor, who is presiding over the case, said he would rule on the motion to dismiss the case in the coming weeks.

Thousands of protesters gathered in 2016 and 2017 during construction near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The \$3.8 billion pipeline runs beneath the Missouri River near the reservation. The tribe draws its water from the river and fears pollution. Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer maintains the pipeline is safe.

During the protests, some demonstrators camped on land managed by the Corps, which also manages the river. Some were on land belonging to tribe members.

"The Corps was faced with an unprecedented event," said Grant Treaster, an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, which is representing the Corps.

North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem noted that the state was "wracked by over seven months of catastrophe as a result of the protests that occurred."

The state argued in court documents that the Corps "encouraged" demonstrators to protest when it tried to set up a free speech zone on nearby Corps land and by processing protesters' applications for a permit to use the land, in violation of policies restricting the use of such land to recreational purposes.

In 2017, North Dakota received \$25 million to help offset some costs of policing the protests, which included a \$10 million grant from a Justice Department assistance program and a \$15 million donation from Energy Transfer.

A judge recently ordered the Dakota Access pipeline shut down for additional environmental review more than three years after it began pumping oil.

## South Dakota high school sports to start in August

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — High school sports in South Dakota will proceed on schedule but with precautions because of the coronavirus pandemic, the state's governing body decided Wednesday.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association's board of directors unanimously approved a plan for competitions and practices to proceed.

Along with recommending that schools allow athletics to proceed on schedule, the board suggested that they take some safety precautions, including screening athletes, coaches and support staff for COVID-19 and isolating those found to have the disease, the Argus Leader reported.

The plan also recommends a four-tiered system for allowing spectators into sporting events. The tiers would range from allowing anyone if infection trends are steady or decreasing to barring fans if there is a spike in cases in the region.

The plan will give school administrators some flexibility on how sports can proceed based on the severity of the pandemic in local areas. Sports practices will begin as early as Aug. 3, and the first competition — a tennis tournament — is scheduled for Aug. 11.

"It was detailed enough to provide structure for all the schools in the state, but broad enough to allow for local control," said Harrisburg activities director Jim Altenburg.

The association created a task force to come up with recommendations on how schools can try to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections and a tiered system for allowing fans to attend events.

Masks won't be required at competitions, but the task force recommends that schools encourage spectators to wear them. It also says schools should "strongly consider" requiring students to wear them during bus rides to games and practices and that teams should create bus seating charts to help with contact tracing, if it's necessary.

The South Dakota State Medical Association, which is the largest association of doctors in the state, has urged schools to require masks be worn indoors.

"It is important for everyone who will be in school buildings to wear face coverings this fall," said Dr. Benjamin Aaker, the association's president.

## South Dakota budget analysts predict revenue shortfall

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota budget could see revenue shortfalls between \$16 million and \$40 million during the next year due to the coronavirus pandemic, lawmakers were briefed on Wednesday.

While Gov. Kristi Noem announced last week that the state budget that wrapped up June 30 had a \$19 million surplus, revenues were bolstered in part from federal relief money for addressing the pandemic. Economic analysts warned that as federal stimulus programs expire, sales tax revenue could decrease in the coming months. The Republican governor has said that a special legislative session may be necessary to adjust the budget.

The governor's Bureau of Finance and Management, which usually produces more conservative revenue estimates, projected that the shortfall would be roughly \$40 million. But the Legislative Research Council's projection was about \$16 million less than what the Legislature adopted in February.

South Dakota so far has spent nearly \$75 million of the \$1.25 billion it received from the federal government to address the coronavirus pandemic. Most of that money — \$45.6 million — went to the unemployment trust fund as the state dealt with historic levels of people filing for unemployment.

The rest of the funding was spread across agencies for transitioning state employees to remote work, mounting a public health response, and funding state law enforcement. That money helped the state end the fiscal year on June 30 with a surplus. While state agencies cut back spending, Noem was aided in part by the federal funding.

The state paid salaries for health officials and highway patrol officers from those funds. The Department of Health and the Department of Public Safety received roughly \$5 million each, which helped make up

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for an \$8 million revenue shortfall as sales tax fell off due to the pandemic.

The Board of Regents also received a healthy share of the funds, with nearly \$11 million going its way as public universities scrambled to vacate students from campuses in the spring.

Liza Clark, the commissioner of the Bureau of Finance and Management, told lawmakers that state agencies plan to use some of the remaining funds to prepare for a resurgence of the virus. She said that transitioning state agencies to remote work in the spring was a challenge.

"We were able to survive, but how would we be able to succeed at it?" Clark said as she gave examples of office equipment that would help state employees work from home.

The state has until December 31 to spend the rest of the federal coronavirus money, and the governor is also making \$200 million available to cities and counties.

An additional \$3.16 billion of federal relief has been pumped into the state's economy through programs like Payment Protection Program loans and stimulus checks sent to taxpayers. But the state has still seen thousands of layoffs due to the pandemic. 18,687 people were receiving unemployment benefits, according to the last count on July 4.

As the coronavirus has spiked in other states, economists fear that an economic recovery could stall. But South Dakota's daily average of new cases has increased only slightly over the past two weeks, and active cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19 have declined.

Health officials reported 58 new cases on Wednesday, along with one death from COVID-19. The state has reported a total of 8,077 cases. More than 88% of those have fully recovered, but 119 people have died.

## Man accused of stabbing, assaulting, threatening 5 people

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man is accused of stealing two pickup trucks, breaking into three homes and stabbing, assaulting or threatening five people during a nearly hour-long crime spree.

Billy Robertson, 33, was arrested Tuesday after driving toward an officer who fired multiple shots at him, but did not hit him, police said.

According to officials, Robertson was involved in a disturbance at one home about 4 a.m. where he stole a pickup truck. He then broke into another home, pulled out a knife and threatened to kill the homeowner before fleeing to another house where he struggled with the homeowner before stabbing him, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The homeowner was transported to the hospital with serious injuries.

Robertson stole a second pickup at another house and dragged the homeowner who tried pulling him from the truck, police said.

Robertson drove across a golf course just before he veered toward the officer who fired his weapon, officials said. Investigators are trying to determine whether Robertson was targeting people he knew or if the crimes were random.

He was booked into jail on possible charges of aggravated assault against an officer and first-degree robbery, but officials said many more charges are expected as law enforcement and prosecutors continue to investigate.

It was not immediately clear if he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

## In struggle against pandemic, populist leaders fare poorly

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI Associated Press

The countries that top the rankings of COVID-19 deaths globally are not necessarily the poorest, the richest or even the most densely populated. But they do have one thing in common: They are led by populist, mold-breaking leaders.

Populism in politics means pushing policies that are popular with "the people," not the elites and the experts. The United States' Donald Trump, Britain's Boris Johnson and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, as well as India's Narendra Modi and Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador, have surged to power in democratic



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countries, challenging the old order by promising social benefits to the masses and rejecting the establishment.

But it turns out that when it comes to battling a new disease like COVID-19, the disruptive policies of populists are faring poorly compared to liberal democratic models in countries like Germany, France and Iceland in Europe, or South Korea and Japan in Asia.

Academics have been fretting about whether liberal democracy — the political system that helped defeat fascism in World War II, set up international institutions like the World Health Organization and seemed to have triumphed in the Cold War three decades ago — can muster the stuff to take on the new populism and address complex 21st-century challenges.

COVID-19 has crystallized that dilemma.

"This is a public health crisis that requires expertise and science to resolve. Populists by nature ... have a disdain for experts and science that are seen as part of the establishment," says Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank. He was discussing Brazil, where at least 81,000 people have died.

"Brazil has a wealth of expertise and the U.S. does, too," Shifter says. "But the problem is, the populist politics makes it very difficult to implement rational policies that really resolve the issue — or at least manage the crisis more effectively."

The United States, Brazil, the United Kingdom and Mexico all are led by leaders who have been skeptical of scientists and who initially minimized the disease. These four countries account for half of the 618,000 COVID-19 deaths worldwide so far, according to statistics tracked by Johns Hopkins University. India, meanwhile, is coming on strong. It just passed the mark of 1.2 million confirmed cases.

"The pandemic and the economic crisis reveals the price of incompetence, and that this actually matters," said political scientist Thomas Wright of the Brookings Institution.

Wright, who directs the think tank's Center on the United States and Europe, said the disease "hits every blind spot that the populists have" and discredits a core piece of their proposition to voters.

"They basically are calling for disruption to attack the state and for distrust of institutions. And in objective reality, the virus disproves all of that," he said. "Because you need a functioning bureaucracy, you have to have confidence in the numbers, and you have to respond in a scientific way. Otherwise, more people will die and more people will get infected."

— In the United States and Brazil, Trump and Bolsonaro at times have minimized the disease, touted unproven remedies and sparred with and sidelined scientists and health officials. Instead of framing and implementing a consistent anti-COVID strategy for their nations, they often have seen state and local leaders leading the fight.

— In Britain, Johnson was slow to order closures when the disease was raging on the European continent. But he became much more serious about fighting it after his own serious illness left him fighting to breathe.

— In India, Modi addressed the disease aggressively in terms of closures and lock-downs but also argued over facts with his government's own statisticians, controlled information and at times promoted homeopathic and folk cures.

When it comes to the coronavirus, Jishnu Das, an economics professor at Georgetown University, sees common strands between India and the United States, the world's two largest democracies.

"What the virus looks for is any weakness in our system. And it hones into it and pries it open," says Das, who studies health and has been working with two state governments in India to tailor their pandemic responses.

He says the virus exposed in both countries a distrust of science and data, the systematic weakening of key institutions and a lack of legitimacy of state institutions.

The questioning of accepted facts is one characteristic of populist leaders. Another is to risk alienating their bases — such as by telling people to stay at home or to wear masks in public.

A third characteristic is the sowing of division to gain power along ethnic and national lines or against those deemed elite. Such divisiveness makes cooperation elusive, internally and internationally. Finally, a

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fourth frequent trait is a leadership style that favors bombast and crowd-pleasing antics.

After the pandemic hit Brazil, the world's sixth most populous nation, Bolsonaro downplayed it repeatedly, calling it a "little flu" and saying the cost of shutdown would be worse than the disease. He said only high-risk individuals should quarantine, and touted unproven anti-malaria drugs for treatment.

Before he contracted COVID-19, Bolsonaro's administration provided monthly cash payouts to informal-sector workers. His government paid out a total \$22 billion, benefiting more than half of Brazil's population directly or indirectly, according to the citizenship ministry.

And similar to President Trump printing his signature on the \$1,200 coronavirus rescue checks that went out from the U.S. Treasury, Bolsonaro's government worked to make sure recipients in Brazil knew who to thank — part of what Shifter calls a populist leader's playbook of adulation and the projection of power.

"If they begin to go along with science, they're buying into the establishment way of thinking that many of their base sees as the main cause of the country's problem to begin with," he says. "It's seen as kind of giving in or diluting their message, and so they refuse to do so."

"If you rely on science and expertise, the risk is that it makes you seem weaker because you don't know everything," Shifter says.

In Mexico, where 41,000 people have now died, López Obrador pushed to reactivate the economy while infections were still rising. Several governors refused to go along with the federal government's push to reopen. López Obrador continued traveling the country and wading into crowds for weeks after the country confirmed its first infection Feb. 28. Instead, he showed people the amulet that he said kept him safe and did not wear a mask publicly until this month.

As the deaths spike in populist-led countries, it is an entirely different world in most of Europe, where the disease is now on the wane, though not yet defeated. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, speaking at the European Parliament last week, cited the need for consistent leadership, community spirit and "democratic cohesion."

"Fact-denying populism is being shown its limits," she declared. "We are seeing at the moment that the pandemic can't be fought with lies and disinformation, and neither can it be with hatred and agitation."

"In a democracy," she added, "facts and transparency are needed."

The results of that approach: With a population of 84 million, a quarter of the size of the United States, Germany has suffered just over 9,000 COVID deaths. In the United States, the number is 142,000 and rising.

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Veteran international correspondent and editor John Daniszewski is currently vice president for standards at The Associated Press. AP writers David Biller in Rio de Janeiro, Christopher Sherman in Mexico City, Jill Lawless in London and Emily Schmall and Aniruddha Ghosal in New Delhi contributed to this report.

## McConnell set to unveil new virus aid, despite GOP revolt

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is set to unveil a \$1 trillion COVID-19 rescue package on Thursday, pushing past a Republican revolt over big spending and differences with the White House as the virus crisis worsens.

The package, called CARES II, is made up of separate bills from 10 senators as McConnell seeks to replicate an earlier strategy to launch negotiations with Democrats. But the path will be tougher this time. GOP senators and President Donald Trump are at odds over priorities, and Democrats say it's not nearly enough to stem the health crisis, reopen schools and extend aid to jobless Americans.

The Republican leader is expected to deliver a speech shortly after the Senate opens, and then senators will begin rolling out their separate parts of the package, according to a Republican granted anonymity to discuss the plans.

"Very productive meeting," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said while exiting a session late Wednesday at the Capitol.

The centerpiece of the GOP effort remains McConnell's liability shield to protect businesses, schools and

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others from coronavirus-related lawsuits.

The package is not expected to provide any new money for cash-strapped states and cities, which are clamoring for funds, but Republicans propose giving \$105 billion to help schools reopen and \$15 billion for child care centers to create safe environments for youngsters during the pandemic.

The \$600 weekly unemployment benefit boost that is expiring Friday will be reduced, likely to \$200, and ultimately adjusted according to state jobless benefits rates. Some Republicans say the boost is a disincentive to work, but others prefer a phased approach.

"We cannot allow there to be a cliff in unemployment insurance given we're still at about 11% unemployment," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

The bill is likely to be silent on the potential housing crisis as a federal eviction moratorium on millions of rental units expires in days.

One key holdup in the talks was Trump's push for a payroll tax cut, according to a Republican granted anonymity to discuss the private talks. Hardly any GOP senators support the idea. Instead, McConnell and some other Republicans prefer another round of direct \$1,200 cash payments to Americans.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said there will be another boost for small business lending in the Paycheck Protection Program. "It's going to be big," he said.

The bills will also include tax breaks for businesses to hire and retain workers and to help shops and workplaces retool with new safety protocols.

The breakthrough on testing money was key after days of debate between Republicans and the White House. Republicans wanted \$25 billion, but the Trump administration said the \$9 billion in unspent funds from a previous aid deal was sufficient. The two sides settled on adding \$16 billion to the unspent funds to reach \$25 billion, senators said. There will also be fresh funds for vaccines.

Of the \$105 billion for education, Republicans want \$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 likely be split between those that have in-person learning and those that don't.

Democrats, who already approved House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's more sweeping \$3 trillion package two months ago, said the GOP infighting with Trump was delaying needed relief to Americans during the crisis.

"We are just days away from a housing crisis that could be prevented," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

In their package, Democrats are calling for \$430 billion to reopen schools, bigger unemployment benefits and direct aid checks and a sweeping \$1 trillion for state and local governments. They also want a fresh round of mortgage and rental assistance and new federal health and safety requirements for workers.

McConnell calls his proposal a "starting point" in negotiations with Democrats. Congress in March approved the massive \$2.2 trillion CARES package, the biggest of its kind in U.S. history.

The severity of the prolonged virus outbreak is upending American life. Schools are delaying fall openings, states are clamping down with new stay-home orders and the fallout is rippling through an economy teetering with high unemployment and business uncertainty. A new AP-NORC poll shows very few Americans want full school sessions without restrictions in the fall.

Still, some Republicans said they are unlikely to approve any new aid.

"I just don't see the need for it," Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., told reporters on Wednesday.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor, Mary Clare Jalonick and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## The Latest: Emirates will cover COVID-19 medical bills

By The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Long-haul carrier Emirates now says it will cover the costs of passengers' coronavirus-related medical expenses in an effort to encourage more travelers to fly on the airline.

In a statement Thursday, Emirates said passengers can claim medical expenses of up to 150,000 euros

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and quarantine costs of 100 euros per day for 14 days if they are diagnosed with COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the chairman and CEO of the government-owned airline, said: "We know people are yearning to fly as borders around the world gradually reopen, but they are seeking flexibility and assurances should something unforeseen happen during their travel."

The airline said the coverage is good for passengers flying until Oct. 30.

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

- In struggle against pandemic, populist leaders fare poorly
- US labs buckle amid testing surge; world virus cases top 15M
- 'Just got to suck it up:' Masks mandatory in Australian city
- For as long as Mexicans have gone north to find work, money has gone in the opposite direction. Remittances from expatriates have been the life blood of many Mexican villages. But these days, fear accompanies the money that crosses the border.
- Senate Republicans and the White House have reached tentative agreement for more testing funds in the next COVID-19 relief package.
- The small, neighboring sheikhdoms of Bahrain and Qatar have the world's highest per capita rates of coronavirus infections. In the two Mideast countries, COVID-19 epidemics initially swept undetected through camps housing healthy and young foreign laborers.

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

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

**JOHANNESBURG** — The South African Medical Research Council is reporting a "huge discrepancy" between the country's confirmed COVID-19 deaths and the number of excess deaths from natural causes.

The new report shows more than 17,000 excess deaths from May 6 to July 14 as compared to data from the past two years.

According to the report, "In the past weeks, the numbers have shown a relentless increase – by the second week of July, there were 59% more deaths from natural causes than would have been expected based on historical data."

South Africa has reported 5,940 deaths from COVID-19.

The council's president, Glenda Gray, says the excess deaths could be attributed to COVID-19 as well as to other widespread diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis whose treatments might be suffering as resources are directed toward the pandemic.

And some South Africans might be staying away from health facilities altogether as fears of the new virus spread.

**HONG KONG** — Hong Kong's coronavirus infections hit a record high on Thursday with 118 new cases. Of those, 111 were locally transmitted while authorities are unable to trace the source of others.

Hong Kong now has a total of 2,250 confirmed cases with 14 deaths.

To combat the outbreak, the Hong Kong government has made masks compulsory on public transport and in public indoor areas. Health officials have urged people to stay home as much as possible, especially the elderly and those with underlying conditions.

Social distancing measures have also been tightened in light of the worsening situation, with gatherings of more than four people banned. Businesses such as gyms and amusement parks are also temporarily shuttered, while eateries and restaurants can only operate at a limited capacity.

**GENEVA** — Swiss authorities have added another 15 countries, including Mexico and Luxembourg, to their list of nations facing increased risk of COVID-19 infection from which travelers entering Switzerland

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will be required to undergo a 10-day quarantine.

There are now 42 countries on the quarantine list, based on per capita outbreak levels over the last two weeks.

Under the Swiss rules, arriving passengers must "immediately and directly" go home or to other "suitable accommodation" for 10 days, and contact cantonal -- or regional -- authorities within two days.

Release is permitted only after no symptoms have been shown for the duration. In some cases, cantonal officials provide food and other assistance to those under quarantine — but no support for loss of income is provided.

The move effective Thursday adds places like Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, the "Occupied Palestinian Territories" and the United Arab Emirates to the list already including Brazil, Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

**MADRID** — Airbus workers in the European aircraft manufacturer's eight plants in Spain are striking Thursday against the consortium's decision to cut 1,600 jobs over the next few months.

Battered by the coronavirus pandemic, Airbus announced last month that it must eliminate 15,000 jobs, or more than 10% of its global workforce, to safeguard its future and warned of more thin years ahead. The cuts are mostly in Europe and affect 900 employees in Spain.

They're in addition to 700 layoffs out of 2,600 global job cuts in the consortium's defense division announced in February.

Workers chanted "Zero layoffs!" as they marched from the Airbus plant in Getafe, in the outskirts of Madrid, to the local townhall, demanding more political involvement to revive the industry and investments that will guarantee long-term employment.

The Spanish state is one of Airbus' founders and holds an 11% stake in the company.

Protests were also held in other plants, including in big operation centers in Seville, Cádiz and Albacete.

Workers' unions have said a series of strike actions will continue in September if their demands are not heard.

**PRAGUE** — The day-to-day increase of new confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Czech Republic has surpassed 200 for the second straight day.

One of the latest clusters appeared in Prague where 76 people have been infected in a nightclub.

The Health Ministry says the number of infected reached 247 on Wednesday, the biggest increase since June 28.

Health Minister Adam Vojtech said the government will discuss a possible return to some nationwide restrictions but did not given any details.

The Czech Republic has had 14,570 cases with 364 deaths.

**TOKYO** — Tokyo has confirmed a record 366 new coronavirus cases, as Japan started a four-day weekend with many people traveling on a tourism promotion campaign despite concerns it may further spread the virus.

