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Service Notice: Douglas Neumann

Memorial services for Douglas Neumann, 58, of Arizona City, Arizona will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, July 31st at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Scott Neumann will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Douglas passed away November 7, 2019 at his home in Arizona City.

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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Chad Kampa of Allied Climate Professionals is installing one of the air conditioner units at Groton Area High School. This unit will cool Wanner's room, the art room and the teacher's lounge.

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#156 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Today looks a lot like yesterday. We have 60,300 new cases, a 1.4% increase to 4,364,000 cases in the US. This is our 14th-worse day for new cases, and our "worst-days" streak runs up to 29. A report from the White House Coronavirus Task Force places 21 states in its "red zone," meaning they've had more than 100 new cases per 100,000 population over the past week. The Task Force recommendation is that restrictions be tightened in those states, which are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin. Missouri, North Dakota, and Wisconsin are newly added to the list since the last report. The same report places only one state, Vermont, in its "green zone" with fewer than 10 new cases per 100,000. All other states are in the "yellow zone." It should be noted that new cases seem to be leveling off in the hot-spot states of California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida as they're shifting to another part of the country, putting Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee in the hot seat.

There have now been 149,678 deaths reported, 1230 of them today, a 0.8% increase. There have been many 1000-death days just lately. Montana has never until today reported more than three deaths in a single day; today, they reported four. Arkansas, Florida, and Oregon also set single-day records for deaths today.

Florida, while flattening its new-case numbers, reported a 34% increase in new case reports in children in a week with a test positivity rate of 14%, which is high. Increased cases could be a reflection of increased testing in children, but that positivity rate says we're also seeing more actual cases. Another indication this is a real increase in cases is hospitalization numbers for children, which are also growing—by 23% over the same week.

After yesterday's news that we have a couple of vaccine candidates entering phase 3 clinical trials, I was asked how long these phase 3 trials will take. Good question, but the answer is that we're not sure. Unlike phase 1 and phase 2 trials where there is a more defined schedule, phase 3 depends on people getting infected. That's because we need to know whether the vaccinated individuals in the trial become infected significantly less often than those who receive the placebo—that's how we'll know whether the vaccine is working—so there's going to be a lot of waiting around to see what happens.

The irony here is that, while we are all hoping that this rampant community spread we've been seeing slows down a lot, if that happens, it will take longer to figure out whether these vaccine candidates actually work. You need a baseline number of people in your trial to get infected in order to statistically test the efficacy of the vaccine; for this, it is helpful if the virus keeps spreading rapidly for a while yet. Where spread is slow, you wait longer, recruit and enroll additional people in your trial, or maybe chase the virus to new hot spots.

The statisticians have determined that, to demonstrate a vaccine has 60% effectiveness, we need around 150 infected subjects in the trial; we'll need more than that for higher levels of effectiveness. If the vaccine doesn't work, we'll get there sooner because the vaccinated people will be getting sick much more often; if the vaccinated people mostly don't get infected, then we'll have to take our 150 out of the control group, and so we'll be waiting longer. We know that not everyone walking around during a pandemic gets infected; and when we're taking precautions, a whole lot fewer of us get infected; so while we're encouraging everyone to wear a mask, distance, wash hands, and all of that—including trial participants—the more of this people do, the longer it's going to take to test these vaccines.

(Have you considered the position in which these researchers find themselves? As decent human beings, they can't exactly be delighted when people get sick, right? But during this trial, there also has to be some part of them that says, "Five more infections?? That puts us at 90. Hurray!" That would feel weird, wouldn't it?)

So these trial participants will go about their lives, they'll get their doses of vaccine on schedule, and we'll all wait right here for the results. Most experts figure we should have something by late November

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or December, but there are no guarantees.

A couple of studies just reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association shed some light on just what sorts of effects this virus has on the heart, and there's plenty to worry about here. The first evaluated cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) results, blood tests, and biopsies (examination of a tissue sample) for 100 recovered German patients with confirmed diagnoses to discover that 78% of them had cardiac involvement and 60% had ongoing myocardial (heart muscle) inflammation. There was no association between the occurrence of this inflammation and preexisting conditions, the severity of the Covid-19, or the overall course of the illness. So even those with very mild infections were showing up with myocardial involvement. This is not great news. The study also showed that MRI is useful in diagnosing the myocardial injury seen in some cases.

The second study examined autopsy findings for 39 German patients with confirmed diagnoses. It was looking for incidence of the virus in cardiac tissue, presence of inflammatory cells in the myocardium (heart muscle), and gene expression of a variety of cytokines (chemicals used in signaling between cells involved in an inflammatory response). Sixteen of these patients had virus in their heart tissue, but did not show signs of sudden inflammation in the heart. It is interesting that you can have the virus present in tissue in large numbers without developing clinical myocarditis. That means, even in people with mild or no symptoms of heart involvement, there can be heart damage. The authors indicate that the long-term consequences are not known at this time.

A question arises as we continue through the summer and face up to several mosquito-borne diseases making the rounds: What about Covid-19? Can that be transmitted via mosquito bite? Kansas State University researchers decided to try to answer that question, and this news is good. In Nature Scientific Reports, they report the virus is unable to replicate or even to persist in three common mosquitos, *Aedes aegypti*, *Aedes albopictur*, and *Culex quinquefasciatus*. And if the virus can't replicate in the mosquito, there's no way for the mosquito to act as a vector of infection. So while mosquito-borne encephalitis and West Nile disease are still a concern this summer, depending which part of the country you're in, you can cross Covid-19 off the list of things mosquitos can transmit.

I read a depressing story NPR did after interviewing Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota and one of the world's foremost experts on pandemics, Marc Lipsitch, professor of epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Jeffrey Engel, senior adviser for the Covid19 response for the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, Jennifer Nuzzo, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, and Caitlin Rivers of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Osterholm assessed our current situation in the US and made the case that, at this point, over most of the US, contact tracing and isolation or quarantine are not going to bring our current outbreak under control. The reasons for this are that we have too long a turnaround time for tests, we have insufficient public health infrastructure to follow up on the numbers of new cases we're seeing, and our social structures do not support people isolating or quarantining. Essentially, had we cranked up testing capacity, beefed up our public health systems, and provided the means for diagnosed cases and their contacts to stay home right from the start, we could have been in the game; but that ship has sailed by now.

He also suggested that social distancing and mask-wearing aren't going to do the job either. He believes all of this can be enormously helpful, but that these strategies in themselves will be insufficient with our current levels of community spread. "We will not get there unless we bring this virus level down again. And there's just no other way to do it literally but a kind of second lockdown. And this time let's get it right." Nuzzo reinforced this point, saying, "there is no viable alternative beyond shutdowns." Engel concurs that we're past the point that testing and contact tracing can successfully be deployed. Lipsitch adds, "In many places, I think, we're engaging in collective wishful thinking."

If we do the hard thing and then do the right things to be prepared, then the tried-and-true "test, trace, and isolate" can be used to hold the virus down until we have a more long-term solution.

Osterholm says, "When you have something like this happening, there's no way that traditional test-

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ing and tracing is going to have any meaningful impact. I liken it to trying to plant your petunias in the middle of a Category 5 hurricane.

None of these experts think we want to or can go back to the sort of lockdown we did back in the spring, but it does seem to be the consensus that we're going to have to endure some pain because we didn't get smart sooner. They do suggest outdoor spaces can remain open as long as we wear masks and maintain distance. So it looks as though the increased restrictions many governors and mayors are putting in place are the correct strategy. Be nice to get this done before winter comes and there won't be much hanging out outdoors, at least in places like the one where I live.

Shamarr Allen is a professional musician, a trumpeter—not the rich and famous sort of professional musician, rather the making-a-living kind. He grew up in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans with plenty of poverty and violence, and he says music saved him: "The trumpet was the first thing that showed me, 'Oh I really don't have to be here it's really a whole other world out here.'" So when he heard about a 9-year-old boy who was shot to death in the 7th Ward a few weeks ago, he decided he had to do something to help.

He had some spare trumpets at home and decided to offer a few of the youth of New Orleans a way out like the one he found. He offered on social media to trade one of his trumpets, even up, for a kid's gun. He made a deal with the police department that he would bring them the guns, no questions asked, so the kids would feel safe bringing them in, and he traded for trumpets along with contact information for local musicians who'd offered free music lessons. He's hoping the instrument will have the same kind of impact on these kids as it did on him.

As these things will, the project grew. When his trumpets were gone, he knew more kids wanted to participate, so he ran an online fund-raiser and collected donated instruments as well. He continues to make his trades with youth. He says, "So if I can create those little opportunities for one or two or three of them, they can actually bring that back to their neighborhood and do it all over again."

Turns out you don't have to change the whole world. Just change the part you can see right there in front of you. It's a start.

And stay well. I'll be back tomorrow.

SDDA Issues Statement on Unsolicited Seeds from China

PIERRE, S.D. – There have been nationwide reports of packages from China containing unsolicited seeds. Unsolicited seeds may contain invasive species, introduce diseases to native plants, or be harmful to livestock.

"The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) has received reports of unsolicited seeds being mailed to South Dakotans," said Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden. "We're not sure the intent behind this activity, but I urge the public to refrain from planting these seeds as invasive species can have devastating effects on South Dakota agriculture."

Anyone receiving unsolicited seeds in the mail should do the following:

Do not plant the seeds

Save the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label

Contact the SDDA at 605.773.5425 or email agmail@state.sd.us with the following information:

Name

Phone number

Date received

Number of packages

The SDDA continues to monitor the situation and work with the United States Department of Agriculture for further guidance.

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Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 22	July 23	June 24	June 25	July 26	July 27	July 28
Minnesota	47,457	47,961	48,721	49,488	50,291	51,153	51,803
Nebraska	23,190	23,486	23,818	24,174	24,395	24,618	24,899
Montana	2,712	2,813	2,910	3,039	3,260	3,342	3,381
Colorado	41,059	41,698	42,314	42,980	43,789	44,336	44,565
Wyoming	1,830	1,864	1,923	1,972	2,008	2,029	2,072
North Dakota	5207	5367	5493	5614	5736	5876	5986
South Dakota	8019	8077	8143	8200	8305	8395	8444
United States	3,902,233	3,971,343	4,038,864	4,114,817	4,178,730	4,234,140	4,294,770
US Deaths	142,073	143,193	144,305	145,565	146,463	146,935	148,056

Minnesota	+350	+504	+760	+ 773	+805	+871	+650
Nebraska	+343	+296	+332	+356	+221	+223	+281
Montana	+91	+101	+97	+129	+221	+82	+39
Colorado	+493	+639	+616	+455	+457	+547	+229
Wyoming	+40	+34	+59	+49	+36	+21	+43
North Dakota	+81	+160	+126	+121	+122	+140	+110
South Dakota	+76	+58	+66	+57	+105	+90	+49
United States	+70,828	+69,110	+67,521	+75,953	+63,913	+55,410	+60,630
US Deaths	+1,164	+1,120	+1,112	+1,260	+898	+472	+1,121

	July 29
Minnesota	52,281
Nebraska	25,157
Montana	3,475
Colorado	45,314
Wyoming	2,136
North Dakota	6141
South Dakota	8492
United States	4,352,304
US Deaths	149,260

Minnesota	+478
Nebraska	+258
Montana	+94
Colorado	+749
Wyoming	+64
North Dakota	+155
South Dakota	48
United States	+57,534
US Deaths	+1,204

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July 28th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Dewey County had 11 recovered cases, dropping their active cases down to 41. We lost Custer and gained Hamlin in the fully recovered category. No new deaths in South Dakota, but North Dakota recorded its 100th death. Those hospitalized in South Dakota remains under 50, now at 49. In the state there were 70 recoveries and 48 positive cases.

Brown County recorded six positive cases, the most in quite a while. With the one recovery, Brown County nets out five positive cases.

Stay safe out there!

Brown County:

Active Cases: +5 (25)

Recovered: +1 (358)

Total Positive: +6 (385)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (20)

Deaths: 2

Negative Tests: +33 (3946)

Percent Recovered: 93.0% (-1.2)

South Dakota:

Positive: +48 (8492 total)

Negative: +616 (98,999 total)

Hospitalized: +2 (808 total). 49 currently hospitalized (up 2 from yesterday)

Deaths: 0 (123 total)

Recovered: +70 (7474 total)

Active Cases: -22 (895)

Percent Recovered: 88.0 +.3

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding +1 (49)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Custer, Gained Hamlin): Bennett 5-5, Bon Homme 13-13, Campbell 1-1, Edmunds 10-10, Haakon 1-1, Hamlin 14-14, Hand 7-7, Hyde 3-3, Jackson 7-7, Jones 1-1, Perkins 4-4, Stanley 14-14, Sully 1-1.

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

Aurora: +1 recovered (2 active cases)

Beadle (9): 38 active cases

Bennett: Fully Recovered

Bon Homme: Fully Recovered

Brookings: +1 recovered (7 active cases)

Brown (2): +6 positive, +1 recovered (25 active cases)

Brule: +1 recovered (2 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +6 recovered (8 active cases)

Butte: 2 active cases

Campbell: Fully Recovered

Charles Mix: 39 active cases

Clark: 2 active cases

Clay: +1 positive, +2 recovered (13 active cases)

Codington: +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)

Corson: 3 active cases

Custer: +1 positive (1 active case)

Davison: 14 active cases

Day: +1 recovered (1 active case)

Deuel: 2 active cases

Dewey: +11 recovered (41 active cases)

Douglas: +1 recovered (3 active cases)

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Edmunds: Fully Recovered
 Fall River: 1 active case
 Faulk (1): 4 active cases
 Grant: 1 active case
 Gregory: +1 positive (2 active cases)
 Haakon: Fully Recovered
 Hamlin: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 14-14)
 Hand: Fully Recovered
 Hanson: +1 positive (5 active cases)
 Harding: No infections reported
 Hughes (3): +1 recovered (8 active cases)
 Hutchinson: 4 active cases
 Hyde: Fully Recovered
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered
 Jerauld (1): 1 active cases
 Jones: Fully Recovered
 Kingsbury: 3 active cases
 Lake (2): +2 positive, +3 recovered (20 active cases)
 Lawrence: +1 recovered (2 active cases)
 Lincoln (1): +8 positive, +4 recovered (82 active cases)
 Lyman (1): +1 recovered (7 active cases)
 Marshall: 1 active case)
 McCook (1): +1 positive (4 active cases)
 McPherson: 1 active case
 Meade (1): +2 recovered (9 active cases)
 Mellette: 11 active cases
 Miner: +1 positive (3 active cases)
 Minnehaha (62): +22 positive, +19 recovered (287 active cases)
 Moody: 4 active cases
 Oglala Lakota 23 active cases
 Pennington (24): +1 positive, +10 recovered (123 active cases)

Perkins: Fully Recovered
 Potter: 1 active case
 Roberts: +1 positive (6 active cases)
 Sanborn: 1 active case
 Spink: 2 active cases
 Stanley: Fully Recovered
 Sully: Fully Recovered
 Todd (4): 6 active cases
 Tripp: 1 active case
 Turner: -1 positive, -1 recovered (13 active cases)
 Union (2): +2 positive, +1 recovered (24 active cases)
 Walworth: 2 active cases
 Yankton (2): 11 active cases
 Ziebach: 6 active cases

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report
 COVID-19 Daily Report, July 28:

- 4,310 tests (1,680)
- 6,141 positives (+157)
- 4,957 recovered (+128)
- 100 deaths (+1)
- 1,084 active cases (+26)

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	721	8%
Black, Non-Hispanic	1008	12%
Hispanic	1186	14%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1367	16%
Other	847	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	3363	40%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	9
Brown	2
Buffalo	3
Butte	1
Faulk	1
Hughes	2
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	2
Lincoln	1
Lyman	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	62
Oglala Lakota	1
Pennington	26
Todd	4
Union	2
Yankton	2

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	37	35	347
Beadle	583	536	1765
Bennett	5	5	470
Bon Homme	13	13	703
Brookings	111	104	2401
Brown	385	358	3946
Brule	38	36	676
Buffalo	105	94	596
Butte	8	6	696
Campbell	1	1	79
Charles Mix	99	60	1134
Clark	16	14	364
Clay	107	94	1191
Codington	112	94	2552
Corson	24	21	367
Custer	12	11	721
Davison	81	67	2105
Day	21	20	568
Deuel	8	6	361
Dewey	53	12	1862
Douglas	16	13	378
Edmunds	10	10	377
Fall River	14	13	881
Faulk	26	21	164
Grant	18	17	652
Gregory	7	5	336
Haakon	1	1	276
Hamlin	14	14	575
Hand	7	7	255
Hanson	18	13	171
Harding	0	0	49
Hughes	83	72	1575
Hutchinson	24	20	844

Hyde	3	3	116
Jackson	7	6	409
Jerauld	39	37	261
Jones	1	1	50
Kingsbury	11	8	507
Lake	69	49	842
Lawrence	26	24	1900
Lincoln	497	413	5884
Lyman	84	76	859
Marshall	8	7	404
McCook	24	19	588
McPherson	6	5	195
Meade	67	57	1754
Mellette	23	12	299
Miner	13	10	236
Minnehaha	4058	3709	24569
Moody	28	24	580
Oglala Lakota	136	114	2840
Pennington	787	639	9831
Perkins	4	4	136
Potter	1	0	263
Roberts	64	58	1494
Sanborn	13	12	206
Spink	18	16	1053
Stanley	14	14	225
Sully	1	1	63
Todd	66	57	1822
Tripp	20	19	562
Turner	42	29	820
Union	180	154	1725
Walworth	18	16	531
Yankton	100	87	2844
Ziebach	7	1	268
Unassigned****	0	0	5427

