

# Groton Daily Independent

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The Boys Soccer Team defeated Freeman yesterday, 3-1. The game was played in Freeman.

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## Church Services

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church: Worship in the church at 8:30 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215332349572015/>)

Groton Christian & Missinary Alliance Church: Worship in the church at 10:30 a.m.: (<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)

St. John's Lutheran Church: Worship in the church at 9 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/>)  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Worship outside at 9 a.m.

(<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church-GrotonSD-ELCA-636505039852208/>)

United Methodist Church: Worship in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc>)

Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden, 10:30 a.m. People will stay in their vehicles and listen to the service on their FM radio.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont has worship on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the basement.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont / Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden - will have a podcast posted. <https://anchor.fm/paul-irvin-kosel>

**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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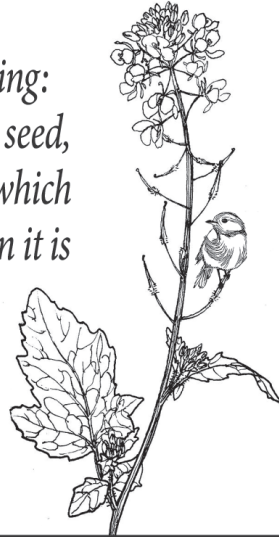
## Sunday Extras



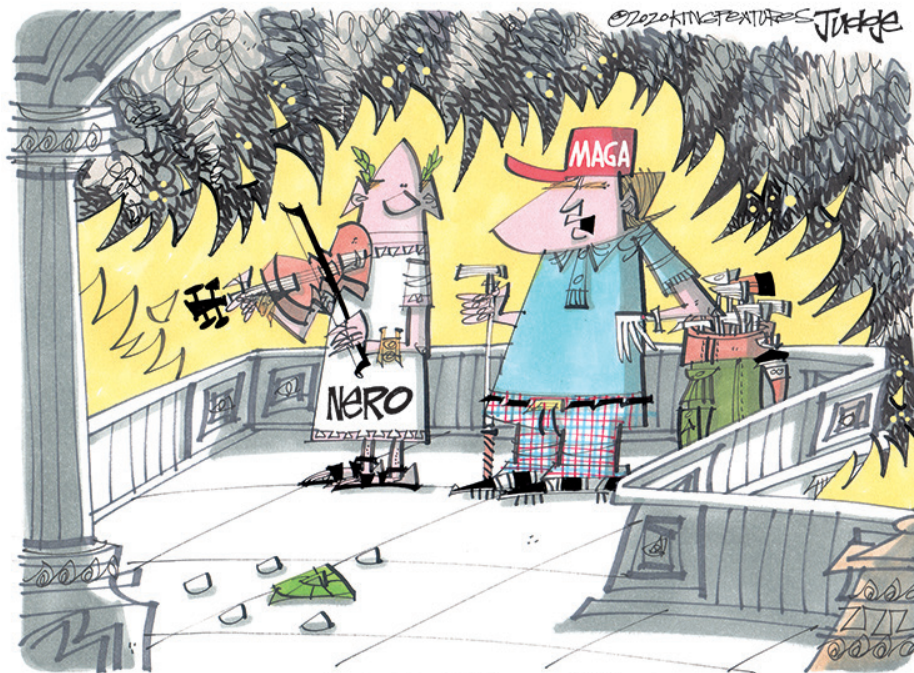
### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Another parable He put forth to them, saying:  
"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,  
which a man took and sowed in his field, which  
indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is  
grown it is greater than the herbs and  
becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air  
come and nest in its branches."

Matthew 13:31,32



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"I PREFER GOLF."

## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Isaiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. A number of herbs and spices are mentioned in the Bible (KJV). Which one is mentioned the most? *Salt, Pepper, Sage, Thyme*

3. Whose first chapter begins, "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus"? *Matthew, Luke, John, Acts*

4. In 2 Kings 1, what Philistine city worshiped Baal-zebub? *Ekron, Succoth, Gomorrah, Antipatris*

5. From Acts 9, where did Peter cure Aeneas? *Tyre, Neapolis, Lydda, Gibeon*

6. In Numbers 20, where did Aaron die? *Mount of Olives, Pisgah, Mount Hor, Gilboa*

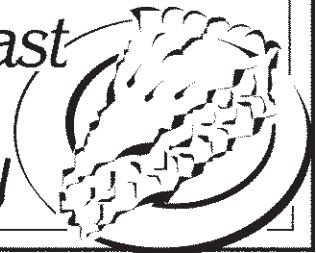
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Salt; 3) Acts; 4) Ekron; 5) Lydda; 6) Mount Hor

*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).*

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## Comfort foods

Made fast  
and  
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

### Salmon and Cucumber Sandwich

Even on a hot August lunch break, this sandwich can lower the temperature, even if the thermometer doesn't budge!

- 1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise*
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice*
- 1 teaspoon dried dill weed*
- 1 (14 3/4-ounce) can pink salmon, drained, boned, skinned and flaked*
- 3/4 cup finely chopped unpeeled cucumber*
- 3 pita bread rounds, halved*

1. In a medium bowl, combine mayonnaise, lemon juice and dill weed. Add salmon and cucumber. Mix gently to combine.

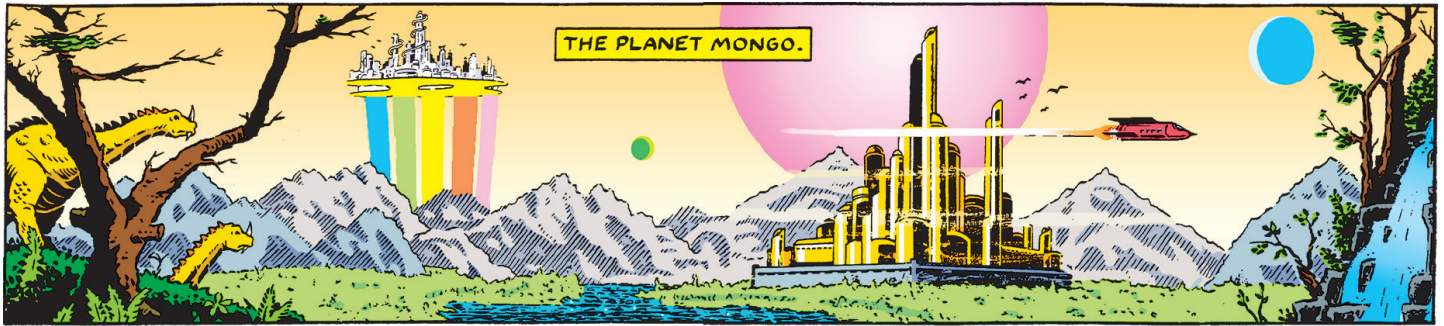
2. For each sandwich, spoon about 1/2 cup salmon mixture into a pita half. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 6 servings.

• Each serving equals: About 180 calories, 4g fat, 16g protein, 20g carb., 688mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 1/2 Meat, 1 Starch.

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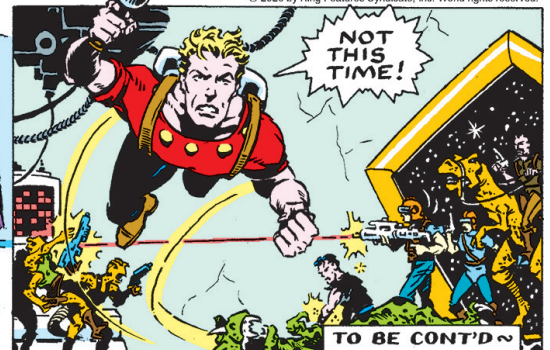
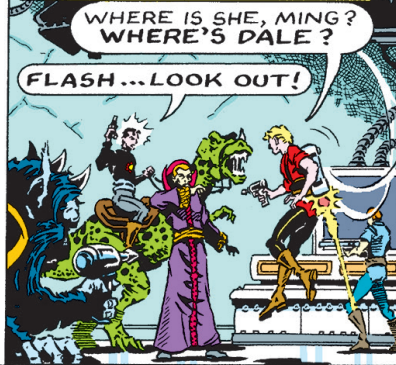


## FLASH GORDON

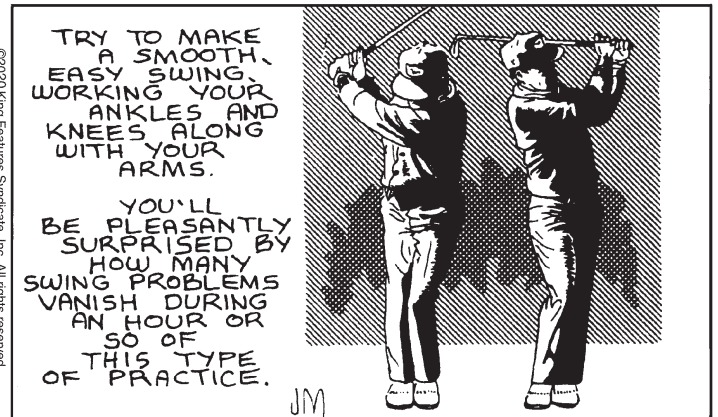
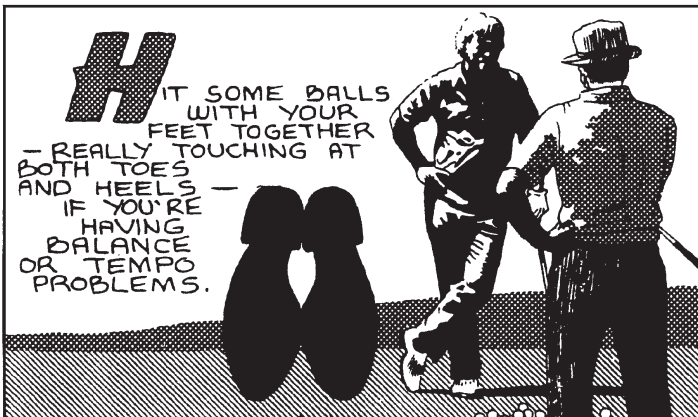
BY JIM KEEFE

8-9

LEADING PRINCE BARIN'S TROOPS, FLASH AND SECRET AGENT X-9 STORM MING'S STRONGHOLD.



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## Husband Makes Frequent Nighttime Bathroom Visits

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My husband, 79 years old, is getting up five or six times at night to urinate. The urgent care doctor said he doesn't have an infection but doesn't know what's going on. He is taking Flomax, but that doesn't seem to be helping. Who should he see? — *E.L.O.*

**ANSWER:** Urinating at nighttime ("nocturia") is a common problem for men, but if this is a new or suddenly worsened problem, it requires evaluation.

The first question is whether he is urinating a lot or a little. A male bladder typically holds about 500 cc (almost a quart), so if his bladder were full every time, he might be making as much as 2.5 liters a night. Nighttime urination is considered high-volume when it constitutes a third or more of total urine output for 24 hours.

High-volume nocturia can happen when there is too much of something to get rid of: sugar, in people with meli-tus ("sugar diabetes"); salt, in people who eat too much salt at dinner; water, in people who drink a whole lot of water, especially at night; and occasionally in people with congestive heart failure. In heart failure, there is not enough blood flow to the kidneys during the day, so when the person is at rest, the kidneys have enough blood flow to get rid of the fluid that has accumulated during the day (often in the legs and feet).

Another cause of high-volume nocturia is diabetes insipidus, a problem with either the kidney or the control center in the brain, causing the kidney to excrete too much water. That

control center uses a hormone called anti-diuretic hormone to regulate water excretion. Normally, it is high at night, so there is less urine output at night. Sometimes this normal variation is reversed, leading to excess urine output at night, even without diabetes insipidus.

High-volume nocturia is most commonly evaluated by doctors in internal medicine, including kidney and heart specialists.

Low-volume nocturia is caused by a problem with the bladder or, in men, the prostate. Urologists are the experts in figuring out where the problem is and the best course of treatment. Many men get treated for prostate problems when the real issue is an overactive bladder.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My blood pressure drug, losartan, was recalled because of contamination issues with NDEA and NDMA; one is used to make liquid rocket fuel and the other is a byproduct in the manufacture of pesticides. How does this happen? Does the drug company share manufacturing facilities with companies that make these other products? — *EG*

**ANSWER:** I read some speculation by chemists on how the contamination could have happened, and it seems to me that one company made a new process for making losartan (and the related drugs irbesartan and valsartan) that, although cheaper and more efficient, allowed contaminants to form unrecognized. Although not recognized until 2018, it could have been happening since 2012. Other companies changed their manufacturing as well, unaware of these toxic impurities.

This is a real problem, not so much because of this current recall (where the contamination levels are very low), but because it shows the industry lacks enough oversight to quickly identify contamination in generic pharmaceuticals coming from multiple countries.

*Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).*

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1. Name the group that originally called itself Daddy.
2. Who first released "Don't Leave Me This Way"?
3. Name the first artist to release "Respect."
4. Which '60s song was investigated by the Feds for alleged filthy lyrics?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Too real is this feeling of make-believe, Too real when I feel what my heart can't conceal."

### Answers

1. Supertramp. They made a change because there was a group called Daddy Longlegs. The British rockers netted their first Top 10 hit in 1979 with "The Logical Song," off the "Breakfast in America" album.
2. Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, in 1975. Thelma Houston's disco version followed two years later and won a Grammy for Best R&B Vocal Performance, Female.
3. No, it wasn't Aretha Franklin. It was Otis Redding, in 1965. But it was Aretha's version that went into the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress.
4. "Louie, Louie," by the Kingsmen, in 1963. It's actually the story of a Jamaican sailor, written in 1955. Look up Richard Berry's original version.
5. "The Great Pretender," first released by The Platters in 1955, followed by Freddie Mercury in 1987. The song made the Rolling Stone list of greatest songs of all time.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



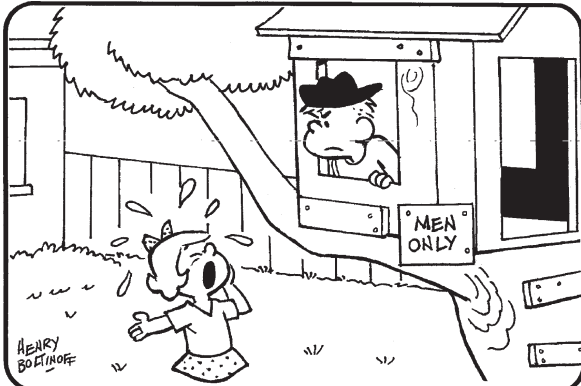
GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by</sup> Wagner



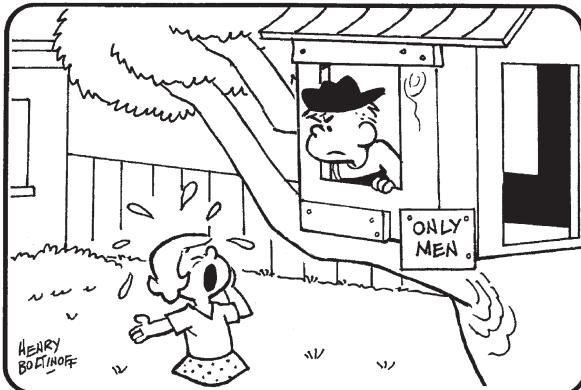
"Can you hold a moment? I have another annoying call on the other line."

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Girl's bow is missing. 2. Tree limb has been added. 3. Boy's shirt has stripe. 4. Sign is different. 5. Treehouse roof is different. 6. Tree steps are gone.

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- Check bagged frozen vegetables with the squeeze test: If it is hard and solid, it has thawed and refrozen, so you should choose another bag.

- “My family drink sodas from the plastic bottles. At the beginning of storm season, I fill a dozen or so about three-quarters full and put them in the freezer. They are good in coolers and such, but mostly they fill space, making the freezer not have to work so hard. And if we lose power, they help to keep frozen foods frozen longer.”  
— *T.R. in Georgia*

- “My family has always used mayonnaise as a salve on minor burns. I heard you can use toothpaste, too.” —  
*Sam P. via e-mail*

- “I love to put photos of family on the fridge. I found that the photos were getting ruined from grease and moisture in the air. To get around that I cleaned and laminated them. Afterward, I hot-glued

little magnets to the backs, and now I can move them around to accommodate new photos. There are so many, and it gives me pleasure to look at them.” — *C.R. in Oklahoma.*

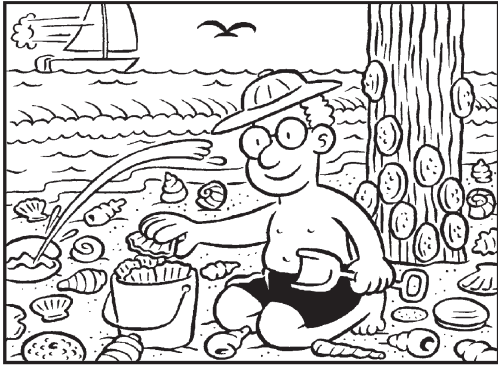
- Use a paper plate as a splatter guard in the microwave. It will not sag down into your food, and will not get dragged off to the side by any rotation.

*Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.*

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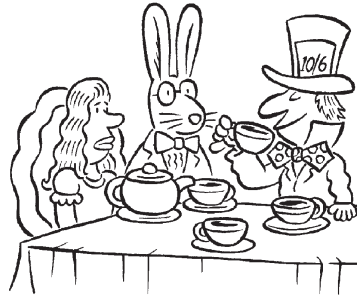


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**WHILE TIMMY IS COOLING OFF** with a Clam Spritzer, see if you can count how many shells are in the picture. We found more than 30.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

### ANOTHER TYPE OF TEA PARTY!

A good way to end the day is with a nice cup of tea. It's also a good way to end the following 14 words. We give you hints for each. (For example: Great speed equals velocity.)

1. Methuselah had it.
2. Type of drink or snowman.
3. Made to look foolish.
4. The spice of life.
5. The soul of wit.
6. Used in quiet cars.
7. Cordial reception of guests.
8. The best policy.
9. A criminal's dread.
10. A skill with hands.
11. Everlasting.
12. A sailor's song.
13. Can keep you down.
14. A stale odor.

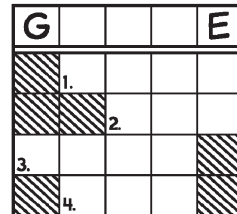
**SEE IF YOU CAN** make this math expression correct by adding four plus signs between certain numbers:

$$1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7 = 100$$

Answer:  $1 + 2 + 34 + 56 + 7 = 100$ .

**FIND-A-WORD!** On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in the letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. To load up.
2. A drink ending.
3. Very willing.
4. A young man.

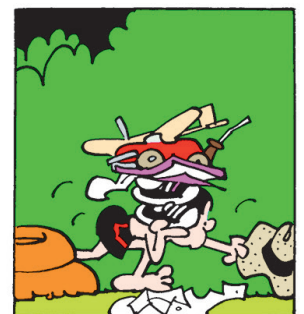
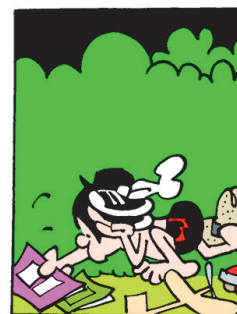
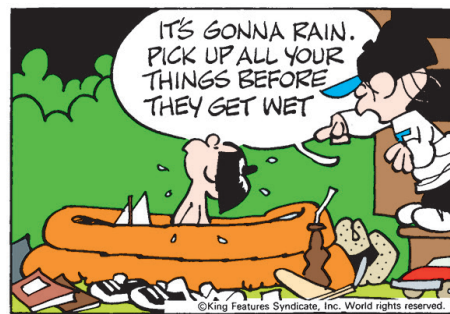


Answers: 1. Lade. 2. Ade (lemonade, orangeade, etc.). 3. Glad. 4. Lad. Mystery word: Glade.

