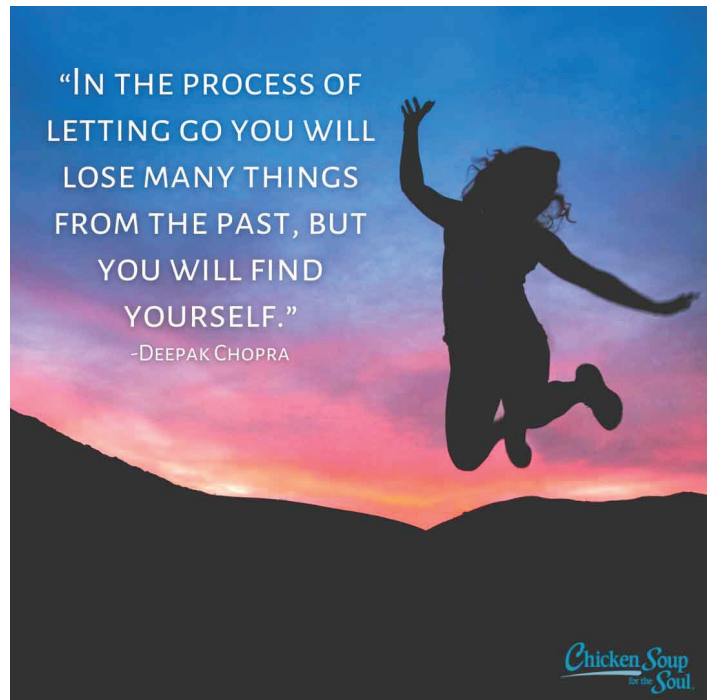


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## Volleyball

<b>Football</b>		
Fri., Aug. 21	Mobridge-Pollock	7:00
Fri., Aug. 28	Ell./Edgeley-Kulm	7:00
Fri., Sept. 4	Webster	7:00
Fri., Sept. 11	at Sisseton	7:00
Fri., Sept. 18	at Milbank	6:00
Fri., Sept. 25	Redfield (HC)	7:00
Fri., Oct. 2	at Roncalli	7:00
Fri., Oct. 16	Stanley County	7:00
Thurs., Oct. 22	First Round Playoffs	
Thurs., Oct. 29	Second Round Playoffs	
Fri., Nov. 6	Quarterfinals	
Nov. 12-14	State at Dakota Dome	

Thurs., Aug. 27	at Britton-Hecla	C at 5:15
Tues., Sept. 1	Ipswich	6:00
Tues., Sept. 8	Webster Area	6:00
Thurs., Sept. 10	at Sisseton	C at 5:00
Thurs., Sept. 17	at Mobridge-Pollock	C/JV 5:00
Tues., Sept. 22	Warner	6:00
Thurs., Sept. 24	Clark/Willow Lake	6:00
Mon., Sept. 28	at Faulkton	7:30
Tues., Sept. 29	Florence/Henry	6:00
Thurs., Oct. 1	at Hamlin	C at 5:00
Tues., Oct. 6	at Leola/Frederick	6:00
Fri., Oct. 9	Aberdeen Roncalli	6:00
Tues., Oct. 13	Tiospa Zina	6:00
Thurs., Oct. 15	at Milbank	6:00
Mon., Oct. 19	Langford Area	6:00
Tues., Oct. 20	at Northwestern	6:00
Mon., Oct. 26	at Deuel	6:00
Tues., Oct. 27	Redfield	6:00
Mon., Nov. 2	Region at highest seed	
Tues., Nov. 3	Region at highest seed	
Thurs., Nov. 5	SoDak 16	
Nov. 19-21	State at Watertown	

## **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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## Save Now On Home Security

Monitored by ADT® the #1 home security company in the U.S.

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\$27<sup>99</sup>  
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## HOME SECURITY SYSTEM

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\$850 VALUE

FREE VISA® REWARD CARD From Protect Your Home —\$100 Value



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FREE WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL —\$139 Value

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**\$100 VISA® Reward Debit Card:** \$100 Visa® reward debit card requires service activation. You will receive a claim voucher via email within 24 hours and the voucher must be returned within 60 days. Your \$100 Visa® reward debit card will arrive in approximately 6-8 weeks. Card is issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. No cash access or recurring payments. Can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted. Card valid for up to 6 months; unused funds will forfeit after the valid thru date. Card terms and conditions apply. **BASIC SYSTEM:** \$99 Installation. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$671.76) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty. **ADT Command:** ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Pulse services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse equipment. All ADT Pulse services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse features you desire. **ADT VIDEO LITE:** ADT Video Lite installation is an additional \$299. 36-month monitoring contract required from ADT Video Lite: \$59.99 per month, (\$2,159.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). Indoor camera may not be available in all areas. **GENERAL:** For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees may be required. Certain restrictions may apply. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example, Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert devices and are an additional charge. Additional equipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on Homeowner's Insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact product/service actually provided. **Licenses:** AL-21-001104, AR-CMPY.0001725, AZ-ROC217517, CA-ACO6320, CT-ELC.0193944-L5, DC-EMS902653, DC-602516000016, DE-07-212, FL-EC13003427, GA-LVA205395, IA-AS-0206, ID-ELE-SJ-39131, IL-127.001042, IN-C.P.D. Reg. No. — 19-08088, City of Indianapolis: LAG-000156, KY-City of Louisville: 483, LA-F1914, LA-F1915, LA-F1082, MA-1355C, MD-107-1626, ME-LM50017382, MI-3601205773, MN-TS01807, MO-City of St. Louis: CC#354, St. Louis County: 100194, MS-15007958, MT-PSP-ELS-LIC-247, NC-25310-SP-FA/LV, NC-1622-CSA, NE-14451, NJ Burglar Alarm Lic. # -NJ-34BF00021800, NM-353366, NV-0068518, City of Las Vegas: 3000008296, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State UID#12000317691, NYS #12000286451, OH-53891446, City of Cincinnati: AC86, OK-AC1048, OR-170997, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA022999, RI-3582, RI-7508, SC-BAC5630, SD- 1025-7001-ET, TN-1520, TX-B13734, ACR-3492, UT-6422596-6501, VA-115120, VT-ES-2382(7C), WA-602586894/ECPROTEYH934RS, WI-City of Milwaukee: PAS-0002966, WV-WV042433, WY-LV-G-21499. 3750 Priority Way South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46240 ©2020 DEFENDERS, Inc. dba Protect Your Home DF-CD-NP-Q320

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**#173 in a series**

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

We're moving the wrong direction again: 59,400 new cases today, a 1.1% increase to 5,320,300 total cases. I have eight states and territories with increasing rates of new cases over 14 days. There have been 168,299 deaths, 1177 of them today for a 0.7% increase. Seventeen states still show increasing numbers of deaths over 14 days.

Some folks are working on the puzzle of asymptomatic individuals, that is, why are there so many of them? And why are they asymptomatic when others are so sick? A Boston homeless shelter had 147 infected people sharing living space, but 88% were asymptomatic. A meat-packing plant had 481 infections with 95% of them asymptomatic. There are prisons with 96% asymptomatic rates. These may be atypical cases—the CDC estimates the usual rate of asymptomatic infection is closer to 40%; but even this unevenness in asymptomatic rates is interesting. This is not usual for viruses that can cause fatal infections. This phenomenon is getting attention. Now I don't want anyone getting too excited because everything I'm going to talk about here is early and highly speculative; nonetheless, there are some tantalizing hints in the findings.

One direction some work is taking is toward establishing whether it is possible some people have preexisting immunity to this virus. That would be really weird because this virus didn't exist just a few months ago. Some early hints there was something just this weird going on came from work being done at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in southern California. They were looking at recovered Covid-19 patients and comparing blood samples with uninfected controls drawn from a blood bank from 2015 to 2018—before SARS-CoV-2 existed. You can imagine their surprise when they found 40-60% of those old blood samples showed T-cell activity against SARS-CoV-2. (You may remember that T cells are one of the two major classes of lymphocyte, a kind of white blood cell that participates in an immune response when it becomes sensitized to a particular pathogen.) Then similar findings started showing up in the Netherlands, Germany, and Singapore.

What's going on here? No one's going around with T cells getting sensitized to random antigens they've never encountered before; that's not how the system works. If a T cell is sensitized, it's because an antigen has elicited that response. On the other hand, we know these T cells drawn out of the owner more than a year before SARS-CoV-2 even existed could not have been sensitized by this virus. A theory is that T cells sensitized by similar pathogens are exhibiting cross-reactivity with this new virus. There are a lot of coronaviruses around, and they likely have some antigens in common—or at least some very similar antigens. Four of these coronaviruses we know of cause common colds and are widely circulated in the population. I read a dense, but fascinating, report in Science on work done to try to nail this down. The findings were that, when the receptor-binding domains (something we talked about last night) of the antigens on the virus were about two-thirds the same in a common coronavirus and SARS-CoV-2, there was, indeed, cross-reactivity of T-cells between the two. What's more, the cross-reactivity was strongest in the T cells responding to those spike proteins the virus uses to bind to and get inside your cells; those are the ones most important to the virus in making us sick. This doesn't prove anything (remember I said this stuff was speculative), but it is suggestive that there is something here; it's going to be tough for the virus to get past those T cells. If this does, indeed, turn out to be a thing, it's likely there will be a range in the degree of protection afforded you by the sensitized T cells, which would neatly explain why some people don't get sick at all, others get a little bit sick, and still others become quite ill, but still manage to recover without a whole bunch of trouble. I do not believe I ever anticipated the day I might be grateful for the common cold, but that day may be approaching.

Another line of inquiry focuses on childhood vaccinations. We've seen vaccine cross-protection before, so this isn't some wild leap. Smallpox vaccine is known to provide some level of protection against measles and pertussis (whooping cough). That makes it a pretty natural move to consider the situation with regard to Covid-19, and so a survey was conducted of some 137,000 medical records at the Mayo Clinic. This survey turned up relationships between seven types of vaccines given one, two, or five years in the

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past and lowered rate of infection with SARS-CoV-2. There were two vaccines with particularly strong links: pneumonia vaccine (28% reduction in risk) and polio vaccine (43% reduction in risk). That's fairly remarkable. The data analysis adjusted for all kinds of other factors which might account for the relationships seen—geographic incidence of Covid-19, demographics, comorbidities, how likely it is the person was just very good about taking good care of themselves. The relationships held. Once again, this sort of retrospective study isn't proof of anything, but it certainly does provide fodder for further investigation.

There has also been attention given to those angiotensin-converting enzyme-2 (ACE2) receptors, the proteins on your cells where this virus binds so it can get inside cells and make you sick. One of the things research into therapeutics is focusing on is how to take these receptors out of the equation; that would pretty much stop the virus cold in its tracks. The work has focused on children, who seem to be so much less susceptible than adults to infection and serious disease.

Along the way, something odd turned up: Conditions you'd expect to create risk in children, asthma and serious allergies, do not seem to be risk factors. Turns out ACE2 receptors in those kids were decreased, and when the children were exposed to allergens, the receptors were reduced even more. The theory is that allergic reactions might actually down-regulate the receptor. Other researchers are looking at genetic studies: People in certain lineages have distinct mutations in these genes, and there's a lot of speculation what this might mean. Now, they're looking at how those same ACE2 receptors are being expressed in older people. Plenty of food for thought there as well.

One more area of interest is exposure dose and how mask-wearing plays into that. An HIV researcher at the University of California noticed a pattern in the data on outbreaks: Places where people wear masks have the highest percentage of asymptomatic cases. She saw this particularly in looking at two cruise ships with outbreaks. On the Diamond Princess, masks were not used, and 47% of people were asymptomatic. On the other hand, on an Argentine Antarctic ship where masks were worn by all passengers and N95s were worn by crew, 81% were asymptomatic. Likewise high rates of asymptomatic infection were noted at other settings where masks were being worn: a pediatric dialysis unit, a seafood plant, and a hair salon. And a similar pattern was seen in countries with widespread mask-wearing like Singapore, Vietnam, and the Czech Republic. "They got cases, but fewer deaths."

We know viral infections are dose-dependent. We know masks reduce, but do not necessarily eliminate, transmission of infections, outgoing and, to a lesser extent, incoming. For many pathogens, we use experimental data to calculate something called infectious dose, ID50, the dose at which 50% of the population become infected. That gives us some idea how many copies of a pathogen you must be exposed to in order to become ill. Now, we can't run those experiments with a potentially-lethal virus for which we have no specific therapies, so we're sort of shooting in the dark here; but it's a pretty reasonable assumption this virus, like others, is dependent on dose, which means exposure to lower doses will lead to less, maybe even no, sickness. We do know from experimental work in hamsters this is true for Covid-19 in them. We also know from a paper published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine this month that in outbreaks early in the pandemic where people were mostly not wearing masks, around 15% of people were asymptomatic, whereas later on after mask-wearing became more common, asymptomatic infections rose to 40 to 45%. This would seem to indicate there's a non-zero probability that wearing a mask reduces the exposure dose sufficiently to turn a potentially fatal exposure into a no-big-deal sort of thing.

We are left to consider the possibility that wearing masks might not just protect others around you and you from infection; the practice might actually contribute to the development of some level of herd immunity. Anyone here opposed to that?

Here's another problem caused by our inability to get testing right: delayed clinical trials. One class of the new therapies under study, monoclonal antibodies (lab-synthesized antibodies to some particular protein on the virus), has study protocols requiring the drug be given within a certain number of days after symptom onset or after a virus diagnostic test is done; but testing turnaround has been so slow that, by the time the patient receives a diagnostic result, we're outside the window for starting the drug. That outcome has companies doing the trials citing difficulty getting patients enrolled in the trials; they keep falling out when their test results don't come back in time. Two different sets of trials expected to yield

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results by the end of this month or sometime in September are now looking more like end of the year. Testing failure is the gift that keeps on giving.

Phillips County is in the Eastern Plains region of Colorado, bordering Nebraska, and it is pretty much an agricultural area, which means a lot of residents have farming jobs deemed essential. That means their jobs and incomes were not affected by stay-at-home orders. Their friends and neighbors who work in retail, food service, and personal services, on the other hand, have been in a lot less secure position, just like many small businesses all over the country. We all understand by now that these essential workers put their lives on the line every day by going to work to feed the rest of us; but that's not all these particular essential workers were willing to put on the line.

They responded in a big way to a campaign asking their help to support local businesses by sharing their federal stimulus checks. Specifically, they responded to the tune of almost \$120,000, a lot of money for a small population. The average gift was around half the stimulus payment. Recipients were free to use the money in whatever manner they needed to keep their businesses solvent, and it was a lifeline.

The owner of a local barbecue restaurant said, "It's like a community investment in local businesses. It shows that they appreciate people doing things in their community and they're willing to put their money where their heart is." Look, I know what most ag workers make; and I'm willing to bet those folks would have liked, maybe even needed, to keep those checks, that the money would have made a real difference to them too, catching up on bills, making life a little easier in a scary time. They gave anyhow. That's sort of beautiful.

It's hard to see that and to decide you can't think of any way at all you can show your care for others, isn't it? Maybe you couldn't spare that stimulus check, so maybe it's not money that will be your way to help. Doesn't have to be money. But there should be some part of yourself, of your plenty, that you can spare for others. See a need? Meet the need. Stitching our fragmented and fractious society together has to start somewhere, sometime, with someone. How about here, now, you?

Stay well. We'll talk again.

## 2020 Sturgis Rally Vehicle Counts – Through Day 7

STURGIS, S.D. – Vehicle traffic counts from the South Dakota Department of Transportation for vehicles entering Sturgis for the 80th annual Sturgis motorcycle rally Aug. 7-16, 2020, are available and will be updated daily.

Traffic counts at nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2020 Rally are as follows:

Friday, August 7:	49,835 entering – down 4.3% from Friday last year
Saturday, August 8:	54,804 entering – down 8.0% from Saturday last year
Sunday, August 9:	56,149 entering – up 1.1% from Sunday last year
Monday, August 10:	56,972 entering – down 6.8% from Monday last year
Tuesday, August 11:	52,710 entering – down 11.2% from Tuesday last year
Wednesday, August 12:	49,228 entering – down 12.4% from Wednesday last year
Thursday, August 13:	46,263 entering – down 10.2% from Thursday last year

7 Day total:

2020: 365,979    2019: 395,453    down 7.5% over last year

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## SD Dept. of Tourism Update

According to traffic estimates from DOT and reports we're hearing from industry partners, it sounds like the 2020 Sturgis Rally attendance may exceed recent projections of 250,000. THANK YOU to our hotels, B&Bs, campgrounds, restaurants, cities, towns and attractions for implementing health and hygiene protocols to keep our guests safe and well while they were here. We know these bikers were enjoying the great outdoors in South Dakota and taking in one of the country's most beautiful areas.

Here are a few highlights from the latest COVID-19 Weekly Research Report:

For the week ending August 8, national travel spending again gained two percentage points, but is still down -46% below last year's levels.

South Dakota bucked the trend again this week and ranked 3rd for year-over-year domestic travel bookings, outperforming all other states but Wyoming and Montana.

Travel spending in South Dakota was down -22% last week compared to the same time last year, surpassing our regional states of North Dakota (-36%), Iowa (-40%), Minnesota (-50%), and Wyoming (-26%).

There was a massive boost of website traffic and engagement on TravelSouthDakota.com last week with web sessions increasing 106% and pageviews increasing 100%. Much of this traffic is visiting our newly added Moving to South Dakota pages.

The share of respondents who say they are likely to travel by personal car during the next six months reached a new high of 73%. Respondents also shared that they are willing to drive further than previously stated, with 23% now willing to drive more than 500 miles one-way on a leisure trip.

Travelers reported feeling twice as safe taking part in outdoor activities like visiting a state or national park (58%) as they would attending an indoors sporting event (26%) or indoor concert (25%).

Thank you to our research partners for providing this information: Tourism Economics, Destination Analysts, STR, U.S. Travel Association, Arrivalist, Miles Partnership, MMGY Travel Intelligence, ADARA, and Longwoods International.

We continue to receive emails from around the country from people who are interested in moving to South Dakota. We have also heard first-hand accounts from industry partners who have personally talked with visitors who have recently moved here due to the situations in their home states and who appreciate Governor Noem's individual responsibility approach to handling the pandemic. If you receive emails from someone interested in relocating, please feel free to share our Moving to South Dakota pages on TravelSouthDakota.com as a resource for them.

Finally, just a reminder to be sure and reference our health and hygiene resource page on SDVisit.com to find great tips and information about keeping everyone safe and well while they are in South Dakota.

Enjoy the weekend!

All our best,

Jim and Team  
Jim Hagen  
Secretary of Tourism

## Back to school with the arts

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

While the educational experience has changed in South Dakota—with virtual learning, staggered schedules and a variety of measures to cope with the pandemic—every community understands how vital it is to keep kids learning. The arts have played a vital role for all of us throughout 2020, and the need to continue providing arts education has never been greater.

Whether local schools are using distance learning or adjusted in-school formats, arts education continues to be an essential element of a well-rounded education. New methods of teaching art may be necessary, especially for performing arts, but school leadership must support the fine arts during this time of transition. Cutting back or shuttering arts programs this year due to coronavirus is not in the best interests of our students.

The arts enhance the development of learners of all ages and support their emotion and social well-being. Through the arts, students develop skills in creative thinking, collaboration and team building, self-management, critical thinking and effective communication, all while building personal self-confidence. The arts provide an inclusive and welcoming school environment, and are foundational in building a sense of community among students. The arts also provide pathways for the whole community to interact with students.

Nearly all Americans (91%) agree that the arts are essential to a complete education, according to an Americans for the Arts survey. Today, perhaps more than ever, we need the healing power of the arts present in our schools' curricula—and arts programming, once deferred, may be more difficult to reinstate next year.

We have seen and heard the power of the arts to lift us up during the past months of pandemic response in spontaneous and online art exhibits, shared musical moments from porches and in parks and every other imaginable expression of art. As states and schools work through multiple challenges in the months ahead, arts education must remain central to a well-rounded education and fully funded to support the well being of all students and the entire school community.

Please take time to be sure your local school district is making plans to fully deliver arts education, even while dealing with COVID-19. Maintaining arts education for our children is achievable—and essential to our post-pandemic future. Be an advocate for the arts in your community. Learn more at [www.ArtsSouthDakota.org](http://www.ArtsSouthDakota.org).



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## Congress needs to act to protect USPS

By Layne Bruce

A move by the USPS to slow down mail service by cutting overtime and reducing sortation sure seems like a gambit by the Trump administration to impact voting by mail this fall.

He practically said as much Aug. 13 on Fox Business.

Democrats have proposed over \$3.6 billion for voting by mail at a time when casting ballots in person is a perilous chore for many. And they've asked for \$25 billion to finally shore up the postal services' perpetually precarious finances.

But President Trump told Fox's Maria Bartiromo that increased mail-in voting will lead to widespread voter fraud (even though it's apparently fine in Florida where he voted in the primary just this year).

"Those are just two items. But if they don't get those two items, that means you can't have universal mail-in voting because they're not equipped to have it," he told Fox Business.

This could easily be one of the president's most self-defeating ploys. And, lord knows, that's a high bar.

First, there is no evidence mail-in voting (or absentee voting — whatever you want to call it, it's the same thing) is riddled with fraud or inherently benefits one party over another. In fact, some conventional wisdom would have you believe less voting by mail could hurt Republican candidates more since a high proportion of those ballots are cast by older Americans — usually more reliably supportive of the GOP.

Second, slowing down the mail further cripples an already seriously atrophied economy. A lot of merchandise and money still moves the old-fashioned way by snail mail. Slower service means everything from paper checks to mail-order prescriptions are going to take longer to get where they're going.

Anecdotally, we can see this happening daily. In our office, not surprisingly, we receive mail copies of all newspapers in the state. Papers have been showing up just recently from late June and early July. And a valuable payment to a contract laborer took 13 days to make its way to Virginia by First Class this month.

Again, conventional wisdom — if there even is such a thing anymore — would dictate the slower the money comes, the angrier businesses and Americans in general are going to get with the powers that be.

There is no denying the financial straits of the post office. Historically one of America's best-run bureaucracies — yes, the post office is actually very popular — USPS was saddled with billions of dollars in liabilities when congress ruled 15 years ago the agency should pre-fund its retirement pension benefits. That meant paying up front for the nearly 5 million career employees in its ranks.

Ever the can-kickers, congress has for years ignored real fixes and chosen to selectively act whenever the post office was on the brink of shutdown. Turns out it takes a helluva lot of 50-cent stamps sold to cover the agency's budget, even with all of the income from far more lucrative package delivery clients who now use it.

Lawmakers passed up the best chance yet to correct the problem earlier this year when they indiscriminately spewed trillions in stimulus benefits practically out of fire hoses at most Americans and businesses in an effort to put out the economic inferno ignited by the covid-19 pandemic.

All of this is of particular concern to local newspapers and other publications that work diligently to get their still very-analog products to the docks of local post offices every day. In fact, this industry has become more reliant on USPS in the last decade than it ever had been in the past.

Whereas in "olden times" it was common for weekly newspapers to be delivered to subscribers in the mail, it was customary for daily newspapers to use contractors for direct delivery — paperboys, if you will. But as shrinking margins have put a terrible squeeze on the business of local journalism, newspapers began turning to USPS in large numbers for the delivery of their printed products.

In fact, in Mississippi, where pre-pandemic "daily newspapers" numbered about 17, most were carrier-delivered. But in recent years that number has dropped to just a handful as many others turned to USPS for delivery solutions.

Now comes the word the post office, lead by a Trump administration crony with no prior experience in the agency, is slowing down service by cutting overtime and reducing daily sorting in some locations, putting carriers on the street faster at the expense of unsorted mail piling up back at the office.

All of this is another potential powder keg in a year replete with them. Slowing the mail is going to lead to consumer frustration and further rusting of economic gears at a time when mail-based commerce is soaring because of coronavirus concerns.

Congress could and should act now to resolve the USPS crisis and, as much of a pipe dream as it may be, tell the president to leave politics and related unsubtle, very undemocratic shenanigans out of it.

Layne Bruce is the executive director of the Mississippi Press Association. His email address is [lbruce@mspress.org](mailto:lbruce@mspress.org).



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## EARTHTALK ™

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Elon Musk plans to put thousands of new satellites into space to blanket Earth with high speed Internet. What are the environmental implications of this? -- M. C., Atlanta. GA



Putting satellites up into the ionosphere—the layer of our atmosphere extending from 50-600 miles above the surface where a high concentration of ions and free electrons facilitate the reflection of radio waves—isn't anything new. The Soviets beat us to the punch when they launched the first satellite, Sputnik, in 1957, but these days there are over 9,000 satellites overhead, the majority from U.S. companies and government agencies. But with Elon Musk's SpaceX poised to launch tens of thousands of new ones in the next few years, many people wonder whether putting all this technology overhead is such a good idea.

One concern is that all this hardware eventually breaks down and shed parts. Peter Greenstreet of the Institute of Physics reports that this so-called "space junk" orbits at some 7.5 kilometers per second—so fast that even the tiniest pieces create a potential hazard for space stations and other man-made or natural objects making the same rounds. Greenstreet adds that space junk falling to Earth's surface is less of a concern, given that most of it breaks down into tiny pieces due to the heat and friction encountered upon entry to our atmosphere and thus stands little to no chance of hurting any people or property below.

Another environmental issue with satellite proliferation is so-called "sky pollution." By reflecting the light of the sun, satellites cause streaks of light across the sky where astronomers would prefer darkness for peering into the heavens and where everyday people will be robbed of their own views of a dark sky.

But despite these drawbacks, there are plenty of good reasons to like satellites if you care about the environment. "From the International Space Station (ISS) to hundreds of other observational satellites, remote sensing allows for climate and environmental monitoring," reports Daisy Gill on Earth.org. "These imaging satellites are an incredible source of data for climate change research, enabling us to see the global changes on the planet that are happening more frequently, and with data freely available for anyone to view and use." Examples include tracking changing oceanic temperatures, currents and sea level.

Satellites are also key to understanding global and local precipitation and flooding patterns, how wildfires start and spread, the distribution of wildlife populations, and other indicators of environmental health. Satellites are also useful as early warning systems for natural disasters and extreme weather events.

If we can figure out ways to clean up space junk, we can use satellites with less guilt. NASA's e.DeOrbit project is focusing on seeking out and removing satellite debris in the upper reaches of the ionosphere. Meanwhile, the European Space Agency is hard at work on its own "capture mechanisms" to pick up space debris such as nets, harpoons robotic arms and tentacles. Only time will tell if these technologies can help restore the heavens above—or at least the ionosphere—to a more pristine state.

CONTACTS: "Satellites: What Harm Can They Do?" [iop.org/activity/groups/subject/env/prize/winners/file\\_65756.pdf](http://iop.org/activity/groups/subject/env/prize/winners/file_65756.pdf); "Outside Looking In: Satellites in the Climate Crisis," [earth.org/outside-looking-in-satellites-in-the-climate-crisis](http://earth.org/outside-looking-in-satellites-in-the-climate-crisis); "Space junk and the environment: It's a very dark picture indeed," [theconversation.com/space-junk-and-the-environment-its-a-very-dark-picture-indeed-2187](http://theconversation.com/space-junk-and-the-environment-its-a-very-dark-picture-indeed-2187).

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 15
Minnesota	61,839	62,303	62,993	63,723
Nebraska	29,030	29,244	29,660	29,988
Montana	5,104	5,268	5,407	5,541
Colorado	51,441	51,756	52,219	52,538
Wyoming	2,584	2,600	2,627	2,694
North Dakota	7885	7970	8171	8322
South Dakota	9713	9815	9897	10,024
United States	5,141,879	5,197,749	5,248,172	5,314,116
US Deaths	164,545	166,038	167,092	168,458

Minnesota	+323	+464	+690	+730
Nebraska	+334	+214	+416	+328
Montana	+87	+164	+139	+134
Colorado	+402	+315	+463	+319
Wyoming	+19	+16	+27	+67
North Dakota	+172	+85	+201	+151
South Dakota	50	+102	+82	+127
United States	+47,314	+55,870	+50,423	+65,944
US Deaths	+1,080	+1,493	+1,054	+1,366

	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 14th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

I only have one word to describe today's numbers. Yuk! Yes, I have said it is like a roller coaster; however, there seem to be more hills than valleys as we continue to slowly edge upward. There were 127 positive cases today and our positivity rate is 7 percent. Brown County had 7 positive cases with a positivity rate of 9.1 percent. North Dakota is not faring any better with 152 positive cases and a positivity rate of 9.7 percent.

Two 80+ year old residents have died from COVID-19 in South Dakota. One was male and one was female. One was in Pennington County and the other in Lake County. North Dakota had one death recorded.

We just put Sully County on the fully recovered list yesterday and they will come off today with a new case. Stanley County also got a new case to be removed from the fully recovered list. There are only 7 counties left that are still fully recovered and if I remember right, it was not that long ago when we had 16 counties. Edmunds County had 1 positive case.