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

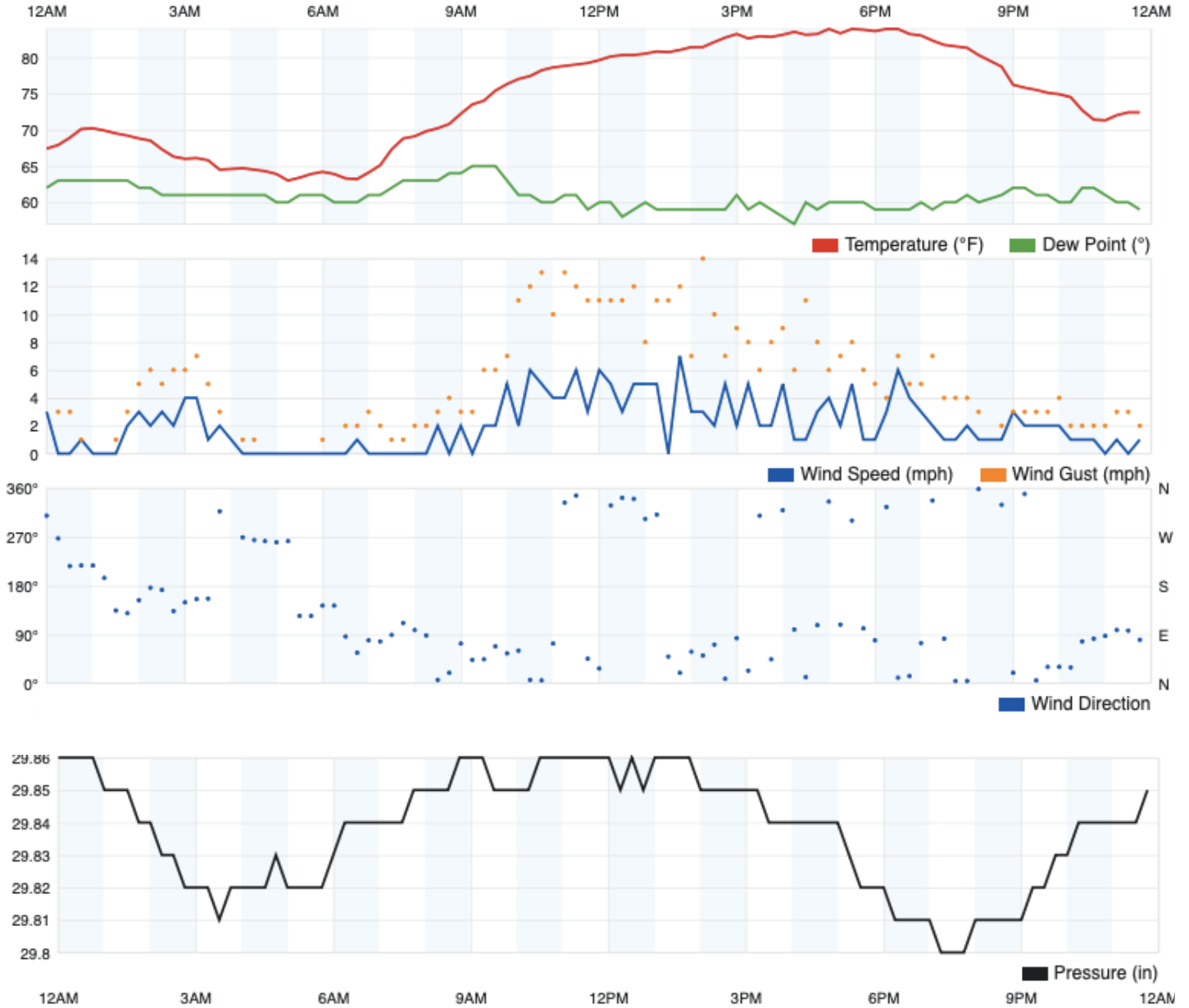
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	4149	63
Male	4343	60

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	1039	0
20-29 years	1785	1
30-39 years	1712	6
40-49 years	1323	7
50-59 years	1282	16
60-69 years	761	23
70-79 years	312	18
80+ years	278	52

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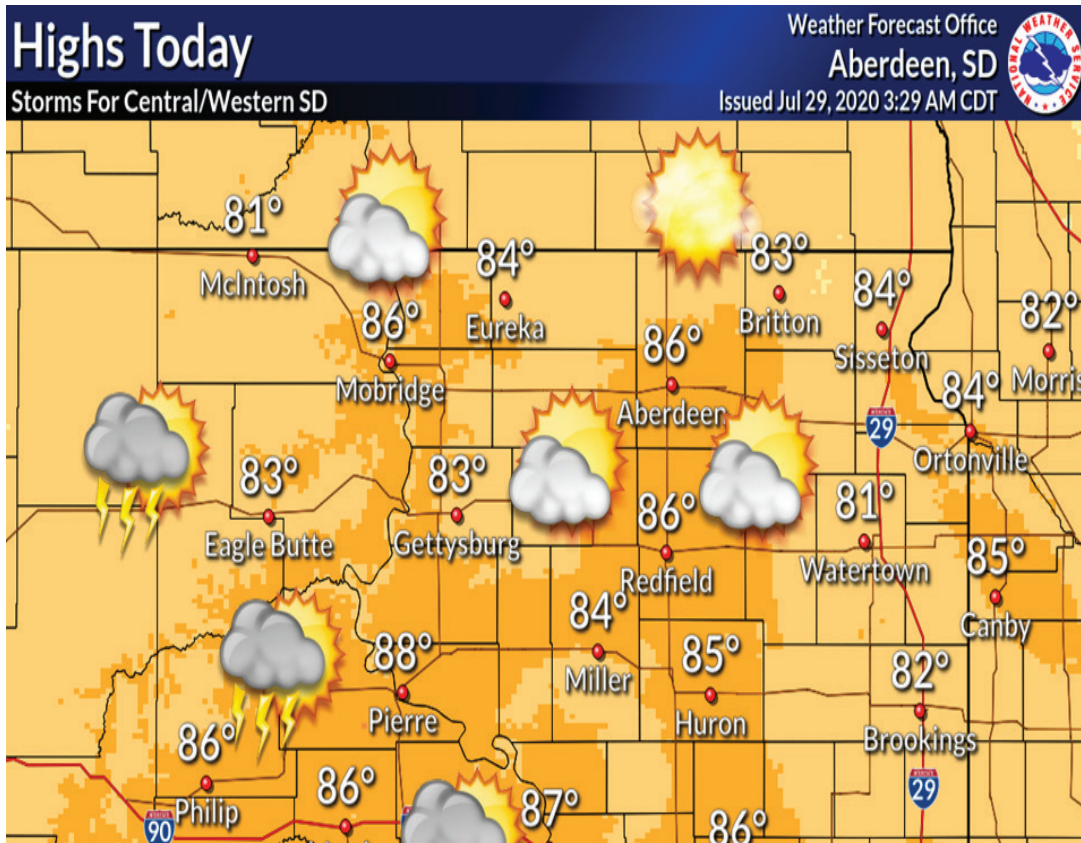
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
				
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 86 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 90 °F



Slow moving low pressure will continue to produce inclement weather west river into central South Dakota this afternoon and tonight. Storm chances diminish Thursday however. The northeast part of the state, and western Minnesota will remain dry.

Today in Weather History

July 29, 1896: A destructive hailstorm originated in the central part of Edmunds County near Ipswich, passing southeast. This storm destroyed crops and broke glass in many windows along a path to the eastern portions of Spink County.

July 29, 2003: Winds of 70 mph, to over 100 mph caused damage in and around Redfield east to Frankfort and south to Tulare. The winds and hail damaged many roofs, crops, outbuildings, downed power lines, and poles, and also downed many branches and trees. In Redfield, a trailer home with two occupants was rolled three to four times over 75 feet. The trailer home rolled over a pickup truck and damaged it. Much of the contents in the trailer home were damaged, and the trailer home itself was a total loss. The people inside the home received minor injuries. A garage was also blown apart in Redfield with the car damaged inside. At the grain elevator in Redfield, several vehicle windows were broke out by airborne sand and rocks. A street light was ripped from the concrete in Redfield. East of Redfield, a 70-foot silo of over 70 tons was crumbled to the ground, and a large tractor shed was blown apart with damage to the contents. Wind equipment by Redfield measured winds at 106 mph before the power went out.

July 29, 2006: Record heat and high humidity affected central, north central, and northeast South Dakota for the end of July. Heat indices rose to 105 to 115 degrees across the area. Record high temperatures were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, Timber Lake, and Aberdeen. Pierre rose to 111 degrees on each of the three days. Mobridge rose to 111 degrees on the 28th and 112 degrees on the 30th. Several record highs of 108 and 109 degrees were set at Timber Lake and Kennebec in the three-day period. Aberdeen set a record high of 106 on the 30th.

1958: The U.S. Congress passes legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a civilian agency responsible for coordinating America's activities in space.

1960: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds, possibly as high as 100 mph to central Oklahoma. Eight planes and several hangars were damaged at Wiley Post Airfield, while two aircraft and additional hangars were damaged at Will Rogers World Airport. The winds caused seven injuries in the area, including two youths who were injured by flying debris.

2004: A record-setting flash flood occurred over part of the Greenville, South Carolina, during the morning hours. Six to eight inches of rain fell just east of Berea, a northwestern suburb, which caused the Reedy River through downtown Greenville crested 9 feet above flood stage. This crest was the highest level since 1908.

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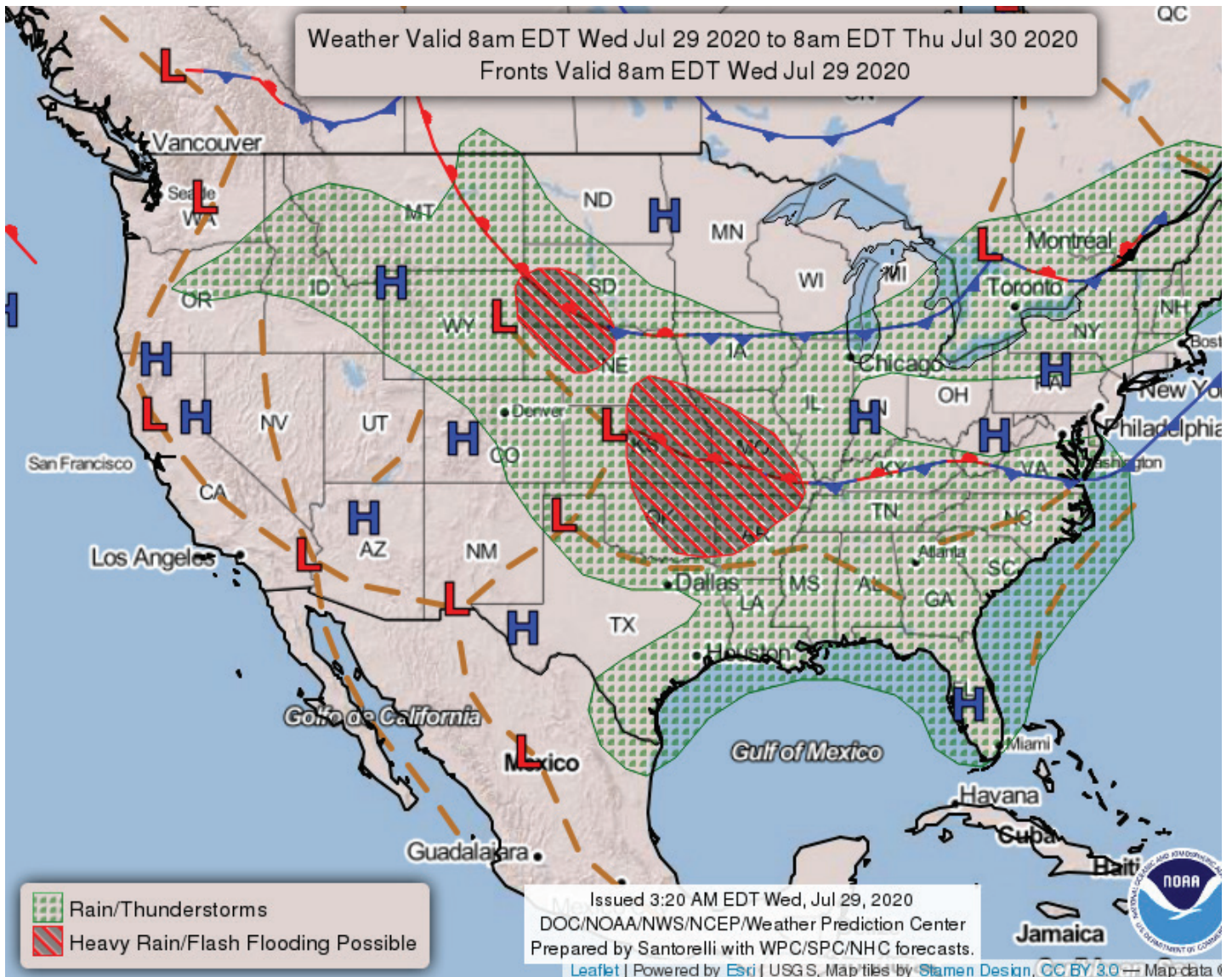
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 84 °F at 4:10 PM
Low Temp: 63 °F at 5:12 AM
Wind: 14 mph at 2:06 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1933, 1917
Record Low: 42° in 1914, 1899
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July.: 2.77
Precip to date in July.: 2.19
Average Precip to date: 13.61
Precip Year to Date: 10.51
Sunset Tonight: 9:05 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:16 a.m.





FORGIVENESS

It was the new pastor's first opportunity to visit the sixth grade boys' Sunday school class. He knew the lesson they were about to study was on forgiveness. He looked around the class and recognized Danny who lived in his neighborhood.

"Danny," he said, looking at him and smiling, "do you think you could forgive a boy if he hit you?"

"Oh, yes Sir," he said proudly, "I know I could - especially if he was bigger than me."

It's interesting to think about whom we are willing to forgive or not forgive. Perhaps we even have an established criterion. It seems as though there are some individuals whom we forgive easily and quickly - no matter what they have said or done to us. Then, there are some we do not want to forgive - now or ever - some whom we want to "get even" no matter how long it takes.

How unlike Jesus. When He was teaching His disciples to pray, He said, "...forgive us our sins just as we have forgiven - not "might" or "should" - but, those who have sinned against us.

Jesus offered no criteria when it comes to forgiving. Forgiving others is the sign of a heart that understands, accepts, and appreciates the forgiveness of God. If we are slow or refuse to forgive others, we do not understand the true meaning of forgiveness and do not realize all that God has done for us. The more we understand God's forgiveness, the more forgiving we will be.

Prayer: We know, Father, that when we forgive others we have an understanding of Your forgiveness and mercy. May we forgive others as You have forgiven us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. Matthew 6:12

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

17-20-27-31-34, Mega Ball: 19, Megaplier: 4

(seventeen, twenty, twenty-seven, thirty-one, thirty-four; Mega Ball: nineteen; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$126 million

Governor pushes schools to remain open, disparages masks

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Tuesday said she will push for schools to stay open this fall, but disparaged any requirements for children to wear masks in classrooms.

As parents and school boards cautiously weigh the risks and benefits of schools reopening, the Republican governor emphasized the educational and social upside of a return to in-person learning, citing research that COVID-19 poses less of a threat to children. But Noem appears selective in the research she uses for her decisions, pointing to studies that indicate a low health risk from the virus, while downplaying scientific findings that show masks could slow the spread of the disease.

"We cannot sacrifice the educational, physical, emotional and social well-being of our kids. The risks of COVID are too minimal for us to make sure that they're all going to stay home," Noem said at a news conference at John Harris Elementary in Sioux Falls

Noem said forcing children to wear masks is impractical and may lead to infections spreading if children touch their faces more frequently. Her stance on masks defies a push from the South Dakota State Medical Association to require face masks in schools.

The governor cast doubt on a broad consensus in the medical community, including from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that wearing a mask could prevent the spread of the coronavirus, saying there is "very mixed research and the science has not proven what's effective and what isn't."

Meanwhile, CDC guidance on reopening schools appears to support Noem's assertion that the benefits of in-person schooling outweigh the health risks. So far, fewer school-aged children have died of COVID-19 than flu-related deaths during each of the last five flu seasons, and "studies suggest that COVID-19 transmission among children in schools may be low," the agency said.

The governor has repeatedly said she is committed to making decisions based on science. When a reporter asked her how she prioritizes the barrage of research to inform her decisions, Noem said: "I am reading it all. And that is why we've been challenged because it's been all over the map."

The governor said it's clear that children should be in school. Some school administrators have reported as many as 30% of students not participating in online learning, she said, while the lack of contact with classmates particularly affects vulnerable and low-income children.

Noem said the case for children being in school is so compelling that she is not even considering recommendations that schools close if there is a resurgence of the virus.

"I believe that we've learned so much about this virus and how to deal with it that we're in a situation where that's not something we're looking at today," the governor said.

The South Dakota Education Association, which lobbies for teachers, said in a statement that it agrees with Noem that in-person learning is preferable. It urged her to allot money for more school counselors to help students handle trauma related to the pandemic.

South Dakota schools have received \$47 million in federal coronavirus funding. Noem said she expected

more to come from the state and federal governments.

As for masks, that decision will remain with local school boards. It will likely leave a patchwork of local regulations similar to how cities enacted business restrictions during the onset of the pandemic in March.

South Dakota Democratic party chair Randy Seiler released a statement after Noem's news conference, saying schools have had "a complete lack of guidance from our governor."