Answers: 1. Longevity. 2. Frosty. 3. Electricity. 4. Variety. 5. Brevity. 6. Indignity. 7. Hospitality. 8. Honesty. 9. Captivity. 10. Dexterity. 11. Eternity. 12. Chanterey. 13. Gravity.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE





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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Homer's cry
- 4 Commotion
- 7 Couturier Bill
- 12 — out a living
- 13 America's uncle
- 14 They're usually covered in white
- 15 Auto
- 16 Cartoon canary
- 18 Suitable
- 19 Point of view
- 20 Effervescence
- 22 Squirrel's home
- 23 Mediocre
- 27 Samovar
- 29 Sister of Venus

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16			17					
18				19								
20			21		22				23	24	25	26
			27	28			29	30				
31	32	33						34				
35					36		37					
38					39	40			41	42	43	44
				45				46		47		
48	49	50	51							52		
53						54				55		
56						57				58		

- 31 Kin of "Abra-cadabra!"
- 34 Crucifixes
- 35 Sufficient
- 37 "Brady Bunch" girl
- 38 Cash-drawer compartment
- 39 Swelled head
- 41 Marvel Comics group
- 45 Clutch
- 47 Anger
- 48 16-Across' pursuer
- 52 Legislation
- 53 Praiseful rendition
- 54 Clean Air Act org.
- 55 Consumed
- 56 "Excavating for —"
- 57 Bashful
- 58 Neither partner
- DOWN**
- 1 Starbucks selection
- 2 Giraffe's cousin
- 3 Avis competitor
- 4 "The Thin Man" pooch
- 5 Suddenly occur to
- 6 Last letter
- 7 Information unit
- 8 Myrna of Hollywood
- 9 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 10 Tackle moguls
- 11 Away from NNW
- 17 Reindeer kin
- 21 Boer fighters
- 23 Cheer-ful part of NYC?
- 24 Zodiac feline
- 25 Moreover
- 26 Owns
- 28 Tatter
- 30 Detergent brand
- 31 Dog's doc
- 32 Individual
- 33 Tiny particle
- 36 Towel word
- 37 Andrew Lloyd Webber title role
- 40 Microsoft big-wig
- 42 Where to see "The Last Supper"
- 43 Poets' Muse
- 44 More recent
- 45 Hackman or Wilder
- 46 Beseech
- 48 Masseur's workplace
- 49 Sweet potato
- 50 Mainlander's memento
- 51 U-Haul rental

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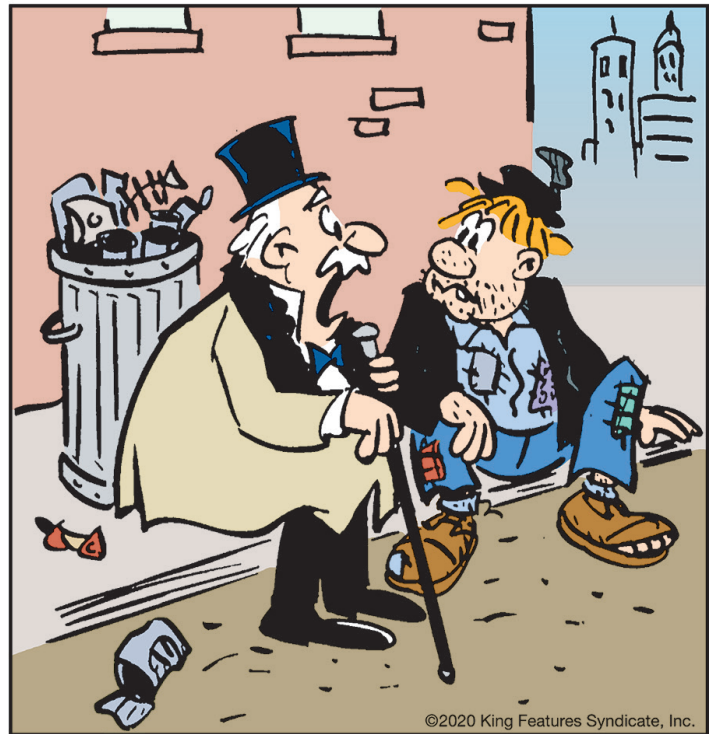
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

D	O	H		A	D	O		B	L	A	S	S
E	K	E		S	A	M		Y	O	L	K	S
C	A	R		T	W	E	E	T	Y	P	I	E
A	P	T		A	N	G	L	E				
F	I	Z	Z		O	A	K		B	L	A	H
			U	R	N		S	E	R	E	N	A
V	O	I	L	A			R	O	O	D	S	
E	N	O	U	G	H		J	A	N			
T	E	N	S		E	G	O		X	M	E	N
				G	R	A	S	P		I	R	E
S	Y	L	V	E	S	T	E	R		L	A	W
P	A	E	A	N		E	P	A		A	T	E
A	M	I	N	E		S	H	Y		N	O	R

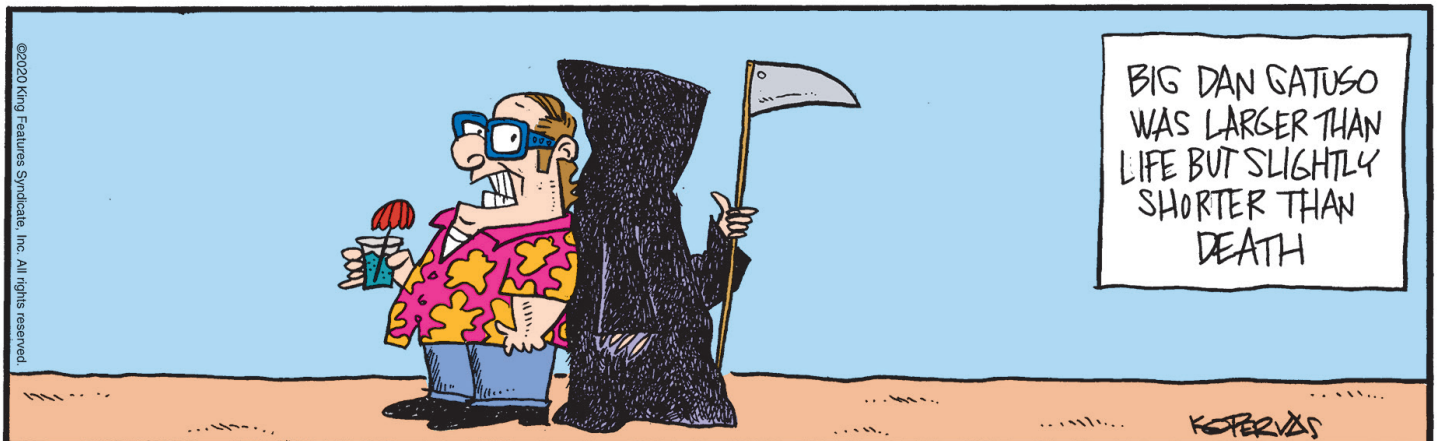
## LAFF - A - DAY



"You're broke before taxes and I'm broke after taxes!"

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

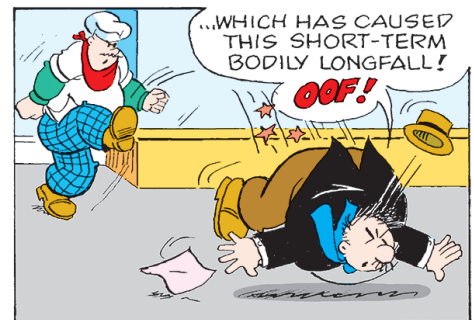
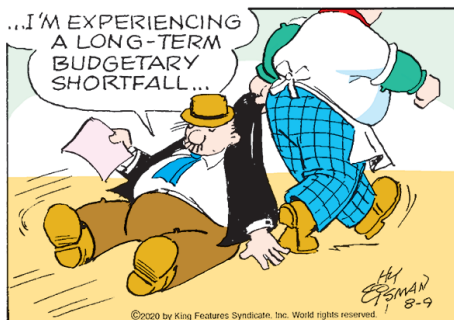
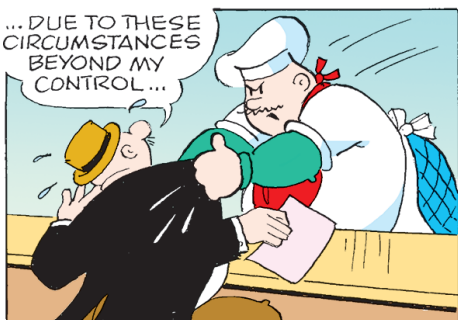
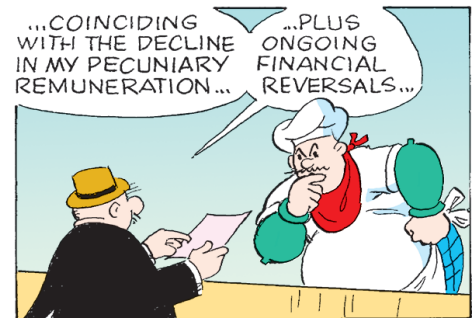
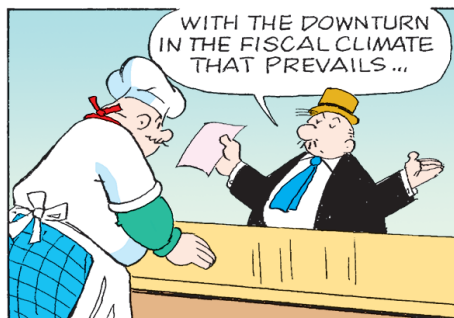
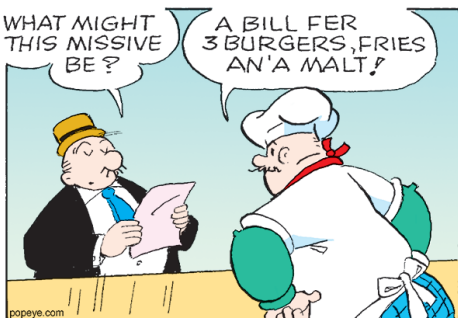
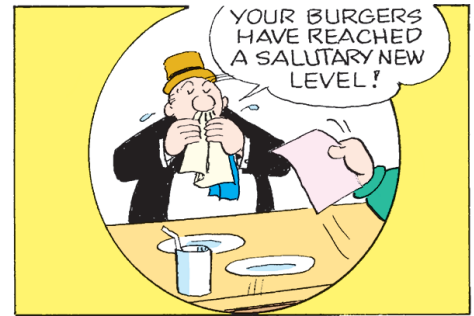
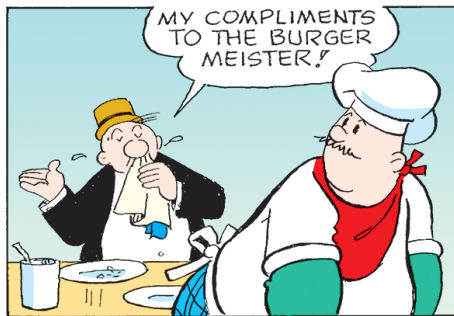
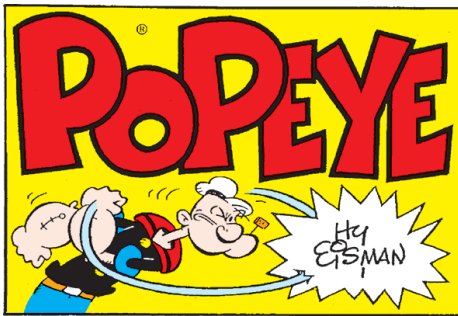


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KOPERVAS

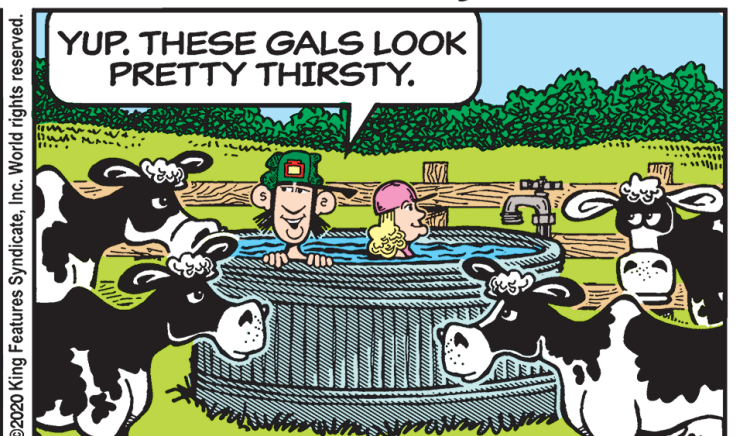
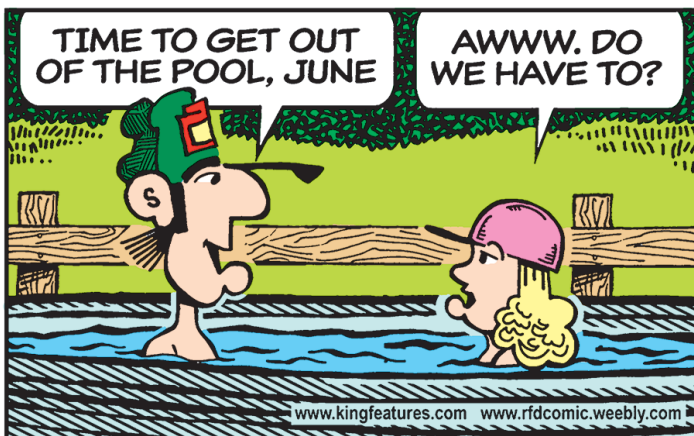
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Hal Foster's BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ  
**Prince Valiant**

**Our Story:**  
THE BEASTMEN HOWL AT THE SIGHT OF THEIR ANCIENT ENEMY INVADING THEIR NEW HOME.

THEY KNOW WHAT THEY MUST DO, BUT FIRST COURTEOUSLY ADDRESS THEIR ONCE-INTENDED: "MUST GO NOW. SORRY. IS NOT YOU..."

THEN THEY TURN FROM THE COURT ATTENDANTS, DRAW THEIR SHORT SWORDS, AND WAIT PATIENTLY...

... UNTIL THE RAMPAGING BEAST HAS CRAWLED CLOSE BENEATH THEIR PERCH.

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ALL OF CAMELOT SEEMS TO GASP AS NUDDER, BUP AND IG LAND SQUARE ON THE MONSTER'S BROAD BACK. WITHOUT PAUSE, THEY SCURRY TOWARD ITS HEAD!

"ITS EYES!" MUTTERS VAL. "THEY MEAN TO BLIND IT!"

NEXT:  
Cause and effect

3775

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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

ALEXA!

PLEASE PHRASE YOUR RESPONSE IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION.

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WOW... ALEXA TRABEK.

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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Coronavirus Scammers

Scammers have come up with even more ways to defraud us, this time using the coronavirus.

Contact tracers are people who make calls when someone you know has tested positive for the coronavirus. Their job is to trace the possible path the virus has taken from person to person. They only need health information and the places you've been, not financial or personal information. If someone calls you who insists on knowing additional information as part of the contact tracing, hang up.

If you get emails or calls from someone saying they have a cure for the virus, or a sure-fire method of being certain you don't get it, hang up. Their next questions will likely be to ask for your personal or financial information, or a credit card number so you can pay for shipping. Don't fall for it. There are no approved test kits or cures that can be handed out to the

general public.

If you get email that's supposedly from the government asking about where to send your stimulus relief check, ignore it. The government is not going to contact you about that. They'll send your check (if you're eligible for one) in the mail or they'll deposit it directly into your account, the same one where they deposit your Social Security benefit. Scammers also will pretend to be people from your bank.

If you get a robocall saying you qualify for low-cost coronavirus insurance, hang up.

If you get suspicious email that looks like it might be from the government with information about coronavirus, don't open it, and especially don't click on any links. Those can put a virus or tracer on your computer.

To stay up on the news about the virus, use a legitimate source: [www.ftc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus). On that site you'll find more information about avoiding coronavirus scams.

Beware ... and stay safe.

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1. Name the Major League Baseball team that played one season in 1969 before moving to Milwaukee and becoming the Brewers in 1970.

2. How many offensive snaps did lineman D'Brickshaw Ferguson miss during his 10-year career with the New York Jets?

3. Two-time Indianapolis 500 champion Emerson Fittipaldi hailed from what country?

4. What golfer became the first woman since 1945 to play in a PGA Tour event when she teed off at the 2003 Bank of America Colonial tournament?

5. What short-statured Atlanta Hawks star spectacularly won the 1986 NBA Slam Dunk Contest?

6. What Hockey Hall of Fame goaltender had his No. 33 jersey retired by both the Montreal Canadiens and the Colorado Avalanche?

7. The South American Football Confederation is commonly known



by Ryan A. Berenz

by what abbreviation?

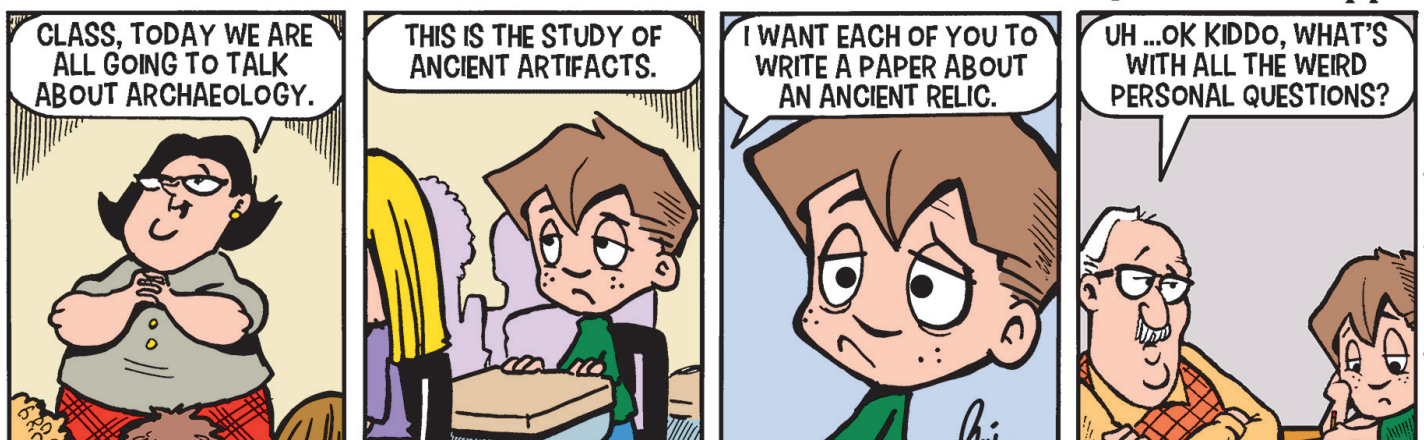
## Answers

1. The Seattle Pilots.
2. One.
3. Brazil.
4. Annika Sorenstam.
5. Spud Webb.
6. Patrick Roy.
7. CONMEBOL.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





CONGRESSMAN  
**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## From Farm to the Family Table

At the beginning of the pandemic, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act – this bill authorized a critical pandemic program for American families – the Farmers to Families Food Box. Since March, more than 62 million families across the country have received food boxes.

Millions of Americans are still out of a job, and for some, these boxes are what's keeping food on the table. As the lead Republican on the Agriculture Committee's Nutrition and Oversight Subcommittee, it's important I see where the rubber meets the road – that's why I volunteered with Feeding South Dakota during their distribution of the boxes.

Feeding South Dakota is doing amazing work. They've successfully partnered with the Farmers to Families federal program and distributed 160,332 boxes of food to families across our state. When families drive up to the food bank to receive their boxes, they are greeted by a welcoming volunteer and given a produce and a dairy box. Milk, cheese, yogurt, apples, berries, onions, and carrots are just a few of the items the family will receive on any given distribution day.

It was amazing to see how many people are being helped, but even more so, I was impressed by the teamwork aspect of the program. The Farmers to Families Food Box is a solid example of good government. The federal government managed to develop a program in weeks, while working with private companies and local food banks to ensure the food gets from the farm to the family table. It's not a perfect program, but it's been largely successful – I credit the partnership with the private sector for that.

Not only does this program help families in need, it provides farmers facing lost demand with a place to sell their food. When things first shut down, some producers were forced to dump their milk, this program continues to help fill some of the void being felt throughout our agriculture communities.

The Farmers to Families food box program is largely serving families who have never needed assistance before. I was proud to see it work firsthand and serve alongside so many dedicated volunteers in my town of Mitchell. If you or a family member are in need of food during these hard times, please don't hesitate and reach out to your local food bank today to see if they are a partner with the Farmers to Families Food Box.

