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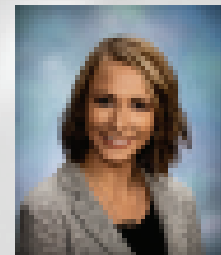
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W-2019536 08/18

### **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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**#171 in a series**

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

The larger rate of growth continues into the week. We're now at 5,205,700 cases in the US; that's 53,400 more than yesterday, a 1.0% rate of increase. Highest per capita new case reports are coming from California, Nevada, Idaho, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Kentucky set a record for single-day new cases. Illinois broke the 200,000-case mark today. Meanwhile, those data corrections we've been expecting have started to work their way into the system in California. Today was a high new-case day, but more than half the new cases were actually from the backlog, not actual new cases that were diagnosed today. We knew this was coming but it will take a while before we see those slow down and can fairly assess trends. Hospitalizations and other indicators are slowing down, which helps to sort out the new cases from the backlogged ones.

Data now available are showing community outbreaks over the summer have centered on restaurants and bars. Scores of restaurants have had to close temporarily due to outbreaks. In one week in San Diego, 15 of 39 new community cases were associated with restaurants—further evidence that there's really no way to be safe in a setting where people are not wearing face coverings.

There were 1432 deaths today, our second consecutive day over 1000. The total now stands at 165,834 deaths, a 0.9% increase from yesterday. We're averaging more than 1000 deaths per day, more than twice early July's numbers, and today's total was one of the highest of the summer. The bulk of those deaths were in the Sun Belt where case numbers have tapered off, but deaths are continuing to increase.

We have some very interesting news from University of California San Francisco scientists who have, they believe, a highly effective prophylactic (preventive) treatment for Covid-19. This is related to a kind of very small antibody produced in certain animals, primarily camelids, specifically llamas, and sharks, in nature. We talked about these tiny llama antibodies back in May (My #80, May 13: <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3589866071029773>); and at that time, we were thinking of using the llama antibodies, most likely via injection, directly in patients who had been exposed or who were at high risk of infection. These researchers have gone one better. They've outined their technology in a paper (still in pre-print, so not yet peer-reviewed).

They're calling these small antibodies nanobodies. (Nano means small; in the metric system, it means one-billionth, so a nanometer is one-billionth of a meter.) These nanobodies are more stable outside and inside the body than the large proteins that are human antibodies, which matters in a number of ways, and they have an easier time getting into our tissues. Because of their small size and simple structure, researchers have been able to figure out how to produce these in bulk and inexpensively by recombining the gene that codes for them into bacteria called *Escherichia coli* or into yeasts, which turns these micro-organisms into high-output factories for nanobodies. This is not a new, untested technology; we've been making insulin (Humulin) this way for decades. They didn't stop there, however; they then engineered the protein to make it more effective.

To understand how the nanobodies these scientists have developed work, it will help to review how the SARS-CoV-2 virus operates. Those little bumps all over the surface in every representation you're ever going to see of this virus are called spikes, and these are the guys that start the trouble. Each spike has a set of three regions that can bind to host cells, thus initiating infection. The regions are called receptor-binding domains (RBDs), and they're closed and inactive on a virus much of the time. When these open and activate, they change shape in a way that perfectly fits to a set of proteins on the surface of many of the cells in your lung and airway lining; these host-cell surface proteins are called angiotensin-converting enzyme-2 receptors (or ACE2 receptors). Once the RBD of the virus binds to ACE2 on your cell, that cell's in trouble: The virus enters, shuts down normal cellular activity, and takes over the machinery of the cell to replicate new virus, which escapes and wanders off to infect more cells. This is the event we need to prevent.

The most potent nanobodies against SARS-CoV-2 block those RBD-ACE2 interactions by strongly attaching themselves to the spike RBDs. They form a sort of cap over the RBD which prevents it from fitting

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into the ACE2 receptor. The best ones attach to a closed, inactive RBD so that it's locked into this inactive conformation—and they don't let go. The researchers then linked three of these nanobodies together so that they block all three of the RBDs on a spike at the same time, leaving the virus no back-up plan. This souped-up version that can block three closed RBDs at the same time is approximately 200,000 times more effective than a single nanobody alone. And now we're talking.

Better yet, as mentioned above, the small size of these proteins makes them very stable. Proteins are notoriously unstable to high temperatures. (If you want to consider the effects of high temperatures on proteins, consider what happens to an egg white—almost pure protein—when you drop it into a frying pan or a piece of meat on the grill.) This particular protein, probably due to its small size, however, handles high temperatures well. That means you can make it into a self-stable powder that can be dissolved to use in producing an aerosol. So why do we care? Because this means it's easy and cheap to transport, and it can be turned into an aerosol for use in a self-administered nasal spray—no injection needed. Self-administration plummets the cost of use because there's no need for a doctor's visit.

They're calling their product AeroNabs, and they're thinking it may be able to be offered over-the-counter (OTC), which will further drop the cost. So here's the upshot: The drug is being developed by a public university, so likely their need for profit is diminished considerably. The nanobodies can be mass-produced cheaply which keeps costs down. It is an inhalable, so no doctor's visit is required. And it could potentially be an OTC drug, which means there's no need for the mediation of a pharmacist, keeping costs low as well. If they can get clinical trials underway reasonably soon, we should know how this works within a few months.

Quite a lot remains to be done: We need to know these nanobodies work in real life the way they do in the lab, we need to know they don't have unexpected effects in recipients, and we need to know they actually prevent infections. That's going to take all of the usual clinical trials. The research team is in discussions with commercial partners regarding production and preparing clinical trials. They envision this as a stopgap until vaccines are available, and even then, as useful as a more permanent line of defense for those who cannot access or don't respond to vaccines. We'll be watching this one.

We've all lost something during this pandemic, major losses of loved ones or more minor ones like eating out. One of those things is live performances from theater to music. The Lincoln Center in New York City, home of the New York Philharmonic, among others, hasn't seen a live audience event since March 13. It isn't just the well-to-do who enjoy their performances; in the summer, the orchestra and ensembles of members play in parks around the city. Those stopped too. Until now.

The Center has been hosting some free mini concerts for health care providers, teachers, and other essential workers with just one or two musicians who volunteer their time and audiences of no more than five people. These proceed in several seatings per engagement with arts center employees disinfecting chairs in between seatings. The venues are beautiful areas on the grounds of the Center, and each performance lasts about 15 minutes; a guest can bring up to four family members.

This has turned out to be a powerful experience for audience and performers alike. One teacher said he teared up as he saw the joy on the violinist's face. "I think that's really what got to me more emotionally because I'm thinking about what I want to get back and do, what I'm passionate about—be in front of kids. And I don't think I'm going to do that in September. That's the painful reality."

After his performance, the violinist said he felt as though he needed the evening as much or more than his listeners. "That was magical. I knew this was going to be amazing because I haven't been playing for four months for the general public, so I knew I needed it. Actually this is more like a therapy for me." There are more such small-scale events planned.

When you can't do good on a large scale, it's OK to find a way to do it on a small scale instead. When you can't change lives, you can make a few people's day better. When many things are going wrong, you can make one thing right. Find that one small-scale thing you can manage, and do that. When you do, everyone wins, and the world gets a little brighter in your corner of it.

Keep yourself healthy. I'll see you tomorrow.

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## 2020-2021 Groton Area School District Back to School Information

### **Groton Area School District 06-6 – “Mission Statement”**

Each school will foster a school climate conducive to learning by encouraging good behavior and citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards. Teachers will employ strategies and approaches to instruction to meet the needs of all children assigned to them. With proper motivation and instruction, all children can learn!

### **Teacher Qualifications**

All teachers of core academic subjects must hold at least a bachelor's degree, have full state certification, and demonstrate knowledge in the core academic subject they teach. For information regarding the qualifications of your child's teachers, you may contact the superintendent's office at 397-2351.

### **Registration**

Anyone new to the District should contact the respective building principal(s) as soon as possible. Middle School and High School Schedule changes can be made on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. New student registration for students entering grades JK-5 will be held on Tuesday, August 6 at the Elementary School.

### **School Supply Lists**

Students' school supply lists for the elementary school (preschool – grade 5) are posted on the District's web site at [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com) under the [District Info Heading](#). Students in the middle school (grades 6-8) will be required to have the same color notebook, folder, and book cover for each class. Math will be green; English, blue; reading, red; science, purple; and social studies, black. The students can choose their own colors for PE, art, health, and computer classes.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Walk – Friday, August 14**

Groton Area Middle School is hosting a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Walk on Friday, August 14 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Students and their parents are invited to contact the MS/HS Office at 605-397-8381 to schedule an appointment to get a class schedule and other important information from the school office, find the student locker and classrooms, and begin to learn the new building.

### **Tablet PCs or Ipads Issued to All Students**

Prior to being issued their tablet PC, students and their parents must sign and return the following documents: Laptop Computer Protection Agreement, the Student Pledge, E-mail Acceptable Use Agreement, the Groton Area School District Network/Internet agreement, and the Parental Consent to Publish Student Photos/Work. Required forms can be picked up in the School Office or will be sent home with students on the first day of classes.

### **First Day of School – Wednesday, August 19**

The first day of school is on Wednesday, August 19. Buses will run and school lunch will be served. Each route driver will contact parents to confirm bus arrival times. Other bus route questions may be referred to transportation supervisor, Loren Bahr, at (605) 397-8117. The GRASP (OST) program at the elementary school will be available on the first day of school.

### **Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten**

The District offers all-day, every day kindergarten classes. Children may enter kindergarten if they are 5 years of age on or before September 1 of the year in which they are to enter school. The District offers a junior kindergarten program each day from 12:15PM – 3:31PM for students that are eligible to attend kindergarten, but are not quite ready for kindergarten. Students enrolling in first grade must be 6 years of age on or before September 1 of that school year.

### **Non-Resident Enrollment**

For out-of-district students, applications to open enroll may be accepted throughout the school year. Applications are available from any school district administrative office. All open enrollment requests and related questions should be referred to school superintendent, Joe Schwan, at (605) 397-2351.

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## **2020-2021 School Hours**

Groton Area Elementary: 8:15AM: Arrival Time (Supervision)

8:22AM – 3:31PM: Classes in Session

Groton Area MS/HS: 8:13 AM: First Bell

8:18AM – 3:40PM: Classes in Session

## **GRASP (OST) Program**

The GRASP program services children in junior kindergarten through grade five with before and after-school homework help, supervised learning activities, and snacks. The GRASP program will be held in the Groton Area Elementary School from 7:00AM - 8:00AM and 3:31PM – 6:00PM each day that school is in session. Rates are \$2.75 per hour, per child. Any OST questions or registrations may be directed to Elementary Principal, Mr. Brett Schwan, at (605) 397-2317.

## **K-12 Breakfast and Lunch Program**

The school provides breakfast and lunch for all students each day school is in session. All meals are on a cash basis (i.e. pay as you go), while recognizing the provisions for free and reduced price meals. Guidelines for 2020-2021 applications for free and reduced priced meals were mailed out the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to apply for free and reduced priced meals if there is a possibility they may qualify. Prices are as follows:

Groton Area Elementary:

Daily Breakfast: \$2.50

Daily Lunch: \$3.25

Prices for second servings at the elementary are \$1.00.

Groton Area Middle School/High School:

Daily Breakfast: \$3.00

Daily Lunch: \$3.75

Prices for second servings at the middle/high school are \$1.25.

## **Activity Tickets**

Activity tickets are intended to admit all students to regularly scheduled home activities or events, with about the only exceptions being tournaments and the Pops Concert. Students in grades 1-5 may purchase an activity ticket, if they wish. All students who participate in activities for which an activity stipend is paid are required to purchase an activity ticket as a condition of participation since they are the primary beneficiaries of the activity programs. For example, staff activity stipends include: all sports, marching band, forensics, cheerleading, drama, oral interp, DI, FFA, FCCLA, FBLA etc.

## **Activity Ticket prices for 2020-2021 are as follows:**

Grades 1-5: \$25.00

Grades 6-12: \$30.00

Adults: \$45 (10 events)

Adults – All Events: \$75.00

Admission Prices:

Adults = \$5.00; \$6.00 for double headers

Students, Grades 1-12 = \$4.00

## **School Cancellations**

All school cancellations or early dismissals due to inclement weather or emergencies will be sent out via the Aptegey Messenger System. Within minutes, Aptegey automatically sends a pre-recorded message to every recipient on a selected list. Parents will be asked to provide phone numbers and e-mail addresses (when available) to the school so that a selected calling list can be created. Emergency cancellations will be broadcast over TV stations KSFY, KDLT, and KELO as well as the District Facebook page and website, [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com), and by push notifications on the District app (Groton Area Tigers, SD).

## **Groton Area Tigers, SD Mobile App**

The Groton Area School District has a mobile application available for both Apple and Android devices. Search "Groton Area Tigers, SD" in your app store and download the free app. Be sure to set up the app

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to allow push notifications to receive timely and important updates from your child's school. The app includes event calendars, athletics schedules, staff contacts, school menus, access to up-to-date news and information and access to archived documents.

## **Immunization Requirements (SDCL 13-28-7.1)**

State law requires that any pupil entering school or an early childhood program in the state shall, prior to admission, be required to present the appropriate school authorities certification from a licensed physician that the new child has received or is in the process of receiving adequate immunization against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, rubeola, rubella, mumps, tetanus, and varicella, according to recommendations provided by the Department of Health. The Department of Health may modify or delete any of the required immunizations. As an alternative to the requirement for a physician's certification, the pupil may present:

Certificate from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child would be such that immunization would endanger the child's life or health; or

A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such immunization; or

A written statement signed by one parent or guardian requesting that the local health department give the immunization because the parents or guardians lack the means to pay for such immunization.

Students enrolling in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are required to get one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one dose of Meningococcal vaccine on or after their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **Harassment and Bullying Policies**

The district has harassment & bullying policies in place in both buildings. Bullying among students can be defined as intentional, repeated hurtful acts, words or other behavior, such as name-calling, threatening and/or shunning committed by one or more students against another. This definition also includes "cyber-bullying" which is the sending or posting of cruel or harmful texts or images using the Internet or other digital media such as cell phones, etc. For a complete copy of the district's harassment or bullying policy, please contact the building principal.

## **Grievance Procedure**

In an effort to maintain effective communications, if you have a particular concern about your child's progress or about what is happening on the bus, at school, in a class or activity, first discuss it with the driver, teacher, or director of the activity. If your concern or grievance remains unresolved at that level, or if there is a need to share your concern, contact the principal in charge of the school in which your child attends. If the concern/grievance remains unresolved at that level, contact the superintendent. If school policy is at issue or if the concern/grievance remains unresolved, you may request that the superintendent include the subject on the school board meeting agenda. To maintain confidentiality, student matters may be confined to an "executive session" with the Board and administration.

## **Complaint Policy for Federal Programs and Homelessness Policy**

A parent, student, employee, or district stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal funds and is unable to solve the issue, may address the complaint in writing to the district's superintendent. Disputes addressing the enrollment, transportation, and other barriers to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness are also addressed under this procedure. For a copy of the complete policy, contact the school superintendent or refer to the District web site.

## **Child Find**

Parents or guardians are to be informed that the Groton Area School District 06-6 continuously conducts a "Child Find" search to identify and evaluate District children ages 0-21, with special education needs. Persons who know of a child with un-served education needs may refer the child, by name, to the appropriate building principal. With the parent or guardian's consent, an evaluation will be made. After the evaluation has been completed, a placement committee will meet with the parent or guardian to determine if special assistance is needed.

## **Title I**

The federal government provides funding to states each year for Title I services. The goal of Title I is to provide extra help in math and reading for eligible students. Students are selected for the program based

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on information provided by classroom teachers, parents, and achievement test results. Title I services in our district are provided to students in grades K-5, with a strong emphasis on students in grades K-3.

## **Title I Right to Know – Teacher Certification**

As a parent or guardian of a student attending a school that is receiving Federal Title I dollars (Groton Area Elementary), you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teacher(s) and instructional paraprofessionals who instruct your child. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask: 1. Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching; 2. Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and; 3. What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

## **Federal Compliance Notice**

Students, their parents, and employees of the Groton Area School District #06-6 are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, national origin, color, age, disability or religion in employment practices and educational activities. To ensure compliance with Section 427 of GEPA, effective steps shall be taken to remove potential barriers so as to ensure equity of access and participation in grant programs and to achieve high standards. Any person having inquiries concerning compliance or application of Title VI, Affirmative Action, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act is directed to contact Federal Program compliance coordinator, Joe Schwan, Superintendent, Groton Area School District 06-6, Phone 397-2351 or, Department of Education, Civil Rights Office, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; Phone: (816) 268-0550; TTD (800) 4370-0833; FAX: (816) 823-1404; Web link: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html?src=mr>

## **FERPA Notification of Rights**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Groton Area School District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Groton Area School District to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or



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a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Groton Area School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

## **Student Directory Information**

The Groton Area School District routinely discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to the South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota Technical Institutions, and upon request, to military recruiters, subject to a parent's or eligible student's request not to disclose such information without written consent. Parents or eligible students who wish to opt-out of the disclosure of this information may contact the school office for the appropriate document or may obtain it here: <https://bit.ly/3fFyC58>

## **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, and all professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional agreements with the school district are hereby notified that this district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, gender, disability, national origin, or ancestry in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.

## **Section 504**

Section 504 is the part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that applies to persons with disabilities. Section 504 is a civil rights act that protects the civil and constitutional rights of persons with disabilities. It states that no person with a disability can be excluded from or denied benefits of any program receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 and special education are two separate services.

## **Notification of Asbestos in School Building(s)**

In compliance with the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule, the Groton Area School District had its school buildings inspected on 3/19/2019 by an asbestos inspector, accredited by the state of South Dakota. During that inspection, areas of suspected asbestos (ACBM) were identified and inspected. The Groton Area School District has an Asbestos Management Plan which provides information on the periodic monitoring of the condition of asbestos (ACBM) remaining in the school buildings. Anyone that would like to see the Asbestos Management Plan can contact a building principal or superintendent.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

|               | Aug. 12   | Aug. 13   |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Minnesota     | 61,839    | 62,303    |
| Nebraska      | 29,030    | 29,244    |
| Montana       | 5,104     | 5,268     |
| Colorado      | 51,441    | 51,756    |
| Wyoming       | 2,584     | 2,600     |
| North Dakota  | 7885      | 7970      |
| South Dakota  | 9713      | 9815      |
| United States | 5,141,879 | 5,197,749 |
| US Deaths     | 164,545   | 166,038   |

|               |         |         |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| Minnesota     | +323    | +464    |
| Nebraska      | +334    | +214    |
| Montana       | +87     | +164    |
| Colorado      | +402    | +315    |
| Wyoming       | +19     | +16     |
| North Dakota  | +172    | +85     |
| South Dakota  | 50      | +102    |
| United States | +47,314 | +55,870 |
| US Deaths     | +1,080  | +1,493  |

|               | Aug. 5    | Aug. 6    | Aug. 7    | Aug. 7    | Aug. 9    | Aug. 10   | Aug. 11   |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Minnesota     | 57,162    | 57,779    | 58,640    | 59,185    | 60,101    | 60,898    | 61,516    |
| Nebraska      | 27,178    | 27,489    | 27,821    | 28,104    | 28,245    | 28,432    | 28,696    |
| Montana       | 4,314     | 4,429     | 4,602     | 4,757     | 4889      | 4,952     | 5,017     |
| Colorado      | 48,394    | 48,988    | 49,436    | 49,893    | 50,324    | 50,660    | 51,039    |
| Wyoming       | 2,392     | 2,424     | 2,449     | 2,490     | 2,498     | 2,533     | 2,565     |
| North Dakota  | 6933      | 7057      | 7177      | 7327      | 7508      | 7596      | 7713      |
| South Dakota  | 9,079     | 9168      | 9273      | 9371      | 9477      | 9605      | 9663      |
| United States | 4,768,083 | 4,818,328 | 4,883,657 | 4,945,795 | 4,998,802 | 5,045,564 | 5,094,565 |
| US Deaths     | 156,753   | 157,930   | 160,104   | 161,456   | 162,430   | 162,938   | 163,465   |

|               |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Minnesota     | +602    | +617    | +861    | +545    | +916    | +797    | +618    |
| Nebraska      | +222    | +311    | +332    | +283    | +141    | +187    | +264    |
| Montana       | +81     | +115    | +173    | +155    | +132    | +63     | +65     |
| Colorado      | +426    | +594    | +448    | +457    | +431    | +336    | +379    |
| Wyoming       | +28     | +32     | +25     | +41     | +8      | +35     | +32     |
| North Dakota  | +148    | +124    | +120    | +150    | +181    | +88     | +117    |
| South Dakota  | +59     | +89     | +105    | +98     | +106    | +129    | +59     |
| United States | +49,834 | +50,235 | +65,329 | +62,138 | +53,007 | +46,762 | +49,001 |
| US Deaths     | +1,275  | +1,177  | +2,174  | +1,352  | +974    | +508    | +527    |

\* The July 29, 2020, daily update includes cases reported to the South Dakota Department between Monday, July 27 at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, July 28 at 7 p.m. due to a delay in the daily data extraction.

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## August 12th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

One female in the 60s from Lyman County is the latest casualty from COVID-19. That brings the death toll to 147 in South Dakota. North Dakota had two more deaths for a total of 120.

Brown, Edmunds and Marshall counties each experienced a positive case. Hyde County fell from the fully recovered list with its four positive case. Brown County had seven recoveries with a positivity rate of 1.8 percent. In South Dakota the positivity rate was 5.1 percent.

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +1 (452) Positivity Rate: 1.8%  
Recovered: +7 (406)  
Active Cases: -6 (43)  
Total Tests: +56 (6022)  
Ever Hospitalized: No Change (21)  
Deaths: 0 (3)  
Percent Recovered: 89.8% (+1.3)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +102 (9815 total) Positivity Rates: 5.1%  
Total Tests: 1,982 (156,759 total)  
Hospitalized: +5 (892 total). 59 currently hospitalized (up 2 from yesterday)  
Deaths: +1 (147 total)  
Recovered: +99 (8606 total)  
Active Cases: +2 (1,062)  
Percent Recovered: 87.7 +0.1  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 2% Covid, 48% Non-Covid, 50% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 61% Non-Covid, 37% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 14% Non-Covid, 81% Available

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding (53)

Fully recovered from positive cases: Bennett 6-6, Bon Homme 13-13, Jerauld 40-39-1, Jones 2-2, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Perkins 4-4, Potter 1-1, Stanley 14-14, Tripp 20-20.

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: 2 active cases  
Beadle (9): 21 active cases  
Bennett: Full Recovered  
Bon Homme: Fully Recovered  
Brookings (1): +2 positive, +10 recovered (14 active cases)  
Brown (3): +1 positive, +7 recovered (43 active cases)  
Brule (1): 6 active cases  
Buffalo (3): 6 active cases  
Butte: +2 recovered (6 active cases)

Campbell: 2 active cases  
Charles Mix: +1 recovered (10 active cases)  
Clark: 2 active cases  
Clay: +1 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)  
Codington (1): +5 positive, +4 recovered (29 active cases)  
Corson: +1 positive, +2 recovered (11 active cases)  
Custer: +2 recovered (10 active case)  
Davison (1): +2 recovered (11 active cases)  
Day: 2 active cases  
Deuel: 3 active cases  
Dewey: +1 positive (16 active cases)

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Douglas: +1 recovered (3 active cases)  
 Edmunds: +1 positive (5 active cases)  
 Fall River: +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Faulk (1): +1 positive (4 active cases)  
 Grant: +2 recovered (5 active cases)  
 Gregory: 1 active case  
 Haakon: Fully Recovered  
 Hamlin: +2 positive (10 active cases)  
 Hand: +1 positive (2 active cases)  
 Hanson: 3 active cases  
 Harding: No infections reported  
 Hughes (2): +1 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Hutchinson: +1 positive (5 active cases)  
 Hyde: +1 positive (1 active case)  
 Jackson (1): 2 active cases  
 Jerauld (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jones: Fully Recovered  
 Kingsbury: 2 active cases  
 Lake (2): +1 positive, +2 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Lawrence: +1 positive, +2 recovered (29 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +14 positive, +12 recovered (98 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): 7 active cases  
 Marshall: +1 positive (3 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +1 positive (6 active cases)  
 McPherson: 1 active case  
 Meade (1): +1 positive, +2 recovered (22 active cases)  
 Mellette: 1 active case  
 Miner: +1 recovered (1 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (68): +41 positive, +29 recovered (382 active cases)

Moody: +1 recovered (3 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (2): 18 active cases  
 Pennington (32): +12 positive, +10 recovered (113 active cases)  
 Perkins: 1 active cases  
 Potter: Fully Recovered  
 Roberts (1): +1 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered  
 Spink: +1 recovered (7 active cases)  
 Stanley: Fully Recovered  
 Sully: 1 active case  
 Todd (5): +4 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Tripp: Fully Recovered  
 Turner: +1 positive (10 active cases)  
 Union (4): +1 positive, +1 recovered (28 active cases)  
 Walworth: 1 active cases  
 Yankton (2): +6 positive (26 active cases)  
 Ziebach: 11 active cases

## North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, August 12:

- 4,327 tests (1,161)
- 7,970 positives (+87)
- 6,815 recovered (+147)
- 120 deaths (+2)
- 1,036 active cases (-64)

### AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Age Range   | # of Cases | # of Deaths |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 0-19 years  | 1243       | 0           |
| 20-29 years | 2167       | 2           |
| 30-39 years | 1913       | 6           |
| 40-49 years | 1464       | 7           |
| 50-59 years | 1447       | 17          |
| 60-69 years | 871        | 26          |
| 70-79 years | 383        | 24          |
| 80+ years   | 327        | 65          |

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Sex    | # of Cases | # of Deaths |
|--------|------------|-------------|
| Female | 4843       | 76          |
| Male   | 4972       | 71          |

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| County      | Positive Cases | Recovered Cases | Negative Persons | Deceased |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| Aurora      | 38             | 36              | 379              | 0        |
| Beadle      | 594            | 564             | 1885             | 9        |
| Bennett     | 6              | 6               | 538              | 0        |
| Bon Homme   | 13             | 13              | 769              | 0        |
| Brookings   | 142            | 127             | 2737             | 1        |
| Brown       | 452            | 406             | 4492             | 3        |
| Brule       | 46             | 40              | 749              | 0        |
| Buffalo     | 109            | 100             | 638              | 3        |
| Butte       | 18             | 11              | 797              | 1        |
| Campbell    | 3              | 1               | 97               | 0        |
| Charles Mix | 103            | 95              | 1346             | 0        |
| Clark       | 16             | 14              | 389              | 0        |
| Clay        | 132            | 116             | 1325             | 0        |
| Codington   | 143            | 113             | 2868             | 1        |
| Corson      | 37             | 26              | 450              | 0        |
| Custer      | 36             | 26              | 803              | 0        |
| Davison     | 96             | 86              | 2377             | 1        |
| Day         | 23             | 21              | 635              | 0        |
| Deuel       | 11             | 8               | 407              | 0        |
| Dewey       | 49             | 33              | 2237             | 0        |
| Douglas     | 19             | 16              | 404              | 0        |
| Edmunds     | 18             | 13              | 415              | 0        |
| Fall River  | 22             | 18              | 976              | 0        |
| Faulk       | 28             | 23              | 189              | 1        |
| Grant       | 27             | 22              | 717              | 0        |
| Gregory     | 7              | 6               | 393              | 0        |
| Haakon      | 2              | 2               | 293              | 0        |
| Hamlin      | 24             | 14              | 648              | 0        |
| Hand        | 9              | 7               | 291              | 0        |
| Hanson      | 21             | 18              | 213              | 0        |
| Harding     | 0              | 0               | 53               | 0        |
| Hughes      | 93             | 80              | 1739             | 2        |
| Hutchinson  | 30             | 25              | 898              | 0        |