He said, "Requiring masks and social distancing should have been the minimum model required from both the governor's and State Health Department's office."

Some school districts are requiring face coverings, others are hoping students and families follow recommendations to wear them. The state's largest school district in Sioux Falls said it plans to have an "expectation" to wear face coverings but that it won't enforce a politically heated mandate.

Meanwhile, Jessica Peterson, the 5th-grade teacher who hosted Noem's news conference in her classroom, had her husband build plastic barriers at the tables where students will be sitting in a few weeks. She said she's just trying to stop the pandemic from entering her classroom.

COVID-19 closes popular youth summer camp in Black Hills

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — The coronavirus has shut down a popular Christian youth summer camp in the Black Hills.

The South Dakota Department of Health confirms several cases of COVID-19 linked to Camp Judson, west of Keystone, caused it to cancel camps.

Health department spokesman Derrick Haskins said they will continue to investigate the outbreak and notify people who had close contact with those who tested positive.

The First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, which has ties to Camp Judson, said in a Facebook post that three campers, three counselors and the camp director had tested positive for COVID-19, the Argus Leader reported.

The outbreak comes just a month before many public schools in South Dakota are set to open for in-person teaching and learning on Aug. 27.

Asia Today: China, SKorea, Japan see upticks in virus cases

BEIJING (AP) — China reported more than 100 new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday as the country continues to battle an outbreak in Xinjiang.

The 101 new cases was China's highest daily increase in weeks. The northwestern region of Xinjiang accounted for 89, with another eight in the northeastern province of Liaoning and one in Beijing. Another three cases were brought from outside the country by returning Chinese citizens.

Outside of Xinjiang, the virus has been largely contained in mainland China with the death toll from COVID-19 remaining at 4,634 among 84,060 cases registered since the pandemic first emerged from the central city of Wuhan late last year.

Hospitals are treating 482 people for the disease, with another 274 in isolation while being monitored for showing signs of infection or for having tested positive for the virus without displaying symptoms.

Xinjiang's outbreak has centered on the region's capital and largest city of Urumqi, where authorities have isolated some communities, restricted public transport and ordered widespread testing.

In other developments around the Asia-Pacific region:

— Vietnam's government said Wednesday it is stepping up measures against the coronavirus as the country's first domestic outbreak in more than three months continues to spread. Starting from a hospital in the popular beach city of Da Nang, 30 cases have been confirmed over the past five days, including an additional eight on Wednesday. "The outbreak this time has a high risk of spreading to other big cities and provinces around Da Nang," Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said at the government's daily COVID-19 meeting. State media also reported suspected cases in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Initial tests of at least three people who returned from Da Nang were positive for the coronavirus, but still need to be confirmed. In Hanoi, health officials on Wednesday disinfected the residence and work place of a suspected case, a

man who recently returned from Da Nang after a family vacation. The alley leading to his house and the pizza restaurant where he works were cordoned off and his contacts were quarantined and tested for the virus. The government estimates that tens of thousands of domestic tourists cut short their vacations and left Da Nang after the report of the outbreak there.

— As Japan battles a surge in coronavirus cases, some areas may be running out of isolation facilities to monitor infected people. The health ministry reported 981 new cases Tuesday and three more deaths from COVID-19, raising the cumulative toll to 1,000 people. Most of the new cases were domestic, while 13 were found at airports from incoming flights, it said. Chief government spokesman Yoshihide Suga acknowledged some areas may be running out of room at places like hotels, where infected people can be housed and monitored away from other people and prevent the spread of the virus. The national government stood ready to help regional governments to make sure people can stay in such facilities, Suga said Wednesday.

— South Korea reported 48 additional cases, maintaining an uptick in new infections. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday the additional figures took the country's total to 14,251 with 300 deaths. Fourteen of the new patients were locally infected while the rest 34 came from overseas. South Korea has been reporting roughly 20-60 new cases every day since it eased its strict social distancing rules in early May.

— Australia's hard-hit Victoria state recorded its lowest daily tally of COVID-19 cases in nine days while the state premier expressed hope it was the start of a downward trend. Victoria reported 295 new cases and nine deaths, seven of which were in aged care homes that are bearing the brunt of the pandemic. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said "trends are not made in one day" but that he hoped the decline continued. The outbreak has been concentrated in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city, which is halfway through a six-week lockdown.

— New Zealand's government says it will rush through new laws to allow some people to be charged for their border quarantine costs. New Zealand hasn't had any community transmission of the virus for three months, and everybody who enters the country is required to spend two weeks isolated at a hotel. The cost to taxpayers has already amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars. Under the new law, adults who leave or enter the country for short holidays or business trips will be required to pay about \$2,100 toward their quarantine costs. But there will be many exceptions to the new fees, and officials acknowledge it will affect less than 10% of travelers.

Israeli artist takes aim at Netanyahu with life-size statue

By ODED BALILTY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Residents of the city of Tel Aviv woke up Wednesday to a jarring sight: a pop-up exhibit depicting a life-size statue of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu enjoying a lavish meal by himself at a sprawling table in a mock re-enactment of the Last Supper.

The installation, displayed in Tel Aviv's central Rabin Square, is the latest twist in a summer of demonstrations against Netanyahu. In recent weeks, thousands of people have taken to the streets, calling on Netanyahu to resign, angry over what they say is his bungled response to an economic crisis caused by the coronavirus and depicting him as a hedonist out of touch with common people.

Many critics accuse him of trampling over Israel's democratic traditions as he clings to power while on trial for corruption charges and pushes for emergency powers under the guise of battling the coronavirus crisis.

In an interview earlier this week from his studio outside Tel Aviv, artist Itay Zalait said the installation, made of polymer materials and painted in lively colors, is meant to symbolize the "last supper of the Israeli democracy."

In a Facebook post, Netanyahu denounced the display, saying there was no place for incitement and death threats against him, "including the disgraceful threat of crucifixion today in Tel Aviv."

The 10-meter (11-yard) long table is filled with platters of juicy fruit, wads of cash, empty bottles of liquor and a cigar — a jab at the expensive gifts Netanyahu is accused of improperly accepting from wealthy associates. Netanyahu, appearing pudgy and disheveled in a dark suit and red tie, is seen digging into a

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large cake — alone amid 12 empty chairs.

"You have the prime minister of Israel sitting in the center of the table and grabbing and sucking all this rich food to himself. Now he's practically finished this meal and he's now at the stage of the dessert, which is referring to the last minutes of time we can do something to save Israeli democracy," Zalait said.

Zalait said he found the imagery particularly poignant at a time when unemployment has skyrocketed and tens of thousands of families are struggling because of the coronavirus restrictions that have battered Israel's economy.

The message resonated with Tel Aviv resident Sharon Toval.

"Everyone hopes that this is really Bibi's last supper. The corruption and disgust are suggested by the disgusting abundance of so much food with meat and milk and cream and sweets, Toval said.

It's not the first time Zalait has taken to life-size art to express his opinion. Two years ago, he erected a statue of Israel's then-culture minister, Miri Regev, wearing a long white dress and staring into a full-length mirror. The depiction was meant to protest Regev's calls for legislation requiring artists to show "loyalty" to the state.

Before that, he built a golden statue of Netanyahu to mock what he said was the idolatry of many Israelis toward the longtime leader.

Regev, currently the country's transportation minister, called Zalait's latest public exhibit incitement to violence.

"Is someone suggesting that the prime minister's future be that of the diner at the Last Supper?" she wrote on Twitter. "It's only a matter of time until there is an exhibit of the gallows and a rope."

Lawmaker Tamar Zandberg of the leftist Meretz party responded to Regev and others by saying that rather than condemning a work of art, it would be more appropriate for them to denounce the violence their supporters have directed recently against peaceful protesters on the streets.

Very different, symbolic hajj in Saudi Arabia amid virus

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Muslim pilgrims, donning face masks and moving in small groups after days in isolation, began arriving to Islam's holiest site in Mecca on Wednesday for the start of a historically unique and scaled-down hajj experience reshaped by the coronavirus pandemic.

The hajj is one of Islam's most important requirements, performed once in a lifetime. It follows a route the Prophet Muhammad walked nearly 1,400 years ago and is believed to ultimately trace the footsteps of the prophets Ibrahim and Ismail, or Abraham and Ishmael as they are named in the Bible.

The hajj, both physically and spiritually demanding, is intended to bring about greater humility and unity among Muslims.

Rather than standing and praying shoulder-to-shoulder in a sea of people from different walks of life, pilgrims this year are social distancing — standing apart and moving in small groups of 20 to limit exposure and the potential transmission of the coronavirus.

The pilgrimage is a journey that Muslims traditionally experience with relatives. In past years, it was common to see men pushing their elderly parents around on wheelchairs in order to help them complete the hajj, and parents carrying children on their backs. The communal feeling of more than 2.5 million people from around the world — Shiite, Sunni and other Muslim sects — praying together, eating together and repenting together has long been part of what makes hajj both a challenging and rewarding experience like none other.

This year, however, pilgrims are eating prepackaged meals alone in their hotel rooms and praying at a distance from one another. The Saudi government is covering all the pilgrims' expenses of travel, accommodation, meals and healthcare.

While the experience is starkly different, it remains an opportunity for pilgrims to wipe clean past sins and deepen their faith.

Ammar Khaled, a 29-year-old Indian pilgrim who was born and raised in Saudi Arabia, said although he's

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alone on the hajj, he's praying for those he loves.

"Words aren't enough to explain how blessed I feel and how amazing the arrangements have been," Khaled said. "They have taken every possible precaution."

For the first time in Saudi history, the government barred Muslims from entering the kingdom from abroad to perform the hajj in order to limit exposure of the coronavirus.

Instead, as few as 1,000 people already residing in Saudi Arabia were selected to take part in the hajj this year. Two-thirds are foreign residents from among the 160 different nationalities that would have normally been represented at the hajj. One-third are Saudi security personnel and medical staff.

The pilgrims, who were selected after applying through an online portal, were required to be between the ages of 20 and 50, with no terminal illnesses and showing no symptoms of the virus. Preference was given to those who have not performed the hajj before.

Pilgrims were tested for the coronavirus, given wristbands that connect to their phones and monitor their movement and were required to quarantine at home and in their hotel rooms in Mecca ahead of Wednesday's start of the hajj. They will also be required to quarantine for a week after the hajj concludes on Sunday.

Mecca was sealed off for months ahead of the hajj, and the smaller year-round Umrah pilgrimage was suspended earlier this year, with pilgrims already in the city at that time flown back home.

International media were not permitted to cover the hajj from Mecca this year. Instead, Saudi government broadcast live footage from the Grand Mosque on Wednesday showing limited numbers of pilgrims, moving several feet apart, circling the cube-shaped Kaaba in the first rituals of the hajj.

The Kaaba represents the metaphorical house of God and the oneness of God in Islam. Observant Muslims around the world face toward the Kaaba during their five daily prayers.

During the hajj, women forgo makeup and perfume and wear loose-fitting clothing and a head covering in order to focus inwardly. Men dress in seamless, white terrycloth garments meant to emphasize the equality of all Muslims and prevent wealthier pilgrims from differentiating themselves with more elaborate garments.

During the first rites of hajj, Muslims circle the Kaaba counter-clockwise seven times while reciting supplications to God, then walk between two hills where Ibrahim's wife, Hagar, is believed to have run as she searched for water for her dying son before God brought forth a well that runs to this day.

This year, pilgrims will only be able to drink water from this Zamzam well that is packaged in plastic bottles. Pebbles for casting away evil that are usually picked up by pilgrims along hajj routes will be sterilized and bagged ahead of time.

Pilgrims have also been given their own prayer rugs and special attire to wear during the hajj laced with silver nano technology that Saudi authorities say helps kill bacteria and makes clothes water resistant. They were also provided with umbrellas to shield them from the sun, towels, soaps, sanitizers and other essentials, as well as online sessions in different language about what to expect on the hajj and the regulations in place.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia needs to put these measures in place so we can learn from this experience," said Saudi infectious disease expert and World Health Organization official, Dr. Hanan Balkhy.

"The kingdom and the world will learn together what are the best ways to mitigate transmission during these types of events," said Balkhy, assistant director-general for the antimicrobial resistance division at WHO's headquarters in Geneva who has worked on past hajj missions.

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Can I get a job? Wife tries it all for nursing home reunion

By KELLI KENNEDY Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — One hundred and 14 days. That's how long Mary Daniel went without seeing her husband after the coronavirus banned visitors from his nursing home, separating the couple for the first time since he was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's seven years ago.

When the Jacksonville nursing home locked down in March, Daniel didn't think it would last long. The 57-year-old, who runs a medical billing company, promised Steve she would not leave his side after his life-altering diagnosis at the age of 59.

But the 66-year-old thrived at Rosecastle at Deerwood and became known as the mayor of the facility, sitting at the front desk and hugging every visitor and delivery person. They settled into a peaceful routine. Every night, Mary headed to the facility, changed Steven into his pajamas and the two cuddled in bed and watched TV.

On March 11, she got a call from the home forbidding her from returning as nursing homes across the state went on lockdown to prevent the virus from spreading among its vulnerable patients.

Undaunted, she asked about taking a volunteer position. When that didn't work, she offered to bring in the therapy dogs she raises for wounded veterans into the facility for the residents. Still, no.

"Can I get a job?" she asked with sincerity, marking each day apart from her husband with growing unease. "I'm throwing all these things out."

She watched as people across the country found creative ways to connect with loved ones now locked away, but it's different with dementia patients. Steve doesn't complete sentences, so video chats were useless.

She tried two "window visits," but Steve cried both times. He didn't understand why she was so far away. It was torture and she vowed not to return until she could hold him. Dementia patients decline more quickly without human touch, she said.

She emailed the governor every day, along with anyone else who would listen as the days stretched into months. She joined a support group on Facebook, "Caregivers for Compromise Because Isolation Kills Too," and has become an advocate.

"My husband is 5 miles away from me, but I can't get to him," she said. "It's like he's died, but it's worse than him dying because he's not at peace."

Then out of the blue, the phone rang three weeks ago. It was the corporate office at Steve's nursing home. They had an opening for a part-time dishwasher. Was she interested?

She jumped at the chance, and went through a drug test and 20 hours of video training on hazardous waste disposal and food safety, knowing Steve was on the other side.

Kelley Withrow, the facility's executive director, stressed that the visitation ban is necessary but acknowledged it's "been hard on families and residents alike, so we felt creative solutions were necessary, especially in the case of Mary and Steve."

Now, twice a week Daniel finishes her office job, heads to the nursing home kitchen and scrubs dirty

dishes for 90 minutes. She said she's "doing everything in my power to get to my husband, because he needs me to touch him."

She worries for the families still separated.

On Tuesday, Gov. Ron DeSantis said he was considering loosening the state's ban on visitations at nursing homes for loved ones who can take a rapid-response test for the virus before entering the facility.

"There's a hopelessness; there's a helplessness," Daniel said. "Hundreds of thousands of people are feeling that right now. They're dying alone, and it's tragic. It's bordering on cruelty at this point."

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

Holocaust survivors urge Facebook to remove denial posts

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Holocaust survivors around the world are lending their voices to a campaign launched Wednesday targeting Facebook head Mark Zuckerberg, urging him to take action to remove denial of the Nazi genocide from the social media site.

Coordinated by the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the #NoDenyingIt campaign uses Facebook itself to make the survivors' entreaties to Zuckerberg heard, posting one video per day urging him to remove Holocaust-denying groups, pages and posts as hate speech. Videos will also be posted on Facebook-owned Instagram, as well as Twitter.

Zuckerberg raised the ire of the Claims Conference and others with comments in 2018 to the tech website Recode that posts denying the Nazi annihilation of 6 million Jews would not necessarily be removed. He said he did not think Holocaust deniers were "intentionally" getting it wrong, and that as long as posts were not calling for harm or violence, even offensive content should be protected.

After an outcry, Zuckerberg, who is Jewish himself, clarified that while he personally found "Holocaust denial deeply offensive" he believed that "the best way to fight offensive bad speech is with good speech."

Since then, Facebook representatives have met with the Claims Conference but the group, which negotiates compensation payments from Germany for Holocaust victims, says Zuckerberg himself has refused to. The goal of the campaign is to get him to sit down with Holocaust survivors so that they can personally tell him their stories and make their case that denial violates Facebook's hate speech standards and should be removed.

"In Germany or in Austria people go to prison if they deny the Holocaust because they know it's a lie, it's libel," said Eva Schloss, an Auschwitz survivor who today lives in London and has recorded a message for Zuckerberg.

"How can somebody really doubt it? Where are the 6 million people? There are tens of thousands of photos taken by the Nazis themselves. They were proud of what they were doing. They don't deny it, they know they did it."

Schloss' family escaped before the war from Vienna to the Netherlands, where she became friends with Anne Frank, who lived nearby in Amsterdam and was the same age. After the German army overran the country, the Schloss and Frank families went into hiding but were discovered by the Nazis separately in 1944, the Schloss family betrayed by a Dutch woman.

Schloss and her mother survived Auschwitz, but her father and brother were killed, while Otto Frank, Anne's father, was the only survivor of his immediate family and married Schloss' mother after the war. Otto Frank published his daughter's now-famous diary so that the world could hear her story. Schloss has written about her own story, is a frequent speaker and would like to tell Zuckerberg of her own experience.

"It was just every day, the chimneys were smoking, the smell of burning flesh," the 91-year-old told The Associated Press, adding that she had been separated from her mother and assumed she had been gassed.

"Can you imagine that feeling? I was 15-years-old and I felt alone in the world and it was terrible."