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## Weekly Column: Letter to Students, Parents and Teachers

Dear Students, Parents and Teachers:

The longest summer break you will ever experience is almost over. Life has been different for all of us since COVID-19 hit our communities in March. Kids moved from learning in classrooms to learning online from home. Winter sports abruptly came to an end and spring sports seasons were canceled entirely. Graduation ceremonies looked a little different. But we all weathering the storm together.

In South Dakota, we've used common sense to fight this virus. We are fortunate to live in a large, rural state where we're naturally more spread out and "socially distant" than those living in many other states. We've kept our distance, used hand sanitizer and worn masks when it made sense. With students, teachers and parents eager to have kids back in the classroom, now is not the time to let up. Now is the time to double down.

I was chatting with a friend this week who lives out in Rapid City. He and his wife sat down and made the difficult decision to isolate from their grandchildren, for their health, when they head back to school in a couple weeks. Tough decisions like this weigh heavy on grandkids and on my friend, the grandpa.

It's important that we all take COVID-19 seriously. There's an incorrect idea out there that this virus is just like the flu we battle every year - it's not. Until we get a vaccine, we've got to be careful. If we're not cautious, this virus can do a lot of damage in a short period of time.

Where I live in Ft. Pierre, we have rattlesnakes. Rattlesnakes are dangerous and found all across West River. One bite from even the smallest of rattlers can be a real problem. But that doesn't stop our farmers and ranchers in Western South Dakota. Every day, they work hard to raise their crops and cattle while avoiding encountering a life threatening situation. In South Dakota fear doesn't keep us confined. But rather, common sense keeps us safe.

As we prepare to head back to school this fall, we should all learn a lesson from our farmers and ranchers as we deal with the rattlesnake that is COVID-19. The days and weeks ahead are critical. We must remain resilient and continue using South Dakota common sense if we want to cheer on our local teams this fall or watch our graduates walk across the stage in the spring.

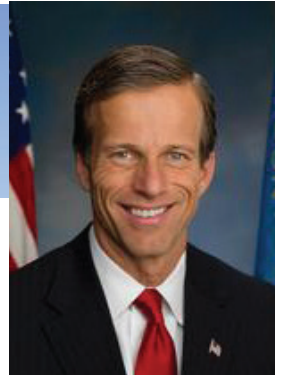
Education is all about learning and this pandemic has taught us a lot about ourselves. We come from tough stock. We're resilient people.

It's time to get back to school. But, we need to do it safely.

Mike Rounds



**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Here to Take Your Call

This year has been full of unexpected and unprecedented experiences. A global pandemic will do that, as we've all come to learn. And while the hardworking, common-sense people of South Dakota have been an example of how to respond to a national crisis like this one, by striking a balance between public safety and personal freedom and responsibility, we, too, have seen our day-to-day lives affected by this ongoing outbreak.

In March, after Congress responded to this crisis by passing a massive relief bill that provided funding for personal protective equipment for frontline medical personnel, vaccine and treatment development, direct relief payments to American citizens, and forgivable loans for small businesses, the reality really started to set in. America hadn't seen a public health crisis like this in more than 100 years, and given today's global and interconnected economy, we found ourselves in completely uncharted territory.

While I knew our state and local communities would face uncertain times in the days, weeks, and months ahead, I had one message for my team throughout South Dakota and in Washington, D.C. While I knew they, too, and their families were experiencing the same risks and set of unknowns as everyone else, I didn't want the people of South Dakota to feel an ounce of difference when they reached out to my office for help.

My team didn't skip a beat, which will come as no surprise to those who've had the opportunity to work with them over the years. They went right to work and have helped me every step of the way to continue providing the same level of service and professionalism the people of South Dakota have grown to expect during the best of times, let alone in the middle of a national crisis like this one. Phone calls were answered; letters and emails were opened, read, and responded to; constituent casework continued to be addressed; and South Dakotans' feedback was delivered to my colleagues in Washington.

Our country certainly knows more about this invisible enemy today than we did in March and April, and we're better equipped in terms of our response. While I wish we could just go back to the way things were before this virus was unleashed, we're making significant progress on the road to recovery. Public safety must continue to be the nation's top priority as we all continue to deal with this outbreak, which will help America return to normal as soon as possible.

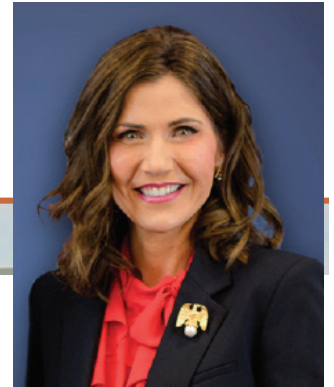
South Dakotans are resilient people, as if anyone had ever doubted it. They take obstacles head on and deal with them the best way they can. Whether it's severe weather, a tough agriculture economy, or a global pandemic, persevering is the only option we know. It's humbling to be part of this community, and if there's anything I can ever do to help, whether it's responding to the COVID crisis or dealing with an issue you're having with the federal government, my team and I are here to answer your call.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## Parents Agree: Let's Get Our Kids Back to School

Over the last few weeks, I had several opportunities to meet with parents across our beautiful state to discuss getting our kids back into school buildings this fall. My team and I met parents in Sioux Falls, Spearfish, and Huron. All but one parent agreed that we need to get our students back in the classroom.

The importance of in-classroom learning has been well-documented. Teachers and parents went above and beyond when our schools closed this past March, but their tremendous efforts could not overcome the inherent challenges of distance learning. Unfortunately, students only acquired about 70% of the learning gains in reading that they would have had they been in the classroom, and that number is only 50% for math. This cannot continue.

Learning in classrooms allows our students to retain more knowledge, continue to develop social skills, and, in some cases, improve their nutrition. As the CDC tells us, "Social interaction at school among children in grades PK-12 is particularly important for the development of language, communication, social, emotional, and interpersonal skills." All of these areas are vital for our children, and keeping kids out of classrooms could have severe negative impacts on their long-term health.

Parents understand these challenges, and they also understand that children are less likely to contract or spread COVID-19. Data from other countries where schools have already reopened indicates that our kids are at low risk compared to adults, and a JAMA Pediatrics report tells us that "children are at far greater risk of critical illness from influenza than from COVID-19." Given these promising facts, we can rest easy knowing that our kids are safely learning in the best environment possible.

Obviously, a school can't operate without teachers and other staff. These hard-working individuals are unlikely to catch the virus from a student. However, if they have concerns, they can practice good hygiene and social distancing. They can also wear masks if they so choose. Some teachers are in the vulnerable population, and there may be opportunities for distance teaching to students who are distance learning.

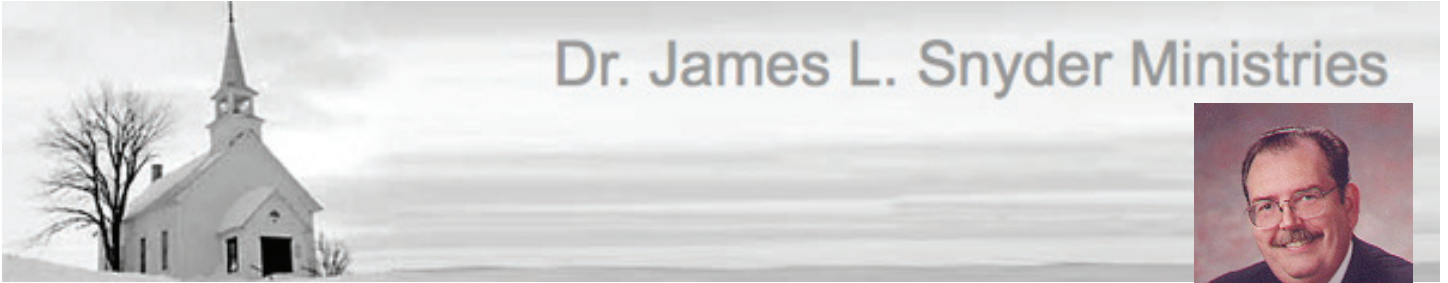
Masks are a big part of the discussion on back-to-school. Most parents that we met with agreed that it is impractical for students to properly wear a mask for the entire school day. Kids will play with their mask, touch their face, or get them dirty, all of which can actually increase the spread of the virus. During a recent press conference, I gently teased a reporter that he'd touched his mask about a half-dozen times – and he was an adult! Certainly, our children are more prone to such behavior.

Other parents are making the decision that their kids will wear masks to school, and that choice is well within their purview to make. I'd encourage parents on both sides of this discussion to recognize that their peers may have reason to make a different choice, and that we shouldn't shame those who choose differently. We don't always know the reason behind the choices that someone else makes, so let's be compassionate and understanding towards each other.

Getting our kids back in the classroom may pose some challenges, but such challenges are an opportunity to adapt and improve the way we do things. Let's embrace these challenges and do everything we can to ensure that kids across our state get back in the classroom so they can get the best education possible.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



## What It Was, Was a Peach Tree

For some reason, this week, I had been thinking of my maternal grandfather. I was named after him, and therefore we had a connection.

I was thinking about him because this month I turned the same age as he was when he passed. I hope there's no connection there.

As a young boy, I would spend a month, every summer at my grandparents. They lived up in the mountains of Pennsylvania in a long valley. My grandfather was a farmer, and his primary income was his dairy cows. He taught me how to milk cows, and he did it the old-fashioned, hands-on way.

My grandfather and grandmother were rather opposite. My grandfather was rather quiet and didn't talk very much. On the other hand, my grandmother never had an unexpressed thought. I guess she made up for my grandfather's silence.

But my grandfather was quite different, a very quiet individual. I remember one afternoon sitting on the front porch with his brother, Dan. The three of us sat there, and the conversation went something like this.

Grandfather, "Sure is a nice day."

After a few minutes, Dan said, "Sure is."

That was the conversation for the whole afternoon. That's how my grandfather was.

As a farmer up in the mountains of Pennsylvania, he was very adept at growing things.

One day he came home and in his truck were four little bushes. At least they looked like bushes. I helped him plant them on the left side of the driveway. I never saw my grandfather so happy in all his life. Although he was smiling he wasn't talking.

I asked my grandfather what we were planting, and he simply said, "Peach trees."

The next day a friend of my grandfather stopped in and saw the "bushes" along the driveway.

"Hey, Jim," the friend said, "what's that there that you planted?"

Grandfather just looked and said, "Peach trees."

The friend laughed and looked at my grandfather and said, "We don't grow peach trees here. And they don't even look like a peach tree." And he continued laughing.

It wasn't long before everybody in the valley was making fun of his "peach trees." In fact, the traffic in front of my grandparent's house increased and slowed as they came by, and everybody looked out their window and pointed at those infamous peach trees.

I don't think anybody had ever grown peach trees in that area before. Everybody thought that peach trees were a southern fruit and no respectable Pennsylvania farmer, would ever grow one.

The rumor developed that they were not, but my grandfather was simply trying to fool everybody. After all, he was like that.

A year later, I was back at my grandparents during the summer, and several people would stop, look at those peach trees and asked my grandfather, "Jim, where are those peaches?" Then they would laugh at him and drive on. Nobody believed any peaches would grow on those trees. After all, they looked like small bushes.

When I would go home after my summer visit, I usually forgot about those peach trees. But then I would go back the next summer for a month and get all caught up on the peach tree story.

It became one of the stories of the valley because everybody thought it was a ruse. No peaches this year on those peach trees. Which made everybody in the valley suspicious and just thought my grandfather

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was trying to pull a joke on them.

"Where's them peaches," people would ask as they would drive by and stop for a moment. "I want a peach."

My grandfather would smile, and it didn't seem to bother him that he was the point of many a joke throughout the valley.

The third summer, it was the same. No peaches.

Then I went up on the fourth summer, and to my surprise, those peach trees had peaches all over them.

My grandfather was a farmer, and as a farmer, he knew how to "milk" a situation. And boy, did he milk this situation.

Everybody would stop by and ask my grandfather for a peach.

My grandfather would smile and say, "Those peaches aren't ready to pick yet."

When they left, he picked a peach from the tree, gave it to me, and told me, "Here's the first peach from my peach tree." I ate it and boy was it delicious.

Every day he would pick about a dozen peaches from the trees and take them into the house. My grandmother knew how to make peach cobbler like no other peach cobbler I ever had.

Day by day, he would take the peaches off the tree, and when people would stop, he would tell them, "They ain't ready to pick today." Then they would drive away.

Within a week, all the peaches were harvested from the trees.

Then the fun began. People would stop by and ask, "Where's those peaches?"

My grandfather would stare back and say, "What peaches?"

Then he would laugh as they drove away.

He said to me, "Don't let anybody tell you what you can or cannot do." And he walked away, smiling.

As I was thinking about him today, I thought of the Scripture; "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

If you know what you're doing, do it to God's glory, and don't let men distract you.

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#174 in a series

## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

We're on weekend reporting, so we aren't going to know for sure how these numbers stack up until Tuesday. That said, we didn't fall off a cliff or anything. We're at 5,371,600 cases, 1.0% more than yesterday; that's 51,300 new cases reported. There were 1083 deaths reported today, our fifth consecutive day over 1000. A 0.6% increase takes us to 169,382 deaths. Florida's new case reports were the fewest on a Saturday since June 20. That's real progress; deaths, however continue to rise, which is to be expected for at least another couple of weeks.

States currently reporting 25+ daily new cases per 100,000 residents are Idaho, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida. States and territories reporting 10-24 daily new cases per 100,000 are Hawaii, Alaska, California, Nevada, Montana, Utah, Arizona, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. States and territories reporting 1-9 daily new cases per 100,000 are Guam, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Michigan, Ohio, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia. And states and territories reporting less than 1 daily case are the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

Seventeen states are still reporting increasing hospitalizations: Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Virginia. And 23 states and territories are reporting increasing daily deaths: Washington, California, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Georgia, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

With only a few states back to school at this point, we have 2400 students and staff quarantined in six states, and the CDC is projecting we will have 200,000 total deaths by Labor Day. I did not see that coming when I sat down in late February to type the first of what became this series of updates. That's a lot of sorrow.

Over the past two weeks, the seven-day average for testing has fallen sharply; until then, it had increased every month since the pandemic began. The peak was 823,000 tests daily in late July; as of yesterday, we were at 747,000. The concern here, of course, is that this means there's a chance the recent tapering off in new case numbers may be an artifact of reduced testing rather than a true decline in actual cases. Another point: I am not sure, with this decrease in test numbers, why we're still waiting a week or more for results.

On the subject of testing, there is a piece of good news: There is a new test which has just received the FDA's emergency use authorization (EUA). The test, developed at Yale University, relies on a saliva specimen rather than those nasopharyngeal swabs we've all been hearing about. I can only assume this means specimen collection is somewhat less unpleasant. The real benefit of the test is that it will reduce turnaround time in labs because it doesn't require a separate step to extract viral nucleic acids, something that takes time and uses reagents which have been limited in supply. It is cheaper and, according to the Yale School of Public Health, gives comparable results to existing tests. The school is not planning to commercialize the test. It does not require special equipment and can be assembled by labs across

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the country; they're fine with that. In other words, Yale just donated their work product to the country.

Despite the public discussion among researchers about the importance of clinical trial participants reflecting the population affected by Covid-19, it appears those trials have so far failed to enroll diverse groups of participants that do reflect society. I read an interview with Hala Borno, an oncologist at the University of California, San Francisco, who studies the gaps between population demographics and clinical trial enrollment. Her survey of current clinical trials for both medications and vaccines for Covid-19 in the US indicates that one-third of studies did not report race or ethnicity data at all; in fact one study didn't even collect that information. Also, Black patients were underrepresented in all studies compared to the "burden of disease" in the communities where the studies took place. She points out that the purpose for clinical trials is to collect evidence that a given intervention is safe and that it is effective, "[a]nd when you do not recruit patients to the clinical studies that are ultimately going to receive this intervention in the real world, then you may miss an important signal of efficacy or an important signal of toxicity," which can lead to interventions "that do not uniformly demonstrate efficacy across populations, or have side effects that we only capture later on." This is certainly problematic.

So let's say you want to go visit someone you haven't seen for a long time. Let's say further that you live in a hot spot and you're concerned about exposing them to the virus. It will be fine if you get a Covid-19 test and a negative result before you go, right?

Not necessarily. There are several possible ways this thing could go wrong. First issue is the test you're using: Some of them are better than others. Tests come in three basic types: molecular (PCR), antigen, and antibody. The PCR is the best of them; it looks for the virus's genetic material and is quite sensitive. It is also the most expensive of them and typically takes the longest to get results. The antigen tests look for viral proteins, and they're less sensitive. And antibody tests only tell you whether you have antibodies to the virus, which means you have been infected at some point, not whether you're infected now because it takes some weeks for antibodies to build up to a detectable level.

And whatever test you have, there are further considerations. The concern here would be a false negative result; that's when the test says you are not infected when you really are; that happens between 5% and 40% of the time, even with the good tests. One reason for this can be that the sample was not well collected to get an adequate amount of mucous from your nose; if the swab misses virus that's in there, then you'll get a false negative result. Another is getting tested too early in the course of the infection because it takes a while after the infection starts for enough virus to build up in your body to be detectable; test too soon, and it's not going to register. There's at least a four to five-day period after exposure when there's unlikely to be enough virus to detect. Additionally, the long lag times we're having between sample collection and seeing results means you've had several days or longer to get exposed after the test. Even if the test is accurate and you really were not infected a week ago Tuesday, it is quite possible you've been infected in the time since.

So what can you do to boost the value of a test? First, wait several days after the last time you could have been exposed before being tested. Then, self-quarantine from that last exposure opportunity all the way until you have your results. If you're traveling, you will want to recognize, too, the exposure risks attendant upon travel itself and operate accordingly to minimize those risks; or your negative test result is sort of pointless anyhow. There's no such thing as zero risk, but you should be thinking in terms of risk reduction. Getting a test can be part of a risk-reduction strategy, but it should not be the only part. And if you plan to visit someone who cannot afford any risk of exposure, the safest approach is simply to quarantine for 14 days before the visit takes place.

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So if you have symptoms that might be Covid-19, get a test. If you think you've been exposed—if someone close to you has tested positive or has symptoms—get a test. If you've traveled to an area with a lot of infections, get a test. (You can identify such a high-risk area by looking at their number of new daily cases per 100,000 residents; anything over 10 is considered high-risk.) And as part of a plan before travel, consider a test; just be aware of what that test can and cannot tell you.

And if you do get a positive result, be a grown-up. Even if you're feeling fine, isolate yourself for 14 days. If you have housemates, they need to self-quarantine too right along with you. That means no quick runs to the store, no hitting the bars, no parties or socializing. People with symptoms should note the day these begin: Your isolation should continue until (1) ten days have passed since symptoms began, (2) you've been fever free without using medication for at least 24 hours, AND (3) your symptoms are gone. Please note that you need to meet all three conditions before you end isolation.

As a follow-up to our conversation the other night about adequate ventilation for indoor spaces, I happened across an article written by a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder whose academic focus is on indoor transmission of airborne diseases. Much of what she says tracks well with our earlier talk, but I thought I'd just supplement that with a couple of new items she mentions.

First, she says outdoor air is the best solution, better than filtration. She says that an exchange rate of nine times per hour is generally considered sufficient to reduce transmission of airborne viruses; that means the air in the room is being replaced with outside air nine times each hour. This is more than the six times per hour which most experts consider sufficient just for general ventilation when there's not a pandemic on. While it's difficult to measure air exchange, a good proxy for it is carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels in the room. Because we exhale CO<sub>2</sub> each time we breathe, the levels will build up in a room without adequate air exchange, so this measurement gives us an estimate of whether virus levels could be rising. A well-ventilated room will have around 800 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub>, and studies of other airborne pathogens indicate that, if you can keep levels below 600 ppm, you can see a 97% reduction in disease transmission.