# Groton Daily Independent

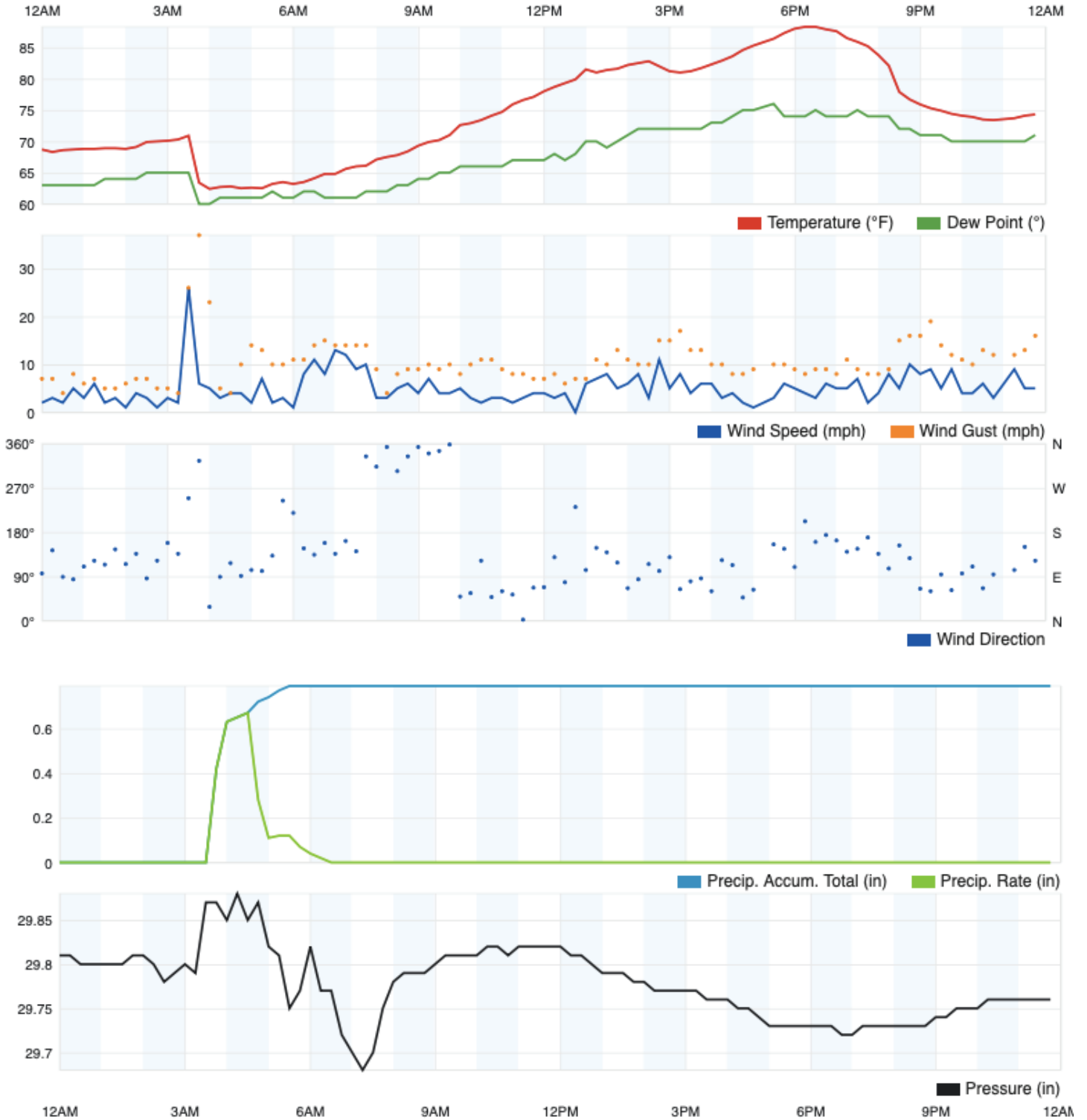
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|               |      |      |       |    |
|---------------|------|------|-------|----|
| Hyde          | 4    | 3    | 136   | 0  |
| Jackson       | 11   | 8    | 482   | 1  |
| Jerauld       | 39   | 38   | 271   | 1  |
| Jones         | 2    | 2    | 60    | 0  |
| Kingsbury     | 14   | 12   | 562   | 0  |
| Lake          | 95   | 80   | 943   | 2  |
| Lawrence      | 62   | 33   | 2125  | 0  |
| Lincoln       | 667  | 567  | 6922  | 2  |
| Lyman         | 90   | 80   | 961   | 3  |
| Marshall      | 10   | 7    | 466   | 0  |
| McCook        | 30   | 23   | 644   | 1  |
| McPherson     | 8    | 7    | 218   | 0  |
| Meade         | 97   | 74   | 2002  | 1  |
| Mellette      | 24   | 23   | 384   | 0  |
| Miner         | 15   | 14   | 256   | 0  |
| Minnehaha     | 4498 | 4048 | 27833 | 68 |
| Moody         | 32   | 29   | 635   | 0  |
| Oglala Lakota | 156  | 136  | 2934  | 2  |
| Pennington    | 910  | 764  | 11083 | 32 |
| Perkins       | 6    | 5    | 186   | 0  |
| Potter        | 1    | 1    | 291   | 0  |
| Roberts       | 80   | 70   | 1816  | 1  |
| Sanborn       | 13   | 13   | 229   | 0  |
| Spink         | 26   | 19   | 1151  | 0  |
| Stanley       | 14   | 14   | 254   | 0  |
| Sully         | 3    | 2    | 74    | 0  |
| Todd          | 73   | 62   | 2082  | 5  |
| Tripp         | 20   | 20   | 613   | 0  |
| Turner        | 53   | 43   | 923   | 0  |
| Union         | 217  | 185  | 1927  | 4  |
| Walworth      | 18   | 17   | 698   | 0  |
| Yankton       | 125  | 97   | 3093  | 2  |
| Ziebach       | 35   | 24   | 313   | 0  |
| Unassigned    | 0    | 0    | 8099  | 0  |

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

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Today



Hot

High: 95 °F

Tonight



Chance  
T-storms

Low: 67 °F

Friday



Chance  
T-storms

High: 81 °F

Friday  
Night



Mostly Clear

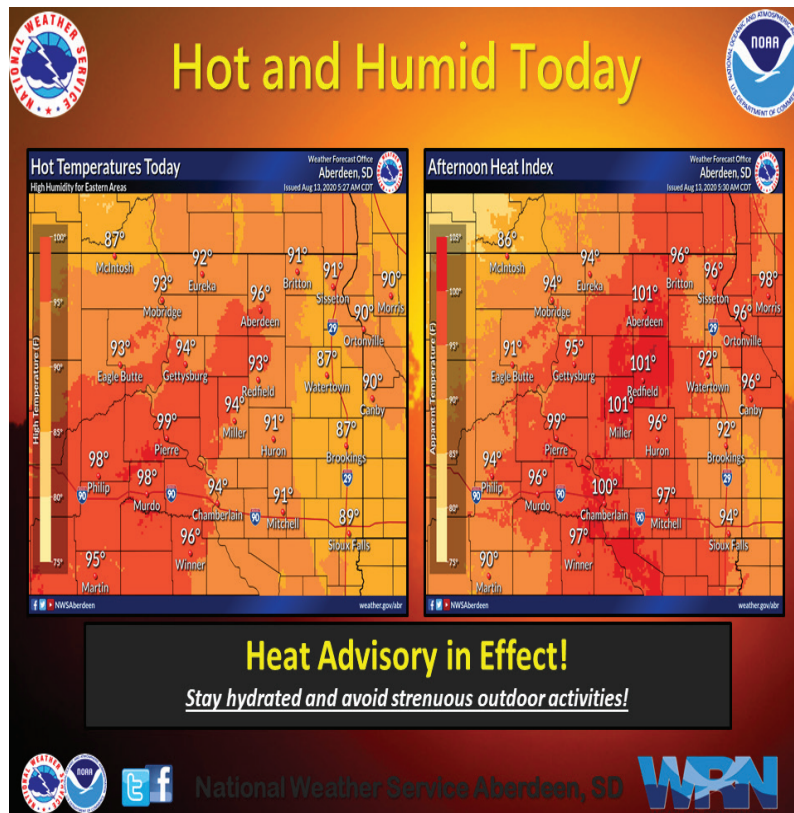
Low: 55 °F

Saturday



Sunny

High: 86 °F



A hot and humid air mass will strengthen over central/eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota today. High temperatures will rise into the 90s for most areas, with humid conditions as well - especially east river. Heat indices will top out around 100 degrees from the northern James River valley down through portions of south central South Dakota, where a Heat Advisory will be in effect this afternoon. Aside from the heat and humidity, a chance for late afternoon and evening thunderstorms will exist for portions of the eastern forecast area. Any storms that develop could be strong to severe with large hail and strong winds.



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## Today in Weather History

August 13, 2000: A thunderstorm set numerous prairie fires in Harding County. Over a thousand acres burned by the end of the day.

1831: The Great Barbados Hurricane was an intense Category 4 hurricane that left cataclysmic damage across the Caribbean and Louisiana in 1831. From August 11 through the 13, Bermudians were amazed to see the sun with a decidedly blue appearance, giving off an eerie blue light when it shone into rooms and other enclosed places. Ships at sea as far west as Cape Hatteras reported that "their white sails appeared a light blue colour." A month later it was learned that the astounding blue sunlight had coincided with a terrible hurricane that caused 1,477 people to lose their lives. It was assumed that the hurricane was intensive enough to cause an unusual disturbance in the higher atmospheric strata, and refraction, diffraction or absorption of light rays, to produce the blue reflection. Because the sun appeared bluish-green, Nat Turner took this as the final signal and began a slave rebellion a week later on August 21.

1987: A succession of thunderstorms produced rainfall that was unprecedented in 116 years of precipitation records at Chicago, Illinois during an 18 hour period from the evening of the 13th to the early afternoon of the 14th. The resulting flash flood was the worst ever to strike the Chicago metropolitan area, causing three deaths and water damage that amounted to 221 million dollars. O'Hare International Airport received an event total of 9.35 inches of rain in 18 hours, shattering the previous 24-hour record of 6.24 inches. For about 24 hours, the airport was only accessible from the air as all roads were blocked by high water, including the Kennedy Expressway.

1991: Stockton, California received 0.05 inch of rainfall on this day. Since 1949, this is the only measured rainfall in Stockton on August 13th.

2003: A string of days in Paris France with temperatures from the 4th to the 12th above 95°F ends when the day's high drops to 90°F. During the long, hot summer which began 25 July and has registered several days above 100°F, an estimated 14,800 have died from heat-related causes, the French government admits.

2014: An official, New York State 24 hour precipitation record was set at Islip, NY on August 12-13 when 13.57" of rain fell.

1831 - A blue sun was widely observed in the southern states. The phenomena was believed to have pre-staged Nat Turner's slave uprising. (David Ludlum)

1919 - High winds and heavy rain struck the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. In New Jersey, winds gusted to 60 mph at Atlantic City, and nine inches of rain fell at Tuckerton. The wind and rain leveled crops and stripped trees of fruit causing several million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1980 - The afternoon high at New York City was just 89 degrees. But there were fifteen days of 90 degree heat during the month, their hottest August of record. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Hail larger than golf balls, driven by 70 mph winds, moved down crops, stripped trees, and broke windows, near Logan KS. Road graders cleared three foot drifts of hail on Kansas Highway 9 east of Logan. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms deluged the Central Gulf Coast States with torrential rains. Thunderstorms in Mississippi drenched Marion County with up to 15 inches of rain during the morning hours, with 12.2 inches reported at Columbia. Floodwaters swept cars away in the Lakeview subdivision of Columbia when the the Lakeview Dam broke. Flash flooding caused more than three million dollars damage in Marion County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Lansing MI reported a record 35 days of 90 degree weather for the year, Detroit MI reported a record 37 days of 90 degree heat for the year, and Williamsport PA reported a record 38 days of 90 degree weather for the year. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing in a tropical airmass over the northeastern U.S. soaked Connecticut and Massachusetts with four to eight inches of rain over the weekend, between the 11th and 13th of the month. Hartford CT received 7.70 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

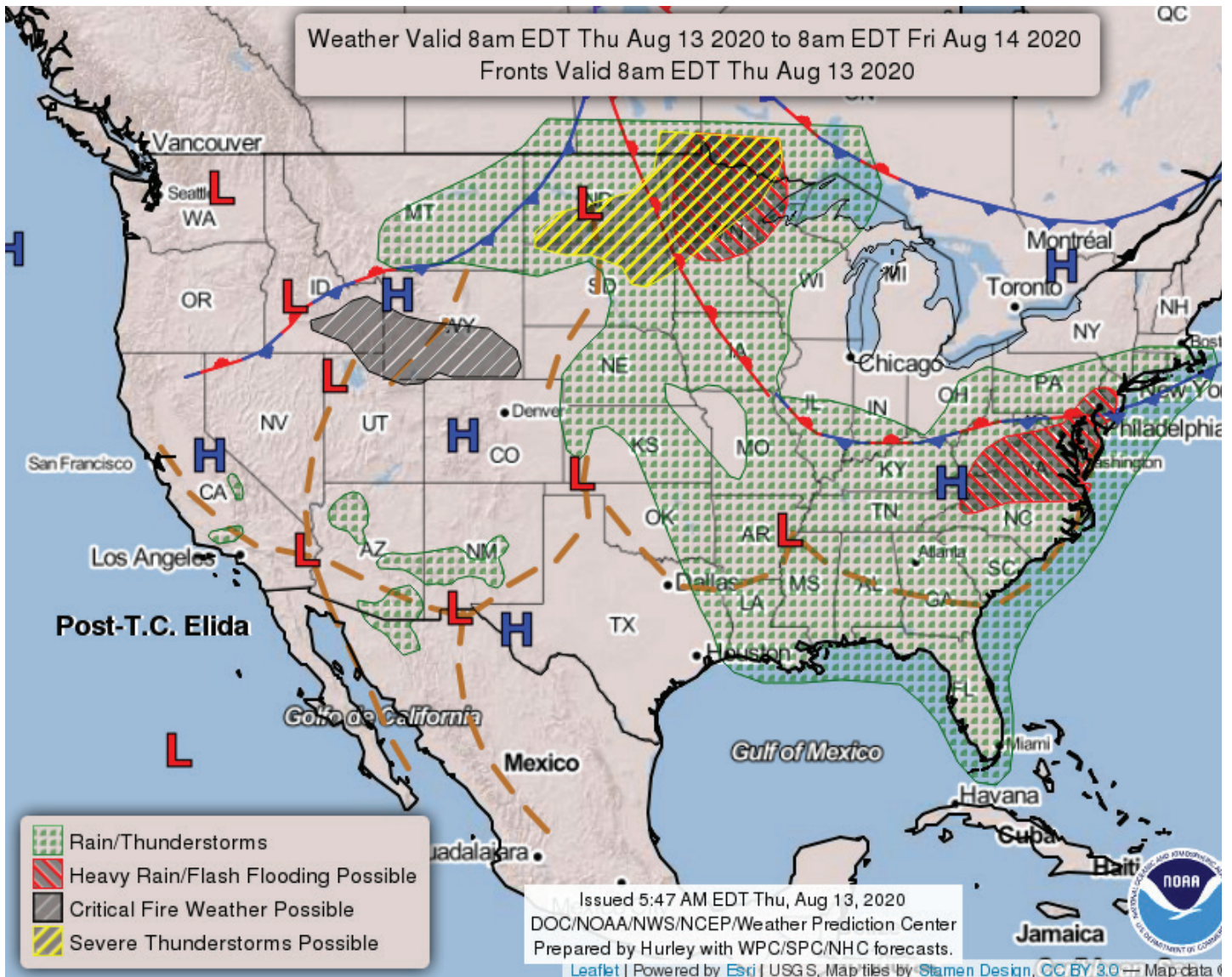
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 88 °F at 6:16 PM**  
**Low Temp: 62 °F at 4:03 AM**  
**Wind: 37 mph at 3:39 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 112° in 1965**  
**Record Low: 35° in 1964**  
**Average High: 83°F**  
**Average Low: 57°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 0.94**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 1.24**  
**Average Precip to date: 14.80**  
**Precip Year to Date: 11.75**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:43 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:34 a.m.**



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## GOD BLESS OUR BUMPS

Little Martha was in a hurry to run out the door so she would not be late for school. In her haste, she tripped and fell, hitting her head on the floor. Immediately, a bump appeared and frightened her. As the tears ran down her cheeks, she climbed into her mother's arms to feel safe and find comfort.

Her Mom, holding her tightly, placed a cold pad on the lump and said, "Let's pray and ask Jesus to heal you so you can go to school."

Soon the tears stopped, Martha left her mother's lap, stood up, and said, "Jesus healed me. Now I can go to school."

That night when they knelt together to pray, Martha's mother asked, "What do you want to thank Jesus for tonight?"

"My bump," answered Martha quickly. "Because now I know He loves me because He made my bump go away."

"Whenever trouble comes your way," wrote the Apostle James, "let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has an opportunity to grow." In the life of every Christian, there is always a connection between the problems we face and the promises of God, and between the hardship of life and the hope of God. And, it is in those "between" when He appears to close the "gap."

James reminds us to turn our difficulties into opportunities, then grow, and become stronger in our faith. He wants us to understand that troubles are not an end in themselves. They can be a pathway to become like Christ.

Prayer: May we understand and accept, Father, that "whatever comes our way" is for our good, and that we can grow from every hardship if we learn to follow You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. James 1:2-4

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

02-03-07-08-29

(two, three, seven, eight, twenty-nine)

Estimated jackpot: \$105,000

Lotto America

05-06-35-39-42, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 3

(five, six, thirty-five, thirty-nine, forty-two; Star Ball: two; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.96 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$31 million

Powerball

02-06-18-36-37, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 2

(two, six, eighteen, thirty-six, thirty-seven; Powerball: twenty-one; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$169 million

### South Dakota's Noem to build security fence around residence

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials said Wednesday they plan to build a security fence budgeted for \$400,000 around the official governor's residence to protect Gov. Kristi Noem.

Noem's office did not give specifics on any threats, but her spokeswoman Maggie Seidel said her security team recommended the fence. Noem's administration had proposed the fence last year, but she abandoned the plan.

The South Dakota Republican has championed a hands-off approach to managing the coronavirus crisis. She also raised her national political profile in the past year, including tying herself more closely to President Donald Trump, who spoke at Mount Rushmore on the eve of Independence Day this year. Seidel said that Noem's handling of the pandemic had put her at odds with some people.

"In America, we debate issues; we don't turn to violence," Seidel said. "But it only takes one, and per the Governor's security team, putting up a fence around the residence is critical at this time."

Noem has become a frequent guest on Fox News as she has staked out controversial positions on the pandemic, frequently downplaying the danger of the coronavirus and welcoming large gatherings in her state.

Most recently, she welcomed one of the largest gatherings of people since the pandemic began, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. She has also argued that schools should reopen this fall and pushed back against requirements to wear masks.

Noem, who is the first female governor of South Dakota, has gained a significant national following. She has stuck to some of the most lax coronavirus regulations anywhere, positioning herself as a leading conservative voice.

"There's no governor in America that has trusted their people to make the right choices more than I have," she has said.

The first-term governor's rise has prompted speculation that she has political ambitions beyond holding office in South Dakota, and some conservative pundits have put her name forward as a potential presidential nominee in 2024. But Noem has insisted she is not gunning for another job.

Meanwhile, her administration felt it was necessary to make the governor's residence more secure. The

design for the project at the governor's residence calls for 8-foot (2.4-meter) fencing made of powder-coated steel. A proposal for the fence in 2019 included a guardhouse, but the governor's office said that will no longer be included.

Seidel said Noem's administration is offsetting some of the cost by private fundraising. They did not release figures on how much would be paid from private donations.

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This story has been updated to reflect that the design for the fence no longer includes a guardhouse.

## South Dakota lawmakers split over special session for relief

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — With the deadline to allocate federal coronavirus relief funds approaching at the end of the year, South Dakota legislators are split on whether to call a special session to determine how the funds should be used.

Senate Republicans are willing to wait to see if federal negotiations in Congress are rekindled to bring an extension to the deadline. They would rather wait until the Legislature meets in January to determine how the funds are used. But lawmakers spearheaded by House Speaker Steve Haugaard, a Sioux Falls Republican, are asking Gov. Kristi Noem to call a special session to determine how much of the \$1.25 billion in federal coronavirus relief funds are spent.

The state spent about \$75 million of the federal relief it received to address the coronavirus crisis during the fiscal year that ended on June 30. As lawmakers considered how to spend much of the rest, Noem communicated to them at the end of July that she would rather avoid a special session in the fall. But that was dependent on Congress passing an extension to the Dec. 31 deadline to use the money.

With talks between Republicans and Democrats stalled in Congress, Haugaard gathered the signatures of 45 lawmakers calling for a special session. To reconvene, the Legislature either needs the support of two-thirds of both the House and Senate or to be called into session by the governor.

Haugaard said he had not yet heard back from Noem's office on a special session, but said there is "increasing momentum for that, certainly among the House members."

He is also assembling listening sessions to hear from the public on how the money might be put to best use. Haugaard pointed out that businesses and individuals may be struggling in the coming months from the economic impacts of the pandemic.

But senators are unlikely to support a special session at this time, said Assistant Majority Leader Jim Bolin, a Canton Republican. They would rather take the time to make sure the money is put to best use.

The governor's office appears confident that Congress will come together to pass another coronavirus relief package.

"We still have plenty of time," Noem's spokeswoman Maggie Seidel said, claiming that the "vast majority" of lawmakers don't want a special session.

Meanwhile, the uncertainty makes it difficult to determine who needs financial help and how to get the money to them, said Minority Leader Jamie Smith, a Democrat from Sioux Falls.

"The rules keep changing on how we can spend that money," he said, giving the example of how schools don't know how much further federal funding they will receive.

The effect of President Donald Trump's order to extend federal unemployment benefits by \$400 a week also remains unclear. The Department of Labor and Regulation is waiting for guidance from the federal government before sharing what it means for South Dakotans. Lawmakers felt that they would have to approve the \$100 a week that Trump is asking states to contribute to the plan, though it could likely be paid out of the federal relief money the state has already received.

Meanwhile, the state recorded one more death from COVID-19 along with 102 new cases. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by 23, an increase of 34%.

A woman in her 60s died in Lyman County, according to data from the Department of Health. Over the course of the pandemic, 9,815 have tested positive for the coronavirus. About 88% of them have recov-

ered, while 147 have died and 1,062 have active infections.

## State agents investigating death following standoff, fire

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation is reviewing the death of a man following an armed standoff and fire at a Rapid City house.

Family members called police to the home about 3 p.m. Tuesday. Police Chief Don Hedrick said the man in his 30s had doused himself and the residence with gasoline and began firing a shotgun inside the house and then began shooting towards the outside.

Officers locked down the neighborhood, evacuated some nearby homes and called in a team of tactical officers. Negotiators tried to talk to the man for hours.

At one point officers used a powder pepper spray to get the man to come out, Hedrick said.

Eventually smoke could be seen coming from the house and a fire broke out. Hedrick says the man died in the house.

Firefighters had the fire under control by about 8 p.m., said police spokesman Brendyn Medina. He said the house sustained significant damage.

State agents are investigating because someone died during a police response and a neutral party is needed to review the case, officials said.

## Abandoned by state after explosion, Lebanese help each other

By HEND KORTAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — In the southern Lebanese town of Haris, a newlywed couple is living in one of Safy Fageeh's apartments for free. He's never met them before, and they aren't on a honeymoon. Their apartment in Beirut was wrecked when last week's massive explosion wreaked destruction across the capital.

Fageeh is one of hundreds of Lebanese who have opened their homes to survivors of the Aug. 4 blast.

The explosion, which was centered on Beirut's port and ripped across the capital, left around a quarter of a million people with homes unfit to live in. But they have not had to crowd into collective shelters or sleep in public parks.

That's because in the absence of the state, Lebanese have stepped up to help each other.

Some have let relatives, friends and neighbors stay with them. Others like Fageeh extended a helping hand even farther, taking to social media to spread the word that they have a room to host people free of charge.

The couple saw Fageeh's offer on Facebook for a free apartment he owns in Haris, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Beirut. They can stay as long as they need to, the 29-year-old Fageeh said, and he has a second apartment available for anyone else in need. "This is not help, it is a duty," he said.

When he was a teenager, Fageeh's family home was damaged in the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, and they had to stay in a house in Tripoli, clear on the other end of Lebanon. Now he's paying it forward. "We have experienced several wars and they (people) hosted us," Fageeh said.

The help that Lebanese are giving goes beyond a place to stay. Armed with helmets and brooms, hundreds of volunteers have circulated through Beirut's heavily damaged neighborhoods, cleaning up people's homes and doing free basic repairs, often enough to enable the residents to stay there.

The explosion left entire blocks in shambles, with streets blanketed in broken glass, twisted metal, broken brickwork. Yet within days, some streets were clean, the debris neatly sorted in piles. That was thanks to volunteers, often using social media to organize where to target.

In some places, they were sweeping streets and hauling away wreckage while security forces or soldiers stood nearby, watching.

That has only reinforced for Lebanese their government's failure to provide basic services, much less respond to the disaster. Many already blame the government and the broader ruling elite's incompetence, mismanagement and corruption for the explosion. Authorities allowed 2,750 tons of explosive ammonium nitrate to sit in a warehouse at the port unmonitored for seven years, despite multiple warnings of the

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danger, until it exploded when touched off by a fire. The blast killed more than 170 people, injured thousands and wreaked chaos across the city.

The government almost completely left the public on its own to deal with the aftermath. Outside the demolished port, there have been no government clean-up crews in the streets and little outreach from officials to help beyond promises of compensation to those whose homes or businesses were damaged.

The list of services people are offering keeps expanding. It now includes free glass for cars damaged in the blast, free maintenance of electrical appliances and free cosmetic surgery for people with face injuries. On Facebook, a group called Rebuild Beirut quickly sprung up. Its volunteers are working at full speed, helping clean up homes and link survivors with donors who will cover the expenses of repairs.

The individual acts of solidarity have been even more striking because Lebanon was already in the middle of a worsening economic crisis that has thrown hundreds of thousands into poverty and left households and businesses with little or no excess cash.

"I am so proud of the Lebanese people," said Kim Sacy, a 19-year-old university student. "There is no state, there is nobody, there is nothing ... we are the ones doing everything in the field."

Sacy is studying at a French university and was supposed to be on a program in Sweden this year but the coronavirus pandemic grounded her in Lebanon. She was outside Beirut driving home when the blast took place. She didn't feel the explosion but when she reached her neighborhood of Achrafieh, she found it shattered. "This is where I lived my whole life," she said.

Sacy's family home was damaged, but she still wanted to help others. "It is not important. I consider myself lucky," she said. "It is the people who make the home." She said some of her family members were injured in the blast but are doing fine now.

Sacy began collecting food and other items to give to those in need. Around 25 families have reached out to her to donate, some she knows, but half are strangers. For the past week, she has been circulating around Beirut in her car to pick up donated furniture, first aid kits, bed sheets and kitchen utensils that she gives to a local non-governmental organization to distribute. When not doing that, she has been cleaning in the streets, including cleaning a fire station.

The self-help spirit has roots in the long civil war, when central authority collapsed and Lebanese had to depend on themselves to get by. In more recent years, waves of anti-government protests have emphasized volunteerism and civic duty — boosted by social media that made connections bypassing the state easier.

The shock of the explosion and the trauma of seeing loved ones injured or a home wrecked has exacted an emotional burden on Beirutis — especially with financial woes already weighing on people.