Facebook said in a statement that it takes down Holocaust denial posts in countries where it is illegal,

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like Germany, France and Poland, while in countries where it is not an offense, like the U.S. and Britain, it is carefully monitored to determine whether it crosses the line into what is allowed.

"We take down any post that celebrates, defends, or attempts to justify the Holocaust," Facebook told the AP. "The same goes for any content that mocks Holocaust victims, accuses victims of lying about the atrocities, spews hate, or advocates for violence against Jewish people in any way. Posts and articles that deny the Holocaust often violate one or more of these standards and are removed from Facebook."

Earlier this month, a two-year audit of Facebook's civil rights record found "serious setbacks" that have marred the social network's progress on matters such as hate speech, misinformation and bias. Zuckerberg is one of four CEOs of big tech firms who face a grilling by the U.S. Congress on Wednesday over the way they dominate the market.

More than 500 companies on July 1 began an advertising boycott intended to pressure Facebook into taking a stronger stand against hate speech. The Claims Conference decided to launch its own campaign after concluding the boycott "doesn't seem to be making a dent," said Greg Schneider, the Claims Conference's executive vice president.

Several Holocaust denial groups have been identified on Facebook by the New York-based Anti-Defamation League, some hidden and most private.

On one, "Real World War 2 History," administrators are clearly aware of the fine line between what is and isn't allowed, listing among its rules that members must "avoid posts that feature grotesque cartoons that FB censors can construe as racist or hateful."

Another page, the "Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust," features regular posts of revisionist videos, including one from February in which the commentator says the Zyklon B gas used to kill Jews in Nazi death camps was actually employed to kill the lice that spread typhus, claiming "this chemical was used to improve the inmates' health and reduce, not increase, camp mortality."

Though not overtly advocating attacks, such postings are meant to "perpetuate a myth, anti-Semitic tropes that somehow Jews made this up in order to gain sympathy or political advantage" and could easily incite violence, Schneider said.

"The United Nations has acknowledged that Holocaust denial is a form of anti-Semitism, and of course anti-Semitism is hate speech," he said.

For Charlotte Knobloch, a prominent German Jewish leader who survived the Holocaust in hiding as a young girl and is participating in the campaign, it is particularly important for social media platforms to be vigilant about preventing denial because many in younger generations rely on them for information.

"They have a particular responsibility," the 87-year-old told the AP.

5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **US: RUSSIA BEHIND DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN** Russian operatives are helping direct the spread of disinformation through websites that have published on the coronavirus pandemic, American politics and international affairs, U.S. officials tell the AP.

2. **'IT'S A TSUNAMI'** Doctors who faced the first coronavirus onslaught reached across oceans and language barriers in an unprecedented effort to advise colleagues trying to save lives in the dark.

3. **GOP'S JOBLESS BENEFIT PLAN COULD MEAN DELAYS** State officials across the U.S. say Senate Republicans' proposed slashing of a federally funded boost in unemployment benefits could delay payments for weeks or even months.

4. **WHO SKIPPED FAREWELL TO JOHN LEWIS** Donald Trump has long harbored resentments toward the civil rights icon, who called him an illegitimate president because of Russia's efforts to help him win.

5. **HAJJ TAKES A VERY DIFFERENT LOOK** Muslim pilgrims begin arriving to Islam's holiest site in Mecca for the start of a historically unique and scaled-down hajj experience reshaped by the coronavirus pandemic.

Iran launches underground ballistic missiles during exercise

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched underground ballistic missiles as part of an exercise involving a mock-up aircraft carrier in the Strait of Hormuz, state television reported Wednesday.

It was the latest barrage in a drill that the previous day saw two American bases temporarily go on alert over the launches.

Drone footage captured by the Guard showed two missiles blasting out from covered positions in what appeared to be a desert plateau in central Iran, with debris flying up in the air in their wake.

The launches took place on Wednesday, said Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Guard's aerospace division. He told state television it was first time the Guard had done this, though the paramilitary force is known to have vast underground bases hiding its ballistic missile arsenal.

Separately, drones targeted the bridge of the fake aircraft carrier, according to the state TV report. The broadcaster did not immediately air footage of the launches or the drone attack, nor did it identify the missiles used in the drill.

However, the drill clearly meant to send a message to the United States.

A semiofficial news agency close to the Guard published a graphic overnight that photoshopped the image of an American carrier into the shape of a casket with a set of crosshairs on it, with a caption quoting Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pledging to seek revenge for the U.S. drone strike that killed a top Iranian general in January.

The drill — and the American response to it — underlined the lingering threat of military conflict between Iran and the U.S. after a series of escalating incidents last year led to the January drone strike. Tehran responded to that strike by firing ballistic missiles that wounded dozens of American forces in Iraq.

While the coronavirus pandemic has engulfed both Iran and the U.S. for months, there has been a growing confrontation as America argues to extend a yearslong U.N. weapons embargo on Tehran that is due to expire in October. A recent incident over Syria involving an American jet fighter approaching an Iranian passenger plane also has renewed tensions.

Iranian commandos fast-roped down from a helicopter onto the replica in the footage aired Tuesday from the exercise called "Great Prophet 14." Anti-aircraft guns opened fire on a target drone near the port city of Bandar Abbas.

State television footage also showed a variety of missiles being fired from fast boats, trucks, mobile launchers and a helicopter, some targeting the fake carrier. A commander said the Guard, a force answerable only to Khamenei, planned to fire "long-range ballistic missiles" as well during the drill that continued Wednesday.

Ballistic missile fire detected from the drill resulted in American troops being put on alert at Al-Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and Al-Udeid Air Base, the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command in Qatar, the military said. Troops sought cover during that time.

"The incident lasted for a matter of minutes and an all clear was declared after the threat ... had passed," said U.S. Army Maj. Beth Riordan, a Central Command spokeswoman.

Both bases are hundreds of kilometers (miles) away from where Iran put the replica aircraft carrier.

Al-Dhafra also is temporarily home to five French-built Rafale fighter jets on their way to India for that country's air force.

Other footage from the exercise aired by Iran's state television showed fast boats encircling the mock-up carrier, kicking up white waves in their wake. While Iran's naval forces are dwarfed by the U.S. Navy, its commanders practice so-called "swarm" tactics aimed at overwhelming the U.S. carriers that pass through the strait on their way in and out of the Persian Gulf.

It wasn't immediately clear if all the footage was from Tuesday, as one overhead surveillance image that appeared to be shot by a drone bore Monday's date. The exercise had been expected as satellite photos

released Monday showed the fake carrier being moved into place by a tugboat.

A black-and-white satellite photo taken Tuesday by Colorado-based firm Maxar Technologies showed damage to the replica's bow and several of its fake jet fighters.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Trump on his own yet again as he skips farewell to Lewis

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One by one, they passed through the grand Capitol Rotunda to pay respects to the civil rights icon.

It was a solemn display of unity as congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle offered praise for longtime Georgia Rep. John Lewis. There was House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who called Lewis the "conscience of the Congress"; and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who praised him as a model of courage. Vice President Mike Pence and former Vice President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, came as well.

But missing was a man whose absence spoke volumes: President Donald Trump.

"No, I won't be going," Trump told reporters when asked whether he planned to pay his respects to Lewis, the first Black lawmaker to lie in state in the Rotunda. Lewis' body was later moved to the steps on the Capitol's east side for a public viewing.

Trump's absence was another break in convention for a president who has broken so many norms, and one that underscored his separation from much of Washington society, along with his dismal relationship with Democrats on Capitol Hill — especially members of color.

Trump had long harbored resentments toward Lewis.

A spokeswoman for Lewis, who died of pancreatic cancer, brushed off any talk of politics when asked whether the Lewis family had any communication with the White House about whether Trump should attend, calling it "irrelevant."

"I would say that this is not a political event," said Brenda Jones, the congressman's longtime spokeswoman. "It's our time to pay respect to a man who did a great deal for this country. And that's all we want it to be."

Jones added that "people can pay their respect in a lot of different ways. ... He has that right. Let him to do what he wants to do. And I'm sure that John Lewis would be supportive of it."

The White House did not respond to questions about why the president did not attend. But Trump's off-the-cuff declaration Monday afternoon that he wouldn't go caught some White House aides off guard, according to two administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose private conversations.

While the chances of Trump going were always slim, there had been preliminary conversations in the West Wing about Trump potentially making a visit on Tuesday. Trump had previously expressed a reluctance to publicly mourn Lewis because he remained angry about the congressman's past criticisms.

While the president's lingering grudge played a role, White House officials also are leery of sending Trump places he isn't wanted and weren't sure what kind of reception he would have received.

Pence, who had a personal relationship with Lewis, was seen as a safer choice. Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows, like Pence a former House member, and other Cabinet members also attended.

Trump had an antagonistic relationship with Lewis. After Trump's election, Lewis called him an illegitimate president because of Russia's efforts to help him win, and the congressman boycotted Trump's 2017 inauguration as a result. Trump countered by blasting Lewis' Atlanta majority-Black district as "falling apart" and directed him to "finally focus on the burning and crime infested inner-cities of the U.S."

In December of that year, Lewis refused to speak at the opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum because Trump would be there. Lewis also endorsed Biden and urged young Black voters to rally behind the former vice president.

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While Trump did acknowledge Lewis' death on Twitter, it took him 14 hours to do so and his message felt more perfunctory than heartfelt, especially in contrast with his effusive tribute to television personality Regis Philbin, who died last week.

"Saddened to hear the news of civil rights hero John Lewis passing. Melania and I send our prayers to he and his family," Trump wrote.

But for many, Trump's absence wasn't missed.

"I think it's better if he doesn't attend," said Phillip Estes, 53, an urban planner from Washington, D.C., who was among the hundreds who gathered to pay their respects to Lewis on Tuesday.

"He would probably just make it all about himself," Estes said.

Jay Stegall, 33, an American University graduate student originally from Lewis' Atlanta district, echoed those sentiments as he stood with his two young sisters and his 4-year-old daughter.

"It wouldn't have been authentic," Stegall said. "It would just have been another photo op for him. He definitely wouldn't have understood the meaning of the moment."

Born to sharecroppers during Jim Crow segregation, Lewis was beaten by Alabama state troopers during the civil rights movement, spoke ahead of King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington and was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 2011 by the nation's first Black president.

Associated Press writer Ashraf Khalil contributed to this report.

As crime surges on his watch, Trump warns of Biden's America

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

President Donald Trump is painting a dystopian portrait of what Joe Biden's America might look like, asserting crime and chaos would ravage communities should the former vice president win the White House in November.

Left unsaid: A recent surge in violent crime in several American cities has happened on his watch.

"Irony is way down the list of things that President Trump worries about," said Robert Spitzer, a political scientist at the State University of New York College at Cortland whose research focuses on gun politics and the American presidency. "He's turning to the old playbook — appeal to the fears of Americans and then associate those fears with the Democratic Party, specifically Joe Biden."

Trump's attempt to cast Biden in that light follows a pattern seen throughout his presidency, where he attempts to shift responsibility, often to President Barack Obama, even more than three years after taking office.

With echoes of Richard Nixon's law-and-order campaign in 1968, Trump is trying to energize his conservative base while also making an appeal to a small patch of undecided voters by posing the question: Which man will keep you safer?

By leaning hard on select scenes of violence, Trump is banking on that unrest continuing. But the protests could wane. Violent crime around the U.S. has been on a downward trajectory for the better part of the last three decades.

Lanae Erickson, a senior vice president for social policy and politics at the center-left think tank Third Way, said Trump's attempt to use the Nixon playbook and tap into anxieties about crime is odd given that, unlike Nixon in 1968, Trump is already in the White House.

"Trump is the incumbent, so if bad things are happening right now, they get blamed on him," Erickson said. "I don't know how he can persuade voters that it's Joe Biden's fault."

Trump has tried to paint Biden as captive of his party's most liberal elements who have called to dramatically reshape policing in America.

His campaign has aired advertising in battleground states that shows a woman calling police for help as an intruder breaks into her home and getting a voice recording informing her that, because the police have been defunded, no one is available to take her call.

The Republican president recently tweeted a warning to "Suburban Housewives of America" that "Biden

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will destroy your neighborhood and your American dream.”

“No one will be SAFE in Joe Biden’s America!” Trump declared.

Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and New York have seen spikes in violent crime and homicides this year. And Trump has dispatched federal agents or announced plans to send agents to Albuquerque, New Mexico, Chicago, and Kansas City, Missouri, to try to stop the unrest. He’s also sent federal agents to Portland, Oregon, to try to forcibly quell protests around the federal courthouse.

Trump has tried to argue that Biden, at least implicitly, would condone unchecked violence.

Last week, Trump said he’d like to flood Chicago, which has seen a 51% increase in homicides and a 47% increase in shootings compared to the same time last year, with “50,000 or 75,000 people” and “solve it like you wouldn’t believe.”

But Trump said he wouldn’t do it because of a lack of cooperation from the city’s leadership.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot said that Trump, despite his tough talk, has shown little interest in addressing a central issue driving the violence in the city: About 60% of firearms recovered in crimes committed in Chicago were originally purchased outside Illinois.

“We need you, as President, to take a leadership role in enacting meaningful and common-sense gun legislation, which you so far have refused to do,” Lightfoot, a Democrat, wrote in a letter to Trump last week.

At the center of Trump’s attempts to cast Biden as weak on crime is pushing the unfounded notion that Biden wants to defund the police.

In an interview with “Fox News Sunday” host Chris Wallace, Trump incorrectly cited a charter between Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., that was signed as part of the Unity Task Force, an effort to find common ground between the more moderate Biden backers and Sanders’ liberal supporters.

But the task force’s recommendations for the Democratic platform does not mention defunding police. Trump was unable to show Wallace language in the task force document that said as much.

Still, Trump campaign spokesperson Hogan Gidley hammered on the point during a Monday call to update grassroots activists on strategy.

“He has consistently been silent in the midst of communities devolving into lawlessness,” Gidley said of the former vice president. “The only time he does pop up out of his hidy-hole, he says we’re going to defund the police.”

Peter Scharf, a criminologist at Louisiana State University School of Public Health who has advised the New Orleans Police Department’s reform efforts, said Biden’s stance on policing is complicated and one that Trump will look to further muddy.

Biden, as a senator, played a key role in writing the 1994 crime bill — tough-on-crime legislation that critics say fueled mass incarceration.

During the primary, fellow Democrats repeatedly criticized Biden over the bill. His criminal justice proposal reverses some key provisions of the crime bill. He has also apologized for supporting some policies in the 1990s that he now recognizes were harmful, such as sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine.

While Biden does not support defunding police departments, the push in some left-leaning big cities to drastically overhaul police budgets could put him in a difficult position, Scharf said. The majority of Seattle’s nonpartisan City Council, for example, has publicly embraced calls to cut the city’s 2021 police budget by half.

That makes it crucial that Biden become more proactive in laying out his vision for reinvention of the modern police force to prevent Trump’s anti-police jabs from sticking, Scharf added.

“You don’t want this to turn into your Willie Horton moment,” said Scharf, referring to George H.W. Bush’s 1988 campaign’s effort to tie Democratic Gov. Michael Dukakis to a convict who raped a woman during a weekend furlough. “If he’s not proactive, Trump could turn this into Biden’s Achilles’ heel.”

Early in pandemic, frantic doctors traded tips across oceans

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By LAURAN NEERGAARD and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

Amid the chaos of the pandemic's early days, doctors who faced the first coronavirus onslaught reached across oceans and language barriers in an unprecedented effort to advise colleagues trying to save lives in the dark.

With no playbook to follow and no time to wait for research, YouTube videos describing autopsy findings and X-rays swapped on Twitter and WhatsApp spontaneously filled the gap.

When Stephen Donelson arrived at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in mid-March, Dr. Kristina Goff was among those who turned to what she called "the stories out of other places that were hit before."

Donelson's family hadn't left the house in two weeks after COVID-19 started spreading in Texas, hoping to shield the organ transplant recipient. Yet one night, his wife found him barely breathing, his skin turning blue, and called 911.

In New York or Italy, where hospitals were overflowing, Goff thinks Donelson wouldn't even have qualified for a then-precious ventilator. But in Dallas, "we pretty much threw everything we could at him," she said.

Like doctors everywhere, Goff was at the beginning of a huge and daunting learning curve.

"It's a tsunami. Something that if you don't experience it directly, you can't understand," Italian Dr. Pier Giorgio Villani said in a series of webinars on six straight Tuesday evenings to alert other intensive care units what to expect. They started just two weeks after Italy's first hospitalized patient arrived in his ICU, and 10 days before Donelson fell ill in Texas.

Villani, who works in the northern city of Lodi, described a battle to accommodate the constant flow of people needing breathing tubes. "We had 10, 12, 15 patients to intubate and an ICU with seven patients already intubated," he said.

The video sessions, organized by an Italian association of ICUs, GiViTI, and the non-profit Mario Negri Institute and later posted on YouTube, constitute an oral history of Italy's outbreak as it unfolded, narrated by the first doctors in Europe to fight the coronavirus.

Italian friends spread the word to doctors abroad and translations began for colleagues in Spain, France, Russia and the U.S., all bracing their own ICUs for a flood of patients.

They offered "a privileged window into the future," said Dr. Diego Casali of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, who is from northern Italy and was directed to the webinars when he sought advice from a front-line friend about how to prepare.

Dr. Jane Muret of the French Society of Anesthesia-Resuscitation also heard by word-of-mouth and, impressed by the breathing-tube lessons, posted a translation when France had only a handful of diagnosed COVID-19 cases.

"Now we can recognize our COVID patients" when they start showing up, she said.