Tokyo's numbers had fallen to just several in late May after a pandemic state of emergency ended, but infections have since late June made a steady climb, with the number tripling in the first three weeks of July. Tokyo now has 10,420 confirmed cases with 327 deaths.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike asked residents to stay home as much as possible during the long weekend and avoid non-essential out-of-town trips, even though Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government went ahead with a "Go To" tourism promotion campaign that excludes Tokyo for now.

Tokyo, which had allocated 1,000 beds for coronavirus patients, has asked hospitals to secure up to 2,800 more. Koike said the city is also in the process of securing hotel rooms for slightly sick patients.

**BERLIN** — A German official says authorities have now linked more than 2,000 coronavirus infections to

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an outbreak at a slaughterhouse last month that led to a partial lockdown in two western counties.

Regional authorities restored some coronavirus restrictions in the Guetersloh and Warendorf areas in late June after more than 1,400 people at the Toennies slaughterhouse in Rheda-Wiedenbrueck tested positive for the virus.

North Rhine-Westphalia state's health minister, Karl-Josef Laumann, told Thursday's edition of the daily Neue Osnabruecker Zeitung that authorities now link 2,119 cases to the Toennies outbreak. He said a link is possible in another 67 cases.

The partial lockdown has since been lifted and the slaughterhouse reopened, with improved hygiene precautions.

**BAGHDAD** — Iraq opened its airports to commercial flights following months of lockdown as part of the government's plan to ease restrictions despite record numbers of coronavirus cases expected to exceed 100,000 this week.

Airports were shut in March along with full-day curfews. Cases have risen exponentially since then and in particular following the Eid holiday in June.

The curfew has been extended many times amid rising case numbers, which has exacerbated a severe economic crisis spurred by falling oil prices and crippled Iraq's private sector.

Iraq's Health Ministry reported 2,700 new cases over a 24-hour period on Wednesday, bringing the country's total to 99,865 cases. Over 4,000 people have died.

Flights to Beirut and Cairo were scheduled to take off 10 a.m. on Thursday.

The curfew will also be lifted following the Eid al-Adha holiday one July 30.

**JOHANNESBURG** — South Africa's confirmed coronavirus cases have nearly reached 400,000 as the country reports a new daily high of 572 deaths.

South Africa is now one of the world's top five countries in terms of reported virus cases, and it makes up more than half of the cases on the African continent with 394,948. Deaths are at 5,940.

Public hospitals are struggling as patient numbers climb, and more than 5,000 health workers have been infected.

The struggles by Africa's most developed country in coping with the pandemic are a worrying sign for other, far less resourced countries across the continent as the spread of infections picks up speed.

**NEW DELHI** — India has recorded 685 virus deaths in the past 24 hours, as well as 444 previously unreported fatalities, bring the nationwide death toll from the pandemic to 29,861.

The Health Ministry on Thursday also reported a new record surge of 45,720 new coronavirus cases, taking the total tally of infections to 1,238,635.

Many states in India have started reimposing lockdowns as health authorities struggle to trace transmissions.

Late Wednesday, the Himalayan region of Kashmir announced a five-day complete lockdown in areas that have been categorized as red zones. A two-day complete lockdown also started Thursday in West Bengal state.

India has record the third most virus cases in the world after the United States and Brazil.

**MELBOURNE**, Australia — Wearing masks became compulsory in Australia's second-largest city of Melbourne on Thursday as coronavirus hot spot Victoria state reported 403 newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and five deaths.

The daily infection tally for the state was down from a record 484 posted Wednesday.

Much of the spread is blamed on sick workers who do not take time off while they wait for coronavirus test results. The state government announced Thursday that workers who do not have sick leave will be eligible for a support payment of 300 Australian dollars while they await test results.

A large majority of Melbourne residents appeared to be complying with the new face covering regulation.

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For the first week of the mask mandate, police will "exercise discretion" in imposing fines.

**BEIJING** — China continues to see newly confirmed coronavirus cases in its northwestern region of Xinjiang, with 18 reported Thursday.

More than 50 people have been infected in China's latest outbreak focused on Xinjiang's regional capital and largest city of Urumqi. City leaders have restricted travel, locked down some communities and ordered widespread testing to contain the spread.

An additional three confirmed cases brought from outside China were reported by the National Health Commission.

China has reported a total of 83,729 cases of COVID-19, with 4,634 deaths.

**SEOUL**, South Korea -- South Korea has reported 59 new confirmed COVID-19 cases following a dual rise in local transmissions and imported infections.

The figures by South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday brought the national caseload to 13,938, including 297 deaths.

The agency says 43 of the new cases were in the densely populated Seoul area, which has been at the center of a virus resurgence since late May. Authorities have struggled to trace transmissions and predict infection routes as people increasingly venture out in public. New clusters have been tied to office buildings, churches, live-in facilities and door-to-door salespeople.

Officials say at least 20 cases were imported infections. South Korea mandates tests and enforces two-week quarantines on all people arriving from overseas.

**BRASILIA**, Brazil — Brazil's health ministry has reported a record 67,860 confirmed coronavirus cases over the last 24 hours.

The previous mark for one day was 54,771, set June 19.

The new high reported Wednesday comes as some regions of the South American nation are partially reopening for business while others that had previously controlled the spread of the virus are seeing increases.

Brazil has counted more than 82,700 deaths from COVID-19 and 2.2 million confirmed infections.

One of the infected is President Jair Bolsonaro, who said earlier Wednesday that he has tested positive for the virus for the third time in two weeks.

**TALLAHASSEE**, Fla. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis says there is a strong need to reopen schools. He says keeping them closed will lead to depression, social isolation and a higher dropout rate. However, he adds that parents should be able to keep children at home if they fear the coronavirus.

In an address on a state-run television channel Wednesday, DeSantis also said that if school districts want to delay opening, or allow teachers to work remotely, they should be allowed to do so.

A Florida teachers union has filed a lawsuit seeking to block what it calls "reckless and unsafe reopening" of public schools for face-to-face instruction.

The governor acknowledged there are worries about returning children to school, but added that "it should also be asked how safe it is to keep schools closed."

**PHOENIX** -- Arizona's top education official says the state's school districts should be empowered to reopen campuses for the new school year based on public health data instead of committing now to specific reopening dates.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman says she has outlined her priorities to Gov. Doug Ducey. He is expected to announce the next steps for school reopenings this week.

Ducey previously announced that schools would not reopen until Aug. 17, weeks after they normally open. Hoffman says schools need guarantees of full funding for distance learning.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is casting wide blame for a nationwide surge in coronavirus cases, pointing to racial justice protests, travelers from Mexico and young bar-goers.

Holding his second briefing on the virus in as many days after a three-month hiatus, Trump sought on Wednesday to explain the rise in confirmed cases across the nation's South, Southwest and West.

Trump says cases among young Americans first started to rise "shortly after demonstrations." He says the protests following the death of George Floyd "presumably triggered a broader relaxation of mitigation efforts nationwide."

He also says a "substantial increase in travel" around Memorial Day and summer vacations was also a driver of new cases.

Further, he says, "Young people closely congregating at bars and probably other places, maybe beaches," likely also led to new cases.

Trump also blames travelers crossing the U.S.-Mexico border for spikes, saying cases in Mexico are surging.

## Mayor of Portland, Oregon, tear gassed by federal agents

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The mayor of Portland, Oregon, was tear gassed by the U.S. government late Wednesday as he stood at a fence guarding a federal courthouse during another night of protest against the presence of federal agents sent by President Donald Trump to quell unrest in the city.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, a Democrat, said it was the first time he'd been tear gassed and appeared slightly dazed and coughed as he put on a pair of goggles someone handed him and drank water. He didn't leave his spot at the front, however, and continued to take gas. Around Wheeler, the protest raged, with demonstrators lighting a large fire in the space between the fence and the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse and the pop-pop-pop of federal agents deploying tear gas and stun grenades into the crowd.

It wasn't immediately clear if the federal agents knew Wheeler was in the crowd when they used the tear gas.

Earlier in the night, Wheeler was mostly jeered as he tried to rally demonstrators who have clashed nightly with federal agents but was briefly applauded when he shouted "Black Lives Matter" and pumped his fist in the air. The mayor has opposed federal agents' presence in Oregon's largest city, but he has faced harsh criticism from many sides and his presence wasn't welcomed by many, who yelled and swore at him.

"I want to thank the thousands of you who have come out to oppose the Trump administration's occupation of this city," Wheeler told hundreds of people gathered downtown near the federal courthouse. "The reason this is important is it is not just happening in Portland ... we're on the front line here in Portland."

Some Portland residents, including City Council members, have accused Wheeler of not reining in local police, who have used tear gas multiple times before federal agents arrived early this month in response to nearly two months of nightly protests since George Floyd was killed. Others, including business leaders, have condemned Wheeler for not bringing the situation under control before the agents showed up.

Protesters in the crowd held signs aloft that read "Tear Gas Ted" in reference to the Portland Police Bureau's use of the substance before federal agents arrived. When the mayor left the protest, around 12:40 a.m., some protesters surrounded him and shouted angrily at him as he walked away. One person shouted, "You've got to be here every single night!"

While taking questions Wednesday night — and before he was tear gassed — Wheeler was criticized for the actions of his own police department, not defunding the local police, national movement that seeks to redirect funds from policing to community needs like housing and education, and not having Portland police protect people from federal agents. The mayor said he wants to use the energy of the protests to make changes.

Wheeler then addressed the much larger crowd from a raised balcony, saying "I am here tonight to



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stand with you.”

Earlier Wednesday, the City Council banned police from cooperating with federal agents or arresting reporters or legal observers.

Wheeler’s tense nighttime appearance downtown came hours after attorneys for Oregon urged a judge to issue a restraining order against agents deployed to quell the protests.

The arguments from the state and the U.S. government came in a lawsuit filed by Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, who accuses federal agents of arresting protesters without probable cause, whisking them away in unmarked cars and using excessive force. Federal authorities have disputed those allegations.

The lawsuit is part of the growing pushback to Trump sending federal agents to Portland and announcing they would be going to Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, to fight rising crime, a move that’s deepening the country’s political divide and potentially setting up a constitutional crisis months ahead of the presidential election. Democratic mayors of 15 cities condemned the use of federal officers in a letter to the U.S. attorney general.

The court hearing focused on the actions of more than 100 federal agents responding to protests outside the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse, which has been a target for the demonstrations.

The motion for a temporary restraining order asks U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman to command agents from the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Patrol, Federal Protective Service and U.S. Marshals Service to immediately stop detaining protesters without probable cause, identify themselves and their agency before arresting anyone, and explain why an arrest is taking place.

The state acknowledged that federal agents have the right to defend the courthouse but argued that they had overstepped.

Rosenblum, the state attorney general, said she wanted the court to “declare it not acceptable for federal officers to use unconstitutional, police-state-type acts to detain citizens of Oregon without cause.”

David Morrell, an attorney for the U.S. government, called the motion “extraordinary” and said it was based solely on “a few threadbare declarations” from witnesses and a Twitter video.

“The Hatfield courthouse did not damage itself,” he said, calling the protests “dangerous and volatile.”

The lawsuit is one of several filed over authorities’ response to the Portland protests. On Thursday, a judge will hear arguments in a legal challenge that the American Civil Liberties Union filed on behalf of journalists and legal observers who say they were targeted and attacked by Portland police while documenting demonstrations.

A freelance photographer covering the protests for The Associated Press submitted an affidavit that he was beaten with batons, chemical irritants and hit with rubber bullets.

A U.S. judge previously ruled that journalists and legal observers are exempt from police orders requiring protesters to disperse once an unlawful assembly has been declared. Federal lawyers say that journalists should have to leave when ordered.

The ACLU filed another lawsuit Wednesday on behalf of volunteer medics who have been attending to injured protesters. It alleges that federal agents have used rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper spray, batons and stun grenades against medics in violation of federal protections for freedom of speech and freedom of movement.

Police say protesters have tried repeatedly to break into the federal courthouse and set fires around it and that the federal agents drive them back with tear gas and stun grenades.

Federal authorities have defended their response, saying officials in Oregon had been unwilling to work with them to stop the vandalism against the the U.S. courthouse and violence against federal officers.

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Associated Press writers Sara Cline in Salem, Oregon, Nicholas K. Geranios in Spokane, Washington, and Colleen Long and Ben Fox in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

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

## China launches ambitious attempt to land rover on Mars

By SAMUEL McNEIL and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China launched its most ambitious Mars mission yet on Thursday in a bold attempt to join the United States in successfully landing a spacecraft on the red planet.

Engines blazing orange, a Long March-5 carrier rocket took off under clear skies around 12:40 p.m. from Hainan Island, south of China's mainland. Hundreds of space enthusiasts cried out excitedly on a beach across the bay from the launch site.

"This is a kind of hope, a kind of strength," said Li Dapeng, co-founder of the China branch of the Mars Society, an international enthusiast group. He wore a Mars Society T shirt, and was there with his wife, 11-year-old son and 2,000 others on the beach to watch the launch.

Launch commander Zhang Xueyu announced to cheers in the control room that the rocket was flying normally about 45 minutes later. "The Mars rover has accurately entered the scheduled orbit," he said in brief remarks shown live on state broadcaster CCTV.

China's space agency said that the rocket carried the probe for 36 minutes before successfully placing it on the looping path that will take it beyond Earth's orbit and eventually into Mars' more distant orbit around the sun.

Liu Tongjie, spokesman for the mission, said in a press briefing that the launch was a "key step of China marching towards farther deep space." He said that China's aim wasn't to compete with other countries, but to peacefully explore the universe.

It marked the second flight to Mars this week, after a United Arab Emirates orbiter blasted off on a rocket from Japan on Monday. And the U.S. is aiming to launch Perseverance, its most sophisticated Mars rover ever, from Cape Canaveral, Florida, next week.

"It's amazing that another nation has launched the case for Mars," said Dr. Katarina Miljkovic, a planetary scientist at Curtin University in Australia, adding that the world was no longer in a space race. "It's more like this marathon of space that we all want to be running."

China's tandem spacecraft — with both an orbiter and a rover — will take seven months to reach Mars, like the others. If all goes well, Tianwen-1, or "quest for heavenly truth," will look for underground water, if it's present, as well as evidence of possible ancient life.

This isn't China's first attempt at Mars. In 2011, a Chinese orbiter accompanying a Russian mission was lost when the spacecraft failed to get out of Earth's orbit after launching from Kazakhstan, eventually burning up in the atmosphere.

This time, China is going at it alone. It also is fast-tracking, launching an orbiter and rover on the same mission instead of stringing them out.

China's secretive space program has developed rapidly in recent decades. Yang Liwei became the first Chinese astronaut in 2003, and last year, Chang'e-4 became the first spacecraft from any country to land on the far side of the moon.

Conquering Mars would put China in an elite club.

"There is a whole lot of prestige riding on this," said Dean Cheng, an expert on Chinese aerospace programs at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

The launch was "gutsy," said Dr. Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. The next challenge is for the probe to be "still working when it gets to Mars and survives entry and landing."

Landing on Mars is notoriously difficult. Only the U.S. has successfully landed a spacecraft on Martian soil, doing it eight times since 1976. NASA's InSight and Curiosity rovers still operate today. Six other spacecraft are exploring Mars from orbit: three American, two European and one from India.

Unlike the two other Mars missions launching this month, China has tightly controlled information about the program — even withholding any name for its rover. National security concerns led the U.S. to curb cooperation between NASA and China's space program.

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In an article published earlier this month in Nature Astronomy, mission chief engineer Wan Weixing said Tianwen-1 would slip into orbit around Mars in February and look for a landing site on Utopia Planitia — a plain where NASA has detected possible evidence of underground ice. Wan died in May from cancer.

The landing would then be attempted in April or May, according to the article. If all goes well, the 240-kilogram (530-pound) golf cart-sized, solar-powered rover is expected to operate for about three months, and the orbiter for two years.

There is uncertainty even after the rover lands on Mars, said Liu Tongjie. "For instance, if there is a sand storm, it needs to modify its mode of work to prevent sands falling on solar panel, which will affect its ability to get energy," he said.

Though small compared to America's hulking, car-sized 1,025-kilogram (2,260-pound) Perseverance, it's almost twice as big as the two rovers China has sent to the moon in 2013 and 2019. Perseverance is expected to operate for at least two years.

This Mars-launching season — which occurs every 26 months when Earth and Mars are at their closest — is especially busy.

The UAE spacecraft Amal, or Hope, which will orbit Mars but not land, is the Arab world's first interplanetary mission. NASA's Perseverance rover is up next.

"At no other time in our history have we seen anything like what is unfolding with these three unique missions to Mars. Each of them is a science and engineering marvel," the Space Foundation's chief executive officer Thomas Zelibor said in an online panel discussion earlier this week.

China's road to Mars hit a few bumps: A Long March-5 rocket, nicknamed "Fat 5" because of its bulky shape, failed to launch earlier this year. The coronavirus pandemic forced scientists to work from home. In March, when instruments needed to be transported from Beijing to Shanghai, three team members drove 12 hours to deliver them.

While China is joining the U.S., Russia and Europe in creating a satellite-based global navigation system, experts say it isn't trying to overtake the U.S. lead in space exploration.

Instead, Cheng of the Heritage Foundation said China is in a "slow race" with Japan and India to establish itself as Asia's space power.

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Ghosal reported from New Delhi. Follow him and McNeil on Twitter: @aniruddhg1 and @stmcneil. Associated Press researcher Chen Si in Shanghai and researcher Yu Bing and producer Olivia Zhang in Beijing contributed to this report.

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

## Why are coins hard to find during the pandemic?

By The Associated Press undefined

Why are coins hard to find during the pandemic?

The Federal Reserve has seen a significant decline of coins in circulation because people are not spending them as regularly at businesses, many of which are either temporarily closed or not accepting cash.

Coins are still plentiful. In April, the U.S. Treasury estimated more than \$47.8 billion were in the market, up by more than a billion dollars compared to last year.

But in recent months, people have not been spending those coins at places like laundromats, banks, restaurants, or shops because the businesses are closed, or people are not visiting them as often as they were before the pandemic.

"The typical places where coin enters our society have slowed or even stopped the normal circulation of coin," said the Federal Reserve, which manages coin inventory, in a June statement.

Sales at restaurants, bars and gas stations dropped more than 40% in April compared with a year ago.

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Sales have since picked up, but some businesses — like bars — remain shuttered in certain states, while others can only operate at a limited capacity.

The Federal Reserve has encouraged banks to order only the coins they need and to make depositing coins easy for customers. One Wisconsin bank system offered its customers a \$5 bonus for every \$100 in coins they brought into exchange at a branch.

The program was so successful, the bank suspended it after only a week.

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

Read previous Viral Questions:

Is it safe to go to the gym during the coronavirus pandemic?

Can a pregnant woman spread the coronavirus to her fetus?

What is contact tracing, and how does it work with COVID-19?

## 'Just got to suck it up:' Masks mandatory in Australian city

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — There were few bare faces among rush-hour commuters in Australia's second-largest city on Thursday morning as Melbourne residents were largely complying with a new law making face coverings compulsory.

Melbourne and neighboring semi-rural Mitchell Shire are coronavirus hot spots that have been in lockdown for two weeks. Wearing a mask or face covering in public became mandatory for Melbourne's 5 million residents from 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday.

"I don't really enjoy wearing it, I mean, I'm asthmatic as well. So ... I'm not a huge fan of wearing it," masked commuter Cameron Strange said at busy Southern Cross train station in downtown Melbourne.

"But if it means that we're saving lives in the community, then we just got to suck it up and do it," he added.

Café owner Maria Iatrou said wearing masks has been the norm for days, so any change on Thursday was imperceptible.

"Very few people were wearing no mask before this morning," Iatrou said. "Masks have become a massive thing, there are so many available to buy on the street."

She said she saw people talking into their jackets because they don't have a mask with them — "basically making sure that the collar of their jacket is over their mouth."

Melbourne residents are becoming increasingly concerned by the pandemic while most parts of Australia have virtually no new cases and have relaxed restrictions. Victoria state, of which Melbourne is the capital, posted a 24-hour record 484 new cases on Wednesday. A state record five deaths was announced on Thursday.

Iatrou lost an uncle to COVID-19 on Wednesday and an aunt has been infected in the same Melbourne nursing home.

"It's not a great situation. My uncle's funeral is on Tuesday and I can't even go," Iatrou said. "Only 10 people can go to a funeral."

Police will fine anyone aged 12 or older 200 Australian dollars (\$143) for leaving home without a mask or rough equivalent such as a scarf or bandanna. Employers who discourage staff from wearing face coverings face a potential fine of AU\$9,913 (\$7,066).