The Beit Insan well-being center is offering free services to help people overcome the trauma that the blast may have caused. It is also encouraging people with money to "pay it forward" and cover costs for people to get psychological help.

"We know since all the events that have been happening, that less and less people have money for mental health," said Dr. Samar Zebian, co-founder and co-director of the center. "We are a social business."

## US says Iran briefly seizes oil tanker near Strait of Hormuz

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The Iranian navy boarded and briefly seized a Liberian-flagged oil tanker near the strategic Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S., a U.S. military official said Thursday.

The U.S. military's Central Command published a black-and-white video showing what appeared to be special forces fast-roping down from a helicopter onto the MT Wila, whose last position appeared to be off the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates near the city of Khorfakkan.

The Iranian navy held the vessel for some five hours before releasing it Wednesday, said a U.S. military official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public. The Wila made no distress calls before, during and after the seizure, the official said.

The Iranian helicopter involved appeared to be a Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King, which only Iran's navy oper-



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ates. The Iranian navy also handles all operations in the Gulf of Oman on the eastern side of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of all oil traded passes. Two other Iranian naval vessels took part in the seizure, Central Command said.

The U.S. military officials did not offer any reason for Iran seizing the vessel. Iranian state media and officials did not acknowledge the seizure or offer a reason for it.

Officials in the UAE, a U.S.-allied federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, did not respond to a request for comment.

The Wila's registered owner is a Liberian firm called Bandit Shipping Co., managed by Greek firm IMS SA, according to United Nations records. Bandit Shipping could not be reached, while IMS did not respond to requests for comment.

The Wila had been off Khor Al Zubair, Iraq, in early July before traveling to near Dubai and later Khor-fakkan, where it's been for around a month, according to data firm Refinitiv. It wasn't immediately clear what cargo it carried.

Private maritime intelligence firm Dryad Global said it suspected two other ships had been harassed by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard in the Persian Gulf over the last week as well, based on the ships' behavior.

As tensions between Iran and the U.S. heated up last year over America's unilateral withdraw from its 2015 nuclear deal, tankers plying the waters of the Mideast became targets, particularly near the strait, the Persian Gulf's narrow mouth. Suspected limpet mine attacks the U.S. blamed on Iran targeted several tankers. Iran denied being involved, though it did seize several tankers.

In July, a U.S.-sought oil tanker was "hijacked" off the coast of the United Arab Emirates after allegedly smuggling Iranian crude oil. The vessel later ended up back in Iranian waters, suggesting Iran itself seized the vessel.

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Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP](https://www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP).

## Many more likely sought jobless aid after \$600 check ends

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government will provide its latest report Thursday on the pace of layoffs, which have remained stuck at a high level since the viral pandemic erupted five months ago.

Though the rate of applications for unemployment benefits has reached its lowest point since March, it has exceeded 1 million for 20 straight weeks — well above the record high that predated the pandemic.

The virus has continued to debilitate the economy. The number of new confirmed cases has declined over the past couple of weeks but is still far above the levels that prevailed in May and June. Twenty-three states have paused or reversed their business re-openings.

The latest string of layoffs follows the expiration of a \$600 weekly federal payment that provided critical support for millions of laid-off Americans. Negotiations in Congress to extend that benefit, likely at a lower level of payment, have collapsed in rancor.

## The Latest: Study says 6% of England infected, led by London

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON — Researchers at Imperial College estimate that 6% of England's population — or 3.4 million people — have been infected by COVID-19, a figure far higher than previous findings.

The estimate is based on a study of 100,000 randomly selected volunteers who used home finger-prick tests to find antibodies for the virus that causes COVID-19.

The study, which covers infections through the end of June, found that London had the highest infection rate at 13%. Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups were two to three times more likely to have had COVID-19 than white people.

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The nationwide estimate is much higher than the number of reported cases posted by Johns Hopkins University, the main reference for monitoring the disease. As of Thursday, it listed 270,971 cases throughout England.

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

- Virus exposes economic, racial divide in French health care
- 'Impossible': School boards are at heart of reopening debate
- Experts warn Spain is losing the 2nd round in virus fight
- Like many countries, Rwanda is finding it impossible to test each of its citizens for the coronavirus amid shortages of supplies. But researchers there have created an approach that's drawing attention beyond the African continent.
- German authorities worked through the night to clear a backlog of coronavirus tests from travelers after it emerged 900 people who were positive for COVID-19 had yet to be informed.
- A puzzling new outbreak of the coronavirus in New Zealand's largest city has grown to 17 cases, with officials saying the number will likely increase further. And a lockdown in Auckland designed to extinguish the outbreak could be extended well beyond an initial three days.

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

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

**JOHANNESBURG** — The United Nations estimates that 43% of schools around the world don't have access to water and soap for basic hand-washing.

The new report comes as countries wrestle with when and how to safely open schools amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report by the World Health Organization and UNICEF says more than one-third of the 818 million children around the globe who lacked basic hand-washing facilities at their schools last year are in sub-Saharan Africa.

The report says authorities must balance health concerns with economic and social ones in deciding on opening schools, and it notes the negative effects that long closures have on children.

The report also says one in three schools around the world have limited or no drinking water service.

**JOHANNESBURG** — The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says a continent-wide study has begun into antibodies to the coronavirus after evidence indicated that more people have been infected than official numbers show.

Director John Nkengasong told reporters the study will include all African countries, but the ones showing interest to start in the coming weeks are Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Nigeria and Morocco.

That's after surveys in Mozambique found antibodies in 5% of households in the city of Nampula and 2.5% in the city of Pemba. And yet Mozambique has just 2,481 confirmed cases.

Nkengasong says, "What is important is far fewer people are coming down with the disease. How many people are infected and asymptomatic on our continent? We don't know that."

Africa's young population, with a median age of 19, has been called a possible factor.

**THESSALONIKI, Greece** — A Greek prosecutor has ordered an investigation into a string of infections at a retirement home in northern Greece, where 33 of the 150 residents and three staff members have tested positive for COVID-19.

Authorities say 20 people from the home at Asvestochori, a village outside the northern city of Thessaloniki, were taken to a hospital Wednesday with mild symptoms. The disease is believed to have been spread by a staff member who caught it from a relative who had visited a popular holiday resort.

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The investigation was ordered Thursday.

Greece has seen a major rise in COVID-19 infections, which reached 262 on Wednesday -- the highest since the virus outbreak.

The country of 11 million has registered about 6,200 confirmed cases, and 216 deaths.

**THIMPU, Bhutan** — The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan has imposed its first nationwide lockdown due to a virus infection in a returning traveler who had been released from quarantine.

The government issued a stay-at-home order for its approximately 750,000 people, and all schools, offices and commercial establishments were closed.

The government's statement said the lockdown would be enforced from five to 21 days "to identify and isolate all positive cases, immediately breaking the chain of transmission."

The 27-year-old Bhutanese woman returning from Kuwait tested negative in mandatory quarantine for arriving travelers. But between her discharge from quarantine and her positive test result Monday, she is believed to have traveled extensively in Bhutan.

The tourism-dependent country closed its borders to foreign travelers in March after an American tourist was hospitalized with COVID-19. Bhutan's 113 reported infections were all quarantined travelers, except for one with conflicting test results.

**MELBOURNE, Australia** — The coronavirus outbreak centered in Australia's second-largest city showed a decline in new infections Thursday, though the state's leader urged continued vigilance.

Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews said there were 278 new infections and eight new deaths, down from around 700 daily at the peak of the outbreak.

Daniels said the lower numbers indicate the lockdown restrictions in Melbourne are working but urged people to stay the course.

"We would just caution against any Victorian thinking that we aren't in the midst of a real marathon," Daniels said. "This is an endurance race, and we need to stay the course on this. We need to be as vigilant each and every day."

Meanwhile, neighboring New South Wales state, which includes Australia's largest city Sydney, recorded 12 new cases and one death.

**SEATTLE** — The Seattle school board has voted unanimously to begin the academic year with remote teaching only.

The Seattle Times reports the state's largest school district approved the plan Wednesday.

The remote learning plan passed with a wide-ranging amendment from school board members that directs the superintendent to explore creating outdoor classes. It also reinforces teaching of Black studies and curricula developed by Indigenous communities.

But the district's plans are far from set because it is still bargaining with the teachers union. Those discussions will set the parameters for how teachers spend their time and for the support the district will provide in an online learning environment.

**BEIJING** — New locally transmitted cases of the coronavirus reported in China have fallen into the single digits, but Hong Kong is seeing another rise in hospitalizations and deaths.

China's National Health Commission said Thursday that eight new cases were registered in the last 24 hours in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, whose main city of Urumqi has enacted lockdown measures and travel restrictions. An additional 11 cases were brought by Chinese returning from overseas.

Hong Kong, meanwhile, has 62 new cases, up from 33 on Wednesday, along with an additional five deaths.

The semi-autonomous southern Chinese city has required masks be worn in all public settings and limited indoor dining among other measures to curb a new outbreak.

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SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported 56 new cases of the coronavirus as clusters continue to pop up in cities.

The figures announced by South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday brought the caseload to 14,770 infections, including 305 deaths. Forty-three of the new cases were from the Seoul area and two were from Busan, the country's second-largest city, where infections have been reported at schools and among foreign cargo ship workers.

South Korean authorities have employed an aggressive test-and-quarantine campaign against COVID-19, using mobile-phone location data and credit-card records to trace contacts and smartphone tracking apps to monitor tens of thousands quarantined at home.

Visitors at nightclubs, baseball stadiums and other facilities deemed as "high-risk" must register with smartphone QR codes so they can be easily located when needed.

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the coronavirus pandemic not only threatens gains in fighting poverty and building peace but risks exacerbating existing conflicts and generating new ones.

The U.N. chief told a Security Council meeting Wednesday that his March 23 call for an immediate ceasefire in conflicts to tackle the virus led a number of warring parties to deescalate or stop fighting. But, he added, "regrettably, in many instances, the pandemic did not move the parties to suspend hostilities or agree to a permanent ceasefire."

Guterres predecessor as secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, told the council it is astonishing that the world has locked down billions of people, closed borders and suspended trade, but has failed to put conflicts on hold.

## **Biden, Harris lash Trump at debut of historic VP choice**

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE, BILL BARROW and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden and Kamala Harris pushed past their one-time political rivalry to deliver an aggressive attack on the character and performance of President Donald Trump in their historic first appearance as running mates.

The physical debut of the Democratic ticket on Wednesday was without parallel in recent political annals. The coronavirus prevented Biden and Harris from appearing before the large, adoring crowd that typically greets a presidential nominee and his or her running mate. Instead, they spoke in a mostly empty high school gym where reporters nearly outnumbered campaign aides and the candidates' family members.

While the pandemic made a traditional campaign rollout impossible, it gave Biden and Harris a setting to emphasize their criticism of Trump as unable to contend with the most severe public health crisis in a century. Harris was particularly sharp in her condemnation of the administration.

"The case against Donald Trump and Mike Pence is open and shut," Harris said. "This virus has impacted almost every country. But there's a reason it has hit America worse than any other advanced nation. It's because of Trump's failure to take it seriously from the start."

She added: "This is what happens when we elect a guy who just isn't up for the job."

Harris is the first Black woman on a major party's presidential ticket, and she and Biden noted the historical significance.

"This morning, all across the nation, little girls woke up — especially little Black and brown girls, who so often feel overlooked and undervalued in their communities. But today, today, just maybe, they're seeing themselves for the first time in a new way," Biden said.

Harris, who is also of South Asian descent, noted the "heroic and ambitious women before me, whose sacrifice, determination and resilience make my presence here today even possible."

For his part, Trump has struggled to land on a coherent message about the Biden-Harris ticket, casting the Democrats as simultaneously too liberal for America and yet not progressive enough for their party's base. Trump has resorted to sexist and racist criticism, referring to Harris as "nasty" and tweeting that

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"the 'suburban housewife' will be voting for me" to keep neighborhoods safe.

He also noted the two Democrats' disagreements during the primary campaign last year.

"She said horrible things about him," Trump said Wednesday. "She mocked him, openly mocked him. That's why I thought that was a very risky pick. Because I'm sure that will be played back."

But onstage in Wilmington, Biden and Harris showed clear affection toward one another. He called his running mate an "honorary Biden," and Harris offered a poignant tribute to his son Beau, whom she was friends with when both served as state attorneys general. Biden seemed overcome with emotion as Harris spoke of Beau, who died in 2015, as "the best of us" and a man who modeled himself after his father.

She signaled that she'll offer a vigorous defense of Biden's qualifications on issues of race and civil rights, though she made headlines for assailing him for his past opposition to federally mandated busing during a primary debate.

Noting Biden's own vice presidency under President Barack Obama, she said he "takes his place in the ongoing story of America's march towards equality and justice" as the only person "who's served alongside the first Black president and has chosen the first Black woman as his running mate."

Biden's choice of Harris brought more than just historical weight to the ticket — it also provided a big fundraising boost for the campaign. He announced at a later online fundraiser that the campaign raised \$26 million in the 24 hours since she was announced, with 150,000 people giving for the first time.

Still, the day was not without its challenges. The main event started an hour late, and the gymnasium in which the candidates spoke lost its air conditioning after a power outage hit the area. While most of the cable news networks took the event live, the online livestream cut out just a few minutes into Biden's remarks.

The appearance was the first in a rollout that Biden aides say blends the historic nature of Harris' selection with the realities of the 2020 campaign and the gravity of the nation's circumstances, which include the pandemic and its dramatic economic fallout.

Harris was considered a favorite throughout Biden's search, and she's been a regular surrogate campaigner and fundraiser for him since he became the presumptive nominee.

They'll nonetheless have to paper over differences exposed during the primary campaign, from Harris' initial support for a single-payer health insurance system and the Green New Deal to her deeply personal debate-stage broadside against Biden over his opposition to federally mandated busing to integrate public schools in the 1970s.

Harris no longer supports a single-payer health insurance system, aligning instead with Biden's proposal to add a public insurance option to compete alongside private plans. Still, she memorably raised her hand during one Democratic primary debate when candidates were asked whether they could back a system that scrapped private health insurance altogether.

She has broadly endorsed the Green New Deal, progressives' most ambitious set of proposals to combat climate change, but she didn't make that an anchor of her presidential bid. Biden has moved left on his climate proposals during the 2020 campaign but has not fully embraced the Green New Deal.

In Washington, Harris has advocated overhauling the criminal justice system, intensifying her efforts since George Floyd's killing by a white Minneapolis police officer in May. And she's called for sweeping domestic programs to benefit the working and middle class. But she has taken heat for some of her aggressive stances as a local prosecutor in the San Francisco area and for not prosecuting bank executives in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse.

Biden bets that, on balance, Harris has broad appeal that will shore up any weaknesses with Black women, an anchor of the Democratic Party, and other voters of color, while juicing turnout among white liberals and coaxing support from independents and Republican-leaning white voters who have soured on Trump.

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writer Aamer Madhani in Washington contributed to this report.

## 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. **WHERE THEY'RE CELEBRATING VP PICK** Kamala Harris' selection as Joe Biden's running mate is generating glee among South Asians worldwide and putting the spotlight on her as the first person of Asian descent on a presidential ticket.
2. **'THE SICKEST ARE THOSE THE FURTHEST OUT'** The COVID-19 crisis has laid bare deep disparities across economic and racial lines in France's health care system.
3. **FOR SCHOOLS, A MAJOR DILEMMA** School boards nationwide are facing the difficult decision about whether children should return to the classroom amid the coronavirus pandemic and are seeking input from their communities.
4. **'THIS IS NOT HELP, IT IS A DUTY'** After a major explosion that tore through Beirut left around a quarter of a million people with homes unfit to live in, Lebanese have opened their homes to relatives, friends and neighbors.
5. **PRECAUTIONS NFL IS TAKING** Pro football players are required to wear masks and contact tracer watches around team facilities as the league tries to keep the coronavirus from wrecking the 2020 season.

## Experts warn Spain is losing the 2nd round in virus fight

By JOSEPH WILSON The Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Not two months after battling back the coronavirus, Spain's hospitals are beginning to see patients struggling to breathe returning to their wards.

The deployment of a military emergency brigade to set up a field hospital in Zaragoza this week is a grim reminder that Spain is far from claiming victory over the coronavirus that devastated the European country in March and April.

Authorities said the field hospital is a precaution, but no one has forgotten scenes of hospitals filled to capacity and the daily death toll reaching over 900 fatalities a few months ago.

While an enhanced testing effort is revealing that a majority of the infected are asymptomatic and younger, making them less likely to need medical treatment, concern is increasing as hospitals begin to see more patients.

Experts are searching for reasons why Spain is struggling more than its neighbors after western Europe had won a degree of control over the pandemic.

But one thing is clear: The size of the second wave has depended on the response to the first one.

"The data don't lie," Rafael Bengoa, the former health chief of Spain's Basque Country region and international consultant on public health, told The Associated Press.

"The numbers are saying that where we had good local epidemiological tracking, like (in the rural north-west), things have gone well," Bengoa said. "But in other parts of the country where obviously we did not have the sufficient local capacity to deal with outbreaks, we have community transmission again, and once you community transmission, things get out of hand."

Bengoa is one of 20 Spanish epidemiologists and public health experts who recently called for an independent investigation in a letter published in the medical journal The Lancet to identify the weaknesses that have made Spain among the worst affected countries by the pandemic in Europe despite its robust universal health care system.

Except for teenagers and young adults, Spaniards largely comply with mandatory face mask rules. The health ministry also embarked on one of the world's largest epidemiological surveys. Randomly testing over 60,000 people, it found the virus prevalence to be 5%, showing that the population was far from a "herd immunity."

However, Spain, with a population of 47 million, leads Europe with 44,400 new cases confirmed over the past 14 days, compared with just 4,700 new cases registered by Italy, with 60 million inhabitants, which was the first European country to be rocked by the virus.

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Spain is still in good shape compared with many countries in the Americas, where the spread seems unchecked in the United States, Mexico and several South American countries.

But hospitalizations with COVID-19 have quintupled in Spain since early July, when cases were down to a trickle after a severe lockdown stopped a first wave of the virus that had pushed the health care system to breaking point.

On Tuesday, Spain's ministry reported 805 people nationwide hospitalized over the past seven days. Half of the 64 people who died over the previous week were from Aragón, the region surrounding Zaragoza.

"There is no one single factor in such a pandemic," said Manuel Franco, a professor of epidemiology at John Hopkins and Spain's University of Alcalá, who also signed The Lancet letter.

Franco cited Spain's economic inequalities that have exposed poorer communities, especially fruit pickers, to greater harm, understaffed epidemiological surveillance services, and its large tourism industry. Combined with other factors, they could have formed a lethal cocktail.

Bengoa believes that social customs and traits prevalent in Mediterranean cultures, which emphasize physical contact and smaller personal space, have worked against Spain.

"Family gatherings are dangerous in Spain. We are being anti-Spanish in social gatherings if Spaniards don't kiss, hug and touch one another," Bengoa said, while adding that Spanish and Italian families live in larger, more multi-generational groups than in northern European countries, making contagion inside households more likely.

Some authorities seem to agree. Spain's Canary Islands government has issued a public awareness spot that shows a family gathering to celebrate a grandfather's birthday, with people taking off masks and embracing, only to end with the grandfather in a hospital bed.

Spain's regions have complained that the central government has not given them the special authority to confine people to their homes that it used under a three-month state of emergency. That has led to regions having to recommend that people stay at home — instead of ordering them to do so — and lower compliance.

Yet it seems that adjusting to the "new normal" of co-existing with the virus has been uneven across Spain's regions.

A contact tracing app has been recently developed by the health ministry, but the regional governments of Madrid and Barcelona appear to have underestimated the need to contract more contact tracers to keep tabs on cases.

Madrid, whose conservative leaders rarely shy away from a political scuffle with the nation's left-wing government, has called for university volunteers to act as tracers and hired a private hospital to help do tracing.

Madrid's regional health chief Enrique Ruiz told Spanish health news website ConSalud.es on Wednesday that the region including the capital has doubled its hospitalizations each week for the past month, reaching 4,600 last week.

"Our hospitals can handle the number of patients in the wards and critical care units, but that does not mean that we aren't closely watching the situation," Ruiz said.

Catalonia's separatist-led administration, likewise, moved too slowly and is now having to do pool testing to control clusters. Catalonia's public health director, Josep Argimon, said Wednesday that the situation is "stabilized."

Still, Miquel Porta, a professor of epidemiology at Barcelona's Hospital del Mar who also signed The Lancet letter, said "it is mind-blowing that politicians don't take action."

"You need people in the field doing shoe leather work to search for contacts," Porta said. "It boils down to very simple things, and some regional governments are not doing what they said they would."

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

## Virus-proofing NFL facilities is a tall, masked task

By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Pro Football Writer

The captivation and celebration of the NFL have long stemmed from the speed, strategy, strength and teamwork that make the game go.

Football is just as much a sport of pattern and detail, too, never more than at training camps around the league in the time of COVID-19.

Like the defense stiffening at the goal line late in the fourth quarter, the NFL has implemented a wide array of health protocols designed to keep the virus from wrecking the 2020 season for this cultural institution that was a \$16 billion business before the pandemic.

"There are so many steps along the way. You've got to fill out your questionnaire on our app when you wake up in the morning," Minnesota Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph said. "Then when you come in, you sanitize your hands, do your temperature check, get your COVID tests, put on your lanyard, grab your tracker. So there's just a lot of things that have now been added to your routine."

Daily testing, naturally, is the fulcrum of this aggressive virus-proofing around team facilities. NFL Network reported that, of 109,075 coronavirus tests conducted on players, coaches and team employees through Tuesday, the rate of positive tests has been 0.46% overall and 0.81% for players.

Since training camps began three weeks ago, 108 players have been placed on COVID-19 reserve lists by their respective teams — according to an Associated Press review of the league's daily transaction logs — and 81 of those players were subsequently returned to active status on the roster. There are more than 2,600 players currently employed across the 32 clubs.

Landing on the COVID-19 reserve list does not mean a player has the virus. The category was created for a player who either tests positive for COVID-19 or who has been quarantined after having been in close contact with an infected person or persons. By agreement between the NFL and the NFL Players Association, clubs are not permitted to disclose whether a player is positive for COVID-19 or simply in preventative quarantine.

Wearing masks, of course, is a vital part of the equation.

After leaving the testing trailer and entering the building, players and staffers must pass the temperature check. The tablet-like device won't even perform the thermal scan if the person is not wearing a face covering.

"It's an adjustment. You used to check phone, key, wallet. Now it's phone, key, wallet, mask, proximity locator," Vikings linebacker Eric Kendricks said. "But they explained to us the reason behind it. If someone is to get infected, heaven forbid, if we're close to those people for a certain amount of time, those devices will allow us to quarantine effectively if that's the case. So there's a reason behind the madness."

Passing the symptom questionnaire and the temperature check, with the nasal swab performed in between, then takes the employee to another level of high-tech: the proximity tracker.

The device, which resembles a smart watch, produces audible and visual warnings to help maximize social distancing and keep employees not required to interact with players apart from those who must. The tracker can also provide instant reports for contact tracing in case of a positive test. The devices are worn during practice but turned in at the end of the work day before employees depart the building.

"It's weird when someone tells you you've been too close for too long," Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said, "but it's necessary. We're going to try to do our part for the community and make sure we can keep playing the game we love."

The bulk of the virus-proofing protocols are uniform across the league, with each team applying its own twists to fit the facility.

The Miami Dolphins installed new air purification devices throughout their facility. The Tennessee Titans had 4-foot-long dividers placed between each player's cubicle in the locker room, making the spaces look a little like voting booths. Vikings players can order meals via smart phone app to reduce time spent in the cafeteria.

The Carolina Panthers have made clever use of Bank of America Stadium to their virus-fighting advan-



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tage. All of the 80-plus players have their own temporary luxury suite at the 73,000-seat venue, expected to retreat there alone for lunch or during the down time between practices and meetings in the name of social distancing.

There's almost no end to the precautions that can be taken. Narrow hallways have become one-way paths. Couches have been removed. Even shower heads in the locker room have been taken out to increase spacing. Electric static sprayers are being used for surface disinfecting. Seating capacity in meeting rooms has been significantly reduced.

"We're so spaced out that it can feel like you're not all in the same room together, even more than a Zoom, even though you are sitting in the same room," Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill said.

In an intense contact sport in which participants are bound to breathe on each other often, the work has to be done in the building during the day and at home at night.

"Everyone is going to do the absolute best they can do, knowing that it's impossible to totally eliminate the risk," said Vikings head athletic trainer and vice president of sports medicine Eric Sugarman, who is the team's infection control officer. He tested positive for COVID-19 last month.

As far as the tall task of making it through a full season, well, the fiercely competitive nature of its participants ought to work in pro football's favor.

"It's going to come down to whoever handles the situation the best. That's who's going to be at the top at the end, and I feel like we're taking all the right steps," Green Bay Packers defensive tackle Kenny Clark said. "You walk in here, you get tested, there's sanitizers everywhere. You know, the masks, everything that we're doing, they're serious about getting us ready to be able to play and keeping us healthy."

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AP Pro Football Writers Teresa M. Walker and AP Sports Writers Steve Megargee, Steve Reed and Dave Skretta contributed to this report.

More AP NFL coverage: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## 'One of us': South Asians celebrate Harris as VP choice

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Two words summed up Tamani Jayasinghe's exuberance for the first Indian American and Black woman to run for vice president: "Kamala Aunty."

That title of respect that goes beyond family in Asian circles immediately came to mind when Joe Biden announced Kamala Harris as his running mate. So the 27-year-old with Sri Lankan roots tweeted it as a wink to others who understood the significance of the term.

"The fact that she is both Black and brown is what makes this so exciting. The Asian American experience is one that is complicated and nuanced and robust," said Jayasinghe, who works in financial communications in New York. "I feel connected to that."

Harris, the daughter of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, often focuses on her identity as a Black woman. At times during her political career, as she ran for California attorney general and senator, some didn't realize she was of Indian descent. In her first remarks as Biden's running mate on Wednesday, she spoke of her mother's roots but described herself as the "first Black woman" to be nominated for the vice presidency on a major party ticket.

Still, the possibility she would be the U.S. vice president, which has already triggered sexist and racist commentary, created instantaneous glee among South Asians worldwide and put the spotlight on her as the first person of Asian descent on a major party presidential ticket.

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group of eligible voters. More than 11 million Asian Americans will be able to vote in November, according to a May report by the Pew Research Center.

The choice — Biden and Harris made their debut Wednesday — inspired social media musings of celebrating the Hindu festival Diwali at the White House and drawing room talks about the U.S. senator's mother's journey from Chennai to California. Indian government officials of all parties noted the choice as

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historic, while actress Mindy Kaling — she once made masala dosa with Harris — deemed it “thrilling.” A top headline in the *The Times of India*, one of the world’s most widely read English-language newspapers, read, “A daughter of Chennai, Kamala blooms in US.”

“She is one of us,” said Aleyamma Keny, a retired nurse in suburban Chicago.

The 74-year-old woman, who immigrated from southern India to the U.S. in the 1970s, said Harris joining the ticket felt like a family member had accomplished something. Like many others, Keny saw her own immigration story in the candidate’s mother.

Harris has called her late mother, Shyamala Gopalan, her biggest influence and frequently invoked stories about the cancer researcher and civil rights activist who died in 2009. Gopalan first came to America in 1958. She attended the University of California at Berkeley, where she met and married Jamaican immigrant Donald Harris and had Kamala and her sister before the couple divorced.

Gopalan took the sisters to India to visit relatives and gave both, Kamala Devi Harris and Maya Lakshmi Harris, names rooted in Indian culture. (Kamala means lotus, Devi means goddess. Lakshmi is the Hindu goddess of wealth.)