Every tidbit about the newest baffling symptom, every trick to try, served as clues as the virus bore down on the next city, the next country. By the time Donelson arrived, Goff's hospital was adjusting ventilator care based on that early advice.

But while grateful for the global swirl of information, Goff also struggled to make sense of conflicting experiences.

"You have no idea how to interpret what went right or what went wrong," she said, "or was it just the native course of the disease?"

Even now, months into a pandemic first wave that's more like constantly shifting tides, Goff is humbled at how difficult it remains to predict who will live and who will die. She can't explain why Donelson, finally home after a 90-day ordeal, was ultimately one of the lucky ones.

Doctors in Italy were confused: Reports from China were suggesting a death rate of about 3% among those infected. But for the first 18 days, only the dead left the ICU at Bergamo's large Pope John XXIII Hospital.

While the toll eventually dropped, 30% of the hospital's initial 510 COVID-19 patients died.

After decades in practice, ICU chief Dr. Luca Lorini thought he knew how to treat the dangerous kind of

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respiratory failure -- called ARDS, or acute respiratory distress syndrome -- first thought to be the main threat.

"Every night, I would go home and I had the doubt that I had gotten something wrong," Lorini said. "Try to imagine: I am all alone and I can't compare it with France because the virus wasn't there, or Spain or the U.K. or America, or with anyone who is closer to me than China."

Only later would it become clear that for patients sick enough to need the ICU, death rates were indeed staggeringly high.

By February, China had filed only a limited number of medical journal reports on how patients were faring. Lorini's hospital tried to fill the data gap by dividing patients into small groups to receive different forms of supportive care and comparing them every three or four days -- not a scientific study, but some real-time information to share.

The first lessons: The coronavirus wasn't causing typical ARDS, and patients consequently needed gentler ventilation than normal. They also needed to stay on those ventilators far longer than usual.

"We made big errors," Villani said, weaning patients off machines too soon.

Then mid-March brought another startling surprise: In a training video for U.S. cardiologists, Chinese doctors warned that the virus causes dangerous blood clots, and not just in the lungs.

Dr. Bin Cao of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital in Beijing explained that as the virus sneaks past the lungs into the bloodstream, it damages the lining of blood vessels, forming clots in the heart, kidneys, "all over the body." He urged American doctors to use blood thinners protectively in the severely ill.

In Italy's epicenter, doctors were making the same discovery. Lorini described a scramble to get the word out via Skype and email. "This is a vascular sickness more than a pulmonary one and we didn't know that," he said.

In the U.S., the finding about blood thinners made biological sense to Dr. Tiffany Osborn, a critical care physician at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

"It means at least you're not shooting in the dark. You're trying something that from a physiologic standpoint makes sense," said Osborn, who was living in a camper in her driveway to avoid bringing the virus home to her family after her long ICU shifts.

By April, many doctors were bowing to pressure to try a malaria drug named hydroxychloroquine that obsessed President Donald Trump. Osborn never understood why such a drug would work and, sure enough, it eventually failed when put to a real test.

But what else might be effective?

"We're learning as we go," Osborn said. "You could talk to me in two weeks and I might be telling you something that's really different."

When Stephen Donelson arrived in the emergency room, "we had very little hope for him," Goff said.

The Midlothian man had undergone an organ transplant two years earlier, and the immune-suppressing drugs that prevent rejection of his new lungs and liver meant his body couldn't fight the coronavirus. Goff's first challenge: how to scale back those medicines just enough for Donelson to battle the virus without endangering his transplant.

Her second: He was fighting against the ventilator's artificial breaths. So Goff deeply sedated Donelson, paralyzing his muscles to let the machine do all the work.

Hospital after hospital struggled with balancing how to get enough air into oxygen-starved coronavirus patients without further damaging fragile lungs.

Ventilation is like "blowing air into a sponge and all the little holes are opening up. Walls between the holes can be very thin. If you're putting in a lot of air, it can damage the lining of those little holes," explained Osborn, the St. Louis critical care specialist.

A trick the doctors shared with each other: Flip patients over from their backs to their stomachs — a procedure called proning that takes pressure off the lungs, which lie closer to the back. It also helps lower fluid accumulation in the lungs.

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It's not a one-time fix. Donelson stayed on his belly about 16 hours a day early on, as his doctors watched his oxygen levels improve. It's also hot and heavy work: Every turn took five or six health workers, in full safety garb, working in slow synchrony to avoid dislodging his breathing tube.

Italy's Alessandro Manzoni Hospital set a schedule: Start turning patients onto their bellies at 2 p.m. -- it took more than three hours to work through them all -- and then put them on their backs again at 8 a.m., when fresh nurses arrived.

Hospitals that specialize in treating ARDS knew how to prone before COVID-19 hit. For many others, it was a brand-new skill their workers had to learn. Fast.

"We've never had to prone anyone here before the pandemic, but now it's like second nature," Kevin Cole, a respiratory therapist at Fort Washington Medical Center in Maryland, said four months into the U.S. outbreak.

And some hospitals now are asking patients not yet on ventilators to simply roll over periodically, in hopes it might prevent them from needing more invasive care.

"What have we got to lose? That's something that's not going to hurt anybody," Osborn said.

Even in normal times, critical-care specialists know they can't save all their patients. But they're used to more hand-holding. With this virus, even garbed in spacesuit-like protective gear, health workers must minimize time with infectious patients to avoid getting sick themselves. And family members are largely barred, too.

"My general way of doing things is, no one dies alone," said Osborn, who holds her phone in front of dying patients so loved ones can say goodbye.

She paused to compose herself, and added: "If this is going to happen, and you can provide some comfort that maybe they wouldn't have gotten if you weren't there, that's important."

The newest lesson: Recovery takes a lot longer than surviving.

Back in Dallas, Donelson spent 17 days on a ventilator. When it was removed, he was too weak to even sit without support and the breathing tube had taken away his ability to swallow.

"He would try to pick his head up off the pillow and it would lob to the side just like a newborn baby," said his wife, Terri Donelson, who for the first time since his hospital admission finally was allowed to connect with her husband through a videoconferencing app.

For days after waking up, Donelson had tremendous delirium, a dangerous state of mental confusion and agitation. He didn't know where he was or why, and would try to pull out his IV tubes. Then a bacterial infection hit his lungs.

Then one morning, worried that Donelson suddenly was too quiet, his doctor donned what she calls her "full-helmet, Darth Vader-style mask, which cannot possibly help anyone's delirium," and went in to check on him.

"I rubbed his arm," Goff recalled, asking him to wake up. "I said, 'Hey are you OK, are you with me?'" and Donelson started trying to talk, at first too raspy to understand.

Eventually, she made out that he was wishing her a happy Easter. She can only guess he heard the date on TV.

Doctor and patient cried together.

That was Donelson's turning point. He still wasn't deemed virus-free but physical therapists cautiously spent a little more time helping him gain strength and learn to swallow. His first bite: chocolate pudding.

Terri Donelson countered the long periods of isolation by keeping the video app running non-stop, talking to her husband and giving him quizzes to stimulate his memory.

"Little by little, with each day, he gains something new, something else reawakens," she said.

Finally, on June 19, 90 days after the frantic ambulance ride, Donelson — still weak but recovering — went home. His doctor is humbled by his survival, and anxiously awaiting better science to help guide care as the pandemic continues.

"If you have one patient who leaves a really strong impression on you, you may interpret that patient's

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experience to be hallmark. Until we have large, population-based studies of actual outcomes, it's really hard to know what's real and what's not real," Goff said.

Neergaard reported from Alexandria, Va., and Winfield from Rome. AP video journalist Nathan Ellgren contributed to this report.

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Civil rights icon Lewis to lie in repose at Georgia Capitol

ATLANTA (AP) — John Lewis will lie in repose at the Georgia capitol in his hometown of Atlanta in one of the last memorial services for the late Democratic congressman before he is buried.

Members of the public will be able to pay their respects to Lewis on Wednesday at the state capitol rotunda following a ceremony in his honor. A private burial service in Atlanta is scheduled for Thursday.

Lewis died July 17 at the age of 80. Born to sharecroppers during Jim Crow segregation, he was beaten by Alabama state troopers during the civil rights movement, spoke ahead of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington and was awarded the Medal of Freedom by the nation's first Black president in 2011.

He spent more than three decades in Congress, and his district included most of Atlanta. Wednesday's service is part of a series of public remembrances for Lewis that began over the weekend.

On Sunday, his flag-draped casket was carried across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, where the one-time "Freedom Rider" was among civil rights demonstrators beaten by state troopers in 1965.

A memorial service at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Monday drew Congressional leaders from both parties. Lewis was the first Black lawmaker to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

Fed wrestles with its next moves as virus stalls US economy

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve officials are grappling this week with the timing and scope of their next policy moves at a time when the raging viral pandemic has weakened the U.S. economy.

No major changes are likely when the Fed releases a statement Wednesday after its two-day policy meeting ends and just before Chair Jerome Powell holds a news conference. But the central bank is working toward providing more specific guidance on the conditions it would need to see before considering raising its benchmark short-term interest rate, which is now pegged near zero.

Economists call such an approach "forward guidance," and the Fed used it extensively after the 2008-2009 recession. The Fed probably won't provide such guidance until its next meeting in September, economists say. But given signs that the economy is stalling in the face of the pandemic and that several aid programs have expired as Congress debates another rescue package, there's a chance that Fed officials could update their guidance as early as Wednesday.

After its previous meeting last month, the Fed had signaled that it expected to keep its key short-term rate near zero through 2022. Since then, the pandemic's threat to the economy has appeared to worsen. According to the minutes of their June meeting, "various" Fed officials felt it would "be important in the coming months ... to provide greater clarity" about the future path of rates.

Some Fed watchers expect no rate increase until 2024 at the earliest given their bleak outlook for the economy and expectations of continued ultra-low inflation. But more specificity from the Fed could provide further assurance to businesses and households of a low-rate environment for years to come.

As the pandemic intensified in March, the central bank's policymakers slashed their key short-term rate to nearly zero and directed that the Fed buy roughly \$2 trillion of Treasury and mortgage-backed securities. Those purchases were intended to ensure that lower borrowing rates would remain available for households and businesses to help spur spending and growth.

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The Fed also launched nine lending programs to enable businesses and Wall Street banks to borrow at low rates. On Tuesday, the Fed said it would extend seven of those programs, which had been set to expire Sept. 30, through the end of the year.

One potential form of forward guidance would be for the Fed to announce that it won't raise rates until annual inflation has reached or exceeded its target of 2% for a specific period. This would be intended to allow inflation to rise above 2%, to offset inflation that has fallen below that target nearly continuously since 2012. (Inflation is now running at just 0.5%, according to the Fed's preferred gauge.)

In recent speeches and appearances, Fed policymakers have sounded largely pessimistic about the economy. Several, including Powell, warned in late May, as many states began allowing more businesses to reopen, that a resurgent virus could imperil any recovery.

Since then, confirmed case counts have soared around the country, especially in such large Sun Belt states as Florida, Texas, Arizona and California, though their case levels have generally flattened in the past week. The outbreaks have led at least 22 states to either pause or reverse their re-openings, thereby forcing companies to impose layoffs or to stop hiring.

The number of people applying for unemployment benefits has exceeded 1 million for 18 straight weeks. And other data, such as credit card spending, point to a pullback in spending.

Lael Brainard, a member of the Fed Board of Governors, said earlier this month that the resurgence of the virus around the country has underscored its severe threat to the economy.

"The recent resurgence in COVID cases is a sober reminder that the pandemic remains the key driver of the economy's course," she said in a speech. "A thick fog of uncertainty still surrounds us, and downside risks predominate."

At his news conference Wednesday, Powell is likely to call for Congress to continue providing stimulus for the economy, as he has done before. The chairman has repeatedly stressed that the Fed has "lending powers, not spending powers," and while he has usually avoided supporting specific policies, he has clearly urged Congress to spend more.

"He's really pivoted from being the artful dodger to being quite direct," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, a tax and accounting firm.

GOP's jobless benefit plan could mean delays, states warn

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

A Republican proposal to slash the \$600 weekly benefit boost for those left jobless because of the coronavirus shutdown could result in weeks or even months of delayed payments in some states.

Older computer systems that took weeks to set up for the initial federal unemployment enhancement would need to be reprogrammed again twice under the GOP plan.

In Florida, state Rep. Anna Eskamani, a Democrat from Orlando, said the state has not even gotten the original supplemental benefit to everyone entitled to it.

"So the idea of changing the current process that has taken us months to put into place, that is still not even perfect, is a scary thought," she said.

"These changes, whatever they end up being, are going to create more bureaucratic layers for people to get the relief they need. Meanwhile we have bills to pay, we have to put food on the table, we have medical expenses and a lot of people are suffering."

How to handle unemployment is a fiercely contested part of the debate as Congress negotiates the latest relief legislation.

Democrats want to bring back the federally funded \$600-a-week unemployment bonus that is expiring, saying it's a way to keep families and the economy afloat in a time when there are far more people out of work than jobs available.

Republicans argue the current amount is so high that it encourages people to remain on unemployment. They want to reduce it in two steps: First, by cutting the benefit by two-thirds — to \$200 a week through September. Then they want to switch that flat rate to a percentage in which the unemployed would receive

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benefits equal to no more than 70% of their previous incomes in November and December.

The debate isn't only about the economy and ideology. It's also about what's doable technologically, especially on software many states use that dates to the 1970s.

Some states took a month to figure out how to process the initial \$600 a week benefit when it went into place this spring, leaving laid-off workers in the lurch as the numbers of unemployed skyrocketed. Last week, more than 16 million Americans were receiving unemployment benefits.

"Anything other than a flat rate would take time to program in our system because it would require individual income calculations for hundreds of thousands of Ohioans receiving unemployment benefits," Bret Crow, a spokesman for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, said in an email.

He said it wasn't clear how long it might take to switch the system.

In Tennessee, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development says it would need "ample time" to make changes; just how much depends on what the policy is.

Washington was among the first states to implement the \$600 benefit boost. But Mike Faulk, a spokesman for Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, said large-scale changes would slow down benefit payments and "put a significant burden on state unemployment agencies."

The state's employment security commissioner, Susan LeVine, wrote the state's congressional delegation this month telling them, "Simply put, state unemployment systems cannot flip a switch overnight on August 1, 2020, and will require a transition period."

In Louisiana, Gov. John Bel Edwards said he doesn't believe any states' unemployment systems could handle a variable federal benefit tied to a person's previous earnings. He has encouraged Louisiana's congressional delegation to back a flat unemployment benefit instead.

"If they go beyond that, I will tell you it will be very, very difficult to administer," he said.

Democratic California Assemblyman David Chiu said the state is struggling to provide benefits on time as it is.

"I have no confidence they'll be able to adjust," he said. "To me, this is why I really hope that Congress will simply extend the \$600 a week to make this as seamless as possible."

Annelies Goger, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, a left-of-center public policy organization, said even a change in the flat-rate boost could be delayed because states need to wait for federal guidance before implementing changes. Switching to a percentage of income would be even harder, she said.

For instance, it would be hard to gather the data needed to determine the previous incomes for people who were self-employed or were gig workers. Such workers are generally not eligible for unemployment benefits, but they are under coronavirus relief legislation.

And Goger said it would take a lot of resources to modify a program twice that is scheduled to end in December.

"Most states are still very overloaded with initial claims every week and are struggling to keep up with bottlenecks in the adjudication process and getting payments out accurately in a timely manner," Groger said in an email.

"Any resources diverted from getting through those backlogs will delay getting relief to families that are struggling to pay rent and put food on the table."

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, said on the Senate floor Monday that the fallout from both delays and benefit reductions could be significant.

He pointed to an analysis from the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute that found cutting the boost to \$200 a week would result in 3.4 million more layoffs.

"The economy crashes, people are hurt, they get kicked out of their homes, they can't feed their kids," Schumer said. "The Republican proposal on unemployment benefits, simply put, is unworkable. It will delay benefits for weeks if not months as we slide into a greater degree of recession."

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Follow him at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>.

Associated Press writers Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Cuneyt Dil in Sacramento, California; Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida; and Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington, contributed to this report.

States resist mask rules as Midwest virus uptick stirs alarm

By AMY FORLITI, LEAH WILLINGHAM and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The baseball season descended deeper into crisis Tuesday, states like Mississippi and South Carolina cast about for more hospital beds, and governors in some of the hardest-hit places staunchly resisted calls to require masks, despite confirmed cases of the coronavirus soaring.

Major League Baseball suspended the Miami Marlins' season through Sunday because of an outbreak that has spread to at least 15 of the team's players, and a series of games this week between the New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies was called off as a precaution.

States like Florida, Arizona and Texas are in dire condition, and the virus also has been spreading farther north in recent days, causing alarm among public health officials who fear states are not doing enough to avoid catastrophic outbreaks like those in the Sun Belt.

"We are watching very carefully California, Arizona, Texas, and most of Florida," President Donald Trump said at a news conference. "It's starting to head down to the right direction."

Florida, however, reported another one-day high for COVID-19 deaths, with 191, while Arizona recorded 104, and Arkansas had a daily record of 20.

While the White House has begun to feel cautiously optimistic that the resurgence has begun to stabilize in parts of the Southwest, fears are growing about the potential for a significant uptick in the Midwest, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and Colorado, according to a Trump administration official who wasn't authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

It's fueled largely by a rise in cases among young adults, who have been hitting bars, restaurants and health clubs again.

Over the past two weeks, Wisconsin's rolling average number of new confirmed cases has increased by 31%. Minnesota reported its largest one-day case count Sunday, with more than 860 cases.