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +7 (463) Positivity Rate: 9.1%

Recovered: +4 (416)

Active Cases: +3 (44)

Total Tests: +77 (6177)

Ever Hospitalized: No Change (21)

Deaths: 0 (3)

Percent Recovered: 89.8% (-0.5)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +127 (10,024 total) Positivity Rates: 7.0%

Total Tests: 1,808 (160,204 total)

Hospitalized: +7 (903 total). 65 currently hospitalized (up 9 from yesterday)

Deaths: +2 (150 total)

Recovered: +82 (8773 total)

Active Cases: +43 (1,101)

Percent Recovered: 87.5 -0.3

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 2% Covid, 50% Non-Covid, 48% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 64% Non-Covid, 33% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 15% Non-Covid, 80% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Sully and Stanley): Bennett 6-6, Jerauld 40-39-1, Jones 2-2, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Perkins 4-4, 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: +1 positive (3 active cases)

Beadle (9): 22 active cases

Bennett: Full Recovered

Bon Homme: +1 positive (2 active cases)

Brookings (1): +2 positive, +3 recovered (13 active cases)

Brown (3): +7 positive, +4 recovered (44 active cases)

Brule (1): 6 active cases

Buffalo (3): 6 active cases

Butte: +1 recovered (4 active cases)

Campbell: 2 active cases

Charles Mix: +6 positive (16 active cases)

Clark: 3 active cases

Clay: +1 positive (20 active cases)

Codington (1): +4 positive, +2 recovered (33 active cases)

Corson: +4 positive, +1 recovered (14 active cases)

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Custer: +1 positive, +1 recovered (9 active case)  
 Davison (1): +2 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Day: 3 active cases  
 Deuel: 4 active cases  
 Dewey: +8 positive (24 active cases)  
 Douglas: 3 active cases  
 Edmunds: +1 positive, (6 active cases)  
 Fall River: 4 active cases  
 Faulk (1): 5 active cases  
 Grant: +3 Positive, +1 recovered (7 active cases)  
 Gregory: 1 active case  
 Haakon: Fully Recovered  
 Hamlin: +2 positive (12 active cases)  
 Hand: 3 active cases  
 Hanson: 4 active cases  
 Harding: 2 active cases  
 Hughes (3): +4 positive, +3 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Hutchinson: 3 active cases  
 Hyde: 1 active case  
 Jackson (1): 2 active cases  
 Jerauld (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jones: Fully Recovered  
 Kingsbury: 1 active case  
 Lake (3): +4 recovered (12 active cases)  
 Lawrence: +1 positive, +5 recovered (23 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +15 positive, +11 recovered (96 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): +1 recovered (7 active cases)  
 Marshall: +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)  
 McPherson: 1 active case

Meade (1): +1 positive, +2 recovered (19 active cases)  
 Mellette: 1 active case  
 Miner: 1 active cases  
 Minnehaha (68): +40 positive, +24 recovered (392 active cases)  
 Moody: +1 positive, +1 recovered (3 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (2): +1 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Pennington (33): +9 positive, +8 recovered (109 active cases)  
 Perkins: 1 active cases  
 Potter: 1 active case  
 Roberts (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered  
 Spink: 5 active cases  
 Stanley: +1 positive (1 active case)  
 Sully: +1 positive (1 active case)  
 Todd (5): +1 positive (8 active cases)  
 Tripp: Fully Recovered  
 Turner: 11 active cases  
 Union (4): +1 positive, +3 recovered (26 active cases)  
 Walworth: 1 active cases  
 Yankton (2): +8 positive, +1 recovered (35 active cases)  
 Ziebach: 11 active cases

## North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, August 14:

- 5,491 tests (1,563)
- 8,322 positives (+152)
- 7,066 recovered (+113)
- 121 deaths (+1)
- 1,135 active cases (+37)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	1272	0
20-29 years	2213	2
30-39 years	1959	6
40-49 years	1487	7
50-59 years	1475	18
60-69 years	886	26
70-79 years	398	24
80+ years	334	67

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	4943	77
Male	5081	73

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased
Aurora	39	36	384	0
Beadle	596	565	1901	9
Bennett	6	6	540	0
Bon Homme	15	13	781	0
Brookings	145	131	2796	1
Brown	463	416	4585	3
Brule	46	40	761	0
Buffalo	109	100	652	3
Butte	18	13	808	1
Campbell	3	1	99	0
Charles Mix	109	95	1376	0
Clark	17	14	395	0
Clay	136	116	1348	0
Codington	151	117	2923	1
Corson	41	27	477	0
Custer	37	28	809	0
Davison	99	90	2417	1
Day	24	21	642	0
Deuel	13	9	414	0
Dewey	57	33	2280	0
Douglas	19	16	404	0
Edmunds	19	13	415	0
Fall River	22	18	1003	0
Faulk	29	23	195	1
Grant	31	24	732	0
Gregory	7	6	398	0
Haakon	2	2	294	0
Hamlin	27	15	660	0
Hand	10	7	294	0
Hanson	22	18	220	0
Harding	2	0	57	0
Hughes	97	83	1779	3
Hutchinson	29	26	912	0

# Groton Daily Independent

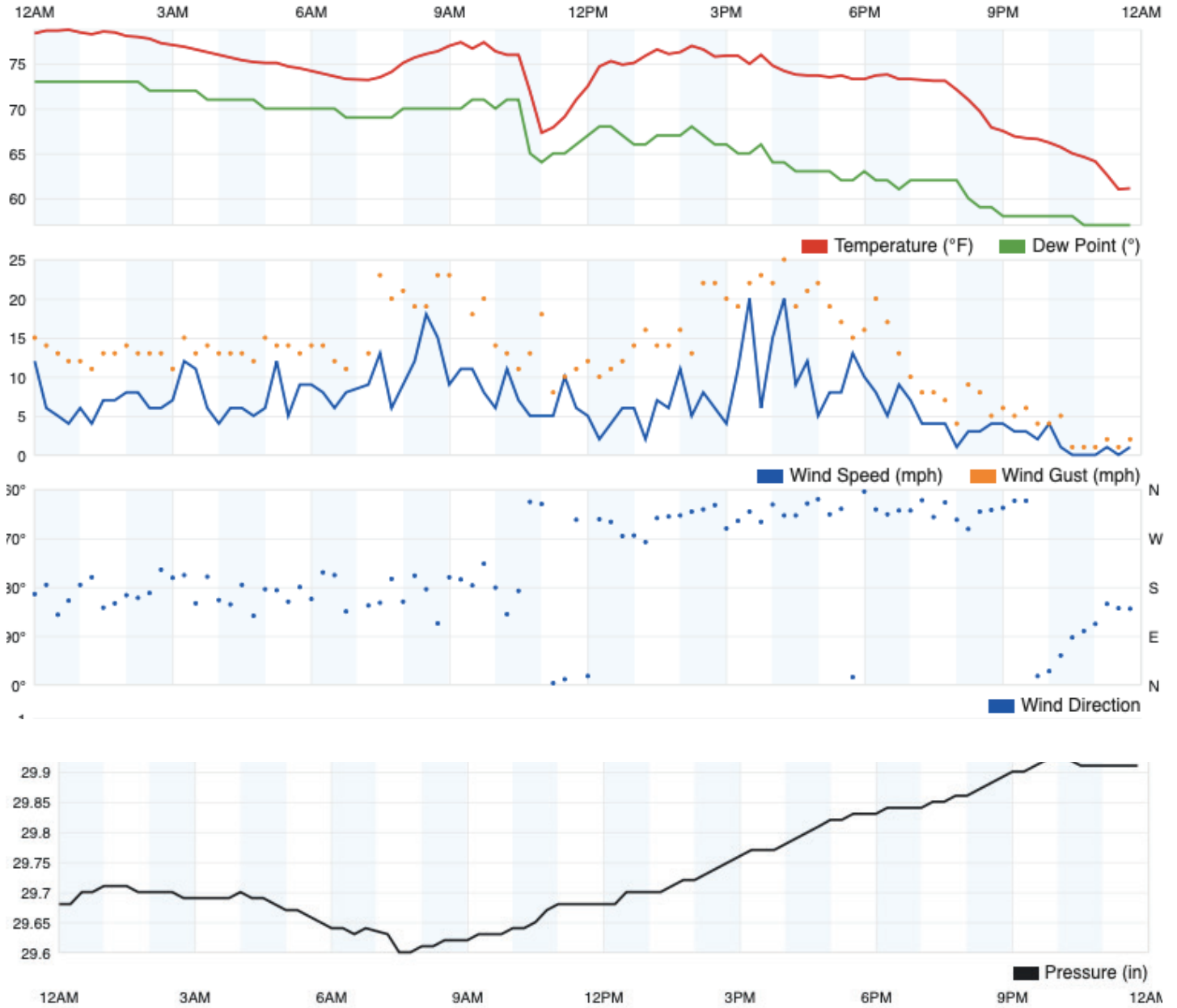
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Hyde	4	3	141	0
Jackson	11	8	482	1
Jerauld	39	38	273	1
Jones	2	2	62	0
Kingsbury	14	13	572	0
Lake	100	85	955	3
Lawrence	63	40	2146	0
Lincoln	687	589	7054	2
Lyman	91	81	974	3
Marshall	12	8	475	0
McCook	32	25	651	1
McPherson	8	7	220	0
Meade	97	79	2034	1
Mellette	24	23	391	0
Miner	15	14	256	0
Minnehaha	4561	4101	28324	68
Moody	33	30	640	0
Oglala Lakota	157	137	2959	2
Pennington	924	782	11227	33
Perkins	6	5	187	0
Potter	2	1	297	0
Roberts	83	71	1856	1
Sanborn	13	13	231	0
Spink	26	21	1162	0
Stanley	15	14	257	0
Sully	4	3	80	0
Todd	75	62	2176	5
Tripp	20	20	620	0
Turner	56	45	939	0
Union	221	191	1949	4
Walworth	18	17	718	0
Yankton	136	99	3141	2
Ziebach	35	24	322	0
Unassigned	0	0	8468	0

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today

Tonight

Sunday

Sunday  
Night

Monday



Mostly Sunny



Mostly Clear



Sunny



Mostly Clear



Sunny

High: 88 °F

Low: 55 °F

High: 84 °F

Low: 54 °F

High: 85 °F



**Today**, warm & dry. Highs in the 80s to around 90.

**Tonight**, mild and dry. Lows in the 50s to near 60.

**Sunday**, continued warm and dry. Highs in the 80s.

Updated: 8/15/2020 2:27 AM Central

A relatively tranquil and warm weekend is on tap! #sdwx #mnwx



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## Today in Weather History

August 15, 1886: A tornado moved northeast from 5 miles southwest of Newark in Marshall County, through town and into North Dakota. Only three buildings were reportedly undamaged at Newark, and a bartender at a saloon was killed. Three people died in two homes on adjoining farms 2 miles southwest of town. A saddle from a Newark stable was carried for a half mile. In North Dakota, houses and barns were damaged along the Wild River. This tornado was estimated as an F3.

August 15, 1987: On this day the largest hailstone was reported in Brown County. The size of the hailstone as 4.5 inches in diameter, and fell on the southwest corner of Warner. This storm also produced F1 tornado that touchdown about 2 miles southwest of Warner. An estimated wind gust of 60 mph was also reported about 2 miles NNW of Stratford.

August 15, 2011: Slow moving thunderstorms across parts of northern Roberts County produced anywhere from 4 to 8 inches of rainfall resulting in flash flooding. The town of New Effington was affected with many roads along with several homes flooded. Sandbagging took place to keep the water from the school. Highway 127 from New Effington to Hammer was flooded in several spots. The floodwaters remained for several days afterward with several roads flooded.

1787: Tornadoes were reported in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Wethersfield, Connecticut was hard hit by the tornado outbreak. There, a woman and her family were caught in the open. She and her son were killed. Clothes from the family farm were carried three miles away. This event is regarded to be the most significant tornado outbreak in early New England history.

1946 - Saint Louis, MO, was deluged with a record 8.78 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The Weather Channel)

1967 - The sundance fire in northern Idaho was started by lightning. Winds of 50 mph carried firebrands as much as ten miles in advance to ignite new fires, and as a result, the forest fire spread twenty miles across the Selkirk Mountains in just twelve hours, burning 56,000 acres. The heat of the fire produced whirlwinds of flame with winds up to 300 mph which flung giant trees about like matchsticks. (David Ludlum)

1983: Hurricane Alicia formed on this day and was the costliest tropical cyclone in the Atlantic since Hurricane Agnes in 1972. It struck Galveston and Houston, Texas directly, causing \$2.6 billion (1983 USD) in damage and killing 21 people. This storm was the worst Texas hurricane since Hurricane Carla in 1961. Also, Alicia was the first billion-dollar tropical cyclone in Texas history.

1987 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a sharp cold front produced severe weather in the Upper Midwest during the afternoon and evening hours, with Minnesota and eastern South Dakota hardest hit. A thunderstorm in west central Minnesota spawned a tornado at Eagle Lake which killed one person and injured eight others. A thunder- storm in eastern South Dakota produced softball size hail at Warner. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty five cities in twenty states in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lamoni IA and Baltimore MD, where the mercury hit 105 degrees. Temperatures 100 degrees or above were reported in twenty-two states. Pierre SD was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 114 degrees. Bluefield WV reported eight straight days of record heat. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms in eastern New Mexico produced wind gusts to 66 mph at Clovis. Evening thunderstorms in West Texas produced baseball size hail around Hereford, Dimmitt, Ware and Dalhart. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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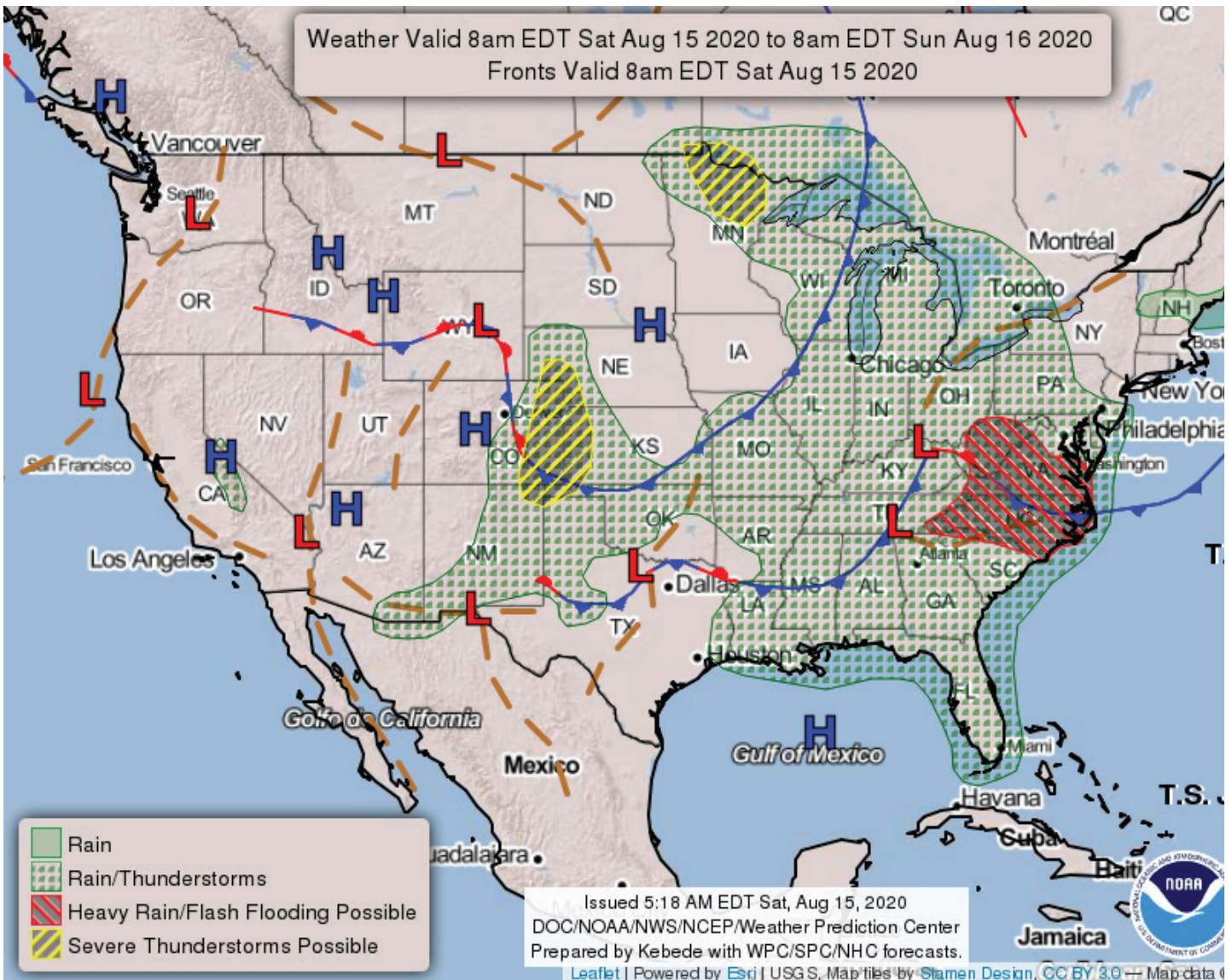
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 78.8 °F at 12:45 AM**  
**Low Temp: 61 °F at 11:30 PM**  
**Wind: 25 mph at 4:15 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 111° in 1937**  
**Record Low: 42° in 1895**  
**Average High: 82°F**  
**Average Low: 57°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 1.10**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 1.24**  
**Average Precip to date: 14.96**  
**Precip Year to Date: 11.75**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:40 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:36 a.m.**



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## WHEN DO WE START GETTING SMALLER?

When he was a child, Little Tommy was fascinated as he stood in the back yard and watched airplanes get smaller and smaller as they disappeared over the horizon. He would stand motionless, sometimes even holding his breath, as he watched this amazing sight time after time.

Day after day, he would beg his grandmother to "take me flying on one of those airplanes." Finally, the day came when his grandmother took him on his first flight. After he was buckled in his seat and the aircraft sped down the runway and began to ascend into the clouds, a puzzled look came across his face. Anxiously, he turned to his grandmother and asked quietly, "Grandmother, when do we start getting smaller?"

This question of Little Tommie is an essential question for all Christians!

John the Baptist played a most significant role in the ministry of Jesus. He realized that God gave Him a crucial role that no other person could fulfill: introduce His Son Jesus to the world. It was his primary purpose in life – and he did it well. God rewarded and blest him for his faithfulness in fulfilling the role he was assigned.

But, when Jesus appeared, John realized that his role in doing God's work changed. Not only does his willingness to decrease in importance describe an example of what humility is, but it prescribes the role of every Christian today. We are to present God's Message, the gift of His Son, our Savior, to others without drawing attention to ourselves.

Prayer: Lord, may we willingly step aside, as John did, as we present Your Son to the world. May we do what we do for You and You alone and desire to exalt Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less. John 3:30-36

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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

### COVID put powwow season on hold \_ and online

By DAN GUNDERSON Minnesota Public Radio News

MOORHEAD, Minn. (AP) — When Labor Day weekend rolls around this year, Brenda Child will miss an event that's been a part of her life for as long as she can remember.

She lives most of the year in the Twin Cities now — she's a professor at the University of Minnesota — but grew up on the Red Lake Nation, with fond memories of powwows. She's even written a children's picture book about powwows.

"My favorite powwow of the year comes Labor Day weekend, when there is a singing contest up in Ponemah, Minnesota," she told Minnesota Public Radio News. "Every year, I take my children to Ponemah and we sit there by the lake and we listen to the music. I think I'll be really sad on Labor Day weekend."

For Child, powwows are energizing and contemplative. They're about music, dancing, food, hours visiting with family and friends — and time thinking about relatives no longer at the powwow.

"My mother or my grandmother or my uncles who've passed on, so it's not just something that I share with my children, but it's a time to really be immersed in Ojibwe culture," she said.

Many people across the state spend months preparing for powwow season, which is traditionally happening right about now. But COVID-19 has upended those plans: As states and tribal nations continue their fight against the spread of the coronavirus, many powwows this year have been canceled, leaving people pining for the community, the family and the celebration of Native culture that powwows bring.

"It's something really huge for our people when we have a powwow, because the gathering and the good feelings that happen at those powwows is something you really can't describe," said Gary "Rez Dawg" Jourdain, who traveled the powwow circuit when he was younger with the popular Red Lake drum group Eyabay.

Jourdain said he's made a lot of friends across the United States and Canada on the powwow trail, and now sees many of them only during powwow season.

There have been a few small powwows held across Indian Country this summer, but most are canceled, as tribal governments implement policies to limit the spread of COVID-19. Instead, this summer, some performers are getting creative — and gathering virtually.

Recently, 10 singers from Eyabay gathered around a drum in Red Lake to perform live on the Facebook group Social Distance Powwow. Dancers from across the country are also posting videos online, often dancing alone on videos posted to the social media site.

"It's pretty cool, but nothing will ever replace the feeling of sitting in that arena with everyone and just watching it live," said Jourdain.

People have also had to get creative with another important part of powwow season: The food.

"What we're seeing around here during this lockdown time is (that) the people (who) had food stands at our powwows are setting up in their yard now," Jourdain said. "They're like, 'Hey, you know, we didn't get to powwow this year, but our food stand is open this weekend, come on out and enjoy some fair food.'"

Powwow history still being written

The powwows of today were shaped by U.S. government suppression. In the early 1920s, federal legislation known as the Dance Order prohibited American Indian dances. So, Child said, the people adapted.

"One of our strategies to circumvent these policies of the government was to start calling our celebration a Fourth of July celebration, and plant flags and celebrate veterans," she said.

Flags, flag songs and songs honoring veterans are still an important part of powwows. So are the songs and dances created by ancestors of past generations — including the more recent jingle dress healing dance, which was born of the 1918 flu pandemic.

The powwow survived government suppression, Child said, and it will survive a pandemic. And while she misses the energy and the joy of powwow season, she's relying on the many memories to carry her

through this lonely summer.

"To me, if a powwow's really good, it lasts until late at night. I often remember at Red Lake, being a kid with my uncle playing in his drum group and my mom and I dancing at the powwow, that there were nights that we didn't go home. We would go home when the sun was coming up in the morning," Child recalled.

Social media is filled with posts from people wishing they were at a now-canceled powwow somewhere in Indian Country. Jourdain said he thinks, when the pandemic threat eases, powwows will be bigger and better.

"If this is out of the way by next year, I'm sure you're going to see record-breaking crowds at all the powwows that are going to start back up," he said.

And maybe there will be a new song or dance — to mark the history of this pandemic.

## Sioux Falls man writes about 3,000-mile bike trip

By TREVOR J. MITCHELL Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — When Gary Wietgreffe finally set out to bike from Pierre to Alaska in 2018, he was making good on a trip he'd been thinking about for nearly a decade.

It had started in 2010, when he spoke with a 70-year-old man who had biked with his brothers to Alaska. The idea stuck with Wietgreffe, and in 2011 he planned to take leave from his job and make the trip.

But his employer wasn't onboard, and he decided that continuing to have a job was more important.

When he retired the next year, he and his wife Patricia traveled constantly — Australia, Mexico, New Zealand — but the trip to Alaska was always on Wietgreffe's mind.

And in 2018, at age 65, he decided it was going to be now or never — and two years later, he's written a book about the adventure, titled "Destination North Pole."

"It's written for someone that sits in their armchair and wants to take an adventure," said Wietgreffe, who finished the book while he and his wife quarantined after returning from Mexico earlier this year.

That's North Pole, Alaska, to be specific, a goal Wietgreffe expected to take two months when he set out from Pierre on May 20. He'd bike 50-60 miles a day before finding somewhere to spend the night, he thought.

Not even close, as it turned out. He made it to his destination on June 30, nearly three weeks early. "Rather than taking extra days, I ended up skipping days," he told the Argus Leader. On one day, he rode a total of 166 miles.

In all, his ride came in at 2,998 miles biked over a total of 42 days — time he used to reflect, he said.

He'd purchased a portable radio to listen to weather reports, but immediately realized it was distracting him from his surroundings. So he put in some soft earplugs to eliminate wind noise, and listened.

"It was just me and nature, by myself," Wietgreffe said.

Patricia, who stayed back for the beginning of the trip, caught up with him in western Saskatchewan, driving along with tires, supplies and bike parts in case something went wrong. While he biked, she found her own adventures driving through Canada.

He blogged nightly about his experiences, ranging from staring down a moose in the middle of a Canadian highway to crowding into the car of a Coast Guardsman after a tire blowout (although entries from May 20-June 2 were accidentally deleted).

It's those blog posts that form the beginning of each chapter of the book, which went on sale last month, nearly two years after Wietgreffe arrived in North Pole.

"Age is not the limiting factor," he wrote that day. "It is personal willingness to take on, and accomplish something that you have been delaying for too long. Now it is your turn."

## Thunder Road indoor entertainment complex nears completion

By ERIN BORMETT Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It's been over two years since planning began on the project, and the new indoor entertainment center at Thunder Road is almost ready to open. The complex brings a variety of new gaming experiences to the park.

Highlights include an elaborate blacklight laser tag arena, dozens of arcade games, a seven-dimensional theater experience and an eight-lane bowling alley. The bowling system gives players the option of Hyper-Bowling, a new game that creates colored targets on the lane bumpers for players to try to hit or avoid as they bowl to maximize their score.

"It's still blowing me away as it comes together," said Ryan Friez, owner of Thunder Road. "I want to get my own friends together and go play."

The facility also includes a restaurant that diverges from typical bowling alley food, opting for cuisine inspired by food truck eating, the Argus Leader reported.

Friez said that it feels good to see the so-called light at the end of the tunnel, especially after several of what his team jokingly call little "COVID mistakes." Lights were wired backwards, the wrong carpet was delivered twice and the laser tag installation was delayed. Often, the companies responsible explained these errors as "due to the COVID pandemic."

Although the original opening date had to be pushed back by over a month to fix these problems, the community buzz about the project has remained. It's common for workers to look up and find people peering through windows or even walking in the door to get a glimpse of the progress being made. Friez said he thinks people will be impressed with what they see.

"Overall, this facility is a great fit for families and a great fit for adults," he said. "We wanted to have a place that's beautiful and cutting edge."

Friez said he estimates that Thunder Road will open the new indoor space to the public near the end of August.

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

03-24-29-42-47, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 2

(three, twenty-four, twenty-nine, forty-two, forty-seven; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$31 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$180 million

## Broker who tried to cover up big losses sentenced to 3 years

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota broker has been sentenced to serve three years in prison and ordered to pay back more than \$400,000 for trying to hide huge losses while managing foreign exchange currency.

Federal authorities say David Astin, 38, of Hermosa, told the investor he had consistently received returns of 8% per month in his own account and promised the victim gains of 1 to 3%. Instead, prosecutors say, he lost hundreds of thousands of dollars and tried to cover it up with fraudulent statements and spreadsheets.

Astin lost \$433,877. of the investor's money and was paid more than \$75,000, according to investigators.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken ordered Astin to serve three years of supervised release when his prison term is completed.

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## Health officials issue COVID-19 alerts across South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials on Friday issued warnings of possible COVID-19 exposures at a series of locations spanning the state.

Officials have said they expect to see an increase in infections as people gather for activities. But as large gatherings like concerts and motorcycle rallies go forward, the Department of Health issued a series of alerts that people may have been exposed to the coronavirus at three locations across the state. The locations included Bumpin' Buffalo Bar and Grill in Hill City, 9 Bar and Nightclub in Brookings, and a Big and Rich concert in Sioux Falls.

The state recorded 127 new cases of COVID-19 and two deaths as the tally of cases reached over 10,000 on Friday. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by about 12, an increase of 15%.

People in their 20s have accounted for the largest number of infections.

The two deaths reported Friday were a man and a woman, both over the age of 79, according to data from the Department of Health.

Over the course of the pandemic, 10,024 people have tested positive. About 88% of them have recovered, while 150 have died and 1,101 people have active infections.

## At Sturgis, Trump supporters look to turn bikers into voters

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — It's a Friday night at a crowded biker bar in South Dakota when Chris Cox, founder of Bikers for Trump, takes the stage. While many have come to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for some combination of riding and partying, Cox's focus is on something else: voting.

The coronavirus pandemic may have squashed most in-person get-out-the-vote efforts across the country, but Cox's group remains unbothered by public health recommendations. As the Trump campaign struggles to gain momentum less than 90 days from the election, Bikers for Trump has taken advantage of recent motorcycle rallies to make direct appeals to register to vote.

While the group has gained a significant online following for its bravado in providing security at some Trump 2016 rallies, it remains to be seen if it can get bikers — many from the suburbs Trump is targeting — to show up at the ballot box.

To make his appeal, Cox enlisted scantily-clad female bartenders to join his nightly "Trump rallies" atop bars at One Eyed Jack's Saloon. Most of the rallies consisted of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the national anthem. As members of the predominantly male audience removed their hats, one bartender who was topless except for a pair of strategically placed American flag stickers performed the Star-Spangled Banner in sign language.

"If you live in Wisconsin, North Carolina, Arizona, Ohio, Pennsylvania or Florida the campaign needs you to double-down because those are the states that we need to carry this thing," Cox bellowed to the crowd.

Cox's list of battleground states contained a tacit acknowledgment that many places Trump carried in 2016 are now in doubt. But his praise for the president drew cheers from the crowd, a display of Trump's lasting favor among those who still see him as an outsider in defiance of the political elite.

"Trump tapped into all this fear and anger and frustration," said Bill Thompson, a sociologist at Texas A&M University at Commerce who studies biker culture. "Man, he's a master at whipping that up."

Cox, who started the group in 2015, has shown a knack for generating political drama. He gained media attention during the 2016 election for assembling a quasi-security force at rallies and forming what he called a "wall of meat" to keep protesters from disrupting Trump's inauguration. More recently, he has enlisted bikers to give Amish and Mennonite Trump supporters motorcycle rides to rallies in Pennsylvania.

Since the last election, Cox has tried to build Bikers for Trump into a political machine, registering a political action committee. Its Facebook group has more than 350,000 followers, and 180,000 people have signed up for a mailing list. Cox did not give numbers on how many had registered to vote.

Turning bikers into voters could prove difficult. Cox experienced that firsthand this year when his bid to



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represent South Carolina in Congress got less than 10% of the vote in the Republican primary.

"A lot of people want to participate, wearing T-shirts or maybe waving flags," he said. "But the only way to really raise the bar and move the needle is to identify people who otherwise don't vote and get them to vote."

Chris Carr, the Trump campaign's political director, urged members of the crowd at a rally Thursday to get their neighbors registered to vote.

"Chris Cox right here is a huge ally," Carr said. "The president loves this man."

With hundreds of thousands of people rumbling into Sturgis through this weekend, Cox may be in the right place to reach the suburban voters that the Trump campaign is desperate to win over. Despite the stereotype of the grizzled, tattooed biker, a significant number are what's known as "Rolex riders," professionals who can afford to travel across the country with expensive motorcycles. A growing number are female, college-educated and married, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council.

Cox said that women, including those from the suburbs, are willing to overlook Trump's character to vote for his economic policies and support for law enforcement.

"It's not always about liking the leadership, but it's more about respecting the leadership and seeing the direction of your future," Cox said.

Genevieve Schmitt, who founded an online biker magazine called Women Riders Now, said that among female riders there are just as many liberals as there are conservatives. They often see the sport as an "expression of freedom, independence, to express herself in the outdoors," she said.

"If you start to throw flyers at her, whatever side you are on, they kind of just turn their nose up at it," Schmitt said. "They just want to ride."

Cox also tried to brush aside criticism of Trump's handling of the COVID-19 crisis. Cox called it a "pandemic, not a pandemic," suggesting a misguided notion that the coronavirus crisis is politically motivated and will disappear.

That message may resonate with some bikers, who echoed the sentiment that the coronavirus is not as serious as health experts have warned.

"If you're going to get it, you're going to get it," said Linda Harrison, who came from Ohio. "Deal with it."

But even at the Sturgis rally, where displays opposing Hillary Clinton were common in 2016, there was an undercurrent of exasperation with the president this year.

Phillip Geary, a rallygoer from Washington, strolled the streets in a "Make America Kind Again" T-shirt. He said that he had gotten fist bumps amid the leather-clad crowd, and someone even bought him lunch.

"I think there's more sentiment against the president," he said. "It's just beneath the surface, beneath the facade."

## Man indicted on attempted murder charge in Pierre shooting

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A grand jury has indicted a man on an attempted first-degree murder charge in the shooting of a Pierre man in July, authorities said Friday.

Derek At The Straight is also charged with one count of committing a felony while armed with a gun four counts of aggravated assault. He's in the Hughes County Jail in Pierre on a \$50,000 bond.

Police say a 30-year-old man from Pierre was airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital on July 9 after suffering severe, life-threatening injuries. He has not been identified.