Harris’ mother came to the U.S. at a time when Indians were scarce and raised her biracial daughters with the understanding that the larger American society would see them as Black. She took them to civil rights protests, and wanted them to become “confident, proud Black women,” Harris wrote in her 2019 book, “*The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*.”

A graduate of Howard University, Harris has made clear that she is both confident and proud of her Black identity. In a March 2019 radio interview, she answered a question about her identity by saying: “I’m Black, and I’m proud of being Black. I was born Black. I will die Black, and I’m not going to make excuses for anybody because they don’t understand.”

She did take steps during her presidential campaign, before she dropped out in December, to talk about her Indian heritage. Without much fanfare, she released a video via social media featuring photos of her Indian grandfather and talked of her visits as a child to see him.

In her speech Wednesday, Harris noted her parents’ heritages but ended with saying Biden is the only person “who’s served alongside the first Black president and has chosen the first Black woman as his running mate.”

President Donald Trump struggled Wednesday to define her candidacy, repeatedly calling her “nasty.” She’s already been the subject of the false notion that she’s ineligible to run because her parents were not born in America.

Harris was elected to the Senate in 2016, the same year three other Indian Americans won their first House terms including Pramila Jayapal of Washington. The first Indian American congresswoman, she and Asians also celebrated Harris as a Black woman.

“It isn’t just that we want her to be an Asian American sister for us. She really is representative, this biracial piece is representative of the experiences that so many immigrant communities have had, learning from the leadership of Black communities,” she said. “So we want her to claim all of us and we will all claim her.”

Madhuri Patel, who immigrated from Gujrat, India, at the age of 6 and grew up in predominantly white Iowa, said Harris’ multi-layered identity would make her a more effective leader. She hoped Harris could unify the country.

“For me, it’s always been really important that you have someone who understands the experience of being marginalized within our communities,” said the 45-year-old Chicago attorney.

Zafar Bokhari, a Chicago State University professor who immigrated from Pakistan in the 1980s, said Harris was a role model for his children.

Despite skepticism about her foreign policy if elected, he said seeing a woman from the Indian subcontinent as a possible vice president was inspiring.

“This is quite an achievement and I really admire the way she has presented herself,” he said. “She has earned this position and I respect that.”

Associated Press writers Deepti Hajela in New York and Padmananda Rama in Washington contributed to this report.

## Virus exposes economic, racial divide in French health care

By ARNO PEDRAM Associated Press

BONDY, France (AP) — Festering beneath France's promise of guaranteed health care for all lie deep disparities across economic and racial lines — differences laid painfully bare by the COVID-19 crisis.

Two recent studies have documented these gaps, but government officials haven't issued new proposals in response. However, as France records a new uptick in virus cases, a health advocacy group called Banlieues Santé — Suburbs Health — is trying to help, offering medical care and guidance in poor and migrant-heavy suburbs and neighborhoods.

After the pandemic broke out, they set up daily food and hygiene kit distribution points, and launched a phone application to coordinate NGOs distributing food — as well as translating public health information into the multiple languages spoken in the diverse communities.

Jacqueline Mendy, a Black mother of two, was among the fifty or so people who came to a tent that Banlieues Santé set up last week in her local park in the Paris suburb of Bondy, whose surrounding Seine-Saint-Denis region saw France's highest mortality rate from the virus. She came with her son to ask some health questions, and learned about a free medical checkup for young women that she didn't know about.

"I hadn't thought of asking the question" about preventive health to her family doctor, Mendy told The Associated Press. Usually, she said, "when I go to my doctor, it's because there's an illness, or (the children) have a fever or something like that."

Banlieues Santé attracted people to their tents with a Moroccan percussion and trumpet band that sang to curious onlookers. The nurses and social workers spoke French but also five other languages, and handed out masks, gel and other basics to families.

The COVID-19 crisis has re-focused attention on the health care challenges that have long plagued areas like Seine-Saint-Denis.

Last month, a study from the national statistics agency revealed mortality rates rose disproportionately higher for Africa- and Asia-born people in France compared to the France-born populations during the first months of the pandemic. Another study by French economists showed France's poorest cities in high-infection regions suffered more deaths than richer cities. The study pointed to "a higher share of workers frequently in contact with the public and a higher share of overcrowded housing."

These numbers don't surprise Abdelaali el Badaoui, the founder of Banlieues Santé, an organization of doctors, social workers and health officials that's been working for 15 years in 300 French neighborhoods, mostly poor, immigrant and racialized. They deliver food and basic protective gear, translate public health guidance on their social media accounts and offer translators to help people navigate the French health care system.

El Badaoui hopes to "plug people back to health care routes."

"The sickest are those the furthest out (from mainstream society), because of the cultural or linguistic barrier," as well as those who can't afford supplemental insurance that makes it easier to access specialized treatment, El Badaoui told The AP.

The French health care system is meant to provide accessible medical treatment for all, but years of cost cuts left it stretched when the virus hit. The system's bureaucratic demands and co-payments often scare away new immigrants or the very poor. And sometimes patients must travel far to reach a specialist, which not everyone can afford.

As the virus spread across France, the overall mortality rate in Seine-Saint-Denis increased 129% in March and April compared with the previous year — the highest rise in the country.

Marie Pastor, a health official for Seine-Saint-Denis, outlined three main reasons: First, the department has a disproportionate rate of people with co-morbidities — for example, it has the highest rate of diabetes in mainland France. Second, a scarcity of general practitioners contributes to a "feeling of distance from

institutions” and discourages people from seeking treatment, she said. Finally, the high concentration of essential workers among the region’s population made it harder for people to protect themselves and their families.

A study ordered by the Paris regional health agency found the same reasons — but didn’t recommend specific measures to address the situation.

Seine-Saint Denis has twice the unemployment rate of the national average, a third of its population is immigrant, and many more are descendants of immigrants. And in five years, it lost 8% of its general practitioners, despite a growing population.

Around France, minorities face other medical challenges. Last October, France’s top official for defending citizens’ rights reported that it is 6.5 times harder for people with “Muslim African names” to get psychiatry appointments than others. Despite calls by the government human rights watchdog to investigate discrimination in health care, there is little research on the topic because race-based research runs against France’s doctrine of colorblindness.

Talking about racism in French health care can prove difficult. Last week, a Twitter user published a list of Black health care professionals in France used by Black communities to find doctors less likely to discriminate against them. The very idea of such a list met heavy pushback. The Health Ministry expressed its “shock,” and the national doctors’ council denied any discrimination among French doctors.

Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

## **‘Impossible’: School boards are at heart of reopening debate**

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

ROCK HILL, S.C. (AP) — Helena Miller listened to teachers, terrified to reenter classrooms, and parents, exhausted from trying to make virtual learning work at home. She heard from school officials who spent hundreds of hours on thousands of details — buses, classrooms, football, arts, special education. She spent countless nights, eyes wide open, her mind wrestling over the safety and education of the 17,000 children she swore to protect.

She thought of her own kids, two in high school and one middle-schooler — the reasons she ran for Rock Hill’s school board six years ago.

And she made the hardest decision of her life: a vote to reopen schools amid the coronavirus pandemic, splitting students into two groups that would each spend two days a week in classrooms, with virtual learning the other school days.

“We have an impossible decision to make. And we still have to make it,” Miller said from a tiny box on Zoom at the board’s July meeting.

This Board of Trustees in suburban South Carolina is like thousands of school boards nationwide, where members are tackling a simple but hefty question — do we return to school amid a pandemic? — with no right or even good answers, in the face of inconsistent testing and a near-constant increase in confirmed coronavirus cases.

Behind that question is pressure. Pressure from teachers and bus drivers and janitors, scared to return to work but in need of a paycheck. Pressure from parents and guardians, who need to return to their own jobs but fear for their children’s safety. Pressure from a president who declares on Twitter “OPEN THE SCHOOLS!!!” but whose administration provides little tangible guidance for doing so.

In Rock Hill, everyone has an opinion. The district has more than 17,000 students, and that means about 17,000 proposals on how to go back to school, trustees say, only half-joking.

And in South Carolina, with some of the country’s worst virus numbers, even state leaders can’t agree. Gov. Henry McMaster contradicted his education superintendent and said schools must allow a five-days-a-week option for working parents. School boards were left to untangle the mess - Rock Hill called an emergency meeting and ultimately kept its staggered plan.

There’s been plenty more to resolve: Should classes be delayed until after Labor Day? How do kids get

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to school with buses at half-capacity for social distancing? What about masks and protective equipment? Should students have drama or orchestra if there are no public performances? What will student athletes do in a place like Rock Hill, known for sending football stars Jadeveon Clowney and Stephon Gilmore to the NFL?

School boards represent democracy at its local core: the backbone of communities, a check on superintendents, and the most direct way to influence education policy. And Rock Hill's strategy was very democratic. The board officially listened to eight committees, some made up of dozens of parents and business or community leaders. Each member spent dozens of hours in emails and informal discussions with people in and around their city of about 75,000 people.

There were teachers to consider. Susan Fields told the board last month, in its first in-person meeting since the pandemic, that she has lupus and must protect herself: "I love my kids, and for 25 years I have always put my students first. This is very odd for me ... for once I am standing up as an educator."

Special education teacher Shannon Gonzalez reminded the board that it promised extra face shields and gloves for those like her who work with students with significant developmental delays.

"It is impossible to teach a class like mine without constant physical contact," Gonzalez said. "They need hand-over-hand assistance for most everything they do. And for the last eight years, it has been my hand over their hand. It has been my face level with theirs calming them as they come out of a seizure."

And there were parents. At a July meeting, Emily Bell thanked the board for their careful, thoughtful work and told them she wasn't sure what she would do with her daughter in elementary school.

"In the morning, I'm ready for virtual school," Bell said. "And in the afternoon, I'm ready for my child to be back in the classroom."

Nearly every issue hinged on policy in the school manual, which staffers and board members pored through for hours. Changes had to be passed: Widened circumstances allowing for virtual classes, the end of open-door hours for parents eating lunch with kids, permitting athletes to practice or play if they weren't physically in school that day.

The board didn't agree on everything, from big matters to small. Trustee Brent Faulkenberry initially didn't favor the plan for in-person class only two days a week. He wanted five, to help working parents, with online school available for anyone worried about safety.

"If families can't work, they can't provide for these kids," he said.

Board member Robin Owens told him he made good points, especially about her fear of young children left at home while parents work. The two-day-a-week plan, she said, "falls squarely in the middle, which means that it is probably not going to make anyone happy. Hopefully it will make some people satisfied."

Faulkenberry's five-day proposal lost 5-2. The board then unanimously agreed to the staggered schedule and delaying the first day of school to Sept. 8, the latest allowed by state law.

There was no shouting, no claims of fake science, no accusations that trustees didn't care for kids. At a time when such arguments erupt everywhere from talk shows to Facebook, from the White House to the corner store, this board prides itself on civil discourse.

"I am so thankful to serve on a board where professionalism is put on the forefront," said Miller, who moved to the United States from Sweden in 1997, became a U.S. citizen in 2006, and has set out since becoming board chairman in 2018 to create a deliberative body that disagrees amiably.

Trustees' ties are forged through regular meetings, trips for training, and school visits together. Even as they met through Zoom, Miller kept some in-person routine. Trustees stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance as video of a waving flag played. Miller plunked her gavel on a tiny wood box after votes and to end meetings.

This month, Miller is gently directing the group back to in-person meetings. If trustees are sending children into schools, she said, the board should physically meet, too. Meetings look much like school, with seats spaced 6 feet (2 meters) apart and everyone in masks.

Mask policy was on trustees' agenda Monday night. Before the pandemic, masks — as face coverings similar to bandanas — could be considered gang attire. Now, students must wear one to enter the building. District officials suggested allowing a classroom "mask break" once teachers and students are settled

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and socially distanced. Trustees weren't sure.

"We have very small classrooms in very old schools," Faulkenberry, who'd opted to participate virtually, said from a video screen placed in his seat. "That air is still recirculating."

And what about doors? District policy requires that teachers lock doors during class. But health officials recommend open doors for air circulation.

The board approved a preliminary mask policy but agreed to fine-tune it. The issue of doors was left to a future meeting, with only a few weeks until the first day of school.

The trustees agree that their work during the pandemic — for which they're paid their usual salary of \$600 monthly, unlike the 62% of school board members nationwide who get no compensation, according to 2018 National School Boards Association figures — has been the hardest of their tenure.

"We want what's best for our children," said trustee Windy Cole, who's had her own tears and sleepless nights. "I've been in all the meetings, I've listened to everything I can, and I trust our district is doing the best possible under these horrible circumstances. We have to just keep praying,"

And they've been able to find moments of joy. During a long virtual meeting largely focused on the district's \$175 million budget, a school employee announced a summer program where every student from pre-K to grade eight would get a box of books delivered to their home.

The trustees cheered. "This makes my heart so happy," Cole said.

After all the talk of taxes, missed celebrations for employees, and the logistics of school amid the virus outbreak, Miller reminded her colleagues: It's not just "doom and gloom."

And she offered them all a virtual hug.

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Follow Jeffrey Collins on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/JSCollinsAP>.

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

## Radical or moderate? Trump paints Democratic ticket as both

By JILL COLVIN, ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An overzealous prosecutor trying to hide her crime-fighting past — who is also weak on crime. The most radical pick for vice president ever — but too moderate to energize progressive Democrats.

President Donald Trump's campaign is struggling to define California Sen. Kamala Harris, the newly announced running mate for Democratic rival Joe Biden.

And without a clear message, Trump has reverted to his usual playbook, resorting to sexist and racist attacks. He has repeatedly called Harris "nasty" and has leaned into appeals that appear stuck in a fictionalized version of the 1950s.

"The 'suburban housewife' will be voting for me. They want safety & are thrilled that I ended the long running program where low income housing would invade their neighborhood. Biden would reinstall it, in a bigger form, with Corey Booker in charge!" he tweeted Wednesday, incorrectly spelling the name of the Democratic senator and former mayor of Newark, New Jersey, who is also Black.

Like Biden, Harris has staked out relatively moderate stances over the course of her career on issues such as health care and law enforcement. That's complicating the Trump campaign's crude efforts to depict the Democratic ticket as out of step with the country.

With Trump lagging in the polls less than 90 days before the election, his team faces a pivotal choice. Do they attempt to fire up their own base and scare off moderates by painting Biden and Harris as radical socialists? Or do they aim to depress enthusiasm among the Democratic base by arguing Biden and Harris are opportunistic and insufficiently liberal?

Biden and Harris can't be both. But that hasn't stopped Trump and his allies from trying to make the incongruous portrayals stick.

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"Clearly, Phony Kamala will abandon her own morals, as well as try to bury her record as a prosecutor, in order to appease the anti-police extremists controlling the Democrat Party," senior campaign adviser Katrina Pierson said in the Trump's campaign's first statement responding to the news.

During his Fox News program on Tuesday, host Sean Hannity called Harris the "most radical running mate ever." At the same time as it echoed that messaging, the Republican National Committee also sought to frame her as insufficiently liberal, gleefully declaring: "liberals revolt against Biden, Harris ticket."

Some Republicans said the messaging wasn't coherent.

"So to sum up: Kamala Harris is a cop — who is an anti-police extremist. A radical leftist — who is causing a 'revolt' among Bernie voters. A phony — who was too nasty to Joe Biden. Got that?" wrote Tim Miller, who previously served as senior adviser to an anti-Trump political action committee and as an RNC spokesperson.

During their first appearance as running mates Wednesday, Biden struck back at Trump's attacks on Harris.

"It's no surprise," Biden said. "Whining is what Donald Trump does best more than any president in American history. Is anyone surprised Donald Trump has a problem with a strong woman?"

He added, "We know that more is to come."

Harris broadly condemned Trump and his administration but didn't address his specific remarks about her.

While Trump has said publicly that Harris was his "No. 1 draft pick" and that he thought she would help his political prospects, he's expressed doubts in private.

As Air Force One returned to Washington from a weekend in New Jersey on Sunday night, Trump turned to the senior staffers and friends assembled on the plane to discuss Biden's impending choice. Assessing the Democratic field, Trump said he thought California Rep. Karen Bass or former national security adviser Susan Rice would give him the biggest boost, according to two White House officials and Republicans close to the president who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the private conversations.

Looking to blunt momentum from the pick, the Trump campaign was putting the final touches on its efforts to have a robust counter-programming schedule during next week's Democratic National Convention, which will be a virtual, online event.

The president was poised to hold events in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Arizona early in the week. On Thursday, the day of Biden's acceptance speech, Trump was set to make an appearance in the former vice president's former hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania, according to a campaign official not authorized to publicly discuss plans that had not been finalized.

Trump's repeated attacks against "Crooked" Hillary Clinton had a devastating effect on her campaign in 2016. Four years later, the lack of a clear, consistent message could portend trouble.

Trump's campaign has been plotting for almost two years to characterize the Democratic nominee and running mate as beholden to the "radical left." That might have gained traction had progressive leaders Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren won the nomination.

But it's a harder case to make against Biden, who didn't embrace "Medicare for All" during the Democratic primary and has resisted more recent calls from some activists to defund the police.

Harris ran her own campaign for the Democratic nomination as a relative moderate in the field. The former California attorney general also served as district attorney in San Francisco, and her record in law enforcement came under scrutiny and turned away some liberals and younger Black voters who saw her as out of step on issues of racism in the legal system and police brutality.

Yet on a conference call with reporters responding to the news Tuesday evening, Trump's campaign continued to push the narrative that Harris is a "leftist" pushing a "radical agenda."

"This has completed the leftist takeover of the party and of their radical agenda," said Republican Sen. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, who claimed Harris "will be the most liberal leftist nominee for VP that our country has ever seen" and cited her support for the Black Lives Matter group.

"With this move to left," she predicted, "what you're going to see is a lot of security moms that are all across this nation who are going to say, 'You know what? Law and order is important to me.... Security in

our communities is important, and I don't want someone who says that they are not going to be tough on hardened criminals."

On the same call, Pierson went after Harris' record as attorney general, saying that "she fought to keep inmates locked up in overcrowded prisons so they could be used for cheap labor" and that she "championed laws that put parents in jail and prosecuted the mentally ill."

Lemire reported from New York.

## Warning on Russia adds questions about Senate's Biden probe

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even before last week's intelligence assessment on foreign election interference, Republican Sen. Ron Johnson was facing criticism from Democrats that his investigation of presidential candidate Joe Biden and Ukraine was politically motivated and advancing Russian interests.

But the stark warning that Russia is working to denigrate the Democratic presidential candidate adds to questions about the probe by Johnson's Senate committee and whether it is mimicking, even indirectly, Russian efforts and amplifying its propaganda.

The investigation is unfolding as the country, months removed from an impeachment case that had centered on Ukraine, is dealing with a pandemic and confronting the issue of racial injustice. Yet allegations about Biden and Ukraine remain a popular topic in conservative circles, pushed by Russian media and addressed regularly by President Donald Trump and other Republicans as a potential path toward energizing his supporters.

Johnson's own interest in the topic, from his perch as chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, has drawn concerns during a presidential election that U.S. intelligence officials warn is ripe for foreign disinformation.

"Particularly as a public official and somebody who's responsible for keeping the country safe, you should always be suspicious of narratives that are trying to sort of damage or target the electoral process in your country," said former CIA officer Cindy Otis, a foreign disinformation expert. "You should always be suspicious of narratives that foreign countries are pumping out."

The intelligence assessment has put Johnson on the defensive, with the Wisconsin Republican issuing a 5,000-word open letter Monday in which he laid out what he said was the basis for scrutinizing both the FBI's Russia investigation and the dealings of Biden and his son Hunter with Ukraine.

In an interview Wednesday, Johnson said his investigation was rooted in facts, not Russian propaganda, and that the "American people deserve the truth" about his probe and what he said were its damning findings. He said he hoped to get the information out, in report form, before November's vote.

Johnson said that though he was sensitive to the threat of Russian interference, he was not responsible for peddling any disinformation in his investigation and described as "completely false" the idea that he is pushing foreign propaganda.

"I completely reject this entire narrative, this coordinated attack on me," he said. "It's ridiculous if it weren't so serious."

The statement last Friday from William Evanina, the government's top counterintelligence official, made no reference to Johnson in particular but did allude to foreign efforts to smear Biden that in some ways parallel Johnson's own probe. That includes the work of Andrii Derkach, a member of Ukraine's parliament and 1993 graduate of a Russian spy academy, who has disclosed leaked recordings of Biden meant to cast the candidate in a negative light.

Johnson suggested he was not willing to unequivocally trust the assessment without seeing the underlying intelligence. In his open letter, he distanced himself from Derkach, saying he had never received any information from him and "almost all of the documents we are seeking and will make public are from U.S. sources."

But, Otis said, given how easily Russia launders its information, and how swiftly material originating



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in Russia can get picked up and spread to English-language forums, "it is very difficult to peel back the origination point for this stuff, even with the aid of having technology on our side."

Johnson's preoccupation with Biden has dismayed Democrats on the committee who view it as a politically motivated distraction at a time when the panel, which oversees the response to national disasters, should be focused on the coronavirus outbreak.

"At a moment when Americans need us to work together, this extremely partisan investigation is pulling us apart," Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan, the committee's top Democrat, said at a May 20 meeting at which the panel authorized a subpoena related to the Biden investigation.

Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris of California, now Biden's running mate, at the same session accused Johnson of shirking his oversight responsibilities related to the pandemic response in favor of forcing a vote on "a purely political matter that will do absolutely nothing for those at risk of contracting COVID-19."

Johnson said those attacks were unfair because his committee has taken up multiple pandemic-related bills and devoted most of its time to the outbreak. Saying that "a couple of investigators" were devoted to the Ukraine probe, he added, "We literally can chew gum and walk at the same time."

Democrats have repeatedly sounded the alarm about the committee's work, including by requesting briefings from law enforcement and intelligence officials, given the extent of Russia's own interest in pushing the anti-Biden narrative.

Central to that narrative are allegations that Hunter Biden used his influence with his father to aid a Ukrainian natural gas company, Burisma, and that Joe Biden, as vice president, pressured the Ukrainian government to fire its top prosecutor, who had led an investigation into Burisma.

Hunter Biden, with no expertise in the country or the natural gas industry, had joined the Burisma board in 2014 during the latter part of his father's tenure in the Obama administration.

Biden has said he never speaks to his son about his overseas business dealings. His position on Ukraine's prosecutor, who was seen by critics as soft on corruption, was the official position of the U.S. government and was also supported by other Western governments and many in Ukraine. Evanina said Russia disapproved of Biden because of his role in shaping Obama administration policies supporting Ukraine and opposing Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Though the allegations of corruption have not been substantiated, they have long been of interest to Trump. His request last year to Ukraine's president that he announce an investigation of Burisma and the Bidens, tying it to U.S. support of the fledgling democracy, formed the basis of the impeachment case against him.

In the Senate, the Johnson-led investigation has proceeded this election year, but with some delay.

In May, the committee authorized a subpoena for Blue Star Strategies, a lobbying firm that was a consultant to Burisma. But just months earlier, Johnson scrapped a vote on a subpoena to interview and obtain documents from Andrii Telizhenko, a consultant to Blue Star, "out of an abundance of caution" after classified briefings for committee staff.

Johnson, meanwhile, announced this week a subpoena for the FBI for documents in its investigation into the Trump campaign and Russia.

His committee isn't the only one undertaking such a probe. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a Trump ally and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has for months scrutinized the Russia investigation. He has released a series of previously secret documents, most targeting the legitimacy of a dossier of research on Trump's ties to Russia compiled by a British ex-spy that was financed by Democrats.

## Iowa farmers assess losses after storm flattened cornfields

By DAVID PITT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Farmers across a wide swath of Iowa are dealing with the heartbreaking aftermath of a rare wind storm that turned what was looking like a record corn crop into deep losses for many.

The storm, known as a derecho, slammed the Midwest with straight line winds of up to 100 miles per

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hour on Monday, gaining strength as it plowed through Iowa farm fields, flattening corn and bursting grain bins still filled with tens of millions of bushels of last year's harvest.

"It's a problem of two years of crops here. You're still dealing with what you grew last fall and you're trying to figure out how to prepare for what you're growing this fall," said Iowa State University agriculture economist Chad Hart.

Farms in Illinois and Indiana also reported crop and property damage, but not to the extent seen in Iowa.

Before the storm hit, the U.S. Department of Agriculture had been expecting a record national corn crop this year of 15.3 billion bushels harvested from about 84 million acres. Iowa was to provide about 18% of that production. Iowa's crop was valued at about \$9.81 billion in 2019.

The Iowa Corn Growers Association said it is too soon to accurately describe how much of this year's crop was lost. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig said Tuesday that tens of millions of bushels of grain stored at farm cooperatives and privately on farms were damaged or destroyed.

Western Iowa has been declared an extreme drought zone and corn plants there were already weakened due to a lack of moisture. Those fields are likely a loss, Hart said.

According to a USDA report dated Aug. 1, farmers in much of central and eastern Iowa had been expecting near-record yields with healthy plants that could bounce back. For now, much depends on whether the plants snapped off or were just bent over by wind.

"There's a lot more breakage or pinching of stalks than I thought there was now that I've been out and looked at more of it. That, of course, essentially has killed the plant," said Meaghan Anderson, an Iowa State University extension agronomist who works with farmers in nine central Iowa counties.

Corn is flat on the ground in numerous fields in the region, Anderson said. The corn stalks had grown to full height and were in the final stages of producing ears and filling them out with kernels. Modern corn varieties can grow up to 8 feet tall making them vulnerable to powerful straight line winds.

For plants that were bent, and stalks not broken, there's some hope, with a significantly reduced yield. But it will be difficult to harvest. If the stalks snapped, the plant will die. Those fields will be chopped and used as livestock feed.

Iowa Corn Growers Association CEO Craig Floss surveyed the storm damage on his father's farm east of Des Moines on Wednesday. He found two machine sheds destroyed and grain bins significantly damaged. The corn was flattened and the family home in need of repair.

"The main message out there to folks is this really comes at a time when farmers are already significantly hurting due to the pandemic and trade disputes," he said.

"There's a lot of stress in the countryside. ... It was already very stressful," Floss said. "This just adds insult to the injury that was already there."

Crop insurance programs will help with corn in the field as will a USDA indemnity program. Federal disaster aid could be coming if a presidential disaster is declared.

Bins were full as farmers were hanging on to last fall's crops in hopes of improved prices. The USDA estimates about about 2.8 billion bushels remain in storage.

"We carried more grain than usual through the springtime and here into the summer, and now the derecho got ahold of some of that grain and we're going to end up losing a significant chunk of value because it became vulnerable to the weather," Hart said.

There's no federal program to help farmers who lost stored grain, he said. Some may have private insurance to help but most will likely wait to see if federal or state programs are initiated.

## 75 years later, 1 million Japanese war dead still missing

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Seventy-five years after the end of World War II, more than 1 million Japanese war dead are scattered throughout Asia, where the legacy of Japanese aggression still hampers recovery efforts.

The missing Japanese make up about half of the 2.4 million soldiers who died overseas during Japan's military rampage across Asia in the early 20th century.

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They are on remote islands in the South Pacific. They are in northern China and Mongolia. They are in Russia.

As the anniversary for the end of the Pacific War arrives Saturday, there is little hope these remains will ever be recovered, let alone identified and returned to grieving family members.

Only about half a million are considered retrievable. The rest are lost in the sea or buried in areas that can't be reached because of fighting or security or political reasons, according to Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, which is in charge of support measures for bereaved families.

Locating, identifying and finding places to store the decades-old remains have been complicated as memories fade, artifacts and documents get lost and families and relatives age.

In 2016, Japan's parliament passed a law launching an eight-year remains recovery initiative through 2024. It promotes more DNA matching and cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense in case remains are found at U.S. military facilities on islands in the southern Pacific that were former battlegrounds.