The virus is blamed for over 4.3 million confirmed infections and about 150,000 deaths in the U.S., according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. Globally, more than 16.5 million people have been infected, and more than 655,000 have died. The numbers are thought to be higher because of limits on testing.

Republican governors in Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri and South Carolina have all resisted calls to close bars and gyms or issue statewide mask requirements, though local officials have imposed some of their own restrictions.

"My reaction is that I'm disturbed. I'm disturbed by it," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-diseases expert. Those two efforts and other best practices would help "prevent the resurgence that we've seen in some of the other Southern states."

In Mississippi, nine of the state's biggest hospitals had no open intensive care beds as of Monday, and officials are considering opening pop-up facilities. More than 24% of coronavirus tests have come back positive in Mississippi over the past week, the highest rate in the nation and triple the national average.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has gone so far as to argue that because mask-wearing has become political, a statewide mandate could actually discourage people from covering their faces. Instead, he is requiring masks only in the most seriously stricken counties.

Terry Sullivan, general manager of Fondren Fitness in Jackson, said a statewide requirement would be "the right thing to do."

"I know it's a hot topic, but if we can all just wear masks and really do right for a month, it would help a lot to try and slow this down in Mississippi," he said. "If we don't, it's not going to slow down."

In Missouri, larger cities are growing rattled by a spike in cases after the state fully reopened. It reported another daily record in cases, with nearly 1,800. St. Louis is curtailing bar hours and reducing restaurant

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seating capacity starting Friday, and Kansas City may follow suit.

GOP Gov. Mike Parson has repeatedly refused to enact a statewide order requiring masks, citing relatively few cases in most of the state compared with hot spots in bigger cities.

Parson said last month that he didn't believe the governor has personal responsibility for any virus, and compared the illness that has killed over 1,200 people in his state to the flu. He said no one would expect him to take responsibility if someone were involved in an accident on a Missouri road.

The uncertainty has put restaurant owners in a difficult position.

Brian Schmitz, co-owner of The Bellwether and the Polite Society in St. Louis, closed the two restaurants temporarily after a guest expressed concerns Sunday that another diner recently made a social media post about testing positive for COVID-19. Schmitz said the buildings have been deep-cleaned and he's testing staff before reopening, and it's proving costly.

But "the stakes are higher than money," he said. "Money hurts, don't get me wrong. But we all work to live, not the other way around, and this puts that in stark contrast."

In Tennessee, the situation is precarious enough that Dr. Deborah Birx of the White House coronavirus task force traveled to Nashville to implore leaders to close bars and residents to wear masks. But Republican Gov. Bill Lee has vowed he won't shut down the economy again.

As of Tuesday, nearly 1,100 people were hospitalized with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Tennessee, the highest seen there in the past two weeks. Intensive-care units are running at 86% capacity.

Nearly 70% of the state has issued some sort of mask mandate. However, enforcement has varied, with some officials hesitating to issue citations.

In Nashville, the city's famous honky tonks have seen large crowds despite a strict 10 p.m. curfew that began last week. Nursing homes in more than 70 counties have been forced to again forbid visitors.

In Oklahoma, Gov. Kevin Stitt returned to his office Monday after two weeks of isolating at home following a positive coronavirus test. It came on the same day the state reported over 1,400 new confirmed cases — the second consecutive day of record highs.

Hospitals looked to increase capacity. The Regional Medical Center in Orangeburg, South Carolina, began setting up tents outside for recovering patients.

"We saw an uptick, and we wanted to be ahead of it," said Dr. John Samies, the hospital's chief of medical staff.

In Georgia, 88% of critical care beds were taken Tuesday, tying the highest level since the pandemic began, though not all critical care patients have COVID-19.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott worried that the virus could spread even further after Hurricane Hanna over the weekend forced people to gather together indoors. The storm pounded the Rio Grande Valley, where hospitals have been overwhelmed.

"We're in a dire situation," Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal said. "If we continue on the same trajectory, countless more lives will be lost."

In Europe, rising infections in Spain and other countries are causing alarm, weeks after nations reopened borders to revive tourism.

"Let's be absolutely clear about what's happening in Europe, amongst some of our European friends," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said. "I'm afraid you are starting to see in some places the signs of a second wave of the pandemic."

Forliti reported from Minneapolis, and Hollingsworth from Mission, Kansas. Associated Press reporter Jonathan Lemire in Washington contributed.

Experts worry about errors if census schedule is sped up

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — After asking for coronavirus-related deadline extensions in April, the Trump administration now appears to be abandoning that request by asking Congress for extra funding to wrap up

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the 2020 census "as quickly, and safely as possible" in a move that could help ensure the number-crunching for redrawing congressional districts takes place on President Donald Trump's watch.

Census Bureau officials had warned as recently as early July that it was already too late to have the numbers ready without an extension. And outside experts predicted Tuesday that speeding up the timetable would lead to an inaccurate head count that misses people in hard-to-count minority communities.

"It would be like giving an expectant mother in the early stages of pregnancy a lot of money to have the baby in 4.5 months," said John Thompson, a former Census Bureau director in the Obama administration.

The Census Bureau is in the middle of the 2020 census, and some of the bureau's 500,000 door-knockers started heading out this month to households that haven't yet answered the questionnaire.

With the new coronavirus disrupting census operations in April, the Trump administration asked Congress to extend the deadlines required for the U.S. Census Bureau to turn in the head count data used for redrawing congressional district and legislative districts. The Census Bureau also postponed finishing field operations for the 2020 census from the end of July to the end of October.

The Democratic-controlled House agreed to the extensions as part of coronavirus-relief legislation, but the Republican-controlled Senate has yet to do so. Senate Republicans on Monday instead proposed an additional \$448 million in funding for the 2020 census in its coronavirus-relief bill.

"This funding would allow for additional hiring, staffing resources, and replenished contingency funding to provide schedule flexibility as the Census Bureau conducts its largest field operation, nonresponse followup," the Census Bureau said Monday on its website. "This flexibility is critical to helping the Census Bureau operate in the midst of unprecedented public health crisis, including trying to wrap up field data collection as quickly, and safely as possible, while ensuring a complete and accurate count."

When asked about the status of the deadlines request, the office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell referred to existing policy for the census timeline and said it had nothing further to add.

Historically, the Census Bureau is required to turn over numbers for apportionment, the process of divvying up congressional seats, by Dec. 31, and the numbers used for redrawing legislative districts by March 30. The deadline extensions would push back the apportionment deadline to April 30 and the redistricting deadline for state and local districts to July 31.

If the deadline extension for the apportionment numbers is granted by Congress, there's a chance the final months of the data-crunching would take place under a new administration if presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden defeats Trump, a Republican, in the November election.

Wary of what they see as Trump's attempts to politicize the 2020 census, House Democrats say Senate Republicans should approve the request for deadline extensions.

"Otherwise, American taxpayers would be forced to pay for the most expensive and potentially least accurate census in our nation's history," said U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat from New York who chairs the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Earlier this month, House Democrats asked U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to withdraw two appointees from top positions at the U.S. Census Bureau, claiming they represented the latest effort by the Trump administration to politicize the 2020 census.

Then last week, Trump issued a memorandum seeking to exclude people in the country illegally from being included during the process for redrawing congressional districts. Civil rights groups have filed multiple lawsuits challenging the memorandum as unconstitutional and an attempt to limit the power of Latinos and immigrants of color. Two more lawsuits were filed Tuesday, including one by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and several California cities, which said California stood to lose a congressional seat if Trump's order succeeds.

"The timing of the executive memorandum issued last week coupled with what now appears to be abandonment of the request to push back the reporting deadlines clearly suggests that the White House wants to ensure that the president receives the numbers for apportionment while he is still in office. It's hard to draw any other conclusions," said Terri Ann Lowenthal, a census expert who worked on census issues as a congressional aide.

More than 62% of households had responded to the census as of Sunday, leaving about 55 million

households that will require visits by census takers. A Pew Research Center survey taken in June highlights the difficulties already facing census takers, with 40% of adults who say they have not yet responded to the census answering that they wouldn't be willing to open their door for a census taker.

The Census Bureau said Monday that it will start sending out emails to residents in neighborhoods with low response rates, encouraging them to fill out the questionnaire.

Talking to reporters at the beginning of the month, Al Fontenot, the bureau's associate director for decennial programs, said the bureau was "past the window of being able to get those counts" by the end of the year.

Kenneth Prewitt, who served as a Census Bureau director in the Clinton administration, said an accelerated census in the middle of a pandemic "can only be explained politically."

"I believe the odds of being able to produce the census between now and the end of the year is extremely low. COVID is in charge. The Census Bureau is not in charge," Prewitt said. "To finish the census by the end of the year, COVID has got to go away, and it's not."

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

US officials: Russia behind spread of virus disinformation

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian intelligence services are using a trio of English-language websites to spread disinformation about the coronavirus pandemic, seeking to exploit a crisis that America is struggling to contain ahead of the presidential election in November, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Two Russians who have held senior roles in Moscow's military intelligence service known as the GRU have been identified as responsible for a disinformation effort meant to reach American and Western audiences, U.S. government officials said. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The information had previously been classified, but officials said it had been downgraded so they could more freely discuss it. Officials said they were doing so now to sound the alarm about the particular websites and to expose what they say is a clear link between the sites and Russian intelligence.

Between late May and early July, one of the officials said, the websites singled out Tuesday published about 150 articles about the pandemic response, including coverage aimed either at propping up Russia or denigrating the U.S.

Among the headlines that caught the attention of U.S. officials were "Russia's Counter COVID-19 Aid to America Advances Case for Détente," which suggested that Russia had given urgent and substantial aid to the U.S. to fight the pandemic, and "Beijing Believes COVID-19 is a Biological Weapon," which amplified statements by the Chinese.

The disclosure comes as the spread of disinformation, including by Russia, is an urgent concern heading into November's presidential election as U.S. officials look to avoid a repeat of the 2016 contest, when a Russian troll farm launched a covert social media campaign to divide American public opinion and to favor then-candidate Donald Trump over Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton. The U.S. government's chief counterintelligence executive warned in a rare public statement Friday about Russia's continued use of internet trolls to advance their goals.

Even apart from politics, the twin crises buffeting the country and much of the world — the pandemic and race relations and protests — have offered fertile territory for misinformation or outright falsehoods. Trump himself has come under scrutiny for sharing misinformation about a disproven drug for treating the coronavirus in videos that were taken down by Twitter and Facebook.

Officials described the Russian disinformation as part of an ongoing and persistent effort to advance false narratives and cause confusion.

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They did not say whether the effort behind these particular websites was directly related to the November election, though some of the coverage appeared to denigrate Trump's Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, and called to mind Russian efforts in 2016 to exacerbate race relations in America and drive corruption allegations against U.S. political figures.

Though U.S. officials have warned before about the spread of disinformation tied to the pandemic, they went further on Tuesday by singling out a particular information agency that is registered in Russia, InfoRos, and that operates a series of websites — InfoRos.ru, Infobrics.org and OneWorld.press — that have leveraged the pandemic to promote anti-Western objectives and to spread disinformation.

Officials say the sites promote their narratives in a sophisticated but insidious effort that they liken to money laundering, where stories in well-written English — and often with pro-Russian sentiment — are cycled through other news sources to conceal their origin and enhance the legitimacy of the information.

The sites also amplify stories that originate elsewhere, the government officials said.

An email to InfoRos was not immediately returned Tuesday.

Beyond the coronavirus, there's also a focus on U.S. news, global politics and topical stories of the moment.

A headline Tuesday on InfoRos.ru about the unrest roiling American cities read "Chaos in the Blue Cities," accompanying a story that lamented how New Yorkers who grew up under the tough-on-crime approach of former Mayors Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg "and have zero street smarts" must now "adapt to life in high-crime urban areas."

Another story carried the headline of "Ukrainian Trap for Biden," and claimed that "Ukraine-gate" — a reference to stories surrounding Biden's son Hunter's former ties to a Ukraine gas company — "keeps unfolding with renewed vigor."

U.S. officials have identified two of the people believed to be behind the sites' operations. The men, Denis Valeryevich Tyurin and Aleksandr Gennadyevich Starunskiy, have previously held leadership roles at InfoRos but have also served in a GRU unit specializing in military psychological intelligence and maintain deep contacts there, the officials said.

InfoRos and One World's ties to the Russian state have attracted scrutiny in the past from European disinformation analysts.

In 2019, a European Union task force that studies disinformation campaigns identified One World as "a new addition to the pantheon of Moscow-based disinformation outlets." The task force noted that One World's content often parrots the Russian state agenda on issues including the war in Syria.

A report published last month by a second, nongovernmental organization, Brussels-based EU DisinfoLab, examined links between InfoRos and One World to Russian military intelligence. The researchers identified technical clues tying their websites to Russia and identified some financial connections between InfoRos and the government.

"InfoRos is evolving in a shady grey zone, where regular information activities are mixed with more controversial actions that could be quite possibly linked to the Russian state's information operations," the report's authors concluded.

On its English-language Facebook page, InfoRos describes itself as an "Information agency: world through the eyes of Russia."

Associated Press writer David Klepper in Providence, R.I., contributed to this report.

Trump administration won't accept new DACA applications

By SOPHIA TAREEN and ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Trump administration said Tuesday that it will reject new applications and shorten renewal periods for an Obama-era program that shields young people from deportation, taking a defiant stance after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to let it be scrapped completely.

The move, detailed in a memo from Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, ended a month of uncertainty about how the administration would respond to its Supreme Court defeat in an election year that has President Donald Trump looking for ways to energize his base.

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Wolf said the administration may try to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program again, casting it as a law enforcement issue that could contribute to illegal immigration. He said the federal government needs more time to consider next steps, presenting the measures as a temporary change.

"DACA makes clear that, for certain large classes of individuals, DHS will at least tolerate, if not affirmatively sanction, their ongoing violation of the immigration laws," Wolf wrote in the memo.

About 650,000 people are part of DACA, which allows young immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children to work and shields them from deportation. Roughly 66,000 people meet age requirements to apply, according to the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute.

The government will deny all new applications, limit renewals to one year instead of two, and deny requests by DACA recipients to visit their home countries unless there are "exceptional circumstances." Recipients may seek permission to return home for family events, such as funerals or weddings, and other reasons, though the Trump administration has generally denied them.

The Supreme Court ruled last month that Trump failed to follow rule-making procedures when he tried to end the program, but the justices kept a window open for him to try again.

The White House has been devising plans to make another push to end DACA, though it was not immediately clear whether he would make the politically sensitive move before November's election. Democratic rival Joe Biden wants to keep DACA unconditionally.

A federal judge in Maryland ruled earlier this month that the program should be restored to its original form, but the administration was mum until Tuesday on whether it would start accepting new applications. The White House anticipates legal challenges.

The administration's monthlong silence had unnerved many DACA recipients and those who wanted to join. U.S. District Judge Paul Grimm of Maryland, an appointee of President Barack Obama, has given the administration until the end of Friday to update the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' website and start adequately explaining why applications are rejected.

Legal experts were skeptical of the Trump administration's authority to roll back parts of the program.

"This is a move that is in defiance of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling and a federal court ruling," said Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, an immigration law professor at Penn State Law in University Park, Pennsylvania. "It's a lawless landscape that we are in."

Immigrant rights advocates blasted the move as cruel.

The Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition accused the administration of further marginalizing immigrants. The American Business Immigration Coalition called it economically harmful. And the American Civil Liberties Union vowed to continue its yearslong fight to prevent the program's demise.

Laura Mendoza, a program manager at The Resurrection Project in Chicago, joined DACA in 2013 and will have to renew next year. She said the \$495 annual renewal fee would be difficult for many to pay.

"It's infuriating that we continue to be the punching bag for the administration," she said of fellow DACA recipients. "The administration is slowly dismantling the program."

Wolf, the Homeland Security chief, acknowledged that the \$495 renewal fee will be a burden on DACA recipients who will have to apply annually instead of every other year, effectively doubling the cost. He said the department would consider lowering the fee.

Trump has tried unsuccessfully to work with Congress on a broader immigration package that would couple DACA with tougher enforcement measures. He has said lately that he would announce sweeping new steps on immigration, a promise he reiterated Tuesday.

"We're going to work with a lot of people on DACA," Trump told reporters. "And we're also working on an immigration bill, a merit-based system, which is what I've wanted for a long time."

Trump said he would make DACA recipients "happy" without saying how.

Top Democrats urged for a legislative solution that would allow for a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

"With the presidential election just three months away, it's clear the president will do everything possible to rally his supporters at the expense of Dreamers," according to a statement from U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, referring to the name often used for DACA recipients. "They shouldn't have to live under the constant fear that DACA protections will be ripped

away at any moment.”

Spagat reported from San Diego. Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Biden vows to fight racial inequality with economic agenda

By WILL WEISSERT and BILL BARROW Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden promised Tuesday that his economic agenda would combat long-standing racial inequalities as he sought to draw another sharp contrast with President Donald Trump.

Biden said the Republican president is exacerbating social discord across the country, including by sending federal authorities into major cities under the pretense of addressing crime. And he said Trump has little interest in addressing the racism that Biden said has been laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately claims people of color as its victims, or in an election-year reckoning with police violence against Black men.

“He can’t turn the economy around. He’s determined to stoke division and chaos,” Biden said, speaking in a community center gymnasium in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. “It’s not good for the country, but Donald Trump doesn’t care. His campaign is failing and he’s looking for a lifeline.”

Biden countered with a litany of proposals to steer federal money and tax credits to small business and economic development programs for minority-owned firms and disadvantaged neighborhoods. Biden also said he’d encourage home ownership to help close wealth gaps among minority communities and push the nation’s banking system, including the Federal Reserve, to more directly address economic inequality.