## Motorcyclist survives violent bison attack in South Dakota

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — A motorcyclist has survived a violent attack by a bison in the Black Hills of South Dakota, sheriff's officials said.

A bystander's video shows several bikers had stopped while a herd of bison crossed a road in Custer State Park on Wednesday. A 54-year-old Iowa woman got off the motorcycle on which she was a passenger and approached a bison calf, the Custer County Sheriff's Office said.

An adult bison then charged and attacked the woman. The bison cow caught the woman's belt and jeans on its horns and swung her around — violently ripping off her pants before running away, according to the park's visitor services manager Kobee Stalder.

"These are wild and dangerous animals, even though they look docile," Stalder said. "You have to respect these animals."

Bison can stand 6 feet (1.8 meters) tall and weigh as much as 2,000 pounds (907 kilograms), he said.

Several witnesses ran to her aid and one man took off his shirt to cover her. The woman was taken by a medical helicopter from the scene, Stalder said. She had serious pelvic area injuries, but Stalder didn't know her current condition.

Thousands of motorcycles are traveling through the Black Hills because of the ongoing Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. The sheriff's department issued a warning as the rally began Aug. 7 for people to keep their distance from bison.

## Partner of dead Belarus protester believes police shot him

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — The partner of a man who died in the protests engulfing Belarus says she does not believe the official account that Alexander Taraikovsky was killed when an explosive device that he intended to throw at police blew up in his hand.

Elena German told The Associated Press on Saturday that she is sure her 34-year-old partner was shot by police.

German spoke a few hours before Taraikovsky's funeral and burial, an event that could reinforce the anger of demonstrators who have protested what they consider a sham presidential election and the violent police crackdown on opposition.

Taraikovsky died Monday as protests roiled the streets of the capital Minsk, denouncing official figures showing that authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko, in power since 1994, had won a sixth term in office.

German was able to visit the morgue and see his body on Friday, four days after he died. She said she did not believe he had been holding an explosive.

"There is a seam in the chest area — the hole was sewn up, but there is a black bruise; it's small but we noticed. His hands and feet are completely intact, there are not even bruises," she said.

"Obviously, it was a shot right in the chest," she said.

Belarus' Interior Ministry has declined to comment on the situation, beyond its initial claim that a protester died because of a hand-held explosive.

German said she intends to seek a full investigation. She has called on a Belarusian human rights organization for help, and wants international experts to take part in a probe.

"I am feeling outraged. I'm angry. That is why I want to achieve justice," she said.

"In fact, I am very scared," she added. "I was left alone, without support. I feel empty."

About 500 people came to pay last respects to Taraikovsky, who lay in an open casket. As the coffin was carried out, many dropped to one knee, weeping and exclaiming "Long live Belarus."

German said Taraikovsky had worked hard at his automobile repair business and that neither of them had been interested in politics until the last presidential election.

The family's views began to change after she and her husband attended a 60,000-strong campaign rally of main opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. Then they decided to support the post-election protests.

"He was very indignant at the illegal detentions and was proud of the people. He said — finally, finally! We discussed all the news every evening," she said.

"No matter how hard they try to put up some kind of barriers, turn off the Internet, disperse these rallies, we are not fools — everyone understands everything," German said.

—= Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this story.

## Pompeo inks deal for US troop move from Germany to Poland

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WARSAW (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sealed a defense cooperation deal Saturday with Polish officials that will pave the way to redeploy American troops from Germany to Poland.

Pompeo, in Warsaw at the end of a four-nation tour of central and eastern Europe, signed the deal with Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak that sets out the legal framework for the additional troops.

"This is going to be an extended guarantee: a guarantee that in case of a threat our soldiers are going to stand arm-in-arm," Poland's President Andrzej Duda said during the signing ceremony. "It will also serve to increase the security of other countries in our part of Europe."

The deal would also further other aspects of U.S.-Polish cooperation, he added, citing primarily investment and trade ties.

The pact supplements an existing NATO Status of Forces Agreement and allows for the enhancement and modernization of existing capabilities and facilities by allowing U.S. forces to access additional Polish military installations. It also sets out a formula for sharing the logistical and infrastructure costs of an expanded U.S. presence in the country.

"The opportunities are unlimited, the resources will be available," Pompeo said later at a news conference alongside Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz.

"Troop levels matter ... but the world has moved on too," Pompeo said, referring to threats posed in space, cyberspace and disinformation campaigns. He said such defense agreements would allow work on those threats too.

Czaputowicz said the presence of American troops "enhances our deterrence potential because we are closer to the potential source of conflict."

"It is important that they should be deployed here in Poland and not in Germany," he said.

President Donald Trump said the pact was the culmination of months of negotiations with Poland.

"The agreement will enhance our military cooperation and increase the United States' military presence in Poland to further strengthen NATO deterrence, bolster European security, and help ensure democracy, freedom, and sovereignty," Trump's statement said.

Some 4,500 U.S. troops are currently based in Poland, but about 1,000 more are to be added. Last month, in line with Trump's demand to reduce troop numbers in Germany, the Pentagon announced that 12,000 troops would be withdrawn from Germany with about 5,600 moving to other countries in Europe, including Poland.

In addition, several U.S. military commands will be moved out of Germany, including the U.S. Army V Corps overseas headquarters that will relocate to Poland next year.

Trump has long and loudly complained that Germany does not spend enough on defense and has repeatedly accused Germany of failing to pay NATO bills, which is a misstatement. NATO nations have pledged to dedicate 2% of their gross domestic product.

After the signing ceremony, Pompeo joined Duda and other Polish leaders at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to mark the centennial of Poland's landmark victory against the Russian Bolsheviks in 1920 during the Polish-Soviet war.

In the Battle of Warsaw, often called the "Miracle on the Vistula," outnumbered Polish troops led by Marshal Józef Piłsudski defeated an advancing Red Army. The battle is credited with stopping the Bolsheviks' westward march, and remains a source of huge national pride in Poland.

Saturday's signing came just a day after the Trump administration suffered an embarrassing diplomatic loss at the United Nations when its proposal to indefinitely extend an arms embargo on Iran was soundly defeated in a U.N. Security Council vote that saw only one country side with the U.S. Pompeo will visit that country, the Dominican Republic, on Sunday for the inauguration of its new president.

Pompeo said in Warsaw that it was "unfortunate" that France and the U.K., permanent members of the Security Council, did not support the U.S. position and that Washington would continue to press the issue.

"The United States simply wanted to keep the same rules that have been in place since 2007," he said.

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"I think there are a lot of people who understand that it is not in the world's best interest to allow this arms embargo to expire. I hope they find the courage to say so publicly."

Pompeo has used his Europe trip to warn the region's young democracies about threats posed by Russia and China. In Poland, the reception was particularly warm, given the friendship between Trump and conservative Polish President Duda, who was sworn in for a second five-year term earlier this month after a hotly contested election.

Many of the policies pushed by Poland's ruling conservative government have put Poland at odds with the European Union, which is concerned that government efforts to reshape the judiciary and other actions have eroded the rule of law and democracy in the EU nation.

## The year the music might die: British clubs face closure

By TARYN SIEGEL Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — When Keiron Marshall was 15, he found his way out of a desperate situation with help from an unexpected source: Eric Clapton. The guitar great was host at the first gig Marshall ever went to, and he was joined on stage by Gary Brooker of Procol Harum, The Who's Pete Townshend and Beatle Ringo Starr.

Since then, London's music scene has been a liferaft for Marshall, a musician who now runs a group of small concert venues with his wife. Growing up in south London, he'd endured racial slurs and regular beatings because of his Pakistani heritage. His uncle was killed in a racially motivated attack; his mother was a heroin addict.

"Music for us is a really personal thing," said Hannah White, Marshall's wife. "It's been totally life-changing."

But the music scene they know and love may soon be unrecognizable because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has plunged the U.K. economy into its worst recession on record.

Live music venues have been forced to shut doors for nearly five months — and scores are at imminent risk of permanent closure. According to the charity Music Venue Trust, which represents 670 grassroots venues, more than 400 across the country are in crisis.

One of those is Marshall and White's south London venue group, The Sound Lounge.

The British government announced that indoor and socially-distanced live music could resume on Saturday. But this doesn't mean that the country's vibrant live music scene will be immediately restored.

"The truth is that actually only 11% of venues will be able to open in a financially viable manner," said Mark Davyd, founder and CEO of the Music Venue Trust.

Less than a third of venues have the physical space to house safe, socially-distanced gigs. And the majority of those would lose too much money on these reduced-capacity shows for it to be economically feasible.

Clubs have already amassed millions of pounds in debts since March, with more expected in the coming months.

"In total, these venues are going to be over 60 million pounds (\$78.3 million) in debt" by the end of September, Davyd said.

The government announced in late July that 2.25 million pounds (\$266 million) would be funneled to 150 grassroots venues that would otherwise have been out of cash by the end of September. The fund was the first slice of a 1.57 billion-pound (\$1.86 billion) "culture recovery package" that was rolled out on Jul. 5.

Davyd welcomed the emergency fund, but cautioned that this was just a "short term fix," one that was only aimed at helping "venues identified as being in crisis."

In total, 500 million pounds of the recovery package has been allocated to cultural institutions that can "demonstrate their international, national or local significance." Grant applications for this scheme opened Monday and venues have until August 21 to submit. For a lot of grassroots clubs that have never applied for grants before, the 11-day window is going to be another challenge.

Derek Nash, a veteran saxophonist and member of Jools Holland's Rhythm & Blues Orchestra, worries about who the recipients of the bailout will ultimately be.

"Let's not give it all to opera," Nash said, adding that he wants the funds to go to venues like the 606

jazz club, a small but popular venue running shows seven nights a week.

At the moment, 606 Club is surviving off a government loan it qualified for through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. But that has put the club heavily in debt.

"The smaller venues that you come up through where you kind of learn your trade – those are incredibly important," said club owner Steve Rubie. "If those venues aren't there, those musicians aren't getting a chance to practice and learn their trade. So it's a really serious issue."

Meanwhile, the Sound Lounge has stayed afloat with help from friends and crowdfunding. The owners applied for the government's emergency scheme last week.

"If we can survive it, I think culture, and especially music, is going to have a massive role to play in our recovery," White said.

"People need experiences," she added. "That's what we all felt in lockdown. It's not really the stuff or the shopping we missed, it's human contact. So there's a massive potential, but we need to be able to survive."

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

## Former Illinois Gov. James Thompson, 'Big Jim,' dies at 84

CHICAGO (AP) — Former Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson, known as "Big Jim" during a long career that eventually made him the state's longest-serving chief executive, has died. He was 84.

Thompson died shortly after 8 p.m. Friday at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago, his wife, Jayne, told the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times. The Tribune, citing a police report, reported Thompson had been recovering there for several weeks after suffering heart problems.

"It was very sudden," Jayne Thompson told the Tribune. "I was told that his heart simply stopped."

Thompson, a Republican from Chicago, was first elected in 1976 and eventually served four terms before leaving office in 1991. A moderate, he managed the state through recession years in the 1980s. He also helped put together a plan to help the Chicago White Sox get a new stadium to head off a potential move out of state.

Widely respected across the state, Thompson was honored in 1993 when the state government building in downtown Chicago was named after him.

"As the longest-serving governor in Illinois history, 'Big Jim' was known to treat people he encountered with kindness and decency," Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in a statement. "Jim dedicated himself to building positive change for Illinois, and he set an example for public service of which Illinoisans should be proud. He will be remembered and revered as one of the titans in the history of state government."

"He was a great guy, no question about that," said Republican former Gov. George Ryan. "He did a lot of good things for Illinois."

Before becoming governor, Thompson was an assistant attorney general and a U.S. attorney, making a name for himself with anti-corruption cases that included prosecuting former Gov. Otto Kerner Jr.

## Iran threatens 'dangerous future' for UAE after Israel deal

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard vowed Saturday there would be dangerous consequences for the United Arab Emirates after it announced a historic deal with Israel to open up diplomatic relations.

The UAE is the first Gulf Arab state to do so and only the third Arab nation to establish normalized relations with Israel, Iran's regional archenemy.

The Iranian Guard called the deal a "shameful" agreement and an "evil action" that was underwritten by the U.S., according to the group's statement on a website it runs, Sepah News.

The Guard warned that the deal with Israel will set back American influence in the Middle East, and bring a "dangerous future" for the Emirati government.

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Iranian president Hassan Rouhani has also condemned the Emirati move. In a televised speech Saturday, he warned that the United Arab Emirates has made a "huge mistake" in reaching a deal toward normalizing ties with Israel.

Rouhani warned the Gulf state against allowing Israel to have a "foothold in the region."

Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, called the agreement a painful betrayal of Arab and other countries in the region, during a trip to Lebanon on Friday.

President Donald Trump announced Thursday that the United Arab Emirates and Israel agreed to establish full diplomatic ties as part of a deal to halt the annexation of occupied land sought by the Palestinians for their future state.

The UAE presented its controversial decision as a way of encouraging peace efforts and taking Israel's planned annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank off the table. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu swiftly pushed back insisting the pause in annexation was "temporary."

Trump has presented the U.S.-brokered agreement as a major diplomatic achievement and said he expects more Arab and Muslim countries to follow suit. Israel has quietly cultivated ties with the UAE and other Gulf countries for several years as they have confronted a shared enemy in Iran.

## Fewer people but deep faith on Greece's Assumption holiday

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

TINOS, Greece (AP) — In twos and threes, in small groups or alone, they came. Most walking, many crawling, ignoring bloodied knees and aching arms to climb a hill to the famed church housing an icon of the Virgin Mary believed to perform miracles.

Some wept openly, the anguish of their personal strife painted on their faces. All stopped and bowed their heads, many leaning over to kiss the icon.

For nearly 200 years, Greek Orthodox faithful have flocked to the Aegean island of Tinos for the August 15 feast day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the most revered religious holiday in the Orthodox calendar after Easter.

The annual celebration is normally a resplendent and crowded affair, with a navy band and honor guard leading a procession carrying the icon down the hill from the church to the port. Thousands pack the broad flagstone street, kneeling and waiting for the icon to pass over them.

But this year there was no procession or massive crowd, the ceremony — like so many lives across the globe — upended by the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead, the icon stayed inside the church. The navy band and honor guard remained in the church courtyard, and police reminded the faithful to wear masks. Inside, an attendant disinfected the glass case containing the icon after each kiss.

"We can't do anything about it, it has to be this way," said Aggeliki Kolia as she joined the queue to enter the church Saturday. "But it's very bad. You don't feel what you felt in previous years."

Greece is experiencing a resurgence of the virus, with new daily cases jumping from the low double digits at the start of summer to more than 200 over the past three days. Authorities have tightened restrictions and police are enforcing the measures.

Kolia said the Aug. 15 crowd would normally be so thick it would take her three hours to get from the port to the church. This time there were just a few hundred people, and only a few minutes' wait to get to the icon.

Tears welled up in her eyes as she said she traveled from the central Greek town of Thebes to Tinos after making a pledge to the Virgin Mary for her child.

"I've lived through very difficult situations and the Virgin Mary truly helped me," she said. "That's why I came."

It is this unshakable belief that the Virgin Mary can intercede in times of great personal tribulation that draws so many Orthodox faithful to the icon each year.

"Every Christian has the Virgin Mary as their mother, and that is something that is very important in our

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lives, in our difficulties, in our needs," explained Metropolitan of Syros and Tinos Dorotheos, the regional bishop who led Saturday's church service. "We turn to her as a small child turns to seek security in its mother's embrace."

Pilgrims' beliefs, he said, are not affected by coronavirus restrictions.

"The faith of people is not tested by these things, which are temporary and ephemeral," Dorotheos told The Associated Press. "Neither the masks nor the maintenance of social distancing have reduced the faith of the people and their piety, and their presence here in Tinos."

A pilgrimage to the Holy Church of Panagia Evaggelistra of Tinos, or Our Lady of Tinos, is for many the highlight of the year.

"For me, Tinos is something bigger than my life," said Nikos Katseris, beads of sweat clinging to his forehead as he paused outside the church gates for a rest in his long crawl from the seafront — a distance of 500 meters (1,640 feet).

"I've been coming here for around 10 years, and when I leave here I am always very happy. The Virgin Mary of Tinos and all things holy always give me health and strength," the 19-year-old said.

This year he was giving thanks for his two-year-old daughter, who doctors had said was going to be born with health problems but who has had none.

Katseris admitted he doesn't like wearing a mask in church.

"With faith in God, I can't understand that someone could catch something," he said, although he was resigned to complying "to protect those around us."

The icon itself was uncovered in a field in 1823, two years after the start of Greece's War of Independence from the Ottoman Empire and as a plague swept the island. The official history relates that excavations began after a local nun had visions telling her where to look. A series of miracles are attributed to the icon, including the end of the plague on the island and numerous healings of the sick.

Since then, the faithful have flocked to see the icon, to touch and kiss it, bringing votive offerings that decorate the church and the icon itself.

For Danou Chrysovalantou, it was her 12-year-old daughter's survival from open heart surgery last year that brought her to Tinos. Crawling up the hill on her hands and knees, she broke down in sobs when she reached the icon, muttering prayers as she leaned over to kiss it.

"The Virgin Mary is very important to me," the 47-year-old said. "Whatever I ask for, she listens, and I thank her for it."

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## Delaware thrust into unlikely starring role in 2020 campaign

By WILL WEISSERT and RANDALL CHASE Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Delaware isn't a swing state. It has three electoral votes. Driving its entire length, from Pennsylvania to Maryland, takes only a little more than an hour and a half.

But the state has an unexpected starring role in the presidential race as the coronavirus keeps presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden away from traditional campaigning and close to home in his bid to unseat President Donald Trump in November.

Biden announced California Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate this past week in Wilmington and they made their public debut at the suburban high school where Biden votes. The campaign then operated for three days from the opulent Hotel DuPont downtown, where Biden had announced his first run for Senate, for the 1972 race. In a ballroom converted to a makeshift web studio, Biden and Harris held video conferences with health and economic advisers and signed documents to formally become the Democratic presidential ticket.

"We've never had a campaign like this, where essentially he's probably going to be campaigning from Wilmington because of COVID-19," said John Flaherty, a Delaware open-government advocate who worked

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as a staff assistant for Biden in his Senate office in Wilmington from 1978 to 1995. "It's going to be a learning curve for all of us as to how you campaign for national office and you can't be close to people."

There has never been an American president from Delaware, though Rutherford B. Hayes was born in Delaware, Ohio.

The spotlight on Delaware could be even brighter if Biden is elected. In addition to his Wilmington home, his family has a beach house in Rehoboth Beach, which could become a summer retreat on par with George W. Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas or Trump's golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey.

Biden's presence so far hasn't caused much of a stir, partly because many people are still working from home or otherwise avoiding going out. Waiting at a bus stop near the Hotel DuPont, Cara Davis, a 23-year-old drug store employee, had no idea the political circus was in town.

"I think it's a bit of a mess," she said of November's election. She added, however, that she once waited on Biden's daughter, Ashley, while working at a department store makeup counter, and plans to vote for Biden because not doing so "is like a vote for Trump."

A block away, parked police cruisers and shipping containers blocked traffic by the hotel entrance where Biden comes and goes. Police patrolled on foot and Segway. There were Secret Service agents at the door. TV cameras commandeered the sidewalk across the street, and tents protected reporters from the frequent rains during live broadcasts.

Inside the hotel, police dogs helped screen bags in the lobby, the normally bustling food court was shuttered and the stately Green Room Bar had been converted into a holding area for journalists who cleared Secret Service security and awaited events with Biden.

Having Biden in town has reverberated beyond the hotel walls.

"It's wonderful to have him back around," said August Muzzi, owner of Angelo's Luncheonette, a Wilmington fixture since his father, Angelo, first opened it in 1967. There's a framed placard advertising Biden's announcement of his first campaign for president in June 1987 and a 2012 letter to Muzzi signed by the then-vice president. As they grew up, Biden's sons, Beau and Hunter, often had breakfast at the restaurant on Saturday mornings, usually occupying the third booth from the door.

Mayor Mike Purzycki said Wilmington got a healthy dose of attention during Biden's frequent trips back home as vice president.

"There was an awful lot of vice president stuff going on around here .... a lot of big, black Tahoes driving around," Purzycki said. "We're used to the Secret Service. We adapt more to the roadblocks than most people would."

Biden spent decades riding Amtrak on commutes between Washington and Delaware. The train station in Wilmington now bears his name. He once took President Barack Obama to a well-known Wilmington diner, the Charcoal Pit, and Biden hit Gianni's Pizza after announcing his latest presidential run last year. On the city's east side is a pool where he once served as a lifeguard. It was renamed the Joseph R. Biden Aquatic Center in 2017.

Purzycki doesn't expect a lot of Biden public sightings, even though the Chase Center on Wilmington's riverfront will command the spotlight at the upcoming virtual Democratic National Convention.

"He's so bottled up right now, for a whole variety of reasons," said Purzycki, a football star at the University of Delaware in the 1960s who lived in the same dorm as Biden. It seems Biden's time as a running back for the school didn't go as well.

"He always looked like he was going on a job interview," Purzycki recalled. "I remember thinking, 'Who is this guy?'"

Biden, known for his hands-on style of politicking, spent months at his lakeside home in Greenville during the early stages of the pandemic — so much so that Trump's campaign branded him "hidin' Biden." But Biden has more recently been giving speeches and holding small, socially distanced meetings with voters in places an easy drive from his front door, including Philadelphia, about 45 minutes away.

Normally, running mate rollouts are done in battleground states. But being home has allowed Biden to reconnect with his roots. Campaign spokesman Michael Gwin said Biden was "honored" to make the



Harris announcement in Wilmington.

"Whether you're a Democratic or a Republican, whether you like Biden or not, I think people are just very proud that somebody from Delaware is running for president," said Flaherty, Biden's former staff assistant. "He has been able to navigate all the political shoals out there, and now it looks like he's going to have an even shot at the presidency."

## The Latest: Germany defends calling Spain virus 'risk area'

By The Associated Press undefined

BERLIN — Germany's health minister has defended the decision to declare all of mainland Spain and the Balearic Islands "risk areas" for coronavirus infection.

Travelers must undergo compulsory testing and two-week quarantine after arriving from there.

Health Minister Jens Spahn told Bild on Saturday that he knows "how much Germans love Spain as a vacation destination. But the numbers there are rising quickly, too quickly."

The travel classification also includes the Spanish island of Mallorca, a popular destination for German tourists.

Germany is providing free testing for coronavirus at airports and those who test negative can avoid quarantining for the full 14 days.

The Robert Koch Institute says Spain's Canary Islands weren't deemed a risk area. That designation now covers most non-EU countries, including the United States, and several regions within the 27-nation bloc.

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

- Virus flareups in Europe lead to club closings, mask orders
- Study hints, can't prove, survivor plasma fights COVID-19
- By sea, rail or air, Brits scramble to get out of France
- Popular tourist destinations on the Navajo Nation, including Canyon de Chelly, can start welcoming back tourists Monday under the tribe's reopening plan.
- Mexico's point man for the coronavirus pandemic says he believes the country has reached its peak of infections over the last three weeks.

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

### HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

PARIS — Pressure is growing on the French government to require masks in all workplaces and in public as coronavirus infections surge.

Paris police stepped up mask patrols Saturday as the French capital expanded the zones where face coverings are required in public, including neighborhoods around the Louvre Museum and Champs-Elysees shopping district.

With cases in Paris rising particularly fast, police can now shut down cafes or any gathering of more than 10 people where distancing and other hygiene measures aren't respected.

Masks are currently required outdoors in hundreds of French towns, but rules vary widely.

In an appeal published in the daily Liberation, a collective of medical workers urged a nationwide return to working at home, which France largely abandoned after two months of strict lockdown.

France recorded more than 2,800 new cases Friday, up from a few hundred daily cases a month ago. While the rise is partly attributed to increased testing, the rate of positive tests is also growing, and is now at 2.4%. However, the number of virus patients in French hospitals and intensive care units has not risen so far.

The rising infections prompted Britain to impose quarantine on vacationers returning from France starting on Saturday.

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SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea on Saturday announced stronger social distancing restrictions for its greater capital area where a surge in COVID-19 cases threatens to erase the hard-won gains against the coronavirus.

The two-week measures starting Sunday will allow authorities in Seoul and towns in neighboring Gyeonggi Province to shut down high-risk facilities such as nightclubs, karaoke rooms, movie theaters and buffet restaurants if they fail to properly enforce preventive measures, including distancing, temperatures checks, keeping customer lists and requiring masks.

Fans will once again be banned from professional baseball and soccer, just a few weeks after health authorities allowed teams to let in spectators for a portion of their seats in each game.

Health Minister Park Neung-hoo revealed the steps hours after the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 166 newly confirmed cases, the country's highest daily jump in five months.

NEW DELHI — India's confirmed coronavirus cases have crossed 2.5 million with another biggest single-day spike of 65,002 in the past 24 hours.

India is behind the United States and Brazil in the number of cases.

The Health Ministry on Saturday also reported another 996 deaths for a total of 49,036.

The average daily reported cases jumped from around 15,000 in the first week of July to more than 50,000 at the beginning of August.

The Health Ministry said the rise shows the extent of testing with 800,000 carried out in a single day. But experts say India needs to pursue testing more vigorously.

India's two-month lockdown imposed nationwide in late March kept infections low. But it has eased and is now largely being enforced in high-risk areas. The new cases spiked after India reopened shops and manufacturing and allowed hundreds of thousands of migrant workers to return to their homes from coronavirus-hit regions.

Subways, schools and movie theaters remain closed.

SEOUL, South Korea — New coronavirus cases in South Korea have reached the highest level in five months, and authorities fear infections are getting out of control in the Seoul region, which is home to half the country's 51 million people.

Officials reported 166 newly confirmed cases Saturday. That was the highest since March 11, when South Korea reported 242 amid an outbreak in the southeastern city of Daegu and nearby towns.

With 103 new cases reported Friday, this is the first time since late March that the daily increase surpassed 100 two days in a row.

Officials say all but 11 of the new cases were local transmissions, and most were in the Seoul area.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Popular tourist destinations in the Navajo Nation, including Canyon de Chelly, can start welcoming back tourists Monday under the tribe's reopening plan.

Much of the reservation has been closed since March as the new coronavirus swept through.

The tribe released a plan this week that allows parks and marinas to reopen with safeguards. Businesses can operate at limited capacity.

Tribal President Jonathan Nez says the Navajo Nation won't rush to fully reopen, recognizing that cases could spike if residents become complacent.

Employees at tribal and national parks on the reservation say they will be busy this weekend preparing for tourists.

MELBOURNE, Australia — The Australian state of Victoria continues to flatten the curve in its wave of coronavirus infections and deaths.

The state on Saturday reported four more COVID-19 deaths and 303 newly confirmed cases in the previous 24 hours. It is the second-lowest daily figure reported in Victoria this month after 278 cases Thursday.

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Victoria's daily case numbers are gradually decreasing, with the seven-day average down to 344 from 521 a week ago.

But authorities warn there is more progress needed before lockdown restrictions in the city of Melbourne can be eased.

Melbourne residents and those in a nearby shire remain subject to strict night-time curfews, time limits on outdoor exercise, distance allowed from home, mandatory public mask wearing and shutdowns of non-essential industries.

**MEXICO CITY** — Mexico's number of confirmed coronavirus cases has risen to 511,369, as health officials say they believe the country's infections have peaked.

They reported 5,618 new confirmed cases Friday, and said 615 more deaths from COVID-19 had raised the pandemic death toll to 55,908.

Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell says Mexico had reached its peak of infections over the last three weeks, saying that "we have now had a maximum point in the curve."

However, he predicts that second waves of outbreaks will continue around the world for time. He says that "this is a phenomenon that is going to be with us in the whole world for several years."

**PARIS** — Paris is expanding the areas of the city where pedestrians will be obliged to wear masks starting Saturday morning, with health officials saying the coronavirus is "active" in the French capital and the Mediterranean city of Marseille,

The Champs-Élysées Avenue and the area around the Louvre museum are among zones where masks will be mandatory.

Paris police checks ensuring respect for mask wearing in designated areas are to be reinforced. Bars and restaurants could be ordered closed if distancing and other barriers to virus transmission aren't respected.

With France's national figures on infections also rising, Britain late Thursday ordered a quarantine for people entering the United Kingdom from France. France responded Friday by saying it would do the same for travelers from Britain.

**HONOLULU** — Hawaii's teachers union is challenging the state's school reopening plans by filing a labor complaint.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association filed a complaint with the state Labor Relations Board over a change in working conditions from increasing COVID-19 infections.

Most public schools will start the academic year Monday with online instruction. The union is asking that all schools be online until at least the end of the first quarter.

The union says some schools are going forward with in-person instruction. The state Department of Education disputes that statement. The union is asking teachers to wear black on Monday.

## Protests in Belarus focus on spot where demonstrator died

By YURAS KARMANU undefined

**MINSK, Belarus (AP)** — Thousands of demonstrators in Belarus gathered Saturday at the spot in the capital where a protester died in clashes with police, calling for authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko to resign after 26 years in power.

It was the seventh consecutive day of large protests against the results of the Aug. 9 presidential election in which election officials say Lukashenko won a sixth term in office.

Despite harsh police action against the protesters, including the detention of some 7,000 people, the demonstrations have swelled into the largest and most sustained protest wave since Lukashenko took power in 1994.

Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the protests in a call Saturday, the first publicly known direct contact between the two leaders since the election.

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A Kremlin statement said Putin and Lukashenko both expressed hope for a quick resolution of the tensions. "It is important that these problems are not used by destructive forces aimed at causing injury to the cooperation of the two countries in the framework of the union state," the Kremlin said.

Russia and Belarus reached an agreement in 1997 about closer ties between the neighboring ex-Soviet countries in a union stopping short of a full merger, although that has collided with recent disputes between the countries and Lukashenko's suspicions that Putin's government wants to absorb Belarus.

A funeral was held Saturday for Alexander Taraikovsky, a 34-year-old protester who died Monday in the capital of Minsk under disputed circumstances. Belarusian police said he died when an explosive device he intended to throw at police blew up in his hand.

But his partner, Elena German, told The Associated Press that when she saw his body in a morgue on Friday, his hands showed no damage and he had a perforation in his chest that she believes is a bullet wound.

About 5,000 demonstrators gathered Saturday in the area where Taraikovsky died. There were no immediate reports of detentions.

—  
Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this story.

## The Ultimate Recovery: Cycles of pain anchor Biden's moment

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A young lawyer bounds across a parking lot in New Castle, Delaware, a blur of long sideburns, wide lapels and self-assurance. He throws open a door to a beauty salon, and the ladies inside whoop with surprise. It's clear from the grainy footage that the stylists don't know this 29-year-old candidate — yet.

"I'm Joe Biden, Democratic candidate for United States Senate," he announces, shaking the hand of a grinning beautician. "Maybe if you get a chance, you'll look me over between now and November."