It was not until 2003 that the Japanese government started DNA matching, but only at the request of possible families. In July, Japan set up a comprehensive remains information center at the ministry that would provide DNA testing.

After Japan's disastrous retreats in the Pacific in 1943, the military started sending back empty boxes with stones to bereaved families, without providing details about the deaths. Japan insisted all war dead would be honored as gods at Yasukuni Shrine.

Similar practices were continued by postwar governments, which didn't put an emphasis on identifying individual remains to return to families, experts say.

Japan sent its first overseas remains collection mission in 1952 after a seven-year U.S. occupation ended. The efforts were unwelcome in many Asian countries that had suffered under Japanese wartime aggression.

The government in the 1950s dispatched missions to major former battlegrounds for the "token" collection of random remains; most were unidentified and never returned to families. After collecting the remains of about 10,000 war dead, the welfare ministry in 1962 tried to end the project but was forced to continue the effort following repeated requests by veterans and bereaved families.

The government mission has so far recovered just 340,000 remains; most are kept at Tokyo's Chidorigafuchi national cemetery of unknown soldiers.

They were never DNA tested or identified, and almost certainly include a "significant number" of the remains of non-Japanese nationals, including Koreans and Taiwanese soldiers drafted and sent overseas to fight for the Japanese Imperial Army, said Kazufumi Hamai, a Teikyo University historian and expert on the remains issue.

More than 240,000 Koreans fought for Japan during the country's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, including 20,000 believed to have died outside of mainland Japan. Some of their remains were most likely brought back, unidentified and mixed with the Japanese collected during past missions before being placed in Chidorigafuchi.

Japan's delayed and insufficient remains collection underscored the government's failure to face up to its wartime past, Hamai said.

"The government lacked respect for individual remains and their dignity," he said. "Their remains collection program was sloppy and carried out reluctantly at the request of veterans' families, while completely neglecting the Koreans and Taiwanese."

About 700 remains of Koreans have been separately stored at a Tokyo Buddhist temple, Yutenji. Health and welfare ministry officials say they are the only remains of the former Korean soldiers that they are aware of. More than half of the 700 are from North Korea.

Several hundred remains had been previously returned to their homes through diplomatic arrangement, but talks have been stalled in recent years as diplomatic relations have soured over Japan's wartime actions, including the use of forced laborers and the sexual abuses of women forced to work at frontline military brothels.

Japan gained access to Russia and Mongolia only starting in 1991, when Japan was given a list of tens of

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thousands of imprisoned Japanese soldiers and maps of the mass graves where they were buried. About 600,000 were sent to former Soviet prisons, where 55,000 died, including a few thousand Koreans.

Last year, a U.S. citizens' group searching for the remains of American war dead in the Pacific War found the remains of about 160 Asians on the island of Tarawa — called the Republic of Kiribati today. It asked the Japanese and Korean governments to have them DNA tested.

Hamai says the case could set the stage for Japan and South Korea cooperating to identify and return the remains to where they belong.

## Radical or moderate? Trump paints Democratic ticket as both

By JILL COLVIN, ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An overzealous prosecutor trying to hide her crime-fighting past — who is also weak on crime. The most radical pick for vice president ever — but too moderate to energize progressive Democrats.

President Donald Trump's campaign is struggling to define California Sen. Kamala Harris, the newly announced running mate for Democratic rival Joe Biden.

And without a clear message, Trump has reverted to his usual playbook, resorting to sexist and racist attacks. He has repeatedly called Harris "nasty" and has leaned into appeals that appear stuck in a fictionalized version of the 1950s.

"The 'suburban housewife' will be voting for me. They want safety & are thrilled that I ended the long running program where low income housing would invade their neighborhood. Biden would reinstall it, in a bigger form, with Corey Booker in charge!" he tweeted Wednesday, incorrectly spelling the name of the Democratic senator and former mayor of Newark, New Jersey, who is also Black.

Like Biden, Harris has staked out relatively moderate stances over the course of her career on issues such as health care and law enforcement. That's complicating the Trump campaign's crude efforts to depict the Democratic ticket as out of step with the country.

With Trump lagging in the polls less than 90 days before the election, his team faces a pivotal choice. Do they attempt to fire up their own base and scare off moderates by painting Biden and Harris as radical socialists? Or do they aim to depress enthusiasm among the Democratic base by arguing Biden and Harris are opportunistic and insufficiently liberal?

Biden and Harris can't be both. But that hasn't stopped Trump and his allies from trying to make the incongruous portrayals stick.

"Clearly, Phony Kamala will abandon her own morals, as well as try to bury her record as a prosecutor, in order to appease the anti-police extremists controlling the Democrat Party," senior campaign adviser Katrina Pierson said in the Trump's campaign's first statement responding to the news.

During his Fox News program on Tuesday, host Sean Hannity called Harris the "most radical running mate ever." At the same time as it echoed that messaging, the Republican National Committee also sought to frame her as insufficiently liberal, gleefully declaring: "liberals revolt against Biden, Harris ticket."

Some Republicans said the messaging wasn't coherent.

"So to sum up: Kamala Harris is a cop — who is an anti-police extremist. A radical leftist — who is causing a 'revolt' among Bernie voters. A phony — who was too nasty to Joe Biden. Got that?" wrote Tim Miller, who previously served as senior adviser to an anti-Trump political action committee and as an RNC spokesperson.

During their first appearance as running mates Wednesday, Biden struck back at Trump's attacks on Harris.

"It's no surprise," Biden said. "Whining is what Donald Trump does best more than any president in American history. Is anyone surprised Donald Trump has a problem with a strong woman?"

He added, "We know that more is to come."

Harris broadly condemned Trump and his administration but didn't address his specific remarks about her.

While Trump has said publicly that Harris was his "No. 1 draft pick" and that he thought she would help his political prospects, he's expressed doubts in private.

As Air Force One returned to Washington from a weekend in New Jersey on Sunday night, Trump turned

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to the senior staffers and friends assembled on the plane to discuss Biden's impending choice. Assessing the Democratic field, Trump said he thought California Rep. Karen Bass or former national security adviser Susan Rice would give him the biggest boost, according to two White House officials and Republicans close to the president who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the private conversations.

Looking to blunt momentum from the pick, the Trump campaign was putting the final touches on its efforts to have a robust counter-programming schedule during next week's Democratic National Convention, which will be a virtual, online event.

The president was poised to hold events in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Arizona early in the week. On Thursday, the day of Biden's acceptance speech, Trump was set to make an appearance in the former vice president's former hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania, according to a campaign official not authorized to publicly discuss plans that had not been finalized.

Trump's repeated attacks against "Crooked" Hillary Clinton had a devastating effect on her campaign in 2016. Four years later, the lack of a clear, consistent message could portend trouble.

Trump's campaign has been plotting for almost two years to characterize the Democratic nominee and running mate as beholden to the "radical left." That might have gained traction had progressive leaders Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren won the nomination.

But it's a harder case to make against Biden, who didn't embrace "Medicare for All" during the Democratic primary and has resisted more recent calls from some activists to defund the police.

Harris ran her own campaign for the Democratic nomination as a relative moderate in the field. The former California attorney general also served as district attorney in San Francisco, and her record in law enforcement came under scrutiny and turned away some liberals and younger Black voters who saw her as out of step on issues of racism in the legal system and police brutality.

Yet on a conference call with reporters responding to the news Tuesday evening, Trump's campaign continued to push the narrative that Harris is a "leftist" pushing a "radical agenda."

"This has completed the leftist takeover of the party and of their radical agenda," said Republican Sen. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, who claimed Harris "will be the most liberal leftist nominee for VP that our country has ever seen" and cited her support for the Black Lives Matter group.

"With this move to left," she predicted, "what you're going to see is a lot of security moms that are all across this nation who are going to say, 'You know what? Law and order is important to me.... Security in our communities is important, and I don't want someone who says that they are not going to be tough on hardened criminals.'"

On the same call, Pierson went after Harris' record as attorney general, saying that "she fought to keep inmates locked up in overcrowded prisons so they could be used for cheap labor" and that she "championed laws that put parents in jail and prosecuted the mentally ill."

Lemire reported from New York.

## **Biden, Harris lash Trump at debut of historic VP choice**

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE, BILL BARROW and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden and Kamala Harris pushed past their one-time political rivalry Wednesday to deliver an aggressive attack on the character and performance of President Donald Trump in their historic first appearance as running mates.

The physical debut of the Democratic ticket was without parallel in recent political annals. The coronavirus prevented Biden and Harris from appearing before the large, adoring crowd that typically greets a presidential nominee and his or her running mate. Instead, they spoke in a mostly empty high school gym where reporters nearly outnumbered campaign aides and the candidates' family members.

While the pandemic made a traditional campaign rollout impossible, it gave Biden and Harris a setting to emphasize their criticism of Trump as unable to contend with the most severe public health crisis in a century. Harris was particularly sharp in her condemnation of the administration.

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"The case against Donald Trump and Mike Pence is open and shut," Harris said. "This virus has impacted almost every country. But there's a reason it has hit America worse than any other advanced nation. It's because of Trump's failure to take it seriously from the start."

She added: "This is what happens when we elect a guy who just isn't up for the job."

Harris is the first Black woman on a major party's presidential ticket, and she and Biden noted the historical significance.

"This morning, all across the nation, little girls woke up -- especially little black and brown girls, who so often feel overlooked and undervalued in their communities. But today, today, just maybe, they're seeing themselves for the first time in a new way," Biden said.

Harris, who is also of South Asian descent, noted the "heroic and ambitious women before me, whose sacrifice, determination and resilience make my presence here today even possible."

For his part, Trump has struggled to land on a coherent message about the Biden-Harris ticket, casting the Democrats as simultaneously too liberal for America and yet not progressive enough for their party's base. Trump has resorted to sexist and racist criticism, referring to Harris as "nasty" and tweeting that "the 'suburban housewife' will be voting for me" to keep neighborhoods safe.

He also noted the two Democrats' disagreements during the primary campaign last year.

"She said horrible things about him," Trump said Wednesday. "She mocked him, openly mocked him. That's why I thought that was a very risky pick. Because I'm sure that will be played back."

But onstage in Wilmington, Biden and Harris showed clear affection toward one another. He called his running mate an "honorary Biden," and Harris offered a poignant tribute to his son Beau, whom she was friends with when both served as state attorneys general. Biden seemed overcome with emotion as Harris spoke of Beau, who died in 2015, as "the best of us" and a man who modeled himself after his father.

She signaled that she'll offer a vigorous defense of Biden's qualifications on issues of race and civil rights, though she made headlines for assailing him for his past opposition to federally mandated busing during a primary debate.

Noting Biden's own vice presidency under President Barack Obama, she said he "takes his place in the ongoing story of America's march towards equality and justice" as the only person "who's served alongside the first Black president and has chosen the first Black woman as his running mate."

Biden's choice of Harris brought more than just historical weight to the ticket — it also provided a big fundraising boost for the campaign. He announced at a later online fundraiser that the campaign raised \$26 million in the 24 hours since she was announced, with 150,000 people giving for the first time.

Still, the day was not without its challenges. The main event started an hour late, and the gymnasium in which the candidates spoke lost its air conditioning after a power outage hit the area. While most of the cable news networks took the event live, the online livestream cut out just a few minutes into Biden's remarks.

The appearance was the first in a rollout that Biden aides say blends the historic nature of Harris' selection with the realities of the 2020 campaign and the gravity of the nation's circumstances, which include the pandemic and its dramatic economic fallout.

Harris was considered a favorite throughout Biden's search, and she's been a regular surrogate campaigner and fundraiser for him since he became the presumptive nominee.

They'll nonetheless have to paper over differences exposed during the primary campaign, from Harris' initial support for a single-payer health insurance system and the Green New Deal to her deeply personal debate-stage broadside against Biden over his opposition to federally mandated busing to integrate public schools in the 1970s.

Harris no longer supports a single-payer health insurance system, aligning instead with Biden's proposal to add a public insurance option to compete alongside private plans. Still, she memorably raised her hand during one Democratic primary debate when candidates were asked whether they could back a system that scrapped private health insurance altogether.

She has broadly endorsed the Green New Deal, progressives' most ambitious set of proposals to combat

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climate change, but she didn't make that an anchor of her presidential bid. Biden has moved left on his climate proposals during the 2020 campaign but has not fully embraced the Green New Deal.

In Washington, Harris has advocated overhauling the criminal justice system, intensifying her efforts since George Floyd's killing by a white Minneapolis police officer in May. And she's called for sweeping domestic programs to benefit the working and middle class. But she has taken heat for some of her aggressive stances as a local prosecutor in the San Francisco area and for not prosecuting bank executives in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse.

Biden bets that, on balance, Harris has broad appeal that will shore up any weaknesses with Black women, an anchor of the Democratic Party, and other voters of color, while juicing turnout among white liberals and coaxing support from independents and Republican-leaning white voters who have soured on Trump.

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press reporter Amer Madhani contributed from Washington.

## **QAnon-supporting candidate unrepentant despite GOP criticism**

By BEN NADLER and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Political newcomer Marjorie Taylor Greene was mocked as a supporter of QAnon conspiracies and denounced for videos deemed racist even by fellow Republicans who withdrew endorsements and declared her unfit for Congress.

The businesswoman from northern Georgia had a blunt message for her critics as she coasted to victory in a Republican primary runoff election that should put her on an easy path to winning an open U.S. House seat: "I will not apologize."

"If Republicans want to win in 2020, they need to listen the message that I'm speaking," Greene told cheering supporters in a victory speech that railed against "spineless Republicans" and "anti-American leftists." Targeting Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, she said: "We're going to kick that b - - - out of Congress."

Outspoken and unrepentant, Greene is proving there's a place among Republicans even for candidates whose views many consider extreme.

In one online video, Greene embraced QAnon, a far-right conspiracy theory centered on the baseless belief that President Donald Trump is waging a secret campaign against enemies in the "deep state" and a child sex trafficking ring run by satanic pedophiles and cannibals. In other videos, she said Black and Hispanic men are being held back by "gangs and dealing drugs," alleged an "Islamic invasion" of government offices and accused Jewish billionaire George Soros of collaborating with Nazis.

"I'm a very controversial person, but I even cringed at some of the things that she said," said Debbie Dooley, president of the Atlanta tea party and a Republican activist.

Unofficial election returns showed Greene winning by a wide margin in her Tuesday primary runoff with John Cowan — a neurosurgeon endorsed by several Georgia GOP congressmen, some who openly denounced Greene.

In Washington, Trump came out in support of Greene on Wednesday, all but assuring she would be welcome by Republicans in Congress, despite splinters in the party over her candidacy.

"Congratulations to future Republican Star Marjorie Taylor Greene on a big Congressional primary win in Georgia against a very tough and smart opponent," Trump tweeted. "Marjorie is strong on everything and never gives up - a real WINNER!"

The president's praise for Greene marked a direct contrast to the condemnation from Republican lawmakers during the primary campaign.

Rep. Jody Hice, a Baptist minister and member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, withdrew his endorsement of Greene over statements he called "appalling and deeply troubling." Georgia GOP Rep. Drew Ferguson had said: "I just don't think that there is a place in Congress for her."

Calls and emails to Hice and Ferguson's congressional offices were not immediately returned Wednesday. Georgia Rep. Austin Scott, another of Greene's GOP critics before the runoff, said in a statement

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Wednesday she "deserves to be congratulated for her victory."

The No. 2 House Republican, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, had backed Greene's opponent in hopes of denying her the party's nomination. Scalise kept silent Wednesday, as did Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the third-ranking Republican leader, who had spoken out against Greene's comments.

Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois tweeted Wednesday: "Qanon is a fabrication ... no place in Congress for these conspiracies." He didn't mention Greene by name.

Earlier this year, House GOP leaders sidelined Iowa Rep. Steve King after comments favoring white supremacy, and he lost his primary bid for reelection.

In Georgia, Trump's congratulations of Greene was echoed by Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler and GOP Rep. Doug Collins, rivals in a special election for one of Georgia's Senate seats. Collins said Greene "created a tidal wave among the voters" and had his support. Loeffler said of Greene's nomination: "It's clear that we need more outsiders with business sense in Washington."

One former GOP congressman said Republicans should make room for Greene the same way Democrats ended up embracing Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a self-described Democratic socialist who won her seat by defeating a member of the House Democratic leadership.

"If the Democrats can bring people like that in and make them an asset, then Republicans certainly need to," said Jack Kingston, who left Congress in 2015 after more than two decades representing southern Georgia.

"You can't pick and choose all your soldiers all the time," he said.

Greene isn't the only candidate tied to QAnon marching toward Washington. Lauren Boebert, who has also expressed support for QAnon, recently upset a five-term congressman in a Republican primary in Colorado.

Greene still must face Democrat Kevin Van Ausdal on the November ballot before she can claim the 14th District seat that covers a dozen counties in Georgia's northwest corner. But the GOP primary was considered the real contest. Trump won roughly 75% of the district's votes in the 2016 presidential election, when he received 51% of Georgia's statewide vote.

"I won't lie: It's a tough race," said Van Ausdal, who insists Greene's views don't reflect those of most people in their corner of Georgia. "It's an uphill battle. But it's important."

Democrats are already using Greene's nomination as a weapon to paint other Republicans as too extreme. With Georgia becoming less white and suburban women offering critical swing votes, Democrats hope for upsets in two U.S. Senate races this fall. They're also fighting to defend one House seat and pick up another in the increasingly diverse Atlanta suburbs.

"Georgia Republicans own this crisis and their mealy-mouthed statements can't hide the fact that Marjorie Taylor Greene's nomination is a stain on their party," Scott Hogan, executive director of the Georgia Democratic Party, said in a statement late Tuesday.

At least one Republican in a competitive race, former GOP congresswoman Karen Handel, has spoken out against Greene for "inflammatory racist rhetoric." Handel is running to win back the metro Atlanta seat she lost to Democratic Rep. Lucy McBath in 2018.

If tied too closely to Greene, Georgia Republicans in competitive races could risk alienating moderate voters, said Charles Bullock, a political science professor at the University of Georgia.

"I think there's no incentive for them to get behind her," Bullock said. "And there may be a cost to pay."

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Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia. AP writers Jeff Martin in Atlanta and Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed.

## Let it flow: Trump administration eases showerhead rules

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump Administration wants to change the definition of a showerhead to let more water flow, addressing a pet peeve of the president who complains he isn't getting wet enough.



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Publicly talking about the need to keep his hair “perfect,” President Donald Trump has made increasing water flow and dialing back long held appliance conservation standards — from light bulbs to toilets to dishwashers — a personal issue.

But consumer and conservation groups said the Department of Energy’s proposed loosening of a 28-year-old energy law that includes appliance standards is silly, unnecessary and wasteful, especially as the West bakes through a historic two-decade-long megadrought.

Since 1992, federal law has dictated that new showerheads shouldn’t pour more than 2.5 gallons of water per minute (9.5 liters). As newer shower fixtures came out with multiple nozzles, the Obama administration defined the showerhead restrictions to apply to what comes out in total. So if there are four nozzles, no more than 2.5 gallons total should come out between all four.

The new proposal Wednesday would allow each nozzle to spray as much as 2.5 gallons, not just the overall showerhead.

With four or five or more nozzles, “you could have 10, 15 gallons per minute powering out of the showerhead, literally probably washing you out of the bathroom,” said Andrew deLaski, executive director of the energy conservation group Appliance Standards Awareness Project.

On the White House South Lawn in July, Trump made the issue personal:

“So showerheads — you take a shower, the water doesn’t come out. You want to wash your hands, the water doesn’t come out. So what do you do? You just stand there longer or you take a shower longer? Because my hair — I don’t know about you, but it has to be perfect. Perfect.”

DeLaski and officials at Consumer Reports said there’s been no public outcry or need for change. The Department of Energy’s own database of 12,499 showerheads showed 74% of them use two gallons or less water per minute, which is 20% less than the federal standard.

“Frankly it’s silly,” deLaski said. “The country faces serious problems. We’ve got a pandemic, serious long-term drought throughout much of the West. We’ve got global climate change. Showerheads aren’t one of our problems.”

Energy Department spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes said the 2013 Obama definition of showerhead clashes with what Congress intended and the standards of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

If the rule is adopted, Hynes said it would be “allowing Americans — not Washington bureaucrats — to choose what kind of showerheads they have in their homes.”

Officials at the industry group Plumbing Manufacturers International did not respond to a request for comment.

Appliance and plumbing energy and water conservation standards save consumers about \$500 a year on energy bills, deLaski said.

If people are having trouble getting water flowing in their shower, they should check their home’s water pressure and can replace a faulty showerhead for not much money, deLaski said.

A 2016 test of showerheads by Consumer Reports found that the best rated showerheads — including a \$20 model — provided a pleasing amount of water flow and met federal standards, according to David Friedman, a Consumer Reports vice president and former acting assistant energy secretary.

DeLaski said he has had a hard time understanding the president’s shower concerns.

“If the president needs help finding a good shower, we can point him to some great consumer websites that help you identify a good showerhead that provides a dense soak and a good shower,” deLaski said.

## For Americans waiting on virus aid, no new relief in sight

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans counting on emergency coronavirus aid from Washington may have to wait until fall.

Negotiations over a new virus relief package have all but ended, with the White House and congressional leaders far apart on the size, scope and approach for shoring up households, re-opening schools and launching a national strategy to contain the virus.

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President Donald Trump's top negotiator, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, tried to revive stalled talks Wednesday, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer dismissed the "overture," saying the Trump administration is still refusing to meet them halfway. Congressional Republicans are largely sitting out the talks.

"The White House is not budging," Pelosi and Schumer said in a joint statement.

With the House and Senate essentially closed, and lawmakers on call to return with 24-hours notice, hopes for a swift compromise have dwindled. Instead, the politics of blame have taken hold, as the parties head into August focused on the presidential nominating conventions and lawmakers' own reelection campaigns.

Trump said the Democrats are "holding the American people hostage."

All indications are talks will not resume in full until Congress resumes in September, despite the mounting death toll, surpassing 161,000 in the U.S., and more than 5 million people infected.

For Americans, that means the end of a \$600 weekly unemployment benefit that has expired, as has a federal ban on evictions. Schools hoping for cash from the federal government to help provide safety measures are left empty handed. States and cities staring down red ink with the shattered economy have few options.

Trump's executive actions appeared to provide a temporary reprieve, offering \$300 in jobless benefits and some other aid. But it could take weeks for those programs to ramp up, and the help is far slimmer than what Congress was considering. More than 20 million Americans risk evictions, and more are out of work.

Mnuchin and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows briefed GOP senators privately on Wednesday. But congressional Republicans, who have left the negotiating largely to Democrats, seem satisfied there is enough money still available from previous aid packages, for now.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell put in motion the procedural steps to recess, possibly Thursday. The House is already gone.

Because McConnell has such cool support from his ranks for any bill, Democrats are trying to push the White House to go bold. They want to maintain the \$600 jobless benefit and provide nearly \$1 trillion to the states and cities, nonstarters for the White House.

While there is some common ground over \$100 billion for schools and new funds for virus testing, Democrats also want other emergency funds that Trump rejects, including to shore up the U.S. Postal Service and election security ahead of the November election.

"Democrats have compromised," Pelosi and Schumer said, noting that they dropped their initial \$3 trillion-plus proposal by \$1 trillion and expect Trump's team to raise its \$1 trillion offer by a similar amount to \$2 trillion. "However, it is clear that the Administration still does not grasp the magnitude of the problems that American families are facing."

Their joint statement said Mnuchin made an "overture" to meet. The treasury secretary called the Democratic leaders on Wednesday, according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private call.

The Democrats said they are waiting for the White House to put a new offer on the table. "We have again made clear to the Administration that we are willing to resume negotiations once they start to take this process seriously."

But Mnuchin shot back with his own statement, saying, "The Democrats have no interest in negotiating."

Mnuchin said Pelosi's statement was "not an accurate reflection of our conversation. She made clear that she was unwilling to meet to continue negotiations unless we agreed in advance to her proposal, costing at least \$2 trillion."

McConnell said the American people need help and "are not done fighting this virus."

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Associated Press writer Amer Madhani in Washington contributed to this report.

## **In a first, Airbnb takes action against guest for party**

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

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For the first time, Airbnb is taking legal action against a guest for violating its ban on unauthorized parties. The San Francisco-based home sharing company said Wednesday it is initiating legal proceedings against a guest who held an unauthorized party at a home in Sacramento County, California, last weekend. Three people were shot and wounded at the party.

Airbnb wouldn't release the guest's name but said it has removed the guest from its platform.

The company has been trying to clean up its image — promising to verify all of its listings, for example, and taking a harder line on parties — as it prepares for an initial public offering of its stock. The IPO, which was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic, could still take place later this year.

Airbnb banned "open invite" parties at its rentals late last year after five people were shot and killed at an unauthorized party in Orinda, California. The company set up a rapid response team to deal with complaints from neighbors and started screening "high risk" bookings, such as reservations at a large home for one night.

Airbnb went further last month, banning guests under 25 from booking entire homes close to where they live.

In the most recent case, Airbnb said it will seek monetary damages and donate them to non-profit that fights gun violence in the Sacramento area. Under Airbnb's terms of service, the dispute will go into arbitration if Airbnb and the guest are unable to settle the terms.

A Sacramento County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman said Wednesday that the shootings remain under investigation.

## **US commander: Islamic State threat in west Syria growing**

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elements of the Islamic State group are working to rebuild in western Syria, where the U.S. has little visibility or presence, the top U.S. commander for the Middle East warned on Wednesday.

In the region west of the Euphrates River where the Syrian regime is in control "conditions are as bad or worse" than they were leading up to the rise of the Islamic State, said Gen. Frank McKenzie. "We should all be concerned about that."

McKenzie said insurgents are operating with some degree of freedom, and he said the U.S. and its allies have little hope the Syrian regime will do anything to tamp down the group there. The western part of the country has historically been controlled by Russian-backed Syrian government troops, while the U.S. and its allies, the Syrian Democratic Forces, have largely been in the north and eastern part of the country.

President Donald Trump has touted the defeat of IS as one of his key national security achievements. He ordered the removal of U.S. forces from the northern border near Turkey, as part of a planned move to pull all American troops out of the country. But he was eventually convinced by U.S. military leaders to leave U.S. forces in the east to continue working with the SDF and help protect oil fields from IS.

Speaking online to a United States Institute of Peace forum from his U.S. Central Command office in Tampa, McKenzie said that the slow-moving effort to transfer people out of Syrian refugee camps has been further complicated and delayed by the coronavirus pandemic. And that, he said, fuels concerns about the radicalization of people — particularly the youth — in the camps, which officials worry are breeding grounds for IS insurgents.

The al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria is home to as many as 70,000 people — mostly women and children — who were displaced by the ongoing civil war in Syria and the battle against IS. Many fled as the U.S.-backed SDF cleared out the last pockets of land held by IS last year.

Leanne Erdberg Steadman, the USIP director for countering violent extremism, said getting people out of the camps is key to having them abandon violence and secure a new future. Officials said that there have now been the first few reported cases of COVID-19 at al-Hol.

McKenzie said concerns about blocking the spread of the virus among European allies and other nations in the region has complicated efforts to repatriate camp residents to their home nations.

Repatriation is the key to clearing out the refugee camps, and the U.S. has aggressively pushed to get

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allies to take their own citizens back. Most nations, however, are reluctant to take in potential IS insurgents. And the potential spread of COVID-19 is now an added fear.

Humanitarian groups say many of the women and children are not risks, but officials also note that there are a lot of women who were radicalized and active in the insurgency.

McKenzie said that unless political leaders find a way to deradicalize and repatriate the displaced people in the camps, there will be another IS resurgence in the future.