Regarding filtration, she, too, recommends HEPA filters as the most effective and mentions the importance of matching the unit you're using to the size of the space. She helpfully links a spreadsheet put together with colleagues from Harvard University for use in calculating how powerful a cleaner needs to be for a given room size; you can access this here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NEhk1IEdbEi\\_b3wa-6gI\\_zNs8uBJjISS-86d4b7bW098/edit#gid=1882881703](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NEhk1IEdbEi_b3wa-6gI_zNs8uBJjISS-86d4b7bW098/edit#gid=1882881703)

She also mentions that you should be looking for an air cleaner which has the seal of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM). Their verified seal is a good place to start in assuring the manufacturer's claims on the label are legitimate. She also points out that air cleaners do not remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the air, so you cannot use a CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring process to determine how well your cleaner is working—that works only for evaluating air exchange.

I'll add one more note from another scientist, Stephanie Taylor, infection control consultant at Harvard Medical School. She says we should be giving more attention to the humidity of the air we are breathing. Studies have found a link between infection rates and humidity in hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. When air is too dry, droplets don't fall out of the air as quickly, and they're more likely to dry out to cause airborne transmission. Also, viruses don't seem to be as infectious when the air is dry. Additionally, respiratory immunity appears to be more robust when humidity is greater; studies in mice show improved functioning right down to the cellular level. So this might be one more thing we can attend to in our attempts to reduce transmission and limit the damage.

Update on college sports: The NCAA has canceled all Division I fall championships due to widespread

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postponements by individual institutions; NCAA rules require at least 50% of sponsoring schools to be participating in a sport in order to hold championship events in the sport, and that wasn't happening. This decision does not cover the FBS football championships because those are not NCAA events. Divisions II and III had already canceled their championship events so there's not much left of the fall collegiate sports season. There is still some possibility these fall sports will be rescheduled to spring; but the current thinking is that, in the event of scheduling or facility conflicts, priority will be given to winter and spring sports which already lost their championship events last year due to the pandemic.

I read a poem today that I think offers us all a glimpse at what we hope will be our future. Perhaps with that goal in sight, we will find it easier to live in a way that at some point will bring this vision into our present. The poet is syndicated columnist, Laura Kelly Fanucci.

“When this is over, may we never again take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with your neighbors  
A crowded theater  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.  
When this ends  
may we find  
that we have become  
more like the people  
we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay  
that way—better  
for each other  
because of the worst.”

And until this ends, please take care. We'll talk tomorrow.



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## COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLDWIDE

3 Weeks Ago

2 Weeks Ago

Last Week

This Week

Total Confirmed  
**16,055,909**

Total Confirmed  
**17,859,763**

Global Cases  
**19,668,394**

Global Cases  
**21,367,163**

4,178,730 US  
2,394,513 Brazil  
1,385,635 India  
811,073 Russia  
434,200 South Africa  
385,036 Mexico  
375,961 Peru  
343,592 Chile  
300,270 United Kingdom  
288,839 Iran

4,620,502 US  
2,707,877 Brazil  
1,750,723 India  
849,277 Russia  
503,290 South Africa  
434,193 Mexico  
407,492 Peru  
357,658 Chile  
306,752 Iran  
306,181 Colombia

4,998,802 US  
3,012,412 Brazil  
2,153,010 India  
885,718 Russia  
553,188 South Africa  
475,902 Mexico  
471,012 Peru  
376,870 Colombia  
371,023 Chile  
326,712 Iran

5,357,396 US  
3,317,096 Brazil  
2,526,192 India  
915,808 Russia  
583,653 South Africa  
516,296 Peru  
511,369 Mexico  
445,111 Colombia  
383,902 Chile  
342,813 Spain

Global Deaths  
**644,661**

Global Deaths  
**685,179**

Global Deaths  
**727,523**

Global Deaths  
**768,952**

146,463 deaths US  
86,449 deaths Brazil  
45,823 deaths United Kingdom  
42,645 deaths Mexico  
35,102 deaths Italy  
32,060 deaths India

154,449 deaths US  
93,563 deaths Brazil  
47,472 deaths Mexico  
46,278 deaths United Kingdom  
37,364 deaths India  
35,146 deaths Italy

162,430 deaths US  
100,477 deaths Brazil  
52,006 deaths Mexico  
46,651 deaths United Kingdom  
43,379 deaths India  
35,203 deaths Italy

169,432 deaths US  
107,232 deaths Brazil  
55,908 deaths Mexico  
49,036 deaths India  
46,791 deaths United Kingdom  
35,392 deaths Italy

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16
Minnesota	61,839	62,303	62,993	63,723	64,413
Nebraska	29,030	29,244	29,660	29,988	30,241
Montana	5,104	5,268	5,407	5,541	5,659
Colorado	51,441	51,756	52,219	52,538	52,838
Wyoming	2,584	2,600	2,627	2,694	2,730
North Dakota	7885	7970	8171	8322	8444
South Dakota	9713	9815	9897	10,024	10,118
United States	5,141,879	5,197,749	5,248,172	5,314,116	5,357,396
US Deaths	164,545	166,038	167,092	168,458	169,432

Minnesota	+323	+464	+690	+730	+690
Nebraska	+334	+214	+416	+328	+253
Montana	+87	+164	+139	+134	+118
Colorado	+402	+315	+463	+319	+300
Wyoming	+19	+16	+27	+67	+36
North Dakota	+172	+85	+201	+151	+122
South Dakota	50	+102	+82	+127	+94
United States	+47,314	+55,870	+50,423	+65,944	+43,280
US Deaths	+1,080	+1,493	+1,054	+1,366	+974

	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

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## August 15th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

One male in their 60s and one male in the 80+ age group have died from the COVID-19 virus. One was from Yankton County and the other from Lawrence County. Day County gained a new cases so they now have 4 active cases. Brown County had 4 recovered and 3 positive so the active number dropped by one to 43. Kingsbury County and Mellette County are now fully recovered.

South Dakota's positivity rate is 6.0 percent while North Dakota's is 8.0 percent. Brown County is at 5.1 percent.

There were 94 positive tests and 111 recovered individuals in South Dakota. North Dakota had 123 positives and 95 recoveries.

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +3 (466) Positivity Rate: 5.1%

Recovered: +4 (420)

Active Cases: -1 (43)

Total Tests: +59 (6236)

Ever Hospitalized: +1 (22)

Deaths: 0 (3)

Percent Recovered: 90.1% (+0.3)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +94 (10,118 total) Positivity Rates: 6.0%

Total Tests: 2,111 (160,204 total)

Hospitalized: +10 (913 total). 63 currently hospitalized (down 2 from yesterday)

Deaths: +2 (152 total)

Recovered: +111 (8,884 total)

Active Cases: -19 (1,082)

Percent Recovered: 87.8 +0.3

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 50% Non-Covid, 48% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 68% Non-Covid, 29% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 16% Non-Covid, 79% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Kingsbury, Mellette): Bennett 6-6, Jerauld 40-39-1, Jones 2-2, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Kingsbury (14-14) Mellette 24-24, 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 (4 active cases)

Beadle (9): +2 positive, +3 recovered (21 active cases)

Bennett: Full Recovered

Bon Homme: +2 positive (4 active cases)

Brookings (1): +6 positive, +3 recovered (16 active cases)

Brown (3): +3 positive, +4 recovered (43 active cases)

Brule: +1 positive, +4 recovered (3 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +1 recovered (5 active cases)

Butte (1): +1 positive (5 active cases)

Campbell: 2 active cases

Charles Mix: +3 positive (19 active cases)

Clark: 3 active cases

Clay: +1 positive, +1 recovered (20 active cases)

Codington (1): +5 positive (38 active cases)

Corson: +5 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)

Custer: +2 positive, +1 recovered (10 active case)

Davison (1): +1 positive, +2 recovered (7 active cases)

Day: +1 positive (4 active cases)

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Deuel: +2 positive, +2 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Dewey: 24 active cases  
 Douglas: 3 active cases  
 Edmunds: 6 active cases  
 Fall River: +1 positive, +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Faulk (1): +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Grant: +1 Positive (8 active cases)  
 Gregory: 1 active case  
 Haakon: Fully Recovered  
 Hamlin: 12 active cases  
 Hand: 3 active cases  
 Hanson: 4 active cases  
 Harding: 2 active cases  
 Hughes (3): 11 active cases  
 Hutchinson: +2 positive (5 active cases)  
 Hyde: 1 active case  
 Jackson (1): +1 recovered (1 active case)  
 Jerauld (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jones: Fully Recovered  
 Kingsbury: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED)  
 Lake (3): 12 active cases  
 Lawrence (1): +6 positive, +6 recovered, 1 death (23 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +7 positive, +15 recovered (88 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): 7 active cases  
 Marshall: 4 active cases  
 McCook (1): +1 positive (7 active cases)  
 McPherson: 1 active case  
 Meade (1): +2 recovered (17 active cases)  
 Mellette: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED)  
 Miner: 1 active cases  
 Minnehaha (68): +23 positive, +43 recovered (372

active cases)  
 Moody: 3 active cases  
 Oglala Lakota (2): +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Pennington (33): +6 positive, +5 recovered (110 active cases)  
 Perkins: 1 active cases  
 Potter: 1 active case  
 Roberts (1): +2 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered  
 Spink: 5 active cases  
 Stanley: 1 active case  
 Sully: 1 active case  
 Todd (5): 8 active cases  
 Tripp: Fully Recovered  
 Turner: +3 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Union (4): +2 positive, +4 recovered (24 active cases)  
 Walworth: 1 active cases  
 Yankton (3): +5 positive, +5 recovered, 1 death (34 active cases)  
 Ziebach: 11 active cases

## North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, August 15:

- 6,478 tests (1,542)
- 8,444 positives (+123)
- 7,161 recovered (+95)
- 121 deaths (+0)
- 1,162 active cases (+27)

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

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	1279	0
20-29 years	2249	2
30-39 years	1975	6
40-49 years	1493	7
50-59 years	1490	18
60-69 years	893	27
70-79 years	402	24
80+ years	337	68

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	4997	77
Male	5121	75

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased
Aurora	40	36	387	0
Beadle	598	568	1913	9
Bennett	6	6	544	0
Bon Homme	17	13	781	0
Brookings	151	134	2831	1
Brown	466	420	4626	3
Brule	47	44	763	0
Buffalo	109	101	653	3
Butte	19	13	813	1
Campbell	3	1	99	0
Charles Mix	112	95	1387	0
Clark	17	14	396	0
Clay	137	117	1388	0
Codington	156	117	2943	1
Corson	46	28	500	0
Custer	39	29	813	0
Davison	100	92	2429	1
Day	25	21	653	0
Deuel	15	11	415	0
Dewey	57	33	2319	0
Douglas	19	16	407	0
Edmunds	19	13	418	0
Fall River	23	19	1009	0
Faulk	29	24	198	1
Grant	32	24	740	0
Gregory	7	6	400	0
Haakon	2	2	295	0
Hamlin	27	15	663	0
Hand	10	7	297	0
Hanson	22	18	220	0
Harding	2	0	57	0
Hughes	97	83	1797	3
Hutchinson	31	26	917	0

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Hyde	4	3	144	0
Jackson	11	9	483	1
Jerauld	39	38	273	1
Jones	2	2	62	0
Kingsbury	14	14	574	0
Lake	100	85	967	3
Lawrence	69	46	2162	1
Lincoln	694	604	7121	2
Lyman	91	81	980	3
Marshall	12	8	482	0
McCook	33	25	655	1
McPherson	8	7	220	0
Meade	97	81	2042	1
Mellette	24	24	392	0
Miner	15	14	258	0
Minnehaha	4584	4144	28580	68
Moody	33	30	642	0
Oglala Lakota	158	138	2960	2
Pennington	930	787	11300	33
Perkins	6	5	187	0
Potter	2	1	298	0
Roberts	83	73	1882	1
Sanborn	13	13	232	0
Spink	26	21	1174	0
Stanley	15	14	258	0
Sully	4	3	81	0
Todd	75	62	2249	5
Tripp	20	20	621	0
Turner	59	46	946	0
Union	223	195	1963	4
Walworth	18	17	732	0
Yankton	141	104	3177	3
Ziebach	35	24	322	0
Unassigned	0	0	8841	0

## Financially strapped renters in S.D. seek help avoiding eviction amid pandemic

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Many people who rent homes or apartments in South Dakota are hurting financially during the pandemic, causing large numbers of renters to ask for public assistance or charitable help to stave off eviction and maintain a stable residence.

More than twice as many South Dakotans have looked to taxpayers or charities to cover at least one month of rent in the first half of 2020 compared to all of 2019, and new surveys from the U.S. Census Bureau suggest the need for rent assistance will rise as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

In the middle of July, the Census Bureau, which has been conducting weekly pulse surveys of U.S. households since April, estimated 30%, or about 42,000 of South Dakota's roughly 139,000 renters had little or no confidence that they'd be able to make their August rent payment.

Meanwhile, the 211 Helpline Center has fielded more than 7,000 calls from people need-



**Betsy Schuster**

ing help making a rent or mortgage payment during the first seven months of the year, more than double the number of rent-assistance calls the organization saw in all of 2019.

Many of the calls have been from people who never thought they'd need help keeping a roof over their heads.

"It's really humbling if you've never struggled making rent and then all of a sudden you're struggling," said Betsy Schuster, vice president of program development for the helpline center. "I do believe it's all across the board."

**"It's really humbling if you've never struggled making rent and then all of a sudden you're struggling."**

-- Betsy Schuster, 211 Helpline Center



**Prior to the pandemic, a third of South Dakotans were considered "rent burdened," meaning they were paying 35% or more of their monthly income on rent and therefore unable in many cases to afford a nice rental home, such as this one in Rapid City.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

The 211 Helpline Center acts

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as a sort of hub for assistance programs of all types and has seen its call volume skyrocket since March, when the pandemic hit and many people lost their jobs or income streams.

The statewide 211 Helpline Center, a hub of assistance programs for those in need, had fielded 43,100 calls for help, that's roughly two-thirds of the center's normal yearly call volume, Schuster said.

Housing has long been one of the top needs for the people the Helpline Center works with, Schuster said. A long-term shortage of affordable housing has driven up the price of rent for many South Dakotans, while at the same time wages have largely stagnated. Prior to the pandemic, as many as 32% of South Dakotans were considered rent burdened by the U.S. Census Bureau, meaning they were paying 35% or more of their monthly income just to keep a roof over their heads.

Now, as federal pandemic relief programs have expired and big questions remain over the aid package President Donald Trump has tried to create through executive order, South Dakota may soon face a tidal wave of rent delinquency and potential evictions.

Using its weekly household pulse survey, the Census Bureau estimated that more than 30,000 of the state's renters hadn't made their July rent payment using their own money. Thousands of homeowners, too, were behind on mortgage payments with more 31,000 estimated to have missed their July payment. About 40% of South Dakota households have seen incomes drop during the pandemic, census data show.

So far, 2020 has not seen an avalanche of evictions. The months of April, May and June actually saw fewer, about 288, eviction petitions filed with the state's court system than the same months in 2019, which saw 316 petitions filed, said Greg Sattizahn, state court administrator.

At least part of the reason eviction numbers have stayed low is thanks to South Dakota's philanthropic community. Charity organizations across the state have scrambled to help people keep their homes, whether they rent or own. The Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, for example, created the One Sioux Falls Fund with \$3.3 million specifically aimed at helping people avoid eviction due to pandemic-related financial stress.

By Aug. 12, the One Sioux Falls Fund had helped 3,300 individuals or families in Lincoln, Turner, McCook and Minnehaha counties stave off eviction, said Kelly Sprecher, communications manager for the foundation.

But charitable funding has limits. In many cases, Schuster said, each household is limited to two months of help or a maximum of \$2,000. The pandemic has already caused financial upheaval for more than five months, and now, many in the housing sector are beginning to worry that a rash of evictions may be coming soon.

"There's an assumption that charity will take care of it, that people can go to the mission and get back on their feet," said Sarah Stout, a volunteer organizer with the West River Tenants United, a tenant advocacy group based in Rapid City. "There are programs that will help people, but there are lots of gaps in those programs."

## Heavy reliance on charity

Landlords and property managers generally do not want to kick people out of their residences. Empty units, whether apartments or houses, don't generate revenue for their owners and eviction is an expensive and emotional process.

"I think most landlords, as long as you communicate with them, want to work with the residents because they don't want their tenants to leave," said Amy Ibis, a property manager with Vantis Commercial in Sioux Falls. "It costs them more money to have a vacant apartment and to have to go through that eviction process, versus working with someone."

In many cases, Ibis said, a property manager will help tenants who are struggling if the tenant gives them a heads up that they'll be late with rent. Property managers can sometimes help their tenants find financial help, she said.

"We have programs in place, in South Dakota, that are there to help these tenants," said Ibis, who also serves as chair of the South Dakota Multi-Housing Association board of directors. "And as long as they do go through the paperwork and get it done, they typically get the assistance that is needed."

Dedicated rent-assistance charities, such as the One Sioux Falls Fund, have popped up across South



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**Amy Ibis**

Dakota since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March. Those groups have already helped thousands of renters stave off eviction. Many of the new funds added their services on top of public assistance programs already available in many areas from government agencies, which strengthened the safety net, said Schuster.

"Our communities across the state have just been phenomenal," Schuster said. "I just encourage anyone that is struggling with rent to definitely give 211 a call. We can look at what's in your area to see what is the normal standing resource to help with different payments, and then if there have been special programs that have been identified to help."

One of the biggest COVID-19 specific rent assistance funds outside of Sioux Falls is the Beadle County Rental Assistance fund. It sprang into being when billionaire T. Denny Sanford gave \$75,000 to the Huron Community Foundation to help the community respond to the pandemic. The Huron Community Fund added another \$15,000 to the rental assistance fund and helped set up a volunteer committee to administer the money.

Assistance from the Beadle County fund is solely dedicated to people who have lost their jobs or seen their incomes dry up due to the pandemic, said Rhonda Kludt, a member of the fund oversight committee. But before the fund will write a check for someone in need, that person needs to apply, their former employer will be asked if the job loss was due to COVID-19, and they must show that they are a renter.

"We're very cognizant of making sure that the money goes where it is most needed," Kludt said.

So far, the fund has paid rent for 62 of 160 applicants. Another 10 applications for assistance were still pending as of Aug. 11. Demand for assistance from the Beadle County fund also appeared to be increasing in early August, even as South Dakota's economy continued to reopen, but also just after emergency federal unemployment benefits ran out, Kludt said.

"On August 10, we had eight or nine new applications come in, which is an incredibly large number for one day," Kludt said. "I have to believe that it is a direct result of the loss of the extra unemployment money."

## No easy answers for renters

In Rapid City, the NWE Management Company is not aware of an increase in the number of tenants falling behind on rent.

"It's surprising to me that things have gone so well for so long," said Todd Hollan, a property manager with NWE, which has about 1,200 apartments.

Several of NWE's tenants have contacted their property managers over the last several months to report that they were going to have trouble making their payments. But early on during the pandemic, NWE made the decision to stop charging late fees, provided a payment was made within a month of when it was first due.

"We needed to give tenants opportunities to do what they can do the best way they can do it to stay current," Hollan said.

Simply stopping collection of all rent for all tenants, though, was and remains out of the question, he said. Some of the buildings NWE manages are mortgaged and all of them need maintenance — both routine and in emergencies. NWE needs continuing rent payments to cover those costs, and in some cases, the bank that loaned money to buy or build the apartments gets involved in decisions about rent collection.

"The first response in your mind and in your heart is, 'Yeah, abso-

**"The first response in your mind and in your heart is, 'Yeah, absolutely we understand what's going on, we get it. We'll let you pay what you can. Unfortunately, that just isn't as easily done as it is said.'"**

-- Todd Hollan, Rapid City property manager



**Todd Hollan**

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lutely we understand what's going on, we get it. We'll let you pay what you can," Hollan said. "Unfortunately, that just isn't as easily done as it is said."

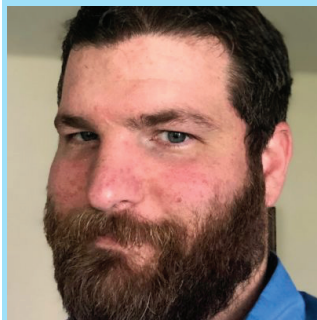
Tenant rights advocates, though, say a blanket eviction moratorium is necessary during the pandemic because even though eviction rates haven't increased, people are still being kicked out of their homes even as a deadly virus spreads throughout their communities and affordable housing remains in short supply.