Residents are only allowed to leave home to work, study, buy essentials or exercise. People are not required to wear a face covering while driving alone, but are expected to carry one. Joggers don't have to wear a mask, nor are people with medical certificates for breathing problems.

Television journalists speaking live are exempt so hearing-impaired viewers can read their lips.

The Victoria state Health Department has published online a guide to making a cloth mask at home.

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Still, some residents have said on social media they won't wear masks and will refuse to pay any fine. But a police spokesman had no reports of non-compliance by early afternoon.

Police will "exercise discretion" on imposing fines for failing to wear a mask for a week while Melbourne makes the adjustment, a government statement said.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews gave no indication of how long mask-wearing might be compulsory.

"As challenging — well, I think it's pretty simple, frankly — but as challenging as some may find wearing masks, we'll see the benefits of that in the days and probably the weeks to come," Andrews said.

"It's why it may not just be a feature of the second wave, it may be a feature for many, many months to come," he added.

Mask opponents include high-profile commentator Andrew Bolt, who writes for Melbourne's most popular newspaper, The Herald Sun.

"How the bullies love it! Forcing all Melburnians to wear face masks — even when walking all alone in the sunshine and fresh air," Bolt wrote on Wednesday. "Is there no end to this virus hysteria?"

Australian Medical Association President Tony Bartone, a leading advocate for the nation's doctors, would like to see masks made compulsory in parts of Sydney, Australia's largest city, where COVID-19 clusters have spread from Melbourne.

"We know that if as much as 95% of the population in those areas wear those masks, we will reduce the spread," Bartone told Sky News television.

Sydney-based New South Wales state Premier Gladys Berejiklian said the situation in the city did not yet warrant mandatory mask-wearing.

"If you happen to be in a situation where people aren't respecting social distancing, where you do experience crowding, of course you should wear a mask and that's been our advice from day one," Berejiklian said.

Andrews said Victoria's medical advice on masks had changed because the pandemic threat had changed.

"There'll be some settings where wearing a mask doesn't make a lot of sense," Andrews said. "There are many counterintuitive things in this, there'll be inconsistencies, of course, because it's rapidly changing."

## 2 Mideast countries, world's top virus rates per population

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The small, neighboring sheikhdoms of Bahrain and Qatar have the world's highest per capita rates of coronavirus infections. In the two Mideast countries, COVID-19 epidemics initially swept undetected through camps housing healthy and young foreign laborers, studies now show.

In Qatar, a new study found that nearly 60% of those testing positive showed no symptoms at all, calling into question the usefulness of mass temperature checks meant to stop the infected from mingling with others. In Bahrain, authorities put the asymptomatic figure even higher, at 68%.

These results reflect both the wider problems faced by Gulf Arab countries reliant on cheap foreign labor and their relative success in tracking their COVID-19 epidemics, given their oil wealth and authoritarian governments.

Aggressive testing boosted the number of confirmed cases as health officials in Bahrain and Qatar targeted vulnerable labor camps and neighborhoods, where migrant workers from Asia sleep, eat and live up to dozen people per room.

"This is why globally we failed to control, I think, the infection because simply the response has been focused on trying to find cases and isolate them and quarantine their contacts," said Laith Abu-Raddad, a disease researcher at Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar. "Now, if most people getting the infection are actually spreading the infection without even knowing it, this really does not actually work."

The island kingdom of Bahrain and the energy-rich peninsular nation of Qatar have been locked in a yearslong political dispute that's ended travel and trade between two countries only kilometers (miles) apart. Yet similarities abound in these U.S.-allied nations — Bahrain hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet while Qatar hosts the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command at its sprawling Al-Udeid Air Base.

Both rely heavily on foreign labor, whether white-collar workers in banks or blue-collar laborers scaling

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scaffolding on construction sites. Qatar in particular embarked on a massive construction boom ahead of hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The virus found a home in the cramped quarters that foreign laborers live in while trying to save money to send back home.

In Qatar, nearly 30% of those found infected were from India, while 18% were Nepalis and 14% were Bangladeshis, according to a study by Abu-Raddad and others.

Of the over 6,000 contact trace cases that Bahrain published, more than 2,600 involved Indian nationals, while 1,310 were Bahrainis and 1,260 were Bangladeshi. More than 400 came from Pakistan, with a similar number from Nepal.

Those figures in Bahrain and Qatar likely track across the wider Gulf Cooperation Council, the regional bloc that also includes Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, all of which rely on a vast foreign labor pool already sickened and trapped by the virus.

Though other GCC nations haven't broken down coronavirus cases by nationalities, a recently published article in the Oman Medical Journal said that of the sultanate's first 1,304 cases of the virus, 29% of patients were Indian, 20% were Bangladeshi and 10% were Pakistani.

Their living conditions likely make them more at risk of contracting the virus, as Bahrainis and Qataris usually live in single-family homes. The spread mirrors the contagion seen in boarding schools and other places where people live together in communal spaces.

Qatar, with a population of 2.8 million people, has reported more than 107,000 cases of the coronavirus and 163 deaths. Bahrain, with a population of 1.6 million, has reported more than 37,000 cases and 130 deaths.

Strikingly, the mortality rate in the two countries remains low, with Qatar at 0.15% and Bahrain at 0.34%. The U.S. mortality rate is around 3.6%.

Both Abu-Raddad and Ghina Mumtaz, a disease researcher at the American University of Beirut, attribute that in part to the younger population of the laborers in both Bahrain and Qatar.

"If you look at the infection-fatality rate, you will realize that it's not as scary as if you look only at the figure of the number of cases per capita," Mumtaz said.

In response to questions from The Associated Press about their outbreaks, both Bahrain and Qatar attributed their high case numbers to having some of the world's best per capita testing rates. Qatar also compared itself to Singapore, a southeast Asia city-state that similarly had virus outbreaks among its migrant laborers.

Bahrain said its government's "pre-emptive testing strategy means that the vast majority of cases are identified prior to the development of symptoms." Authorities there also moved 8,000 laborers to new accommodations, disinfected housing and implemented a rule requiring no more than five laborers per room, with about 3 meters (10 feet) of space for each one.

"Because of our low threshold for testing we have identified many more asymptomatic and mild cases of the virus than many other countries," Qatar said. It now mandates a maximum of four laborers per shared room with at least 6 square meters (64 square feet) per occupant.

But finding the majority of the infected people asymptomatic raises questions about the effectiveness of checking only people seeking medical care for symptoms or checking people through the use of temperature-checks and thermal screening. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention put the number of asymptomatic cases at 40% in America.

Of the Bahrain contract trace cases, over 2,000 came "as part of a campaign to obtain random samples from the community," the database showed. More than 1,300 were foreign workers tested while the area they lived in faced mandatory quarantine orders.

The high number of asymptomatic individuals in both countries means that once the virus reaches a new population, it greatly raises the risk of people unknowingly spreading it while feeling fine.

"You are talking only about the spark to a fire," Abu-Raddad said.

## Emigrants send dollars home to Mexico -- and virus warnings

By CLAUDIA TORRENS and MARÍA VERZA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the weeks he spent flat on his back in his Brooklyn bunk, wracked with pain and struggling to breathe, Axayacatl Figueroa could think of nothing but the small town and the family he had left behind in Mexico.

Each month, he had sent \$300 or \$400 to his wife and son in San Jerónimo Xayacatlán. The money was hard earned: For more than a decade, he cleaned pork, cut meat and boned chickens in the basement kitchen of a Vietnamese restaurant.

But now, Figueroa had COVID-19. There was no work, and there was no money to send home.

"I felt desperate. I couldn't do anything," he said.

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For as long as Mexicans have gone north to find work, money has gone in the opposite direction. These remittances from expatriates working in the United States and other countries have been the life blood of places like San Jerónimo, a village of nearly 4,000 people in central Mexico.

But these days, fear accompanies the money that crosses the border. And it travels both ways.

Those who went to live in New York and other American cities are worried about how to keep supporting their families. They also send home warnings about the terrors of a virus that many in Mexico still don't believe is dangerous.

Those who live in San Jerónimo and other towns and cities in Mexico fear for their relatives in the north, watching from afar as they lose their jobs, fall sick alone or without the documents that would allow them to move around freely -- and, too often, die in a foreign land.

The impact of COVID-19 has many questioning whether the years of struggle, absence and badly paid work were worth it.

Figueroa still believes it is. His son, a nursing student he left behind 15 years ago, is not so sure.

"I would have preferred to have him here," said Ariel Juan Figueroa, through he knows that won't happen anytime soon. His father is as persistent as he is.

"He won't be back until he retires or can't work," said the son.

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San Jerónimo is a Mixtec village that sits among low, dry hills that turn green in the rainy season. There is no cell service in a place where running water was not common until just a few years ago.

Nearly a third of its people have emigrated to New York. Most departed in 1990s or the first decade of the 21st century, leaving farm work behind to cross illegally into the United States.

The wages they've earned in New York's kitchens and bodegas have paid for so much:

For medicine and schooling for the people who stayed behind. For the town church's adornments of brick and turquoise filigree, and a three-story bell tower visible across San Jerónimo. For two-story cement homes that line the streets, dominating the few remaining adobe structures owned by families that didn't send migrants to the U.S. -- or whose migrants disappeared on the way north.

Mayor Ibaan Olguín Arellano estimates that the town's people received some \$500,000 a month in remittances before the new coronavirus struck New York and other places where migrants are working.

Then, in April and May, as the situation grew dire in New York, far fewer people picked up remittances at money-wiring offices in the neighboring town Acatlán de Osorio.

"It had never fallen off like that," Olguín Arellano said.

The World Bank and United Nations estimate that remittances to Latin American countries will fall nearly 20% this year, but Mexico appears to be holding on. Mexican migrants sent home a record \$4 billion in March. After a dip in April, numbers were strong again in May.

Duncan Wood, director of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center, says much of that money came

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from emigrants who received unemployment benefits in the U.S.

Emigrants from San Jerónimo typically work off the books and are paid in cash, so they receive no benefits and did not receive stimulus payments, Wood said.

He predicted that Mexico will feel the pain in coming months, when unemployment benefits run out. The country has long depended on that money; remittances bring in more money from overseas than oil exports or tourism.

As remittance money dried up in San Jerónimo, home-building came to a halt and people started eating only what they could slaughter from their herds or harvest from their fields.

Family in New York told them to prepare for the coronavirus to reach their remote corner of Mexico.

"The people are suffering here and it will happen there, too," Clara Lara's son warned her from Staten Island. He sent her money with one request -- buy cloth and make face masks.

In March, almost no one in Mexico was talking about wearing masks. The president himself was still mixing, unprotected, with crowds of supporters. But Lara followed her son's instructions and bought the cloth. One neighbor cut the fabric. Another folded it, and two others sewed masks in the house that the son had built which serves as a community center until the day he comes home and takes up residence.

In five weeks they made nearly 500 masks and distributed them to neighbors with clear instructions from Doña Clara: Drink hot soup and tea and, if you notice any symptoms, isolate yourself at home.

So even before Mexico began debating quarantines, emigrants from this town imposed one on their families from 2,500 miles away. San Jerónimo stopped moving. To date, not a single villager has been infected; the mayor says six townspeople living in the U.S. have died.

On April 17, the church bells tolled for the first victim from the town, a young man living in New York. Four days later, another died.

"I didn't believe it until I lived it in the flesh," said Wilfrido Martínez, 69, who lost his 39-year-old son.

Mauricio worked in a restaurant kitchen in New York. He was diabetic and didn't protect himself against infection, Martínez said. Until his son died, he had believed the virus was a fraud perpetrated by politicians for reasons he did not understand.

On July 11, nearly three months after his death, his son's ashes were sent from New York, destined for the town's cemetery alongside his mother.

From the speakers on the bell towers, prayers ring out daily, pleading for the end of the pandemic and praying for its victims.

"They go with the dream of achieving something but now, with the epidemic, many people have died," Martínez said. "Their dreams die there."

Sitting in the small, windowless kitchen of his apartment -- the only decoration on the wall, a framed painting of skyscrapers and the Statue of Liberty -- Axayacatl Figueroa calmly told the story of his illness.

He lost 15 pounds. He drank only the tea that his roommates, also from San Jerónimo, left on the other side of his closed door.

"When I stopped coughing they would ask me, 'What happened? We can't hear you anymore,'" he recalled.

Partly due to their often-cramped living conditions, New York's Latinos have relatively high rates of death from COVID-19. At least 760 Mexicans have died there, more than in any other state and nearly half of all Mexican deaths due to the virus in the United States. No one knows how many have fallen ill.

Figueroa, 42, left his wife and son behind in San Jerónimo in 2005. Their plan was for her to follow and then send for their son, who was 3 at the time. But border agents caught her trying to cross the border five times, and she gave up.

Every month, Figueroa sent money to Mexico. He dreamed of finishing his home, built slowly over the years and still incomplete, and educating his son.

Once, when he was particularly ill, he called his wife and said something that he'd never brought up before. If he could, he said, he would return home. She froze.

"A lot went through my mind," says Elisabeth Alvarado. Nearly a decade ago, she had asked him to



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come home, but he had said no -- he needed to make money for the family. How sick must he be, that he was reconsidering now?

Figueroa recovered after three weeks. His finances have not. Like many migrants, he lost his full-time job; according to the Migration Policy Institute, unemployment among the Latino foreign-born population in the U.S. has nearly quadrupled during the pandemic. Worst affected are those who, like Figueroa, are not here legally.

In Latino neighborhoods across New York, people wait in long lines for food aid being distributed by churches and charities.

Figueroa was able to return to the Vietnamese restaurant part-time. He arrives to work by bike, pedaling past vendors selling face masks and gloves for a dollar. But he is just making ends meet and hasn't sent money home since March.

His wife tells him not to worry, to look after himself. The family will tighten their belts, use some savings, eat more basic food; they won't sell a goat or turkey until it is absolutely necessary.

But Figueroa feels powerless.

"You leave to improve yourself, to help your family, to support them, and I feel like I'm not doing that," he says. "I'm failing."

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Emigration from San Jerónimo has slowed greatly since 2015. Town historian Tamara Cardoso says that after a generation of emigration, the quality of life has improved in San Jerónimo and there's less urgency for a decision "that means going far from everything, starting a new life, watching your children grow from far away."

Many of the new concrete houses in San Jerónimo are finished, but empty. The emigrants who built them haven't yet come back to live in them.

A few of the emigrants have come back over the years, however. On Sept. 11, 2001, Jorge Vázquez was working in a New York restaurant. After the attack on the Twin Towers, business dropped off and he was fired.

He remembers the fear of another attack, so similar to the fear of contagion.

"History's repeating itself in some way," he says.

Three months later, he returned to San Jerónimo. Though he tried to go north in 2003, he ended up staying in Mexico to care for his mother and for the three daughters of his sister, Magnolia Ortega, who remained in the United States.

Vázquez, 42, works in the fields. But he was trained as a nurse, and occasionally puts his old skills to work treating a scorpion bite or injecting a goat.

In recent days, he's been preparing the soil for a new planting of corn, spraying the last mangoes of the season and picking some fruit to sell in the market, which opened at the end of June after a nearly three-month shutdown.

The closure left Vazquez without income just as his sister lost her job cleaning houses in New York, and reduced the amount she sent home from \$800 to \$300 a month.

The money has come year after year, aside from when Ortega was diagnosed with cancer in 2011. The family used the money to add rooms to the house; to build a kitchen where modern appliances coexist with a cooking fire and corn-grinding stone; to buy medicine for their aging mother and pay for one of the young women, Ivette Guzmán, to study psychology. There wasn't enough money to pay tuition for her sister, too.

"Things have been achieved here through their efforts," said Guzmán, 25, as she stripped corn with her grandmother, her sister and her 2-year-old daughter amid goats and cacti. "But we're worried."

Vázquez had a telephone installed in the house so the family can stay in touch with Ortega. They know that though her cancer is in remission, she remains vulnerable to coronavirus. They know from watching television that even healthy people fall ill with coronavirus. They are terrified.

Ortega is considering returning to San Jerónimo with her second husband and their daughter, who was born in the United States. But there is no work there either, she said, and if she was to return there would

be one less emigrant, sending back one less monthly check.

"If I go back," she said, "we won't have anything."

María Verza reported from San Jerónimo Xayacatlán, México.

## 2 standoffs in Oregon show differing views of US response

By REBECCA BOONE and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — When armed protesters took over a remote wildlife refuge in eastern Oregon four years ago to oppose federal control of public lands, U.S. agents negotiated with the conservative occupiers for weeks while some state leaders begged for stronger action.

This month, federal officers sent to Portland to quell chaotic protests against racial injustice took swift and, some say, harsh action: launching tear gas, firing less-lethal ammunition and helping arrest more than 40 people in the first two weeks. State leaders are imploring federal forces to leave the progressive city, saying they're escalating a volatile situation.

The reaction from state leaders, protesters and anti-government groups to the U.S. response to two disparate situations shows the inconsistencies in how both sides view federal intervention, often based on the politics of who's protesting and who's cracking down.

J.J. MacNab, a fellow at George Washington University's Program on Extremism, said many right-wing extremists who espouse anti-government and pro-gun views have embraced the authoritarian tactics used by President Donald Trump that they denounced under his Democratic predecessor.

"It's like night and day," she said. "They hated government when Obama was in office. They love government now."

MacNab, who's been monitoring social media chatter by supporters of anti-government groups like the Oath Keepers and the militia-style Three Percenters, said she's seen a steady stream of violent rhetoric directed toward Portland protesters.

MacNab said the Oath Keepers in 2015 promoted a conspiracy theory that a U.S. military training exercise was a pretext for the federal government to impose martial law.

"They are literally 180 degrees from where they were in 2015," she said.

But some of them don't fully support the federal tactics targeting two months of protests in Portland that began after George Floyd's death by Minneapolis police. Large, mostly peaceful crowds had dwindled to smaller groups that have vandalized the federal courthouse and other public buildings downtown, which federal authorities say gives them authority to act to protect their officers and property.

Eric Parker, president of The Real 3%ers of Idaho, supported an armed standoff with federal authorities in 2014 near the Nevada ranch of Cliven Bundy, whose sons led the occupation at the wildlife refuge in Oregon two years later. Both standoffs pushed for states' rights and keeping the federal government out of people's lives.

Parker was charged with pointing a semi-automatic rifle at armed federal agents but ultimately pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor. He spent about 18 months in federal custody.

"I had to go through due process with my activism, if you're willing to call it that," he said this week. "And if you're going to do activism, you have to be willing to do that."

Parker, who's running for Idaho state Senate, has some concerns about the federal response to protests in Portland and elsewhere.

"It makes me uncomfortable, sure," he said. He worries that videos appearing to show U.S. agents grabbing people off the street and whisking them away in unmarked cars could mean people are being arrested without probable cause.

Still, he doesn't necessarily oppose U.S. agencies taking action.

"If Portland isn't going to protect its police department or the federal building or what have you, I could see them having to," Parker said.

Parker, who was in eastern Oregon during the 2016 occupation but said he didn't take part, criticized

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the difference in the Democratic governor's reactions to the federal response then and now.

Gov. Kate Brown has compared the presence of federal agents at the Portland protests to pouring gasoline on a fire.

"This a democracy, not a dictatorship. 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," she tweeted.

But "in 2016 she was begging federal law enforcement to do whatever they had to do to stop the peaceful occupation in the middle of a desert," Parker said. "The idea that now federal agents are storm-troopers of death I find quite hypocritical."

The armed occupation at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge started Jan. 2, 2016, and lasted 41 days. Negotiations began in the first weeks, with Ammon Bundy questioning whether the federal government had the authority to operate in the rural county.

Bundy and others were allowed to come and go as Obama's administration tried to avoid the bloodshed that's characterized confrontations with right-wing groups in the past.

By the end of January, state police and FBI agents used a roadblock to stop Bundy and other protest leaders as they headed to a meeting. During the confrontation, occupier Robert "LaVoy" Finicum was shot and killed by police and several others were arrested. Finicum's death sparked protests in over a dozen cities nationwide.

The FBI gave the remaining occupiers time to leave the refuge. Most did — though some were arrested — and soon just four holdouts remained. They surrendered as federal agents moved in Feb. 10.

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Oregon Democrats, had urged the FBI to move quickly to end the occupation. Now, they strongly criticize federal actions in Portland. Wyden described them as "paramilitary assaults" on people's constitutional rights, while Merkley called them "profound offenses against Americans."

In Portland, the federal response escalated faster. U.S. officers were deployed in early July, and they have repeatedly deployed tear gas and rubber bullets and used force to scatter protesters.