The pitch, captured in an October 1972 broadcast by WPVI in Philadelphia, is one Biden has made repeatedly since, winning seven terms in the Senate and two as vice president. But throughout his lifetime in politics, his eye has been on the next rung — the presidency -- in a quest that failed spectacularly in his first two tries.

On this, his third attempt, the White House is within Biden's reach at what in some ways seems an improbable moment. At age 77, he is too old to even be called a Baby Boomer at a time when Democrats are prioritizing youth and diversity. But he's vowing to reset the nation's compass after four turbulent years under President Donald Trump, staking his claim on the pillars of competence, experience and empathy.

"The moment has met him, right now," says former Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. "People know he's been there, and he's not going to just stand there. He's going to do something to make it better. We need that desperately right now. People are scared."

So Biden is hoping voters will choose him over Trump, like a comfortable blanket, bonded to people by that empathy — and his own history of grief.

"In another time, it might be too late for Joe," said former defense secretary Bill Cohen, who served as a Republican senator from Maine. "When you see what is happening in our lives, the chaos, they're looking for someone who can bring some sort of equanimity."

Biden's moment accepting the Democratic nomination will be nothing like he imagined when his campaign began. There won't be thousands of supporters in an arena cheering while he holds Kamala Harris' hand aloft. With the pandemic's U.S. death toll nearing 170,000, the event is expected to be a far more somber and smaller affair.

Still, that moment will mark a peak — for now — of a career politician who will try to make the case that the times are so different, and Trump is so disruptive and divisive, that voters will see the president's rival as a calming alternative.

How Biden developed from a childhood in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to that striving candidate in 1972 and

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into the nation's pastoral "Uncle Joe" is a story of cycles of loss, and, most of all, the practice of recovery. "Get up," was the motto of Joe Biden's father, Joe, Sr. It became Biden's through his childhood struggles with stuttering, the deaths of his wife and baby daughter, a pair of brain aneurysms, and, in 2015, the loss of his eldest son, Beau.

"After the surgery, Senator, you might lose the ability to speak? Get up!" Biden writes in Promises to Keep. "The newspapers are calling you a plagiarist, Biden? Get up! Your wife and daughter – I'm sorry, Joe, there was nothing we could do to save them? Get up!"

## BIDEN, BEFORE

In the 1972 campaign, Joe Biden is a snapshot of a candidate rushing toward what seems an unbounded future.

Husband of Neilia, father of three – and owner of a sweet 1967 Corvette in Goodwood Green, a wedding gift from his father, a car dealer - Biden did as many as 10 meet-and-greet events a day. He cast himself in a way that he can't in 2020: as a new kind of leader, an outsider representing young Americans.

Then, as now, he was betting that voters wanted a change badly enough to oust a sitting Republican incumbent. At the time, it was popular GOP Sen. J. Caleb Boggs, who had been endorsed by President Richard Nixon.

"He was old hat," William F. Hildenbrand, Boggs' Senate assistant, described his former boss in an oral history interview in 1985.

On Election Day, Biden wasn't old enough to serve in the Senate. He would turn 30 on Nov. 20. A photograph from the party in Wilmington captured Neilia helping her husband cut the birthday cake. Towheaded sons Beau and Hunter hover inches away, ready to dig in. He had won the seat by just over 3,100 votes, 51 percent to 49 percent.

## "I KNEW"

A few weeks later, sitting by the fire in their home, Neilia told her husband: "Things are too good."

The next day — Dec. 18, 1972 — Biden's world collapsed. The senator-elect was in Washington setting up his Senate office when a tractor-trailer broadsided Neilia's car. She had been taking the kids to buy a Christmas tree.

Neilia, also 30, and Naomi, 1, were dead. Beau and Hunter, a year and a day apart at 4 and 3, were seriously injured. Except for the memorial service, their father did not leave the hospital. And at least initially, he wanted no part of the Senate.

"For the first time in my life, I understood how someone could consciously decide to commit suicide," he later revealed.

But he relented to the urging of elder senators. Biden took the oath of office at Wilmington Medical Center just a few feet from Beau's bed.

## BIDEN'S BRAND

The tragedy meant the Senate's youngest member arrived on Capitol Hill saddled with pain and loss that came to define him. The combination would ground Biden's operating philosophy in politics and in life, even as it lived alongside his own presidential dreams.

A signature search for "connection" animated Biden's approach. It helped him identify people who were struggling, and informed his sense of how to call out opponents. Notably, it clued him in on the now-quaint notion of working with members of the opposing party.

"People would have disagreements with him, but he was very likable," recalls former Vice President Dan Quayle, a Republican from Indiana who served with Biden in the Senate.

Quayle, who served as President George H.W. Bush's vice president, is backing Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, a fellow Hoosier. He and other Republicans have suggested that Biden's long reputation of affability is one reason Trump has had trouble defining him with personal attacks such as "Corrupt Joe," or as a man who "hurt God."

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"Nobody really dislikes Joe Biden," Quayle said, calling him an "honest guy."

But Biden's style has gotten him in trouble, too. His habit as a hugger drew more serious accusations during the 2020 Democratic primaries when a series of women accused him of getting too close. One said Biden assaulted her during his time in the Senate, an accusation he has denied.

His style in many ways reinforced his age and a dated view of appropriate behavior.

When primaries began, Biden was the best known among dozens of hopefuls. But he was not the favorite, particularly given a perception that the party had moved well to his left and his brand of politics had become a relic.

In the end though, largely on the strength of support from Black voters, Biden at last toppled enough opponents to capture the nomination.

Now, the crises over public health, economic collapse and racial justice have created a climate where his personal traits contrast effectively with Trump's, and so far, he has maintained a perceptible edge in polls.

Biden has accentuated the differences. He attended a memorial service for George Floyd in Houston. He wears a protective mask in public. And he meets with small groups of Americans brought low by the crises.

Decades before President Bill Clinton said he could "feel your pain," Biden already had lived it.

## "MY SECOND FAMILY"

The Senate was Biden's healing road.

It's where he matured as a father, a lawmaker and a politician. And it's where he began weaving his personal story into politics.

He also took onboard the relationships and lessons as he rebuilt his life.

Lesson No. One: Other people can help. The old bulls — Hubert Humphrey, Ted Kennedy, Mike Mansfield, Ernest Hollings, Tom Eagleton, Ted Stevens — invited their new colleague to join them at monthly power dinners that were then a mainstay of Washington social rituals.

"I was a kid, I was single, and they included me," Biden recalled from the Senate floor in 2009, just before he departed for the Obama administration. "They went a long way toward saving my life."

Biden was not eager for the dinner circuit; he spent his evenings commuting home by train to Wilmington to keep watch on his sons.

In the Senate, he was difficult to label. He was a civil rights advocate in a chamber brimming with segregationists. A year in, he had supported a bill to subsidize federal general election campaigns and place a cap on campaign contributions and spending. In 1975, he broke from liberal ranks on school busing, winning Senate endorsement of an amendment forbidding the government from requiring busing except in certain cases.

Along the way, he had begun to rise with a reputation for listening and believing that the Senate can do important things.

In 1977, he married Jill Tracy Jacobs, an English professor at Delaware Technical and Community College. President Jimmy Carter chose him to lead a Senate delegation to Moscow for the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. In 1981 the Bidens welcomed a daughter, Ashley.

Throughout this period, Biden honed his ability to read people and when necessary, disarm them.

"Don't bullshit a bullshitter," Biden told a Russian official during private talks in 1984, recalled Cohen, the Republican senator from Maine.

They were in Moscow at the height of the Cold War, and Cohen had spoken before the USSR Academy of Sciences about reducing nuclear warheads.

Cohen's speech wasn't entirely well received. In a private meeting, a Soviet official began criticizing Cohen's plan. Biden cut him off in what became his signature, salty style. A tense pause ensued.

"Joe is going to blow it for me," Cohen said he thought at the time. "They're going to throw us out."

Instead, the Russian "just started laughing," an acknowledgement, perhaps, that they were all politicians with agendas.

## BORK, AND BIDEN'S "BIG MISTAKE"

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Biden wanted to be the youngest president since John F. Kennedy, and by his third Senate term he was traveling to the early primary states. He also was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, charged with running the confirmation hearing of President Ronald Reagan's nominee, Judge Robert Bork Jr., to the Supreme Court.

Though Trump likes to ridicule Biden's speaking ability, early in his Senate career he was considered one of the best orators in his party.

So it was particularly jarring that a speech essentially ended Biden's initial White House run. In Iowa, Biden had used a British politician's words without attribution.

He dropped out of the race and quickly pivoted, successfully, to blocking Bork's confirmation.

"He's said himself he wasn't ready," said Boxer, a Biden supporter that year. "When he made his big mistake, he just said, 'Okay, I'm moving on. The hurdle is too great.'"

But there was another life-or-death crisis - this time for Biden himself - and another recovery. In Rochester, New York, after a February 1988 speech, he felt "lightning flashing inside" his head and collapsed on the floor of his hotel room. He was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm, then another, and endured two surgeries.

He was, he wrote, "determined to get back up faster than anybody expected."

## "CALL ME"

The doctor told law student Tony Russo that he might never wake up.

It was 1994. Russo was in school facing an arduous, two-year treatment to knock back his diagnosis of leukemia. The chemotherapy, he was warned, would be brutal. Then Biden called.

"I pick up the phone and hear this voice that's obviously very calming. And he was like, 'Tony, it's Joe,'" said Russo, now 52, and vice president for legislative affairs at T-Mobile Wireless.

It was a point in Biden's story where his public and private lives diverged.

"He didn't ask me, how are you, how you feeling?" said Russo, whose story hasn't widely been shared. "It was more like, 'OK, this is the next step and we're going to get through this.'"

The treatments were debilitating. "I was literally, like, this is going to kill me," Russo recalled.

He and Biden talked a few times a week for the duration. Sometimes he would call Biden in the middle of the night "and he always picked up."

"If felt like I could tell him anything. With your family you've got to be a little more careful, because they're dying inside," said Russo, whose father, Marty, was a congressman from Illinois. "With Joe there was no pity. You could just talk. There was no judgment. You felt like it was almost like a therapy type thing."

## "THE ANSWER IS NO."

Biden thought 2008 was his year. He was chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and had voted for the Iraq War. But he had come to see that as a mistake.

This second presidential campaign, too, cratered in a crowded field. This time it included Hillary Clinton, Obama and John Edwards. It didn't help that Biden made another embarrassing gaffe by describing Obama in an interview as "articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy."

The Delaware senator finished the Iowa caucuses with 1 percent of the vote. Obama won the nomination — and then asked Biden to be his vice president.

Biden said he had one ask of Obama: that he would be the last person in the room at decision time.

He was named to oversee the massive economic stimulus plan to counter the Great Recession, helped muscle Obama's signature Affordable Care Act through Congress, and had a seat at the table in the famous Situation Room photo watching special forces take out Osama bin Laden.

Throughout, Biden honed a "three-dimensional" technique blending policy expertise, tactical maneuvers and "the human element of what's going to bring somebody our way," said Jen Palmieri, former White House communications director.

The Biden approach didn't always work. After the murder of elementary school students in Newtown,

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Connecticut, in 2012, Biden's effort to pass gun control laws failed.

But on other issues, his credibility was such that he even taught fellow senators lessons. Harry Reid, the former Democratic majority leader from Nevada, recalled in a recent interview that Biden urged patience at a messy, key moment for Obamacare.

"Let that committee work this thing for as long as they feel it's necessary," Reid recalled Biden telling him. "They'll let air out of the tires, they will make everyone feel that ... the committee spent enough time on it. ...

"I did that," Reid said, "and it turned out just the way he said it would."

—MY GOD, MY BOY—

Beau Biden, the son his father had called "Joe 2.0," died from brain cancer on May 30, 2015, at 7:51 p.m. "It happened," Biden wrote in his diary. "My god, my boy. My beautiful boy."

An excruciating moment is captured in a photograph from the funeral a week later., An honor guard carried the flag-draped casket past the grieving vice president. Biden's hand is over his heart, his eyes shaded by his signature aviator sunglasses. His face is clenched.

In those moments, he wrote, he understood his role as a grieving vice president was different from what it had been as a senator-elect four decades earlier.

He sought to show "millions of people facing the same awful reality that it was possible to absorb real loss and make it through."

Through his grief, Biden still heard the call of presidential politics in 2016, but it was not to be for the devastated clan.

Four years later, he has made the ultimate recovery as the Democratic presidential nominee-in-waiting — with onetime rival Harris, a friend of Beau's, as his running mate.

Introducing her on Wednesday, Biden argued that the two understand what Americans want at this time of crisis — but he might as well have been describing himself.

"All folks are looking for, as my dad would say, is an even shot," Biden said. "Just give me a shot, a fair shot. A shot at making it."

—Associated Press researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed to this report.

—Follow Kellman on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump skews record on Biden-Harris, economy

By HOPE YEN and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump greeted the Democratic presidential ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris this past week with a litany of distortion and falsehoods, raging against cases of voting fraud where they didn't exist and declining to quash conspiracy theories about Harris' eligibility for office.

Trump also misrepresented Biden's position on taxes, again minimized the coronavirus threat and exaggerated his own record on the economy.

A look at some of the past week's rhetoric and the facts:

ON BIDEN-HARRIS

TRUMP: "If Biden would win ... he's going to double and triple everybody's taxes." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump is exaggerating. Wildly so.

Biden would raise taxes, primarily on the wealthy. But a July estimate by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget finds that the increase is a small fraction of what Trump claimed. The former vice president's plan would raise "taxes for the top 1 percent of earners by 13 to 18% of after-tax income, while indirectly increasing taxes for most other groups by 0.2 to 0.6%," the nonpartisan group said.

To put that in perspective, tax collections would increase by \$3.4 trillion to \$3.7 trillion over the next



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decade. That is a lot of money. But it's not a doubling or tripling. The government is on pace to collect \$47 trillion over the next decade, so the Biden plan would be roughly be a 7.8% increase in revenues.

TRUMP, asked about social media claims that Harris is not eligible to run for vice president because her parents were immigrants to the U.S.: "I heard it today that she doesn't meet the requirements. ... I have no idea if that's right. I would have assumed that the Democrats would have checked that out." — news conference Thursday.

THE FACTS: Harris, a senator from California, is without question eligible.

Harris, 55, was born in Oakland, California, making her a natural-born U.S. citizen and eligible to be president if Biden were unable to serve a full term. Her father, an economist from Jamaica, and her mother, a cancer researcher from India, met at the University of California, Berkeley, as graduate students.

The Constitution requires a vice president to meet the eligibility requirements to be president. That includes being a natural-born U.S. citizen, at least 35 years old and a resident in the U.S. for at least 14 years.

"I can't believe people are making this idiotic comment," Laurence Tribe, a Harvard University professor of constitutional law, told The Associated Press in 2019, when similar false claims emerged about Harris during her presidential run.

"She is a natural born citizen and there is no question about her eligibility to run," Tribe said.

Harris is the first Black woman and Asian American to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. Trump in past years indulged in the false conspiracy theory that President Barack Obama was born abroad.

TRUMP CAMPAIGN: "Not long ago, Kamala Harris called Joe Biden a racist and asked for an apology she never received." -- statement Tuesday from Katrina Pierson, Trump 2020 senior adviser.

THE FACTS: She never called Biden a racist.

Pierson appears to be referring to Harris' remarks during a Democratic primary debate in Miami in June 2019 when the California senator challenged Biden's record of opposing busing as a way to integrate schools in the 1970s.

Harris prefaced her criticism by telling Biden at that time, "I do not believe you are a racist. I agree with you when you commit yourself to the importance of finding common ground."

She then went on: "It was actually hurtful to hear you talk about the reputations of two United States senators who built their reputations and career on the segregation of race in this country. It was not only that but you also worked with them to oppose busing.

"There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools," Harris said. "She was bused to school every day. That little girl was me."

It was a breakthrough moment for Harris at the candidates' first debate, stunning Biden, who responded that "he did not praise racists" and provided a hairsplitting defense of his position on busing. But she did not accuse him of being racist.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

TRUMP: "At the end of the year, the assumption that I win, I'm going to terminate the payroll tax ... We'll be paying into Social Security through the general fund." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Under Trump's proposal, Social Security would lose its dedicated funding source.

Payroll taxes raise about \$1 trillion annually for Social Security, and the president was unconcerned about the loss of those revenues. Trump campaign officials stressed that the general fund consists of assets and liabilities that finance government operations and could do so for Social Security. The general fund is nicknamed "America's Checkbook" on the Treasury Department's website.

The risk is that the loss of a dedicated funding source could destabilize an anti-poverty program that provides payments to roughly 65 million Americans. It also could force people to cut back on the spending that drives growth so they can save for their own retirement and health care needs if they believe the government backstop is in jeopardy.

A 12.4% payroll tax split between employers and workers funds Social Security, while a 2.9% payroll

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tax finances Medicare. The Social Security tax raised roughly \$1 trillion last year, according to government figures. Over a 10-year period, Trump's idea would blow a \$13 trillion hole in a U.S. budget that is already laden with rising debt loads.

Trump announced a payroll tax deferral through the end of the year, part of a series of moves to bypass Congress after talks on a broader coronavirus relief bill that has stalled. He says he will make it a permanent tax cut with the help of Congress. Democrats have described that idea as a nonstarter.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany on Thursday suggested to reporters that Trump misspoke when he said he would eliminate the payroll tax if reelected. She said the president would only push to make the payroll tax deferrals permanent. But Trump clearly said that he would eliminate the payroll tax four times at his Wednesday press briefing and even answered a question about "permanently" rescinding it.

TRUMP, asked how the general fund can sustain the payments: "We're going to have tremendous growth. ... You will see growth like you have not seen in a long time." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: It is highly unlikely that economic growth would be enough to offset the loss of the payroll tax. Trump has a record of making wildly improbable growth projections. He suggested that his 2017 income tax cuts would propel economic growth as high as 6% annually. That never happened. Growth reached 3% in 2018, then slumped to 2.2% and the U.S. economy crumbled into recession this year because of the coronavirus.

## VIRUS THREAT

TRUMP, on COVID-19: "Nobody understood it because nobody has ever seen anything like this. The closest thing is, in 1917, they say — right? The great — the great pandemic certainly was a terrible thing, where they lost, anywhere from 50 to 100 million people. Probably ended the Second World War; all the soldiers were sick." — news briefing Monday.

THE FACTS: He got the year wrong for the Spanish flu, as he routinely does, and may have overstated deaths from it. The pandemic spread from early 1918 to late 1920. It killed an estimated 50 million worldwide, with about 675,000 of the deaths in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That pandemic did not end World War II, which came two decades later.

TRUMP: "We're still in the pandemic, which will be going away, as I say, it will be going away. And they scream, how you can you say that? I said, because it's going to be going away." — interview Thursday on Fox Business Network.

THE FACTS: No matter how many times he says it, the virus is not going to just magically disappear. The virus is now blamed for more than 166,000 deaths and more than 5.2 million confirmed infections in the U.S. — easily the highest totals in the world. In the past week, the average number of new cases per day was on the rise in eight states, and deaths per day were climbing in 26, according to an Associated Press analysis.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious diseases official, has warned that increased cases across the South and West in particular put "the entire country at risk." On Thursday, for instance, the rate of positive virus cases in Texas soared to the highest levels of the pandemic, with nearly 1 in every 4 coronavirus tests coming back positive. Nevada had its biggest daily jump in coronavirus fatalities to date.

In February, Trump asserted coronavirus cases were going "very substantially down, not up," and said it will be fine because "in April, supposedly, it dies with the hotter weather."

Fauci says there "certainly" will be coronavirus infections in the fall and winter.

TRUMP, on whether he still thinks kids are essentially immune from COVID-19: "Yeah, I think that, for the most part, they do very well. I mean, they — they don't get very sick. They don't catch it easily." — news briefing Tuesday.

THE FACTS: They aren't immune, and he ignores racial disparities among those kids who get infected. Although it's true that children are less likely than adults to develop COVID-19, the CDC has neverthe-

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less counted more than 250,000 infections by the virus in Americans younger than 18, or roughly 7% of all cases. Racial disparities in the U.S. outbreak also extend to children, with Hispanic and Black children with COVID-19 more likely to be hospitalized than white kids.

The total number of kids who have been infected but not confirmed is almost certainly far higher than the CDC figures, experts say, because those with mild or no symptoms are less likely to get tested. Trump also glosses over the fact that kids can spread disease without showing symptoms themselves.

The CDC in May also warned doctors to be on the lookout for a rare but life-threatening inflammatory reaction in some children who've had the coronavirus. The condition had been reported in more than 100 children in New York, and in some kids in several other states and in Europe, with some deaths.

Two recent government reports laid bare the racial disparities.

One of the CDC reports looked at children with COVID-19 who needed hospitalization. Hispanic children were hospitalized at a rate eight times higher than white kids, and Black children were hospitalized at a rate five times higher, it found.

The second report examined cases of the rare virus-associated syndrome in kids. It found that nearly three-quarters of the children with the syndrome were either Hispanic or Black, well above their representation in the general population.

## ECONOMY

TRUMP: "The manufacturing sector is booming and the production index is at the highest reading since October of '18, which was an extraordinary period of time." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The pandemic crushed U.S. factories and the damage persists. There is no boom.

Even after three months of job gains, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the manufacturing sector has 740,000 fewer jobs than before the outbreak. All the factory hiring gains under Trump have disappeared. There were 257,000 more manufacturing jobs on the day Trump became president than now. More important, the jobs recovery has shown signs of stalling. Just 26,000 factory jobs were added in July, down from 357,000 added jobs in June.

The sector has been recovering. Yet after increases in production in June, the Federal Reserve said U.S. factory output was running 11.1% below pre-pandemic levels. Trump cited one component of an index composed by the Institute for Supply Management that indicates factory production grew in July as well. It was the best reading since August of 2018, not October as claimed by the president. But that same report showed that manufacturers are also cutting back on employment, suggesting that a boom has yet to begin.

TRUMP, on tariffs on China: "We've taken in tens of billions of dollars from China. We never took 10 cents from China, never -- not even 10 cents." — news conference Monday.

THE FACTS: It's false to say the U.S. never collected a dime in tariffs on Chinese goods before he took action. They are simply higher in some cases than they were before. It's also wrong to suggest that the tariffs are being paid by China. Tariff money coming into the treasury is mainly from U.S. businesses and consumers, not from China. Tariffs are primarily if not entirely a tax paid domestically.

## MAIL VOTING

TRUMP: Universal mail-in voting is "a system riddled by fraud and corruption." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Voting fraud actually is very rare.

The Brennan Center for Justice in 2017 ranked the risk of ballot fraud at 0.00004% to 0.0009%, based on studies of past elections.

Five states relied on mail-in ballots even before the coronavirus pandemic raised concerns about voting in person.

"Trump is simply wrong about mail-in balloting raising a 'tremendous' potential for fraud," Richard L. Hasen, an elections expert at the University of California, Irvine, School of Law, wrote recently. "While

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certain pockets of the country have seen their share of absentee-ballot scandals, problems are extremely rare in the five states that rely primarily on vote-by-mail, including the heavily Republican state of Utah.”

## NEW YORK VOTING

TRUMP: “You just look at what happened with the Carolyn Maloney race. They should do that race over, by the way. ... When you look at the ballot, the ballots that are missing, and the ballot frauds — nobody knows what’s going on with that race, and yet they declared her a winner.” — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: There’s no evidence of fraud in the Democratic congressional primary in New York City that was won by Democratic Rep. Carolyn Maloney. Nor did Trump offer any proof of fraud.

New York State decided to allow anyone to vote by mail in the June primary because of the pandemic. More than 400,000 people voted by absentee ballot in New York City, a figure that was 10 times the number of absentee ballots cast in the 2016 primary.

Opening and counting those ballots by elections officials took weeks, leading to a legal dispute over nonfraud issues, such as missing postmarks. Candidates observing the count say that thousands of ballots were disqualified because of technical errors voters wouldn’t have encountered if they had voted in person, like problems with their signature.

New York City’s Board of Elections ultimately certified the results six weeks after the election.

Associated Press writers Amanda Seitz in Chicago, and Luran Neergaard, Amer Madhani and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

EDITOR’S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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## 75 years later, can Asia shake off shackles of the past?

By FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Northeast Asia doesn’t so much repeat history as drag it along like an anchor.

The bombs stopped falling 75 years ago, but it is entirely possible — crucial even, some argue — to view the region’s world-beating economies, its massive cultural and political reach and its bitter trade, territory and history disputes through a single prism: World War II and Japan’s aggression in the Pacific.

Even as Northeast Asia’s tangle of interlinking economic and political webs grows denser by the day, the potential for an unraveling may loom as large now as at any time since 1945.

Japan in 2020 is unrecognizable to the fascist military machine that once rolled across Asia. Its military is now legally constrained as a “self-defense force.” Its constitution demands peaceful cooperation with the world. Postwar Japan has pumped trillions of yen (tens of billions of dollars) into regional development.

So how does this peaceful, generous, stable nation still enrage so many? Why do the crimes of long-dead Japanese politicians and soldiers still loom so large in its neighbors’ eyes?

For many Koreans and Chinese, there’s a dogged perception, long encouraged by their national leaders, that Japan has failed to fully address past atrocities, including the sexual enslavement of Asian women by Japanese troops, the forced labor of Asian men in Japanese factories and mines, and a host of other unresolved insults lingering from Japan’s brutal early 20th century push for regional dominance.

Many in Japan, meanwhile, are frustrated that repeated and explicit high-level apologies for wartime actions — not to mention the huge amounts of aid sent to former enemies over the years — have seen so little goodwill in return.

It’s useful to put the immense scale of the war’s horrors in context when examining why, 75 years later, Japan and its neighbors still can’t come to terms with what’s euphemistically referred to as their “history problems.”

With its millions dead, injured and displaced, with its grand ideological narratives belying some of the

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worst brutality in the history of warfare, with its cities pounded to rubble and then, almost as shockingly, rebuilt as glittering, high-tech showpieces, the war in Asia has seared itself into the world's collective consciousness.

Because Japan played such a central role in those years it is jarring to remember what a neglected afterthought it was — isolated, feudal, deeply wary of the outside world — when U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry's warships forced the ruling shoguns to open up to trade and commerce with the West in 1854.

A little less than a century later, Japan's foreign minister doffed his top hat to sign surrender papers on the deck of the USS Missouri as it floated in Tokyo Bay.

Japan's breathtaking rise and fall, in that comparatively short period of time, was, according to John Dower's masterful study of the postwar U.S. occupation of Japan, "swifter, more audacious, more successful, and ultimately more crazed, murderous and self-destructive than anyone had imagined possible. In retrospect, it seemed almost an illusion — a 93-year dream become nightmare that began and ended with American warships."

And now?

Updated versions of those U.S. warships still patrol the same waters, dispatched from permanent American bases in South Korea and Japan. This infuriates North Korea and China, who use it to justify their own fast-increasing arsenals.

But the anger in North Asia can seem most incandescent when directed at Japan.

The reason the war continues to play such an out-sized role in regional ties is because political leaders in Seoul and Beijing "see the advantage in keeping these memories alive, not just to honor the dead, which everyone does, but for political advantage," Ralph Cossa, president emeritus of the Pacific Forum think tank in Hawaii, said in an email interview.

Most Koreans and Chinese alive today didn't experience the war, and memories of what happened are fading with each passing year.

But "the narratives of oppression and victimization are central to an identity and cemented through education and popular culture," said Daniel Sneider, an expert on East Asia at Stanford University. "In that sense, the wartime historical memory also undermines the stability and prosperity of the region."

In comparison to Asia, Europe has more successfully moved past the trauma of World War II, with Germany now working mostly in partnership with France and Britain, for instance. This may be because the Soviet threat during the Cold War forced the former European foes to cooperate.

The postwar years in Asia, instead, saw a split that killed collaboration and healing, with Japan and South Korea in the U.S. camp and China and North Korea in the Soviet camp. The Korean Peninsula was literally split into a Soviet-backed north and U.S.-backed south.

Germany "solved" its war issues by squarely facing up to its past, said Wang Shaopu, a Japanese studies professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and honorary president of the Japan Society of Shanghai.

"To a large extent, Japan's foreign policies are following the United States," Wang said. "Japan should learn a lesson from World War II to correctly deal with the issue of history, which is good for the world and for Japan."

The war debate has also divided Japan.

Progressives acknowledge Japan's responsibility for its crimes. Conservatives, however, say Japan, as it struggled against Western imperialism, was boxed into war by resentful Western powers and then punished by unfair postwar trials. Those divisions have complicated efforts to address the past and compensate victims.

Many are also exasperated over what's seen in Japan as an unwillingness of China and the Koreans to recognize the efforts Tokyo has made to make amends.

"The Chinese, Korean and Southeast Asian tigers (and their) economic miracles would not have happened as quickly, and perhaps not even at all, if Japan had not led the way and provided generous assistance," Cossa said. "History did not end in 1945. There is a second half of the 20th century where no nation was as generous as Japan in helping others."

Conservative Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe often plays to Japanese frustration with its neighbors.

And much of the anger in South Korea and China centers on Japanese conservatives, including Abe, questioning past apologies and crimes and pushing for a stronger military.

So how will Northeast Asia heal its ancient wounds?

Political leaders, for one, will have to "resist the temptation to use the past for their own ends. It also requires a readiness by Japan, and by others, to more fully confront that legacy and reassure Asians and others that they have learned the lessons of the past," said Sneider, author of "Divided Memories: History Textbooks and the Wars in Asia."

If the last 75 years are any basis for judgment, dealing with the still-painful legacy will not be any easier as a riven Asia moves into the remaining decades of this century.

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Associated Press researcher Yu Bing in Beijing contributed to this report.

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Foster Klug, AP's news director for Japan, the Koreas, Australia and the South Pacific, has covered Asia since 2005. Follow him at [www.twitter.com/apklug](http://www.twitter.com/apklug)

## Post Office warns states across US about mail voting

By BRIAN SLODYSKO and AMY BETH HANSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Postal Service is warning states coast to coast that it cannot guarantee all ballots cast by mail for the November election will arrive in time to be counted, even if mailed by state deadlines, raising the possibility that millions of voters could be disenfranchised.

Voters and lawmakers in several states are also complaining that some curbside mail collection boxes are being removed.

Even as President Donald Trump rails against widescale voting by mail, the post office is bracing for an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The warning letters sent to states raise the possibility that many Americans eligible for mail-in ballots this fall will not have them counted. But that is not the intent, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said in his own letter to Democratic congressional leaders.

The post office is merely "asking elected officials and voters to realistically consider how the mail works, and be mindful of our delivery standards, in order to provide voters ample time to cast ballots through the mail," wrote DeJoy, a prominent Trump political donor who was recently appointed.

The back-and-forth comes amid a vigorous campaign by Trump to sow doubts about mail-in voting as he faces a difficult fight for reelection against Democrat Joe Biden.