Many of his proposals — and the billions in federal spending needed to pay for it — had already been promised as part of previous, larger Biden plans to jump-start the economy when the coronavirus outbreak begins to recede. But as protests against institutional racism and police brutality have swept the country in recent months, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee is attempting to show voters that he’s committed to implementing specific remedies that can promote racial and economic equality should he win the White House in November.

Biden’s speech and his subsequent question-and-answer session with reporters — just his third extended news conference in four months — come as he nears a decision on a running mate. Biden came prepared to talk about at least one of the top contenders: California Sen. Kamala Harris.

An Associated Press photographer captured Biden’s handwritten notes with talking points on several issues. Topping the list was Harris.

A recent Politico story alleged that Biden’s longtime friend and vetting committee leader Chris Dodd, a former Democratic senator like Biden, had raised concerns about Harris going after Biden last summer on the debate stage and showing “no remorse” in conversations with Biden’s campaign. On Biden’s notepad, he’d written below Harris’ name: “Do not hold grudges” and “Great respect for her.”

Biden did not field a question specifically about Harris. But he has praised her extensively, and he’s confirmed in recent weeks that his short list for vice president includes several women of color. His decision is expected to have unusual importance given his age, 77, and the fact that he’s a white man leading a diverse party.

Recent polls have shown Biden leading Trump nationally and in many competitive states that determine the Electoral College outcome. But Biden’s aides are keenly aware that Hillary Clinton lost key battleground states four years ago in part because of a drop in turnout among nonwhite voters from what President Barack Obama drew in 2012.

As part of his attacks on Trump’s approach to race, Biden blasted the president for ordering federal authorities to intervene against protesters in places like Portland, Oregon, and Chicago, while small businesses around the country continue to struggle or shut down because of the coronavirus.

The president, Biden said, is trying to distract and scare voters. Biden said most demonstrators are

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"peaceful protesters" who don't require a response from the federal government. "Arsonists and anarchists should be prosecuted," Biden said, and "local law enforcement can do that."

Still, Biden said, "This election is not just about voting against Donald Trump. It's about rising to this moment of crisis, understanding people's struggle and building a future worthy of their courage and ambition to overcome."

And he said that means thinking about every policy debate in terms of structural inequalities.

Maurice Mitchell, a prominent figure in the Movement for Black Lives and national director of the Working Families Party, said there are some "promising items" in Biden's proposals, but added, "There's more we need." Looking beyond the campaign, Mitchell said, "It's not a matter of what's in Biden's platform." Instead, he said, "The power of the movement in the streets will dictate the results of a Biden administration. Fortunately, the movement for racial justice has never been stronger."

Specifically, the former vice president wants to take \$30 billion, or 10% of the federal investment he's already promised as part of larger economic plans, and funnel it into a "Small Business Opportunity Fund" designed to leverage \$5 of private investment for minority owned enterprises for each \$1 in public funds allocated. He also plans to spend \$50 billion to provide startup capital to help entrepreneurs of color start businesses in disadvantaged areas.

To encourage home ownership, the plan would create a \$15,000 federal tax credit to help low- and middle-income families cover down payments on their first homes. It also pledges to build 1.5 million new homes and public housing units in hopes of addressing the nation's affordable housing crisis.

Biden also said the Federal Reserve's mission should be revised to specifically charge the central bank with addressing "persistent racial gaps" in economic opportunities and wealth, rather than a more general focus on maximum employment and stable pricing.

Biden similarly vowed to undo Trump administration regulatory changes that the Democratic presidential nominee says "gutted" Obama administration rules preventing housing discrimination and unfair lending practices.

Biden's plan doesn't endorse legalizing marijuana, though it seeks to clear court hurdles so states can better identify nonviolent offenders whose records they might opt to expunge. Black and Hispanic Americans often face far harsher penalties for crimes involving marijuana possession than white people do.

The Democratic National Committee's convention platform committee voted by a wide margin on Monday to keep language calling for legalization of marijuana nationwide out of the party's platform.

Biden's notes: 'Do not hold grudges' against Kamala Harris

By BILL BARROW and ANDREW HARNIK Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden was uncharacteristically tight-lipped on Tuesday about the final stretch of his search for a vice president. But the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee seemed prepared to talk about at least one leading contender: California Sen. Kamala Harris.

As he took questions from reporters on Tuesday, Biden held notes that were captured by an Associated Press photographer. Harris' name was scrawled across the top, followed by five talking points.

"Do not hold grudges." "Campaigned with me & Jill." "Talented." "Great help to campaign." "Great respect for her."

Those are all observations Biden has made about Harris before. But they take on new significance following a recent Politico report that one of Biden's closest friends and a co-chair of his vice presidential vetting committee, former Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd, still harbors concerns about Harris' tough debate stage performance and that she hasn't expressed regret.

The comments attributed to Dodd have drawn condemnation, especially from influential Democratic women who maintain that Harris is being held to a standard that wouldn't apply to a man running for president.

The debate-stage skirmish was one of the seminal moments of the Democratic primary. Harris, who is Black, said Biden made "very hurtful" comments about his past work with segregationist senators before

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she slammed his opposition to busing as schools began to integrate.

"There was a little girl in California who was a part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bused to school every day," she said. "And that little girl was me."

At the time, Biden called her comments "a mischaracterization of my position."

Their relationship has become considerably more amicable.

Biden has praised Harris publicly many times and noted that he's thought highly of her personally and professionally since she became close to his late son, Beau Biden, when both were state attorneys general.

It is common for high-profile politicians to take notes with them to the podium, either handwritten additions to formal remarks or a bullet-point list like what Biden held on stationery featuring his full name: Joseph R. Biden Jr.

In March, early in the coronavirus pandemic, President Donald Trump's notes were photographed to show "Chinese" written over "corona," part of the president's efforts to blame the pandemic on a foreign adversary. Last year, as Trump faced impeachment for pressuring Ukraine officials to help his reelection by finding dirt on Biden, the president had notes that read: "I want nothing" and "I want no quid pro quo."

Biden's list, at the least, suggests that he wants to defuse any tensions around his relationship with Harris. As reflected in his notes, Harris has become a reliable surrogate for Biden, appearing with him in online fundraisers amid the unusual social distancing standards forced on the campaign by the COVID-19 pandemic. As recently as last week, Harris headlined her own event for Biden, one focused on the Raleigh area in North Carolina, a battleground state where Harris' dual appeal to Black voters and college-educated white women could boost Democrats' prospects.

Biden ultimately did not field a question specifically about Harris. A spokesperson for Harris did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In just his third extended news conference in four months, Biden also sidestepped specific questions about the timing of his decision on a running mate, an approach reflected in another entry on Biden's notepad. Under the heading "VP," Biden wrote "highly qualified" and "diverse group," signifying his intention not to tease out any more details.

Beyond vice presidential politics, Biden's topics included the Justice Department, an allusion to Attorney General William Barr testifying Tuesday on Capitol Hill. His notes did not name Barr, but Biden referenced "the people's lawyer ... not the president's lawyer," echoing his previous assertions that Barr has used his post as the latter.

On the "Last 100 days" of the campaign, Biden wrote that he'd be "offering clearest contrast," "tell the truth," "take responsibility" and "listen to the scientists" – all swipes at Trump.

The list also included the original three-part slogan of Biden's campaign: "Restore soul" of the nation, "Rebuild MC" (the middle class) and "unite country."

Kodak lands loan to bolster US-produced drug supply

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eastman Kodak will receive a federal loan of \$765 million to help reduce reliance on other countries for ingredients in generic drugs, an agreement President Donald Trump hailed Tuesday as a breakthrough in bringing more pharmaceutical manufacturing to the United States.

Kodak Pharmaceuticals will make critical pharmaceutical ingredients that have been identified as essential but have lapsed into chronic national shortage, as defined by the Food and Drug Administration.

The government loan will help support startup costs needed to repurpose and expand Kodak's existing facilities in Rochester, New York, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Kodak unit will have the capacity to produce up to 25% of the active pharmaceutical ingredients needed to make generic drugs in the United States, Trump said.

"We must never be reliant on a foreign nation for America's medical or other needs," Trump said at the White House.

Shares of the one-time photography giant, based in Rochester, more than tripled on the announcement

by the U.S. International Development Finance Corp.

Kodak has branched out to offset the large scale loss of its film business. Adam Boehler, who heads the IDF, said he learned that the company was interested in creating a start-up that could supply ingredients for pharmaceuticals.

"If you look at drugs, 90% of the drugs that we take today are generics, and they are almost all made overseas," Boehler said in an interview on CNBC. "The dominant manufacturer of ingredients for generics is China, and No. 2 is India. And so, we said if we're going to re-shore and bring things back and we're going to have safety and security going forward, we need to change that."

Trump called Kodak "one of the great brands in the world" and added that "then people went digital and Kodak didn't follow." He said the company has now hired some "of the best people in the world" for its new venture.

In a statement, IDF said that once it is fully operational, Kodak Pharmaceuticals would support 360 direct jobs and an additional 1,200 indirectly.

Trump's rival in the presidential election, Democrat Joe Biden, has been criticizing the Trump administration for not pressing more companies into production of ventilators and other critical medical and protective equipment during the virus outbreak under the Defense Production Act. The law gives the president emergency authority to take a range of options, including prioritizing orders from the federal government as well as offering loans.

The Republican president has countered that his use of the authority has been effective enough to save lives by "removing obstacles in the supply chain." He said Tuesday it was the 33rd time he has invoked the Defense Production Act.

Trump defends disproved COVID-19 treatment

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump issued a stout defense Tuesday of a disproved use of a malaria drug as a treatment for the coronavirus, hours after social media companies moved to take down videos promoting its use as potentially harmful misinformation.

The president, in a marked shift from the more measured approach he's taken toward the virus in recent days, took to Twitter to promote hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, and to amplify criticism of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert. In a White House briefing, Trump defended his decision to promote a viral video of a group of doctors promoting the use of the drug Monday, even though his own administration withdrew emergency authorization for its use against the coronavirus.

"I think they're very respected doctors," Trump said, adding they believed in the drug. "There was a woman who was spectacular in her statements about it." The doctors, members of a group called America's Frontline Doctors, took part in an event organized by Tea Party Patriots Action, a dark money group that has helped fund a pro-Trump political action committee.

Scientific studies have shown hydroxychloroquine can do more harm than good when used to treat symptoms of COVID-19.

Trump, his son Donald Trump Jr., and others shared video of the event on Facebook and Twitter, prompting both companies to step in and remove the content as part of an aggressive push to keep the sites free of potentially harmful information about the virus — though not before more than 17 million people had seen one version of the video circulating on the web.

The decision to remove the videos sparked conservative claims of "censorship," with Simone Gold, one of the doctors, tweeting that "there are always opposing views in medicine."

"Treatment options for COVID-19 should be debated, and spoken about among our colleagues in the medical field," she wrote. "They should never, however, be censored and silenced."

Others stressed the differences between medical opinion and peer-reviewed scientific studies.

Many high-quality studies have found no evidence that hydroxychloroquine, when used with or without

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the antibiotic azithromycin, as touted many times by Trump, helps treat coronavirus infection or prevent serious disease from it. They include studies commissioned by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization and universities in the U.S. and around the world.

Because of the lack of benefit and the risks of serious side effects such as heart rhythm problems, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently revoked its brief authorization of emergency use of the drug for COVID-19. NIH treatment guidelines also specifically recommend against hydroxychloroquine's use, except in formal studies.

In addition to sharing the video, Trump retweeted several tweets that attacked the credibility of Fauci, a leading member of the White House coronavirus task force.

Later, Trump appeared to back away from his criticism of Fauci, saying, "I get along with him very well" and even appearing envious of his widespread approval rating.

"He's got a very good approval rating, and I like that," Trump said, adding that Fauci and White House coronavirus task force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx work for him, "And yet they're highly thought of but nobody likes me."

Fauci has become an off-and-on target of Trump and some of his White House aides and outside allies, who disagreed with the doctor's early recommendation to shut down the economy as a way to slow the virus, which is surging again in parts of the country, mostly in the South and West.

Trump, in recent interviews, has described Fauci as "a bit of an alarmist" and accused him of making "mistakes" in his coronavirus guidance. But Trump also says he gets along with the longtime head of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Fauci said Tuesday that he'll deal with the attacks by keeping his head down and doing his job. He also backed the conclusions of the FDA and others about hydroxychloroquine and COVID-19.

Asked if he can do his job while Trump publicly questions his credibility, Fauci said the stakes are too high not to stay involved.

"We're in the middle of a crisis with regard to an epidemic, a pandemic. This is what I do," Fauci said on ABC's "Good Morning America." "This is what I've been trained for my entire professional life and I'll continue to do it."

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube began scrubbing their sites of the video of the doctors on Monday. Conservative news outlets, groups and internet personalities shared it.

Facebook said the video is "sharing false information about cures and treatments for COVID-19," according to spokesman Andy Stone.

Twitter also said it was working to remove the video. The company also took down a tweet from Donald Trump Jr. describing one version of the video as a "must watch!!!" and temporarily halted him from tweeting.

In the video, Dr. Stella Immanuel, a physician from Houston whom Trump described as spectacular, promotes hydroxychloroquine as a sure-fire cure for the coronavirus. She claims to have successfully treated 350 people "and counting," including older patients and some with underlying medical conditions.

"You don't need masks, there is a cure," Immanuel says in the video. But in videos posted to her Facebook page, Immanuel regularly wears masks while preaching during religious events.

"I thought her voice was an important voice, but I know nothing about her," Trump said of Immanuel, sidestepping questions about her history of dubious medical claims.

Trump initially flouted guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on wearing face masks, saying he wouldn't be doing it — and he didn't in public until this month.

After multiple polls showed the public disapproved of his handling of the coronavirus, Trump recently began encouraging people to wear face coverings and tried to project a more serious tone as the virus has surged again, primarily in Arizona, California, Florida and Texas.

Trump wore a face mask in public on Monday in North Carolina, just the second time he has done so during the pandemic.

Last week, he said the situation would probably worsen before it gets better, and he cited the virus as a reason for canceling GOP convention events scheduled for August in Jacksonville, Florida.

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More than 4 million people in the U.S. have been infected by the coronavirus and the death toll is nearing 150,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Seitz reported from Chicago. Associated Press writers David Klepper in Providence, R.I., and Marilyn Marchione in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

MLB suspends Marlins' season through weekend amid outbreak

By STEVEN WINE AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Major League Baseball suspended the Miami Marlins' season through Sunday, and the Philadelphia Phillies will remain idled by the coronavirus pandemic until Friday, while the rest of baseball forges ahead with trepidation.

"There's real fear, there's real anxiety for me, for all my teammates," Milwaukee Brewers slugger Ryan Braun said Tuesday. "I think we've found it very difficult to focus on baseball at all the last couple of days."

In the wake of a virus outbreak that infected half the Marlins' team, Braun said MLB players are constantly assessing whether they should keep playing. Infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci said the season could be in jeopardy.

But MLB came up with a patchwork schedule for the rest of this week and said that among more than 6,400 tests conducted since Friday, there were no new positives involving on-field personnel from any team other than the Marlins.

In a statement, MLB said it wanted to allow the Marlins time to focus on providing care for their players and to plan for a resumption of play early next week. MLB also postponed the three remaining games in this week's Phillies-New York Yankees series.

The Marlins remained stranded in Philadelphia, where they played last weekend. The Phillies-Yankees games were postponed "out of an abundance of caution," MLB said, although no Phillies players have tested positive.

The Marlins received positive test results for four additional players, bringing their total to 15, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The person declined to be identified because the results had not been publicly released.

Nine players on the 30-man roster, two taxi squad players and two staff members tested positive earlier.

The Marlins had been scheduled to play at Baltimore on Wednesday and Thursday. Instead, the Yankees will play at Baltimore on those days.

Miami's three home games this weekend against Washington were postponed. Nationals players had voted against making the trip, manager Dave Martinez said.

"We all decided that it was probably unsafe to go there," Martinez said. "It had nothing to do with the Miami Marlins. It was all about Miami and the state of Florida, this pandemic. They didn't feel safe."

The Marlins underwent another round of tests Tuesday, as their outbreak raised anew questions about baseball's attempts to conduct a season.

"This could put it in danger," Fauci said on ABC's "Good Morning America." "I don't believe they need to stop, but we just need to follow this and see what happens with other teams on a day-by-day basis."

His comments came before word of the Marlins' latest test results.

"Major League Baseball — the players, the owners, the managers — have put a lot of effort into getting together and putting protocols that we feel would work," Fauci said. "It's very unfortunate what happened with the Miami (Marlins)."

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, speaking to reporters in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, expressed reservations about sports such as baseball and football being played during the pandemic, especially in the wake of the Marlins' wave of infections.

"It seems to me that when you have to travel, when you have to be in a hotel room and places that are different than you've been the day before, when you are in a position where you're walking, going into an area where there is a high concentration of spread of COVID, all those things add up to a real problem,"

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Biden said, "and we're not going to really overcome that until we follow science and get a vaccine."

In Cleveland, Chicago White Sox manager Rick Renteria returned to the team Tuesday after awakening with some COVID-19 symptoms a day earlier and being isolated for 24 hours.

And everyone across baseball seemed to be feeling uneasy.

"It's important that we are able to provide a source of entertainment and an outlet for people who are dealing with such a challenging time in their lives," Braun said. "But at the same time, the health and safety should be the top priority for all of us at all times. ...