A protester was hospitalized with critical injuries on July 11 after a federal officer struck him in the head with a round of less-lethal ammunition. A video last weekend showed a federal agent hitting a Navy veteran repeatedly with a baton while another pepper-sprayed him in the face. U.S. officials said they're investigating.

Former Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper, author of the 2016 book "To Protect and Serve: How to Fix America's Police," said Trump appears to be using "his own private political army" in a quest to "override home rule and local authority."

"If it's not unprecedented, it's extremely rare and as dangerous as I think it is uncommon," Stamper said.

Stamper said National Guard troops, unlike federal agents deployed by the Trump administration, are trained to respond to civil unrest and operate at the direction of state and local officials.

"For me, the larger question is: Who is in charge of these federal forces?" he said.

Bundy, who lives in Emmett, Idaho, is asking a similar question. He said this week that he planned to attend a local Black Lives Matter rally calling for reduced police funding.

"We have to understand that there is an enormous amount of Black people, you know, that need their rights defended," he said in an online video. "I do believe, in many ways, the police need to be defunded. We have become a police state because of the funding that they receive."

Some followers sharply criticized him, which Bundy said disgusted him. He later decided not to go to the protest, saying he feared his presence would increase the risk of violence from opponents.

"There needs to be a defunding of government in general, and especially the police forces, because they're the ones that are actually going to seek and destroy us," he said in a video. "And there are many people in the Black Lives Matter organization, along with patriots and, you know, libertarians and Republicans and Democrats that understand this."

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Kunzelman reported from Silver Spring, Maryland.

## Trump deploys more federal agents under 'law and order' push

By COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced he will send federal agents to Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, to help combat rising crime, expanding the administration's intervention into local enforcement as he runs for reelection under a "law and order" mantle.

Using the same alarmist language he has employed to describe illegal immigration, Trump painted Democrat-led cities as out of control and lashed out at the "radical left," which he blamed for rising violence in some cities, even though criminal justice experts say it defies easy explanation.

"In recent weeks there has been a radical movement to defund, dismantle and dissolve our police department," Trump said Wednesday at a White House event, blaming the movement for "a shocking explosion of shootings, killings, murders and heinous crimes of violence."

"This bloodshed must end," he said. "This bloodshed will end."

The decision to dispatch federal agents to American cities is playing out at a hyperpoliticized moment when Trump is grasping for a new reelection strategy after the coronavirus upended the economy, dismantling what his campaign had seen as his ticket to a second term. With less than four months until Election Day, Trump has been warning that violence will worsen if his Democratic rival Joe Biden is elected in November and Democrats have a chance to make the police reforms they have endorsed after the killing of George Floyd and nationwide protests demanding racial justice.

Crime began surging in some cities like Chicago, New York and Philadelphia when stay-at-home orders lifted. Criminal justice experts seeking answers have pointed to the unprecedented moment: a pandemic that has killed over 140,000 Americans, historic unemployment, a mass reckoning over race and police brutality, intense stress and even the weather. Compared with other years, crime in 2020 is down overall.

The plan Trump announced Wednesday expands an existing program that sent hundreds of federal agents to Kansas City, Missouri, after a 4-year-old boy's shooting death to help quell a record rise in violence. Sending federal agents to help localities is not uncommon; Attorney General William Barr announced a similar surge effort in December for seven cities with spiking violence. But this effort will include at least 100 Department of Homeland Security Investigations officers who generally conduct drug trafficking and child exploitation investigations, in addition to personnel under the Justice Department umbrella.

DHS officers have already been dispatched to Portland, Oregon, and other localities to protect federal property and monuments as Trump has lambasted efforts by protesters to knock down Confederate statues.

Local authorities there have complained that agents have exacerbated tensions on the streets, while residents have accused the government of violating their constitutional rights. Indeed, civil unrest escalated after federal agents were accused of whisking people away in unmarked cars without probable cause.

Since the racial justice protests began, Trump's campaign has leaned heavily into a pledge to maintain "law and order" as it has tried to tie Biden to a small group of radicals and anarchists it claims is trying to destabilize America's cities and rewrite history.

The campaign believes the push can help Trump by drumming up support from suburban and older voters who may be rattled by violent images, which have been broadcast often by conservative media outlets.

In Chicago, Democratic Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who had initially blasted the news, said the U.S. attorney's office will supervise the additional agents joining existing federal law enforcement offices.

"If those agents are here to actually work in partnership on support of gun violence and violent cases, plugging into existing infrastructure of federal agents, not trying to play police in our streets, then that's something different," she said, while also accusing the president of trying to distract from scrutiny of the federal response to the pandemic.

In New Mexico, Democratic elected officials had cautioned Trump against sending in federal agents, with U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich calling on Bernalillo County Sheriff Manny Gonzales to resign for attending the White House event.

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"Instead of collaborating with the Albuquerque Police Department, the Sheriff is inviting the President's stormtroopers into Albuquerque," Heinrich said in a statement.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf drew a distinction between the mission in Portland — to protect federal property — and the surges in Kansas City, Chicago and Albuquerque to help stop violence.

Albuquerque and Chicago will be getting millions of dollars for new officers, and the Justice Department will reimburse Chicago \$3.5 million for local law enforcement's work on the federal task force.

In Kansas City, the top federal prosecutor said any agents involved in an operation to reduce violent crime in the area will be clearly identifiable when making arrests, unlike what has been seen in Portland. Hundreds of extra agents have been sent.

"These agents won't be patrolling the streets," U.S. Attorney Timothy Garrison said. "They won't replace or usurp the authority of local officers."

Operation Legend — named after 4-year-old LeGenD Taliferro, who was fatally shot while sleeping in a Kansas City apartment last month — was announced July 8.

"My one and only child who fought through open heart surgery at four months is gone due to senseless gun violence," LeGenD's mother, Charon Powell, said at the White House. "Children are supposed to be our future and our son didn't make it to kindergarten."

Associated Press writers Kathleen Foody in Chicago, Michael Balsamo in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

## Oregon urges judge to rein in US agents deployed in Portland

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Attorneys for Oregon argued Wednesday for a restraining order against federal agents deployed to quell protests in Portland — a standoff that some legal experts have warned could lead to a constitutional crisis in an election year.

A federal judge heard arguments from the state and the U.S. government in a lawsuit filed by Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, who accuses federal agents of arresting protesters without probable cause, whisking them away in unmarked cars and using excessive force. Federal authorities have disputed those allegations.

The lawsuit is part of the growing pushback to President Donald Trump sending federal agents to Portland and announcing they'd also be going to Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, to fight rising crime, a move that's deepening the country's already considerable political divide. Democratic mayors of 15 cities condemned the use of the agents in a letter to the U.S. attorney general.

The court hearing focused on the actions of more than 100 federal agents responding to protests outside Portland's Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse, which has been a target for more than 50 nights of demonstrations against racial injustice following the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

The motion for a temporary restraining order asks U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman to command agents from the Department of Homeland Security, the Customs and Border Protection, the Federal Protective Service and the U.S. Marshals Service to immediately stop detaining protesters without probable cause, to identify themselves and their agency before arresting anyone, and to explain why an arrest is taking place.

During the hearing — held by videoconference because of the coronavirus pandemic — the state acknowledged that federal agents have the right to defend the courthouse but argued that they had overstepped.

Rosenblum, the state attorney general, said she was asking the court to "declare it not acceptable for federal officers to use unconstitutional, police state-type acts to detain citizens of Oregon without cause."

David Morrell, an attorney for the U.S. government, called the motion "extraordinary" and told the court it was based solely on "a few threadbare declarations" from witnesses and a Twitter video.

"The Hatfield courthouse did not damage itself," he said, calling the protests "dangerous and volatile."

It's not clear when Mosman will rule, but he challenged the state on whether it had the standing to ask

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for the restraining order. The judge noted that past legal decisions have required a state to establish a very high bar — “quasi-sovereign interest” — to successfully sue the U.S. government.

Attorneys for Oregon contended they had met that bar because the actions of the federal agents could erode residents’ trust in all law enforcement, including state and city officers.

Morrell, the U.S. government attorney, disputed that, saying successful lawsuits usually involved issues that affected many people, not “highly individual interests” like the arrests.

The lawsuit is one of several filed over authorities’ response to the Portland protests. On Thursday, a judge will hear arguments in a legal challenge that the American Civil Liberties Union filed on behalf of journalists and legal observers who say they were targeted and attacked by Portland police while documenting demonstrations. A freelance photographer covering the protests for The Associated Press submitted an affidavit that he was beaten with batons, chemical irritants and hit with rubber bullets.

U.S. Judge Michael Simon previously ruled that journalists and legal observers are exempt from police orders requiring protesters to disperse once an unlawful assembly has been declared. Federal lawyers say that journalists should have to leave when ordered.

The Portland City Council on Wednesday banned city police from cooperating with federal agents or knowingly arresting reporters or legal observers.

Meanwhile, a fence went up around the federal courthouse, where protesters and federal agents had clashed again overnight. Protesters repeatedly tried to break into the building and set fires around it, and the federal agents drove them back with tear gas and stun grenades, police said.

Far from tamping down the unrest in Portland, the presence of federal agents has energized the nightly protests.

Mayor Ted Wheeler’s office said he would attend the protests Wednesday night and there would be “some form of dialogue” with the demonstrators. The Democrat has vocally opposed the federal presence in Portland but has still faced harsh criticism from many sides. Some, including fellow council members, have accused him of not reining in local police, who used tear gas before federal agents arrived. Others, including business leaders, have condemned him for not bringing the situation under control.

One group that has been prominent in the protests, the Pacific Northwest Youth Liberation Front, told the mayor to stay away.

The use of federal agents against the wishes of local officials — and the threat that it might be done elsewhere — was deepening the country’s already considerable political divides and potentially setting up a constitutional crisis months ahead of the presidential election. The standoff could escalate after Trump announced Wednesday that he would be sending federal agents to combat crime in Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, which are both led by Democrats.

The mayors of Chicago, Portland and other Democratic-led cities objected to such deployments and called them politically motivated in a letter to Attorney General William Barr and Department of Homeland Security Acting Secretary Chad Wolf.

Federal authorities have defended their response, saying officials in Oregon had been unwilling to work with them to stop the vandalism against the the U.S. courthouse and violence against federal officers.

Wolf said Tuesday that agents have been assaulted with lasers, bats, fireworks, bottles and other weapons. While he said federal agencies have made 43 arrests since July 4, he disputed they were done by unidentified agents, noting they have the word “police” on their uniforms.

Among the protesters was Maureen Healy, who joined a march Monday as people sang songs and chanted the names of Black lives lost.

Just after midnight, she saw a line of authorities wearing camouflage and dark outfits advance on the crowd. Protesters retreated, and Healy said she heard bangs, saw smoke and was struck by a projectile. She went to the hospital with a black eye, a cut to her face and a possible concussion.

“I was protesting peacefully, so why did federal troops shoot me in the head?” asked Healy, 52, who is chairwoman of the history department at Lewis & Clark College.

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This story has been updated to correct the federal agency's name to Customs and Border Protection.

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

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

## Violence, protests, arrival of agents put Chicago on edge

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Amid a surge in gun violence and protests sparked by the death of George Floyd, the nation's third-largest city is on edge, awaiting possible greater tension in the form of a plan by President Donald Trump to dispatch dozens of federal agents to Chicago.

The White House plan emerged days after a downtown protest over a statue of Christopher Columbus devolved into a chaotic scene of police swinging batons and demonstrators hurling frozen water bottles, fireworks and other projectiles at officers. Then, on Tuesday in another neighborhood, a spray of bullets from a car passing a gang member's funeral wounded 15 people and sent dozens running for their lives.

Tension in the city has climbed to a level that, if not unprecedented, has not been felt in a long time.

"I've never seen things worse in this city than they are right now," said the Rev. Michael Pfleger, a Roman Catholic priest and longtime activist on the city's South Side.

Much of the strain stems from the fact that it remains unclear exactly what the federal officers will do here. The plan seems to be a repeat of what happened in Kansas City, Missouri, where the administration sent officers to help quell violence after the shooting death of a young boy.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot sought to tamp down fear that the surge will resemble the kind of scene that unfolded in Portland, Oregon, where unidentified agents in camouflage have beaten unarmed protesters and stuffed some of them into unmarked vehicles.

Lightfoot said she has been told the U.S. Attorney's Office will supervise the additional agents supporting the Chicago offices of the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

But given the longstanding animosity between city officials and Trump, leaders from the mayor on down worry that those promises will not hold up.

City officials will be on guard for any "steps out of line," particularly from agents with the Homeland Security Department, and they will not hesitate "to take the president to court," Lightfoot said.

Trump announced the plan Wednesday, saying he would send agents to Chicago and Albuquerque to help combat rising crime. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and Attorney General Bill Barr both said the mission in Portland — to protect federal property — differs from the focus in Kansas City, Chicago and Albuquerque.

Barr said the number of agents being deployed to Chicago is "comparable" to the Kansas City surge of more than 200.

Trump painted Democrat-led cities as out of control and lashed out at the "radical left." Criminal justice experts say the increase in violence in some cities defies easy explanation.

"In recent weeks, there has been a radical movement to defend, dismantle and dissolve our police department," Trump said, blaming the movement for "a shocking explosion of shootings, killings, murders and heinous crimes of violence."

Lightfoot has repeatedly said she does not support protesters' calls to pull money from police in favor of social services.

If the federal agents do as they have done in Portland, one prominent minister on the city's West Side said the situation will turn the city into a "magnet" for the same kind of people who infiltrated the statue protest, put on dark clothes and distributed and threw projectiles at police from behind umbrellas.

"It's going to be like that, but on steroids," the Rev. Marshall Hatch warned. "Chicago is one of those

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epicenters where you already have an unsettled social situation and racial situation. And you're going to find out that Chicago is a lot more volatile in the middle of a long hot summer than Portland is."

He fears such a chaotic scene is exactly what the president wants as he seeks reelection.

Chicago might offer Trump an opportunity "to somehow scare the middle class into thinking he's the only one standing between them and the barbarians," Hatch said.

Pflegler said federal agents could help stem violence if they stick to helping detectives make arrests and increase the city's homicide clearance rate, which the department said this month is under 40%. They could also help stem the flow of illegal guns pouring into the city from Indiana, Mississippi and elsewhere.

"A big reason why there are so many murders in the city is that you have a really good chance of getting away with murder here," Pflegler said.

Nor, he said, was it lost on people that nobody had been arrested for the shooting outside the church despite Police Superintendent David Brown's contention that two squad cars were on the street and a tactical unit nearby.

"Everybody's saying on the street, 'We have to protect ourselves because the police aren't going to protect us'" Pflegler said. "That's the mentality."

The shooting went on long enough for the gunmen and people attending the funeral who returned fire to leave at least 60 shell casings at the scene.

At a news conference, Brown implored witnesses to come forward with information about the attack, which police believed was carried out in retaliation for another shooting. Observers suggested that the police department's reputation for brutality, misconduct and racism made Brown's plea a tough sell.

"You don't share stuff with people you don't trust," Pflegler said.

That mistrust also plays into another activist's concern that no matter what federal agents do when they arrive in the city, it will not help and may aggravate the situation.

"Anytime you have police in a community that have no relationship to the community — with the business owners, with the youth — it makes the situation worse," said Jahmal Cole, founder and executive director of a community organization on the South Side called My Block, My Hood, My City.

## White House, GOP agree on virus testing in new aid bill

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans and the White House reached tentative agreement for more testing funds in the next COVID-19 relief package, but deep disagreements over the scope of the \$1 trillion in federal aid remain ahead of Thursday's expected roll out.

Facing a GOP revolt, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was preparing a "handful" of separate COVID-19 aid bills, according to a top lawmaker involved in the negotiations. McConnell is set to unveil the package on Thursday, according to a Republican unauthorized to discuss the private talks and granted anonymity.

"Very productive meeting," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said while exiting a session late Wednesday at the Capitol.

A key holdup remains President Donald Trump's push for a payroll tax cut, according to a Republican granted anonymity to discuss the private talks. Hardly any GOP senators support the idea. Instead, McConnell and some Republicans prefer another round of direct \$1,200 cash payments to Americans.

Mnuchin said the negotiators have agreed to an amount on direct payments, but declined to share details.

The rest of the legislation is taking shape even as key Senate Republicans are rejecting the overall rescue, which is almost certain to grow. There will be no new money for cash-strapped states and cities, which are clamoring for funds, but they will be provided with additional flexibility to tap existing aid funds.

Republicans propose giving \$105 billion to help schools reopen and \$15 billion for child care centers to create safe environments for youngsters during the pandemic.

The centerpiece of the GOP effort remains McConnell's liability shield to protect businesses, schools and others from COVID-related lawsuits. The bills will also include tax breaks for businesses to hire and retain



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workers, and to help shops and workplaces retool with new safety protocols.

Still unresolved is how to phase out the \$600 weekly unemployment benefit boost that is expiring, starting Friday. Republicans appear to be settling on \$200 a week that would ultimately be adjusted according to state jobless benefits rates.

The breakthrough on testing money, though, was key after days of debate between Republicans and the White House, showing a potential shift in the administration's thinking about the importance of tracking the spread of the virus. Republicans wanted \$25 billion but the Trump administration said the \$9 billion in unspent funds from a previous aid deal was sufficient. The two sides settled on adding \$16 billion to the unspent funds to reach \$25 billion, senators said.

Despite deep differences among Republicans, McConnell is trying to push forward with what he calls a "starting point" in negotiations with Democrats.

"I think what the leader has decided he wants to do is to have a handful of bills now instead of just one bill, so maybe that comes together," Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., told reporters at the Capitol.

Exasperated Democrats warned the GOP infighting with Trump is delaying needed relief to Americans during the crisis, with the U.S. pandemic death toll climbing past 142,000.

With millions out of work and a potential wave of evictions ahead, the severity of the prolonged virus outbreak is testing Washington's ability to respond. Schools are delaying fall openings, states are clamping down with new stay-home orders and the fallout is rippling through an economy teetering with high unemployment and business uncertainty. A new AP-NORC poll shows very few Americans want full school sessions without restrictions in the fall.

"We're hopeful we'll be able to get there," McConnell told reporters earlier Wednesday.

Pressure is mounting as the virus outbreak deepens, and a \$600 weekly unemployment boost and a federal eviction moratorium come to an end starting Friday. But some GOP senators simply oppose big spending.

"I just don't see the need for it," Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., told reporters Wednesday.

Democrats, who already approved House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's more sweeping \$3 trillion package two months ago, said time is running out for Trump and his GOP allies to act.

"We're still on the 20-yard line?" Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said, referring to White House comments. "Where have the Republicans been?"

The White House negotiators, Mnuchin and Mark Meadows, the president's acting chief of staff, arrived late at the Capitol. After a raucous meeting Tuesday, senators did not discuss the package at Wednesday's lunch. Still, Meadows said other talks had progressed, pushing Republicans to "the 35-yard line."

As the Republicans battle over their priorities, Democrats warn they are wasting precious time.

"We are just days away from a housing crisis that could be prevented," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

As Trump and his GOP allies are tangled over details, a stopgap measure may be needed to prevent the unemployment benefits from being shutoff.

"We cannot allow there to be a cliff in unemployment insurance given we're still at about 11% unemployment," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

Portman's bill to provide tax cuts to retool workplaces with safety features appears to be included. Another Republican, Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa, has been pushing for child care funds.

Of the \$105 billion for education, Republicans want propose \$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 likely be split between those that have in-person learning and those that don't.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said there will be another boost for small business lending in the Payroll Protection Program. "It's going to be big," he said.

Mnuchin and Meadows made it clear during a private meeting Tuesday with Pelosi and Schumer that the White House was resisting Democratic proposals for new spending on virus testing, housing aid or money for cash-strapped states, according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private talks.

Republicans said some \$150 billion allotted previously to state governments is sufficient to avert sweeping layoffs, and they said more housing protections are not needed.

Democrats are calling for \$430 billion to reopen schools, bigger unemployment benefits and direct aid checks, and a sweeping \$1 trillion for state and local governments. They also want a fresh round of mortgage and rental assistance and new federal health and safety requirements for workers.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, who opposes direct checks in favor of more targeted aid, lamented the White House's handling of the crisis. "I don't think it's been a great example for the world to see," he said. "We're still struggling."