"It's not an overwhelming number. It's usually a handful of people a week, but that's still significant," Stout said.

In Minnesota, landlords have been banned from evicting tenants for non-payment of rent during the pandemic. Experts in that state estimate that as many as 5,800 evictions have been prevented by the moratorium. The Minnesota eviction moratorium does allow landlords to evict tenants if they endanger other residents or if they cause lots of property damage.

A similar statewide eviction moratorium was never on the table in South Dakota. Gov. Kristi Noem instead emphasized the use of financial assistance both for landlords and tenants. In Sioux Falls, though, the Sioux Falls Tenants Rights Union petitioned the City Council to create a local eviction moratorium in May. The petition was rejected.

While it wouldn't solve all of the problems, an eviction moratorium would, temporarily at least, give tenants a leg up in conflicts with landlords. And could go a long way toward making life a little less stressful for people who are struggling with unemployment or loss of income due to the pandemic, Stout said.



## ABOUT

### NICK LOWREY

Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.



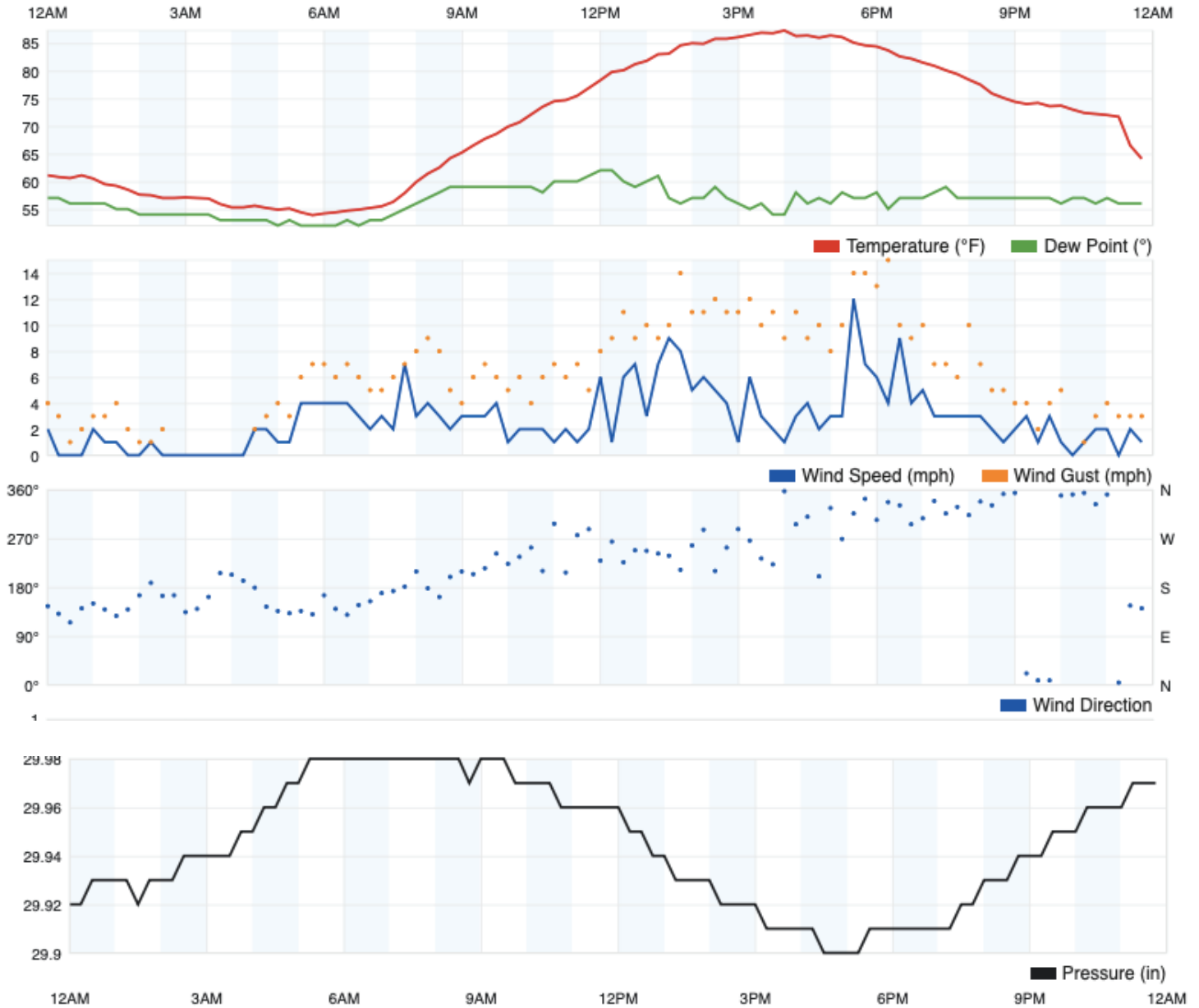
## Hot Rod Overacker takes first BMX Nationals

Huntley (Hot Rod) Overacker placed first on Friday and Saturday at the BMX Hub City Nationals held August 7-9 in Aberdeen. Overacker took both days in the Intermediate division. He is the son of Jaymie and Jesse Overacker, Groton. (Photo courtesy of Roger Overacker)

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 88 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 55 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 86 °F

Monday  
Night



Partly Cloudy


Low: 61 °F

Tuesday



Hot

High: 92 °F



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

**Today**  
*Mostly sunny, warm with highs 82-94°F.*

**Tonight**  
*Mostly clear, lows in the 50s to around 60.*

**Monday**  
*Partly cloudy, highs 80-95°F, hot Missouri valley.*

Updated: 8/16/2020 2:11 AM CT

A mostly dry weather setup will continue into early this work week. #sdwx #mnwx

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## Today in Weather History

August 16, 1986: Thunderstorm winds gusted to 60 mph in Forestburg, in Sanborn County. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph uprooted trees and damaged buildings in the northern part of Hanson County. On several farms, barns, garages, silos, and small buildings were destroyed. The worst affected area was south of Epiphany where large steel sheds were damaged, and a roof was blown in.

1777: The Battle of Bennington, delayed a day by rain, was fought. The rain-delayed British reinforcements and allowed the Vermont Militia to arrive in time, enabling the Americans to win a victory by defeating two enemy forces, one at a time.

1909 - A dry spell began in San Bernardino County of southern California that lasted until the 6th of May in 1912, a stretch of 994 days! Another dry spell, lasting 767 days, then began in October of 1912. (The Weather Channel)

1916 - Altapass, NC, was deluged with 22.22 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Oklahoma to Wisconsin and Lower Michigan. Thunderstorms in central Illinois produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Springfield which toppled two large beer tents at the state fair injuring 58 persons. Thunderstorms also drenched Chicago IL with 2.90 inches of rain, making August 1987 their wettest month of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a slow moving cold front produced severe weather from North Dakota to Lower Michigan during the day. Nine tornadoes were sighted in North Dakota, and thunderstorms also produced hail three inches in diameter at Lakota ND, and wind gusts to 83 mph at Marais MI. Thirty-seven cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Rockford IL with a reading of 104 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region produced golf ball size hail at La Junta CO, Intercanyon CO, and Custer SD. Afternoon thunderstorms over South Texas drenched Brownsville with 2.60 inches of rain. Fair skies allowed viewing of the late evening full lunar eclipse from the Great Lakes Region to the Northern and Central Plains Region, and across much of the western third of the country. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: One of the most destructive United States hurricanes of record started modestly as a tropical wave that emerged from the west coast of Africa on August 14. The wave spawned a tropical depression on August 16, which became Tropical Storm Andrew the next day.

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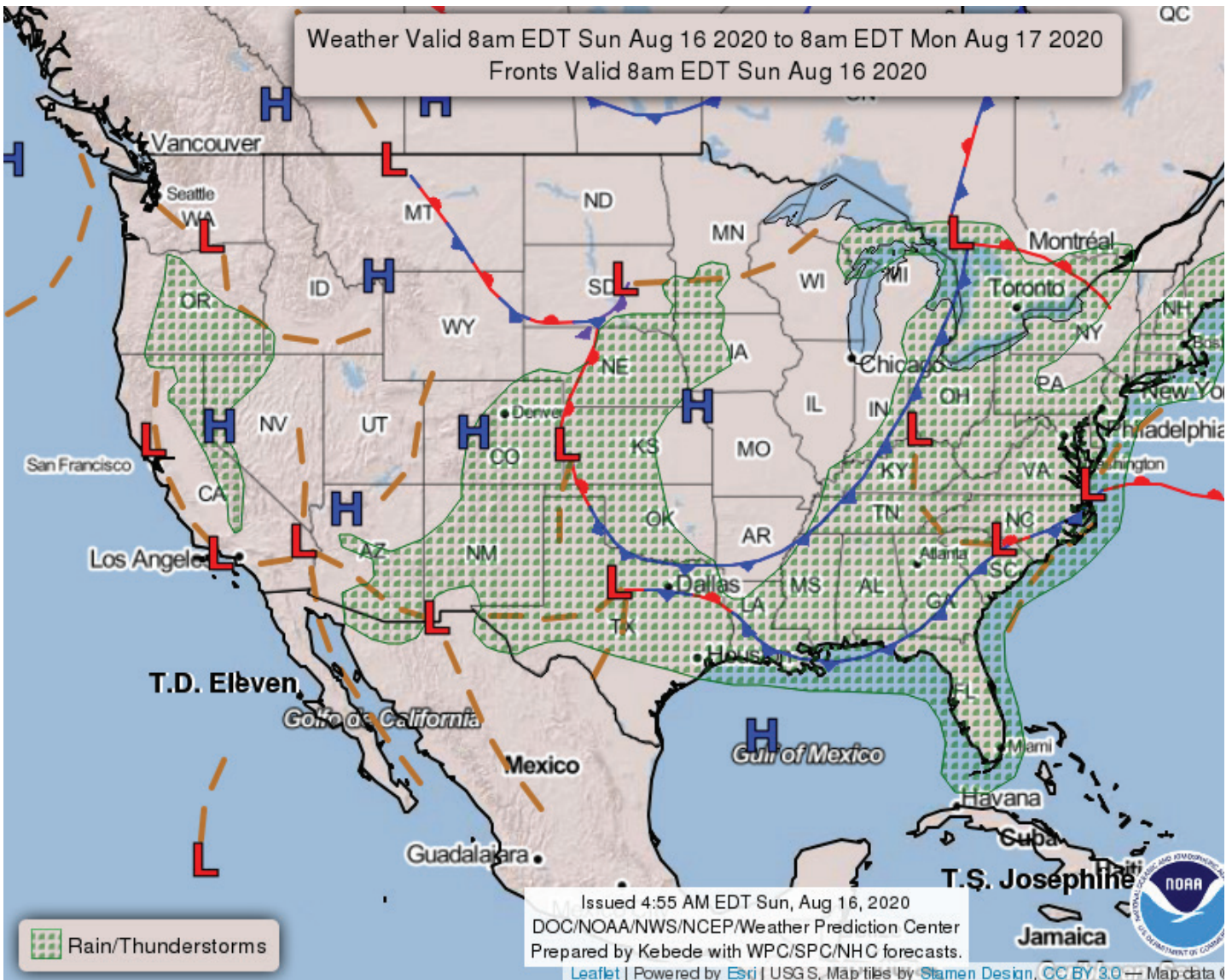
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 88 °F at 3:54 PM**  
**Low Temp: 54 °F at 5:41 AM**  
**Wind: 15 mph at 6:14 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 105° in 1988**  
**Record Low: 42° in 1897**  
**Average High: 82°F**  
**Average Low: 57°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 1.17**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 1.24**  
**Average Precip to date: 15.03**  
**Precip Year to Date: 11.75**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:38 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:38 a.m.**



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## ANSWERING THE RIGHT QUESTION

A young student was sitting before Socrates anxiously wanting to learn from "the master." With a penetrating gaze, he asked, "Where can I find the best things in life?"

The young student was overwhelmed with the breadth of the question. He thought of the various places that had the best fabrics and most beautiful robes. Then he recalled sights of the market places that had exotic merchandise. Then, in his mind's eye, he returned to the restaurants that had the best food and drinks he had ever visited.

As the student was about to answer, Socrates held up his hand as if to interrupt the student's thoughts. He then asked, "Must we not first, however, ask what the best things are?" That question changed Plato's life forever.

David once said, "You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever."

Most individuals spend most of their time searching for the "best things of life" - things they believe will bring them joy, satisfaction, and happiness. David realized, however, that despite everything he possessed, God was the One who could make a difference in his life and bring him peace, fulfillment, and completeness. He realized that only God would be able to comfort him in his moments of distress and discouragement, sorrow and sadness, and relieve his anxiety.

Everything in life is temporary, except God, and through Him, we discover "the best things in life." Worshiping and honoring Him, then, is the most essential thing we can ever do. If we do so, then, all will be well!

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to place You at the center of our lives. May we find contentment within us knowing that we have found the best thing in life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever. Psalm 16



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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
- 09/12-13/2020 Groton Fly-In/Drive-In at the Groton Airport north of Groton
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
- 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

09-12-20-22-28

(nine, twelve, twenty, twenty-two, twenty-eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$111,000

Lotto America

01-20-24-27-34, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2

(one, twenty, twenty-four, twenty-seven, thirty-four; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.06 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball

05-12-34-45-56, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 3

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

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

### South Dakota records 2 COVID-19 deaths, 94 cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota reported two more deaths from COVID-19 on Saturday, along with 94 new cases.

Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by about 13, an increase of 16%. The Department of Health has also warned of possible COVID-19 exposure at several businesses across the state, including at the Sioux Empire Fair.

Over the course of the pandemic, 10,118 people have tested positive for the coronavirus. About 88% of them have recovered, while 152 have died and 1,082 have active infections.

The deaths recorded on Saturday were both men. One was in his 60s. The other was over the age of 79.

### South Dakota's Noem rejects Trump's unemployment plan

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem has spurned President Donald Trump's order to extend federal unemployment benefits by \$400 a week, saying that the state does not need the program.

Trump last week attempted to bypass Congress in ordering states to extend additional unemployment payments of up to \$400 a week to help cushion the economic fallout of the pandemic. Under Trump's plan, the extra unemployment benefit would require a state to commit to providing \$100. It was unclear if Trump had the constitutional authority to extend federal unemployment benefits, and the rejection from Noem, who has been a close Trump ally, shows how little traction the plan may get.

The Republican governor said on Friday that South Dakota does not need the extra unemployment benefits and that nearly 80% of job losses in the state have been recovered.

A total of 14,428 people in South Dakota were receiving unemployment benefits as of Aug. 1. That represents 3.5% of all eligible employees in the state. But new unemployment claims rose during the week ending on Aug. 8, according to the Department of Labor and Regulation, showing that the economic fallout from the coronavirus is still being felt.

Noem has touted how her hands-off approach to regulations to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections has benefitted businesses. She claimed that "many, many businesses are looking to relocate to South Dakota because of the decisions we made during the pandemic."

The governor attempted to smooth over her rejection of Trump's plan, saying, "Despite significant dysfunction in Congress, President Trump continues to problem solve and provide great leadership during this recovery effort."

## Belarus president's supporters rally in protest-hit capital

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Thousands of people have gathered in a square near Belarus' main government building for a rally to support President Alexander Lukashenko, while opposition supporters whose protests have convulsed the country for a week aim to hold a major march in the capital.

Protests began late on Aug. 9 at the closing of presidential elections. Official results say the authoritarian Lukashenko, in office since 1994, won a sixth term in a landslide with about 80% of the vote. Protesters claim the election was a sham and allege results were manipulated.

About 7,000 people were arrested over several days of protests, which police harshly tried to put down with clubs, rubber bullets and flash grenades. Many detainees were later released, complaining of brutality from police while in custody and showing extensive bruises.

As Lukashenko's supporters waited for his expected appearance at the Sunday rally, many chanted Lukashenko's nickname of "Batka," or father, and "Maidan won't take place," referring to the months of protest in Ukraine in 2013-14 that drove then-President Viktor Yanukovich to flee the country.

"Now everybody is against Lukashenko and the president needs our support. Everybody suddenly has forgotten the good things he has done — there's order in the country, we don't have war of hunger," said supporter Tamara Yurshevich, a 35-year-old lawyer.

Belarus' declining economy and Lukashenko's dismissal of the coronavirus pandemic as "psychosis" are among the factors that galvanized the largest and most sustained protests the country has seen.

## The Latest: French government pushes for wider mask use

By The Associated Press undefined

PARIS — After France recorded its highest one-day rise in virus infections since May, the government is pushing for wider mask use and tighter protections for migrant workers and in slaughterhouses.

But France still plans to reopen schools nationwide in two weeks, and the labor minister says the government is determined to avoid a new nationwide lockdown that would further hobble the economy and threaten jobs.

France's infection count has resurged in recent weeks, blamed in part on people criss-crossing the country for weddings, family gatherings or annual summer vacations with friends. Britain re-imposed quarantine measures Saturday for vacationers returning from France as a result.

France reported 3,310 new infections in a single day Saturday, and the rate of positive tests has been growing and is now at 2.6%. The daily case count was down to several hundred a day for two months, but started rising again in July. Overall France has reported more than 30,400 virus-related deaths, among the world's highest tolls.

Labor Minister Elisabeth Borne said in an interview published Sunday with the Journal du Dimanche newspaper that the government wants to expand mask use in workplaces.

"We must avoid new confinement at any cost," she said.

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

- Texas testing drops as schools reopen, prepare for football
- Fear, language barriers hinder immigrant contact-tracing
- Venezuelans brave open sea on tubes, fishing for survival
- Millions of seniors live in a home with at least one child, and the new school year could bring new worries for one of the groups most vulnerable to the coronavirus.
- The annual light display honoring victims of 9/11 is back on. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced

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plans Saturday for state health officials to supervise the event to ensure workers' safety.

— More than 400 grassroots music venues in Britain are at imminent risk of closure because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Health authorities reported 13 new cases of the coronavirus in New Zealand on Sunday, including 12 linked to an outbreak in the city of Auckland and one returning traveler who was already in quarantine.

The outbreak in Auckland, discovered Tuesday, has prompted officials to put the nation's largest city back into a two-week lockdown.

The outbreak has now grown to 49 infections, with authorities saying they believe all the cases are all connected, giving them hope the virus isn't spreading beyond that cluster.

New Zealand had gone 102 days without community spread of the disease before the latest outbreak. Officials believe the virus was reintroduced to New Zealand from abroad but haven't yet been able to figure out how it happened.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported 279 newly confirmed cases of the coronavirus, it's highest daily jump since early March, as fears grow about a massive outbreak in the greater capital region.

The figures released by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sunday brought the national caseload to 15,318, including 305 deaths.

The number of new cases was the highest since 367 were reported on March 8, when the country was concentrating public health tools and personnel nationwide to combat an outbreak in the less populated southern region.

The KCDC said 253 of the new cases came from the Seoul metropolitan area, home to 26 million people, where health authorities have been struggling to stem transmissions linked to churches, nursing homes, schools, restaurants and door-to-door salespeople.

Infections were also reported in other major cities such as Busan and Daegu, the epicenter of the country's previous virus crisis in late February and March when hundreds of new cases were reported each day.

KAHULUI, Hawaii — Kahului Airport on Maui has completed its second phase of its thermal screening project meant to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

The screening uses thermal imaging and facial recognition technology to pinpoint people with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.

Dual lens cameras have been installed at all arrival gates and TSA checkpoints in the airport.

The Maui News reports that when phase three is completed, the cameras will be able to track travelers with high body temperatures so contact tracers can stop and screen them before they leave the airport.

KANSAS CITY — Trump's top coronavirus adviser used a visit to Kansas to urge people to wear masks regardless of where they live.

"What's really important for every Kansan to understand is that this epidemic that we have been seeing this summer is both urban and rural," Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force said Saturday. "So we are really asking all communities, whether you are urban or rural communities, to really wear a mask inside, outside, every day."

She also stressed that people should socially distance and not have gatherings while in Kansas City, Kansas, for a meeting with Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, as well as community and state health officials at KU Medical Center, The Kansas City Star reports.