"As young people grow up, we're going to see them again unless we can turn them in a way to make them productive members of society," he said. "We can either deal with this problem now or deal with it exponentially worse a few years down the road."

## **Business lobby raises concerns over Trump payroll tax break**

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's leading business group on Wednesday raised serious concerns about President Donald Trump's move to defer Social Security payroll taxes for American workers, warning that the plan for a shot of economic relief during the coronavirus pandemic could prove unworkable.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a White House ally in battles to cut federal regulations and taxes, said in a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin that Trump's directive is "surrounded by uncertainty as to its application and implementation" and "only exacerbates the challenges" for companies trying to quickly put his action in place.

There was no immediate reaction from the administration.

Trump on Saturday directed the Treasury Department to temporarily defer the 6.2% Social Security tax on wages paid by employees, beginning Sept. 1 and lasting through the end of the year.

A deferral leaves workers still on the hook for the money later on. But Trump said his ultimate goal is to make the tax break permanent, which would require congressional approval. That appears unlikely for now: Democrats have blasted Trump's plan as an attempt to undermine Social Security's finances and Republicans seem to have little enthusiasm for the idea.

There's a little more than two weeks before the payroll tax plan is supposed to go into effect, and the Chamber's misgivings compound the problems for a president who wants to be seen as taking decisive action in the face of a stalemate with Congress over another pandemic relief bill.

The Chamber's chief policy officer, Neil Bradley, called the president's move "well-intended to provide relief," but raised questions about whether it would be workable.

"There remains widespread uncertainty on how businesses will implement and apply the executive order, and as American employers, workers and families work to navigate the COVID-19 crisis they need clarity not more confusion," Bradley said in a statement.

In the letter to Mnuchin, the Chamber pressed to find out whether the tax deferral would be optional. If it's employers who get that flexibility, it could make it easier for businesses to adjust. But then the tax deferral would not pack the economic punch for which Trump seemed to be reaching.

Among the potential problems cited are whether businesses would be liable for repayment of deferred taxes, and what to do about short-term workers and those who earn part of their compensation from bonuses.

The letter also raised questions about whether a tax deferral would have much impact on the economy if workers have to pay the money back. Some critics have said people might just save the money, not spend it, knowing that the government would ask for it back.

## **Stocks rebound on Wall Street, S&P 500 trades above record**

By STAN CHOE and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers

Stocks marched broadly higher on Wall Street Wednesday, briefly nudging the S&P 500 above its all-time closing high set in February, before the coronavirus pandemic led to a historic market plunge.

The benchmark index notched a 1.4% gain, its eighth in nine days. It ended within 0.2% of its record

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high from Feb. 19, before the coronavirus prompted the sudden shutdown of much of the economy.

Big technology stocks led the way higher once again. Health care and communication services stocks also had a strong showing. The rally followed gains for stocks across Europe and much of Asia, while Treasury yields continued their sharp increase after a report on inflation came in higher than expected for the second straight day.

The S&P 500 rose 46.66 points to 3,380.35. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 289.93 points, or 1%, to 27,976.84. The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, climbed 229.42 points, or 2.1%, to 11,012.24. The Russell 2000 index of small company stocks picked up 8.15 points, or 0.5%, to 1,583.25.

Indexes in Europe closed broadly higher. Asian markets were mixed.

The U.S. stock market is on the edge of erasing the last of the losses taken after the coronavirus pandemic crushed the economy into recession, even though the economy is still hobbling despite some recent improvements. In March, the S&P 500 had been down nearly 34% from its record.

Much of the rebound has been due to massive amounts of support from the Federal Reserve, which has slashed interest rates to nearly zero and propped up far-ranging corners of the bond market to keep the economy's head above water. The ultra-low interest rates mean investors are getting paid very little to own bonds, which pushes some into stocks, boosting their prices.

Congress has also offered unprecedented amounts of aid, though it's hit a seeming impasse in negotiations to re-up its assistance.

All that support has investors willing to look a few months or a year into the future, when a vaccine for the new coronavirus will hopefully be available and helping the economy get back to normal. More importantly for stock prices, the expectation is that corporate profits will also rebound from their current coronavirus-caused hole.

"Economic data is coming in much better than expected; the earnings season is much better than expected," said Megan Horneman, director of portfolio strategy at Verdence Capital Advisors. "You couple all of those things with the massive amounts of fiscal and monetary stimulus taking place. That's why we've seen the (market) rally so quickly off its low and at the magnitude that we've seen."

Wall Street's gains on Wednesday were widespread, with two-thirds of the stocks in the S&P 500 higher.

Technology stocks were among the biggest forces prodding the market higher. It's a return to form for them, following a mini-stumble in recent days.

Big tech-oriented giants like Apple, Microsoft and Amazon have been the year's biggest winners, carrying the stock market through the pandemic despite the worries about the economy, on expectations they'll continue to deliver strong growth regardless of whether people are quarantined.

Tesla jumped another 13.1% Wednesday after announcing a 5-for-1 split of its stock, in hopes of making the price of each share more affordable to investors. The stock has surged past \$1,400 after starting the year a little below \$420.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 0.67% from 0.66% late Tuesday. It's jumped sharply since sitting at 0.57% late Monday.

A report on Wednesday showed that inflation remains very low, but it ticked up more last month than economists expected. Economists debated how much value the report has, given that inflation is likely to remain weak with the pandemic flattening the economy.

If inflation were to reappear, it could weaken the Federal Reserve's commitment to keeping interest rates low and could ultimately draw some investors away from stocks.

Other risks also continue to loom over the market, including worsening tensions between the United States and China, which are the world's largest economies. Technology companies have been in focus in particular, and worries about potential retaliation by China were a big reason for U.S. tech stocks' struggles earlier in the week.

Partisan rancor in Washington is also threatening the possibility of more assistance for the economy. A \$600 weekly unemployment benefit from the U.S. government expired at the end of July, and investors say

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the economy needs another big lifeline from Washington. President Donald Trump signed several executive orders this past weekend to offer some assistance, but critics say they fall well short of what's needed.

The recent rise in yields has also slowed the supersonic ascent for gold recently. The metal's price has shot to record highs this year, benefiting from increased demand by investors looking for safety amid the pandemic but not interested in the low yields offered by bonds.

Gold for December delivery rose \$2.70 to \$1,949.00 an ounce a day after plunging by more than \$90 an ounce.

Oil prices rose. Benchmark U.S. crude oil for September delivery rose \$1.06 to settle at \$42.67 a barrel Wednesday. Brent crude oil for October delivery rose 93 cents to \$45.43 a barrel.

AP Business Writer Elaine Kurtenbach contributed.

## How can Wall Street be so healthy when Main Street isn't?

By STAN CHOE, ALEX VEIGA and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market is not the economy.

Rarely has that adage been as clear as it is now. An amazing, monthslong rally means the S&P 500 is roughly back to where it was before the coronavirus slammed the U.S., even though millions of workers are still getting unemployment benefits and businesses continue to shutter across the country.

The S&P 500, which is the benchmark index for stock funds at the heart of many 401(k) accounts, ended Wednesday at 3,380.35 after briefly topping its closing record of 3,386.15 set on Feb. 19. It's erased nearly all of the 34% plunge from February into March in less time than it takes a baby to learn how to crawl.

The U.S. and global economies have shown some improvements since the spring, when business lockdowns were widespread, but they are nowhere close to fully healed. The number of virus cases continues to rise across much of the United States, and federal and local politicians for the most part lack a strategy to contain it. Many industries, such as airlines, hotels and dining, could take years to recover from the damage.

The Federal Reserve and the U.S. government get a lot of the credit for the rally after pouring trillions of dollars into the economy. Profits also remained incredibly resilient for the stock market's most influential companies, such as Apple and Amazon. Rising hopes for a potential vaccine to halt the pandemic, meanwhile, have encouraged investors to look past the current dreary statistics.

Here's a look at how Wall Street has flourished while Main Street struggles:

### THE MARKET'S BIG GUNS

The corner bars, the family restaurants, the hair salons and other small businesses across the U.S. that are teetering or closing for good aren't listed on the stock market. Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook and Google's parent company are, and movements in their stocks alone are dictating the action in the S&P 500 more than ever before.

The pandemic has accelerated work-at-home and other trends that have boosted Big Tech, and their profits are piling up. The five big tech-oriented giants are now worth a combined \$7.6 trillion, and by themselves account for more than 22% of the S&P 500's total value.

Because stocks with the biggest market values carry the most weight in the S&P 500, the movements of Big Tech matter much more than what airlines, cruise-ship operators or other still-struggling companies are doing. American Airlines is down more than 50% for 2020 so far, but its much smaller market value means it doesn't move the needle like Big Tech. It would take 280 American Airlines to have the heft of one Apple.

The stock market has seen some broadening out of gains recently, with stocks of smaller companies doing better. But Big Tech has done the heaviest lifting in the S&P 500's rally.

### HELP FROM WASHINGTON

A famous saying on Wall Street is: Don't fight the Fed. The central bank is doing everything it can to support the economy, from cutting interest rates to nearly zero to the unprecedented promise to buy

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even riskier corporate debt. It's all aimed at ensuring lending markets have enough cash to run smoothly and to prevent prices from going haywire. Economists say the moves have helped avoid a 2008-09 style meltdown of the financial system.

The Fed has signaled that it will keep its benchmark short-term interest rate at nearly zero through at least 2022, and low rates are often like steroids for stocks. With Treasuries and other bonds paying relatively little in interest, some investors are turning instead to stocks, gold and other investments, boosting their prices.

Congress also approved an unprecedented amount of aid for the economy. Some portions of that aid have already expired, and another economic relief package is tied up in partisan rancor on Capitol Hill. But many investors seem to expect Washington to eventually come to a compromise and throw another lifeline to the economy.

Meanwhile, the economy is recovering but at a much slower pace than its rapid collapse in the spring. After shrinking at an annual pace of 32.9% in the April-June quarter, economists forecast it will rebound at a 20% annual pace in the July-September period. The unemployment rate is 10.2% and is expected to remain in the high single-digits through at least the end of this year.

## THE NATURE OF THE MARKET

Investors are setting stock prices now based on where they see corporate profits heading in the future. And for many on Wall Street, the future looks brighter than the bleak present, in large part because of hopes that a vaccine for the new coronavirus could help things get back to normal.

"Main Street is the now, Wall Street is the future," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research.

Companies have begun final-stage testing of potential vaccines for COVID-19, and many investors are hopeful that something could be available either late in 2020 or within a year. A return to normal could help the economy get back on track and perhaps boost profits back to record levels. Stock prices tend to track with corporate earnings over the long term.

The same look-ahead mentality sent the stock market tumbling severely earlier this year, before the worst of the recession arrived. Stocks began falling in late February, a month before the number of layoffs began exploding, for example. The S&P 500 hit what turned out to be its low point on March 23, the same week that the government reported a record number of U.S. workers filed for unemployment benefits, nearly 6.9 million.

"Wall Street continues to look six to nine months down the road," Stovall said.

Of course, many risks still remain for the market despite all its ebullience.

For all of Wall Street's optimism, talks in Washington on more stimulus could break apart and deprive the economy of the aid investors say it crucially needs.

Rising tensions between the United States and China are also hanging over the market. The world's two largest economies have longstanding trade issues, and the United States has recently been cranking up the pressure on Chinese technology companies.

And the virus remains the ultimate wild card. If a vaccine doesn't hit the market within the next year, all the hope that has helped build up Wall Street's rally could quickly vanish.

## Rites of fall: Losing college football stings across America

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP National Writer

Michigan's Big House will be sitting empty when the leaves start to change this fall.

Southern Cal's famed white horse, Traveler, won't be galloping triumphantly after a Trojans touchdown.

No one at Ole Miss knows for sure if partying fans will be belting out a well-lubricated "Hotty Toddy" in The Grove.

From Ann Arbor to Los Angeles to Oxford, that most American of pursuits — college football — has either given up hope of getting in a traditional season or is flinging what amounts to a Hail Mary pass in a desperate attempt to hang on in the age of Covid-19.

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Even if some schools manage to take the field in the next month or so, it will be a different looking game. Chances are, Saturdays will never be quite the same again.

"Our lives are changing forever right before our eyes," Arizona offensive lineman Donovan Laie said.

While every aspect of society has been jarred by a worldwide pandemic that has claimed more than 160,000 American lives, the potential loss of college football feels like another collective punch to the national psyche.

For all the ills of big-time college athletics, it might be the closest thing to a national religion.

"Since the virus hit, we've all lost a sense of our normal lives," said Charles Reagan Wilson, professor emeritus at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi — better known to college football fans as Ole Miss.

"College football could be the balm for our spirit because it's such a part of our familiar autumn life," he added. "I think to not have it would up the ante on that sense of abnormality we're all living through."

That reality has already arrived for fans in two of the country's most prominent conferences. On Tuesday, the Big Ten and the Pac-12 both called off their attempts to play this fall, saying they might try to play in the spring if the virus subsides.

The remaining Power Five conferences — the Southeastern, Atlantic Coast and Big 12 — are pressing on with their attempts to kick off the season next month, though all are quick to acknowledge that the virus could force them to cancel.

Ohio State fan Jason Streeter finds it difficult to grasp the concept of a fall without football.

"Devastation," said Streeter, sounding as though a tornado had just swept through town. "It's just a way of life in Columbus, honestly. It really is. You look forward to those fall Saturdays on the banks of the Olentangy."

He talked longingly of traditions that are unique to his school, such as the band's famed script spelling of "Ohio" during its halftime shows in the center of a nearly 103,000-seat stadium known as "The Horseshoe" — capped off by a lone member high-stepping across the field to "Dot The I."

"It's a part of life here, it really is," Streeter said.

Further down the college football food chain, smaller leagues have pulled the plug on their seasons as well.

The sting is especially painful at historically Black colleges and universities such as North Carolina A&T, where one of the highlights of football season — really, the entire year — is a week-long homecoming celebration that draws tens of thousands to Greensboro.

"It's been an insular community for so long, by necessity," said Earl Hilton, the athletic director at North Carolina A&T. "These are places of retreat, places of sanctuary, places of protection. There's a feeling that we are in a safe place where we can celebrate and enjoy and appreciate each other in ways that are genuine and authentic."

Not this year. There's no football, no homecoming, no chance to watch the school's famed band perform one of its dazzling halftime shows.

"The leaves change, it gets a little cooler, and it's just what you do on a Saturday afternoon," mused Hilton, sadness clear in his voice. "I'm at a loss for words to describe what it's going to be like."

For a country already in the midst of a devastating economic downturn, the loss of college football will have a crushing impact on bars, restaurants and other businesses that rely on football fans.

That is especially true of college towns like Oxford, Mississippi and Clemson, South Carolina and State College, Pennsylvania.

"I was talking to a restaurant owner here in Oxford who said 50 percent of his yearly profit comes from college football season," said Wilson, the Ole Miss professor. "Even if people are able to come back next year, it won't be the same. Some of the restaurants they loved won't be here. Some of the clothing stores, some of the bars, they won't be here."

Oxford has a tax base of about 25,000 residents, and the population grows closer to 60,000 when classes are in session.

But on a big football weekend, the town can be swamped by nearly 200,000 people. Those people spend money, lots of money. About a third of Oxford's operating budget comes from sales taxes.



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"We count on those six to seven weekends a year," Mayor Robyn Tannehill said. "There are businesses in this town that can weather a slow winter or spring because they know football's coming."

The SEC has already cut back on its normal 12-game schedule, hoping the league can complete that a 10-game slate of conference games. Even the games that are played will surely be in stadiums that are empty or let in only a fraction of their normal capacity.

The universities will likely crack down on popular tailgating spots such as The Grove.

"The Grove, the weather, the tailgating, the feel of a big Saturday morning game day," Tannehill said. "I can't imagine Oxford without it."

Even in a larger city such as Columbus, the loss of a Buckeyes season is a huge blow to a sports bar such as the Varsity Club, which opened in 1959 about two blocks from Ohio Stadium.

On a football Saturday, the place is overrun with crowds that spill out the door before the game, during the game and long into the night.

"Those are eight massive days a year for us," said R.J. Oberle, a manager at the Varsity Club. "We really thrive on those events."

If it wasn't apparent before, it surely is now.

Life is not returning to normal anytime soon.

Not without college football.

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AP Sports Writers Mitch Stacy in Columbus and David Brandt and John Marshall in Phoenix contributed to this report.

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## Thousands in Belarus decry president's reelection as rigged

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Thousands of protesters rallied in Belarus' capital and other cities for a fourth straight night Wednesday, decrying an election they say was rigged to extend the 26-year rule of the country's authoritarian leader and the crackdown on subsequent demonstrations.

In several parts of Minsk, groups of hundreds of people formed human chains. Motorists blared horns in support and, in some areas, slowed to a crawl to block police vehicles. On one avenue, people stood on balconies, clapping in an expression of support. Riot police fired rubber bullets at them.

Similar protests were held in at least five other cities, according to the Viasna rights group, to contest the official election results, which show President Alexander Lukashenko won a sixth term with 80% of Sunday's vote and the main opposition challenger garnered 10%. Crowds have taken to the streets every night since to demand a recount.

Earlier in the day, groups of hundreds of women formed human chains in several districts of Minsk, chanting "Shame!" and calling for an end to the crackdown on the demonstrations. Hesitant to use force against all-women rallies, police dispersed them without violence.

But in recent nights, authorities have responded with a level of brutality remarkable even during Lukashenko's rule. Police have dispersed protesters with tear gas, stun grenades, water cannons and rubber bullets and severely beat them with truncheons. Black-uniformed officers chased protesters into residential buildings and deliberately targeted journalists, beating many and breaking their cameras.

"We stand for a peaceful protest," said Ksenia Ilyashevich, a 23-year-old IT specialist who joined other women at a Minsk protest earlier Wednesday. "We worked up the courage and came out to rally. We stand here for all."

In three previous nights of protests, at least 6,000 people have been detained and hundreds injured, according to the official count, but even that high toll appeared to downplay the scope. Anguished rela-

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tives were besieging prisons across Belarus trying to find their missing relatives.

"Even those who were loyal saw the real face of this government during the past three days," said 63-year-old Galina Vitushko, who stood outside a jail in Minsk, trying to find her son, a 43-year old doctor. She said that she desperately needs to give him insulin since he has diabetes.

"How can you treat your own people like that?" she asked, breaking into tears. "The real winners don't behave like that."

The 65-year-old Lukashenko has led the former Soviet state of 9.5 million people since 1994, relentlessly stifling dissent and winning the nickname "Europe's last dictator" in the West.

This year, the economic damage caused by the coronavirus and the president's swaggering response to the pandemic, which he airily dismissed as "psychosis," has fueled broad anger, helping swell the opposition ranks — but Lukashenko has dismissed them.

"The core of these so-called protesters are people with a criminal past and (those who are) currently unemployed," Lukashenko said during a Wednesday meeting with security officials.

His top challenger, a 37-year-old former teacher and political novice Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, managed to unite fractured opposition groups and draw tens of thousands to her campaign rallies after two top potential challengers were barred from the race. She entered the race to replace her husband, an opposition blogger who aspired to run but has been in jail since his arrest in May.

But she left for neighboring Lithuania on Tuesday in an abrupt about-face, hours after submitting a formal request for a recount. In a video recorded before departure that her associates said was filmed under pressure from law enforcement officials, she urged her supporters to end protests.

Protesters have not heeded her call, and Maria Kolesnikova, a top figure in Tsikhanouskaya's campaign, urged the government Wednesday to "stop waging a war against its own people and begin a dialogue."

On Tuesday in Brest, near the border with Poland, police shot at protesters who attacked them with metal rods, wounding one person, the Interior Ministry said. One demonstrator died Monday in Minsk, when an explosive device he attempted to throw at police exploded in his hands, according to the ministry.

Journalists, in particular, have been targeted. Boris Goretsky, vice president of the Belarusian Association of Journalists, said more than 20 reporters are currently in custody, waiting to see a judge, and several more have already been sentenced to jail terms ranging from 10 to 15 days.

"A deliberate hunt for journalists with independent Belarusian and foreign media has begun," said Goretsky.

Reporters from several Belarusian and international outlets were beaten up Tuesday in Minsk. Officers seized memory cards from a group of photographers, including one for the AP.

On Wednesday, Vital Tsyhankou, a journalist for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, was severely beaten by police and detained along with two reporters from an independent Belarusian TV station after covering a protest against police violence.

The Viasna rights group said many injured protesters were afraid to seek medical help, fearing prosecution for participating in the rallies.

Eduard Kukhterin, a 56-year-old publisher, was injured by rubber bullets overnight but decided not to go to a hospital. "Medical workers report such injuries to the law enforcement," Kukhterin told the AP.

The crackdown has drawn harsh criticism from abroad.

Speaking during a trip to the Czech Republic on Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the Belarusian vote was neither free nor fair. "We want the people of Belarus to have the freedoms that they're demanding," he said.

The European Union foreign ministers scheduled a meeting on Friday to discuss the crackdown.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called the meeting a day after saying that the 27-nation bloc could impose sanctions against "those responsible for the observed violence, unjustified arrests, and falsification of election results."

In 2016, the European Union lifted most of the sanctions it slapped on Belarus after Lukashenko freed political prisoners and allowed protests.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Wednesday condemned

the crackdown, urging Belarusian authorities to immediately release all those unlawfully detained and investigate rights abuses.

Daria Litvinova and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow and Matthew Lee in Prague and Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this report.

## **3 dead, 6 in hospital after train derails in Scotland**

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Three people were killed and six others injured Wednesday when a passenger train derailed in northeast Scotland after heavy rain and flooding hit the area.

The train driver was believed to be among the dead, British Transport Police said. The Rail, Maritime and Transport union said that the train conductor was also believed killed. Formal identification has yet to take place. Six people were hospitalized, but their injuries are not considered serious.

Images from the scene show that several cars of the four-carriage train had left the tracks and one had tumbled down an embankment. Smoke was seen billowing from the wreck. Air ambulances and coast guard helicopters came and went as the rescue operation unfolded.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said a police investigation aims to find out what caused the derailment and ensure “nothing like this happens again.”

“As I understand there was about a month’s worth of rainfall in a very short period which undoubtedly aggravated the problem there,” he added.

Torrential rain had caused flooding and travel disruptions in Scotland, and on Wednesday morning Network Rail Scotland tweeted warnings of a landslip affecting services in the area.

It was not clear how many people were on the train, an early morning ScotRail service from Aberdeen to Glasgow.

British Transport Police chief superintendent Eddie Wylie said the derailed train was not a busy service, “and from (closed circuit television) inquiries and witness statements we believe all passengers have been accounted for.”

“However, once the area has been made safe, then a full and thorough search will be conducted, which is likely to take some time,” he said.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon described the derailment as a “major” incident and said she would be convening an emergency response meeting.

The transport police said officers were called at 9:43 a.m. (0843GMT) to the railway line near the coastal town of Stonehaven, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast of Edinburgh and south of Aberdeen.

Local lawmaker Andrew Bowie had been in Stonehaven surveying flood damage earlier Wednesday.

“The situation was really bad this morning. The River Carron, the main river which flows through it, had burst its banks, and the heavy rain had caused flooding in the center of Stonehaven and lots of the side streets leading off it,” he said.

Bowie added that the water had receded and it was unclear if flooding was connected to the derailment.

“We obviously don’t know why the derailment took place, but obviously we have suffered terrible weather here,” he said.

Serious train accidents are rare in the U.K. The country’s last fatal derailment was in 2007.

Queen Elizabeth II sent a message of condolence, saying “it was with great sadness that I heard of the train derailment.” She added that the entire royal family joined her in sending thoughts and prayers to the families of those affected.

The head of Network Rail cut short a family vacation to return to the UK. The chief inspector of railways, Ian Prosser, said inspectors were at the site and assisting in the preliminary investigation.

## **Tear gas at Portland protests raises concern about pollution**

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By SARA CLINE Associated Press/Report for America

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The presence of U.S. agents has diminished in Portland, Oregon, but city officials are still cleaning up tear gas residue from the streets, dirt and possibly the storm drains after the chemical was used frequently by both police and federal officers during more than two months of often-violent protests over racial injustice.

The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services cleaned and took samples from six storm drains last week around the federal courthouse and a building with a police station and jail that have been targeted in nightly demonstrations. Environmental officials aimed to prevent pollutants from reaching the Willamette River, which runs through downtown and is popular with kayakers, canoeists and boaters, and determine the possible impact if contaminants did flow into the waterway.

"There is no American city, that I am aware of, that has endured the level of tear gas," agency spokeswoman Diane Dulken said. "We are researching and looking through environmental literature. What are these materials and their toxicity?"

Officials said they're testing for pollutants that are found in crowd control agents such as the heavy metals zinc, lead, copper and chromium.

Dulken said there is no evidence yet of tear gas residue reaching the river, "but it's also hard to say because there is so much unknown about the materials and so much unknown about the quantities."

U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon and state Rep. Karin Power sent a letter last month to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality requesting an investigation into "the public health and environmental risks of tear gas and other chemicals to people, wildlife, aquatic life and local air and water quality."

Blumenauer and Power asked the EPA for information on what kind of chemicals federal agents used and how the residue will be cleaned up.

"We don't know yet what has been deployed, but we aim to find out," Power said.

The protests over racist policing often ended with a fog of tear gas as federal agents tried to disperse the crowd. Before they arrived, local police frequently deployed it. The protests started after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, dwindled to smaller groups that spread chaos and grew again when President Donald Trump sent federal agents to the liberal city in early July. Violence has persisted, but the gatherings over the last week have been much smaller and targeted local police facilities.

Demonstrators and city officials said agents' use of tear gas was excessive, but U.S. authorities said it was necessary to protect federal property and officers as protesters hurled objects like cans of beans, bottles and fireworks.

Robert Griffin, who is the dean of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity at the University at Albany in New York, said he was "a little bit appalled" by the use of tear gas.

"If you put a cloud of gas into a crowd, it's going to affect the old, it's going to affect the young, it's going to affect the youth. It doesn't pick," Griffin said. "The problem is, if the wind shifts, it will go into areas that it was never intended to go."

While local officials have called for a study on the impact of the chemical irritants, Griffin said that should have been done much earlier.

"We should be putting money into understanding the long-term health and impacts of these technologies because they are being used on our own citizens," Griffin said.

Sven-Eric Jordt, an associate professor and researcher at Duke University's School of Medicine who has extensively studied tear gas, said the majority of data used to justify its use is outdated, having been generated in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

"It's really very distressful that the science is really so old," Jordt said.

Documents listing the ingredients in the gas, as well as the amount used on Portland protesters, haven't been released.

"I really think that the federal government and also local health departments have really neglected their duty to reinvestigate the safety of tear gas," Jordt said.

At the end of July, federal authorities were pulled back from downtown Portland and the cleanup began.

The city Bureau of Environmental Services received reports of power-washing that possibly flushed contaminants from the streets into storm drains. While some lead to a sewer system, the drains surrounding the federal courthouse lead directly to the Willamette River. Officials told city workers to put buffers around storm drains while cleaning.

The river has a history of pollution, which was stained with sewage as often as 50 times a year and for decades carried industrial pollution from several Oregon cities. Today, people swim in the river that's now considered safe.

Dulken said Portland has worked to be proactive about stopping pollutants from reaching the river, including any tear gas residue.

Authorities took samples from the entry and exit points of the storm drains and expect results later this month, which could lead to further cleanup.

"What is the effect? We don't know," Dulken said.

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Associated Press writer Allen Breed contributed from Raleigh, North Carolina. Cline is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## State Department rejects further probe of diplomat's remarks

By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A report Wednesday by the State Department's internal watchdog confirms news accounts that staffers at the U.S. Embassy in Britain have accused Woody Johnson, owner of the New York Jets and the U.S. ambassador, of making "insensitive" and "inappropriate" remarks.