Congress approved a massive \$2.2 trillion aid package in March, the biggest of its kind in U.S. history. Pelosi pressed on, passing her \$3 trillion House bill in May. McConnell at the time said he wanted to "pause" new spending.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor, Mary Clare Jalonick and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## US labs buckle amid testing surge; world virus cases top 15M

By MATTHEW PERRONE, TAMMY WEBBER and MATT SEDENSKY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laboratories across the U.S. are buckling under a surge of coronavirus tests, creating long processing delays that experts say are undercutting the pandemic response.

With the U.S. tally of confirmed infections at nearly 4 million Wednesday and new cases surging, the bottlenecks are creating problems for workers kept off the job while awaiting results, nursing homes struggling to keep the virus out and for the labs themselves as they deal with a crushing workload.

Some labs are taking weeks to return COVID-19 results, exacerbating fears that people without symptoms could be spreading the virus if they don't isolate while they wait.

"There's been this obsession with, 'How many tests are we doing per day?'" said Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The question is how many tests are being done with results coming back within a day, where the individual tested is promptly isolated and their contacts are promptly warned."

Frieden and other public health experts have called on states to publicly report testing turnaround times, calling it an essential metric to measure progress against the virus.

The testing lags in the U.S. come as the number of people confirmed to be infected worldwide passed a staggering 15 million, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The U.S. leads the world in cases as well as deaths, which have exceeded 142,000.

New York, once by far the U.S. leader in infections, has been surpassed by California, though that is partly due to robust testing in a state with more than twice the population of New York.

Guidelines issued by the CDC recommend that states lifting virus restrictions have a testing turnaround time of under four days. The agency recently issued new recommendations against retesting most COVID-19 patients to confirm they have recovered.

"It's clogging up the system," Adm. Brett Giroir, assistant health secretary, told reporters last week. Zachrey Warner knows it all too well.

The 30-year-old waiter from Columbus, Ohio, was sent home from work on July 5 with a high fever a few days after he began feeling ill. He went for a test five days later at the request of his employer.

Almost two weeks and one missed pay period later, he finally got his answer Wednesday: negative.

Though Warner said most symptoms — including fever, diarrhea, chest tightness and body aches — stopped a few days after he was tested, he wasn't allowed to return to work without the result.

It was "frustrating that I've missed so much work due to testing taking forever," Warner said. "It is what it is ... (but) I'm glad I'm negative and happy to be able to get back to work this week."

Beyond the economic hurt the testing lags can cause, they pose major health risks, too.

In Florida, which reported 9,785 new cases and a rise in the death toll to nearly 5,500, nursing homes

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have been under an order to test all employees every two weeks. But long delays for results have some questioning the point.

Jay Solomon, CEO of Aviva in Sarasota, a senior community with a nursing home and assisted living facility, said results were taking up to 10 days to come back.

"It's almost like, what are we accomplishing in that time?" Solomon said. "If that person is not quarantined in that 7-10 days, are they spreading without realizing it?"

Test results that come back after two or three days are nearly worthless, many health experts say, because by then the window for tracing the person's contacts to prevent additional infections has essentially closed.

"The turnaround times, particularly across the South are too long," Dr. Deborah Birx of the White House coronavirus task force said on Fox.

Birx said the U.S. had shorter turnaround times in April, May and early June, but that "this surge and this degree of cases is so widespread compared to previously," she said.

Dr. Leana Wen, a public health professor at George Washington University said it's reasonable to tell people awaiting test results to isolate for 24 hours, but the delays have been unacceptable.

"Imagine you tell a parent with young children to self-isolate for 10 days or more without knowing they actually have COVID? I mean, that's ridiculous. That's actually absurd," Wen said.

U.S. officials have recently called for ramping up screening to include seemingly healthy Americans who may be unknowingly spreading the disease in their communities. But Quest Diagnostics, one of the nation's largest testing chains, said it can't keep up with demand and most patients will face waits of a week or longer for results.

Quest has urged health care providers to cut down on tests from low-priority individuals, such as those without symptoms or any contact with someone who has tested positive.

As testing has expanded, so have mask orders and other measures aimed at keeping infections down. Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota and Oregon became the latest to announce statewide mandatory mask orders Wednesday.

The U.S. is testing over 700,000 people per day, up from less than 100,000 in March. Trump administration officials point out that roughly half of U.S. tests are performed on rapid systems that give results in about 15 minutes or in hospitals, which typically process tests in about 24 hours. But last month, that still left some 9 million tests going through laboratories, which have been plagued by limited chemicals, machines and kits to develop COVID-19 tests.

There is no scientific consensus on the rate of testing needed to control the virus in the U.S., but experts have recommended for months that the U.S. test at least 1 million to 3 million people daily.

Health experts assembled by the Rockefeller Foundation said last week that the U.S. should scale up to testing 30 million Americans per week by the fall, when school reopenings and flu season are expected to further exacerbate the virus's spread. The group acknowledged that will not be possible with the lab-based testing system.

The National Institutes of Health has set up a "shark tank" competition to quickly identify promising rapid tests and has received more than 600 applications. The goal is to have new testing options in mass production by the fall.

Until then, the backbone of U.S. testing remains at several hundred labs with high-capacity machines capable of processing thousands of samples per day. Many say they could be processing far more tests if not for global shortages of testing chemicals and other materials.

Dr. Bobbi Pritt of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, says the hospital's machines are running at just 20% capacity. Lab technicians run seven different COVID-19 testing formats, switching back and forth depending on the availability of supplies.

At Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, lab workers lobby testing manufacturers on a weekly basis to provide more kits, chemicals and other materials.

"There's no planning ahead, we just do as many as we can and cross our fingers that we'll get more," said Dr. Colleen Kraft, who heads the hospital's testing lab.

This story has been corrected to show that the CDC has issued guidelines recommending against repeat testing for patients recovering from coronavirus.

Webber reported from Fenton, Michigan, and Sedensky reported from Philadelphia. Associated Press writers Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Michelle R. Smith in Providence, Rhode Island, and Medical Writer Mike Stobbe in New York contributed to this report.

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

## Opening day amid virus: Masks, empty parks, social justice

By BEN WALKER AP Baseball Writer

Opening day, at last.

A baseball season that was on the brink before it ever began because of the virus outbreak is set to start Thursday night when excitable Max Scherzer and the World Series champion Washington Nationals host prized ace Gerrit Cole and the New York Yankees.

When it does get underway — the DC forecast calls for thunderstorms, the latest rocky inning in this what-can-go-wrong game — it'll mark the most bizarre year in the history of Major League Baseball.

A 60-game season, stars opting out. Ballparks without fans, players wearing masks. Piped-in sound effects, cardboard cutouts for spectators. Spray-painted ads on the mound, pitchers with personal rosin bags.

And a rack of strange rules. DHs in the National League, well, OK. An automatic runner on second to start the 10th inning? C'mon, now.

"Gosh, it's going to be fun," Cole said. "It's going to have fake crowd noise, and going to be 2020 coronavirus baseball."

Plus, a poignant reminder of the world we live in. A Black Lives Matter stencil can be put on mounds throughout the majors during the opening weekend.

And still there's a team that doesn't know where it's going to play — barred from Toronto because of health concerns, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and the Blue Jays had hoped to roost in Pittsburgh or Baltimore or Buffalo or somewhere else.

"This is 2020 baseball," Scherzer said.

To many fans, that will do. No other choice, really. Four months after the games were supposed to start, strange ball is better than no ball, right?

We'll see.

Opening day brings a tasty doubleheader: a marquee pitching matchup in Washington, followed by the nightcap at Dodger Stadium when star outfielder Mookie Betts, fresh off a \$365 million, 12-year contract, and his new Los Angeles teammates take on the San Francisco Giants.

One player Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw won't face: six-time All-Star, three-time champion and former MVP Buster Posey. The Giants catcher and his wife have adopted twin identical girls who were prematurely born, and he's among about a dozen players who have chosen to sit out this year.

"From a baseball standpoint, it was a tough decision for me," Posey said. "From a family standpoint, making a decision to protect children, our children, it was relatively easy."

Dodgers pitcher David Price, Washington infielder Ryan Zimmerman and Atlanta outfielder Nick Markakis also are sitting out.

Other players won't be ready by the weekend — on Wednesday, the Royals announced Hunter Dozier (26 home runs, 10 triples) had tested positive for the virus and was being put on the injured list.

For those are who healthy, it's time to play. For how long, with the virus looming, we'll find out soon enough.

Something that will be firmed up by the first pitch: how many teams will make the playoffs. A decision

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is due by then after renewed talks about expanding the postseason field.

Tossing out the first ball at Nationals Park to begin a schedule clobbered by COVID-19 will be Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country's top infectious disease expert.

"I used to play baseball as a young boy," the 79-year-old Fauci told CNN. "I hope I don't bounce it too much."

Don't worry, Doc. Even before the first pitch, this season already has handled plenty of bad hops.

"I think it will be emotional for fans that are huge fans of each team, but I think it will be emotional for sports fans, being able to see baseball return," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Elsewhere around the bases this year:

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

MLB players traditionally haven't been as outspoken as those in the NFL and NBA on social issues. Until this year, former Oakland catcher Bruce Maxwell was the only baseball player to take a knee before the national anthem — he did that in 2017 and felt it cost him a future spot in the majors.

New Giants manager Gabe Kapler and several of his players knelt during the national anthem before an exhibition game this week. A group of Reds did the same in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"I wanted them to know that I wasn't pleased with the way our country has handled police brutality and I told them I wanted to amplify their voices and I wanted to amplify the voice of the Black community and marginalized communities as well," said Kapler, among 10 managers starting new jobs.

Said Yankees star Aaron Judge: "That's the beauty of America, is freedom of speech and freedom to express yourself."

"We got a special platform being athletes and being able to speak our mind and speak what's going on in this world. Some people express it online. Some people express it with words. Some people kneel," he said.

MLB players can put a patch with "Black Lives Matter" or "United For Change" on a jersey sleeve during opening day.

## MASKED MEN

Didi Gregorius and Clint Frazier homered in exhibition games while wearing masks — those aren't mandated on the field, but many other rules and guidelines are in place.

Social distancing in the dugout. Skip tossing the ball around the infield after strikeouts. Keep the Phillie Phanatic and mascots off the field.

No high-fives, either. Not a problem, Phillies slugger Bryce Harper said.

"I think the air high-five is going to come back and be the coolest thing in baseball this year and be the coolest thing in sports," he said.

Still, a lot of protocols to keep in mind for players who've been doing things the same way since they were kids.

"Is it going to be perfect the very first day?" A's manager Bob Melvin said. "Probably not."

## BOO WHO?

All those hoots and hisses the Houston Astros heard in March, they're gone now. Some fans will claim the guys who took part in that sign-stealing scam are getting off easy, not feeling the wrath of crowds on the road.

MLB has issued stern warnings against any basebrawling this year. Even so, some Houston hitters might feel a little retribution — José Altuve, Alex Bregman and George Springer all got hit by pitches Tuesday night in Kansas City during the Astros' final tuneup.

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

## AP-NORC poll: Very few Americans back full school reopening

By COLLIN BINKLEY and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Virtual instruction. Mandated masks. Physical distancing. The start of school will look very different this year because of the coronavirus — and that's OK with the vast majority of Americans.

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Only about 1 in 10 Americans think daycare centers, preschools or K-12 schools should open this fall without restrictions, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. Most think mask requirements and other safety measures are necessary to restart in-person instruction, and roughly 3 in 10 say that teaching kids in classrooms shouldn't happen at all.

The findings are a sharp contrast to the picture that President Donald Trump paints as he pressures schools to reopen. Trump said Wednesday that he would be "comfortable" with his son Barron and grandchildren attending school in person this fall.

"I would like to see the schools open," he told reporters.

Few schools, however, plan to return to business as usual. Many of the nation's largest school districts have announced that they'll be entirely virtual in the fall or use a hybrid model that has children in classrooms only a couple of days a week.

The poll finds only 8% of Americans say K-12 schools should open for normal in-person instruction. Just 14% think they can reopen with minor adjustments, while 46% think major adjustments are needed. Another 31% think instruction should not be in person this fall. It's little different among the parents of school-age children.

The poll also shows Americans feel the same about colleges and universities reopening this fall.

Americans show little confidence in Trump's handling of education issues. Only 36% say they approve of Trump's performance, while 63% disapprove. But a stark political divide on opening schools suggests many Republicans are taking cues from the president.

About 9 in 10 Democrats say requiring students and staff to wear masks is essential to reopening, while only about half of Republicans say the same. Democrats are roughly twice as likely as Republicans to say schools should use a mix of in-person and virtual instruction to reduce the number of students in buildings, 77% to 39%.

Patty Kasbek, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, said she desperately wants her two children, ages 5 and 10, to return to school. After months at home, the family is stressed and anxious. But with the virus surging, she doesn't see a safe way to reopen.

"School shouldn't even be considered right now," said Kasbek, 40. "We need to get this under control before we play with the virus. It's just too dangerous to put our kids out there like guinea pigs."

Her local school district is planning to reopen with new safety measures, she said, but she's opting to enroll her children in a virtual school. She isn't as worried about her own health but fears that reopening schools could spread the virus to others.

"I just see it going very badly, and I'm very, very worried for the teachers," said Kasbek, who considers herself a Democrat.

The poll finds a majority of Americans, 56%, say they are very or extremely concerned that reopening schools will lead to additional infections in their communities; another 24% are somewhat concerned.

Some, however, see little risk. James Rivers, of Ramsey, Minnesota, said schools should reopen without protective measures against the virus. Rivers, a Republican, says Trump is doing a "fine job" and will have his vote in November.

"I think it should be just business as usual," said Rivers, 54. "Yes, there is a COVID virus, but is it any more deadly than the common flu? I don't think so."

Rivers, who does not have school-age children, said parents who fear the virus can home school. "As for everybody else who isn't afraid of a virus that has a less than 2% chance of being fatal, send your kid back to school. Let's get it done," he said.

Majorities say it is essential that buildings be disinfected daily, temperature checks and face masks be mandatory and desks be spread apart if schools are to reopen.

And 6 in 10 think a mix of in-person and virtual instruction is necessary, to limit the number of students inside at one time. Some of the nation's largest districts, including New York City's schools, plan to use that model. But Education Secretary Betsy DeVos says that fails students and taxpayers, arguing that students should be in the classroom every day.

In his campaign to reopen schools, Trump argues that Democrats oppose it for political reasons. He

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has threatened to cut federal funding for schools that fail to reopen fully. The White House has said he wants to work with Congress to tie future relief funding to reopening. He argues that other countries have reopened schools safely, although some he cites have used the hybrid model that DeVos decried.

The Trump administration also has argued that it's not just about academics. Students need access to meal programs and mental health services, it says.

But Trump's demands put him at odds with his own health officials. He rebuked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for releasing school guidelines that he said were too tough.

The poll finds about half of parents saying they are at least somewhat concerned about their child losing services like school lunches or counseling because of the pandemic.

More say they are worried about their child falling behind academically: 55% are very concerned, with another 21% somewhat concerned.

A majority of parents, 65%, are at least somewhat concerned about their own ability to juggle responsibilities.

Jimmy La Londe, 70, of Hiawassee, Georgia, thinks schools should reopen with safety measures that local officials think are necessary. Still, La Londe, who considers himself a Republican, said keeping schools closed will only hurt students and anger taxpayers.

"They have to keep the momentum, they have to keep people used to going to school," he said. "I don't think you can stop school forever."

Fingerhut reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,057 adults was conducted July 16-20 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.3 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

## Joe Biden calls Trump the country's 'first' racist president

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden said Wednesday that President Donald Trump was the country's "first" racist president.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee's comments came during a virtual town hall organized by the Service Employees International Union. When a questioner complained of racism surrounding the coronavirus outbreak and mentioned the president referring to it as the "China virus," Biden responded by blasting Trump and "his spread of racism."

"The way he deals with people based on the color of their skin, their national origin, where they're from, is absolutely sickening," the former vice president said. "No sitting president has ever done this. Never, never, never. No Republican president has done this. No Democratic president. We've had racists, and they've existed. They've tried to get elected president. He's the first one that has."

Biden also suggested that Trump is using race "as a wedge" to distract from his mishandling of the pandemic.

Many presidents — including the nation's first, George Washington — owned slaves.

President Woodrow Wilson, the country's 28th president, is having his name removed from Princeton University's public policy school after recent protests against institutional racism and police brutality. Wilson, who served in the early 20th century, supported segregation and imposed it on several federal agencies.

At a White House briefing later Wednesday, Trump responded to a question about Biden's comments by pointing to his administration's efforts passing criminal justice reform legislation and expanding opportunity

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zones, as well as the low unemployment numbers for minority groups before the coronavirus outbreak. "I've done more for Black Americans than anybody with the possible of exception of Abraham Lincoln," the president said. "Nobody has even been close."

Katrina Pierson, a senior adviser for Trump's reelection campaign, said in a statement that "no one should take lectures on racial justice from Joe Biden."

Biden has vowed that, if elected, he will begin addressing institutional racism within his first 100 days of taking office. This was not the first time he's suggested Trump's actions were racist.

Biden has built his campaign around the election being a "battle for the soul of the nation" and says he felt compelled to run for president after he saw Trump respond to a deadly 2017 white supremacist attack on counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, by saying there were "some very fine people" on both sides.

When Trump said last year that four Democratic congresswomen of color should "go back" to their countries, Biden called it a "flat, racist attack."

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Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Trump deploys more federal agents under 'law-and-order' push

By COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that he will send federal agents to Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, to help combat rising crime, expanding the administration's intervention into local enforcement as he runs for reelection under a "law-and-order" mantle.

Using the same alarmist language he has employed to describe illegal immigration, Trump painted Democrat-led cities as out of control and lashed out at the "radical left," which he blamed for rising violence in some cities, even though criminal justice experts say it defies easy explanation.

"In recent weeks there has been a radical movement to defund, dismantle and dissolve our police department," Trump said at a White House event, blaming the movement for "a shocking explosion of shootings, killings, murders and heinous crimes of violence."

"This bloodshed must end," he said. "This bloodshed will end."

The decision to dispatch federal agents to American cities is playing out at a hyperpoliticized moment when Trump is grasping for a new reelection strategy after the coronavirus upended the economy, dismantling what his campaign had seen as his ticket to a second term. With less than four months until Election Day, Trump has been warning that violence will worsen if his Democratic rival Joe Biden is elected in November and Democrats have a chance to make the police reforms they have endorsed after the killing of George Floyd and nationwide protests demanding racial justice.

Crime began surging in some cities like Chicago, New York and Philadelphia when stay-at-home orders lifted. Criminal justice experts seeking answers have pointed to the unprecedented moment: a pandemic that has killed over 140,000 Americans, historic unemployment, a mass reckoning over race and police brutality, intense stress and even the weather. Compared with other years, crime in 2020 is down overall.

The plan Trump announced Wednesday expands an existing program that sent hundreds of federal agents to Kansas City, Missouri, after a 4-year-old boy's shooting death to help quell a record rise in violence. Sending federal agents to help localities is not uncommon; Attorney General William Barr announced a similar surge effort in December for seven cities with spiking violence. But this effort will include at least 100 Department of Homeland Security Investigations officers who generally conduct drug trafficking and child exploitation investigations, in addition to personnel under the Justice Department umbrella.

DHS officers have already been dispatched to Portland, Oregon, and other localities to protect federal property and monuments as Trump has lambasted efforts by protesters to knock down Confederate statues.

Local authorities there have complained that agents have exacerbated tensions on the streets, while residents have accused the government of violating their constitutional rights. Indeed, civil unrest escalated after federal agents were accused of whisking people away in unmarked cars without probable cause.



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Since the racial justice protests began, Trump's campaign has leaned heavily into a pledge to maintain "law and order" as it has tried to tie Biden to a small group of radicals and anarchists it claims is trying to destabilize America's cities and rewrite history.

The campaign believes the push can help Trump by drumming up support from suburban and older voters who may be rattled by violent images, which have been broadcast often by conservative media outlets.

In Chicago, Democratic Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who had initially blasted the news, said the U.S. attorney's office will supervise the additional agents joining existing federal law enforcement offices.

"If those agents are here to actually work in partnership on support of gun violence and violent cases, plugging into existing infrastructure of federal agents, not trying to play police in our streets, then that's something different," she said, while also accusing the president of trying to distract from scrutiny of the federal response to the pandemic.

In New Mexico, Democratic elected officials had cautioned Trump against sending in federal agents, with U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich calling on Bernalillo County Sheriff Manny Gonzales to resign for attending the White House event.

"Instead of collaborating with the Albuquerque Police Department, the Sheriff is inviting the President's stormtroopers into Albuquerque," Heinrich said in a statement.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf drew a distinction between the mission in Portland — to protect federal property — and the surges in Kansas City, Chicago and Albuquerque to help stop violence.