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"You can't tell who's infected," Birx said. "Much of the spread is asymptomatic. I know we all want to believe that our family members cannot be positive. They are."

Birx said when communities start seeing a rise in positive cases, leaders need to close the bars, restrict indoor dining, decrease social gatherings and ensure there's a mask mandate.

"We have been doing that across the South and we've seen a dramatic decrease in cases where the population has followed those guidelines," she said.

**AUSTIN, Texas** — The death toll in Texas from the coronavirus inched nearer to 10,000 on Saturday, with 238 deaths bringing the total to 9,840.

The Texas Department of State Health Services said the number of reported cases increased by 8,245 to 528,838.

Health officials said Saturday that 6,481 people with COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, were hospitalized.

The number of hospitalizations has been decreasing since peaking in July at 10,893, and the number of newly reported cases is shrinking. But the virus is still spreading geographically.

**SANTA FE, N.M.** — New Mexico on Saturday reported 146 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases with eight more deaths, increasing the state's totals to 23,302 cases and 711 deaths.

Over half of the newly reported cases occurred in five counties — Bernalillo, Dona Ana, Eddy, Lea and McKinley.

The deaths reported Saturday involved people from six counties — Bernalillo, Cibola, Dona Ana, Eddy and Rio Arriba.

The 7-day rolling averages of daily new cases in New Mexico and daily deaths in the state both dropped over the past two weeks.

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Oklahoma on Saturday reported an additional 901 cases of the coronavirus and 13 more deaths.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health says the number of reported cases is now at 47,798.

There have been a total of 657 deaths from COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

The true number of cases in Oklahoma is likely higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel sick.

The health department said that as of Saturday, there were 7,234 active cases and 39,907 people have recovered.

## Asia Today: S. Korea reports 279 cases, most in 5 months

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — South Korea has reported 279 new coronavirus cases in the highest daily jump since early March, as fears grow about a massive outbreak in the greater capital region.

The figures released by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sunday brought the national caseload to 15,318, including 305 deaths.

The number of new cases is the highest since 367 on March 8, when the country was concentrating public health tools and personnel nationwide to bring an outbreak in the less populated southern region under control.

The KCDC said 253 of the new cases came from the Seoul metropolitan area, home to 26 million people, where health authorities have been struggling to stem transmissions linked to churches, nursing homes, schools, restaurants and door-to-door salespeople.

Infections were also reported in other major cities such as Busan and Daegu, which was the epicenter of the previous crisis in late February and March when hundreds of new cases were reported each day.

During a virus meeting, President Moon Jae-in called for "pan-national" efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus in the capital region. He also instructed officials to review plans for sharing hospital capacities

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between Seoul and nearby towns to ensure swift transport of patients so that a spike of cases in one area doesn't overwhelm its hospital system.

Health Minister Park Neung-hoo urged people to stay home on Monday, a special holiday the government had drawn up with hopes of spurring domestic consumption, and for residents in Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi province to avoid visiting other parts of the country for two weeks.

The COVID-19 resurgence in a region with 10 times more people than Daegu is a rude awakening for a country that has been eager to tout its hard-won gains against the virus.

There are concerns that the spread could worsen after thousands of anti-government protesters rallied in Seoul on Saturday despite official pleas to stay home. It appears the protests organized by conservative activist and church groups mainly involved people over 60, who are considered at higher risk for complications linked to COVID-19.

The government is pushing charges against an outspoken conservative pastor who participated in Saturday's marches along with his followers despite his northern Seoul church being tied to 249 COVID-19 infections as of Sunday afternoon.

Health Ministry official Son Young-rae said the pastor, Jun Kwang-hun, who has frequently led anti-Moon protests in downtown Seoul in past months, disrupted contact tracing efforts by falsely reporting the church's members and allegedly discouraging followers from getting tested. Health workers have so far tested 800 of the church's members and plan to test 3,000 more.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— India's coronavirus fatalities neared 50,000 with 944 new deaths reported in the past 24 hours. India now has the fourth-highest fatalities, behind the United States, Brazil and Mexico, according to Johns Hopkins University data. India's confirmed cases reached 2.58 million on Sunday with a spike of 63,490. August has seen a big spike in COVID-19 fatalities with more than a quarter of the country's total in the past 15 days. Meanwhile, India's recovery rate crossed 70%. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday that three vaccines are in different phases of testing and mass production will begin as soon as scientists give the green light.

— Australia's Victoria state on Sunday reported 16 deaths from COVID-19 and 279 new infections, continuing a downward trend over the past week. State Premier Daniel Andrews says the latest deaths included people in their 70s, 80s and 90s, 11 of whom in aged care. Andrews says he feels "cautious optimism" that the strict lockdown in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city, and in rural Victoria is flattening the curve. He says the numbers are heading in the right direction. "I am and always was very cautious but there is on my part at least a cautious optimism and a sense of real hope that this strategy is working and that we are seeing numbers fall now."

— Health authorities reported 13 new cases of the coronavirus in New Zealand on Sunday, including 12 linked to an outbreak in the city of Auckland and one returning traveler who was already in quarantine. The outbreak in Auckland, discovered Tuesday, has prompted officials to put the nation's largest city back into a two-week lockdown. The outbreak has now grown to 49 infections, with authorities saying they believe all the cases are all connected, giving them hope the virus isn't spreading beyond that cluster. New Zealand had gone 102 days without community spread of the disease before the latest outbreak. Officials believe the virus was reintroduced to New Zealand from abroad but haven't yet been able to figure out how it happened.

— China reported 19 new cases of COVID-19 in the latest 24-hour period, bringing its official total to 84,827 since the pandemic started. Four cases were in the far west Xinjiang region, where a now-waning outbreak has infected more than 800 people over the past month. The other 15 were people who had arrived from overseas. China has seen a small uptick in such imported cases, reporting 144 in the past week.

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

## Italy garbage dips with virus lockdowns, but plastics rise

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy produced 10% less garbage during its coronavirus lockdown, but environmentalists warn that increased reliance on disposable masks and packaging is imperiling efforts to curb single-use plastics that end up in oceans and seas.

Italian researchers estimate that during the peak months of Italy's lockdown in March and April, urban waste production fell by 500,000 tons. That decrease is enabling dumps in Italy — where trash collection in major cities has often become a hot-button political issue — to absorb the 300,000 tons of extra waste from protective masks and gloves estimated to be used this year, according to the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research.

"Substantially, the figures will balance each other by the end of this year," Valeria Frittelloni, the institute's head of waste management and circular economy, told The Associated Press.

But the pandemic dealt a blow to efforts to move away from single-use plastics in many places where they were just beginning to become mainstream. U.N., Greenpeace, Italy's Marevivo environmental organization and other such groups are warning that continued reliance on single-use plastics will pose longer-term risks to the environment.

That's particularly true for a country with a long coastline along the Mediterranean Sea, which is plagued by the tiny bits of broken-down plastic known as microplastics.

"We don't have an estimate yet of how much of those objects were dumped in the environment, but what is sure is that all those that have been abandoned sooner or later will reach the sea," said Giuseppe Ungherese, head of anti-pollution campaigns at Greenpeace Italy.

After years of reducing reliance on products like plastic bags and cutlery, in line with European Union directives, Italy saw a huge spike in plastic use during the coronavirus emergency. The Italian National Consortium for the Collection and Recycling of Plastic Packages said the increase in online shopping and its related packaging led to an 8% increase in plastic waste, even within an overall decrease in garbage production.

Keiron Roberts, an environmental research fellow at the University of Portsmouth in England, said other countries saw similar demand for plastics and cardboard as a result of the so-called Amazon effect — referring to a surge in reliance on the internet retailer as people holed up to abide by stay-at-home orders. But he concurred that within Europe, Italy was in a particularly vulnerable spot.

"Because you are surrounded by coastline, you just need to have some rain events that will wash these masks into the sewage system or into the rivers and the waterways and they will eventually make their way into the ocean," he said.

"There's no area of the Mediterranean now where plastic hasn't impacted," he added.

Italy's National Center for Research reported in 2018 that the presence of microplastics on surface seawater off Italy's coasts was comparable to levels found in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the collection of ocean debris that spans part of that ocean.

Globally, the U.N. Environment Program has warned that the increased use of single-use plastics in protective equipment could lead to uncontrolled dumping and add to marine pollution, and it has urged countries to develop adequate disposal plans. The U.N. Trade body, UNCTAD, estimates that worldwide global sales of face masks alone will reach \$166 billion this year, up from \$800 million in 2019.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, only a quarter of Italy's waste was recycled, with an estimated 53 kilotons of plastics leaking into the Mediterranean each year, according to the environmental group WWF.

"Plastics and global warming are the main threats, and we need to act now to prevent our planet and sea from transforming into a hostile and unlivable environment," said Greenpeace's Ungherese.

## Hunger, squalor mar South Sudan post-war unification efforts

By MAURA AJAK Associated Press

BOR, South Sudan (AP) — Here in crowded camps in South Sudan, former enemies are meant to be joining forces after a five-year civil war so they can help the shattered country recover. But they can barely find enough food.

The Associated Press spoke to women, both former rebel fighters and government troops, who are among tens of thousands of people being trained as a unified security force. It's meant to be a major step in the 2018 peace deal ending the war that killed nearly 400,000 people.

Visits to a handful of camps found squalid conditions, with food supplies expired or stolen by corruption. With few sanitary products available, the women use random pieces of cloth, even strips of bedsheets, for their periods.

While some seek informal work in nearby communities to get by, the threat of sexual assault — even by male trainees — makes others wary of venturing too far.

"I'm describing the situation as disgusting," said Nyaluel Makuei. The 36-year-old mother of seven said she has dedicated her life to serving her country, but she finds little support now.

"Even if you get a piece of soap you still stink and smell bad," she said. "Some of our sisters left the center because of that situation." At times, she said, meals are just porridge mixed with salt to satisfy hunger because the camp's supply of beans turned rancid.

The women who once fought on opposing sides now identify themselves as members of South Sudan's unified force, an effort to leave their past behind. But they are reminded of their country's persistent troubles — insecurity, graft, poverty — at every turn.

Some in the international community warn that South Sudan's implementation of the peace deal is in peril. A United Nations panel of experts this year said the training camps host far fewer people than the goal of 83,000, and government soldiers make up a "significantly smaller percentage" than former rebel fighters.

Most government forces remain in barracks elsewhere. "Many key commanders instructed their forces to remain outside of the security reunification process, retain their weapons and stand ready to re-engage in active fighting," the U.N report said.

Instruction in the training camps is limited to "basic moral orientation, rather than any substantive military training," it added.

Meanwhile, vicious intercommunal fighting in parts of South Sudan has killed hundreds of people this year. A well-trained, properly provisioned security force is needed.

"I am acutely aware that the peace implementation remains painfully slow and far below your expectations," President Salva Kiir said last month.

At the Toufigia police training center in Malakal, which hosts more than 3,000 people, women reported selling tea or making charcoal to find money to survive.

Veronica Akij, 41, said she decided to work as a tea lady to support her family. Awin Deng, 39, said she stayed up at night baking bread to sell. She hopes to be part of the first batch of police officers to graduate from training but has seven children to support.

"We are tired of this situation," said Nyakuma Oyen, 25.

During a recent tour of the training sites, Defense Minister Angelina Teny acknowledged the challenges. "It is not your fault, because 1,000 South Sudanese pounds (\$7) cannot buy you a sack of flour. The situation is forcing you to do that," she said of the informal work.

South Sudan's civil war largely destroyed the health system and other basic services, leaving women especially exposed. Human rights groups and medical charities reported many women were raped after going out to find water or wood.

That threat remains, even for the trainees.

At the Panyier training center in Bor, which hosts more than 1,800 people, nurse Monica Achol Agwang said she has examined many cases of sexual assault.

"Some get pregnant and experience a miscarriage during training in the field," the 38-year-old said.



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Transferring women to town for proper treatment is difficult, with poorly constructed roads and frequent flooding.

Dozens of people have HIV, an alarming rate, she said. And yet there isn't enough medicine even for other sexually transmitted diseases.

Now the COVID-19 pandemic has arrived. Abul Malual, a 29-year-old mother of five who arrived at the training center in January, said people are sleeping 10 to a tent meant to house six people.

That's on top of the indignity of asking for sanitary pads and receiving none. And food supplies have been erratic for months, Malual said.

The head of the Panyier training center, Brig. Gen. John Aciek Ajith, accused the government's Joint Transitional Security Committee of not delivering needed aid since June. He has requested help from other military divisions.

But Maj. Gen. Chol Martin with the military's Division 8 said his soldiers are no longer receiving their salaries and most have started to support themselves by fishing or selling charcoal.

He said he tries to help by allowing them to sell food from the storeroom. Most of the food is expired, Martin said, and yet some soldiers eat it, making them ill.

The co-chair of the Joint Transitional Security Committee, Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson, said the blame for the lack of support lay elsewhere, including with the Joint Defense Board, the country's highest security command.

"Our mission regularly has been seized by others who are looking for food and medical supplies," he said. Contracts for supplies are signed by the government's National Transitional Committee and "we are not involved."

There are now more than 47,000 trainees across South Sudan, Samson said.

"These are human beings. They need to eat. The stores are supposed to be full of food," he said. He confirmed that most trainees leave the centers to find food elsewhere.

At the Kaljak police training center in Bentiu, which hosts some 3,000 people, women reported much of the same — little food, no medicines, no soap or sanitary pads. Some forage for green leaves to eat.

"Our situation is horrible," said Mary Stephanose, 37.

Others are pregnant. A 30-year-old who gave only her first name, Mary, said she is in her sixth month but rarely has the chance for a checkup. "I cannot even attend the training or stand well because I feel dizzy," she said.

Some trainees stood for portraits, wearing flip-flops, their pregnancies swelling their cloth wraps. Few uniforms were in sight.

## Trump to withdraw Pendley's nomination as public lands chief

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — President Donald Trump intends to withdraw the nomination of William Perry Pendley to head the Bureau of Land Management, a senior administration official said Saturday — much to the relief of environmentalists who insisted the longtime advocate of selling federal lands should not be overseeing them.

Pendley, a former oil industry and property rights attorney from Wyoming, has been leading the agency for more than a year under a series of temporary orders from Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. Democrats alleged the temporary orders were an attempt to skirt the nomination process, and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock and conservation groups have filed lawsuits to have Pendley removed from office.

Trump announced Pendley's nomination to become the bureau's director in June. A senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter, confirmed Saturday that the president intended to withdraw that nomination.

"Good!" Bullock, a Democrat, tweeted Saturday. "William Perry Pendley wants to sell off our public lands — and has no business being in charge of them."

The bureau oversees nearly a quarter-billion public acres in the U.S. West and much of the nation's

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onshore oil and gas development.

The White House did not offer an explanation for the decision, which is not expected to become official until the Senate returns to session. The Interior Department said in a statement that the president makes staffing decisions and that Pendley continues leading the agency as deputy director for programs and policy.

Pendley, who in a 2017 essay argued that the "Founding Fathers intended all lands owned by the federal government to be sold," spent three decades as president of the nonprofit Mountain States Legal Foundation, which has worked on behalf of ranchers, oil and gas drillers, miners and others seeking to use public lands for commercial gain.

Among the cases Pendley worked on was one challenging grizzly bear protections on national forest land. In another, he sought to validate an energy developer's claim to drill for oil on land considered sacred by the Blackfeet Indian Tribe near Glacier National Park in Montana. A federal appeals court rejected the effort two months ago.

The author of books that include "War on the West: Government Tyranny on America's Great Frontier," he has criticized environmentalists as extremists and expressed support for Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, whose family has engaged in armed standoffs with federal agents.

In his announcement of the nomination, Trump said Pendley had "worked to increase recreational opportunities on and access to our Nation's public lands, heighten concern for the impact of wild horses and burros on public lands, and increase awareness of the Bureau's multiple-use mission."

The Interior Department has disputed the notion that Pendley wants to sell off federal lands, saying the Bureau of Land Management has acquired 25,000 acres under his leadership.

In his position at the agency, Pendley has overseen the relocation of most of the bureau's jobs from Washington to various locations in the West, including its new headquarters in Grand Junction, Colorado — a move conservationists consider an effort to weaken the agency.

The agency has also sought to ease rules for oil and gas drilling that were adopted under the Obama administration. One recent proposal, which would streamline requirements for measuring and reporting oil and gas produced from federal land, is projected to save energy companies more than \$130 million over the next decade.

"William Perry Pendley has been unfit to lead the Bureau of Land Management every day since he was appointed acting director in 2019," Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, said in an emailed statement. "The fact that he was nominated this June and not withdrawn until millions of Americans and elected officials spoke out illustrates the wrongheaded priorities of this administration."

Jennifer Rokala, executive director of the Center for Western Priorities, called for the Trump administration to remove Pendley from his position.

"Withdrawing William Perry Pendley's nomination confirms he couldn't even survive a confirmation process run by the president's allies in the Senate. Keeping him on the job anyway shows the depth of disdain Secretary Bernhardt and President Trump have for the Constitution," Rakola said. "The Bureau of Land Management director is a Senate-confirmed position for a reason. Whoever is in charge of one-tenth of all lands in America must be approved by the Senate, and these bald-faced attempts to evade the Senate's advice-and-consent duties cannot stand."

AP writer Aamer Madhani contributed from Bedminster, New Jersey.

## Power back in California after brief rolling blackouts

By DAISY NGUYEN Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California's utilities on Saturday night are bringing back power to thousands of customers across the state after a brief outage, according to the authority that operates the power grid.

The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) said in a statement that the brief rolling blackouts throughout the state were caused by the failure of a power plant and the loss of wind power.

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California ISO said it ordered the end of rolling blackouts about 6:48 p.m., when wind power increased. The restoration of service by the utilities come as a heat wave baking California in triple-digit temperatures continued to strain the electrical system.

California ISO ordered the first rolling outages in nearly 20 years on Friday when it directed utilities around the state to shed their power loads. The state's three biggest utilities — Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric — turned off power to more than 410,000 homes and businesses for about an hour at a time until the emergency declaration ended 3 1/2 hours later.

The move came as temperatures around the state hit triple digits in many areas, and air conditioning use soared.

The power grid is mostly stressed during the late afternoon and early evening because of higher demand and solar energy production falling. The state tried to prepare for the expected rise in electricity use by urging conservation and trying to buy more power. But a high-pressure system building over Western states meant there was less available.

A power outage caused a pump to fail at a wastewater treatment plant in Oakland, resulting in a sewer backup and the release of some 50,000 gallons of raw sewage into a waterway, the East Bay Municipal Utility District said.

The district said the outage began around 5 p.m. Friday, more than an hour before the rolling outages occurred, and sewage began to spill early Saturday. The agency said the sudden outage affected its ability to connect to backup power at the plant and during that time, workers were dealing with flooding while trying to restore power.

The agency warned boaters to stay away from the Oakland Estuary as it investigates the accident.

The state remained gripped by the heat wave Saturday, with several records either tied or broken, according to the National Weather Service.

The last time the state ordered rolling outages was during an energy crisis in 2001. Blackouts occurred several times from January to May, including one that affected more than 1.5 million customers. The cause was a combination of energy shortages and market manipulation by energy wholesalers, infamously including Enron Corp., that drove up prices by withholding supplies.

Counties up and down the state reported scattered outages, although the city of Los Angeles, which has its own power generating system, wasn't affected.

The heat wave brought brutally high temperatures, increased wildfire danger and fears of coronavirus spread as people flock to beaches and parks for relief. A thunderstorm rolling from the Central Coast to inland Southern California also brought dry lightning that sparked several small blazes, wind and flash flooding in the high desert.

Records were set in Lake Elsinore, where the mercury hit 114; Riverside at 109 and Gilroy at 108, according to the National Weather Service. The high in Borrego Springs, in the desert northeast of San Diego, was 118. Coastal cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles sweltered in 86 and 98 degrees, respectively.

Several cities opened cooling centers, but with limited capacity because of social distancing requirements.

San Francisco's Department of Emergency Management issued simultaneous tweets urging residents to prepare for power outages and to protect themselves from the coronavirus during the heat wave.

"Stay home when possible. If it feels too hot indoors, seek cooler temps outside, keep physical distance, wear a face covering," the department tweeted.