Though Trump casts his own ballots by mail, he's repeatedly criticized efforts to allow more people to do so, which he argues without evidence will lead to increased voter fraud that could cost him the election. Meanwhile, members of Congress from both parties have voiced concerns that curbside mail boxes, which is how many will cast their ballots, have abruptly been removed in some states.

At the same time that the need for timely delivery of the mail is peaking, service has been curtailed amid cost-cutting and efficiency measures ordered by the DeJoy, the new postmaster general, who is a former supply-chain CEO. He has implemented measures to eliminate overtime pay and hold mail over if distribution centers are running late.

The Post Office released letters it sent to all 50 states and the District Columbia on its website. While some states with permissive vote-by-mail laws were given a less stringent warning, the majority with more restrictive requirements that limit when a ballot must be cast were given a more dire warning.

The laws, the letter said, create a "risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted."

Many state officials criticized the move.

"This is a deeply troubling development in what is becoming a clear pattern of attempted voter suppression by the Trump administration," Democratic Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam said in a statement. "I am committed to making sure all Virginians have access to the ballot box, and will continue to work with

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state and federal lawmakers to ensure safe, secure and accessible elections this fall.”

Kim Wyman, the Republican secretary of state in Washington state, where all voting is by mail, said sending fall ballot material to millions of voters there is a “routine operation of the U.S. Postal Service.”

“Politicizing these administrative processes is dangerous and undermines public confidence in our elections,” she said in a statement. “This volume of work is by no means unusual, and is an operation I am confident the U.S. Postal Service is sufficiently prepared to fulfill.”

Meanwhile, the removal of Postal Service collection mail boxes triggered concerns and anger in Oregon and Montana. Boxes were also removed in Indiana.

In Montana, postal officials said the removals were part of a program to eliminate underused drop boxes. But after the outcry, which included upset members of Congress, the officials said they were suspending the program in Montana. It was unclear if the program was also suspended in other states.

At least 25 mail boxes were removed in mid-July in Montana with another 30 scheduled to be taken away soon, said Julie Quilliam, president of the Montana Letter Carriers Association. She rejected the claim that the boxes were removed because of low usage.

“Some of the boxes scheduled to be removed from downtown Billings are nearly overflowing daily,” Quilliam wrote in a Facebook message.

All three members of Montana’s congressional delegation — two of whom are Republican — raised concerns about the removal of mail boxes in letters sent to Postmaster DeJoy.

“These actions set my hair on fire and they have real life implications for folks in rural America and their ability to access critical postal services like paying their bills and voting in upcoming elections,” said Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat.

Republican Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte, also a Republican, raised similar concerns in letters to DeJoy about the effect the removal of the mail boxes might have on delivery times. All three asked for information on how the agency decided which boxes to remove and whether any more removals were planned.

“During the current public health crisis it is more important than ever the USPS continue to provide prompt, dependable delivery service,” said Gianforte.

Postal Service spokesperson Ernie Swanson said the Oregon removals were due to declining mail volume and that duplicate mail boxes were taken from places that had more than one. The Postal Service said four mail boxes were removed in Portland this week.

“First-class mail volume has declined significantly in the U.S., especially since the pandemic,” Swanson said. “That translates to less mail in collection boxes.”

Separately, the National Association of Letter Carriers, which represents 300,000 current and retired workers, endorsed Biden.

The union said Trump has been hostile to the post office and has undermined it and its workers while Biden “is – was – and will continue to be – a fierce ally and defender of the United States Postal Service,” said union president Fredric Rolando.

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Hanson reported from Helena, Montana. Associated Press writers across the U.S. contributed to this report.

## The Latest: S Korea fears infections getting out of control

By The Associated Press undefined

SEOUL, South Korea — New coronavirus cases in South Korea have reached the highest level in five months, and authorities fear infections are getting out of control in the Seoul region, which is home to half the country’s 51 million people.

Officials reported 166 newly confirmed cases Saturday. That was the highest since March 11, when South Korea reported 242 amid an outbreak in the southeastern city of Daegu and nearby towns.

With 103 new cases reported Friday, this is the first time since late March that the daily increase surpassed 100 two days in a row.

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Officials say all but 11 of the new cases were local transmissions, and most were in the Seoul area.

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

- Canada-U.S. border closed for another month
- Alabama Gov. Ivey's chief of staff in quarantine
- Indonesia takes part in late-stage China vaccine trial
- Rural families without internet face tough choice on school. Roughly 3 million students across the United States don't have access to a home internet connection. For some, it is simply too expensive or there's no wi-fi.
- A federal judge threw out a lawsuit by an Arizona woman who claimed New York's quarantine requirement for travelers from hotspot states infringed on her "fundamental right to travel."
- NBA players at the Walt Disney World campus have been safe, with no players testing positive for the coronavirus since arriving in early July. Now some players whose teams missed the playoffs return home to virus hotspots.
- Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Popular tourist destinations in the Navajo Nation, including Canyon de Chelly, can start welcoming back tourists Monday under the tribe's reopening plan.

Much of the reservation has been closed since March as the new coronavirus swept through.

The tribe released a plan this week that allows parks and marinas to reopen with safeguards. Businesses can operate at limited capacity.

Tribal President Jonathan Nez says the Navajo Nation won't rush to fully reopen, recognizing that cases could spike if residents become complacent.

Employees at tribal and national parks on the reservation say they will be busy this weekend preparing for tourists.

MELBOURNE, Australia — The Australian state of Victoria continues to flatten the curve in its wave of coronavirus infections and deaths.

The state on Saturday reported four more COVID-19 deaths and 303 newly confirmed cases in the previous 24 hours. It is the second-lowest daily figure reported in Victoria this month after 278 cases Thursday.

Victoria's daily case numbers are gradually decreasing, with the seven-day average down to 344 from 521 a week ago.

But authorities warn there is more progress needed before lockdown restrictions in the city of Melbourne can be eased.

Melbourne residents and those in a nearby shire remain subject to strict night-time curfews, time limits on outdoor exercise, distance allowed from home, mandatory public mask wearing and shutdowns of non-essential industries.

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's number of confirmed coronavirus cases has risen to 511,369, as health officials say they believe the country's infections have peaked.

They reported 5,618 new confirmed cases Friday, and said 615 more deaths from COVID-19 had raised the pandemic death toll to 55,908.

Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell says Mexico had reached its peak of infections over the last three weeks, saying that "we have now had a maximum point in the curve."

However, he predicts that second waves of outbreaks will continue around the world for time. He says that "this is a phenomenon that is going to be with us in the whole world for several years."



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PARIS — Paris is expanding the areas of the city where pedestrians will be obliged to wear masks starting Saturday morning, with health officials saying the coronavirus is “active” in the French capital and the Mediterranean city of Marseille,

The Champs-Elysees Avenue and the area around the Louvre museum are among zones where masks will be mandatory.

Paris police checks ensuring respect for mask wearing in designated areas are to be reinforced. Bars and restaurants could be ordered closed if distancing and other barriers to virus transmission aren’t respected.

With France’s national figures on infections also rising, Britain late Thursday ordered a quarantine for people entering the United Kingdom from France. France responded Friday by saying it would do the same for travelers from Britain.

HONOLULU — Hawaii’s teachers union is challenging the state’s school reopening plans by filing a labor complaint.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association filed a complaint with the state Labor Relations Board over a change in working conditions from increasing COVID-19 infections.

Most public schools will start the academic year Monday with online instruction. The union is asking that all schools be online until at least the end of the first quarter.

The union says some schools are going forward with in-person instruction. The state Department of Education disputes that statement. The union is asking teachers to wear black on Monday.

PHOENIX -- Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey’s office says unemployed residents of the state were expecting to receive an additional \$400 a week under an executive order by President Donald Trump will get only \$300 extra.

Friday’s announcement comes after the state decided it should not use its own funds to cover a required 25% match to the extra coronavirus payments.

Arizonans were getting \$600 extra on top of the maximum \$240 a week. But that extra pay expired in late July when Congress failed to extend it.

Also on Friday, Arizona health officials reported 928 newly confirmed coronavirus cases and 40 additional deaths, increasing the state’s totals to 191,721 confirmed cases with 4,423 deaths.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The Illinois Department of Public Health is reporting 2,264 more people have tested positive for the coronavirus — the largest increase in confirmed cases in nearly three months and the third time the state has topped 2,000 daily cases in the last week.

The state health department also said Friday that 25 more people have died from the virus, raising Illinois’ death toll from the pandemic to 7,721.

The most confirmed cases reported in Illinois in a single day was 4,014 on May 12.

In a press release, the health department blamed the uptick in the number of virus cases on local elected officials of communities “where there is little public concern for consequences or enforcement” of social distancing and isolation orders. Officials say 14 of the state’s 102 counties were deemed at “warning level” for the resurgence.

FRESNO, Calif. -- Students at a private school in California have attended a second day of in-person classes despite state and county orders to close the school.

Immanuel Schools in Reedley was told on Thursday to close its classrooms until the county is removed from a state monitoring list for two weeks. Fresno County also issued a health order against the K-12 school, which has about 600 students.

But the school allowed students into classes Thursday and Friday without masks or social distancing. The school’s trustees and superintendent say they believe students’ development will suffer if they cannot be taught on campus.

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LANSING, Mich. — Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer says 4 million masks will be distributed to the state's residents at no charge to help combat the coronavirus pandemic.

The face coverings will go to low-income people, seniors, schools and homeless shelters through a partnership of the state, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Ford Motor Co.

FEMA is supplying 2.5 million of the masks, including 1.5 million that the state has already sent to social service agencies. Ford is paying for 1.5 million masks, which combined with an additional 1 million from FEMA will go to low-income schools, the city of Detroit, health clinics for the poor, some virus testing sites and other places.

The governor has required that masks be worn in enclosed public spaces and also in outdoor public areas whenever consistent distancing is not possible.

LOS ANGELES — California is withering under a heat wave that has brought dangerously high temperatures, increased wildfire danger and fears of coronavirus spread as people flock to beaches and recreation areas.

High pressure building over Western states pushed temperatures into triple digits across the state by midday Friday.

Los Angeles opened cooling centers, but with limited capacity because of coronavirus social distancing requirements.

Health officers were worried that people will pack beaches, lakes and other recreation areas without following mask and social distancing orders — a major concern in a state that has seen more than 600,000 coronavirus cases.

Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist at the University of California, San Francisco, told the San Francisco Chronicle that Israel saw a COVID-19 resurgence after a May heat wave inspired school officials to let children remove their masks.

"People will want to take off their masks when it's hot," Rutherford said. "Don't do it."

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — A pair of COVID-19 clusters has been discovered at separate dormitories at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

An alert sent out by the school on Friday said the clusters were confirmed in Ehringhaus Community on the south end of campus and Granville Towers, which is on the west side of campus and adjacent to downtown Chapel Hill.

According to the school, the people in the clusters have been identified and are isolating and receiving medical monitoring. The school says it has also notified the Orange County Health Department and is working with the agency to identify possible potential exposures.

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida's high school athletic board has voted to begin practices for football and other fall sports Aug. 24 and games less than two weeks later. The decision pushes aside the advice of medical experts who said competition shouldn't resume for at least six weeks because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The Florida High School Athletic Association board voted 11-5 on Friday to begin practices this month, though some counties with major outbreaks might choose to delay their seasons and forgo participation in the statewide playoffs.

Football games and other competitions could start Sept. 4, but the 67 countywide school districts plus private schools will have until Sept. 18 to resume if they want to participate in the playoffs. Other fall sports affected are swimming and diving, cross country, golf, bowling and girl's volleyball.

The association's vote pushed aside the recommendation of its medical advisory board, which called for not resuming sports until Sept. 28 at the earliest. No county meets all the criteria the board recommended for the resumption of sports.

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The decision comes as Florida reported more than 6,200 new coronavirus cases and 200 deaths on Friday. Over the past week, Florida has averaged 175 reported coronavirus deaths per day — only Texas was higher with 212.

**OAKLAND, Calif.** — A judge has ordered a McDonald's restaurant in California that was hit by a coronavirus outbreak to follow increased health and safety protocols to help stop the spread of the virus.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports an Alameda County judge issued a preliminary injunction on Thursday against the owners of the McDonald's in Oakland. Workers said the outbreak there infected 35 people.

The judge ordered them to provide employees masks and gloves. It also required them to send home workers who show symptoms of infection.

After being closed for weeks, the McDonald's franchise reopened in July after agreeing to requirements in a temporary restraining order.

**PHOENIX** — Arizona health officials on Friday reported 928 coronavirus cases and 40 more deaths.

That increased the state's totals to 191,721 confirmed cases and 4,423 deaths.

Coronavirus-related hospitalizations in Arizona peaked about a month ago. The latest hospitalization metrics posted by the Department of Health Services are trending down to mid-June levels.

The seven-day rolling average of daily new cases decreased from 2,550 to 1,021 per day from July 30 to Aug. 13. The seven-day rolling average of daily deaths decreased from 94 to 54 in the same time period.

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** — Alabama health officials are encouraged by a decline in coronavirus cases a month after a statewide mask order.

State Health Officer Scott Harris says the numbers are improving but warned people shouldn't abandon precautions heading into Labor Day gatherings and school openings.

The seven-day average number of daily cases has dropped below 1,000, after reaching 1,800 in mid-July. The number of hospitalized patients has dropped from about 1,600 to 1,400, and the percent of positive tests has dropped from 16.7% to 12.3%.

Harris encouraged people to keep wearing masks. He says the numbers may be declining because the surge of cases after the July 4 holiday has ended and the statewide mask order in July "played a role" in lowering the numbers.

Dr. Don Williamson, the former state health officer who heads the Alabama Hospital Association, says the next concern is a possible spike when students return to schools and colleges and gather for the Labor Day weekend.

Williamson says while the number of coronavirus patients in hospitals has dropped, 89% of ICU beds are full.

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez is urging all schools on the tribe's reservation to use online learning during the fall semester to help reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

Nez's statement cited all public and private schools, including charter schools, schools operated by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and those controlled by the tribe.

More than 9,300 confirmed coronavirus cases have been reported on the reservation, which includes parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

## Teen leading in Kansas race admits blackmail, revenge porn

By JOHN HANNA AP Political Writer

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)** — Democrats are scrambling to deal with the strong possibility that a 19-year-old candidate for a Kansas House seat in Kansas City will unseat a veteran lawmaker despite making incendiary comments on social media and acknowledging abusive behavior online toward girls in middle school.

Aaron Coleman, a dishwasher and community college student, holds a five-vote lead over seven-term

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state Rep. Stan Frownfelter, a 69-year-old small business owner. Officials in their home of Wyandotte County are scheduled to meet Monday to review provisional ballots and decide whether to count them, potentially altering Coleman's 807-802 lead in voting.

Coleman is running a liberal platform that includes universal health coverage, eliminating college tuition, defunding the police and legalizing marijuana. But he received more attention for a social media post suggesting he would "laugh and giggle" if a former GOP state lawmaker died of COVID-19, another post endorsing abortion up to the moment of birth and a third acknowledging that allegations that he engaged in online bullying, blackmail and revenge porn were true. He apologized for the comments and said his past behavior targeting several middle-school girls was that of "a sick and troubled" 14-year-old.

Some Democrats are struggling with the possibility that with no Republican on the ballot in the 37th District this fall, Coleman could sit in the House come January. Frownfelter argues that Coleman's nomination could hurt Democrats' efforts to pick up seats in the GOP-controlled Legislature.

"He is not fit to serve in the Legislature," said Lauren Fitzgerald, a spokeswoman for Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly.

Coleman also ran as an independent write-in candidate for governor in 2018. He attributed the results of the House primary to his door-to-door campaigning and said in an email to The Associated Press that he was "absolutely shocked" by the results.

"I ran to talk about how to make Kansas better for working people," Coleman said. "I never expected I would win."

Frownfelter won the Kansas City, Kansas, seat in 2006 and hadn't previously faced a contested primary. He also faced no opponent at all in five of his seven previous elections. Frownfelter said in an interview that he believes that had turnout been higher, he would have won and suggested that young voters came out to back Coleman while older constituents did not vote.

"Everybody I talked to said, 'Oh, you don't have to worry. You're going to win,'" Frownfelter said. He added that that many voters didn't know of Coleman's social media posts or past behavior.

Coleman's social media posts about coronavirus and abortion have been taken down, and in an Aug. 1 post on Facebook, he apologized that he had "crossed a boundary."

"I'm new at politics and so sometimes I speak a little too directly," he said in his email Friday to AP. "But these issues are life and death."

The Kansas City Star detailed the allegations about Coleman's behavior in middle school in a recent editorial decrying the possibility that he could serve in the House. He did not dispute the newspaper's account.

The Star said Coleman obtained a nude photo of a girl, threatened to distribute it unless she sent him more nude photos and followed through with the threat when she didn't provide more photos. Asked about the accuracy of those details, Coleman said in his email to the AP, "They're accurate."

Coleman said Friday that he was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder at age 15. In a June 17 Facebook post, he attributed his problems partly to spending "the vast majority" of his elementary school education "in a closet" instead of getting proper help at school. He said he was home-schooled in middle school.

"I've grown a great deal since then," he said in his Friday email.

Doug Powers, assistant superintendent of the Kansas City-area Turner school district where Coleman went to elementary school, said it does not "put kids in closets."

State Democratic Party officials are not commenting at least until the vote-counting is done. Jacques Barber, Wyandotte County's Democratic chairman, said the party shouldn't try to overturn the result if Coleman is declared the nominee but "try to counsel him and give him as much guidance as we can."

"He has been elected by the people, and the people have been exposed to what he's said and done, and apparently, that's their choice," Barber said.

## Trump orders Chinese owner of TikTok to sell US assets

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday gave the Chinese company ByteDance 90 days to divest itself of any assets used to support the popular TikTok app in the United States.

Trump's executive order said there is "credible evidence that leads me to believe that ByteDance ... might take action that threatens to impair the national security of the United States."

Trump last week ordered sweeping but vague bans on dealings with the Chinese owners of TikTok and the messaging app WeChat, saying they are a threat to U.S. national security, foreign policy and the economy.

It remains unclear what the TikTok orders mean for the app's 100 million U.S. users, many of them teenagers or young adults who use it to post and watch short-form videos. Trump on Friday also ordered ByteDance to divest itself of "any data obtained or derived" from TikTok users in the U.S.

Microsoft is in talks to buy parts of TikTok.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany defended Trump's earlier TikTok and WeChat orders Thursday, telling reporters he was exercising his emergency authority under a 1977 law enabling the president to regulate international commerce to address unusual threats.

"The administration is committed to protecting the American people from all cyber threats and these apps collect significant amounts of private data on users," said McEnany, adding that the Chinese government can access and use such data.

TikTok said it spent nearly a year trying to engage in "good faith" with the U.S. government to address these concerns.

"What we encountered instead was that the Administration paid no attention to facts, dictated terms of an agreement without going through standard legal processes, and tried to insert itself into negotiations between private businesses," the company's statement said.

## 9th Circuit ends California ban on high-capacity magazines

By DON THOMPSON Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday threw out California's ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines, saying the law violates the U.S. Constitution's protection of the right to bear firearms.

"Even well-intentioned laws must pass constitutional muster," appellate Judge Kenneth Lee wrote for the panel's majority. California's ban on magazines holding more than 10 bullets "strikes at the core of the Second Amendment — the right to armed self-defense."

He noted that California passed the law "in the wake of heart-wrenching and highly publicized mass shootings," but said that isn't enough to justify a ban whose scope "is so sweeping that half of all magazines in America are now unlawful to own in California."

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra's office said it is reviewing the decision and he "remains committed to using every tool possible to defend California's gun safety laws and keep our communities safe."

Gun owners cannot immediately rush to buy high-capacity magazines because a stay issued by the lower court judge remains in place.

But Becerra did not say if the state would seek a further delay of Friday's ruling to prevent an immediate buying spree if the lower court judge ends that restriction. Gun groups estimated that more than a million high-capacity ammunition magazines may have legally flooded into California during a one-week window before the judge stayed his ruling three years ago.

Becerra also did not say if he would ask a larger 11-judge appellate panel to reconsider the ruling by the three judges, or if he would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who championed the magazine ban when he was lieutenant governor, defended the law as a vital gun violence prevention measure.

"I think it was sound, I think it was right, and ... the overwhelming majority of Californians agreed when they supported a ballot initiative that we put forth," he said Friday.

California Rifle & Pistol Association attorney Chuck Michel called Friday's decision "a huge victory" for

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gun owners "and the right to choose to own a firearm to defend your family," while a group that favors firearms restrictions called it "dangerous" and expects it will be overturned.

The ruling has national implications because other states have similar restrictions, though it immediately applies only to Western states under the appeals court's jurisdiction.

Gun rights groups have been trying to get such cases before the nation's high court now that it has a more conservative majority.

The decision written by an appellate judge appointed by President Donald Trump "should put gun safety advocates across the country on high alert," said Giffords Law Center Litigation Director Hannah Shearer. "These judges are gaining potentially irreversible inroads on our appellate courts."

However, the Supreme Court's majority in June declined to consider several challenges to federal and state gun control laws, including Massachusetts' ban on large-capacity ammunition magazines.

Aside from the magazine ban itself, Michel and the unaffiliated Second Amendment Foundation said the case has legal implications for other gun restrictions should it reach the justices because it could allow the court to clarify an obscure legal debate over what standard of review should be used.

"The Supreme Court seems inclined to do away with the complicated subjective tests that many courts have wrongly applied in Second Amendment cases, in favor of a clearer more objective 'originalist' approach that considers the text, history and tradition of a law to determine what infringements might be tolerated," Michel said in an email.

Friday's ruling was a fractured decision partly because of that issue: Two of the three judges voted to toss out the state's ban, while the third judge dissented.

U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Lynn of Texas, who had been named the third judge on the appellate panel, said the majority's ruling conflicts with decisions in six other federal appellate courts across the nation, and with a 2015 ruling by a different panel of the 9th Circuit itself. She said she would have upheld California's law based on that precedent.

"This ruling is an extreme outlier" given those earlier decisions, said Eric Tirschwell, managing director for Everytown Law, the litigation team affiliated with Everytown for Gun Safety that favors firearms restrictions. He said he expects a larger 9th Circuit panel to "correct this erroneous, dangerous, and out-of-step decision."

Opponents argued unsuccessfully that larger capacity magazines are not needed for self-protection.

"The Second Amendment does not empower private citizens to arm themselves with weapons of war," said Jonathan Lowy of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Friday's decision upholds a 2017 ruling by San Diego-based U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez, who blocked a new law that would have barred gun owners from possessing magazines holding more than 10 bullets.

But he and the appeals court went further by declaring unconstitutional a state law that had prohibited buying or selling such magazines since 2000. That law had let those who had the magazines before then keep them, but barred new sales or imports.

## Ex-FBI lawyer to plead guilty in Trump-Russia probe review

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former FBI lawyer plans to plead guilty to making a false statement in the first criminal case arising from U.S. Attorney John Durham's investigation into the probe of ties between Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign, his lawyer said Friday.

Kevin Clinesmith is accused of altering a government email about a former Trump campaign adviser who was a target of secret FBI surveillance, according to documents filed in Washington's federal court. His lawyer, Justin Shur, told The Associated Press that Clinesmith intends to plead guilty to the single false statement count and that he regrets his actions.

The case against Clinesmith was cheered by President Donald Trump and his supporters as they look to the Durham investigation to lift Trump's wobbly reelection prospects and to expose what they see as wrongdoing as the FBI opened an investigation into whether the Trump campaign was coordinating with

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the Kremlin to sway the outcome of the 2016 election.

"The fact is they spied on my campaign and they got caught," Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday. His political campaign issued its own statement saying "abuses of power" in the Russia investigation "represent the greatest political crime in American history" and everyone involved should be held accountable.

Yet the five-page charging document is limited in scope and does not allege criminal wrongdoing by anyone other than Clinesmith, nor does it offer evidence to support Trump's assertions that the Russia probe was tainted by widespread political bias in the FBI. It makes clear that the FBI relied on Clinesmith's own misrepresentations as it sought to renew its surveillance of former Trump campaign aide Carter Page.

The Durham probe, which is also examining the intelligence community's assessment about Russian election interference, has caused concern among Democrats, who view it as a politically charged exercise meant to relitigate an already closed investigation. They fear that charges or public reports issued so close to the 2020 election could be timed to affect November's vote.

Durham's inquiry has proceeded alongside a parallel effort by Senate Republicans to discredit the Russia probe and as Attorney General William Barr has escalated his own criticism of the FBI's probe. Documents released in recent months have called into question the validity of information the FBI relied on, particularly from a dossier of Democratic-funded research, when the agency applied for applications to surveil Page.

Durham, the U.S. attorney for Connecticut, had no comment, a spokesman said. It remains unclear what additional charges, if any, Durham might bring, though he has been closely scrutinizing how intelligence agencies arrived at the conclusion that Russia had interfered in 2016 to benefit Trump.

Justice Department policy directs prosecutors to not take investigative actions aimed at affecting an election, or that could advantage or disadvantage a candidate. But Barr has said he does not feel constrained by that policy in part because the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, is not a target of Durham's investigation.

Durham's work parallels in some respects a separate investigation into the Russia probe by the Justice Department's inspector general office. That office concluded in a report last December that the Russia investigation was opened for a valid reason, but it also identified significant errors and omissions in surveillance applications filed in 2016 and 2017 that targeted Page.

The watchdog office also referred Clinesmith for potential prosecution.

Specifically, the inspector general accused Clinesmith, though not by name, of altering an email to say that Page was "not a source" for another government agency.

Page has stated publicly that he was a CIA source. The inspector general's report and Friday's charging document describe how Clinesmith inquired of another government agency, presumably the CIA, whether Page had been a source. He said that that was a fact that would need to be disclosed as the FBI applied to the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to renew its surveillance of Page.

In June 2017, the documents show, Clinesmith was provided with information about Page's relationship with the agency, which had approved him as an "operational contact" between 2008 and 2013.

When an FBI colleague who was involved in preparing the surveillance application followed up by instant message with Clinesmith on the question of whether Page had ever been a government source, Clinesmith responded that Page had "never been a source," according to court documents.

When asked if he had that information in writing, the documents allege, Clinesmith altered an email he had received from the other agency by adding the words "and not a source" and then forwarded it to the FBI supervisory special agent.

The FBI relied on those misrepresentations in its final surveillance application and omitted that information about Page, prosecutors allege, even though any relationship between Page and the government would have been important to disclose to the FISA court to the extent it could help explain interactions Page had had with Russians.

Clinesmith told the inspector general that he had not actually understood Page to be a source, or "recruited asset," for another government agency.

"Kevin deeply regrets having altered the email," Shur said in a statement. "It was never his intent to mislead the court or his colleagues, as he believed the information he relayed was accurate, but Kevin understands what he did was wrong and accepts responsibility."

Durham is a veteran prosecutor with a history of special assignments from Washington, including leading a Justice Department investigation into the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques of terror suspects and the destruction of videotapes documenting those interrogations.

Barr appointed Durham just weeks after special counsel Robert Mueller concluded his nearly two-year investigation.

Mueller found significant contacts during the 2016 campaign between Russians and Trump associates but did not allege a criminal conspiracy between them. He also examined multiple episodes in which Trump sought to affect or choke off the Russia investigation, but he did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump had obstructed justice.

Barr quickly signaled his skepticism with the Russia investigation, concluding that Trump had not obstructed justice even though Mueller had pointedly left that question unresolved.

## Trump gets endorsement of NYC police union

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

BEDMINSTER, N.J. (AP) — Seeking to amplify his law-and-order message, President Donald Trump on Friday told hundreds of New York Police Department officers that "no one will be safe in Biden's America" if the former Democratic vice president defeats him in November.

"This guy has been taking your dignity away and your respect," Trump said of former Vice President Joe Biden. "And I'm telling you on Nov. 3 you're going to be getting it back."

Trump spoke to members of the City of New York Police Benevolent Association, the union representing some 24,000 rank-and-file officers as he steps up his attacks on Biden and his running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris. The president's campaign is looking to raise doubts about the Biden-Harris ticket's ability to keep the peace in the nation's biggest metropolises. Trump was formally endorsed by the union during the event at his New Jersey golf course.

Trump is ripping a page out of Richard Nixon's law-and-order campaign playbook from 1968 — when American streets were rife with racial protests and Nixon campaigned vowing to crack down and restore order in an appeal tailored to white voters.

At a moment when the nation has been jarred by sometimes violent protests over police brutality, Trump has repeatedly blamed big city mayors in Democratic-strongholds - including New York, Portland, Seattle, Chicago - for undermining police officers.

"In New York, you have New York's finest, but they've totally taken away their incentive," Trump said earlier this week. "They've taken away their lives, in a sense, because they don't allow them to do their job."

In recent weeks, Trump has repeatedly and falsely asserted that Biden supports defunding the police. His campaign has aired advertising in battleground states showing a woman calling police for help as an intruder breaks into her home and getting a voice recording informing her that, because the police have been defunded, no one is available to take her call.

Trump has also tweeted warnings to "Suburban Housewives" that Biden will shatter their communities by requiring communities to build lower income housing as part of new development. Trump recently revoked an Obama-era housing regulation designed to eliminate racial disparities in the suburbs.

The president, in his speech, also took sharp aim at Harris, a former California attorney general, as being hostile to police, and suggested that she and Biden were at the center of "a left wing war on cops"

"Probably she's a step worse, Kamala," Trump said.



## Georgia park with Confederate sculpture shuts gates to rally

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Suburban Atlanta's Stone Mountain Park, home of a giant sculpture of Confederate leaders, says it will close its gates Saturday in the face of a planned right-wing rally.

The event has sparked fears of violence, especially before an all-Black militia said earlier this week that it would cancel plans to show up. Other groups were still planning to counterprotest.

Pro-Confederate, white supremacist and other right-wing groups had planned their event in response to a march by the Black militia group on July 4.

Last year, the park also closed down rather than allow a rally organized by white supremacists to go forward.

The organizers were led by an Arkansas group called Confederate States III%, which applied for a permit. But Stone Mountain Memorial Association spokesperson John Bankhead said the park denied the permit on Aug. 4. The denial cited a violent clash between groups in April 2016. Bankhead said the park has not received any other permit applications. He said police would be present to keep demonstrators away.

Bankhead said the park will reopen Sunday.

Officials in the adjoining city of Stone Mountain advised people Friday to stay away from the city all day, residents to stay home and businesses to shut down.

"Do not confront the protesters," the city wrote in a public announcement posted on social media.

"Please know that the city's local law enforcement agency is managing the situation and has devised a plan for the protection of life and property," the announcement continued. "Every effort is being made to ensure that any demonstrations conducted within the city's limits are performed peacefully and without incident."

The predominantly Black demonstrators on July 4 spoke out against the huge sculpture depicting Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Carved into a granite mountain, the bas-relief sculpture is the largest Confederate monument ever crafted.

The 100 to 200 protesters, many of whom carried large rifles, were peaceful.