Albuquerque and Chicago will be getting millions of dollars for new officers, and the Justice Department will reimburse Chicago \$3.5 million for local law enforcement's work on the federal task force.

In Kansas City, the top federal prosecutor said any agents involved in an operation to reduce violent crime in the area will be clearly identifiable when making arrests, unlike what has been seen in Portland. Hundreds of extra agents have been sent.

"These agents won't be patrolling the streets," U.S. Attorney Timothy Garrison said. "They won't replace or usurp the authority of local officers."

Operation Legend — named after 4-year-old LeGenD Taliferro, who was fatally shot while sleeping in a Kansas City apartment last month — was announced July 8.

"My one and only child who fought through open heart surgery at four months is gone due to senseless gun violence," LeGenD's mother, Charon Powell, said at the White House. "Children are supposed to be our future and our son didn't make it to kindergarten."

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Associated Press writers Kathleen Foody in Chicago, Michael Balsamo in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to delete an incorrect reference to more than 200 arrests being made in Kansas City; that figure includes arrests going back to December 2019.

## House votes to remove Confederate statues from Capitol

By MATTHEW DALY and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House has approved a bill to remove statues of Gen. Robert E. Lee and other Confederate leaders from the U.S. Capitol, as a reckoning over racial injustice continues following the police killing of George Floyd, a Black man, in Minneapolis.

The House vote also would remove a bust of Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, the author of the 1857 Dred Scott decision that declared African Americans couldn't be citizens.

The bill directs the Architect of the Capitol to identify and eventually remove from Statuary Hall at least 10 statues honoring Confederate officials, including Lee, the commanding general of the Confederate Army, and Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president. Three statues honoring white supremacists — including former U.S. Vice President John C. Calhoun of South Carolina — would be immediately removed.

"Defenders and purveyors of sedition, slavery, segregation and white supremacy have no place in this temple of liberty," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said at a Capitol news conference ahead of the

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House vote.

The House approved the bill 305-113, sending it to the Republican-controlled Senate, where prospects are uncertain. Seventy-two Republicans, including House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California and Minority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana, joined with 232 Democrats to support the bill.

Hoyer, a Democrat, co-sponsored the measure and noted with irony that Taney was born in the southern Maryland district Hoyer represents. Hoyer said it was appropriate that the bill would replace Taney's bust with another Maryland native, the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the high court's first Black justice.

The House vote comes as communities nationwide reexamine the people they're memorializing with statues. Speaker Nancy Pelosi last month ordered that the portraits of four speakers who served the Confederacy be removed from the ornate hall just outside the House chamber.

Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., said the statues honoring Lee and other Confederate leaders are "deliberate attempts to rewrite history and dehumanize African Americans."

The statues "are not symbols of Southern heritage, as some claim, but are symbols of white supremacy and defiance of federal authority," Lee said. "It's past time we end the glorification of men who committed treason against the United States in a concerted effort to keep African Americans in chains."

Bills to remove the Taney bust and the statues of Confederate leaders have been introduced in the Senate, although they would require separate votes.

Even if legislation passes both chambers, it would need the president's signature, and President Donald Trump has opposed the removal of historic statues elsewhere. Trump has strongly condemned those who toppled statues during protests over racial injustice and police brutality following Floyd's death in May and other police killings.

The 2-foot-high marble bust of Taney is outside a room in the Capitol where the Supreme Court met for half a century, from 1810 to 1860. It was in that room that Taney, the nation's fifth chief justice, announced the Dred Scott decision, sometimes called the worst decision in the court's history.

"What Dred Scott said was, Black lives did not matter," Hoyer said. "So when we assert that yes they do matter, it is out of conviction ... that in America, the land of the free includes all of us."

There's at least one potentially surprising voice for Taney to stay. Lynne M. Jackson, Scott's great-great-granddaughter, says if it were up to her, she'd leave Taney's bust where it is. But she said she'd add something too: a bust of Dred Scott.

"I'm not really a fan of wiping things out," Jackson said in a telephone interview this week from her home in Missouri.

The president and founder of The Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, Jackson has seen other Taney sculptures removed in recent years, particularly in Maryland, where he was the state's attorney general before becoming U.S. attorney general and then chief justice.

Calhoun, who served as vice president from 1825-1832, also was a U.S. senator, House member and secretary of state and war. He died a decade before the Civil War, but was known as a strong defender of slavery, segregation and white supremacy.

His statue would be removed within 30 days of the bill's passage, along with two other white supremacists, former North Carolina Gov. Charles Aycock and James Clarke, a former Arkansas governor and senator.

In the summer of 2017, shortly after white nationalists gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia, to protest the removal of a statue of Lee, Baltimore's mayor removed statues of Lee, Taney and others. A statue of Taney was removed from the grounds of the State House in Annapolis around the same time. And a bust of Taney was removed that year from outside city hall in Frederick, Maryland.

Another Taney bust sits alongside all other former chief justices in the Supreme Court's Great Hall, a soaring, marble-columned corridor that leads to the courtroom. A portrait of Taney hangs in one of the court's conference rooms.

Jackson said she believes that what memorials honoring figures like Taney need is context. At the Capitol, the Taney statue sits in the "place where the Dred Scott case was decided," but the fact he is "there by

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himself is lopsided," Jackson said in suggesting a bust of Scott be added. She had proposed a similar fix for the Taney statue in Annapolis.

In Congress, Taney's bust was controversial from the start. When Illinois Sen. Lyman Trumbull proposed its creation in 1865, shortly after Taney's death, he got into a heated debate with Massachusetts Sen. Charles Sumner, a fierce opponent of slavery.

"Let me tell that senator that the name of Taney is to be hooted down the page of history. Judgment is beginning now," Sumner said. "And an emancipated country will fasten upon him the stigma which he deserves."

Funding for a Taney bust wasn't approved until almost a decade later. Today, near the Taney bust, inside the old Supreme Court chamber, there are also busts of the nation's first four chief justices. The first, John Marshall, is the only person to serve as chief justice longer than Taney and a revered figure in the law.

## US ratchets up China tensions, closing Houston consulate

By KEN MORITSUGU and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States ordered China to close its consulate in Houston, escalating tensions between the world's largest economies as President Donald Trump ramps up punitive measures against China ahead of the November U.S. election. Beijing denounced the order Wednesday as "outrageous" and said it would draw a firm response if not reversed.

The physical closure of the consulate, one of China's six missions in the United States, marked a dramatic step in increasingly contentious relations that have been strained not only by the coronavirus pandemic but disputes over trade, human rights, Hong Kong and Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Previous Trump administration measures against Chinese officials, students and researchers have included travel bans, registration requirements and other steps intended to reduce the country's footprint in the United States. The administration has also announced its outright rejection of virtually all Chinese maritime claims in the South China Sea.

These actions have come as Trump has sought to blame China for the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., where cases have soared, threatening his prospects for reelection. Trump himself said more closures could be coming if China doesn't change its behavior. "It's always possible," he told reporters at the White House.

The State Department said it ordered the consulate closed within 72 hours after alleging that Chinese agents have tried to steal data from facilities in Texas, including the Texas A&M medical system statewide and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

There were indications consulate staff were preparing to leave: Papers were being burned on the consulate grounds late Tuesday night — a common practice when a diplomatic post is being shuttered on short notice.

Cai Wei, the Chinese consul general, told KTRK-TV in Houston the order to shut down was "quite wrong" and "very damaging" to U.S.-China relations.

Asked about accusations of espionage and stealing data, Cai said, "You have to give some evidence, say something from the facts. ... Knowing Americans, you have the rule of law, you are not guilty until you are proved guilty."

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement that the closure was "to protect American intellectual property and Americans' private information."

"The United States will not tolerate (China's) violations of our sovereignty and intimidation of our people, just as we have not tolerated (China's) unfair trade practices, theft of American jobs, and other egregious behavior," she said.

Testifying before Congress on Wednesday, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun lamented that relations today are "weighed down by a growing number of disputes," including commercial espionage, intellectual property theft and unequal treatment of diplomats, businesses and journalists.

Those factors led to Trump's action, he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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The Department of Justice on Tuesday had announced the indictments of two Chinese hackers on charges of trying to steal pharmaceutical secrets from U.S. companies related to the COVID-19 pandemic that originated in China. Although there was no indication the indictments and the consulate action were related, the U.S. has long alleged China is involved in nefarious activity around the country, including from its Houston consulate.

Even before the U.S. announced the closure, which was conveyed privately to the Chinese ambassador on Tuesday, China strongly condemned it.

"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," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said. He warned of firm countermeasures if the U.S. does not reverse itself.

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 beginning last October and again in June. He also said that U.S. diplomats in China engage in infiltration activities.

In Houston, firefighters responded to reports of papers being burned on the consulate grounds Tuesday night but were barred entry. On Wednesday afternoon, consulate staff could be seen loading cleaning supplies and paper products into a van parked outside the building. A U-Haul truck was also parked outside the consulate.

First responders "were told that people inside the consulate, that they were burning paperwork because they were in the process of being evacuated from the building," Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said.

Foreign diplomatic missions operate under legal immunities accorded by international law and may not be entered without permission. However, the destruction of confidential documents at a facility that has been ordered or otherwise forced to close on short notice, including U.S. missions, is not unusual. Most recently in the United States, Russia's consulate in San Francisco made news for burning large amounts of material when it was ordered closed in 2017.

Aside from the diplomatic ramifications, the closure of the Houston consulate will make it more difficult for China to provide assistance to its citizens in the southern United States and for U.S. nationals seeking visas and other services there.

In addition to its embassy in Washington and its mission to the United Nations in New York, China has consulates in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. In an apparent bid to stave off the reciprocal closure of an American diplomatic mission in China, the State Department told the Chinese that it would not reopen its consulate in Wuhan, according to two U.S. officials who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. consulate in Wuhan was shuttered in late January at the height of the coronavirus outbreak that started there, but the State Department had informed Congress in early June that it planned to reopen it, possibly this summer.

Besides Wuhan, the U.S. has four other consulates in China — in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Shenyang — along with its embassy in Beijing and a consulate general in Hong Kong.

In a reflection of China's economic importance, a Houston business group expressed regret at the announcement, saying the consulate has been important in building trade, investment and cultural ties. It noted that the Houston consulate was China's first in the U.S. when it opened in 1979.

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Moritsugu reported from Beijing. Juan Lozano in Houston, Texas contributed.

## Tesla picks Texas site for second US vehicle assembly plant

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

Electric car maker Tesla Inc. has picked the Austin, Texas, area as the site for its largest auto assembly plant employing at least 5,000 workers.

The new factory will build Tesla's upcoming Cybertruck pickup and will be a second U.S. manufacturing site for the Model Y small SUV, largely for distribution to the East Coast.

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Tesla will build on a 2,100-acre (85-hectare) site in Travis County near Austin and will get more than \$60 million in tax breaks from the county and a local school district over the next decade. Work on the plant, which will be over 4 million square feet, is already underway, Tesla CEO Elon Musk said.

He did not put a number on how many vehicles the facility would produce. "Long term, a lot," Musk said.

The company has pledged to invest \$1.1 billion and said it will pay a minimum wage of \$15 per hour to employees and provide health insurance, paid leave and other benefits.

The area that's home to the University of Texas at Austin and tech companies such as Dell Inc. was a candidate for the plant all along, but Tulsa, Oklahoma, emerged in mid-May as another possibility.

Tesla doesn't have a lot of time to get the factory running if it wants to meet target production dates. The company says on its website that the Cybertruck will be available starting late next year. Tesla has often missed promised production dates in the past.

Musk has reportedly been happy with Texas, where his SpaceX rocket company has operations in Brownsville and in McGregor north of Austin.

The new factory will be Tesla's biggest so far, although it may not employ as many workers as the 10,000 at its factory in Fremont, California. The electric car maker has said it wants the new factory to be in the center of the country and closer to eastern markets.

The Fremont factory currently is Tesla's only U.S. assembly plant. It has a second U.S. factory in Reno, Nevada, where it builds batteries for its vehicles and employs about 6,500 people. Tesla also has a factory in Shanghai and another one under construction in Germany.

Musk has been unhappy with California, where earlier this year he flouted local orders to stay closed to help stem the spread of the novel coronavirus. Musk has threatened to move the company's headquarters out of Palo Alto and all future vehicles out of the plant in Fremont, a reworked factory that once was run jointly by Toyota and General Motors.

Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has not allowed cities and counties to impose local orders that would close businesses as the virus began surging to record levels this summer. The state did not give Tesla any additional financial incentives, Abbott spokesman John Wittman said.

"Tesla is one of the most exciting and innovative companies in the world, and we are proud to welcome its team to the State of Texas," Abbott said in a statement.

Texas has no corporate or individual income taxes. It also touts the region's young workforce as one of the most educated in the country. Nearly 47% of adults have at least a bachelor's degree, pushing Austin into the top 10 among large metro areas, the site says. But at present, Tesla can't legally sell its vehicles in Texas. A state law requires cars to be sold through franchised dealers, not company stores like Tesla operates.

Tulsa put up a good fight, but may have been used to win better terms from Texas. Oklahoma boasts about its low tax rates and cost of living, particularly low utility costs. Musk even visited the Tulsa site earlier this month.

Oklahoma hasn't had an auto manufacturer in the state since General Motors shuttered its Oklahoma City facility in 2005, but Tulsa is home to an American Airlines maintenance facility that employs about 5,200 workers.

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Associated Press writer Paul J. Weber in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

## US signs contract with Pfizer for COVID-19 vaccine doses

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration will pay Pfizer nearly \$2 billion for a December delivery of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine the pharmaceutical company is developing, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced Wednesday.

The U.S. could buy another 500 million doses under the agreement, Azar said.

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"Now those would, of course, have to be safe and effective" and approved by the Food and Drug Administration, Azar said during an appearance on Fox News.

Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE announced separately that the agreement is with HHS and the Defense Department for a vaccine candidate the companies are developing jointly. It is the latest in a series of similar agreements with other vaccine companies.

The agreement is part of President Donald Trump's Operation Warp Speed vaccine program, under which multiple COVID-19 vaccines are being developed simultaneously. The program aims to deliver 300 million doses of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine by January 2021.

Under the initiative, the government will speed development and buy vaccines — before they are deemed safe and effective — so that the medication can be in hand and quickly distributed once the FDA approves or authorizes its emergency use after clinical trials.

Trump, during a Wednesday briefing, described the agreement as "historic.

"We think we have a winner there. We also think we have other companies right behind that are doing very well in the vaccines, long ahead of schedule," he told reporters.

Pfizer and BioNTech said the U.S. will pay \$1.95 billion upon receipt of the first 100 million doses it produces, following FDA authorization or approval.

Americans will receive the vaccine for free, the companies said.

Azar said the contract brings to five the number of potential coronavirus vaccines that are under development with U.S. funding. Nearly two dozen are in various stages of human testing around the world, with several entering final test to prove if they really work.

As early as next week, a vaccine created by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc. 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 begin each month through fall in hopes of, eventually, having several vaccines to use.

Pfizer is finishing an earlier stage of testing to determine which of four possible candidates to try in a larger, final study.

Other countries are also scrambling to get a vaccine for COVID-19, which has killed more than 617,000 people, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

Nearly 4 million Americans have been infected by the new coronavirus and at least 142,000 have died from COVID-19, the disease it causes, according to Johns Hopkins.

Britain announced Monday it had secured access to another 90 million experimental COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer and others, a move some campaigners warned could worsen a global scramble by rich countries to hoard the world's limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

China, where the new coronavirus originated, also has several vaccine candidates entering final testing. Trump blames Beijing for not doing a better job of containing the virus and allowing it to spread around the world. Still, he said he'd be willing to work with China if it were first to the market with a reliable vaccine.

"We're willing to work with anybody that's going to get us a good result," Trump said Tuesday. "We're very close to the vaccine. I think we're going to have some very good results."

The FDA has told manufacturers it expects any vaccine to be at least 50% effective to qualify. But at a congressional hearing Tuesday, Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., said he was worried Trump could push the agency into prematurely clearing a vaccine.

"My fear is that FDA will be forced by the Trump administration to approve a vaccine that lacks effectiveness," Pallone said.

Executives from five leading vaccine companies testified that they will take no shortcuts in their testing of the shots, so that people can be confident in the results. In addition, it won't be just the FDA rendering an opinion -- each vaccine will likely be judged nearly simultaneously by regulatory authorities in Britain and Europe.

"I don't think any of the regulatory bodies that we have interacted with are lowering their standards," said Menelas Pangalos, executive vice president of AstraZeneca, which is manufacturing a potential vaccine developed by Oxford University. "We would not be trying to launch a medicine that is not effective."

AP Medical Writer Lauran Neergaard contributed to this report.

## Nearly 1 in 4 VA employees report sex harassment, audit says

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 1 in 4 employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs say they have been subjected to unwanted sexual comments and other harassment — one of the highest levels in federal government — and an audit says the Trump administration has not been doing enough to protect them.

At a House hearing Wednesday, lawmakers heard VA express a commitment to “changing the culture” to make the department more welcoming to women, but that long-sought improvements urged by the Government Accountability Office could take until 2024 to fully implement.

Lawmakers responded that they’re not willing to wait, even if it means passing legislation to force more immediate changes.

“The VA is not the same VA as four years ago,” insisted acting VA deputy secretary Pam Powers, pointing to increased outreach to women and improved trust ratings in the VA from employees and patients alike according to internal polling.

The GAO audit said the agency has outdated training and policies, a leadership structure that creates conflicts of interest in reviewing harassment complaints, and gaps in reporting complaints to VA headquarters in Washington.

Powers said the agency was addressing the issue but stressed that personnel and other fixes require more money. She said some changes won’t start until 2024, in part because “every hour we spend takes away from patient care.”

“It’s an ongoing process, and we’ve certainly addressed a lot,” Powers said. “We have a very targeted effort.”

Expressing frustration and puzzlement about protracted delays, Rep. Chris Pappas, who heads the House Veterans Affairs oversight panel, said he will introduce legislation to ensure quicker action. His effort seeks to reinforce a call by top Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee last week for a faster timeline.

“Clearly Congress has a role to play,” said Pappas, D-N.H. “The Department of Veterans Affairs is simply moving too slowly.”

In its report, the GAO analyzed data from a Merit Systems Protection Board survey and found 22% of VA employees experienced sexual harassment between 2014 and 2016, compared to an estimated 14% of federal employees across agencies. About 1 in 3 VA employees said they witnessed an act of sexual harassment.

Overall, an estimated 26% of female and 14% of male VA employees experienced harassment during the two-year period.

Meanwhile, 158 sexual harassment cases were filed through VA’s formal process in 2016, a figure likely understated because not all complaints are required to be reported to VA headquarters. Since then, the number of cases has grown — 168 in 2017, before reaching a high of 225 in 2018. Last year, there were 180 cases filed.

Veterans’ groups and lawmakers say they’re worried the numbers reflect a broader culture problem at VA, also involving harassment and assault of patients.

Speaking on the delays, Rep. Ann Kuster, D-N.H., called it frustrating to see so little change and “persistent, pervasive” bias at the VA. “I can’t help but feel that this is partly due to the leadership at the top of this country — not having respect for members of the military, but most importantly for women serving our country,” she said.

Rep. Jack Bergman of Michigan, the top Republican on the panel, said he found it appalling that a sexual harassment complaint made by a VA employee takes about 1,100 days to process, according to VA figures.

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"Three years to process a complaint does not inspire confidence that the system is working efficiently or effectively," he said.

A study released by the VA last year found 1 in 4 women veterans using VA health care reported inappropriate comments by male veterans on VA grounds, raising concerns they may delay or miss their treatments. The VA also has rebuffed efforts by Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and other groups to change the VA motto, which some vets believe is outdated and excludes women. That motto refers to the VA's mission to fulfill a promise of President Abraham Lincoln "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

In February, the VA inspector general office also said it would examine Secretary Robert Wilkie over allegations he sought damaging information about veteran and congressional adviser Andrea Goldstein after she reported being sexually assaulted at a VA hospital. The IG review is ongoing.

"We are out of time, and we need corrective action now," said Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif., who chairs the House's Women Veterans Task Force.

While veterans overall have strongly backed President Donald Trump throughout his presidency, views vary widely by party, gender and age, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of 2018 midterm voters. In particular, younger veterans and women generally were more skeptical of Trump, who has faced accusations of sexual harassment and received multiple draft deferments to avoid going to Vietnam.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged to boost VA services for women.