The scorching temperatures are a concern for firefighters battling blazes that have destroyed several homes and erupted near rural and urban foothill neighborhoods, driving through tinder-dry brush.

In addition to the possibility of heat stroke and other hot-weather illnesses, health officers were concerned that people will pack beaches, lakes and other recreation areas without following mask and social distancing orders — a major concern in the state that has seen more than 613,000 coronavirus cases.

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

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

## 'Do something:' Harris' rapid rise driven by call to action

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Hours before Kamala Harris took the stage for the first time as Joe Biden's vice presidential pick, she received a text message from a childhood classmate with photos from their school days.

In one of the pictures, a racially diverse group of first-graders are gathered in a classroom. Some had taken the bus from their homes across town to join white students from the affluent hillside neighborhoods in Berkeley, California. A pensive Harris sits on the floor, dutifully looking ahead, a child in the center of an experiment in racial integration.

"That's how it started. There's no question!" Harris, 55, texted back to Aaron Peskin, the former classmate who is now a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Fifty years after she was part of the second class to integrate Berkeley's public schools, Harris is now the first Black woman and first Asian American woman named to a major party presidential ticket.

From her earliest years, Harris' path toward the second-highest office in the United States has tracked the nation's struggle for racial equality. The start-and-stop progress and sometimes messy debate have shaped her life, from an upbringing by immigrant parents, a childhood among civil rights activists, a career at the helm of a flawed criminal justice system and her rapid ascent to the top of Democratic politics.

Those experiences forged a politician who is unafraid to buck the political powers that be, but also charts a cautious course through policy debates. As a senator and candidate, she's emerged as a leader who knows the power of tough questioning and a viral moment, and also the weight of her role as a voice for women of color.

"She's the right thing at the right time in this country," said Peskin. "She understands how complicated life is, and what the promises of America are."

Harris's political rise, while fast, has not been without criticism and setbacks.

She's been criticized for shifting policy positions. She faced questions familiar to women in politics, particularly women of color, about her ambition. Republican President Donald Trump labeled her "nasty" for her piercing interrogation of his nominees, including now-Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Some progressive Democrats, meanwhile, view her work as a prosecutor skeptically, questioning her use of policies they say are discriminatory.

Her own presidential bid, announced before 20,000 people in her hometown of Oakland, California, flamed out before primary season voting began. She struggled to raise money and present a clear vision.

Now she's back in an election she calls the most consequential of her lifetime.

"My mother Shyamala raised my sister Maya and me to believe that it was up to us and every generation of Americans to keep on marching," Harris said Wednesday in her first speech after Biden announced his selection. "She'd tell us: Don't sit around and complain about things. Do something."

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Harris seemed bound to rise in politics from the very earliest days of her career.

She was a Howard University graduate without family wealth or high-powered ties when she returned to her native Bay Area for law school and took a job at the Alameda County District Attorney's office in 1990. She quickly began making connections in San Francisco's tightknit and competitive political circles.

She served on the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art board, where she reached out to Libby Schaaf, now Oakland's mayor, who was running a volunteer program in Oakland's public schools. They launched a mentoring program to connect inner-city students interested in fine arts with museum members, giving the kids access to one of the city's elite institutions.

"I love to say that Kamala has been fighting for the people long before anyone was looking," Schaaf said.

Among Harris's friends and later political backers were members of the Getty family of oil fortunes and then-California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. In 2001 Harris joined a group of women working to enhance their political representation in the city.

Brown, whom Harris briefly dated, appointed her to two state boards in 1994 and 1995. It was her first

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foray into state politics, and it came with accusations of political favoritism that would surface in 2003, when Harris made her first political run for San Francisco district attorney.

Harris, then working for the city attorney, challenged her former boss, San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan. He backed legalization of medical marijuana and other progressive issues. But critics questioned his priorities. Harris tacked right on the issues to run against him, pledging to be tough on crime and repair relationships with police.

Harris had the backing of monied donors, but the public barely knew her. So she used an ironing board as a pop-up table outside grocery stores to meet voters. She promised to bring more attention to domestic violence cases and to Black mothers who had lost their children to homicide, issues she felt Hallinan was neglecting.

Debbie Mesloh, a longtime friend and adviser, said Harris cut her teeth in that first race, learning lessons that she would carry into national politics. Harris faced both the scrutiny of her personal life and the resistance to her rise as she raced past rivals from more well-connected families.

"She had to be strong, she had to be bold, she had to be ambitious," Mesloh recalled. "There was a big question, too, of 'Who do you think you are?'"

Harris, then 39, won handily.

Just months into her tenure, Harris decided not to seek the death penalty against a man charged with killing a police officer. That decision angered law enforcement officers and drew rebuke from Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the city's former mayor and a force in California politics. But Harris had run as a death penalty opponent and her move made good on a campaign promise.

The issue would later fuel Harris' reputation as a political shape-shifter. Years later, when she ran for California attorney general and needed support beyond her liberal home base, Harris tempered her stance on capital punishment.

She pledged to uphold the death penalty if elected, then stayed silent when ballot measures to repeal it went before voters in 2012 and 2016. She said it would be inappropriate to weigh in because her office was responsible for writing the measures.

In 2014, she had a chance to effectively abolish the death penalty when a federal judge said it was so rarely used that it amounted to cruel and unusual punishment for those languishing on death row. Harris appealed the decision and won, keeping capital punishment on the books. She now calls for a federal moratorium.

Observers and critics point to these episodes as evidence of Harris's penchant for staking out cautious positions that uphold the status quo.

"There was nothing about the way she carried herself as a prosecutor, the way she handled cases, that made you say, 'Oh wow, she's really shaking things up,'" said John Raphling, a former public defender in California who is now a senior researcher for Human Rights Watch. But, he added, the debate over criminal justice reform was different at the time. "The whole idea of a progressive prosecutor is a pretty recent phenomenon," he said.

Harris' allies argue that she worked within the confines of the system and the politics of the time. Harris found ways to make change when possible, they say. As district attorney, she launched a reentry program that connected nonviolent offenders to jobs and education that became a national model.

"I remember the first time I visited the county jail. So many young men, and they were mostly Black or brown or poor," she wrote in her 2019 book, "The Truths We Hold," recalling her time as a young prosecutor. "They represented a living monument to lost potential, and I wanted to tear it down."

But she also focused on issues that activists said punished poor and minority families. She took on truancy and supported a statewide law modeled on her city initiative that threatened parents with jail time, fines and lost public benefits if parents failed to send their children to school.

"We took the relationship between a school, a parent and a child — instead of making a metric out of it, to improve the opportunities to get to school, to understand the barriers to get to school — we made

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them criminals," said Jessica Bartholow, a policy advocate at the Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Harris only barely won her race for state attorney general in 2010, claiming the title of California's "top cop" during a period of rapidly shifting views on criminal justice. Soon the Black Lives Matter movement was taking hold, along with outrage over police brutality, prompted by the killings of Black people such as Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown.

Harris declined to support state legislation that would have required her office to conduct independent investigations of officer-involved shootings. While she made state law enforcement officers wear body cameras, she did not support forcing local departments to do so. As a former prosecutor, she believed the decisions were best made locally, she said.

Now Harris supports outside investigations of police shootings, one of several shifts on policing policies she's made in the U.S. Senate.

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It was also as attorney general that she became friends with then-Vice President Joe Biden's son, Beau, who was Delaware's attorney general.

Harris and the younger Biden worked together on a settlement with the nation's five largest mortgage lenders following the foreclosure crisis. The deal would reduce loans for roughly 1 million households, but Harris and Biden were among the last attorneys general to sign on, arguing it let the lenders off too easily.

They talked nearly every day, Harris said, with Beau Biden supporting her decision to keep fighting despite political pressure to take the deal. Joe Biden said this past week that relationship was key in his decision to tap Harris as his running mate, and he was visibly emotional Wednesday when she talked about his son, who died of a brain tumor in 2015.

Harris won her Senate seat in 2016 as Trump won the presidency, setting off an immediate scramble among Democrats about who would run to replace him. Within a week of her swearing-in ceremony, Harris turned to her prosecutorial skills to grill retired Gen. John Kelly, then Trump's nominee for homeland security secretary, about the new administration's handling of some young immigrants personal information.

"We would not use this information against them?" she asked. Kelly fumbled his answer.

The moment was an early demonstration of the kind of senator Harris would be — one unafraid to battle Trump and good at creating viral moments that energized Democrats.

Nearly all of the Democratic senators joined Republicans in voting for Kelly. But Harris was among 11 Democrats, and just three first-term senators, who did not. Nathan Barankin, then Harris's chief of staff and a longtime aide, recalled Harris making an aggressive case to her colleagues that they should not be satisfied by Kelly's answers despite his record as a well-respected military officer.

"I don't think there are too many freshmen that do that," Barankin said.

Harris was quickly viewed as a Democrat with White House potential. By 2017, Harris was feeling out a run in the Democratic primary. It wasn't her initial plan, Barankin said, but Trump's brief tenure had convinced her that perspective, particularly as a Black woman, should be represented in the Democratic primary field.

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That perspective was steeped in Harris's upbringing by two immigrant parents.

Her father, Donald Harris, who is of Afro Caribbean descent, left Jamaica to study economics at the University of California at Berkeley. Shyamala Gopalan, the daughter of an Indian diplomat who had fought for India's independence, came to Berkeley for graduate school and stayed.

The couple had two daughters, Kamala Devi and Maya Lakshmi. The parents told their daughters stories, she writes in her book, of being met by police with fire hoses as they marched for civil rights and against the Vietnam War, of meeting Martin Luther King Jr. when he spoke at Berkeley, of forming reading groups to study Black intellectuals.

The couple split soon after Harris started school. The girls continued to see their father, but Gopalan became the main force in their lives. They moved to Toronto for several years while she worked at McGill University.

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In Berkeley, Gopalan immersed the girls in the Black community she and her ex-husband had embraced. They lived above a daycare center with posters of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman on the walls, even as they celebrated their South Asian heritage through their names, their close ties with their mother's family in India and occasional visits to her homeland.

They attended a Pentacostal church on Sundays and, on Thursdays, a Black cultural space called the Rainbow Sign that was a gathering spot for artists, intellectuals and activists. Many of her mother's closest friends were Black men and women who became "aunts and uncles" to the girls, later influencing Harris's decision to attend a historically Black university, Harris said.

"She knew that her adopted homeland would see Maya and me as Black girls, and she was determined to make sure we would grow into confident, proud Black women," Harris wrote of her mother.

At Howard, Harris joined Alpha Kappa Alpha, the nation's oldest sorority for Black women. Its network, along with those of eight other Black fraternities and sororities known as the Divine Nine, now offers Harris a powerful base of support.

She'll also have her sister, Maya, who has been one of her closest advisors, and husband, entertainment lawyer Doug Emhoff, who led a band of Harris supporters known as the #Khive during her presidential primary bid. The couple married in 2014, after her friend set them up on a date. His two adult children call her "Momala," a play on her name and the Yiddish word for "little mother."

Harris also bolstered her assets with the marriage, according to Senate finance records. She earns \$174,000 from the Senate and reported an additional \$277,000 in income from book advances in 2019. But their combined net worth, excluding real estate, ranges from \$2.8 million to as much as \$6.3 million, the records show.

Harris, mindful of her history-making role, on Friday called Biden bold for choosing a Black woman to join him on the ticket.

"I have not achieved anything that I have without the support of many who believed in the possibility of someone who has never been there before," she said in an interview with the news outlet The 19th.

Dale reported from Philadelphia. Associated Press writer Brian Slodysko in Washington contributed to this report.

## 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

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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 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.

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## 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."

"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.

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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"

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."

"It 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.

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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, 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>

## Robert Trump, the president's younger brother, dead at 71

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's younger brother, Robert Trump, a businessman known for an even keel that seemed almost incompatible with the family name, died Saturday night after being

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hospitalized in New York, the president said in a statement. He was 71.

The president visited his brother at a New York City hospital on Friday after White House officials said he had become seriously ill. Officials did not immediately release a cause of death.

"It is with heavy heart I share that my wonderful brother, Robert, peacefully passed away tonight," Donald Trump said in a statement. "He was not just my brother, he was my best friend. He will be greatly missed, but we will meet again. His memory will live on in my heart forever. Robert, I love you. Rest in peace."

The youngest of the Trump siblings had remained close to the 74-year-old president and, as recently as June, filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Trump family that unsuccessfully sought to stop publication of a tell-all book by the president's niece, Mary.

Robert Trump had reportedly been hospitalized in the intensive care unit for several days that same month.

Both longtime businessmen, Robert and Donald had strikingly different personalities. Donald Trump once described his younger brother as "much quieter and easygoing than I am," and "the only guy in my life whom I ever call 'honey.'"

Robert Trump began his career on Wall Street working in corporate finance but later joined the family business, managing real estate holdings as a top executive in the Trump Organization.

"When he worked in the Trump Organization, he was known as the nice Trump," Gwenda Blair, a Trump family biographer, told The Associated Press. "Robert was the one people would try to get to intervene if there was a problem."

Robert Stewart Trump was born in 1948, the youngest of New York City real estate developer Fred Trump's five children.

The president, more than two years older than Robert, admittedly bullied his brother in their younger years, even as he praised his loyalty and laid-back demeanor.

"I think it must be hard to have me for a brother but he's never said anything about it and we're very close," Donald Trump wrote in his 1987 bestseller "The Art of the Deal."

"Robert gets along with almost everyone," he added, "which is great for me since I sometimes have to be the bad guy."

In the 1980s, Donald Trump tapped Robert Trump to oversee an Atlantic City casino project, calling him the perfect fit for the job. When it cannibalized his other casinos, though, "he pointed the finger of blame at Robert," said Blair, author of "The Trumps: Three Generations that Built an Empire."

"When the slot machines jammed the opening weekend at the Taj Mahal, he very specifically and furiously denounced Robert, and Robert walked out and never worked for his brother again," Blair said.

A Boston University graduate, Robert Trump later managed the Brooklyn portion of father Fred Trump's real estate empire, which was eventually sold.

Once a regular boldface name in Manhattan's social pages, Robert Trump had kept a lower profile in recent years. "He was not a newsmaker," Blair said.

Before divorcing his first wife, Blaine Trump, more than a decade ago, Robert Trump had been active on Manhattan's Upper East Side charity circuit.

He avoided the limelight during his elder brother's presidency, having retired to the Hudson Valley. But he described himself as a big supporter of the White House run in a 2016 interview with the New York Post.

"I support Donald one thousand percent," Robert Trump said.

In early March of 2020, he married his longtime girlfriend, Ann Marie Pallan.

The eldest Trump sibling and Mary's father, Fred Trump Jr., struggled with alcoholism and died in 1981 at the age of 43. The president's surviving siblings include Elizabeth Trump Grau and Maryanne Trump Barry, a retired federal appeals judge.

Authors Michael Kranish and Marc Fisher described Robert Trump as soft spoken but cerebral in "Trump Revealed: The Definitive Biography of the 45th President": "He lacked Donald's charismatic showmanship, and he was happy to leave the bravado to his brother, but he could show flashes of Trump temper."

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AP researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed to this report from New York.

## The Latest: S. Korea reports largest virus jump since March

By The Associated Press undefined

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported 279 newly confirmed cases of the coronavirus, it's highest daily jump since early March, as fears grow about a massive outbreak in the greater capital region.

The figures released by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sunday brought the national caseload to 15,318, including 305 deaths.

The number of new cases was the highest since 367 were reported on March 8, when the country was concentrating public health tools and personnel from nationwide to combat an outbreak in the less populated southern region.

The KCDC said 253 of the new cases came from the Seoul metropolitan area, home to 26 million people, where health authorities have been struggling to stem transmissions linked to various places and groups, including churches, nursery homes, schools, restaurants and door-to-door salespeople.

Infections were also reported in other major cities, such as Busan and Daegu, a southeastern city that was the epicenter of the country's previous virus crisis in late February and March, when hundreds of new cases were reported each day.

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

— Millions of seniors live in homes with at least one child, and the new school year could bring new worries for them.

— Fear, language barriers hinder immigrant contact-tracing.

— Testing for the coronavirus drops in Texas as schools reopen and the state prepares for football. The drop comes even as deaths are continuing to climb.

— Thousands of British tourists beat a hasty retreat from France to avoid a mandatory 14-day quarantine at home.

— The year the music might die: British clubs face closure because of coronavirus pandemic. More than 400 grassroots music venues face possible closure despite some short-term government aid.

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

### HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

KAHULUI, Hawaii — Kahului Airport on Maui has completed its second phase of its thermal screening project meant to combat the spread of the coronavirus. The screening uses thermal imaging and facial recognition technology to pinpoint people with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher. Dual lens cameras have been installed at all arrival gates and TSA checkpoints in the airport. The Maui News reports that when phase three is completed, the cameras will be able to track travelers with high body temperatures so contact tracers can stop and screen them before they leave the airport.

KANSAS CITY — Trump's top coronavirus adviser used a visit to Kansas to urge people to wear masks regardless of where they live.

"What's really important for every Kansan to understand is that this epidemic that we have been seeing this summer is both urban and rural," Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force said Saturday. "So we are really asking all communities, whether you are urban or rural communities, to really wear a mask inside, outside, every day."

She also stressed that people should socially distance and not have gatherings while in Kansas City, Kansas, for a meeting with Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, as well as community and state health officials at KU Medical Center, The Kansas City Star reports.

"You can't tell who's infected," Birx said. "Much of the spread is asymptomatic. I know we all want to believe that our family members cannot be positive. They are."

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Birx said when communities start seeing a rise in positive cases, leaders need to close the bars, restrict indoor dining, decrease social gatherings and ensure there's a mask mandate.

"We have been doing that across the South and we've seen a dramatic decrease in cases where the population has followed those guidelines," she said.

AUSTIN, Texas — The death toll in Texas from the coronavirus inched nearer to 10,000 on Saturday, with 238 deaths bringing the total to 9,840. The Texas Department of State Health Services said the number of reported cases increased by 8,245 to 528,838. Health officials said Saturday that 6,481 people with COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, were hospitalized. The number of hospitalizations has been decreasing since peaking in July at 10,893, and the number of newly reported cases is shrinking. But the virus is still spreading geographically.

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico on Saturday reported 146 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases with eight more deaths, increasing the state's totals to 23,302 cases and 711 deaths. Over half of the newly reported cases occurred in five counties — Bernalillo, Dona Ana, Eddy, Lea and McKinley. The deaths reported Saturday involved people from six counties — Bernalillo, Cibola, Dona Ana, Eddy and Rio Arriba. The 7-day rolling averages of daily new cases in New Mexico and daily deaths in the state both dropped over the past two weeks.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma on Saturday reported an additional 901 cases of the coronavirus and 13 more deaths. The Oklahoma State Department of Health says the number of reported cases is now at 47,798. There have been a total of 657 deaths from COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. The true number of cases in Oklahoma is likely higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel sick. The health department said that as of Saturday, there were 7,234 active cases and 39,907 people have recovered.

PHOENIX — Arizona reported 933 confirmed coronavirus cases and 69 deaths on Saturday.

That increases the state's totals to more than 192,000 cases and 4,492 deaths.

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.

The latest COVID-19-related hospitalization numbers posted by the state Department of Health Services were at levels last seen in early June.

The COVID-19-related hospitalizations in Arizona peaked about a month ago following Gov. Doug Ducey's lifting of stay-home orders in May. Ducey re-imposed some restrictions and allowed local governments to impose mask requirements in late June.

NEW YORK -- New York's annual light display honoring victims of 9/11 is back on, officials announced Saturday. They say health officials will supervise this year's tribute to ensure workers' safety amid concerns related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement that it is especially important this year to commemorate the lives lost and heroism displayed in the Sept. 11 attacks "as New Yorkers are once again called upon to face a common enemy."

The announcement came days after the National September 11 Memorial & Museum canceled the Tribute in Light over concerns the coronavirus might spread among crews creating twin columns of light to represent the World Trade Center in the Manhattan sky.

Alice Greenwald, president and CEO of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, thanked former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Cuomo and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation "for their assistance in offsetting the increased costs associated with the health and safety considerations around the tribute this year."

"This year, its message of hope, endurance and resilience are more important than ever," she said in a

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statement.