Although the park has historically been a gathering spot for white supremacists, the adjoining city of Stone Mountain has a majority-Black population today.

The park at Stone Mountain markets itself as a family theme park rather than a shrine to the "Lost Cause" mythology that romanticizes the Confederacy as chivalrous defenders of states' rights. It's a popular recreation spot for many families on the east side of Atlanta, with hiking trails, a golf course, boat rentals and other attractions. The park has long been known for its laser light shows, but those have been canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Japan marks 75th anniversary of war end with no Abe apology

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan on Saturday marked the 75th anniversary of its surrender in World War II, with Emperor Naruhito expressing "deep remorse" over his country's wartime actions at a somber annual ceremony curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Naruhito pledged to reflect on the war's events and expressed hope that the tragedy would never be repeated. There was no word of apology from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who gave thanks for the sacrifices of the Japanese war dead but had nothing to say about the suffering of Japan's neighbors.

"Reflecting on our past and bearing in mind the feelings of deep remorse, I earnestly hope that the ravages of war will never be repeated," Naruhito said in a short speech at the event in Tokyo marking the 75th anniversary of Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, 1945.

Amid virus fears and worries about the fading memories of the fast-aging war generation, about 500 participants, reduced from 6,200 last year, mourned the dead with a minute of silence. Masks were required, and there was no singing of the "Kimigayo" national anthem.

Naruhito has promised to follow in the footsteps of his father, who devoted his 30-year career to making amends for a war fought in the name of Hirohito, the current emperor's grandfather.

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Abe has increasingly sought to whitewash Japan's brutal past since taking office in December 2012. He hasn't acknowledged Japan's wartime hostilities during Aug. 15 speeches, which had previously been a nearly 20-year tradition that began with the 1995 apology of Socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama.

Abe, in a largely domestic-focused speech, said the peace that Japan enjoys today is built on the sacrifices of those who died in the war. He pledged that Japan will reflect on lessons from history and will not repeat the war devastation. He listed damage inflicted on Japan and its people, including the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, massive firebombings of Tokyo and the fierce battle of Okinawa.

Abe pledged to play a greater role in tackling global problems. Under his goal of turning Japan into a "beautiful" and "normal" nation, Abe has steadily pushed to cleanse Japan of its embarrassing wartime history and build up its military by stretching the interpretation of Japan's war-renouncing constitution. It includes acquiring greater missile defense capability in the face of a growing military threat from North Korea and China.

"Remembering those days, I strongly feel we should never wage war," said Shoji Nagaya, 93, who traveled from Hokkaido in northern Japan to commemorate his brother who died of illness while serving in China. "But politicians today seem to have different views than ours, and I really hope that they will not head to a wrong direction."

Abe stayed away from the shrine that honors convicted war criminals among the war dead. He sent a religious offering through a lawmaker, a gesture meant to avoid angering China and South Korea, which consider the Yasukuni shrine a symbol of Japan's militarism. Abe last visited Yasukuni in December 2013.

Four members of his Cabinet did visit the shrine, the first ministerial visit in four years. Among them was Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi who repeatedly visited the shrine on different occasions, including his last visit as serving prime minister on Aug. 15, 2006, that sparked criticism from China and South Korea.

"We decide how we want to pay respects to the war dead. This should not be a diplomatic problem," Internal Affairs Minister Sanae Takaichi, an ultra-conservative who shares Abe's historical views, told reporters after praying at the shrine.

Repeated Yasukuni visits by Japanese government officials "indicates that on the issue of history, Japan has not completely abandoned militarism," said Wang Shaopu, a Japanese studies professor at Jiao Tong University and honorary president of the Japan Society of Shanghai.

"Japan's invasion of China has brought huge disaster to the Chinese people. Under these circumstances, if Japan doesn't face up to historical issues, how could we be sure that Japan will follow the path of peace in the future?"

Kosaburo Tanaka, a martial arts association manager, traveled from Osaka to give thanks for Japan's postwar peace. "Japan hasn't been in any war over the last 75 years and we were able to live peacefully. I think that's all because of the spirits that rest here in Yasukuni. They protect the peace."

Nobuko Bamba a retiree whose grandmother, uncle and aunt died in the March 10, 1945, U.S. firebombing of Tokyo, thinks both sides of history should be remembered.

"There are many people who don't know anything about the war, not only the suffering of the Japanese people, but there are also things that Japanese people did, bad things," Bamba said. "Unless we teach these things to future generations, I don't think war would end."

She prayed for her uncle, whose remains have never been found.

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Associated Press journalists Emily Wang and Chisato Tanaka in Tokyo, and AP researcher Yu Bing in Beijing contributed to this report.

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Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

## Census Bureau adds emails, phone calls to door-knocking

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — If you haven't filled out the 2020 census form yet, you may be getting an email, call or questionnaire in the mail asking you to answer the questions.

The U.S. Census Bureau said Friday it was sending out emails to homes in neighborhoods where the response rate was less than 50%. The email addresses were culled from contact information from state assistance programs and from commercial lists. The Census Bureau said it expects to send out 20 million emails, a first for a decennial census, as the agency enters the homestretch of the once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident.

The 2020 census started for most U.S. residents in March, but some operations were interrupted by the pandemic.

The Census Bureau also said it was directing census-takers to call homes that haven't yet responded, using phone numbers from third-party purchased data, as well as sending out a seventh mailing that includes a paper questionnaire.

The extra efforts to reach out to homes that haven't yet responded to the 2020 census comes as up to 500,000 census-takers were sent out this week to knock on the doors of laggard households. As of Friday, 63.6% of households have responded to the 2020 census.

The extra push is coming as the Census Bureau is dealing with a shortened schedule for wrapping up the head count in the middle of a pandemic. The Census Bureau had asked Congress for deadline extensions that would have allowed it to finish the census at the end of October. With the request stalled in Congress, the Census Bureau said it would finish the count at the end of September.

Census-takers this year have to reach 8 million more homes than they did in 2010, and they have only six weeks instead of the 10 weeks they did a decade ago, according to an analysis by the Center for Urban Research at CUNY. Forty-eight senators, including Alaska's two Republican senators, this week sent a letter to Senate and House leaders urging them to extend the deadlines.

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

## Fear and empathy at LA funeral home serving Black families

By ARON RANEN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When people began dying from the coronavirus in the United States, for a few weeks funeral home owner Candy Boyd declined to receive the remains of such patients.

There were too many unknowns, and Boyd didn't feel like her employees had the training or equipment to safely handle the remains of people who may have active COVID-19 infection in their bodies. But the calls kept coming. Desperate families said other funeral homes were also not receiving people who died of the virus.

Boyd, 53, decided she had to make it work. She reminded herself that she got into the funeral home business more than 10 years ago after running a construction company because she wanted to help people in their most vulnerable state. And the communities her funeral home serves, Black people and others of color in South Los Angeles, were clearly being hard hit.

"It tugged at my heart strings," said Boyd. "To hear some of the stories I've heard in the last three months has been incredible. People having to say goodbye through an iPad, a window."

"Many have not seen their family members in 30 days. The next time they see them is in a casket," she said.

With some other homes still not taking bodies, Boyd said her facility's workload has increased by 40% while constantly adapting to changing state and local regulations.

The first months, she had trouble sleeping and eating. Her 32-year-old daughter, who also works at the funeral home, persuaded her to stop watching the news.

"When the pandemic first started, I had nightmares, I would wake up in a cold sweat thinking about

this," said Boyd.

Boyd is among many funeral home directors and morticians with misgivings about whether to accept those felled by the virus. For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Carol Williams, executive director of the Georgia-based National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, said many of its 1,200 members have struggled to get high-grade protective equipment and decided not to.

"When you have somebody pick up a COVID case, they can catch the disease," said Williams. "As an embalmer, you need a surgical mask, the same thing that doctors have in the hospital."

Today at the Boyd Funeral Home, workers and visitors wear masks at all times. Visitors have their temperature checked at the door. When making arrangements, only two people are allowed in the office. For casket viewings, only five people are allowed in the chapel at a time. They can't congregate, must maintain physical distance and are not allowed to linger. Until a few weeks ago, funeral services were limited to 25 people. Now those services must be held outside.

"I've gotten a lot of push back from families," said Boyd. "We had one lady who said she was going to punch me in the eye because she couldn't stand in the chapel."

Founded in 1963 by Boyd's husband, Reginald Boyd, the funeral home is in Westmont, an area of South Los Angeles that has historically had many Black residents and today also has large numbers of Latinos. Both communities have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus, which has killed more than 165,000 people in the U.S.

Boyd has close relationships with many families in Los Angeles. Workers recently handled the remains and organized the service for the 34-year-old daughter of family friends.

Not long before she died in the hospital, the woman told her mother, "I think COVID has got the best of me. If something happens, please tell Ms. Candy to come and pick me up," Boyd recalled the mother telling her.

"I've seen heads decapitated, legs taken off. I've seen everything. I can't say I've ever seen anything like this," said Boyd. "What bothers me is that they keep saying that a lot more people are going to die."

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Associated Press writer Peter Prengaman in Phoenix contributed to this report.

## US allows killing sea lions eating at-risk Northwest salmon

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — U.S. authorities on Friday gave wildlife managers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho permission to start killing hundreds of sea lions in the Columbia River basin in hopes of helping struggling salmon and steelhead trout.

The bulky marine mammals long ago figured out that they could feast on the migrating fish where they bottleneck at dams or where they head up tributaries to spawn.

"These are places where the fish are really vulnerable," said Shaun Clements, senior policy analyst for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "We have to manage this so the fish can get through to spawn."

The new permit allows the states and several Native American tribes to kill 540 California sea lions and 176 Steller sea lions over the next five years along a 180-mile (290-kilometer) stretch of the Columbia, from Portland to the McNary Dam upriver, as well as in several tributaries. It's the first time they have been allowed to kill the much larger Steller sea lions.

The sea lions, whose populations generally are healthy, have posed a long-running conundrum for wildlife officials, pitting mammals protected under federal law against protected — and valuable — fish runs. Complicating matters is that Columbia River salmon are a key food source for the Pacific Northwest's endangered population of orcas, which scientists say are at risk of extinction if they don't get more sustenance.

Over the last few decades, authorities have tried all kinds of less-lethal methods to deter the sea lions,

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including traps, rubber bullets and explosives, to no avail. They would return days after being relocated hundreds of miles away.

The Port of Astoria in Oregon even tried a fake, motorized orca made of fiberglass in a futile effort to keep them off its docks.

Authorities began killing some California sea lions at the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River about 13 years ago, under restrictions that required them to first document each targeted animal in the area five times, observe it eating salmon and wait for it to enter a trap. Some 238 have been killed there.

Under changes to the Marine Mammal Protection Act two years ago, authorities will no longer face such restrictions. They will be able to tranquilize, capture or trap any sea lions in the area, then bring them to another location to give them a lethal injection. The permit forbids them from shooting sea lions.

Last year, Oregon officials killed 33 sea lions that were devouring steelhead on the Willamette River. Scientists estimated that the animals ate about one-quarter of the returning fish there, and they say runs have started to rebound since.

Sharon Young, senior strategist for marine wildlife at the Humane Society, called the sea lions the least of the salmon's problems. Fishing, competition from hatchery fish and habitat loss, including dams and culverts that block their passage or raise water temperatures, are far more serious, she said.

"Killing the sea lions isn't going to address any of that," she said. "It is only going to distract from what they aren't doing to address the real problems salmon are facing. You're killing sea lions for nothing."

Young served on a federal task force that reviewed the permit request that the states and tribes filed last year. Members voted 16-2 to approve the permit following a three-day hearing in May, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's regional administrator, Barry Thom, signed off Friday.

Clements of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said reducing the number of sea lions is one of many efforts to help the salmon, including billions of dollars spent on restoring habitat.

"They need all the help they can get," he said.

## Trump dodges question on QAnon conspiracy theory

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday twice ignored a question about whether he supports QAnon, a convoluted, right-wing, pro-Trump conspiracy theory.

A reporter asked the president about the theory at a White House briefing Friday after Trump tweeted his congratulations to a QAnon-supporting candidate. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who won her House primary runoff in Georgia this week, has called the theory "something worth listening to and paying attention to" and called its source, known as Q, a "patriot." Trump praised her as a "future Republican Star."

"Well, she did very well in the election. She won by a lot. She was very popular and she comes from a great state and she had a tremendous victory. So absolutely, I did congratulate her," Trump said, sidestepping the question and ignoring a follow-up before moving on to another reporter.

Trump has a long history of advancing false and sometimes racist conspiracies, including on Thursday, when he gave credence to a highly-criticized op-ed that questioned Democrat Kamala Harris' eligibility to serve as vice president even though she was born in Oakland, California.

Asked about the matter, Trump told reporters he had "heard" rumors that Harris, a Black woman and U.S.-born citizen whose parents were immigrants, does not meet the requirement to serve in the White House. The president said he considered the rumors "very serious." Constitutional lawyers have dismissed it as nonsense.

The episode echoed Trump's rise in conservative politics as a leader of the so-called "birther movement" that questioned whether Barack Obama, the nation's first Black president, was eligible to serve in the job. Only after mounting pressure during his 2016 campaign did Trump disavow the claims.

QAnon has ricocheted around the darker corners of the internet since late 2017, but has been creeping into mainstream politics more and more. The baseless theory centers on an alleged anonymous, high-ranking government official known as "Q" who shares information about an anti-Trump "deep state" often

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ted to satanism and child sex trafficking.

Trump has retweeted QAnon-promoting accounts, and shirts and hats with QAnon symbols and slogans are not uncommon at his rallies.

In addition to her embrace of QAnon, Greene has made a series of racist, anti-Semitic and Islamophobic comments, including alleging an "Islamic invasion" of government offices and accusing Jewish billionaire George Soros of collaborating with Nazis.

Those comments had led the No. 2 House Republican, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, and others to back Greene's opponent in hopes of denying her the party's nomination. Since her win, however, critics have largely gone silent. Green still faces a Democrat in November, but the GOP primary was considered the real contest in a district Trump won handily in 2016.

Trump has never publicly addressed QAnon. Asked about the group in 2018, then-White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump "condemns and denounces any group that would incite violence against another individual."

## Not Real News: A look at false claims around Kamala Harris

ALI SWENSON, AMANDA SEITZ, BEATRICE DUPUY Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. This week the Not Real News focuses on false news that spread about Sen. Kamala Harris after presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden announced Tuesday she would be his running mate. Here are the facts:

**CLAIM:** Harris is not eligible to serve as president because her parents were immigrants. If Biden is unable to serve a full term as president, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi would be next in line to become president.

**THE FACTS:** Harris is a natural-born U.S. citizen who is eligible to serve as president. Facebook users are spreading a false claim that that if Biden were elected president this fall and then became unable to serve out a full term, Harris would be skipped over to serve as his successor. Instead, the inaccurate claims say, Pelosi would be next in line to become president. Harris, 55, was born on Oct. 20, 1964, in Oakland, California, making her a natural-born U.S. citizen. Her father, an economist from Jamaica, and her mother, a cancer researcher from India, met at the University of California, Berkeley as graduate students. Since Harris was born in the U.S., she is regarded as a natural born citizen under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, and she is eligible to serve as either the vice president or president, Loyola Law School Professor Jessica Levinson told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Full stop, end of story, period, exclamation point," Levinson said.

**CLAIM:** Harris called Biden a racist when they were facing off as potential Democratic candidates for president in 2019.

**THE FACTS:** Harris criticized Biden on certain topics related to race during a debate in June 2019, but she prefaced those remarks with, "I do not believe you are a racist." In the moments after Biden announced he had selected Harris as his running mate, social media users seized on a heated exchange between the two politicians during a debate in Miami in June 2019. "So @JoeBiden just picked @KamalaHarris for his VP... She literally called him a racist! #wakeupamerica," wrote one conservative personality in a tweet retweeted nearly 3,000 times in an hour. Similar claims were made by prominent political figures including Katrina Pierson, a senior adviser to the Trump campaign, in her response to Biden's running mate pick. These claims are false. Though during the debate, Harris did condemn Biden for working with segregationists in the Senate and for opposing aspects of mandatory busing for school desegregation.

**CLAIM:** Harris identified herself as Indian American when she was sworn into Congress, and now says she's Black.

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**THE FACTS:** Harris for years has identified herself as both Black and Indian American. In interviews, she has regularly talked about how her mother, who was from India, raised her as Black. Social media users are falsely suggesting that Harris only recently began identifying as Black. The posts falsely claim that in 2017, when she was sworn into the U.S. Senate, she only identified as Indian American. In 2016, when Harris was elected to the Senate, The Associated Press reported, "Harris will enter the chamber as the first Indian woman elected to a Senate seat and the second black woman, following Carol Moseley Braun, who served a single term after being elected in 1992." In a 2016 interview with The New York Times, ahead of her Senate election, Harris talked about how her mother raised both her and her sister in a Black neighborhood in Berkeley, California: "She had two black babies, and she raised them to be two black women," Harris said. Harris also attended a historically Black college, Howard University, telling her alma mater's magazine in 2016 that her time on the campus was "formative" to her development as a Black woman.

**CLAIM:** Harris supposedly said once President Trump is no longer in office "and we have regained our rightful place in the White House," his supporters will feel the "vengeance of a nation."

**THE FACTS:** This fabricated quote originated in a satirical article. There is no evidence Harris ever said this, but social media users periodically share posts claiming she did. "And once Trump's gone and we have regained our rightful place in the White House, look out if you supported him and endorsed his actions, because we'll be coming for you next," says text written over a photo of Harris. "You will feel the vengeance of a nation. No stone will be left unturned as we seek you out in every corner of this great nation. For it is you who have betrayed us." One post, which was viewed more than 105,000 times in 24 hours on Facebook, attributes the quote to Harris on June 18. "Yes, she really said this," it adds for emphasis. But the quote first appeared online far before June 2020. It was included in a satirical Bustatroll.org article in August 2019. Though Harris has been vocal in her criticism of Trump, an online search for the words in the post returned no evidence she had ever said them. Chris Harris, the senator's communications director, also confirmed the quote is not real.

**CLAIM:** Harris was Alameda County district attorney when 22-year-old Oscar Grant was fatally shot by police on an Oakland, California, train platform.

**THE FACTS:** The Associated Press reported at the time of the 2009 shooting that the Alameda County district attorney was Tom Orloff, not Harris. But posts on Facebook and Twitter falsely suggest Harris was overseeing prosecutions in Alameda County when Grant, a 22-year-old black man, was fatally shot by a white Bay Area Rapid Transit officer on a train platform on New Year's Day in 2009. Grant and other train passengers were taken off the train after police received reports of fighting as passengers were heading home from New Year's Eve celebrations. The AP reported in 2009 that Orloff's office investigated the incident and filed a murder charge against the officer, Johannes Mehserle. Nancy O'Malley was appointed to serve as district attorney following Orloff's retirement. During her time as district attorney, she oversaw Mehserle's murder trial and later his conviction for involuntary manslaughter. According to the State of California Department of Justice website, Harris worked in the Alameda County District Attorney's office from 1990 to 1998, more than a decade before Grant's fatal shooting. She joined the office after graduating from University of California, Hastings College of the Law and prosecuted child sexual assault cases. She served as deputy district attorney in Alameda County before leaving to work in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. Harris served as attorney general of California from 2011 to 2017. Grant's death, which sparked massive protests, was one of the first police shootings captured on video by bystanders.

**CLAIM:** CNN confirmed Biden plans to "step aside" after winning the 2020 election, making Harris president.

**THE FACTS:** CNN made no such confirmation. There is no evidence of any plan for Biden to step down during his presidency. A column published Wednesday by CNN editor-at-large Chris Cillizza is being spun

into a false narrative that Biden chose Harris as his running mate not for her vice presidential qualifications, but so he could step down immediately upon becoming president. "BOMBSHELL!" read a headline by the Infowars host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones. "CNN CONFIRMS BIDEN PLANNING TO 'STEP ASIDE' AFTER ELECTION, INSTALLING HARRIS." A screenshot of the article circulating on Instagram was viewed nearly 15,000 times, and several other right-wing sites published unsubstantiated claims about a grand plan to install Harris as president as soon as January 2021. Cillizza's column suggested several reasons why Biden may have chosen Harris as his vice presidential nominee, from her experience in government to her ability to tap into the needs of a younger generation. It used the words "step aside" while referring to Biden and Harris, but in a different context. "What Biden did is make the pick that maximized his chances of continuing to make the race a straight referendum on Trump while also selecting someone, in Harris, whose resume suggests will be ready to step in if and when Biden decides to step aside," Cillizza wrote. In the column, Cillizza pointed out Harris's experience running for president, serving as a senator, and holding the seat of California attorney general as potential reasons Biden may have chosen her. He did not confirm or suggest there is any plan for Biden to relinquish his seat if elected. As Biden's vice presidential nominee, Harris would be next in the line of succession to serve as president if Biden won and one day became unable to serve. Cillizza did not respond to a request for comment.

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## Study hints, can't prove, survivor plasma fights COVID-19

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

Mayo Clinic researchers reported a strong hint that blood plasma from COVID-19 survivors helps other patients recover, but it's not proof and some experts worry if, amid clamor for the treatment, they'll ever get a clear answer.

More than 64,000 patients in the U.S. have been given convalescent plasma, a century-old approach to fend off flu and measles before vaccines. It's a go-to tactic when new diseases come along, and history suggests it works against some, but not all, infections.

There's no solid evidence yet that it fights the coronavirus and, if so, how best to use it. But preliminary data from 35,000 coronavirus patients treated with plasma offers what Mayo lead researcher Dr. Michael Joyner on Friday called "signals of efficacy."

There were fewer deaths among people given plasma within three days of diagnosis, and also among those given plasma containing the highest levels of virus-fighting antibodies, Joyner and colleagues reported.

The problem: This wasn't a formal study. The patients were treated in different ways in hospitals around the country as part of a Food and Drug Administration program designed to speed access to the experimental therapy. That so-called "expanded access" program tracks what happens to the recipients, but it cannot prove the plasma — and not other care they received — was the real reason for improvement.

Rigorous studies underway around the country are designed to get that proof, by comparing similar patients randomly assigned to get plasma or a dummy infusion in addition to regular care. But those studies have been difficult to finish as the virus waxes and wanes in different cities. Also, some patients have requested plasma rather than agreeing to a study that might give them a placebo instead.

"For 102 years we've been debating whether or not convalescent plasma works," said Dr. Mila Ortigoza of New York University, referring to plasma's use in the 1918 flu pandemic. This time around, "we really need undisputable evidence."

Ortigoza is co-leading one such study, which this week is expanding to three other states — Connecticut, Florida and Texas. Her team also is working to pool data with several other clinical trials in other regions, in hopes of faster answers.

"There's concern about when there will be a clear answer," agreed infectious disease specialist Dr. Jef-



frey Henderson of Washington University in St. Louis.

He's hopeful the clinical trials will push forward but said the Mayo report is consistent with smaller, earlier plasma studies and "an example of making the best you can of the data that's available."

When the body encounters a new germ, it makes proteins called antibodies that are specially targeted to fight that particular infection. The antibodies float in plasma — the yellowish, liquid part of blood. Because it takes a few weeks for antibodies to form, the hope is that transfusing someone else's antibodies could help patients fight the virus before their own immune system kicks in.

The Mayo findings were posted online ahead of scientific peer review. They show that 20% of people given high-antibody plasma within three days of diagnosis had died within 30 days compared with 30% of people treated later with low-antibody plasma.

The FDA has been closely considering if the evidence is good enough to allow so-called emergency use of convalescent plasma, a step that would make it even harder for more rigorous testing to be completed. FDA didn't immediately comment Friday.

Tens of thousands of COVID-19 survivors have donated their plasma, and blood banks have issued calls for even more to meet the demand as the coronavirus continues to ravage the U.S. According to AABB, the American Association of Blood Banks, a quarter of hospitals it checks weekly are reporting waits of more than 24 hours in obtaining requested plasma.

Beyond whether plasma generally helps, scientists want to know when it should be used — for the very sick or at the earliest sign of infection? And what's the right dose? COVID-19 survivors harbor widely varying amounts of antibodies, which Ortigoza said is difficult to measure before the donated plasma is used. She said another question is which of the many types of antibodies are the best to use.

Joyner noted that the expanded access program wasn't meant to replace rigorous studies but was originally designed to track 5,000 people and see if plasma was safe. Instead, the program skyrocketed.

"There's probably reasonable, actionable evidence from our findings to really reaffirm" historic lessons of plasma therapy, that earlier use is better, he said.

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## Thousands flood Belarus capital as election protests grow

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Tens of thousands of people flooded the heart of the Belarus capital of Minsk on Friday in a show of anger over a brutal police crackdown this week on peaceful protesters that followed a disputed election, and authorities sought to ease rising public fury by freeing at least 2,000 who were jailed after earlier demonstrations.

Factory workers marched across the city shouting "Go away!" in a call for authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko to resign after 26 years of iron-fisted rule that was extended in an election Sunday that protesters denounced as rigged.

Friday's crowds grew to more than 20,000, filling central Independence Square.

About a dozen soldiers guarding the nearby government headquarters lowered their riot shields in what the demonstrators saw as a sign of solidarity, and women rushed to embrace and kiss the guards.

As the protesters rallied on the square, Lukashenko dismissed them as puppets manipulated from abroad. During a meeting with top law enforcement officials, he defended the crackdown as a justified response to violence against police by some of the protesters. The Interior Ministry said 121 police officers were injured.

He told officials, however, to avoid excessive force.

"If a person falls down and lies still, don't beat him!" Lukashenko said.

The Belarusian leader cautioned people against turning out for protests, saying the country is facing foreign "aggression."

"Don't get out into the streets. You should understand that you and your children are being used as cannon fodder," Lukashenko said, alleging that people from Poland, the Netherlands, Ukraine and some

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members of Russia's opposition were fomenting the unrest.

"Do you want me to sit and wait until they turn Minsk upside down?" he said. "We won't be able to stabilize the situation afterwards. We must take a break, collect ourselves and calm down. And let us restore order and deal with those who have come here."

The claim of foreign agitation was greeted with disdain by protesters.

"Nobody believes these horror stories about external forces. We are tired of constant enemies and conspiracies," said Galina Erema, 42. "He usurped power and has not left for 26 years. This is the reason for the protests."

A messaging app that has been a key communications means for protesters announced plans for marches on Sunday in Minsk and "other cities and hamlets of Belarus," an indication that determination remains strong.

Earlier, police didn't interfere as the protesters marched across the city, reflecting Lukashenko's apparent attempt to assuage the opposition by stepping back from the violent police crackdowns seen across the country earlier this week.

The release by the Interior Ministry of about 2,000 of the nearly 7,000 people detained was seen as another move to defuse popular outrage. It said more would be freed.

Many who were released spoke of brutal beatings and other abuse by police, and some showed bruises on their bodies. Some of them wept as they embraced waiting relatives.

"The authorities are obviously trying to de-escalate the situation and ease the tensions, fearing that the furious industrial workers will take to the streets all across Belarus," said Valiantsin Stefanovich of the Viasna rights center.

Demonstrators have swarmed the streets ever since Sunday's election in which officials reported that Lukashenko won 80% of the vote to win a sixth term in office.

His main challenger, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who fled on Tuesday to neighboring Lithuania, posted a new video in which she disputed the results of the vote and demanded that the government start a dialogue with demonstrators.

The ferocious crackdown has left hundreds injured since Sunday as police have dispersed the largely peaceful demonstrations with stun grenades, tear gas, rubber bullets and severe beatings. At least one person has been killed.

The brutal suppression of protests drew harsh criticism in the West. European Union foreign ministers said they rejected the election results and tasked officials with drawing up a list of people in Belarus who could face sanctions over their role in the crackdown.

"Work begins on sanctioning those responsible for violence and falsification," tweeted EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

Earlier, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the EU wants to "significantly increase the pressure on Belarus."

Thousands of factory workers who previously formed the core of Lukashenko's base have joined the protests, denouncing the police crackdown and demanding a new election, raising the prospect of a nationwide strike.

"Our entire shop voted against Lukashenko and then we suddenly learned that he won by a landslide," 42-year-old assembly worker Dmitry Glukhovskiy said outside the Minsk Automobile Plant, or MAZ. "They not only have cheated us but also beaten us up, and no one is going to accept that."

He said that his assembly shop went on strike Friday to demand a new election. More than 1,000 workers could be seen in the factory's yard, shouting "Down!" in a call for Lukashenko to resign.

At the Minsk Tractor Plant, or MTZ, about 1,000 workers also rallied to demand Lukashenko's resignation and then marched toward the government headquarters. As they reached the center of the capital, the crowds grew and people stood applauding and motorists honked in support.

"We want a new election, a new government and a new life," said 44-year-old engineer Mikhail Marchuk as he marched along with other plant workers toward central Minsk. "We will protest until we win."

Workers also rallied at many other major factories in an unprecedented challenge to Lukashenko, who

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has been in power since 1994 and earned the nickname of "Europe's last dictator" for his relentless suppression of dissent.

Earlier in the day, Lukashenko warned that the strikes would deepen the damage inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic and could lead to Belarus losing its niche in global markets.

After the crackdown, police stood back Thursday and Friday as protests grew in Minsk and other cities. Women, many dressed in white and carrying flowers and portraits of detained loved ones, formed human chains on Thursday as motorists honked in support. Dozens of military and police veterans posted videos in which they dumped their uniforms in the trash.

The demonstrations have spread even though they lack leaders. Tsikhanouskaya urged her supporters to stop protests in an earlier video that her associates said was recorded under pressure from law enforcement officials while she was still in Minsk. The 37-year-old former teacher had joined the race to replace her husband, an opposition blogger, who has been jailed since May.

In the video released Friday, Tsikhanouskaya again challenged the election results, saying that copies of protocols from precincts where the vote was counted fairly show her winning 60% to 70%. She urged the government to end violence and engage in dialogue with protesters.

"The Belarusians will never want to live under the current government," she said. "The authorities have turned peaceful demonstrations into a bloodbath."

She also announced she was setting up a coordination council to help ensure a "peaceful transition of power."

As Lukashenko faces new Western sanctions, he moved quickly to mend ties with his main sponsor and ally, Russia, after Belarus arrested 32 private Russian military contractors on charges of planning to stage riots before the election.

Moscow has rejected the accusations, saying the men were en route to another country, and alleged that their arrest was a provocation by Ukraine's spy agency that had fed misleading information about their mission to authorities in Minsk.

Russia's Prosecutor General Office said Friday the contractors have returned home. Another Russian arrested in Belarus, political consultant Vitaly Shklyarov, who also holds Belarusian citizenship, has remained in custody on charges of organizing riots, according to his lawyer.

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Associated Press writers Vladimir Isachenkov and Jim Heintz in Moscow, Lorne Cook in Brussels and Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed.

## Major US postal workers union endorses Biden for president

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major union representing U.S. postal workers has endorsed Democrat Joe Biden for president, a move that comes as President Donald Trump has acknowledged starving the postal service of money in order to make it more difficult to vote by mail in November's election.