"A Biden administration will not tolerate the culture of sexual assault that has become all too common in our military and veteran sectors," said Biden spokesman Jamal Brown. "As president, Joe Biden is committed to instituting policies that seek to eliminate discrimination and end harassment, and fostering a more inclusive federal government."

Currently, about 10% of the nation's veterans are female. In the U.S. military forces, about 17% of those enlisted are women, up from about 2% in 1973.

## Utah sees virus surge -- but not in county with mask order

By SOPHIA EPPOLITO and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah is among the many U.S. states battling a surge in coronavirus cases, but officials said Wednesday the Salt Lake City area is bucking the trend after the county issued a mandate a month ago for people to wear masks.

There's no statewide mask order in Republican-led Utah, and face coverings remain contentious, as seen at a recent public meeting that was abruptly ended when dozens of people without masks packed the room.

After GOP Gov. Gary Herbert allowed Democratic leaders in Salt Lake County to impose their own mask rule, the county's share of cases in the state steadily declined despite its denser population.

"Today we're sharing data that indicates that face coverings and other interventions implemented by Salt Lake County are having a positive impact," county Mayor Jenny Wilson said. "These actions are saving lives, protecting health and stabilizing the spread of COVID-19 cases."

Based on data in Salt Lake County, Wilson called on the governor to order a statewide mask requirement.

The number of new cases reported daily in Salt Lake County is nearly down to levels seen in June. However, case numbers in the state as a whole have doubled in the same time frame.

The county used to consistently report 60% of the state's cases, but now typically sees about 40% of those cases, Wilson said. A third of the state's 3.2 million residents live in Salt Lake County.

Health experts say masks can prevent the spread of the disease by catching virus-containing respiratory droplets expelled when people exhale or cough. Face coverings are promoted as a key tool in allowing the resumption of economic activity and students' return to schools.

Critics, however, argue that mask mandates overstep government power.

More than half of U.S. states have implemented some kind of mask requirement. President Donald Trump also offered his strongest endorsement yet of masks on Tuesday. Some states such as Iowa, Ohio and Arizona have mandates in specific cities or counties, but declines such as those seen in Salt Lake County



are rare.

Disagreements between Republicans and Democrats involving masks has gone to court in Georgia, but the conversation is more nuanced in Utah. Herbert has urged people to voluntarily wear them and hasn't disputed local mandates in Salt Lake County and a handful of other counties, mostly tourist destinations with national parks and ski resorts.

He' also ordered the use of masks at schools and state-run buildings, and indicated he may reconsider a statewide mandate if case counts remain high in August.

Those steps have brought sharp criticism from people who say requiring face coverings is a violation of personal liberties. A rural county commissioner last month compared Herbert to Adolf Hitler in a social media post after the governor gave approval to two counties to mandate masks.

Herbert told reporters Wednesday that it's too soon to say whether Salt Lake County's mask mandate was solely responsible for the decreased case counts, but he again voiced his support for voluntary mask wearing. He said upcoming data will dictate whether he pursues a statewide mandate.

"I'm grateful that I see more people wearing masks now than ever before as I get around the state," he said. "I think it's becoming something that's more normal."

More than 35,000 cases of the virus have been reported in Utah, and over 250 people have died, according to state data. The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

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

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Sophia Eppolito is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues.

## **Virus slams Bolivia as hospitals say: 'There is no space'**

By CARLOS VALDEZ Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Police in Bolivia's major cities have recovered the bodies of hundreds of suspected victims of the coronavirus from homes, vehicles and, in some instances, the streets. Hospitals are full of COVID-19 patients and short of staff, keeping their gates closed and hanging out signs that say: "There is no space."

And the Bolivian government says the peak of the outbreak is not expected until August.

Desperation is growing in one of Latin America's poorest countries, which seems overwhelmed by the virus even as it endures political turmoil stemming from a flawed election and the ouster of President Evo Morales last year. A plan to hold elections in September, seen as a key to stabilizing its democracy, is increasingly in doubt as the pandemic worsens.

Some funeral homes have hired more staff to cope with the influx of the dead, and hearses at the main cemetery in the capital of La Paz line up daily to deliver bodies. With little space available, the mayor's office only allows burials for people from the municipality and charges more than \$100 for cremation, a huge sum for most Bolivians. A private cremation service costs twice as much.

"My brother died of pneumonia and we cannot find a funeral home. We have to wait until tomorrow. Many people are going through the same thing and nobody helps us," said Herminia Carpio, sobbing as she waited to collect her brother's body at the door of the largest public hospital in La Paz.

Some doctors are issuing falsified death certificates for virus victims, putting funeral home staff at risk, according to an undertaker in La Paz who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

A COVID-19 death in Bolivia requires strict safety protocols for handling the body, raising the price of funerals. There are allegations that some relatives have paid doctors to list a cause of death unrelated to

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the virus. In any case, medical services are overworked and may not have the time or capacity to assess the cause of death accurately.

More shocking news came this week when police said they recovered 420 bodies from various locations in La Paz and in Bolivia's biggest city, Santa Cruz, in the span of five days. Between 80% and 90% of them are believed to have had the virus.

"The pandemic has put the state's response capacity in crisis," said sociologist Renzo Abrezeze.

The political fallout from the pandemic is escalating. A committee that advises the Health Ministry on outbreak containment measures said in a letter this week to Bolivia's top election official that holding the vote as scheduled would not be advisable.

Most researchers agree that "to plan activities such as an election, you must wait for the epidemiological curve of active cases to have a sustained decrease for a period of 14 days, so the date of Sept. 6 is not appropriate," the committee, made up mostly of doctors, wrote to Salvador Romero, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

The committee has previously said many people who contract COVID-19 do not report their illness for fear of being stigmatized. Many in rural areas do not believe in the existence of the virus, while disregard for social distancing rules in the cities is making matters worse, according to the committee.

Some Bolivians have resorted to fake cures, including a toxic bleach that people are lining up to buy in the city of Cochabamba. Like many other countries, the Andean nation instituted restrictions to curb the spread of the virus but gradually started to lift them June 1 to relieve the economic strain on the population of more than 11 million.

Bolivia has reported nearly 2,300 confirmed deaths from COVID-19, although the real number is believed to be higher. César Salinas, the president of the Bolivian soccer federation, was among the dead. Interim President Jeanine Áñez tested positive and says she is recuperating in quarantine.

The election tribunal, which has not yet commented on the letter recommending a postponement of the vote, will decide on the date with the endorsement of the congress, currently dominated by the Movement for Socialism party. The group was led by Evo Morales, who was forced to resign as president last year after protests and clashes over an election that international observers said was marred by irregularities.

The Movement for Socialism party, which nominated former economy minister Luis Arce as its presidential candidate, wants the election to go ahead as scheduled. Its supporters have warned of street protests if the election is postponed and Arce alleged the Áñez government is using the pandemic as a "pretext to extend itself."

Six of the eight parties in Bolivia's election race have said they favor a postponement.

## **FBI links men's rights lawyer to N.J., California killings**

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal investigators have unspecified evidence linking the killing of a men's rights lawyer in California to the suspect in the ambush shooting of a federal judge's family in New Jersey, authorities said Wednesday.

The evidence allegedly connects Roy Den Hollander, another men's rights attorney 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, to the death of Marc Angelucci in San Bernardino County, California.

FBI officials in Newark, New Jersey, on Wednesday would not describe the evidence or explain how it ties into the two cases.

Angelucci was shot to death at his home on July 11.

The FBI says 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.

Salas, 51, was in another part of the house and was unharmed. Den Hollander was found dead Monday in Sullivan County, New York.

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In both attacks, the suspect appeared to pose as a delivery driver, according to a law enforcement official. The official could not discuss an ongoing investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Investigators found items in Den Hollander's possession that prompted concerns about whether he had targeted, or planned to target, other people. The items included a photograph of New York Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and the address of a state appeals courthouse, a state court spokesperson said.

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.

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."

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.

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 Angelucci's case.

"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."

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.

This story's headline has been corrected to reflect that one of the killings took place in New Jersey, not New York.

## Push to remove Confederate statues stalls in rural America

By REBECCA SANTANA and JONATHAN DREW

CLINTON, La. (AP) — The statue of the anonymous Confederate soldier has stood in front of the white-columned East Feliciana Parish courthouse for more than a century, leaning on his rifle as he looks down on trucks hauling timber and residents visiting the bank across the street.

It withstood an attempt to remove it in 2016. The local doctor who asked the southeast Louisiana parish to move it lost two friends in the controversy, but the statue stayed. In 2018, a Black man who was a defendant in a trial petitioned to have his case moved, saying the statue was a symbol of racism. He lost that fight, and the statue stood.

Now, as protests sparked by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis focus attention on the hundreds of Confederate statues still standing across the Southern landscape, officials in the rural parish of roughly 20,000 people have voted 5-3 to leave the statue where it is.

In recent weeks, dozens of Confederate statues have fallen across the country — often in more liberal-leaning urban centers. But in many smaller places like Clinton, the effort to remove markers that many view as racist relics has stalled or has yet to arrive.

John Sanders, a Black businessman and minister in Clinton, wants the statue removed and thought the national spotlight on the issue presented a slight chance that parish officials would vote to move it. But if not now, he thinks it will happen — some day.

"I think that it has to come up again. It's not a matter of 'if.' It has to come up again, and the reason I say that is that there is no way that we can sit around and be on the wrong side of history," he said.

At least 63 Confederate statues, monuments or markers have been removed from public land across the country since Floyd's death on May 25, making 2020 one of the busiest years yet for removals, according to an Associated Press tally. Most were removed by government officials, though protesters have toppled some.

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All but eight have come down in cities or metropolitan areas larger than 50,000 people. Most of the areas lean politically left, with 41 of the monuments removed in counties or equivalent areas that voted Democratic in the 2016 presidential election.

AP's exclusive tally verified removals through government announcements, AP news coverage and other sources, then analyzed them based on census data and voting patterns.

Still, in a sign that the removal movement might be spreading, local governments in several less populous areas of Mississippi, Louisiana and South Carolina have recently approved removals but not yet taken down the monuments.

The sheer number of Confederate monuments still standing shows the enormous task for those seeking removals: More than 700 remain on public land, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Laws that protect the monuments in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee are slowing efforts. Virginia this year amended a similar law to let local governments take statues down.

"It's unclear how long this will continue, whether this is going to be a full movement that really leads to a cascade effect where more and more are removed," said Adam Domby, a College of Charleston historian who wrote "The False Cause: Fraud, Fabrication, and White Supremacy in Confederate Memory."

Domby said it would take far more removals in politically conservative areas to convince him there's been a national shift in support of removing Confederate monuments.

Despite North Carolina's state law that all but prohibits permanent removals, its Democratic governor cited a public-safety exemption to remove several Confederate monuments at the state Capitol in Raleigh after protesters ripped two statues down. Some local officials also invoked safety as they removed monuments in several cities; at least 17 have come down statewide since Floyd's death.

Yet in Republican-leaning Alamance County, the county manager's public safety argument for removing a statue near the courthouse was rebuffed when most members of the county commission said publicly they were legally unable — or simply unwilling — to take it down. North Carolina still has at least 69 monuments on public land. Of those, 56 are in counties that voted for President Donald Trump in 2016; 52 are in towns of fewer than 20,000, the AP tally shows.

In Virginia, Richmond's mayor removed massive statues in the Confederacy's former capital, headlining a tally of at least a dozen monuments removed from public land statewide since Floyd's death.

But a different scenario is unfolding in Virginia's rural Franklin County. Most residents who spoke Tuesday at a Board of Supervisors meeting urged the swift removal of a Confederate statue from the county courthouse. Instead, the board voted to delay the decision by putting a non-binding referendum on relocating the statue to voters in the Republican-leaning, majority-white county. The final decision will still lie with the board after the November election.

Ruby Penn, who frequently drives past a Confederate flag flying on private property near her home, said living in Franklin County means living under constant symbols of racism.

Penn and her sister, Penny Blue, the only person of color on the county School Board, said they didn't expect they'd still be fighting for equality 50 years after the civil rights era, this time urging the monument's removal.

"The people in Rocky Mount are looking for every excuse to keep it there," Penn said.

In Louisiana, a little over 2,000 people signed a petition to remove Confederate monuments in front of the East Feliciana Parish courthouse and the one in neighboring West Feliciana Parish.

In a sometimes heated meeting about a week before the final vote, LaRhonda George said Confederate statues shouldn't be displayed at a building where people of "any race are supposed to go seek justice." She said if people want to honor ancestors, they should move the statue to the town's Confederate cemetery.

Supporters said removing it would wipe away a memorial to their ancestors, along with parish history.

"This is only for memorial for those that lost their lives, regardless of what it was for," Deanna Fontenot said. "They lost their lives."

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Drew reported from Durham, North Carolina. Associated Press writers Sarah Blake Morgan in Rocky

Mount, Virginia, and Sarah Rankin in Richmond, Virginia, contributed.

## New Yorkers ditching city for elbow room fuel housing boom

By MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

If the outbreak roars back in New York City, Anil and Joyce Lilly will not be sheltering again in their Bronx apartment. They just bought a house an hour north in the Hudson Valley.

"We need more elbow room," said Joyce Lilly, explaining their move to Washingtonville, New York. "Because we were locked into the apartment for three months, a solid three months, I feel like I'm getting out of prison and I want to run as far away as possible."

New Yorkers anxious after weathering the worst of the coronavirus pandemic are fueling a boom in home sales and rentals around the picturesque towns and wooded hills to the north. Real estate brokers and agents describe a red-hot market recently, with many house hunters able to work from home.

"There has been a big uptick from Manhattan people, no doubt about that," said Steven Domber, president of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hudson Valley Properties. "Number one, it's cabin fever, which is wanting to get out of an apartment and having some land if, God forbid, there's a lockdown again."

The Catskill Mountains and bucolic stretches of the valley beyond the city's northern suburbs have been longtime getaways for city residents. But agents say sales and rental activity is far above normal. Domber's sales were up almost a third year over year in June. Builder Chuck Petersheim said he took eight orders in a month, compared to his usual one-and-a-half a month.

New York City is in no danger of hollowing out any time soon, though. The upstate wave looks more like a trickle in a city of 8.3 million. With new homes in the region running from under \$200,000 to more than \$1 million, they are an escape hatch many cannot afford. But the spike in sales and long-term rentals shows how New Yorkers who endured the worst of the pandemic see the city as less hospitable.

"We just feel that the city will not be the city that we lived in," said Susan Cohen, who rented a home in Rhinebeck with her husband after sheltering in their Upper East Side apartment.

"For six weeks in our two-bedroom apartment, all we talked about was without a vaccine, we will never go on the subway again, we'd be hesitant to go on a bus again, we won't go to the movies. we won't go to the theater ... So what do we have for the next two years in Manhattan? And we said, 'What are we living here for?'"

County-level home sales figures from May and June still show a dip compared to last year, but agents say those figures reflect lags of one to three months between offers being accepted and closings. Agents describe recent weeks of bidding wars over homes that had been languishing on the market and new listings being snapped up fast by buyers with cash. Realtor John Murphy said some homes are selling \$100,000 or more above the asking prices.

"I think this was the event that got people off the fence," said broker Gary DiMauro. "I think we also got people who were thinking about buying either a first or second home up here to actually pull the trigger."

Home hunters Tony Speciale and Jerry Marsini learned about competition recently when they walked through the front door of a home in Kingston just as their agent got a message from the seller about a cash offer from someone else.

"If we find a house that we're interested in, sitting on it more than a few days doesn't seem like a good idea," Speciale said.

The Manhattan residents, who had been looking upstate even before the pandemic, are in the process of buying a house in Kingston.

The Hudson Valley is not the only region outside New York City experiencing a bump.

Along the Jersey Shore, there are far more buyers than homes in Monmouth and Ocean counties. Homes are selling above asking price and "once a thing comes on the market everyone is jumping on it," said Wendy Smith, president of Monmouth Ocean Regional Realtors. On the tip of Long Island, a preservation fund financed by a real estate transfer tax in the five East End towns was up 39% over the first half of the year, according to state Assemblyman Fred Thiele.

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Extremely low mortgage rates are helping the market, as are more expansive work-from-home policies ushered in with the pandemic. Joyce Lilly is an acupuncturist, but she said her husband's ability to work remotely as an IT manager was the deciding factor in the move from Riverdale in the Bronx on Tuesday, which included his daughter, a granddaughter and a dog. Cohen just retired in January and her husband is able to work as a financial tech consultant from the house.

For music and video producer Erik Braund, moving his family of four from the Upper East Side to Saugerties has been a learning curve about how to keep his production company running some 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of his Brooklyn studio. They pounced on a fixer-upper at the start of the lockdown, but are keeping their apartment.

They might head back, but not the way things are now.

"Whenever some sort of rapid testing becomes available, we're going to reassess. We're basically reassessing our life every single day," he said, "So grateful that we were able to pull this off."

## Kim K asks public to show compassion, empathy to Kanye West

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Kim Kardashian West is asking the public to show compassion and empathy to husband Kanye West, who caused a stir this week after fulminating in a series of social media posts. She says he is bipolar.

The reality TV star and beauty mogul posted a lengthy message Wednesday on her Instagram Live feed, explaining that life has been complicated for her family and West, who ranted against historical figure Harriet Tubman and discussed abortion on Sunday while he declared himself a presidential candidate. His comments earned him backlash.

"As many of you know, Kanye has bi-polar disorder. Anyone who has this or has a loved one in their life who does, knows how incredibly complicated and painful it is to understand. I've never spoken publicly about how this has affected us at home because I am very protective of our children and Kanye's right to privacy when it comes to his health. But today, I feel like I should comment on it because of the stigma and misconceptions about mental health," she wrote.

"I understand Kanye is subject to criticism because he is a public figure and his actions at times can cause strong opinions and emotions. He is a brilliant but complicated person who on top of the pressures of being an artist and a black man, who experienced the painful loss of his mother, and has to deal with the pressure and isolation that is heightened by his bi-polar disorder," Kardashian West continued. "Those who are close with Kanye know his heart and understand his words some times do not align with his intentions."

On Tuesday, in a series of since-deleted Twitter posts, West wrote that he's been considering divorcing his wife. In another post he called out Kardashian matriarch Kris Jenner. On Monday, he claimed his wife tried to lock him up. And on Sunday at his political rally, the 21-time Grammy winner became tearful while talking about his mother, who died following plastic surgery complications in 2007.

West and Kardashian West were married in 2014. They have four children.

Kardashian West thanked fans and friends for expressing concern about West.

"We as a society talk about giving grace to the issue of mental health as a whole, however we should also give it to the individuals who are living with it in times when they need it the most. I kindly ask that the media and public give us the compassion and empathy that is needed so that we can get through this," she wrote. "Thank you for those who have expressed concern for Kanye's well being and for your understanding."

## 2 boys saved when caught in falls in French apartment fire

By ARNO PEDRAM Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Two young brothers were saved from an apartment fire in the southeastern French city of

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Grenoble when they dropped about 10 meters (33 feet) from a window and were caught by people below. The two, aged 10 and 3, were unharmed by the fall Tuesday but might have suffered from smoke inhalation, French media reported.

Video of the dramatic rescue showed the younger brother being dropped from at least three stories up as black smoke billowed from the window and flames engulfed an adjacent balcony. As onlookers screamed, the older brother then hung from the window and let himself fall into the arms of those below.

The boys were hospitalized along with 17 residents of the building, the media reports said. Four of the people who caught the boys also were taken to the hospital to check if any bones were fractured when they caught the boys.

Athoumani Walid, a 25-year-old student who suffered a broken wrist from helping catch the children, said he heard screams and went out to investigate after seeing the fire from his nearby apartment and rushed to help along with four or five other people.

"We didn't know what to do," Walid told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "We wanted to break the door but it wasn't possible."

They then went outside and shouted for the boys to jump into their arms.

Although he initially feared for the boys, "when they jumped, fear disappeared," Walid said. "What mattered was to catch" them, he added.

Walid said he hopes the rescue will change perceptions of the Villeneuve neighborhood, which has a large immigrant population.

"We are told it's a 'sensitive' neighborhood," Walid said, "but yesterday we showed we are here for each other, and we save each other."

Mayor Eric Piolle congratulated residents on the rescue, which he said underscored the city's "tradition of solidarity and mutual help."

In May 2018, a young Malian migrant rescued a child dangling from a balcony and was offered French citizenship. Video of the rescue showed 22-year-old Mamoudou Gassama climbing up four floors of the apartment building in just seconds to rescue the child, to cheers from onlookers. By the time Parisian emergency services arrived, he had already pulled the child to safety.