The department's Office of the Inspector General called for further investigation into the allegations against Johnson, a friend and campaign contributor to President Donald Trump.

Johnson denies the allegations. State Department officials replied to the watchdog office that no further investigation is necessary because Johnson is "well aware of his responsibility to set the right tone for his mission," according to the report.

While the Office of the Inspector General said it continues to believe the State Department should further examine Johnson's alleged conduct, the State Department said it considers the matter closed.

"We stand by Ambassador Johnson and look forward to him continuing to ensure our special relationship with the UK is strong," it said in a written response to a request for comment on the report.

The report provides no details about the alleged comments by Johnson, which officials learned about during a periodic review of the embassy. It said that employees alleged that the ambassador "sometimes made inappropriate or insensitive comments on topics generally considered Equal Employment Opportunity sensitive, such as religion, sex, or color."

Two current U.S. officials told The Associated Press in July that they had witnessed or were aware of behavior by Johnson that colleagues had found to be bullying or demeaning.

One former embassy employee said Johnson's questionable behavior and comments toward and about women and minorities were not isolated and were witnessed by numerous staffers on a weekly, if not daily, basis. That former employee and the other officials were not authorized to discuss the ongoing inspector general report and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The current and former officials said Johnson had questioned the need for events marking Black History Month, which is traditionally commemorated by U.S. diplomatic missions abroad, had hosted embassy events at a private men-only London club against the advice of embassy colleagues, and made disparaging remarks about women's appearances.

Those allegations emerged as Johnson's former deputy at the embassy alleged the ambassador had also tried to intervene with British government officials at the president's request to steer the British Open golf tournament to Trump's Turnberry resort in Scotland.

The investigation report released Wednesday does not address the allegation related to the British Open,

which Trump and Johnson have denied.

Johnson told the inspector general investigators that he has throughout his professional life "respected both the law and the spirit" of the principles in the department's equal employment opportunity regulations and has ensured that all employees working for him do as well. He said he reviewed a video on workplace conduct after learning of the allegations against him.

The ambassador said the OIG should consider not including the recommendations related to the alleged remarks in their findings, citing the lack of any formal complaints against him and the "generally positive tone" of the broader review of embassy operations, according to the report.

"If I have unintentionally offended anyone in the execution of my duties, I deeply regret that, but I do not accept that I have treated employees with disrespect or discriminated in any way," he said.

Johnson, who was confirmed to the ambassador post in August 2017, raised money for Trump's presidential campaign and donated \$1 million to the president's inaugural committee. He is chair and CEO of The Johnson Co., a private asset management firm in New York and has owned the Jets football team since 2000.

## Companies test antibody drugs to treat, prevent COVID-19

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

With a coronavirus vaccine still months off, companies are rushing to test what may be the next best thing: drugs that deliver antibodies to fight the virus right away, without having to train the immune system to make them.

Antibodies are proteins the body makes when an infection occurs; they attach to a virus and help it be eliminated. Vaccines work by tricking the body into thinking there's an infection so it makes antibodies and remembers how to do that if the real bug turns up.

But it can take a month or two after vaccination or infection for the most effective antibodies to form. The experimental drugs shortcut that process by giving concentrated versions of specific ones that worked best against the coronavirus in lab and animal tests.

"A vaccine takes time to work, to force the development of antibodies. But when you give an antibody, you get immediate protection," said University of North Carolina virologist Dr. Myron Cohen. "If we can generate them in large concentrations, in big vats in an antibody factory ... we can kind of bypass the immune system."

These drugs, given through an IV, are believed to last for a month or more. They could give quick, temporary immunity to people at high risk of infection, such as health workers and housemates of someone with COVID-19. If they proved effective and if a vaccine doesn't materialize or protect as hoped, the drugs might eventually be considered for wider use, perhaps for teachers or other groups.

They're also being tested as treatments, to help the immune system and prevent severe symptoms or death.

"The hope there is to target people who are in the first week of their illness and that we can treat them with the antibody and prevent them from getting sick," said Dr. Marshall Lyon, an infectious disease specialist helping to test one such drug at Emory University in Atlanta.

Having such a tool "would be a really momentous thing in our fight against COVID," Cohen said.

Vaccines are seen as a key to controlling the virus, which has been confirmed to have infected more than 20 million people worldwide and killed more than 738,000. Several companies are racing to develop vaccines, but the results of the large final tests needed to evaluate them are months away. Russia on Tuesday approved a vaccine that hasn't undergone such a test, sparking international concern that it was cutting corners.

The antibody drugs are "very promising" and, in contrast, could be available "fairly soon," said Dr. Janet Woodcock, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration official who is leading government efforts to speed COVID-19 therapies. Key studies are underway and some answers should come by early fall.

One company, Eli Lilly, has already started manufacturing its antibody drug, betting that studies now

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underway will give positive results.

"Our goal is to get something out as soon as possible" and to have hundreds of thousands of doses ready by fall, said Lilly's chief scientific officer, Dr. Daniel Skovronsky.

Another company that developed an antibody drug cocktail against Ebola — Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. — now is testing one for coronavirus.

"The success with our Ebola program gives us some confidence that we can potentially do this again," said Christos Kyratsous, a Regeneron microbiologist who helped lead that work.

Regeneron's drug uses two antibodies to enhance chances the drug will work even if the virus evolves to evade action by one.

Lilly is testing two different, single-antibody drugs — one with the Canadian company AbCellera and another with a Chinese company, Junshi Biosciences. In July, Junshi said no safety concerns emerged in 40 healthy people who tried it and that larger studies were getting underway.

Others working on antibody drugs include Amgen and Adaptive Biotechnologies. The Singapore biotech company Tychan Pte Ltd. also is testing an antibody drug and has similar products in development for Zika virus and yellow fever.

"I'm cautiously optimistic" about the drugs, said the nation's top infectious diseases expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci. "I'm heartened by the experience that we had with Ebola," where the drugs proved effective.

What could go wrong?

— The antibodies may not reach all of the places in the body where they need to act, such as deep in the lungs. All the antibody drugs must make their way through the bloodstream to wherever they're needed.

— The virus might mutate to avoid the antibody — the reason Regeneron is testing a two-antibody combo that binds to the virus in different places to help prevent its escape.

Skovronsky said Lilly stuck with one antibody because manufacturing capacity would essentially be cut in half to make two, and "you will have less doses available." If a single antibody works, "we can treat twice as many people," he said.

— The antibodies might not last long enough. If they fade within a month, it's still OK for treatment since COVID-19 illness usually resolves in that time. But for prevention, it may not be practical to give infusions more often than every month or two.

A San Francisco company, Vir Biotechnology Inc., says it has engineered antibodies to last longer than they usually do to avoid this problem. GlaxoSmithKline has invested \$250 million in Vir to test them.

Giving a higher dose also may help. If half of antibodies disappear after a month, "if you give twice as much, you will have two months' protection," Lilly's Skovronsky said.

— The big fear: Antibodies may do the opposite of what's hoped and actually enhance the virus's ability to get into cells or stimulate the immune system in a way that makes people sicker. It's a theoretical concern that hasn't been seen in testing so far, but large, definitive experiments are needed to prove safety.

"As best as we can tell, the antibodies are helpful," Lyon said.

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Marilynn Marchione can be followed on Twitter: @MMarchioneAP

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## College football in the spring: When? How much? Who plays?

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Back in April, not long after the NCAA basketball tournaments were canceled because of the pandemic, the idea of moving the college football season to the spring of 2021 already was being tossed around.

Conference commissioners and athletic directors called it a last resort. And when it looked like the fight against the coronavirus might be going well, the idea mostly fell by the wayside.

"We broached it very little in our AD meetings and really haven't gotten serious about it at all," Wiscon-

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sin athletic director Barry Alvarez recalled Tuesday. "I had one AD from another league call and just talk about it a little bit."

Time to start talking about it a lot.

The Big Ten and Pac-12 postponed fall football this week, hoping to salvage a spring season like the Mid-American Conference and Mountain West plan to do.

What that looks like is anybody's guess, but officials will need to figure out everything from how to prepare in the fall to how much to play in the spring, where in the calendar it could fit and who exactly is going to be suiting up for these teams.

Before a spring football season is planned, Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said, there has to be a discussion about next fall, too.

"I think the two have to be tied together. In my mind, we've made the decision and we've canceled the 2020 season," Chryst said. "Now how do we want to do 2021?"

Todd Berry, executive director of the American Football Coaches Association and a member of the NCAA's football oversight committee, said conversations about a spring football season have been minimal. There has been a theme: "We would all like to go into next fall with some kind of normalcy."

Ohio State coach Ryan Day was clear on what he wanted.

"I think starting the first week of January would be the best way to go and an eight-week season," he said.

Chryst coached in what was known at the time as the World League of American Football and later become NFL Europe. Occasionally players from that spring league would end up on NFL rosters the following fall.

"It's a long season," Chryst said.

Former NCAA executive and college football player Mark Lewis said playing two full seasons or even close to that should be a nonstarter.

"If you look back to the last 20 years of college football, there's been a de-emphasis of spring activity, spring practice, the number of days you can practice, the number of days you can practice with pads, the number of contact practices you can have," he said. "All those have been reduced with purpose."

"What are you gaining by playing in spring if you're trying to add more games?" Lewis said. "I don't think that's necessarily a good idea."

Exactly when a season could be played in the spring is likely to be determined, like many things, by the virus.

"I don't think there's a single indication that there could be a better situation in March, April and May then in September, October, November," Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said.

Schools have generally done a good job mitigating the virus's spread during voluntary workouts and noncontact practices over the last month. Whether that keeps up when schools starts remains to be seen, even with some schools doing most or all their classes online.

Berry said teams are not likely to send players home even without football games on the schedule. Day said the Buckeyes will still be tested once a week.

Keeping the players in shape might be easier than simply keeping them around.

More than two dozen FBS players, including some big stars from the Big Ten such as Penn State linebacker Micah Parsons and receivers Rondale Moore of Purdue and Rashod Bateman of Minnesota, opted out of the 2020 season even before the conference postponed.

Will other highly regarded future NFL players such as Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields, Oregon offensive lineman Penei Sewell and Penn State tight end Pat Freiermuth bother participating in a spring season?

"I think Justin wants to see what the schedule is," Day said.

The NFL scouting combine is in late February and the draft is in late April. If the NFL does nothing to accommodate spring college football, some of the sure-thing players are almost certain to leave. The players who needed another year to improve their stock might be more inclined to stay and play. But an injury in the spring could be an even bigger problem when it comes time to earn a spot on an NFL roster in the summer.

Maybe players will still try to play in the fall but in another conference. The Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 12, American Athletic Conference, Conference USA and Sun Belt are all still



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on track to start their seasons in September.

With a few weeks to go before classes start at most schools, there is still time for a player to transfer, apply for a waiver from the NCAA and maybe be eligible by the opening game.

"I know when the MAC made their decision (not to play in the fall), the phones were ringing in a lot of places, many of them quite honestly from other MAC coaches saying we've got a kid here, he wants to go, do you have a spot?" Chryst said.

Opportunities, though, would be limited.

FBS teams are allowed to sign 25 players per year, recruits or transfers, and at this point in the year most teams will be full or close to it.

Teams that lose players before a spring season could replace them with next year's signing class. Early enrollment is common for many football players who want to get on campus in time for spring practice. Now, maybe they can get game experience.

There is much to sort out, including the NCAA signing off on a spring football season.

"We'll start diving into that more," Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren said. "At this point in time, we'll see."

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## Report: At least 41 children alleged assaults at nonprofit

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Understaffing and inadequate supervision of staff and patients plagued a nonprofit health organization where at least 41 intellectually disabled children have reported sexual assaults over the past quarter-century, a newspaper investigation found.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported Wednesday that some victims were as young as 12 and had IQs as low as 50 when they said they were assaulted by staff at campuses of Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health, which is headquartered near Philadelphia. The center treats children with intellectual disabilities, mental disorders and trauma.

Ten said they were assaulted at three suburban Philadelphia campuses of Devereux, which has been in existence for more than 100 years and is now the nation's leading nonprofit health organization of its kind. Others said the abuse occurred at facilities in New Jersey, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Connecticut, New York and Arizona.

Despite \$467 million in annual revenues, Devereux understaffed its campuses and failed to adequately supervise its patients and staff members, who all too often disappeared for hours and slept through shifts, the newspaper reported.

When assaults occurred, Devereux identified risk factors and potential solutions such as increased training or employment screenings, only to abandon the initiatives for years, the Inquirer said.

Devereux leaders, noting that a sexual assault can happen in almost any care setting, said that in the last two years they have increased safety and reduced risk by adopting safeguards to prevent such abuse and hold staffers accountable.

But three girls at a Devereux campus in Arizona told police they were sexually abused by a male staff member between October 2018 and March 2019, the newspaper reported. In December, at a facility in Texas, a Devereux staffer was charged with allegedly sexually abusing four children, it said.

The Inquirer said it interviewed scores of former residents, family members, staffers, attorneys, and law enforcement officers and reviewed criminal cases, lawsuits, medical records, incident reports, therapy notes, pay stubs, text messages and police interviews.

Former Chester County prosecutor Chad Maloney, who now represents victims alleging sexual abuse — including one alleging abuse at Devereux — said his experience has been that an individual responsible for physical or sexual abuse at the facility is prosecuted but "the story just ends — Devereux doesn't change."

"They don't change how they hire, how they train, or how they supervise their staff or the children in their care," he said. "The victims change, the offenders change, but Devereux's actions never do, and that's why the abuse continues. It's heartbreaking and it has to stop."

Devereux leaders said that since late last year, they have taken aggressive steps to prevent sexual abuse. Officials said they reduced opportunities for staff to be alone with children, trained employees to detect grooming and potential abuse, added video technology to better monitor employees, increased pay to attract more qualified staffers, and planned to screen job applicants with a new psychological test.

"Most of the kids we care for have been traumatized in their life outside of Devereux and the worst possible thing is to have that occur while they're in a therapeutic environment," chief executive officer Carl Clark said. "It personally makes my blood boil more than any other thing to think that this happens, and makes us want to do everything in our power to screen people out at the organization who go down this pathway."

Devereux's top executives, however, vigorously denied that its campuses had supervision and staffing issues.

## Prosecutors charge 3 with threatening women in R. Kelly case

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors announced charges Wednesday against three men accused of threatening and intimidating women who have accused R&B singer R. Kelly of abuse, including one man suspected of setting fire to a vehicle in Florida.

A longtime friend of the indicted singer offered to pay a victim \$500,000 to keep her from cooperating in Kelly's prosecution, authorities said, while a manager and adviser of Kelly threatened to release sexually explicit photographs of a woman who sued Kelly.

A Kelly defense attorney said he had "no involvement whatsoever" in any attempt to silence witnesses. "He hasn't attempted to intimidate anyone, or encouraged anyone else to do so," attorney Steve Greenberg said on Twitter.

The Grammy-award winning musician has pleaded not guilty to dozens of state and federal sexual misconduct charges in Illinois, Minnesota and New York.

The charges range from sexual assault to heading a racketeering scheme aimed at supplying Kelly with girls. Kelly also is accused of having unprotected sex with a minor in 2015 without disclosing he had herpes.

Prosecutors described a third man accused of intimidating witnesses as being related to a former Kelly publicist. They said Michael Williams, 37, of Valdosta, Georgia, traveled to Florida in June and set fire to an SUV parked outside a residence where one of Kelly's victims was staying.

Williams also conducted Internet searches for "the detonation properties of fertilizer and diesel fuel, witness intimidation and witness tampering and countries that do not have extradition with the United States," authorities said in a news release.

A message was sent to Williams' attorney seeking comment.

"The men charged today allegedly have shown that there is no line they will not cross to help Kelly avoid the consequences of his alleged crimes — even if it means re-victimizing his accusers," Peter Fitzhugh, special agent in charge of the Homeland Security Investigations in New York, said in a statement.

Also charged were two Illinois men with ties to Kelly. His longtime friend, Richard Arline Jr., 31, is accused of offering to pay off a woman he believed had "too much" incriminating information against Kelly.

Authorities said they set up a wiretap and recorded a call in which Arline claimed he had spoken with Kelly behind bars during a three-way call.

Donnell Russell, 45, of Chicago, is charged with harassing a Kelly victim and her mother after the unidentified woman filed a lawsuit against Kelly. Authorities said Russell, a manager and adviser to Kelly, sent a letter to the woman's lawyer with cropped nude photographs of her and later sent her a text warning her: "Pull the plug or you will be exposed."

It was not immediately clear whether Russell and Arline had attorneys who could comment on the charges.

## He set out to mobilize Latino voters. Then the virus hit.

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

GRAHAM, N.C (AP) — Like many Americans, Ricky Hurtado had different plans for his summer.

He formally announced his first bid for public office in March and expected to spend sweltering days knocking on doors, clenching glossy campaign literature and making his case directly to voters. This was the summer he was going to prove that a 31-year-old son of Salvadoran immigrants could give Latinos a say — even in North Carolina, even in part of Donald Trump's America.

But this is a story about waiting — and the detours on the path to power.

The novel coronavirus upended the Democrat's campaign for statehouse in an exurban district. Hurtado stopped door-knocking. The closest he came to potential voters was standing 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more away while volunteering at food banks or a virus testing site. And, still, he contracted the virus himself.

Across the U.S., the coronavirus outbreak is disrupting Latinos' long and difficult climb up the political ladder. The disease has disproportionately sickened Latinos, destabilized communities and impeded voter registration ahead of the November presidential election. In North Carolina, only 5,000 Latinos have been added to the voter rolls since mid-March, less than half the number added during the same period four years ago.

The virus and the economic fallout it triggered is crashing down on Latinos just as they hit an electoral milestone. For the first time, there will be more Latinos eligible to vote than any other minority group — 32 million, the Pew Research Center projects.

Latinos have long seemed on the cusp of realizing their potential at the ballot box, only to see their impact undermined by disappointing turnout and an Electoral College that favors heavily white states. In 2016, fewer than half of eligible Latinos cast ballots, as the country elected a president who promised to build a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border and repeatedly used Latin American immigrants as a foil in the debate over it.

But if states such as California, Florida and Nevada were the proving grounds in elections past, North Carolina represents the future. The state has 1 million Latino residents, many immigrants being drawn to work in manufacturing and agriculture. Yet two-thirds are not eligible to vote because they are either under age 18 or not citizens — the second-highest rate in the nation, just behind neighboring Tennessee.

In Alamance County, among the housing tracts and thick forests reaching between Raleigh and Greensboro, there are three Latinos who cannot vote for every one who can.

For decades, those numbers meant one thing: Latinos' growing population in the state didn't translate into political power. Rather, it had the opposite effect of animating resentment and grievance, as politicians seized on immigration as a potent issue.

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EDITOR'S NOTE — Americans are preparing to choose a leader and a path through a time of extraordinary division and turmoil. Associated Press journalists tell their stories in the series "America Disrupted."

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Now the children of immigrants are coming of age, finding their voice and their leaders. Hurtado and his generation are acutely aware of the weight demography and politics have placed on their shoulders.

"It really all depends on me," said John Paul Garcia, a 20-year-old Hurtado campaign volunteer and the only member of his family of six who can vote. "I'm my sister's voice, my brother's voice, my parents' voice."

Trump won North Carolina by less than 4 percentage points. Hurtado's Democratic predecessor lost the statehouse seat by 298 votes in 2018.

Hurtado knows it would be easier for him to focus on white voters, still the overwhelming majority in the district. But he wants his campaign to be about more than just winning the seat, flipping the legislature or even putting a Democrat in the White House.

"It's actually engaging people," he said this spring, as he drove his Volkswagen Jetta to knock on doors in one of the many trailer parks tucked behind auto body shops and in forested river bottoms across the county.

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"I want the 21,000 Latinos in Alamance County to know they're very much part of the conversation here." It would be the last time Hurtado door-knocked before the pandemic hit.

Hurtado's parents arrived in the United States in the trunk of a car.

The two were fleeing the civil war in El Salvador in 1980 when they were driven across the Mexican border and into California. Hurtado was born in Los Angeles, but when he was 7 his family moved to rural North Carolina, hoping the cleaner air would be better for his asthma.

Hurtado's mother worked at a chicken plant, and when he was in high school Hurtado would rub her sore hands after picking her up from the plant at the end of her shift, close to midnight.

The poultry-processing, agricultural and textile industries that were the traditional foundations of the state's economy all recruited as far south as Mexico, trying to draw cheap labor to the state.

"1996-1998, those were the years that changed everything," said Paul Cuadros, a professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, who wrote a book on Latino immigrants in a rural area near Alamance County. "Once the children started showing up, that's when you had the backlash."

Hurtado grew up in a mostly Black neighborhood and he was conscious he was viewed as different. He tried not to speak Spanish in public. He'll never forget when a fellow seventh grader, a girl he considered a friend, called him "just another Mexican by the side of the road."

"No somos ni de aquí, ni de allá," is how he describes his feeling of alienation, using a common phrase that translates to: "We're from neither here nor there."

Hurtado was accepted at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. A high school calculus teacher lent him \$2,000 to help him pay for a laptop. But it wasn't until his senior year that he began to feel comfortable with his identity as a Southerner and a Latino.

Out of school, Hurtado went to work at a consulting firm focusing on racial equity. He won a scholarship and earned a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton. He was ready to take a job in Oakland in 2014 when he abruptly decided California could wait.

North Carolina's governor at the time, Republican Pat McCrory, was pressing the federal government to deport the thousands of unaccompanied children who were crossing the border to flee violence in Central America.

"I just felt like, 'That's not the North Carolina I know,'" Hurtado said.

He moved back to the state and began running a program for first-generation students at his alma mater and plunged into the local activist scene, where he met Yazmin Garcia. They spent one of their first dates picketing a Trump rally.

After they married, Hurtado and Garcia settled in Alamance County in one of the commuter suburbs outside of Chapel Hill. But their neighborhood wasn't far from the old industrial strips that are punctuated with Salvadoran food trucks and Mexican groceries. Hurtado moved his parents there, too.

"Help your parents buy a house — that's the American dream, isn't it?" Hurtado said. He now has a different way of describing his roots: "Soy de aquí y de allá."

"I'm from both here and there."

The work of finding Latino voters — the 1 in 4 — was always going to be difficult. Fear of immigration authorities is ever-present. Families members hold a patchwork of legal status. Doors don't just open for anyone.

That's partly due to the enduring power of Alamance County Sheriff Terry Johnson, a Republican who first came to office in 2002 when he ran TV ads that warned of "aliens" in the county and played music from the old TV series "The Twilight Zone."

Johnson was the only sheriff in the country other than Arizona's notorious Joe Arpaio to be sued by the Obama administration's Justice Department for civil rights violations against immigrants.

A federal judge dismissed the case accusing Johnson's agency of targeting Latinos in searches and seizures. But the sheriff's department reached an out-of-court settlement with the federal government to avoid a government appeal.

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Johnson believes the government merely “wanted a Southern sheriff to make an example out of,” he said in an interview in his office, lined with photos of his family and official travels, including one of a recent trip to the White House.

Johnson says he has no animus against immigrants. “I have several friends that own restaurants here that are here illegally,” he said. “I could care less as long as they follow laws of our land.”

Still, Johnson remains a menacing figure to many Latinos. His agency has an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to house detained immigrants, which has drawn continued protests over the years. Just a reference to Johnson’s name can feel like a deportation threat to many Latinos. When a Latina clerk at cell phone store recently asked a white customer to put on a mask, the man said he was going to “call Terry Johnson” on her, said Tyra Duque, another clerk who witnessed the incident.

To be sure, Latinos in Alamance County and across the U.S. are politically diverse. About 3 out every 10 Latino voters supported Republicans in the 2018 congressional races, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the electorate.

Omar Lugo, a 42-year-old Venezuelan immigrant, doesn’t blame Johnson for what he observes is a clear sense of fear in the county’s Latino community. He blames liberal activists. “By accusing the sheriff of being racist, that doesn’t take us anywhere,” Lugo said.

Lugo says he see evidence that Latinos in North Carolina are turning to the GOP in these turbulent times — particularly after the violence that accompanied protests over the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died after being pinned to the ground by Minneapolis police. Latinos are repelled by scenes of chaotic demonstrations and the debate over defunding police departments, he said.

Other Republicans argue Hurtado isn’t the right person to represent Alamance County, where Johnson routinely runs for reelection unopposed and the GOP holds every county office. But the county’s politics are shifting. As North Carolina’s population has boomed in recent years with migrants from the north, attracted by cheaper housing and a growing technology and banking industry, Alamance County has seen an influx of suburbanites. Many are leaving liberal Chapel Hill in search of affordable housing.

Hurtado’s Democratic views will only change “the policies that attracted people to Alamance County to begin with,” said Stephen Wiley, political director for the North Carolina House Republican Caucus.

But the Democrat sees himself as a good match for Alamance. Round-faced and smooth-voiced, with black-framed glasses, Hurtado has a low-key, easy demeanor. He sees himself as a representative of a modern, diversifying North Carolina.

On Facebook, he sometimes confronts old high school friends who support Trump and post harsh anti-immigrant sentiments, gently reminding them they grew up together. He says the exchanges end amicably.

But Hurtado notes that hasn’t happened lately, not since the Floyd protests boiled over into a full-on debate over racial justice and identity.

At the center of a square in Graham, the county seat, stands a monument to the county’s fallen Confederate soldiers. Johnson’s deputies have watched the square since the national demonstrations started, forbidding protests without permits under a city law swiftly and emergency declarations by the mayor.

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When Aranza Sosa, 22, went to the square holding Black Lives Matter signs in early June, Johnson’s deputies turned her away. She angrily began researching local politics, looking for help, and was stunned to find Hurtado was running for office against Stephen Ross, a Republican incumbent.

She called him in tears.

There have been a lot of tears for Sosa lately. Her uncle died of COVID-19 in late May, and her family members in North Carolina and Mexico regularly gather on video chat to say a rosary for him. She works in a retirement home that just had its first case. Some days her anxiety over catching the virus — and passing it onto vulnerable family members — is so intense she can’t go to work. On most days, Sosa goes in. She needs the money.

“My job, I’m lucky to have it, but under the circumstances it breaks a lot of people,” Sosa said. “It feels like I’m expendable, at this point, to the government.”

The Pew Hispanic Center found that 59% of Latinos say they or someone in their household has lost a

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job or wages due to the virus, well above the 43% of U.S. adults reporting the same.

The Latino unemployment rate was just under 13% in July, still well above the white rate. Disproportionately clustered in the service industry, Latinos are more likely to see their jobs eliminated because of dangers of face-to-face transmission and to be asked to go to work.

In Alamance County, where Latinos are 13% of the population, they account for 62% of the county's 2,500 COVID cases.

It's unclear whether the dual hardship of the virus and economy will leave Latinos too busy worrying about their survival to focus on the election or will galvanize them.

Antonio Arellano, whose group, JOLT, tries to expand Latino power in Texas, noted they regularly cite health care, not immigration, as its top issue in polls.

"We're seeing our grandmothers, grandfathers and aunts and uncles die from lack of health care," Arellano said. "We believe this pandemic has the potential to drive voter turnout more than ever before."

Hurtado and his wife both know how disruptive the illness can be. In mid-June they came down with the virus. They were shocked at the news; they rarely left their house, they said. Hurtado's asthma had made them terrified about the disease.

But their bout was relatively mild, high fevers and a few days of chest pain for Hurtado followed by several days of fatigue and exhaustion. They recovered by early July.

The pandemic has shut down the sort of face-to-face interactions that are especially critical among Latinos, who are less likely than African Americans and whites to be registered even when they are eligible to vote. With college campuses, street festivals and DMVs closed, registration plummeted 70% nationally during the first two months of the pandemic compared to 2016, according to a study from the Center for Election Innovation and Research.