"You think about all the hotel employees, bus drivers, pilots, flight attendants, anybody else all the Marlins guys might have come into contact with, and it's obviously scary."

The Marlins planned to remain in Philadelphia until at least Wednesday. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health said it was working with the Marlins and Phillies on contact tracing to contain the spread of the virus.

"All of our players, coaches and staff are, understandably, having a difficult time enduring this experience," Marlins CEO Derek Jeter said.

Additional MLB rescheduling during the week of Aug. 3 will be announced later this week. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo offered up his state to any team needing a place to play.

While baseball deals with its logistical challenges, the NBA and NHL are resuming their seasons in bubble environments, with basketball at Lake Buena Vista, Florida, and hockey at Edmonton, Alberta, and Toronto.

The NFL has opted not to create a bubble environment as training camps open this week.

"It might be that they have to go in a bubble," Fauci said, "but I think they're conscientious enough and want to protect their players and protect the personnel that they will do the right thing."

AP Sports Writers Rob Maaddi in Philadelphia, Steve Megargee in Milwaukee, Jake Seiner in New York and Tom Withers in Cleveland and Associated Press Writers Darlene Superville in Washington and Will Weissert in Wilmington, Delaware, contributed to this report.

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'Watchmen' leads charge for Emmy nominations relevance

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Watchmen," cloaked in superhero mythology and grounded in real-world racism, received a leading 26 nominations Tuesday for the prime-time Emmy Awards.

The HBO series, which captured America's deep unease as it faces racial and political discord amid a pandemic, was nominated as best limited series and received bids for cast members including Regina King and Jeremy Irons.

King was part of a vanguard of actors of color indicating that TV academy voters took heed of the social climate.

"Zendaya!" exclaimed Emmy announcement host Leslie Jones, her gleeful reaction to the "Euphoria" star's nomination as best actress in a drama. "This is a great day," Jones said.

She was part of a socially distanced, virtual release of nominees that was online, not on television as is usual. But nothing is usual during a coronavirus era that has brought Hollywood production to a virtual standstill and is making the Emmys and other awards grasp for alternatives.

The strong showing by Netflix's "Ozark" helped the streaming service achieve a record-setting 160 nominations that bested onetime perennial leader HBO, which earned 107 nods. Netflix, although the Emmy veteran among streamers, has yet to win a best comedy or drama series trophy.

Streaming newcomer Apple TV+ earned attention in its first season with Jennifer Aniston's best drama actress bid for "The Morning Show." Another streaming newbie, Disney+, saw its Star Wars franchise spi-

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noff, "The Mandalorian," claim a best drama nomination among its hefty 15 total nods.

The Amazon comedy "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" is the second most-nominated series with 20, followed by Netflix's "Ozark" with 18.

"This year, we are also bearing witness to one of the greatest fights for social justice in history. And it is our duty to use this medium for change," Frank Scherma, chairman and CEO of the Television Academy said at the outset of the presentation.

The acting categories included a record number of Black nominees, 35, among the 102 contenders for lead, supporting and guest performances in drama, comedy and limited series or TV movie. At slightly more than 34 percent of nominees, that bettered the 2018 record of just under 28 percent of Black actors in those categories.

In sharp contrast, few other people of color were recognized. Among them: Sandra Oh, repeating as a best actress nominee for "Killing Eve," and Dev Patel, who received a comedy guest actor nod for "Modern Love."

Kerry Washington's four nominations covered a wide range, including lead actress for "Little Fires Everywhere" and for her production company's work on the limited series and other programs.

Washington said she was most emotional about the posthumous nomination for "Little Fires Everywhere" director Lynn Shelton, who died from a blood disorder in May.

"For the academy to acknowledge her in her passing, deservedly so, it's really moving. We're at a moment where we so desperately need the voices of storytellers from marginalized communities: women directors, people of color," Washington said.

Billy Porter, who last year became the first openly gay man to win the top drama series acting prize, was nominated again this year for "Pose."

Diversity was especially notable in the comedy categories after being nearly absent last year.

"Ramy," which finds nuanced humor in a young Muslim American's crisis of identity and faith, earned a best actor bid for its star and co-creator, Ramy Youssef. Issa Rae returned to the best comedy actress category for her series "Insecure," which earned a best comedy bid.

"Schitt's Creek," the quirky little show that went without Emmy recognition until last year, received 15 nominations for its final season, including for best comedy series and lead acting nods for Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara.

"You just don't expect it. You can't expect it, so what a great surprise," said O'Hara, who spoke from Canada, where she and her family are living lakeside. She credited TV for its role during the pandemic.

"I think all the streaming and broadcasting that we have watched in these last months has brought a lot of much needed laughter, a chance to cry — about something other than the reality — and a distraction," she said. "Also, it's given some optimism to people and some hope."

"The Good Place," which also came to an end, earned a best comedy bid and, for Ted Danson, a best comedy actor nomination. Danson was a two-time Emmy winner in the 1990s for "Cheers."

The farewell was less fond for other shows that wrapped last season, with no major bids for "Modern Family," "Homeland" or "Silicon Valley."

But the late Fred Willard received a nomination for his "Modern Family" guest appearance, his fifth prime-time Emmy nod during his long and admired career.

The eight nods for "Unorthodox," a limited series about a dissatisfied Orthodox Jewish woman, may reflect the virus-quarantine downtime that drew Emmy voters to shows they might otherwise overlook, said Daniel Fienberg, chief TV critic for The Hollywood Reporter.

A far different pop-culture phenomenon also was a likely beneficiary.

"A show like 'Tiger King,' for example, which got a handful of nominations, it's not really all that great, but it absolutely was the junk food that people were craving at the beginning of this quarantine period," Fienberg said.

Joining Jones on Tuesday were presenters Laverne Cox ("Orange is the New Black"), Josh Gad ("Frozen") and Tatiana Maslany ("Orphan Black"). Cox, Gad and Maslany appeared on by video feeds.

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Among the honorees whose nomination collided with current events: Brad Pitt earned a nod for a guest appearance playing Dr. Anthony Fauci on "Saturday Night Live."

Other shows competing for best comedy series are: "Curb Your Enthusiasm"; "Dead to Me"; "The Good Place"; "Insecure"; "The Kominsky Method" and "What We Do in the Shadows."

The nominees for best drama series are: "Better Call Saul"; "The Crown"; "Killing Eve"; "The Handmaid's Tale"; "The Mandalorian"; "Ozark"; "Stranger Things"; "Succession."

In addition to "Watchmen," the nominees for best limited series are: "Little Fires Everywhere"; "Mrs. America"; "Unbelievable"; "Unorthodox."

A high energy Jones kicked off Tuesday's announcement by appearing on a virtual set and joking that she was told there would be many others on set to announce the nominees, but instead she was locked in a studio with only a cameraman.

The Emmy Awards, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, will be presented Sept. 20 on ABC.

AP writers Jocelyn Noveck and Alicia Rancilio in New York and Ryan Pearson in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Online: <http://www.emmys.com>

For more on this year's Emmy Awards, go to: <https://apnews.com/EmmyAwards>

Barr defends aggressive federal response to protests

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr defended the aggressive federal law enforcement response to civil unrest in America as he testified for the first time before the House Judiciary Committee, pushing back against angry, skeptical Democrats who said President Donald Trump's administration is unconstitutionally suppressing dissent.

The hearing, held Tuesday as the late civil rights icon John Lewis lay in state steps away outside the Capitol, highlighted the wide election-year gulf between the two parties on police brutality and systemic racism in law enforcement. Massive protests have sparked unrest across the nation following the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, and calls for police reform are growing louder.

But Barr said "violent rioters and anarchists have hijacked legitimate protests" and argued the violence taking place in Portland, Oregon, and other cities is disconnected from Floyd's killing, which he called a "horrible" event that prompted a necessary national reckoning on the relationship between the Black community and law enforcement. But he also said there was no systemic racism in law enforcement.

"Largely absent from these scenes of destruction are even superficial attempts by the rioters to connect their actions to George Floyd's death or any legitimate call for reform," Barr said of the Portland protests.

The hearing marks Barr's first appearance before the committee after 18 months in office, bringing him face-to-face with the panel that voted last year to hold him in contempt and is holding hearings on what Democrats say is politicization of the Justice Department under his watch. But little new ground was uncovered; fuming Democrats often used their five minutes to lay out their frustrations and cut Barr off as he attempted to answer questions.

The hearing comes during a tumultuous stretch in which Barr has taken actions cheered by President Donald Trump but condemned by Democrats and other critics. Among them: the Justice Department's decision to drop the prosecution of former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn and Barr's urging for a more lenient sentence for Trump ally Roger Stone, a move that prompted the entire trial team's departure. Trump later commuted the sentence entirely.

The top Republican on the panel, Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, used his opening statement to show an eight-minute video that spliced together images of violence by protesters around the country.

Democrats retorted with a video of their own of more peaceful protesters, shown by Rhode Island Rep.

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David Cicilline.

"We fought for democracy, for the right to speak freely and you are attempting to take that away," Cicilline told Barr. "What's worse, you're doing it for the sole purpose of furthering the president's political agenda and generating footage for Trump campaign commercials."

Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler said the Trump administration had "twisted the Department of Justice into a shadow of its former self," serving the powerful before average Americans.

Nadler said Barr had "aided and abetted" Trump's worst impulses and excoriated him and the Justice Department for turning a blind eye to necessary reforms to police departments, for dismissing Black Lives Matter protests and for flooding streets with federal agents to stop protesters.

Under combative questioning, Barr acerbically defended himself but revealed little new information about his motivations or the Justice Department's recent actions on policing or otherwise.

His testimony underscored his department's ongoing effort to differentiate between increasing violence in some cities and Floyd's death, which has led to state charges against four officers and is under investigation by federal authorities. Massive but peaceful demonstrations followed Floyd's death in May.

The attorney general acknowledged that Floyd's death struck a chord in the Black community because it reinforced concerns Black people are treated differently by police. But he condemned Americans who he says have responded inappropriately to Floyd's death.

"As elected officials of the federal government, every member of this committee — regardless of your political views or your feelings about the Trump administration — should condemn violence against federal officers and destruction of federal property," Barr said.

Civil unrest escalated in Portland after federal agents were accused of whisking people away in unmarked cars without probable cause; the people were detained and later released. And in Washington, D.C., peaceful protesters were violently cleared from the streets by federal officers using smoke bombs and pepper balls last month before a photo op by Trump in front of St. John's church.

Barr defended the broad use of law enforcement power to deal with the situation, noting that protesters had earlier set fire to the church and "it was total consensus that you couldn't allow that to happen so close to the White House." The department's internal watchdog has opened investigations into use of force and other tactics by agents in Washington and Portland.

He also said the force was used because the protesters would not disperse from the area when law enforcement officials were trying to move back the security perimeter, a decision made the night before. When pressed on details, he pointed to the investigations.

The use of pepper spray was warranted, even if peaceful protesters were also harmed, he said.

Beyond the federal response to the demonstrations, Barr was pressed in detail about his intervention in the Flynn and Stone cases, both of which arose from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. Democrats criticized him for partly taking into account Stone's health and age, 67, and said those standards haven't been used in other similar cases.

Barr said he told the acting U.S. attorney that "we are going to leave it up to the judge" and that he ordered the revised recommendation to be filed when the prosecutors submitted an initial recommendation calling for a sentence of seven to nine years.

"And even though I knew I would get a lot of criticism for doing that, I think at the end of the day my obligation is to be fair to the individual," Barr said.

Barr also addressed Trump's assertions on Twitter that the 2020 presidential election will be "rigged." Asked by Louisiana Rep. Cedric Richmond if that could be the case, Barr said "I have no reason to think it will be." Barr also said he agrees with the nation's intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, despite Trump's reluctance to embrace that point.

Masked mourners brave heat, virus fears to honor John Lewis

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mourners braved both coronavirus fears and brutal heat on Tuesday to pay their

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respects to the late Rep. John Lewis, the first Black lawmaker to lie in state at the Capitol Rotunda.

The crowds were thin and lines nonexistent, partially because of high temperatures. But those who came said it was important to personally honor a civil rights icon who died just as America was confronting another national reckoning over entrenched racial iniquities.

"He was worth the virus risk and worth every drop of sweat," said Alicia Patterson, 66, who came from Maryland with three generations of her family to observe Lewis' flag-draped casket. "He worked hard for all of us, and he deserved this and more."

Lewis died July 17 of cancer at the age of 80. The long-serving Georgia congressman took part in Martin Luther King's 1963 March on Washington. He was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 2011 by Barack Obama and is the first Black lawmaker to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

With almost no lines Tuesday afternoon, dozens of visitors were able to linger and take pictures outside the Capitol. Many brought umbrellas to block the summer sun. The specter of the COVID-19 pandemic hung over all aspects of the mourning. In addition to face coverings, which were declared mandatory outdoors by Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser, yellow dots on the grounds reminded mourners to stand 6 feet (1.8 meters) apart.

Instead of a guest book to write in, mourners could scan a code on their phones and write messages in a virtual condolence book. The casket itself was at the top of the steps on the east side of the Capitol building, while mourners were restricted to the bottom of the steps.

"I just felt I had to come and pay my respects," said Phillip Estes, a 53-year old urban planner and D.C. resident. "It's a generational passing, and it feels really important now with the country's renewed interest in advancing racial equality and social justice."

Born near Troy, Alabama, Lewis was among the original Freedom Riders, a group of young activists who boarded commercial passenger buses and traveled through the segregated Jim Crow South. They were assaulted and battered at many stops along the way, by citizens and authorities alike. Lewis was the youngest and last-living of those who spoke on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at the March on Washington.

"He was there for the beginning of it all," said Jay Stegall, a 33-year old American University graduate student and Atlanta native who came with his two sisters and his 4-year-old daughter. "I thought it was important for them to see this."

One of Lewis' final public appearances was a June 7 visit to the corner of 16th and H streets in front of the White House. The intersection, which was the epicenter of several days of clashes and protests over police brutality and systemic racism, had just been renamed Black Lives Matter Plaza by Bowser.

"That was a really amazing and poetic moment," Stegall said. "I think it was important that he lived to see a resurgence of what he started. Now it's time to finish it."

When Lewis' casket arrived Monday at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, the motorcade stopped at Black Lives Matter Plaza as it wound through Washington before arriving at the Capitol.

Notably absent was President Donald Trump, who also skipped Monday's emotional ceremony honoring Lewis. Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, paid their respects on Monday, but Trump said he would not attend. The pair had an openly adversarial relationship: Trump called Lewis' Atlanta congressional district "crime-infested" while Lewis frequently criticized Trump's racially divisive tactics, and once questioned his legitimacy as president.

Several mourners said Trump was not missed.

"It wouldn't have been authentic. It would just have been another photo op for him," Stegall said. "He definitely wouldn't have understood the meaning of the moment."

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, July 29, the 211th day of 2020. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1967, an accidental rocket launch on the deck of the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf

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of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen. (Among the survivors was future Arizona senator John McCain, a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander who narrowly escaped with his life.)

On this date:

In 1856, German composer Robert Schumann died in Endenich at age 46.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established. Jack Paar made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In 1965, The Beatles' second feature film, "Help!," had its world premiere in London.

In 1968, Pope Paul the Sixth reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church's stance against artificial methods of birth control.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland.

In 1980, a state funeral was held in Cairo, Egypt, for the deposed Shah of Iran, who had died two days earlier at age 60.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in a glittering ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1986, a federal jury in New York found that the National Football League had committed an antitrust violation against the rival United States Football League. But in a hollow victory for the U-S-F-L, the jury ordered the N-F-L to pay token damages of only three dollars.

In 1994, abortion opponent Paul Hill shot and killed Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's bodyguard, James H. Barrett, outside the Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, Florida. (Hill was executed in Sept. 2003.)

In 1997, members of Congress from both parties embraced compromise legislation designed to balance the budget while cutting taxes.

Ten years ago: Army Spc. Bradley (now Chelsea) Manning was flown from a detention facility in Kuwait to the Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Virginia, to await trial on charges of giving military secrets to WikiLeaks. The House rejected a bill that would have provided up to \$7.4 billion in aid to people sickened by World Trade Center dust; Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., angrily denounced Republicans who'd voted against the measure, calling it "a shame, a shame." A House panel charged New York Democrat Charles Rangel with 13 counts of ethical misdeeds (he was later censured by the full House).

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Ash Carter told the Senate Armed Services Committee that America's armed forces stood ready to confront Iran, but that a successful implementation of the nuclear agreement with Tehran was preferable to a military strike. Afghan authorities announced they were certain that the Taliban's reclusive leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, had died in a Pakistani hospital in 2013. Microsoft released its Windows 10 operating system, an upgrade of Windows 8.

One year ago: Britain's weather agency confirmed that the country had seen its highest temperature on record, 101.7 degrees Fahrenheit, during the heat wave that broke temperature records across Europe in the preceding days.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 88. Actor Robert Fuller is 87. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 84. Actor David Warner is 79. Actress Roz Kelly is 78. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 74. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 71. Actor Mike Starr is 70. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 67. Style guru Tim Gunn is 67. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 67. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 67. Actor Kevin Chapman is 58. Actress Alexandra Paul is 57. Actor/comedian Dean Haglund is 55. Country singer Martina McBride is 54. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 53. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 52. Actor Tim Omundson is 51. Actor Ato Essandoh is 48. Actor Wil Wheaton is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 47. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 47. Actor Stephen Dorff is 47. Actor Josh Radnor is 46. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 43. Actress Rachel Miner is 40. Actress Allison Mack is 38. Actress Kaitlyn Black is 37. Actor Matt Prokop is 30. Actress Cait Fairbanks is 27.