## AP Exclusive: Migrant kids held in US hotels, then expelled

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The Trump administration is detaining immigrant children as young as 1 in hotels, sometimes for weeks, before deporting them to their home countries under policies that have effectively shut down the nation's asylum system during the coronavirus pandemic, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

A private contractor for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is taking children to three Hampton Inn & Suites hotels in Arizona and at the Texas-Mexico border, where they are typically detained for several days, the records show. The hotels have been used nearly 200 times, while more than 10,000 beds for children sit empty at government shelters.

Federal anti-trafficking laws and a two-decade-old court settlement that governs the treatment of migrant children require that most kids be sent to the shelters for eventual placement with family sponsors. But President Donald Trump's administration is now immediately expelling people seeking asylum in the U.S., relying on a public health declaration to set aside those rules.

Lawyers and advocates say housing unaccompanied migrant children in hotels exposes them to the risk of trauma as they're detained in places not designed to hold them and cared for by contractors with unclear credentials. They are challenging the use of hotels as detention spaces under the Flores court settlement.

"They've created a shadow system in which there's no accountability for expelling very young children," said Leecia Welch, an attorney at the nonprofit National Center for Youth Law. "There really aren't enough words to describe what a disgraceful example of sacrificing children this is to advance heartless immigra-

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tion policies.”

ICE largely declined to answer questions but referred to the contractors as “transportation specialists” who are “non-law enforcement staff members trained to work with minors and to ensure that all aspects of the transport or stay are compliant” with the court settlement. It wouldn’t say whether they’re licensed child care professionals or have received FBI background checks.

In McAllen, Texas, people in scrubs went room to room on the fourth and fifth floors of the Hampton Inn caring for children, according to Roberto Lopez of the nonprofit Texas Civil Rights Project. He walked through the hotel Friday, spotting a small child holding on to a gate in a doorway as an adult on the other side played with him. Lopez said he could hear the cries of at least one child in the hallway.

Parked outside were unmarked white vans with the silhouettes of adults and children visible through the windows, Lopez said. He didn’t see logos or insignia for any government agencies on the vans or in the hotel.

The records obtained by AP show the Hampton Inn in McAllen was used most often to detain children — 123 times over two months. The other hotels are in Phoenix and El Paso.

Hilton, which owns the Hampton Inn brand, said in a statement Tuesday that all three hotels were franchises and it believed rooms were booked directly with those owners. Hilton wouldn’t say how many rooms had been used to detain children or how much the rooms cost.

“We understand these properties have been used for their intended purpose — temporary accommodation for guests traveling between locations,” the statement said.

Castle Hospitality, which operates the McAllen hotel, said it didn’t know its rooms would be used to detain children until they arrived.

“We are not making any political statements one way or the other by taking in this group and we feel that anyone, especially children in such difficult circumstances, is entitled to safe and clean accommodations and that’s what we aim to provide,” a company statement said. “In our conversations with the group contact, we have been assured that all state and federal regulations are being followed.”

At least 2,000 unaccompanied children have been expelled since March, when the Trump administration announced it would broadly refuse entry to people seeking protection in the U.S. The administration has cited the threat of the coronavirus in saying it doesn’t have the resources to allow migrants to stay.

The U.S. has the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in the world, and the virus is ravaging much of the West and South, including Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, where McAllen is located.

Before March, Central American children who crossed into the U.S. alone were generally sent to facilities overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS facilities have bedrooms and schooling, and children are given access to lawyers and generally placed with family sponsors. The facilities also are licensed by the states where they’re located. Federal anti-trafficking law requires the government to promptly refer most children to HHS.

While U.S. Customs and Border Protection said it made 1,564 apprehensions of unaccompanied children at the southern border in June, HHS says it received just 61. CBP wouldn’t say how many children are expelled right away, how many are sent to hotels or how border agents decide between those options or referral to HHS. The agency referred questions about hotels to ICE.

ICE said it uses contractor MVM Inc. “to transport single minors to hotels and to ensure each minor remains safe and secure while in this temporary housing.” MVM had a contract with ICE for “transportation services” extended for \$49 million on March 31, according to federal contracting data. The company declined to answer questions.

According to MVM’s hiring website, it’s looking for “bilingual travel youth care workers” based in Phoenix and McAllen to provide “humble care and service to unaccompanied children and teens.” The posting doesn’t require a child care background but says selected applicants will be given a “government background investigation.”

The border agencies and MVM have been criticized for their treatment of immigrant children during the Trump administration, including wide-scale family separations in 2018 and the detention of children in



squalid border stations in Texas last year.

The government provided records on the detention of children and teenagers expelled in April and June to a team of lawyers representing the interests of immigrant children under the Flores agreement, reached in 1997. Records for May weren't available.

The Hampton Inns in McAllen, El Paso and Phoenix were used 186 times. No other hotels appear in the records, which indicate that 169 children were detained at the hotels, some with multiple stays.

At least two 1-year-olds were held for three days. But some young children, including 3- to 5-year-olds, were detained for two weeks or longer. One 5-year-old was detained for 19 days in the McAllen hotel.

The records indicate the children were not accompanied by a parent but don't say more about the circumstances of their crossing the border. In the past, some very young children have been brought by older siblings or other relatives. Others have been sent by parents waiting for their court dates in refugee camps on the U.S.-Mexico border with hopes they will be placed with relatives.

Karla Vargas, a Texas Civil Rights Project lawyer, represented a 13-year-old girl who was detained in a hotel and later expelled to El Salvador. Vargas said border agents didn't tell the girl's mother in the U.S. that they had detained her daughter. A person who crossed the border with the girl called her mother.

"The children with whom we've spoken say there are other children in the hotels," Vargas said. "We know that there are masses of children."

## Stone tools suggest earlier human presence in North America

By MALCOLM RITTER AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stone tools found in a Mexican cave suggest that people were living in North America as early as about 26,500 years ago, much earlier than most scientists accept, a new study says.

It's a new step in the difficult and contentious process of establishing when people arrived in North America from Asia. Presently, the most widely accepted dates for the earliest known North American archaeological sites date to before 15,000 years ago and extend maybe to 17,000 years ago, says anthropology professor Tom Dillehay of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He was not involved in the cave study.

In Wednesday's issue of the journal *Nature*, scientists reported on artifacts found in a mountain cave in the state of Zacatecas in north-central Mexico. Ciprian Ardelean of the Autonomous University of Zacatecas and others say they found stone tools and debris from tool-making that they dated back as far as 26,500 years ago. There's some indication that some artifacts go back beyond 30,000 years, but so far the evidence isn't strong enough to make a firm claim, Ardelean said.

Ardelean said he believed people probably used the cave as a winter shelter for short periods of time. His team was unable to recover any human DNA from the cave.

Dillehay said the proposed date for the artifacts may be valid if it stands up to further scrutiny. But he suspects they aren't more than 20,000 years old and most likely fall in the range of 15,000 to 18,000 years old. He doesn't question that some of the artifacts are probably man-made, but said he'd like to see other evidence of human occupation of the cave, like hearths, butchered bones and burned edible plant remains.

In a *Nature* commentary, Ruth Gruhn, a professor emerita of anthropology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, said the results should bring fresh consideration of six Brazilian sites proposed to be older than 20,000 years. Those age estimates are now "commonly disputed or simply ignored by most archaeologists as being much too old to be real," she wrote.

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

## As restaurants endure economic losses, others feel pain, too

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Restaurants helped revive the U.S. economy after the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

This time? Don't count on it. As the nation struggles to rebound from a now-resurgent coronavirus, restaurants seem much less likely to deliver an economic boost. They've suffered a heavy blow from lockdowns and occupancy restrictions, and it's unclear how readily Americans will return en masse to dining out.

Consider the Barrel Room, a San Francisco wine bar and restaurant whose owner cautiously reopened this month, hoping to salvage as much of 2020 as possible. To stay afloat after a lockdown took effect in March, the restaurant tried selling groceries and delivering alcoholic drinks to customers. Owner Sarah Trubnick also fought through red tape to obtain federal aid — a process she likened to living in a Kafka novel.

As confirmed infections climb, Trubnick is bracing for the worst.

"We are prepared at any minute to close again," she said. "It's a very stressful situation."

Across the nation, millions of restaurant jobs have vanished in the face of lockdowns. Just when eateries of all categories and price levels had been anticipating a summertime comeback, new viral cases are upending everything.

The damage extends beyond darkened kitchens and dining rooms to the farms and wineries that supply them and the shopping centers that have grown to depend on restaurants as anchors to replace now-vanished stores that couldn't compete with Amazon and Walmart.

Chris Shepherd, owner and executive chef of Underbelly Hospitality in Houston, said in an online essay that he might have to close his four restaurants because his company's revenue is just 30% of what it was a year ago.

"I employ 200 people in this community," Shepherd wrote. "When I shut down, they lose their jobs. I'm no longer able to pay my farmers, cleaning companies, valet companies, linen companies, wineries, distilleries. Our reach is long."

Before the pandemic, restaurants had employed 11 million workers nationwide — more than the number who work in construction or in factories that produce high-priced manufactured goods. They generated more revenue than grocery stores. From 1990 through February this year, restaurant jobs grew more than twice as fast (91%) as overall jobs (40%).

"The restaurant industry's role in the economy is outsized compared to its share of overall GDP," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "As it is often among the first jobs for many workers, it is critical to the training of the American workforce. It is also a vital source of jobs and incomes for lesser-skilled and educated workers."

The struggles in the restaurant industry also disproportionately hurt Black and Hispanic workers. Together, they account for more than 40% of restaurant jobs, versus 30% of overall U.S. jobs.

As restaurants and bars reluctantly closed their dining rooms, their sales sank from \$66 billion in February to \$30 billion by April — the lowest such total, adjusted since inflation, since 1983. In June, boosted by delivery and takeout customers, sales rebounded to \$47 billion. But many restaurants desperately need to reopen their dining rooms.

"You cannot profitably run a takeover-delivery model if you also have 60 dark tables in the front of the house," said Sean Kennedy of the National Restaurant Association.

Restaurants had cut nearly 5.4 million jobs in March and April before restoring 1.4 million of them as states began to reopen in May. But the bounce-back is in jeopardy. Confirmed cases have surged across the South and West, forcing states to slow or reverse plans to reopen. Zandi said he worries that restaurant jobs won't return to pre-pandemic levels until the mid-2020s.

The data firm Womply reports that restaurant closures began rising in late June, especially in Texas, Arkansas and Arizona after having fallen steadily from late April into June.

"People are not out eating," said Genell Pridgen, whose family runs a restaurant, butchery and three

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farms in North Carolina. "I'm not sure how long it will take for normal to get back."

Analysts say it's unclear when Americans will feel comfortable enough to pile into diner booths or raise toasts at bars or how long state and local governments will require them to operate at reduced occupancy.

"They won't be able to squeeze tables in like they used to," said Barbara Denham, senior economist at the commercial real estate research firm Moody's Analytics REIS. "A lot of those restaurants ... can't make a profit on a table setup that is half of what is used to be."

The pain isn't confined to the restaurants themselves. Also hurting are local farms that supply high-end restaurants with top-quality produce and meat through the popular farm-to-table movement. Though some farms have increased their sales to grocery stores or directly to consumers, shifting away from specialty restaurants tends to carry a cost — lower prices.

The data firm Cortera found that the proportion of restaurants that had fallen behind on their payments to suppliers as of late June — 36% — was the highest for any industry, Zandi said.

"I would expect it to increase substantially in July," he said, "given the re-closings in states suffering from an intensification of coronavirus."

The struggles of restaurants carry consequences for commercial real estate, too. Since the Great Recession, America's shopping centers have rented space to restaurants, gyms and other so-called experiential tenants as an alternative to traditional shops, which have fallen vulnerable to competition from Amazon and other online mass sellers. Shopping center space occupied by restaurants surged 27% from the end of 2009 to early this year, compared with a 10% increase in overall retail space, according to the CoStar Group consultancy.

Sanford Sigal, CEO of NewMark Merrill, which owns 85 shopping centers in California, Colorado and Illinois, predicted that "well-run restaurants will come back stronger than ever." Such restaurants have used the lockdown period to expand their takeout and delivery operations, he noted.

After closing in March, for example, the Iron City Sports Bar in Bellefontaine, Ohio, built a takeout system from scratch. Owner Matt Brown invested in equipment to make it easier to process carryout orders, reconfigured the saloon's layout to promote social distancing and installed cameras to monitor the parking lot so his staff could see customers arrive.

"Our numbers are up from year to year," said Brown, who employs 30 workers, about the same as before the pandemic. "That is due to the delivery and carryout."

Likewise, Sarah Trubnick's Barrel Room got into the delivery business after receiving government approval to deliver wine, liquor and beer. She waited until July 6 to reopen the restaurant to outdoor dining. Twenty of her 30 employees are back. Others are staying home until the health crisis eases.

"The survival of the business is at stake," Trubnick said. "All we can do is go day by day, make the best possible decisions and just cross our fingers."

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AP Business Writer Joyce M. Rosenberg in New York contributed to this report.

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Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at @PaulWisemanAP

## Telescope snaps family portrait of 2 planets around baby sun

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — For the first time, a telescope has captured a family portrait of another solar system with not just one, but two planets posing directly for the cameras while orbiting a star like our sun.

This baby sun and its two giant gas planets are fairly close by galactic standards at 300 light-years away.

The snapshot — released Wednesday — was taken by the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile's Atacama Desert.

What makes this group shot so appealing is it's a "very young version of our own sun," said Alexander

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Bohn of the Netherlands' Leiden University, who led the study.

Bohn said he was "extremely excited" about the discovery. "This is the first time astronomers were able to capture such a shot," he said in an email.

The observations can help scientists better understand the evolution of our own solar system.

Astronomers typically confirm worlds around other stars by observing brief but periodic dimming of the starlight, indicating an orbiting planet. Such indirect observations have identified thousands of planets in our Milky Way galaxy.

It's much harder and less common for a telescope to directly observe these so-called exoplanets. To directly spot two of them around the same star is even rarer. Only two multi-planet solar systems have been spotted using the direct method, both with stars quite different than our sun, according to the observatory.

Of the 4,183 exoplanets confirmed to date, only 48 of them have been directly imaged — just 1 percent, according to NASA statistics.

Direct imaging provides humanity's best chance to detect life outside our solar system, if it exists, Bohn said. By observing light from the planets themselves, the atmospheres can be analyzed for molecules and elements that might suggest life.

The work published in Wednesday's *Astrophysical Journal Letters* reveals "a snapshot of an environment that is very similar to our solar system, but at a much earlier stage of its evolution," Bohn said.

The star — officially known as TYC 8998-760-1 and located in the Musca, or the Fly, constellation — is barely 17 million years old. By contrast, our sun is 4.5 billion years old.

The two newly discovered gas giants around this young star orbit at a much greater distance than Jupiter and Saturn do our sun — requiring a few thousand years to complete one revolution, or calendar year. They also weigh in with greater masses than our own outer planets.

The researchers took multiple images of this youthful solar system over the past year to verify the findings, while reviewing older data. A disk on the telescope known as a coronagraph blocked the starlight, exposing the two much fainter planets.

Future instruments like ESO's Extremely Large Telescope, still five years away, should be able to detect even smaller, less dense planets. The main mirror will span 128 feet (39 meters), more than four times the size of the Very Large Telescope, making it the "the world's biggest eye on the sky," according to the ESO.

For now, there is no evidence that this young star has more planets, but "it is certainly possible and they might just be too faint," Bohn said.

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

## 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.

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"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 contract 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 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

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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 stoke "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.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 23, the 205th day of 2020. There are 161 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 23, 1829, William Austin Burt received a patent for his "typographer," a forerunner of the typewriter.

On this date:

In 1885, Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States, died in Mount McGregor, New York, at age 63.

In 1914, Austria-Hungary presented a list of demands to Serbia following the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb assassin; Serbia's refusal to agree to the entire ultimatum led to the outbreak of World War I.

In 1948, American pioneer filmmaker D.W. Griffith died in Los Angeles at age 73.

In 1967, five days of deadly rioting erupted in Detroit as an early morning police raid on an unlicensed bar resulted in a confrontation with local residents that escalated into violence that spread into other parts of the city; 43 people, mostly Blacks, were killed.

In 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors, 7-year-old Myca Dinh Le and 6-year-old Renee Shin-Yi Chen, were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene for "Twilight Zone: The Movie." (Director John Landis and four associates were later acquitted of manslaughter charges.)

In 1983, an Air Canada Boeing 767 ran out of fuel while flying from Montreal to Edmonton; the pilots were able to glide the jetliner to a safe emergency landing in Gimli, Manitoba. (The near-disaster occurred because the fuel had been erroneously measured in pounds instead of kilograms at a time when Canada was converting to the metric system.)

In 1997, the search for Andrew Cunanan (koo-NAN'-an), the suspected killer of designer Gianni Versace (JAH'-nee vur-SAH'-chee) and others, ended as police found his body on a houseboat in Miami Beach, an apparent suicide.

In 1999, space shuttle Columbia blasted off with the world's most powerful X-ray telescope and Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a U.S. space flight.

In 2003, a new audiotape purported to be from toppled dictator Saddam Hussein called on Iraqis to resist the U.S. occupation. Massachusetts' attorney general issued a report saying clergy members and others in the Boston Archdiocese probably had sexually abused more than 1,000 people over a period of six decades.

In 2006, Tiger Woods became the first player since Tom Watson in 1982-83 to win consecutive British Open titles.

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In 2011, singer Amy Winehouse, 27, was found dead in her London home from accidental alcohol poisoning.

In 2017, a tractor trailer was found in a Walmart parking lot in San Antonio, Texas, crammed with dozens of immigrants; ten died and many more were treated at a hospital for dehydration and heat stroke. (The driver, James Bradley Jr., was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty to transporting the immigrants resulting in death.)

Ten years ago: The Office of Management and Budget predicted the budget deficit would reach a record \$1.47 trillion in the current fiscal year. (The actual figure for fiscal 2010 turned out to be \$1.29 trillion.) Ford Motor Co. said it had made \$2.6 billion from April through June 2010, its fifth straight quarterly profit. Daniel Schorr, longtime journalist with stints at CBS, CNN and NPR, died in Washington at age 93.

Five years ago: Secretary of State John Kerry told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee it was "fantasy plain and simple" to claim that President Barack Obama had failed to insist on enough restraints on Iran's nuclear program before agreeing to lift economic sanctions. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump paid a visit to the Mexico border, where he predicted Hispanics would love him, adding, "They already do." A gunman opened fire in a Lafayette, Louisiana, theater during a screening of the film "Trainwreck," killing two people and wounding nine before fatally shooting himself.

One year ago: Boris Johnson won the contest to lead Britain's governing Conservative Party, putting him in line to become the country's prime minister the following day. Former defense industry lobbyist Mark Esper won Senate confirmation and was sworn in as secretary of defense, succeeding Jim Mattis. (The Pentagon had gone seven months without a confirmed leader, the longest such period in its history.) The Senate gave final legislative approval to a measure ensuring that a victims' compensation fund related to the Sept. 11 attacks would never run out of money.

Today's Birthdays: Concert pianist Leon Fleisher (FLY'-shur) is 92. Retired Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 84. Actor Ronny Cox is 82. Actor Larry Manetti is 77. Rock singer David Essex is 73. Singer-songwriter John Hall is 72. Actress Belinda Montgomery is 70. Rock musician Blair Thornton (Bachman Turner Overdrive) is 70. Actress-writer Lydia Cornell is 67. Actor Woody Harrelson is 59. Rock musician Martin Gore (Depeche Mode) is 59. Actor Eriq La Salle is 58. Rock musician Yuval Gabay is 57. Rock musician Slash is 55. Actor Juan Pope is 53. Model-actress Stephanie Seymour is 52. Actress Charisma Carpenter is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sam Watters is 50. Country singer Alison Krauss is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dalvin DeGrate is 49. Rock musician Chad Gracey (Live) is 49. Actor-comedian Marlon Wayans is 48. Country singer Shannon Brown is 47. Actress Kathryn Hahn is 47. Retired MLB All-Star Nomar Garciaparra (NOH'-mar gar-CEE'-ah-par-rah) is 47. Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is 47. Actress Stephanie March is 46. Actor Shane McRae is 43. Country musician David Pichette is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michelle Williams is 40. Actor Paul Wesley is 38. Actress Krysta Rodriguez is 36. Actor Daniel Radcliffe is 31. Country musician Neil Perry is 30. Actress Lili Simmons is 27. Country singer Danielle Bradbery (TV: "The Voice") is 24.