The National Association of Letter Carriers, which represents 300,000 current and retired workers, said Thursday that Trump has long been hostile to the Post Office. His administration has called for an end to collective bargaining rights, proposed service cuts and has eyed the possibility of privatizing the functions of the agency.

But those actions have escalated since the start of the pandemic, with the administration taking "steps outside of the public eye to undermine the Postal Service and letter carriers," said union President Fredric Rolando.

Biden, on the other hand, "is — was — and will continue to be — a fierce ally and defender of the United States Postal Service," Rolando said in a statement announcing the endorsement of the former vice president and his running mate, Kamala Harris.

Trump has repeatedly railed against the suggestion that more people should vote by mail as a result of the pandemic, which he argues without offering evidence will lead to widespread voter fraud. While Trump casts his own ballot by mail, the post office has increasingly been in his cross-hairs as Democrats

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advocate voting by mail.

The agency's new leader, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a former supply-chain CEO and a major donor to Trump and other Republicans, has pushed cost-cutting measures to eliminate overtime pay and hold mail until the next day if postal distribution centers are running late.

And recently there have been substantial mail delivery delays.

In an interview on Fox Business Network, Trump explicitly noted two funding provisions that Democrats are seeking in a coronavirus relief package that has stalled on Capitol Hill. Without the additional money, he said, the Postal Service won't have the resources to handle a flood of ballots from voters who are seeking to avoid polling places during the coronavirus pandemic.

"If we don't make a deal, that means they don't get the money," Trump told host Maria Bartiromo. "That means they can't have universal mail-in voting; they just can't have it."

Trump's ramped up animosity toward the postal service drew the attention of his predecessor, Barack Obama, who said it amounted to an unprecedented effort by a president to "kneecap the postal service" to protect his reelection chances.

"What are Republicans doing where you are so scared of people voting, that you are now willing to undermine what is part of the basic infrastructure of American life?" Obama said on the Campaign HQ podcast, which is hosted by his former campaign manager David Plouffe. "I mean, it'd be the equivalent of 'We're not going to repair highways because people might drive to the polling places...so we'll just let massive sinkholes in the middle of, uh, the interstate linger, because we're worried that folks might use those roads to vote.'"

The letter carriers union, which is one of several representing postal workers, said it consulted with its members before announcing the endorsement. The American Postal Workers Union previously endorsed Biden in June.

"The Postal Service must not be allowed to fail," Rolando, the union president, said. "NALC is proud to stand with Vice President Biden and Senator Harris in November and beyond."

## **Bulls fire coach Jim Boylen after missing playoffs again**

By CLIFF BRUNT undefined

Months after the world was reminded of the best run in Chicago Bulls history, the franchise closed a chapter on one of its worst.

The Chicago Bulls fired coach Jim Boylen on Friday as the new front office begins its remake of a team that missed the playoffs for the fourth time in five years — a tough stretch for a franchise whose dominance in the 1990s was chronicled in the ESPN documentary "The Last Dance."

The Bulls finished 22-43 this season and were one of the eight teams that didn't qualify for the NBA's restart at Walt Disney World, where the playoffs begin next week.

The move was hardly a surprise. Only Tim Floyd (.205) had a lower winning percentage than Boylen (.317) in franchise history.

"This was a very difficult decision, but it is time for our franchise to take that next step as we move in a new direction and era of Chicago Bulls basketball," said rturas Karnisovas, the team's new executive vice president of basketball operations. "Jim is a great human being that cares deeply about this organization and the game of basketball."

A longtime NBA assistant, Boylen got his first head coaching job in the league in December 2018 when the Bulls fired Fred Hoiberg after a 5-19 start. Boylen led the Bulls to a 17-41 record the rest of the way and a 22-43 mark in this pandemic-interrupted season after getting a contract extension.

The Bulls were 11th in the Eastern Conference before play was stopped in March because of the coronavirus.

After the season, Chicago hired Karnisovas as it became clear deeper changes were needed. The man he replaced, John Paxson, had said in February 2019 the Bulls "absolutely" planned to retain Boylen. He said at the time that Boylen was "doing the right things" and "promoting the right message to our players."

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The Bulls made good on that promise, and they entered this season with strong hopes.

"We think we can compete," Paxson said before the season. "And when you compete at a high level, you have the ability to be a playoff-caliber team. We set that as a goal."

Paxson's optimism came with caution. He said he expected Zach LaVine, Lauri Markkanen and Otto Porter to "step up."

LaVine averaged 25.5 points but wasn't an All-Star. Markkanen, a 7-footer from Finland, missed 15 games with a pelvic injury and his scoring and rebounding numbers dropped. Porter missed 51 games with a variety of left foot injuries. The Bulls finished 27th out of 30 teams in scoring.

In a grim reminder of how far the Bulls had fallen, Chicago hosted the All-Star game, yet no Bulls were on the rosters.

Karnisovas was hired out of Denver's front office in April, with Paxson moving to an advisory role after nearly two decades leading the basketball operation. General manager Gar Forman was fired, and the Bulls hired Philadelphia 76ers executive Marc Eversley — Chicago's first Black GM — to replace him.

Karnisovas wanted to meet face to face with Boylen and observe practices and games before announcing a decision. The chance to watch him up close was dashed when the Bulls were left out of the Florida bubble. And now, the search kicks into higher gear.

Toronto lead assistant Adrian Griffin played with Karnisovas at Seton Hall in the early 1990s. He also had two stints playing with the Bulls and worked as an assistant on former coach Tom Thibodeau's staff from 2010-15.

Kenny Atkinson led the Brooklyn Nets to a playoff appearance in 2019. But he was fired this past March with a 118-190 record over four seasons.

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AP Sports Writer Andrew Seligman and AP Basketball Writer Brian Mahoney contributed to this report.

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## **Virus flareups in Europe lead to club closings, mask orders**

By SYLVIE CORBET, FRANCES D'EMILIO and DAVID CRARY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — New flareups of COVID-19 are disrupting the peak summer vacation season across much of Europe, where authorities in some countries are reimposing restrictions on travelers, closing nightclubs again, banning fireworks displays and expanding mask orders even in chic resort areas.

"Unfortunately, this virus doesn't play ball," British Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told Sky News.

The surges have spread alarm across Europe, which suffered mightily during the spring but appeared in recent months to have largely tamed the coronavirus in ways that the U.S., with its vaunted scientific prowess and the extra time to prepare, cannot seem to manage. The continent's hardest-hit countries, Britain, Italy, France and Spain, have recorded about 140,000 deaths in all.

In addition to clubs and alcohol-fueled street parties, large family gatherings — usually abounding with hugs and kisses — have been cited as a source of new outbreaks in several European countries.

A new public awareness campaign by Spain's Canary Islands depicts a family gathering for a grandfather's birthday, with people taking off masks and embracing. The grandfather ends up in a hospital bed with COVID-19.

In France, thousands of vacationing Britons scrambled to return home Friday to avoid having to self-quarantine for 14 days following Britain's decision to reimpose restrictions on France because of a resurgence of infections there. Ferries added extra trips back to England, and trains were running out of space.

Some of the toughest new measures were announced in Spain, which has recorded almost 50,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the past 14 days.

Health Minister Salvador Illa, after an emergency meeting with regional leaders, said nightclubs nationwide were ordered to close. Visits to nursing homes will be limited to one person a day for each resident for only one hour.

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"We can't be undisciplined," Illa said.

In Italy, also faced with a surge of cases, seaside towns announced new restrictions, including bans on fireworks at beaches. The moves came just ahead of Italy's biggest summer holiday, Ferragosto, which millions of Italians celebrate at the seashore, in the mountains or on trips abroad.

The mayor of Anzio banned all overnight access to the beach, while San Felice Circeo, a popular weekend getaway for Romans, ordered masks worn outdoors. On the chic island of Capri, an order requiring masks outdoors from evening to nearly dawn was expanded by the mayor to the entire day.

Masks also are now also required in the streets of Amalfi, a picturesque coastal tourist town.

With some of Italy's 200-plus infection clusters traced to patrons of crowded seaside dance clubs, the governor of Calabria, the region that forms the toe of Italy, ordered such nightspots closed.

Italy's Health Ministry said 574 new COVID-19 cases were recorded on Friday — the highest daily number since May 28.

The outbreaks and new restrictions in Europe shouldn't come as a surprise, said Josh Michaud, associate director of global health policy with the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington.

"Even the smallest chink in the armor can lead to an outbreak if you're not careful," Michaud said. "In no country have we approached herd immunity, and we don't have a vaccine."

In Greece, authorities strongly recommended people wear masks for a week indoors and out in public areas after returning from domestic vacation destinations with a high COVID-19 incidence.

Gatherings of more than nine people were prohibited on two popular Greek resort islands, Paros and Antiparos, and a ban on restaurants, bars and nightclubs operating after midnight was expanded to more parts of the country, including Athens. The steps came as Greece recorded its second-highest daily infection numbers -- 254 new cases.

In France, amid growing fears of a second spike of contagion, the head of the country's national health service said Paris and Marseille have been declared at-risk zones. "The situation is deteriorating from week to week," the official, Jérôme Salomon, said on France Inter radio.

The British government said it was compelled to impose the quarantine requirement on people returning from France in light of a 66% increase in infections in France in the past week. The requirement applied to anyone returning after 4 a.m. on Saturday.

Philip Alston, who was looking after three cats for a French couple in Paris, reluctantly decided to return to Britain.

"Fortunately, they said in the case of this happening, they had a stand-by helper," he said before boarding a Eurostar train to London. "So I'm really upset because I was having a good time looking after the cats and exploring Paris."

The quarantine decision is a big blow to France's tourism industry, which relies heavily on travelers from Britain.

There also were worrisome developments in other parts of the world:

--India's death toll overtook Britain's to become the fourth-highest in the world, with another single-day record increase in cases Friday. The number of dead hit more 48,000, behind the United States, with over 167,000; Brazil, with more than 105,000; and Mexico, with over 55,000.

--New Zealand's government extended a lockdown of its largest city, Auckland, for 12 more days as it tries to stamp out its first domestic outbreak in more than three months, involving 30 people. Until the cluster was discovered Tuesday, New Zealand had gone 102 days with no reports of infections spreading in the community. The only known cases involved travelers arriving from abroad.

--A man in his 20 became the youngest person to die of the coronavirus in Australia. He was among 14 new deaths and 372 new infections reported by Victoria state health officials in an outbreak centered in Melbourne.

— In Toronto, health officials said as many as 550 people may have been exposed to COVID-19 at a strip club last week and urged them to quarantine themselves for 14 days.

\_\_\_ D'Emilio reported from Rome and Crary from New York. AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson contributed from Washington state.

## US retail sales rise for 3rd month but slowdown expected

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans increased their spending at retail stores and restaurants in July for a third straight month, but some evidence suggests that sales are weakening with the expiration of government rescue aid that had previously put more money in people's pockets.

Friday's report from the Commerce Department showed that retail purchases rose by a seasonally adjusted 1.2% last month. The gains of the past three months have now restored retail purchases to their levels before they plunged in March and April when the pandemic shuttered businesses and paralyzed the economy.

Yet with Americans' overall income now likely shrinking, economists expect spending to slow further. July's sales increase was much smaller than May's 18.3% gain and June's 8.4% increase, when shoppers flocked to newly reopened businesses. In July, the viral outbreak re-surfaced in much of the nation, forcing some businesses to shut down again.

Sales at restaurants and bars grew 5% last month after much more robust increases of more than 30% in May and 27% in June. Restaurant and bar revenue remains about one-fifth below its levels of a year ago.

Solid sales gains were posted last month at electronics and appliances stores, reflecting the needs of mostly higher-income people who are now working from home. Purchases at clothing stores, gas stations, and drugstores also rose. Furniture sales were flat after a huge gain in June.

The problem now is that roughly 28 million laid-off workers are no longer receiving a \$600-a-week federal unemployment check that they had received in addition to their state benefit but that lapsed last month. In addition, a \$1,200 stimulus check that was sent to many Americans in April and May likely won't be repeated. Negotiations in Congress on a new economic relief package have collapsed in rancor and show no sign of restarting anytime soon.

Many retailers have said the supplemental unemployment aid had helped spur sales of clothes and other non-discretionary items in the spring and early summer.

"Consumers have been largely shielded from economic realities by the various stimulus and benefit programs," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail. "However, many of those advantages expired at the end of July, and August will be the first month when the chill winds of economic turmoil hits many households."

Consumers had started to cut back on spending in late July, according to a GlobalData survey, and spending fell sharply in the first week of August. Many consumers are spending more around the home and on recreational equipment while still maintaining a nervous outlook.

Jennifer Zaspel and her husband, who live in Milwaukee, recently bought a \$2,000 bike and are having a patio built in their backyard. Still, Zaspel, a 33-year-old psychiatrist, said her full pay was just reinstated after the academic institution she works for had temporarily cut her pay in a cost-saving move. Fearful of another wave of viral cases, she intends to rein in her spending.

"We are going to continue to keep things fairly tight just because I am anticipating another surge," said Zaspel, who buys second-hand clothing and toys for her 7-month old son.

Friday's report on retail sales captures only about one-third of all consumer spending. The rest involves services — from haircuts and gym memberships to movie tickets and hotel rooms — all of which were hit disproportionately hard by the pandemic and have yet to recover.

In the April-June quarter, consumer spending collapsed by a record amount, causing the economy to shrink at a previously unheard-of annual rate of 32.9%. Economists have forecast that growth is rebounding in the July-September quarter at a roughly 20% annual rate, though that pace would still leave the economy far below pre-pandemic levels.

The government's figures mask a huge shakeout in the retail industry, with Americans pulling sharply back on in-person shopping and spending more online. More than 40 retailers have filed for bankruptcy protection this year, about half of them since the pandemic. That's about double the number for all of 2019.

In recent weeks, Ann Taylor's parent company declared bankruptcy. So did the Lord & Taylor department

store chain and the discount store chain Stein Mart, which had been in business for 112 years.

Stein Mart cited the resurgence of coronavirus cases in Florida, Texas and California as a key factor in its bankruptcy filing. The company has many stores in those states, a fact that hurt customer traffic and drained its cash. And Rent the Runway, the fashion rental pioneer, confirmed Friday that it will be closing all five of its stores for good as it focuses on expanding its drop-off boxes.

The upscale outdoor CityPlace Doral mall in Miami had closed in March, reopened in May and then enjoyed strong sales and traffic in June, according to Mauro Olivieri, the mall's general manager of the upscale outdoor mall. When the virus resurged in July, local mandates forced it to close indoor dining.

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that would replace the now-lapsed \$600 a week in federal jobless aid with \$300 a week from a disaster relief fund. Yet that would require the states to establish a separate payment system that would likely take weeks. In the meantime, the loss of the \$600 will cut recipients' income, on average, by one-half to three-quarters.

That prospect has unnerved Tia Ferguson. A 40-year-old substitute teacher in Columbus, Ohio, Ferguson was laid off in March. Beginning in June, she managed to receive both her state's unemployment benefit and the \$600 federal check. It's unclear when she might be recalled to work, and she is reluctant to teach in person until after a vaccine is approved. A diabetes and asthma patient, she worries about the risks of returning to the classroom.

Ferguson's husband earns income as an auto mechanic but is still building a business that he recently started. The couple has taken to reducing their three kids' video game time to save on electricity.

With her weekly jobless aid now just \$171, Ferguson has cut back on groceries and gone on Facebook to find information on food pantries.

"I don't know when I'll have a steady stream of income that's even close to what I was making," she said.

D'Innocenzio reported from New York.

## Ex-cop's video captures crowd's horror during Floyd arrest

By JEFF BAENEN Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Newly released body-camera video from a third officer involved in George Floyd's arrest captures for the first time the growing horror of onlookers who repeatedly pleaded with the officers to get off Floyd.

The video made available Thursday comes from fired Officer Tou Thao, one of four former Minneapolis police officers charged in the death of Floyd, a handcuffed Black man. Floyd died after a white officer, Derek Chauvin, pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes on a south Minneapolis street May 25 as Floyd repeatedly said he could not breathe. The death sparked massive protests across the U.S. and beyond against racial injustice and police brutality.

Thao held back a crowd of nearly a dozen bystanders, many taping the scene with their cellphones, as Chauvin pinned Floyd with his knee. Two other officers, Thomas Lane and J. Kueng, held down Floyd, who was suspected of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a convenience store.

In Thao's video, a Black man wearing a Northside Boxing Club sweatshirt yells at Chauvin to "get off of his (expletive) neck, Bro" and asks Thao "you gonna keep him like that," motioning toward Floyd.

"You gonna let him kill that man in front of you, Bro?" he asks Thao. "Bro, he's not even (expletive) moving right now, Bro."

Thao orders the crowd onto the sidewalk. At one point he tells the onlookers, "This is why you don't do drugs, kids."

When a woman who identifies herself as a Minneapolis firefighter arrives out of uniform, Thao yells at her, "Back off!" She asks if the officers have checked Floyd's pulse.

"Let me see a pulse," she demands of the police.

"Check his pulse," the man says. "You bogus, Bro. 'Don't do drugs,' Bro? ... You call what he's doing OK?"

The crowd grows more agitated. "What the (expletive) are you doing?" a young woman yells. "He's dying."



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When the man approaches Thao with his phone, Thao shoves him back toward the sidewalk, yelling, "Get out of the street!"

Prosecutors submitted Thao's body cam footage earlier this week. On Monday, body cam video from two of the other officers, Lane and Kueng, was released under a judge's order. That footage, along with Thao's video, shows Floyd pleading with the officers as they struggle to place him in the squad car in the moments before his death.

Floyd repeatedly said he could not breathe and called out for his mother before passing out. He was pronounced dead at a hospital that evening, his death sparking protests against racial injustice and police brutality around the world.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter. Lane, Kueng and Thao are charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter. All four officers were fired and are scheduled for trial in March.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, whose office is prosecuting the case, has asked the judge to have all four officers tried jointly. Defense attorneys have until Sept. 8 to respond.

The next court hearing for the four is scheduled for Sept. 11.

## Liberty University and Falwell: A bond that's hard to break

By SARAH RANKIN and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Jerry Falwell Jr. has been toppled, at least temporarily, from the presidency of evangelical Liberty University, but whether he will break permanently with the Christian institution that is synonymous with his family name is another matter.

Falwell apologized after posting a vacation photo that showed him with his pants unzipped and his arm high around the waist of his wife's pregnant assistant. The image was enough to push the 58-year-old attorney with a tendency toward divisive behavior into an indefinite leave of absence.

Critics of Falwell's leadership say Liberty needs a new direction, but many who know the school well have a hard time envisioning its governing board saying goodbye to the heir who played a major role in transforming it into a conservative Christian mainstay.

"When it comes to white evangelicalism, the only force more powerful than moralism is nepotism," said Liberty alumnus Jonathan Merritt, a religion writer and commentator whose father, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, served on the school's board of trustees.

While the board recognizes that Falwell "made a serious mistake, most say they feel a duty and loyalty to his late father who wanted his son in that role," Merritt added. "If the board was going to fire him, they would have also done so. It's almost certain that he'll be back."

Falwell's father founded the school in Lynchburg with hopes of building Liberty into an evangelical equivalent of the University of Notre Dame, a Roman Catholic bastion in Indiana.

Falwell, who did not follow the Rev. Jerry Falwell Sr. into the ministry, took over as president following his father's death in 2007. The son worked to shore up Liberty's finances, overhauling the campus with over \$1 billion in construction projects, growing its endowment and increasing its online enrollment. Liberty's net assets topped \$2.3 billion according to its most recently available tax filings, up from less than \$220,000 in 2008.

Even the vacation photo, with a caption that said "good friends visited us on the yacht," underscored Falwell's deal-making on behalf of the university. The luxury boat belonged to NASCAR team owner and Hall of Fame member Rick Hendrick, according to a spokesman for Hendrick Motorsports.

Liberty is a sponsor of one of Hendrick's drivers, William Byron, and Hendrick's expansive auto dealership group began partnering with the school on an academic program in 2016.

The now-deleted photo was among a series of other posts about the vacation, which showed he had been joined by his wife, Becki, and their children and grandchildren. Becki Falwell took the picture, according to a person who spoke with Falwell about the matter but who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

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Falwell's future appears to rest largely in the hands of the Liberty board, which until this week was chaired by Alaska pastor Jerry Prevo, who became acting president after Falwell went on leave. He praised Falwell's "unprecedented success."

The board chairmanship then shifted to Virginia pastor Allen McFarland. One of his daughters and two sons-in-law joined other Black alumni in a June letter criticizing Falwell's leadership.

Dwayne Carson, who worked at Liberty for more than two decades, including as senior campus pastor, recalled Falwell's father preaching about God offering a "second chance" in the Book of Jonah. If Falwell responds productively "to what God's doing in his life," Carson suggested, a positive outcome is possible.

"I'm praying that this will be a great growth time for Jerry Jr., and then we pray for wisdom for the board," said Carson, whose son attends Liberty.

A Liberty spokesman referred questions to Liberty's general counsel David Corry, who said Prevo is not granting interviews.

Beyond Prevo, many other board members were hand-picked by either Falwell or his father, according to a person familiar with board operations who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about them.

The vision laid out by Falwell's father rests in part on athletic success, which has improved under his son, who has outfitted the Liberty Flames with top-notch facilities. The men's basketball team won a school-record 30 games last season. In football, where Liberty competes as an independent at the NCAA's top level, the Flames were 8-5 in 2019.

But even before the photo caused a furor, Liberty had seen several star student-athletes announce transfer plans amid growing discontent with the school's handling of racial equality.

There are also some signs that the school is losing luster among prospective students. Freshman applications fell by more than 50% between fiscal years 2016 and 2019, according to Liberty's annual report, although the school has attributed that drop to its institution of an application fee.

Adam Laats, a professor at Binghamton University in New York who studies American education, predicted that Falwell would return to Liberty not as president but in another capacity.

If Falwell seeks a restoration to power, there's precedent for personal redemption stories in Liberty's evangelical culture. After serving five years in prison following the fall of his lucrative televangelism empire in the late 1980s, for example, pastor Jim Bakker mounted a comeback.

John Fea, a history professor at Messiah College who studies evangelicalism, said Falwell could return if he agreed to "jump through some hoops."

"It all comes down to finances and money," Fea said. "And in that sense, Falwell Jr. is good at that, and they need him back."

Falwell has not granted interviews since his leave of absence began.

Carson, who now leads a Christian school in North Carolina, said the board would "need to ask some tough questions" to ensure accountability even as he expressed "love" for the Falwell family.

Harkening back to a sentiment expressed by the elder Falwell, Carson observed: "It's not Jerry Jr.'s university. It's God's university."

\_\_\_ Schor reported from New York. Associated Press Sportswriters Hank Kurz Jr. and Jenna Fryer contributed to this report.

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## Democrats tested in first party convention of pandemic era

By STEVE PEOPLES and BILL BARROW Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Biden is poised to unveil his vision for the modern Democratic Party in the first presidential nominating convention of the coronavirus era, an all-virtual affair that will test the former vice president's ability to overcome unprecedented logistical challenges in an urgent mission to energize

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a winning coalition.

The Democratic National Convention, which formally begins Monday, is not a convention in the traditional sense. There will be no physical gathering place, no cheering audience, no balloons. The program will consist instead of a series of online video addresses — half of which will be prerecorded — that play out for two hours each night until Biden formally accepts the Democratic presidential nomination in a mostly empty Delaware ballroom on Thursday.

Along the way, Biden's party will make history by unveiling the nation's first Black vice presidential nominee, Kamala Harris. The speaking program also features two former presidents, two past presidential nominees, a former Republican governor, a New York ultra-billionaire and various working-class Americans.

"Nothing about 2020 has been normal. So I don't think anyone expected that this convention would be normal either," said Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who was under consideration to serve as Biden's running mate and will speak at the convention. "I hope wherever people are that they're excited about the moment and the opportunity that lies before us."

The online gathering comes as Democratic officials work to energize supporters behind Biden's candidacy — not simply against President Donald Trump's. While Trump is a huge motivator for many Democrats, there is some concern within the party that lower-information voters who lean Democrat and swing voters aren't locks to cast ballots for Biden this fall, especially as the pandemic creates barriers to voting.

At the same time, Trump and his allies are fighting to scare away would-be Biden-Harris backers by describing the Democrats' 2020 ticket as the most ideologically extreme in American history. While widely considered a political moderate — at least compared with the likes of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren — Biden has plans to implement a Medicare-like system for those who want it, sweeping environmental protections and higher taxes on the rich.

Still, Biden attracted the support of former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, who is scheduled to speak Monday. The Biden campaign hinted that Kasich would not be the only high-profile Republican featured at the convention, but refused to say more.

The inclusion of Kasich, who opposed abortion rights and fought labor unions while in office, rankled some progressives. One of the far left's champions, New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, is scheduled to speak for just 60 seconds to help introduce Sanders the day after Kasich. Prominent liberal activist Ady Barkan, who previously backed Sanders, is scheduled to deliver remarks the next day.

"I'm glad that John and other moderate-type Republicans understand that it is wrong to be supporting Trump," Sanders told The Associated Press. "But what John says has nothing to do with what I will say. My speech has everything to do with the need to defeat Trump, elect Biden and move the country into a government that works for all of us and not just the 1%."

There appears to be far less tension among the Democrats' often-competing factions heading into the 2020 convention than many predicted earlier in the year. Just six months ago, political operatives were openly contemplating the prospect of a contested convention in which none of the Democratic candidates had a clear delegate majority going into the convention.

That possibility quickly faded in early March. After Biden's commanding South Carolina primary victory, several competitors suddenly rallied behind him as the pandemic began to explode.

Even if there was leftover resentment among wings of the party, the convention's online forum doesn't provide any opportunities for public infighting. Key votes on the party platform already will have taken place by mail ballot. The details, which are expected to be approved overwhelmingly, were hammered out in Zoom meetings.

Progressives got their say when they extended party rules through 2024 that ban superdelegates from voting for the party's presidential nominee on the first nominating ballot.

But without the opportunity for the approximately 4,800 Democratic delegates from across the country to gather on the same convention hall floor, as is tradition, the opportunity for a genuine convention debate over the direction of the party has been eliminated.

Larry Cohen, a prominent Rules Committee member and Sanders confidant, lamented the loss of an

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in-person convention, but not because it limits debate.

"The key of a convention, really, is the party building that comes with 57 different delegations," he said, noting the in-person daily meetings that would occur in hotels across a host city. "You shape the party in those breakfast meetings, where you argue over what it means to be a Democrat in Wyoming, what does it mean in Georgia."

The Biden campaign on Friday announced watch parties in all 50 states featuring elected officials and celebrities such as Alyssa Milano, Pete Buttigieg and Valerie Jarrett. The watch parties, like the convention itself, will be online.

With less focus on policy debates, convention officials are highlighting the historic racial diversity on the ticket as the nation experiences a national awakening on race. Harris, who is also of Asian descent, is scheduled to address the nation Wednesday night as the first woman of color on a major party's presidential ticket.

The high-profile Black speakers also on the program include former first lady Michelle Obama, former President Barack Obama, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Bottoms, who will introduce a video tribute to the late Georgia congressman John Lewis on Thursday night, ahead of Biden's speech.

"For so many people of color in this country, race is always at the forefront," Bottoms said. "To be able to have this collective conversation in so many ways is cathartic, especially as we're going into an election year, because there won't be any secrets about what people across this country expect from the next administration."

Despite the focus on racial justice, the Rev. Al Sharpton, a civil rights activist, predicted next week's convention would "lack excitement." He said it likely doesn't matter, however, especially as Trump and his party prepare for their convention the following week.

"As excited as I am about Kamala Harris, the best weapon Democrats have is Donald Trump," Sharpton said. "He will do himself in. Just don't get in his way. He will beat himself."

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Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writer Will Weissert in Wilmington, Del., contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to show that Ocasio-Cortez is scheduled to speak the day after Kasich, not the same day.

## Rural families without internet face tough choice on school

By PIPER HUDSPETH BLACKBURN Associated Press

BEATTYVILLE, Ky. (AP) — John Ross worries about his children returning to their classrooms this fall with coronavirus cases rising in Kentucky, but he feels he doesn't have much of a choice: His family's limited internet access makes it nearly impossible for the kids to keep up with schoolwork from home.

"They're going to have their education," the father of three in rural Lee County said as he recalled his children's struggles to do their work this spring over a spotty cellphone connection.

Lee County, a community of around 7,000 people deep in the Appalachian Mountains, is one of many rural school districts around the country where the decision over whether to bring students back into classrooms is particularly fraught. As in other places, parents and officials are concerned about the virus, but dramatically limited internet access here also means kids could fall seriously behind if the pandemic keeps them home again.

On average, the United States is still seeing about 1,000 deaths a day from the virus, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. The country has had more than 5 million confirmed cases and more than 167,000 deaths over the course of the pandemic.

Roughly 3 million students across the United States don't have access to a home internet connection. A third of households with school-age children that do not have home internet cite the expense as the main reason, according to federal Education Department statistics. But in some rural places, a reliable

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connection can't be had at any price.

The void is especially acute in eastern Kentucky. An AP analysis of census data shows that nearly half of students attending public school in Lee lack home access to broadband.

Many districts have been scrambling to set up paper-based alternatives to online instruction or create WiFi hot spots in school parking lots and other public areas. Kentucky's two largest districts, in Louisville and Lexington, are starting the school year online and have pledged to give mobile hot spots to students who don't have internet at home. Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear said this week the state is exploring ways to expand internet access in hard-to-reach areas.

But if school starts as scheduled on Aug. 24 in Lee, which serves roughly 800 students, there will be only two public WiFi hot spots in the county: one at the county courthouse, and another at the public library — both near downtown Beattyville, the county seat, and a good distance from the winding, tree-lined roads where most residents live.

Students aren't the only ones who struggled this past spring. Some teachers had to go into their classrooms to get internet access, despite recommendations that they stay home, according to Lee County School Superintendent Sarah Wasson.

In an effort to accommodate those without reliable internet, students will submit their work periodically on USB drives. In between, teachers can check in with them over the phone.

The lack of internet access often dovetails with and is likely to reinforce other inequalities. Nationally, those without access are more likely to be students of color, from low-income families or in households with lower parental education levels. In Lee County, for instance, almost half of children live below the poverty line. As the pandemic stretches on, Americans with lower incomes who do have internet may struggle to continue to afford it.

"COVID-19 has shown cracks in the system where people have been left behind," said Lee County Judge Executive Chuck Caudill.

Beattyville Mayor Scott Jackson remembers the fight more than a half-century ago to get clean, running water into the county. Now, he sees the internet as just as important, in order to help create jobs and encourage businesses to move into the empty storefronts on Beattyville's main street.

Internet access has improved for some, as Peoples Rural Telephone, one of few internet service providers in the region, started expanding into the county around four years ago.