While Republicans have revived some of their door-to-door canvassing, Democrats, including Hurtado, have largely refrained, arguing it's too risky. Hurtado has turned to online meetings and fundraisers. Earlier this month he was one of dozens of candidates endorsed by former President Barack Obama.

Still, he knows he's losing critical face-to-face encounters.

When he canvassed in the spring he often connected with the younger Latinos over shared experiences.

"I was the first in my family to go to college," Hurtado told Evelyn Lara, 18, in the doorway of her trailer.

"I am, too," Lara responded, proud, as her 7-year-old brother Iker leaned by her side, playing "Minecraft" on a portable device.

"You know how hard it can be," Hurtado said. "When I go to Raleigh, I'm trying to make it easier for families like ours."

Hurtado has been heartened by the influx of calls from young people like Sosa since the Black Lives Matter demonstrations began, which gives him hope Latinos will turn out despite all the obstacles in November.

But there's another disappointment weighing down his household.

Garcia was nearing the end of the yearslong slog to become a U.S. citizen. She would joke about how she would be able to cast her first vote for her husband — if he earned it.

One of her final steps, an in-person interview, was postponed in March due to the pandemic.

Garcia may not be able to vote for her husband after all.

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Associated Press writer Angeliki Kastanis in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## No roars at Augusta as Masters to be played without fans

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

The Masters, known as much for the roars as the raw beauty of Augusta National, will be on mute this year. The club decided Wednesday there will be no spectators.

That means all three majors in this year of COVID-19 will not have fans, and the silence figures to be most deafening at Augusta National when the Masters is played Nov. 12-15.

From the opening holes down to Amen Corner all the way through the back nine, players can often

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figure out what's happening with others just by listening. That will be missing this year, along with the azalea and dogwood blooms from having to move it from April.

"Ultimately, we determined that the potential risks of welcoming patrons and guests to our grounds in November are simply too significant to overcome," club chairman Fred Ridley said.

Considered in some circles to be the cathedral of golf, Augusta National now will sound like one.

"Part of the allure and kind of majesty of Augusta National is the patrons," Brandt Snedeker said. "You have that electricity from the first moment on Thursday morning to the last putt goes in on Sunday night on every hole. It's not just on the back nine — it's on every hole. So to not have that there is going to be a different feeling."

Ridley said the health of everyone involved with the tournament during the COVID-19 pandemic was paramount in rescheduling the Masters from April and deciding whether it could have spectators, even a limited gallery.

"The guests who come to Augusta each spring from around the world are a key component to making the tournament so special," he said. "Augusta National has the responsibility, however, to understand and accept the challenges associated with this virus and take the necessary precautions to conduct all aspects of the tournament in a safe manner.

"We look forward to the day when we can welcome all of our patrons back, hopefully in April 2021."

He said all tickets will be honored for next April, and the club would contact ticket holders and those who have applied for tickets for next April's Masters sometime next month.

Golf is coming off its first major without fans last week at the PGA Championship. The U.S. Open, moved from June to Sept. 17-20 because of the pandemic, previously announced it won't have spectators at Winged Foot.

The British Open announced in April it would be canceled this year.

The lack of noise was noticeable at Harding Park last week for the PGA Championship in San Francisco, especially when Collin Morikawa hit driver to 7 feet on the 16th hole for an eagle that sent him to his first major championship. There were a few media, mainly the broadcast crew, along with a few volunteers and support staff.

But a shot that memorable was greeted with mostly silence.

"This is the one time I really wish there were crowds right there," Morikawa said with a laugh.

The Masters, though, is different.

Built on a former nursery, the back nine descends steeply toward Rae's Creek and Amen Corner before making a steady climb toward the clubhouse. Pockets of roars come from everywhere.

Tiger Woods leaned on them when he won his fifth green jacket last year, studying every white scoreboard so that he would understand who was where and what a cheer might mean.

"When I got down to 13, I got a chance to look at the board and see where everyone stood," Woods said last year in an interview the GolfTV. "I'm like, 'OK, the next board I see is not until 15, because there's no board on 14.' So I get a good understanding, see where they all are, look at what holes they're on in case I hear any roars who that might be.

"Obviously, there's significance to certain roars," he said. "But I want to know what players are in what position so after I played 14 and headed to 15, I have a pretty good understanding of what's going on."

The roars carried Jack Nicklaus to his astounding 30 on the back nine when he rallied to win his sixth Masters in 1986.

The fabled "Arnie's Army" began with a group of soldiers from nearby Fort Gordon in the late 1950s, but it grew to include practically every patron on the grounds. Palmer felt as though he knew them all as they cheered him to four victories.

Snedeker played his first Masters in 2004 as the U.S. Amateur Public Links champion. He made the cut, finished early and stayed to the end as Phil Mickelson made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win his first major. Snedeker was watching on TV in the clubhouse. He heard the cheer before it was captured on television.

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"That's what you historically remember with Augusta, so to not have that is going to be totally different," he said. "It's going to be an odd feeling, to say the least. Last week at Harding Park it kind of felt odd, too, because you just didn't have the nerves as much because the fans weren't there adding a little bit of electricity to it and you didn't have the excitement."

Woods was making a charge in 2011 when two reporters waiting to cross the eighth fairway heard a roar that rattled the pines. What happened? A marshal said Woods had just hit his approach, and it was clear what the noise meant — an eagle that momentarily tied him for the lead.

A few minutes later, a roar from Amen Corner. And then another from behind the 13th green. And another from the second green. That was from all the scoreboards being changed to show Woods tied for the lead.

That's what will be missing in November.

It will be different for the television viewers, too. They will see Augusta National like never before, lined by Georgia pines instead of spectators.

## **Boston Fed chief: States' rush to reopen slowed US recovery**

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top official at the Federal Reserve criticized the decision by many states to reopen businesses this spring before getting the virus fully under control, and said those choices have hindered an economic recovery in the U.S.

Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, said states in the South and West that allowed businesses to reopen after shutting down for a brief period did register an initial burst of economic activity. But spikes in infection rates soon followed and economies in those states are now lagging those in the Northeast as consumers have become more cautious and bars and restaurants have been shut down again in some states.

Rosengren's comments, delivered online Wednesday, are some of the most specific yet by a Fed official tying the health of the economy to the nation's ability to control the virus. Fed Chair Jerome Powell has emphasized generally that recovery from the recession depends on conquering the pandemic, but Rosengren's remarks delved into the sharp difference in infection rates, both within regions of the United States, and the U.S. compared with Europe.

"Limited or inconsistent efforts by states to control the virus based on public health guidance are not only placing citizens at unnecessary risk of severe illness and possible death — but are also likely to prolong the economic downturn," Rosengren said in prepared remarks.

"Despite the sizable interventions by monetary and fiscal policymakers ... the recovery may be losing steam, as activities in many states are once again restricted (officially or voluntarily) to slow the virus's spread," Rosengren said.

In Europe, nations "shut down more forcefully, maintained restrictions longer, and did not reopen until the virus had reached low levels," Rosengren said. "In contrast, in the United States, infection rates remain elevated, as states lifted protective measures too soon," Rosengren said.

As a result, real-time data shows that in Europe, visits to retail stores and recreation outlets, such as movie theaters and amusement parks, have recovered more robustly than in the United States and are closer to pre-pandemic levels, Rosengren said.

Rosengren also pointed to the high current savings rate in the United States as evidence that Americans have been reluctant to spend, despite stimulus checks of \$1,200 that were mailed to most Americans in the spring, and supplemental federal unemployment aid of \$600 a week.

Government shutdowns of many businesses have discouraged consumer spending, but so has the individual choice to avoid restaurants, movie theaters, gyms and other public places deemed to risky as the virus surges in parts of the country.

"As long as the virus poses significant threats to public health, a full economic recovery will be very difficult as individuals, often voluntarily, avoid activities that place their health at risk," Rosengren said.

Other Fed officials have warned that the viral resurgence in July could slow the U.S. recovery. And Dallas



Federal Reserve President Robert Kaplan said last month that more widespread use of masks would slow infections and help the U.S. economy.

"The path of the economy will depend significantly on the course of the virus," Fed policymakers said in a statement issued after their most recent meeting last month.

## How Biden chose Harris: Inside his search for a running mate

By JULIE PACE, DAVID EGGERT and KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gretchen Whitmer wanted out.

The Michigan governor had caught the interest of Joe Biden and his vice presidential vetting committee, who were drawn to her prominence in a crucial battleground state and her aggressive response to the coronavirus outbreak there. But by late spring, the nation was in the midst of a reckoning over race and inequality following the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died after a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes.

Whitmer sent word to Biden's team that while she was flattered, she no longer wanted to be considered for the running mate slot, according to a high-ranking Democrat familiar with the process. She recommended Biden pick a Black woman.

But Biden still wanted Whitmer in the mix, and he personally called her in mid-June to ask if she would continue on to the second, more intensive round of vetting, according to the official. Whitmer agreed.

But forces in the country, and within the Democratic Party, were indeed pushing Biden toward a history-making pick. As protests over the death of Floyd and other Black Americans filled the streets across the country, an array of Democrats urged Biden to put a Black woman on the ticket — a nod to this moment in the nation's history, to the critical role Black voters played in Biden's ascent to the Democratic nomination, and to their vital importance in his general election campaign against President Donald Trump.

On Tuesday, Biden tapped California Sen. Kamala Harris to be his running mate, making her the first Black woman to serve on a major party presidential ticket. This account of how he made that decision, the most important of his political career, is based on interviews with 10 people with direct knowledge of the vetting and selection process. Most spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose private conversations and deliberations.

Biden, well aware of the potential pitfalls of being a 77-year-old white male standard-bearer of a party increasingly comprised of women, people of color and young voters, made clear even before he had clinched the Democratic nomination that his running mate would be a woman.

His initial list of contenders was sprawling: roughly 20 governors, senators, congresswomen, mayors and other Democratic stalwarts. They were young and old; Black, Hispanic, white, Asian; straight and gay. Some, including Harris, had competed against him for the Democratic nomination.

From the start, some Biden advisers saw Harris as a logical choice. She was among the party's most popular figures, a deft debater and a fundraising juggernaut. She had been thoroughly vetted during her own campaign and Biden's team expected there would be few surprises if she was the pick.

Harris' potential downsides were well-known to Biden advisers. Her record as a prosecutor in California was viewed skeptically by some younger Democrats during the primary and would face even more scrutiny against the backdrop of a national debate over inequality in the criminal justice system.

There were also nagging questions about Harris' most high-profile moment of the primary campaign — a harsh and deeply personal broadside against Biden over his position on school busing in the 1970s. Though Biden would later brush the moment aside as campaign tactics, the attack was said to have stunned the former vice president, who had considered his relationship with Harris strong. It also raised concern among a small cadre of Biden advisers that Harris would be eyeing the Oval Office herself from the start, a particular worry given that Biden has not firmly committed to serving two terms.

And so, as spring turned to summer, several other Black women would take a turn in the spotlight as Biden weighed his options. Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and Florida Rep. Val Demings impressed

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Biden's team with their leadership during the police brutality protests.

Some House Democrats — including South Carolina Rep. James Clyburn, a Biden confidant — advocated for Rep. Karen Bass, a Californian who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus. Biden also took a strong interest in Susan Rice, with whom he worked closely when she served in the White House as President Barack Obama's national security adviser.

The leading contenders, who also included Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth, submitted reams of financial records, texts of speeches and other personal information. Biden's selection team spent more than 120 hours meeting with party activists and interest groups to gather input, and also consulted with organizations that specialize in helping women get elected to prepare for the unique challenges that often face women in politics.

In meetings with the candidates, the vetting team ran through a uniform list of questions, from substantive to frankly political: What would you want your agenda to be as a vice president? What do you think Trump's nickname for you would be?

Biden, too, regularly discussed his potential pick with his sprawling network of friends and advisers. He used Obama in particular as a sounding board, though confidants to both men say the former president was careful not to tip his hand in those conversations as to whom he preferred.

But in private, Obama suggested to others that he believed Harris was the favorite.

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In one of Harris' conversations with the vetting committee, Chris Dodd — a longtime Biden friend who served alongside him in the Senate — asked if she had remorse for her debate stage attack on his bus-ing record.

Harris, as she had previously done publicly, brushed it aside as simply politics. Dodd, a member of the running mate selection committee, was put off and let that be known. The incident was first reported by Politico and confirmed to The Associated Press by a person with direct knowledge.

The public disclosure of Dodd's comments angered some of the highest-ranking women on Biden's campaign team. Some of Harris' allies also mobilized to defend her, including California Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, who organized a call with Biden's vetting team about two weeks ago to assuage any doubts about whether the senator was the right choice for the ticket.

On the 45-minute call, Kounalakis and other statewide officials, labor and business leaders took turns sharing their personal histories with Harris and their impressions of her as a leader.

"Speaking out as strongly as we did, collectively, helped them understand how supported she is and why," Kounalakis said on Tuesday.

The call ended with Biden's vetting team telling the Harris supporters they had all recommended her as one of the top candidates for the job.

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The pandemic had largely grounded Biden in his home state of Delaware through the summer, and also upended some of the ways he had expected to build a rapport with the running-mate contenders. There were no joint rallies or carefully orchestrated, yet casual-looking, outings to local restaurants in battle-ground states. Biden was also accepting few in-person visitors at his home.

But he did want to speak one-on-one with the women who had made it through the vetting process and interviews with his selection committee. He would hold conversations with 11 women in the final nine days before he made his pick — a mixture of in-person meetings and video teleconferences.

Whitmer was among those who flew to Delaware for an in-person audience. She boarded a private plane in Lansing, Michigan, on Aug. 2, spending just a few hours on the ground before returning to Michigan.

Rice, who had perhaps the closest personal relationship with Biden of all the contenders, spoke twice with him in recent days. Duckworth also had a formal interview over the weekend, as did Georgia Democrat Stacey Abrams, who was initially viewed as a leading contender for the job.

On Tuesday, in the hours before his campaign announced Harris as the pick, Biden would call each of those women to inform them that they had not been selected. Warren, whose relationship with Biden

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has deepened in recent months through regular policy discussions, was also among those to receive a personal call from the former vice president.

In some of the conversations, Biden left open an opportunity. Please consider joining me in another role in the administration, he said.

Eggert reported from Lansing, Michigan, and Ronayne from Sacramento, California. Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta, Will Weissert in Wilmington and Laurie Kellman in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Sumner Redstone, who built media empire including CBS, dies**

By The Associated Press undefined

Sumner Redstone, who joined his family's drive-in movie chain in the 1950s and used it to build a vast media empire that included CBS and Viacom, has died. He was 97.

Under his watch, Viacom became one of the nation's media titans, home to pay TV channels MTV and Comedy Central and movie studio Paramount Pictures. ViacomCBS Inc., which he led for decades, remembered Redstone for his "unparalleled passion to win, his endless intellectual curiosity and his complete dedication to the company."

Redstone built the company through aggressive acquisitions, but many headlines with his name focused on severed ties with wives, actors and executives. In multiple interviews, he said he would never die.

His tight-fisted grip on the National Amusements theater chain, which controlled CBS Corp. and Viacom Inc. through voting stock, was passed to his daughter, Shari Redstone, who battled top executives to re-merge the two entities that split in 2006.

The elder Redstone's battles with his own family were as dramatic as his corporate maneuvers. Son Brent Redstone once sued his father to break up his media empire — then settled for a princely sum to give up his voting shares.

A lanky man with a thick Boston accent, Redstone often told interviewers that "content is king." And he was right. Despite sagging TV ratings at Viacom, his vast shareholdings in Viacom and CBS led Forbes magazine to estimate his net worth at \$4.6 billion.

Besides being ruthless, Redstone was known for dogged determination. In 1979, he survived a fire at Boston's Copley Plaza Hotel by gripping a third-floor window ledge with his right arm still inside. He suffered third-degree burns over half his body, his right wrist was nearly severed, and he was told he would never walk again. But he eventually recovered, and was even able to play tennis by strapping the racket to his wrist.

"I intend to live forever!" he told Upstart Business Journal in 2009.

Born in 1923 in Boston, Redstone was the oldest son of Michael and Belle Rothstein, who changed the family name to Redstone.

Redstone graduated first in his class from Boston Latin School in 1940 and completed his education at Harvard in less than three years. He was selected to work on an Army intelligence team during World War II that cracked Japan's military codes.

After three years in the Army, he went to Harvard Law School and became a partner at a Washington law firm. He gave it up to join his father's drive-in movie business in 1954. Redstone grew it into a major chain of multi-screen movie houses.

The privately held company became the base for his media empire, and the source of all his family's feuds.

He made a killing by trading in the stocks of Hollywood studios and in 1987 — the year he turned 64 — bought Viacom in a hostile takeover for \$3.4 billion, most of it borrowed, ousting founder Ralph Baruch as chairman.

Critics said that a cable network based on music videos was doomed, but Redstone disagreed and rebuffed efforts from the company's bankers to unload the fledgling MTV. Instead, he expanded its reach, bringing it into Europe, Asia, Latin America and Russia.

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Redstone next went after Paramount Pictures, a four-year process that ended with a friendly offer from Viacom for \$10 billion in 1993. He scooped up the Blockbuster video rental chain for its then-healthy cash flow, not knowing then that videotape rentals would collapse.

Viacom then swallowed CBS Corp. for \$34.5 billion in September 1999, then the largest media merger until the AOL-Time Warner union came months later.

The deal brought Redstone together with CBS chief Mel Karmazin, another tough-talking executive from humble origins. By June 2004, Karmazin was out, later to become head of Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. CBS and Viacom were split into two public companies both under his control in 2006.

Another victim of Redstone's rise: Tom Cruise, whose couch-jumping on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and embrace of Scientology led Redstone to cut short a deal with Cruise and his production company.

"We don't think that someone who effectuates creative suicide and costs the company revenue should be on the lot," he told The Wall Street Journal in 2006. The two later patched things up ahead of the making of "Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol."

By 2010, Redstone's hand in the business became unwelcome. He shepherded onto TV a show featuring a scantily-clad girl group, the Electric Barbarellas, over protests from within. The day it aired, MTV Networks CEO Judy McGrath resigned. Then he was scandalized further after reporter Peter Lauria made public a voicemail in which Redstone offered to bribe him to reveal the leaker of the story about his meddling.

Redstone was married and divorced twice — first to Phyllis Gloria Raphael, mother of his children — then to schoolteachers Paula Fortunato, a woman 39 years his junior.

In May 2015, he released a statement saying that after he dies, his ownership stakes in CBS and Viacom, through National Amusements, would be managed by a seven-person trust. The trust listed as trustees Viacom CEO Philippe Dauman, Shari Redstone, her son Tyler Korff and four lawyers. It is for the benefit of his five grandchildren.

Dauman and board member George Abrams were kicked out of the trust in May amid legal squabbling.

In late 2015, former companion Manuela Herzer sued Redstone after he kicked her out of his estate. The suit revealed a strange, secluded life in his Beverly Park mansion that included frequent demands for sex and steak.

The suit alleged Redstone was hospitalized numerous times in 2014, leaving him with a feeding tube, catheter and severe speech impediments. Herzer described him as a "living ghost." A judge rejected the suit, but Herzer continued to pursue legal action against Shari Redstone, alleging criminal racketeering.

Shari Redstone was locked in a legal battle to merge CBS and Viacom. In May 2018, she sued CBS for trying to strip her of control in a series of maneuvers orchestrated by CBS CEO Les Moonves, who opposed the merger because it would be detrimental to non-Redstone CBS shareholders.

Her aim was reportedly to re-unite the companies and then sell them off or merge them with a third company.

Moonves was fired by the board after The New Yorker reported on allegations that he assaulted multiple women; Moonves denied the reports.

CBS and Viacom agreed to merge in 2019, undoing the split Redstone carried out 13 years earlier. National Amusements gave unanimous approval to the deal, with Redstone among the directors voting in favor.

Business Writer Seth Sutel in New York contributed to this report.

## Minnesota's Omar holds off well-funded primary challenger

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and MOHAMED IBRAHIM Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota survived a stiff Democratic primary challenge Tuesday from a well-funded opponent who tried to make an issue of her national celebrity, the latest in a string of victories by a new generation of emboldened progressive lawmakers.

Omar, seeking her second term in November, easily defeated Antone Melton-Meaux, an attorney and mediator who raised millions in anti-Omar money.

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Omar and her allies gained confidence in her reelection chances after primary victories last week by fellow "Squad" member Rashida Tlaib in Michigan and by Cori Bush, a Black Lives Matter activist who ousted a longtime St. Louis-area congressman. They also claimed momentum from the renewed focus on racial and economic justice after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis.

"Tonight, our movement didn't just win," Omar tweeted. "We earned a mandate for change. Despite outside efforts to defeat us, we once again broke turnout records. Despite the attacks, our support has only grown."

Melton-Meaux used the cash to paper the district and flood airwaves with his "Focused on the Fifth" message that portrayed Omar as out of touch with the heavily Democratic Minneapolis-area 5th District, which hasn't elected a Republican to Congress since 1960. He conceded defeat and acknowledged that his efforts weren't enough, while declining to speculate on why.

"I'm also incredibly proud of the work that we did, that garnered at least over 60,000 votes from the district, from people who resonated with our message of effective leadership grounded in the district, and bringing people together to get things done," Melton-Meaux told The Associated Press.

Omar in 2018 became one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress, building on a national profile that started when the onetime refugee from Somalia was elected to the Minnesota Legislature just two years earlier. Her aggressive advocacy on liberal issues, and her eagerness to take on Donald Trump, made her even more prominent.

Omar rejected Melton-Meaux's attacks, saying they were funded by interests who wanted to get her out of Congress because she's effective. She also downplayed Melton-Meaux's prodigious fundraising before the vote, saying, "Organized people will always beat organized money."

Democratic U.S. Sen. Tina Smith and Republican challenger Jason Lewis easily won their primaries in the only statewide races on the ballot. Elsewhere, in western Minnesota's conservative 7th District, former state Sen. Michelle Fischbach won a three-way Republican race for the right to challenge Democratic Rep. Collin Peterson. Peterson, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, is one of the GOP's top targets to flip a House seat in November.

After entering Congress with fanfare, Omar hurt herself early with comments about Israel and money that even some fellow Democrats called anti-Semitic, and found herself apologizing. She also came under scrutiny when her marriage fell apart and she married her political consultant months after denying they were having an affair.

Republicans also raised questions about continuing payments to her new husband's firm, though experts said they aren't necessarily improper.

In the wake of Floyd's death, police reform also emerged as an issue. Omar supported a push by a majority of the Minneapolis City Council to replace the city's police department with something new. Melton-Meaux didn't support that but did support shifting some funding away from police to more social service-oriented programs. Both touched on the issue in personal ways, with Omar saying she wanted her son to grow up safely. Melton-Meaux, who is also Black, told a personal story of being detained while at the University of Virginia by police seeking an assault suspect reported to have run into his apartment building.

Wendy Helgeson, 57, a consultant, backed Omar two years ago, even installing a lawn sign in her yard, and said she was "awfully proud of her being the first Black Muslim woman that we elected." But she said she was concerned about campaign payments to Omar's husband's firm as well as her national presence, and found it easy to vote for Melton-Meaux, whom she said has been her friend for 12 years.

"I admire her as a woman," Helgeson said of Omar. "As a candidate, eh... I have some reservations." John Hildebrand, a 47-year-old teacher in Minneapolis who voted for Omar, said her national profile is an advantage.

"I think just her presence encourages other Muslims and Somalis to run for office and to seek to be represented," he said. "I think she just engages people in the political system more and more."

Blake Smith, 23, a parks worker who is Black and described himself as a leftist, also backed Omar. He's concerned about climate change, Medicare for all and getting money out of politics, and he sees her as

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an ally.

"It's more time for radical change than like small — I don't think we have time for incremental change anymore," Smith said.

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## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 13, the 226th day of 2020. There are 140 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 13, 1961, East Germany sealed off the border between Berlin's eastern and western sectors before building a wall that would divide the city for the next 28 years.

On this date:

In 1521, Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captured Tenochtitlan (teh-natch-teet-LAHN'), present-day Mexico City, from the Aztecs.

In 1704, the Battle of Blenheim was fought during the War of the Spanish Succession, resulting in a victory for English-led forces over French and Bavarian soldiers.

In 1846, the American flag was raised in Los Angeles for the first time.

In 1889, William Gray of Hartford, Conn., received a patent for a coin-operated telephone.

In 1910, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

In 1913, British metallurgist Harry Brearley developed an alloy that came to be known as "stainless steel." (Although Brearley is often credited as the "inventor" of stainless steel, he was hardly alone in working to create steel that resisted corrosion.)

In 1932, Adolf Hitler rejected the post of vice chancellor of Germany, saying he was prepared to hold out "for all or nothing."

In 1967, the crime caper biopic "Bonnie and Clyde," starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, had its U.S. premiere; the movie, directed by Arthur Penn, was considered shocking as well as innovative for its graphic portrayal of violence.

In 1989, searchers in Ethiopia found the wreckage of a plane that had disappeared almost a week earlier while carrying Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 other people — there were no survivors.

In 1995, baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle died at a Dallas hospital of rapidly spreading liver cancer; he was 63.

In 2003, Iraq began pumping crude oil from its northern oil fields for the first time since the start of the war. Libya agreed to set up a \$2.7 billion fund for families of the 270 people killed in the 1988 Pan Am bombing.

In 2017, in a statement, the White House said President Donald Trump "very strongly" condemned individual hate groups such as "white supremacists, KKK and neo-Nazis;" the statement followed criticism of Trump for blaming the previous day's deadly violence at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on "many sides." Protesters decrying hatred and racism converged around the country, saying they felt compelled to respond to the white supremacist rally in Virginia.

Ten years ago: Weighing in for the first time on a controversy gripping New York City and the nation, President Barack Obama endorsed allowing a mosque near ground zero, telling a White House dinner celebrating the Islamic holy month of Ramadan that the country's founding principles demanded no less. Veteran NBC newsman Edwin Newman died in Oxford, England, at age 91.

Five years ago: In one of the deadliest single attacks in postwar Baghdad, a truck bomb shattered a popular fruit-and-vegetable market in a teeming Shiite neighborhood, killing dozens of people. The New

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York Times reported that DNA testing had proved that President Warren G. Harding fathered a child with long-rumored mistress Nan Britton, according to AncestryDNA, a division of Ancestry.com.

One year ago: The Associated Press reported that numerous women had accused opera legend Plácido Domingo of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior spanning decades, and music companies began canceling appearances by Domingo in response to the story; Domingo issued a statement calling the allegations "deeply troubling and, as presented inaccurate." Ken Cuccinelli, the Trump administration's acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said the famous inscription on the Statue of Liberty welcoming "huddled masses" to American shores referred to "people coming from Europe." The warden at the New York federal jail where Jeffrey Epstein had taken his own life was removed, and two guards who were supposed to be watching Epstein were placed on leave while federal authorities investigated the death.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is 87. Actor Kevin Tighe is 76. Former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is 74. Opera singer Kathleen Battle is 72. High wire aerialist Philippe Petit is 71. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke is 71. Golf Hall of Famer Betsy King is 65. Movie director Paul Greengrass is 65. Actor Danny Bonaduce (bahn-uh-DOO'-chee) is 61. TV weatherman Sam Champion is 59. Actor Dawnn (correct) Lewis is 59. Actor John Slattery is 58. Actor Debi Mazar is 56. Actor Quinn Cummings is 53. Actor Seana Kofoed is 50. Country singer Andy Griggs is 47. Actor Gregory Fitoussi is 44. Country musician Mike Melancon (Emerson Drive) is 42. Actor Kathryn Fiore is 41. Former White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders is 38. Actor Sebastian Stan is 38. Actor Eme Ikwuakor (IK'-wah-ker) is 36. Pop-rock singer James Morrison is 36. Actor Lennon Stella is 21.