But for most residents of the more remote mountain hollers, like Ross' family, the expansion won't arrive in time for the start of school.

In the spring, Ross' children, ages 12, 13, and 15, had to connect their laptops to the mobile hot spot powered by data on his phone. It didn't always work. That meant they often had to complete hard-copy packets without access to online materials.

Ross is able to pay for data with what he earns from occasional construction jobs, but Comcast, AT&T and T-Mobile recently brought back some data caps, which could slow the speed of what little connection families like Ross' have.

In Lee, like many other counties in rural Eastern Kentucky, there have been only a few confirmed coronavirus cases. As a result, some are pushing for school to start in person immediately, but others are more cautious. Ross wants officials to hold off until October in hopes the virus will subside.

Regina Mays, executive secretary to Mayor Jackson, said she and her husband will keep their children at home for the entire upcoming semester — even if the school begins offering in-person classes. She plans on taking them into the office with her a few times a week, so they'll have access to a stable internet connection. Her children didn't get credit for some assignments last spring because of issues with their satellite internet connection.

"I just worry that they'll be so far behind in school and how long it will take for them to get caught back up, and what that means for their future," she said.

Wasson, the superintendent, anticipates a new set of challenges when schools reopen in person: The district does not have a large pool of substitutes or enough staff to fill bus monitor positions.

Still, she would like to return to in-person instruction, with social distancing measures, since she knows the difficulty of learning from home.

"Imagine teaching a kindergartner for the first time how to write their letters and not being with them," Wasson said.

Hudspeth Blackburn 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.

## **Palestinians say UAE deal hinders quest for Mideast peace**

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's agreement to establish diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates marks a watershed moment in its relations with Arab countries, but the Palestinians say it puts a just resolution of the Middle East conflict even farther out of reach.

The UAE presented its decision to upgrade longstanding ties to Israel as a way of encouraging peace efforts by taking Israel's planned annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank off the table, something Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu swiftly rebuffed by insisting the pause was "temporary."

From the Palestinian perspective, the UAE not only failed to stop annexation, which would dash any remaining hopes of establishing a viable, independent state. It also undermined an Arab consensus that recognition of Israel only come in return for concessions in peace talks — a rare source of leverage for the Palestinians.

"I never expected this poison dagger to come from an Arab country," Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian official and veteran negotiator said Friday. "You are rewarding aggression. ... You have destroyed, with this move, any possibility of peace between Palestinians and Israelis."

President Donald Trump has presented the U.S.-brokered agreement as a major diplomatic achievement and said he expects more Arab and Muslim countries to follow suit. Israel has quietly cultivated ties with the UAE and other Gulf countries for several years as they have confronted a shared enemy in Iran.

In Israel, the agreement has renewed long-standing hopes for normal relations with its Arab neighbors. Netanyahu has long insisted, contrary to generations of failed peace negotiators, that Israel can enjoy such ties without resolving its conflict with the Palestinians. For now, he seems to have been proven right.

"It's hard to claim right now that the 53-year-old occupation is 'unsustainable' when Netanyahu has just proved that not only is it sustainable, but Israel can improve its ties with the Arab world, openly, with the occupation still going," wrote Anshel Pfeffer, a columnist for Israel's Haaretz newspaper.

But the Middle East conflict was never between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, which have fought no wars and share no borders. And the nature of the agreement will likely force the Palestinians to harden their stance and redouble their efforts to isolate Israel.

The Palestinian Authority issued a scathing statement in response to the move, calling it a "betrayal of Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinian cause," language clearly aimed at inflaming Arab and Muslim sentiment worldwide.

The Palestinians have called for an urgent meeting of the Arab League and the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation to condemn the move. But in those forums they will be pitted against the oil-rich UAE, which has deep pockets, allies across the region and even more influence in Washington following the agreement with Israel.

The international campaign is "meant to isolate the Emiratis so that other countries will not take the same step," said Ibrahim Dalalsha, a Palestinian analyst. "Whether it will succeed in this or not, it remains to be seen."

Iran and Turkey lashed out at the UAE, a regional rival, accusing it of betraying the Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims.

But the agreement, and the decision to pause annexation, was welcomed by much of the international

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community, including Egypt and the Gulf Arab nations of Bahrain and Oman. Many countries, including Germany, France, Italy, China and India, expressed hope it would help revive the peace process.

The Palestinians want an independent state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza, areas seized by Israel in the 1967 war. Trump's plan would allow Israel to keep nearly all of east Jerusalem, including holy sites sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims, and annex up to a third of the West Bank. The Palestinians have angrily rejected the proposal.

Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas reiterated his country's support for a two-state solution when he called to congratulate Israel on the "historic" agreement with the UAE.

"We stand by our position that only a negotiated two-state solution can bring lasting peace to the Middle East," Maas said in a statement. "Together with our European partners and the region we have campaigned intensively in past months against an annexation and for the resumption of direct negotiations."

That strikes many Palestinians as a return to a similarly unbearable status quo, in which Israel rules the West Bank and expands Jewish settlements while the international community calls for peace talks that never materialize.

Any serious negotiations, or lasting solution to the conflict, will require the Palestinians, who feel they have been brushed aside.

"We're now in a situation where everybody is talking about us and no one is talking to us," said Diana Buttu, a former legal adviser to the Palestinian Authority. It's a "colonial approach," she said, "as though we are just some problem that needs to be addressed without ever speaking to us."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas suspended all contacts with the U.S. after it recognized disputed Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in 2017. In May, the Palestinians cut all ties with Israel, including security coordination, in response to the threat of annexation, and said they would no longer abide by any past agreements with Israel or the United States.

In recent weeks, as the threat of annexation faded amid internal political disputes in Israel, some had speculated the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority would quietly back down, if only to restore the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes collected by Israel.

Now, in the wake of the UAE agreement, many say that's out of the question.

"This is not a way for them to climb down from the tree," Buttu said. "It's quite the opposite, I think it keeps them there."

## US prosecutor in Miami targeting Venezuela graft is leaving

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A federal prosecutor who has jailed some of Venezuela's biggest crooks is stepping down, The Associated Press has learned, leaving a void that could dampen U.S. efforts to expose criminal activity in the South American country amid rising tensions with the Trump administration.

Michael Nadler, an assistant U.S. attorney, is leaving to enter private practice next month at a boutique Miami law firm— Stumphauzer Foslid Sloman Ross & Kolaya—said a person familiar with the move who insisted on speaking anonymously because it hadn't been made public.

Nadler, 48, has indicted multiple Venezuelan Cabinet ministers, businessmen and Swiss bankers as part of a sustained effort by investigators in the Southern District of Florida to recover some of the \$300 billion estimated to have been stolen from Venezuela in two decades of socialist rule.

Much of that allegedly ill-gotten wealth has been plowed into Miami's booming luxury real estate market. That has angered the city's Latino residents — many of them Venezuelan and Cuban exiles — for whom the Trump administration's hard-line focus on exposing corruption in Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's government is a major draw in the battleground state ahead of the U.S. presidential election.

"There may well be a collective sigh of relief in Venezuela from those he targeted," said Michael Diaz, a Miami defense attorney who has litigated against Nadler on behalf of Venezuelan clients. "Certainly some will be toasting his untimely departure."

Nadler in 2018 secured what is so far the largest judgment to date against a Venezuelan insider when

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Alejandro Andrade, the former national treasurer, pleaded guilty to his role in a foreign currency conspiracy that siphoned off hundreds of millions from state coffers. As part of his plea agreement, Andrade forfeited to the U.S. government \$1 billion in cash and assets, including an oceanfront Palm Beach mansion, luxury vehicles, show-jumping horses and several Rolex and Hublot watches. He's currently serving a 10-year sentence.

Nadler leaves one politically sensitive case unfinished. In June, he secured the arrest in Cape Verde of Colombian businessman Alex Saab as Maduro's alleged front man was en route to Iran. In a one-two punch, the Trump administration last year sanctioned Saab on the same day that Nadler charged the businessman with money laundering in connection with an alleged bribery scheme to develop low-income housing for Venezuela's government that was never built.

Saab's extradition is still pending and being fought vigorously by a team of lawyers that includes former Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon, who is famous for indicting former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. Maduro's government said the businessman, who also has a Venezuelan passport, was on a "humanitarian mission" to Iran to buy food and medical supplies.

Saab was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department for allegedly running a scheme that included Maduro's stepsons and allegedly stole hundreds of millions in dollars from food import contracts at a time of widespread hunger in the crisis-wracked OPEC nation. Nadler, who still has a few weeks on the job, has not indicted Saab for the alleged food corruption.

Nadler began working Venezuela cases in 2017, and Diaz said he quickly won a reputation as an aggressive prosecutor who had a good rapport with agents. As part of his investigation of the sprawling criminal networks used to launder money, he traveled to meet with officials and witnesses in Switzerland, the U.K., Portugal, Spain and Colombia.

Diaz also credits Nadler with clawing hard to keep cases away from prosecutors in other high-profile federal districts who were all competing to sign up as government witnesses the many Venezuelans fleeing their homeland. Prosecutors in New York and Washington in March charged Maduro and other high-level officials with conspiracy to traffic cocaine, while Houston has the lead in a probe into alleged corruption at Venezuela's state-run oil giant PDVSA.

Nadler's boss, Ariana Fajardo-Orshan, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, created a special money laundering unit in March 2019 that focused on financial crimes, giving even more impetus to that effort.

Venezuela is ranked the most-corrupt country in Latin America, and tied with Sudan, Afghanistan and Equatorial Guinea as the seventh-worst among 180 countries in the latest annual ranking by Berlin-based Transparency International.

Dick Gregorie, the retired assistant U.S. attorney in Miami who indicted Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega in the 1980s, said Nadler is the nation's most knowledgeable and experienced litigator working on Venezuela. He said his exit will leave a major void that won't be easily filled by other prosecutors, who will need time to capture the complexities and nuances of corruption in the country.

"Venezuela is a kleptocracy and to understand how they move the money and stolen from Venezuelan people takes years," said Gregorie, who is now a consultant for Berkeley Research Group. "Nadler's departure will certainly be felt."

Fajardo-Orshan's wouldn't confirm or deny Nadler's plans to depart but reaffirmed the commitment to go after corrupt officials from Venezuela and elsewhere "who callously steal money from their own citizens, then try to hide it in U.S. banks and through U.S. real estate transactions."

"The experienced, talented, and committed prosecutors in our Money Laundering section work as a team to combat this illegal activity," her office said in a statement.



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## Chicago convenience store ransacked twice since May

Security cameras captured the pillaging of a West Side Chicago convenience store hours after Mayor Lori Lightfoot warned vandals that the city would hold them accountable for ransacking downtown retailers.

Walid Mouhammad, owner of African Food & Liquor, watched surveillance video helplessly from home on Monday as thieves destroyed his ATM, safe and cash register, stealing money and ripping the store apart in the process.

Mouhammad has worked there for 33 years, the last 20 as its owner. He says he knows his customers by name and they rely on his market for produce and meat.

That's why he spent around \$300,000 to reopen after being vandalized in late May during violence sparked by anger after George Floyd died in police custody in Minneapolis. He's not sure if he'll be able to rebuild again.

Mouhammad says police were just a block away when his landlord and several workers called 911 to report that people were trying to break into the store. He says Chicago police officers arrived about a half hour after the store had already been emptied.

## For Harris, memories of mother guide bid for vice president

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Speaking from the Senate floor for the first time, Kamala Harris expressed gratitude for a woman on whose shoulders she said she stood. In her autobiography, Harris interspersed the well-worn details of her resume with an extended ode to the one she calls "the reason for everything." And taking the stage to announce her presidential candidacy, she framed it as a race grounded in the compassion and values of the person she credits for her fighting spirit.

Though more than a decade has passed since Shyamala Gopalan died, she remains a force in her daughter's life as she takes a historic spot on the Democratic ticket besides former Vice President Joe Biden. Those who know the California senator expect her campaign for the vice presidency to bring repeated mentions of the woman she calls her single greatest influence.

"She's always told the same story," said friend Mimi Silbert. "Kamala had one important role model, and it was her mother."

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EDITOR'S NOTE — This story was originally published on May 11, 2019, as part of an occasional series exploring the stories that the Democratic presidential candidates tell about themselves, their families and the origins of their political drive. This story has been updated to reflect Harris' selection by Joe Biden to be his vice presidential running mate.

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Harris' mother gave her an early grounding in the civil rights movement and injected in her a duty not to complain but rather to act. And that no-nonsense demeanor on display in Senate hearings over special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and more? Onlookers can credit, or blame, Gopalan, a crusader who raised her daughter in the same mold.

"She'd tell us: 'Don't sit around and complain about things. Do something.' So I did something," Harris said Wednesday in her first appearance with Biden as his running mate.

Harris' parents met as doctoral students at the University of California, Berkeley, at the dawn of the 1960s. Her father, a Jamaican named Donald Harris, came to study economics. Her mother studied nutrition and endocrinology.

For two freethinking young people drawn to activism, they landed on campus from opposite sides of the world just as protests exploded around civil rights, the Vietnam War and voting rights. Their paths crossed in those movements, and they fell in love.

At the heart of their activism was a small group of students who met every Sunday to discuss the books of Black authors and grassroots activity around the world, from the anti-apartheid Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa to liberation movements in Latin America to the Black separatist preaching of

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Malcolm X in the U.S.

A member of the group, Aubrey Labrie, said the weekly gathering was one in which figures such as Mao Zedong and Fidel Castro were admired, and would later provide some inspiration to the founders of the Black Panther Party. Gopalan was the only one in the group who wasn't Black, but she immersed herself in the issues, Labrie said. She and Harris wowed him with their intellect.

"I was in awe of the knowledge that they seemed to demonstrate," said Labrie, who grew so close to the family that the senator calls him "Uncle Aubrey."

The couple married, and Gopalan Harris gave birth to Kamala and then Maya two years later. Even with young children, the duo continued their advocacy.

As a little girl, Harris says she remembers an energetic sea of moving legs and the cacophony of chants as her parents made their way to marches. She writes of her parents being sprayed with police hoses, confronted by Hells Angels and once, with the future senator in a stroller, forced to run to safety when violence broke out.

Sharon McGaffie, a family friend whose mother, Regina Shelton, was a caregiver for the girls, remembers Gopalan Harris speaking to her daughters as if they were adults and exposing them to worlds often walled off to children, whether a civil rights march or a visit to mom's laboratory or a seminar where the mother was delivering a speech.

"She would take the girls and they would pull out their little backpacks and they would be in that environment," said McGaffie.

A few years into the marriage, Harris' parents divorced. The senator gives the pain of the parting only a few words in her biography. Those who are close to her describe her childhood as happy, the smells of her mother's cooking filling the kitchen and the sound of constant chatter and laughter buffeting the air.

The mother's influence on her girls grew even greater, and those who know Harris say they see it reflected throughout her life.

"You can't know who @KamalaHarris is without knowing who our mother was," her sister Maya tweeted Tuesday after Biden announced his pick. "Missing her terribly, but know she and the ancestors are smiling today."

As a kindergartner, Stacey Johnson-Batiste remembers Harris coming to her aid when a classroom bully grabbed her craft project and threw it to the floor, which brought retaliation from the boy. He hit the future politician in the head with something that caused enough bleeding to necessitate a hospital visit, cementing for Johnson-Batiste a lifelong friendship with Harris and a view of her as a woman who embodies the ethics of her mother.

"Even back then," Johnson-Batiste said, "she has always stood up for what she thought was right."

As a teenager, after her mother got a job that prompted a family move to Montreal, Harris began seeing how she could achieve change in ways small and large. Outside her family's apartment, she and her sister protested a prohibition against soccer on the building's lawn, which Harris said resulted in the rule being overturned. As high school wound down, she homed in on a career goal of being a lawyer.

Sophie Maxwell, a former member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, said Harris wasn't choosing to eschew activism but rather to incorporate it into a life in law: "Those two things go hand in hand."

In college, at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Shelley Young Thompkins recalls a classmate who was certain of what she wanted to do in life, who was serious about her studies and who put off the fun of joining a sorority until her final year even as she made time for sit-ins and protests. Thompkins and Harris both won student council posts.

In her new friend, Young Thompkins saw a young woman intent on not squandering all that her mother had worked to give her.

"We were these two freshmen girls who want to save the world," she said.

From there, Harris' story is much better known: a return to California for law school; a failed first attempt at the bar; jobs in prosecutor's offices in Oakland and San Francisco; a brazen and successful run at unseating her former boss as district attorney; election as state attorney general and U.S. senator; and

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a run for president that launched with fanfare but dissolved before the first votes were cast.

Each step of the way, friends point to the influence of Gopalan Harris as a constant.

Andrea Dew Steele remembers it being apparent from the moment they sat down to craft the very first flyer for Harris' first campaign for public office.

"She always talked about her mother," Dew Steele said. "When she was alive she was a force, and since she's passed away she's still a force."

Dew Steele remembers when she finally met Gopalan Harris at a campaign event. It immediately struck her: "Oh, this is where Kamala gets it from."

As much as mother and daughter shared, Gopalan Harris believed the world would see them differently. Those who knew her say she was dismayed by racial inequality in the U.S. Understanding her girls would be seen as Black despite their mixed heritage, she surrounded them with Black role models and immersed them in Black culture. They sang in the children's choir at a Black church and regularly visited Rainbow Sign, a former Berkeley funeral home that was transformed into a vibrant Black cultural center.

Though the senator talks of attending anti-apartheid protests in college and frames her life story as being in the same mold as her mother, she opted to pursue change by seeking a seat at the table.

"I knew part of making change was what I'd seen all my life, surrounded by adults shouting and marching and demanding justice from the outside. But I also knew there was an important role on the inside," she wrote in "The Truths We Hold."

To launch her political career, Harris had to unseat a man of her mother's generation — a liberal prosecutor who was the product of a left-wing family, who was active in the civil rights movement and who became a hero to other activists whom he defended in court. To win, Harris ran as a tougher-on-crime alternative.

Once in office, bound by the parameters of the law and the realities of politics, Harris' choices stirred some to dismiss her claims of progressivism even as many others fiercely defend her. She frames her philosophy in the example of her mother — concentrating on overarching goals through smaller daily steps.

"She wasn't fixated on that distant dream. She focused on the work right in front of her," the senator wrote.

Gopalan Harris defied generations of tradition by not returning to southern India after getting her doctorate, tossing aside expectations of an arranged marriage. Her daughter portrays her mother's spirit of activism as being in her blood. Gopalan Harris' mother took in victims of domestic abuse and educated women about contraception. Her father was active in India's independence movement and became a diplomat. The couple spent time living in Zambia after the end of British rule there, working to settle refugees.

Joe Gray, who was Gopalan Harris' boss after she returned from Canada to the Bay Area to work at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, struggles to describe how a 5-foot-1-inch woman managed to fill a room with her commanding presence.

Gray, now a professor at Oregon Health and Science University, didn't see Gopalan Harris as a "crusader in the workplace" but said she insisted on racial and gender equity, would make known her disapproval to an insensitive comment and was assertive in defending her work in cancer research.

Even from a distance, he's struck by how much Harris reminds him of her.

"I just get the TV persona, but a lot of Shyamala's directness and sense of social justice, those seem to come through," he said. "I sense the same spirit."

Lateefah Simon sensed it, too. She was a high school dropout-turned-MacArthur fellow Harris hired to join the San Francisco DA's office to head a program for first-time offenders. Simon was skeptical of taking a role in a criminal justice system she saw as broken and biased, but Harris impressed her, and soon she had a glimpse of her mother as well.

At campaign events, Simon would watch Gopalan Harris, always in the front row, always beaming with pride. She saw how both mother and daughter were meticulous about tiny details, how they were hard workers but maintained a sense of joy in the labors, how their laugh would echo in the room.

One time, Simon said Gopalan Harris sent her away from a fundraiser because she was wearing tennis shoes, gently reminding her, "We always show up excellent."

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Years later, she heard echoes of the same message when Harris took a break from her Senate race to support her run for a seat on the Bay Area Rapid Transit District board. Descending from her campaign bus, Harris was quick with some words of advice for her friend: "Girl, clean your glasses."

"It's her saying, 'I believe in you and I want people to see what I see in you,'" Simon said. Remembering her brush with the senator's mother, Simon said, "If I got that from Shyamala just in that one moment, can you imagine the many jewels Kamala got from her growing up?"

It's an influence that far outweighed that of Harris' father. He and her mother separated when she was 5 before ultimately divorcing. She writes of seeing him on weekends and over summers after he became a professor at Stanford University.

In a piece he wrote for the Jamaica Global website, Harris said he never gave up his love for his daughters, and the senator trumpeted her father as a superhero in her children's book. But the iciness of their relationship was on display last year when she jokingly linked her use of marijuana to her Jamaican heritage. Her father labeled the comment a "travesty" and a shameful soiling of the family reputation "in the pursuit of identity politics."

The senator is curt in responding to questions about him, saying they have "off and on" contact. Labrie said though the father attended his daughter's Senate swearing-in, he wasn't at her campaign kickoff. He thinks the marijuana hubbub worsened their relationship. "I think that was the straw that really broke the camel's back," he said.

The singularity of her mother's role in her life made her death even harder for Harris. Gopalan Harris relished roles in her daughter's early campaigns but was gone before seeing her advance beyond a local office. The senator says she still thinks of her constantly.

"It can still get me choked up," she said in an interview last year. "It doesn't matter how many years have passed."

The senator still uses pots and wooden spoons from her mother and thinks of her when she is back home and able to cook. Her mother's amethyst ring sparkles from her hand. She finds herself asking her mother for advice or remembering one of her oft-repeated lines.

"I dearly wish she were here with us this week," Harris tweeted Thursday.

She pictures the pride her mother wore as she stood beside her when she was sworn in as district attorney. She remembers worrying about staying composed as she uttered her mother's name in her inaugural address as attorney general. She thinks of her mother asking a hospice nurse if her daughters would be OK as cancer drew her final day closer.

"There is no title or honor on earth I'll treasure more than to say I am Shyamala Gopalan Harris' daughter," she wrote. "That is the truth I hold dearest of all."

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## Harris bringing energy, dollars and more to Biden's campaign

BY ALEXANDRA JAFFE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — In her first two days as Joe Biden's running mate, Kamala Harris has fired off the campaign's sharpest criticism of President Donald Trump's shortcomings. She has vouched for Biden's character on race and more. And the enthusiasm surrounding her historic candidacy has brought in a record \$48 million in 48 hours.

The campaign hopes it is just the beginning.

With less than three months before the election, Harris is rapidly embracing her new role. Democratic operatives and Harris allies believe she'll energize what has been a relatively quiet campaign that has often preferred to keep the attention on the turbulence of Trump's White House. She's already making a vigorous case for Trump's defeat, allowing Biden to focus more on his own policy prescriptions and less on direct attacks.

"We always look for surrogates and validators that help close the deal and can speak to voters who

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needed another reason to say, "Yes, I'm gonna support Joe Biden," said Donna Brazile, a former Democratic National Committee chair who also ran Al Gore's 2000 campaign. "She fills in the gap."

Harris was known during the Democratic presidential primary for wearing Converse sneakers and dancing with staff and supporters in unscripted moments. Biden allies expect her to deliver enthusiasm among some Democrats who oppose Trump but aren't yet energized to vote for a candidate they feel may be out of touch with their concerns.

Harris' "ability to connect" is part of what California Rep. Barbara Lee, who served as one of her campaign chairs, believes will help her deliver the campaign message to voters who may be otherwise tuned out.

"She loves to dance. She loves to cook. She's a person who does normal things that everybody does. They can relate to her," Lee said.

Still, Harris, the first Black woman selected for a national ticket, has faced her own criticism from young voters and progressives in the past, namely over her record on police misconduct as a district attorney and later California's attorney general. Critics say she opposed key criminal justice reform measures, including police body cameras statewide, and didn't address a number of wrongful convictions on her watch.

But during her time in Congress she's embraced greater reforms to law enforcement, particularly in recent months in the nationwide reckoning over racism sparked by the police killing of George Floyd. She has been a leading Democratic voice on the issue.

Some progressives still point to Biden's past support for the 1994 crime bill as reason to doubt his commitment to criminal justice reform. And Harris herself was a critic of Biden's record on race, notably assailing him during a primary debate for previously opposing federally mandated busing. But Harris signaled Wednesday that she'll offer a strong defense of Biden's record on race.

During her first appearance with the former vice president, she said Biden "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 campaign officials see her as a strong messenger against Trump, pointing to both her vigorous criticism of the Republican president during her primary campaign, when her pledge to "prosecute the case" against Trump won her support, as well as her sharp comments Wednesday. She said Trump "cares more about himself than the people who elected him" and accused him of "making every challenge we face even more difficult to solve."

Brian Brokaw, who ran Harris' campaign for attorney general in 2010, said her questioning of Trump officials during Senate Judiciary Committee hearings hints at the case she'll make against him on the campaign trail and during the vice presidential debate with Mike Pence.

"No one should forget that she had cut her teeth in the courtroom," he said. "Anybody who has been on the receiving end of the Kamala Harris cross-examination, whether it's a witness on the stand or Jeff Sessions or Bill Barr knows that if you're in her crosshairs, it's an uncomfortable place to be."

Biden's allies believe a main Harris advantage is demonstrated by the Republicans' struggle to settle on a line of attack against her. In the short time since she was announced, Trump has called her everything from "extraordinarily nasty" to "a madwoman," from "phony" to "radical left." On Thursday he said he had "heard" rumors that she is ineligible to run for national office because her parents are immigrants. She was born in Oakland, California, and there is no doubt she is eligible.

Harris is already delivering for the campaign in a tangible way: with a record-breaking fundraising haul.

While fundraising is traditionally one of the running mate's top priorities, a number of donors said her presence would be particularly helpful for Democrats because of her connections in California and beyond. Through her nearly two decades in California politics, Harris built a network of deep-pocketed donors in Hollywood and the state's legal circles.

Andrew Byrnes, a California donor who supported Harris, then moved to Biden in the presidential primary, said he got about 50 messages from donors wanting to get involved after Biden selected her.

Michel Kraut, a Los Angeles lawyer and major Harris contributor, said he's already had donors asking him about putting together events in the area.

"It allows Kamala's nationwide fundraising machine to get reinvigorated," said Kraut, who has already

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been raising money for Biden.

"There's this new energy that the person we wanted to be president and now is on the presidential ticket has created. It's not just, 'I'll raise money,' but, 'I'll be dedicated to do this.'"

Associated Press writer Kathleen Ronayne contributed to this report from Sacramento, Calif.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 15, the 228th day of 2020. There are 138 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 15, 1947, India became independent after some 200 years of British rule.

On this date:

In 1483, the Sistine Chapel was consecrated by Pope Sixtus IV.

In 1769, Napoleon Bonaparte was born on the island of Corsica.

In 1935, humorist Will Rogers and aviator Wiley Post were killed when their airplane crashed near Point Barrow in the Alaska Territory.

In 1939, the MGM musical "The Wizard of Oz" opened at the Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces landed in southern France in Operation Dragoon.

In 1945, in a pre-recorded radio address, Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced that his country had accepted terms of surrender for ending World War II.

In 1965, the Beatles played to a crowd of more than 55,000 at New York's Shea Stadium.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair opened in upstate New York.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon announced a 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents.

In 1998, 29 people were killed by a car bomb that tore apart the center of Omagh (OH'-mah), Northern Ireland; a splinter group calling itself the Real IRA claimed responsibility.

In 2004, in Athens, the U.S. men's basketball team lost 92-73 to Puerto Rico, only the third Olympic defeat ever for the Americans and the first since adding pros.

In 2017, President Donald Trump, who'd faced harsh criticism for initially blaming the deadly weekend violence in Charlottesville, Virginia on "many sides," told reporters that there were "very fine people on both sides" of the confrontation and that groups protesting against the white supremacists were "also very violent." (In between those statements, at the urging of aides, Trump had offered a more direct condemnation of white supremacists.)

Ten years ago: Former medical student Philip Markoff, charged with killing Julissa Brisman, a masseuse he'd met through Craigslist, was found dead in his Boston jail cell, a suicide. Martin Kaymer won the PGA Championship in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, in a three-hole playoff that did not include Dustin Johnson, who was penalized two strokes for grounding his club in a bunker on the last hole.

Five years ago: Japanese Emperor Akihito expressed rare "deep remorse" over his country's wartime actions in an address marking the 70th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II, a day after the prime minister fell short of apologizing to victims of Japanese aggression. Civil rights leader Julian Bond, 75, died in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

One year ago: After being urged to do so by President Donald Trump, Israel barred two Muslim-American congresswomen from entering the country for a visit. (Israel later granted permission for Rep. Rashida Tlaib to visit her grandmother in the occupied West Bank on humanitarian grounds; she declined, saying Israel's "oppressive" conditions were designed to humiliate her.) A federal appeals panel ruled that immigrant children detained by the U.S. government should get edible food, clean water, soap and toothpaste under a longstanding agreement over detention conditions; the court dismissed a Trump administration bid to limit what must be provided. U.S. government climate scientists said July was the hottest month measured on Earth since records began in 1880. Retired auto racing driver Dale Earnhardt Jr., his wife

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and daughter were on a plane that rolled off the end of a runway and caught fire after landing near Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee; there were no serious injuries. A 41-year-old Northern California man, Dana Hutchings, died shortly after competing in a taco-eating contest at a minor-league baseball game in Fresno; a coroner said Hutchings had choked to death.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Abby Dalton is 88. Actor Lori Nelson is 87. Civil rights activist Vernon Jordan is 85. Actor Jim Dale is 85. Actor Pat Priest is 84. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is 82. U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., is 82. Musician Pete York (Spencer Davis Group) is 78. Author-journalist Linda Ellerbee is 76. Songwriter Jimmy Webb is 74. Rock singer-musician Tom Johnston (The Doobie Brothers) is 72. Actor Phyllis Smith is 71. Britain's Princess Anne is 70. Actor Tess Harper is 70. Actor Larry Mathews is 65. Actor Zeljko Ivanek (ZEHL'-koh eh-VON'-ehk) is 63. Actor-comedian Rondell Sheridan is 62. Rock singer-musician Matt Johnson (The The) is 59. Movie director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (ihn-YAH'-ee-tu) is 57. Philanthropist Melinda Gates is 56. Country singer Angela Rae (Wild Horses) is 54. Actor Peter Hermann is 53. Actor Debra Messing is 52. Actor Anthony Anderson is 50. Actor Ben Affleck is 48. Singer Mikey Graham (Boyzone) is 48. Actor Natasha Henstridge is 46. Actor Nicole Paggi is 43. Christian rock musician Tim Foreman (Switchfoot) is 42. Actor Emily Kinney is 36. Figure skater Jennifer Kirk is 36. Latin pop singer Belinda (cq) is 31. Actor Courtney Hope is 31. Rock singer Joe Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 31. Actor-singer Carlos PenaVega is 31. Actor Jennifer Lawrence is 30. Rap DJ Smoove da General (Cali Swag District) is 30.