**JOHANNESBURG** — South Africa is lifting its month-long ban on cigarette sales and will allow limited alcohol sales.

President Cyril Ramaphosa says the country has passed the peak of coronavirus infections and a “ray of light is visible now on the horizon.”

The loosening of the lockdown on Monday will remove nearly all restrictions on economic activity, including the hospitality industry, and allow inter-provincial travel. But international travel restrictions are still in place and gatherings of more than 50 people are still banned.

South Africa has the world’s fifth-largest virus caseload with more than 583,000. The health ministry announced Saturday a total of more than 11,600 confirmed deaths.

Ramaphosa says in the past three weeks, confirmed cases have dropped from more than 12,000 a day to around 5,000. The president acknowledged the hardship of the lockdown and warned South Africans not to be complacent because of asymptomatic spread, when people don’t realize they have the virus.

**ISTANBUL** — Turkey’s health minister says the 1,256 coronavirus cases reported Saturday is the highest in 45 days.

There’s been 21 deaths from COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, bringing the confirmed death toll to 5,955.

More than 248,000 people have tested positive for the virus in Turkey since March.

Mask wearing in public is mandatory in much of the country, which has lifted many social restrictions to curb the spread of the virus.

**DES MOINES** — Iowa is reporting 832 new coronavirus cases for its second-largest single-day increase.

KRCG reports the cases brought the state’s total number of confirmed infections to 51,640 on Saturday. The state also added nine more deaths to bring the confirmed total to 973, according to health officials.

The only other day with more new cases was July 17, with 879. Both days had large numbers of tests processed.

An additional 9,539 tests were reported by public and private labs in the last 24 hours. The positivity rate of tests during that period was 8.7%, lower than the previous 11.7%.

A total of 552,389 tests have been processed since the start of the pandemic.

**CARLSBAD, N.M.** — Managers of the federal government’s underground nuclear waste repository in southern New Mexico say operations are ongoing despite a recent increase in coronavirus cases among workers.

The Carlsbad Current-Argus reports the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has had cases among employees and contract workers more than double in the last week. This week, the plant announced four new cases among employees of Nuclear Waste Partnership, the contractor hired to oversee daily operations at the facility.

The plant is in the second phase of resuming normal operations.

**ROME** — Italy’s new coronavirus cases surged past 600 daily for the first time in three months.

Tourists and vacationing people returning are considered major factors in rising caseloads.

The Health Ministry registered 629 coronavirus cases Saturday in the previous 24 hours, increasing the confirmed total to more than 253,000.

The last time the daily number was higher was 669 cases on May 23. Only a few weeks ago, Italy had daily cases numbers in the 200s.

Italy’s confirmed deaths has reached more than 35,000.

**OPELIKA, Ala.** — Alabama high schools are limiting attendance at football games this fall because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Opelika High School says it will cap attendance at about 30% of the stadium capacity of 8,000 so fans

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can maintain proper social distancing. Gulf Shores says attendance at athletic events will be cut by 50%.

Other schools are announcing attendance reductions or still working on plans. Some are skipping fall sports. The first football games are scheduled for this week, although some schools have delayed games after players or staff tested positive for the coronavirus.

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

However, Dr. Don Williamson, the former state health officer who heads the Alabama Hospital Association, says 89% of ICU beds are full.

**ROME** — Some 455,000 people in Italy received citations or fines for not obeying early lockdown rules, according to Italian Interior Ministry figures released Saturday.

The government imposed a nationwide lockdown in a bid to slow the coronavirus on March 11. Citizens could go out for essential work or food shopping in a country that became the epicenter of the virus in Europe.

Authorities says they cited 1,117 people for violating quarantine through July 31. The numbers of cases and deaths have dramatically decreased since the peak in Italy.

Italy currently has 252,809 known cases. More than 35,000 people have died, sixth highest in the world.

**ALGIERS, Algeria** — Algeria reopened mosques, cafes, beaches and parks on Saturday for the first time in five months, relaxing one of the world's longer virus confinement periods.

Curfews remain in place in more than half the country as Algeria tries to contain the virus.

Crowds packed beaches in the capital Algiers, celebrating the opportunity to swim in the Mediterranean amid the August heat. Restaurants reopened, and mosques that can hold more than 1,000 people must ensure social distancing measures.

However, mosques remain closed to all women, children and the elderly.

Algeria reported more than 37,000 total virus infections and 1,350 deaths on Friday. It's the third-highest death rate reported in Africa, after South Africa and Egypt.

**JOHANNESBURG** — A report in South Africa says there is a higher risk of Black or mixed-race patients dying of COVID-19 in the country's hospitals than white patients.

A report by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases indicates the association but doesn't go into detail. South Africa has released little data by race during the coronavirus pandemic.

The country has the world's fifth largest virus caseload with more than 579,000 confirmed cases and ranks No. 13 with more than 11,000 deaths, according to the tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The report says overall, 18% of people with coronavirus admitted to hospitals die. Public hospitals are generally more poorly funded than private hospitals.

The report includes data from more than 150 public and private hospitals across the country. According to the 2011 census, 86% of South Africans are Black or mixed race, with 9% white.

**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.

## Venezuelans brave open sea on tubes, fishing for survival

By MATIAS DELACROIX and JUAN PABLO ARRÁEZ Associated Press

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela (AP) — The biggest fear is a fishhook puncturing the inner tube that keeps them afloat far from shore. Then come sharks grabbing their catch and maybe biting their legs. And the current that threatens to pull them out to sea.

A small but growing number of people in the coastal town of La Guaira, just a few minutes from the capital of Caracas, have turned to the sea for sustenance since the COVID-19 pandemic has shut down the Caribbean nation's already miserable economy.

"If we had steady work, we wouldn't risk our lives out there," said Juan Carlos Almeida, who is accompanied by his fishing partner Eric Méndez. "We're bricklayers, but there's no construction."

Others who paddle out in small groups up to 5 miles (8 kilometers) from shore lost jobs in restaurants or shops catering to beachgoers.

All the beaches are closed, but the workers still have hungry children at home in their hillside barrios.

"If we don't help ourselves and don't go to work, who's going to feed us?" said the 35-year-old Almeida. "Nobody."

The new coronavirus hit Venezuela in mid-March and the government ordered most businesses closed. The virus has steadily spread in the five months since. Officials say it's killed fewer than 300 and sickened roughly 31,000.

The nation remains largely paralyzed and commercial flights have been grounded at the the nation's main airport in La Guaira. People have little hope life will return to normal anytime soon.

Newcomers to subsistence fishing stick close to the safety of La Guaira's pier, fearing the open seas.

Almeida and Méndez, 40, consider themselves experienced after spending a couple months entering the water on inner tubes. They make plastic hand paddles and wear flippers on their feet to propel them into the Caribbean. They're quickly out of sight of those back on shore.

They wear their extra fishhooks in the brim of their hats — away from the rubber and ready to grab. They drop fishing lines from a spool baited with sardines.

The fishermen also bring rubber strips to improvise emergency patches just in case of an accidental puncture.

When they catch a fish, they pull it in slowly to see whether a shark is following. They avoid drawing them in too close.

Despite the risks, the fishermen say being at sea for several hours brings a calm. They're far from the struggles of life on land — the growing coronavirus, economic crisis, hungry children and no work.

It's also where the big fish swim.

They paddle back to shore against the currents. It's tiring. Then they walk several miles home, barefoot and carrying their catch in a yellow, blue and red backpack the government gives schoolchildren. Their inner tube rests on one shoulder.

This was a good day, and they pulled in enough fish to feed their families and share some with neighbors for a week. The rest they sell for a few dollars.

"If we can't work, where do we go?" said Méndez, a husband and father with two children. "God gave us this — the sea. So we go fishing."

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Associated Press writer Scott Smith in Caracas, Venezuela, contributed to this report.

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## 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 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.

TRUMP, asked about the subject again: "I have nothing to do with it. I read something about it," Trump said Saturday during a news conference. He added: "It's not something that bothers me. ... It's not something that we will be pursuing." Asked point blank if Harris is eligible, Trump replied: "I just told you. I have not got into it in great detail." — news conference Saturday.

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

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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 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.

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**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 nevertheless 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.

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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 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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## Police move in after fights break out during Georgia protest

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (AP) — After several hours of mostly peaceful demonstrations Saturday in an Atlanta suburb that's home to a giant Confederate memorial, large numbers of police moved in to disperse the crowds when fights broke out.

Several dozen right-wing demonstrators, some waving the Confederate battle flag and many wearing military gear, gathered in downtown Stone Mountain where they faced off against a few hundred counterprotesters, many of whom wore shirts or carried signs expressing support for the Black Lives Matter movement. People in both groups carried rifles. For several hours, there was little visible police presence and things were largely peaceful, aside from some shoving and pushing and spirited arguments.

But just before 1 p.m., fights broke out, with people punching and kicking each other and throwing rocks. That's when police officers in riot gear moved in to disperse the crowds.

By 2 p.m., almost all of the protesters had left the area.

Right-wing groups led by an Arkansas group called Confederate States III%, had applied for a permit to hold a rally in Stone Mountain Park, where there's a giant sculpture of Confederate leaders. The event was planned as a response to a march in the park by a Black militia group on July 4.

But the Stone Mountain Memorial Association denied the permit on Aug. 4, citing a violent clash between groups in April 2016, spokesman John Bankhead said. The park closed to visitors Saturday and was set to reopen Sunday.

With police manning barriers to keep people from entering the park, demonstrators took to the streets of the adjoining city of Stone Mountain, which on Friday had advised people to stay away all day and urged residents to stay home and businesses to shut down.

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.

## Texas testing drops as schools reopen, prepare for football

By PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Anyone can get a coronavirus test at the CentroMed clinic in San Antonio, but on a recent day, the drive-thru was empty. Finally two masked people in a maroon SUV pulled straight on through with no wait.

With hundreds of deaths reported each day, students returning to class and football teams charging ahead with plans to play, Texas leaders who grappled with testing shortages for much of the pandemic are now facing the opposite problem: not enough takers.

"We're not having enough people step forward," Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said.

The number of coronavirus tests being done each day in Texas has dropped by the thousands in August, mirroring nationwide trends that has seen daily testing averages in the U.S. fall nearly 9% since the end of July, according to The COVID Tracking Project. The problem is dwindling demand: Testing centers like CentroMed are no longer inundated by long lines that stretch for blocks, or closing hours early because tests run out.

The dropoff comes as the U.S. has surpassed 5 million confirmed coronavirus cases and is closing in on 170,000 deaths. It threatens to put the U.S. even further behind other countries that have better managed

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the pandemic, in part, through more aggressive testing.

The trend worries health experts who fear that Texas risks flying blind into the fall if it doesn't increase testing. Texas embarked on one of the fastest reopenings in the U.S. in May but retreated weeks later in the face of massive outbreaks, ultimately leading Abbott to impose a statewide mask order after previously saying he wouldn't.

At one point, one overwhelmed hospital on the Texas border was airlifting COVID-19 patients hundreds of miles (kilometers) north in search of open beds, and Houston this month began threatening \$250 fines for not wearing face coverings in an effort to drive down infection numbers.

In recent weeks, things have improved, including a nearly 40% drop in hospitalizations since July's peak. But deaths remain high, and doctors in some parts still say they're still stretched. Texas is averaging more than 210 reported new deaths a day over the past two weeks, according to The COVID Tracking Project. On Saturday, it reported 238 deaths. Overall, the state has recorded more than 9,800 fatalities.

The rolling average of people who test positive for the virus in Texas is stubbornly elevated at 16% — a figure that itself could be a sign of insufficient testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said a positivity rate under 10% is an indicator that a state has robust testing. Abbott has said that unless Texas gets below that number, bars are likely to stay shut.

Other states in the South clobbered by the virus this summer are also seeing improvements, including Alabama. Intensive care units remain frustratingly full there, but the average new confirmed cases each day has dropped below 1,000, from 1,800 in mid-July.

It's not clear why testing has fallen off, even as many areas of the country are still experiencing serious outbreaks. Health experts suspect some Americans, jaded by images of long testing lines and the possibility of results taking a week or longer, are deciding not to bother unless they're ill. Others have suggested that mixed messages about the disease — like President Donald Trump's recent false claim that 99% of COVID-19 cases are harmless — could deter people from seeking tests.

"The good answer would be because we have less COVID, fewer people have symptoms. A bad answer might be that people gave up because it's taking a long time," said Dr. Junda Woo, medical director for San Antonio Metro Health. "We have the data, but we don't have a lot of the answers behind the data."

Some cities in Texas are now offering tests to virtually anyone after months of restricting limited supplies to only those with symptoms, and Abbott has said the state is working on rapid virus testing for nursing homes and schools. Some students are already back in classrooms and in football-obsessed Texas, which has by far the most high school football players in the nation with about 170,000, practices are underway.

"At this point everybody's a guinea pig," said Jessica Light, a professor at Texas A&M University who ultimately decided to send her 8-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son back to classrooms when school opens Tuesday. "The teachers, the staff, the students, the parents. Because we're not exactly sure how this is going to work."

Sam Chama is anxious because his girlfriend's 5-year-old son is getting ready to start kindergarten in a few weeks in Austin. As a former elementary school employee, he knows how easily younger children spread germs even with the best precautions.

And starting the year with virtual learning, the 35-year-old geologist says, is just buying time with the expectation that things will soon get better. He wonders: What happens if it doesn't?

"This is assuming that there will be a decline or some type of control, which I don't think will happen," he said.

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Associated Press journalists Desiree Mathurin in Atlanta, Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama, and Eric Gay in San Antonio contributed to this report.

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## Heading mom, Tennessee lawmaker helped women gain the vote

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

One hundred years ago this month, women in the United States were guaranteed the right to vote with ratification of the 19th Amendment — secured by a 24-year-old Tennessee legislator's decisive vote, cast at the bidding of his mother.

Harry T. Burn's surprise move set the stage for decades of slow but steady advances for American women in electoral politics. Two years ago, a record number of women were elected to Congress. On Tuesday, Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden selected Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate — making her the first Black woman on a major party's presidential ticket.

Burn, from the small town of Niota in eastern Tennessee, joined the Legislature in 1918 as its youngest member. The following year, Congress approved the 19th Amendment, touching off the battle to win ratification by the legislatures of 36 of the 48 states.

The process moved quickly at first: By March 1920, 35 states had ratified, while eight states, mostly Southern, had rejected the amendment. Of the states yet to vote, Tennessee was the only one where ratification was considered possible under prevailing political conditions.

So all eyes turned to its Legislature, where lawmakers had the power to grant the women's suffrage movement a victory it had sought for more than 70 years or deal it a painful setback.

At that time, women in more than half the states could vote in presidential elections. But they had no statewide voting rights throughout the South and several other states.

Thousands of activists on both sides of the debate poured into Nashville ahead of the special session. The posh Hermitage Hotel became a hotbed of lobbying and political gossip.

The amendment was approved 25-4 in the state Senate and sent to the House, where sentiment was divided as its turn to vote came on Aug. 18, 1920.

Anti-suffragists believed they had the votes needed to table the amendment, but that failed in a 48-48 tie. Burn was among those supporting the motion to table.

Next came the decisive vote on whether to ratify. Onlookers expected another tie, which would have doomed the measure.

But when Burn's turn came, he switched sides. His "aye" was so unexpected that many onlookers were unsure what they'd heard, according to various historical accounts. The amendment passed 49-47.

Some wondered if Burn had been bribed. But the next day, addressing the House, he offered an explanation.

He had received a letter from his mother, urging him to buck the anti-suffragist sentiments of many of his constituents and instead support the amendment.

"Dear Son, Hurrah and vote for suffrage!" she wrote. "Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the 'rat' in ratification. Your Mother."

That was a reference to Carrie Chapman Catt, a leading suffragist who had come to Nashville to campaign for the amendment.

Burn told the House: "I believe in full suffrage as a right." He added: "I know that a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."

It took decades after 1920 to reach some significant milestones. For example, no woman was elected a state governor in her own right — as opposed to succeeding her husband — until Ella Grasso in Connecticut in 1975. Even now, women hold only nine of the 50 governorships and about one-fourth of the seats in Congress.

Yet women's commitment to voting has deepened over the decades. According to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, American men had higher turnout rates than women in presidential elections until 1980, while women's turnout rate has been higher ever since. In the 2016 election, according to the center, votes were cast by 73.7 million women and 63.8 million men.

The women's suffrage movement in the United States is widely considered to have been launched at the Seneca Falls convention in New York state in 1848. At the time, many Southerners were wary of the



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movement because key leaders also were engaged in anti-slavery campaigning.

By the 1910s, many Southerners were viewing the proposed 19th Amendment through a racial prism, said Marjorie Spruill, an emeritus professor of history at the University of South Carolina.

"The attitude was, 'If you ratify the 19th Amendment, you're not a good son of the South,'" Spruill said. "These white radical women from outside are going to insist that Black women get the vote."

That opposition continued right through ratification. A few states on the periphery of the former Confederacy — Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas — had preceded Tennessee in passing the amendment. But in the core of the South, opposition was solid.

Even after ratification, Black women, along with Black men, were frequently disenfranchised in Tennessee and other Southern states by Jim Crow laws with requirements for voters such as paying a poll tax, owning property and passing a literacy test.

"Black women had to continue their fight to secure voting privileges, for both men and women. ... The 19th Amendment was a starting point," wrote Sharon Harley, a professor of African American Studies at the University of Maryland.

For white women as well, ratification did not lead swiftly to political equality. Tennessee, for example, has never elected a woman as governor, and Marsha Blackburn became its first female U.S. senator just two years ago.

Wanda Sobieski, a lawyer who led campaigns to erect suffrage memorials in her hometown of Knoxville, said women are now well represented as judges in Tennessee, including holding three of the five seats on the state Supreme Court.

But she says it's been difficult for women to raise the funds needed to win statewide elections.

Spruill said there's a similar pattern across the South, where only a few states have elected a woman as governor and most have opposed recent efforts to resurrect the long-derailed Equal Rights Amendment.

Mississippi, Tennessee's neighbor to the South, was the last state to ratify the 19th Amendment, waiting 64 years before taking that step in 1984.

"In politics, sexism is alive and well," Spruill said.

## Belarus leader says Russia willing to help counter protests

By YURAS KARMANU undefined

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Thousands of demonstrators in Belarus took to the streets again Saturday to demand that the country's authoritarian leader resign after a presidential vote they called fraudulent. In response, the president declared that Russian leader Vladimir Putin had agreed to provide security assistance to restore order if Belarus requested it.

President Alexander Lukashenko spoke Saturday evening several hours after a phone call with Putin as he struggled to counter the biggest challenge yet to his 26 years in power.

Saturday was the seventh consecutive day of large protests against the results of the country's Aug. 9 presidential election in which election officials claimed the 65-year-old Lukashenko won a sixth term in a landslide. Opposition supporters believe the election figures were manipulated and say protesters have been beaten mercilessly by police since the vote.

Harsh police crackdowns against the protesters, including the detention of some 7,000 people, have not quashed the most sustained anti-government movement since Lukashenko took power in 1994.

The demonstrators rallied Saturday at the spot in the capital of Minsk where a protester died this week in clashes with police. Some male protesters pulled off their shirts to show bruises they said came from police beatings. Others carried pictures of loved ones beaten so badly they could not attend the rally.

Lukashenko did not specify what sort of assistance Russia would be willing to provide. But he said "when it comes to the military component, we have an agreement with the Russian Federation," referring to a mutual support deal the two former Soviet republics signed back in the 1990s.

"These are the moments that fit this agreement," he added.

Both the European Union and the U.S. government say the presidential election in Belarus was flawed.

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Lukashenkov's main opponent in the vote, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, fled to Lithuania the day after the election, knowing that several previous presidential challengers have been jailed for years on charges that supporters say were trumped up. Other potential challengers, blocked by election officials from running, fled the country before the vote.

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.

Hundreds of people came to pay their 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!"

Video shot by an Associated Press journalist on Monday shows Taraikovsky with a bloodied shirt before collapsing on the ground. Several police are seen nearby and some walk over to where Taraikovsky is lying on the street and stand around him.

The video does not show why he fell to the ground or how his shirt became bloodied, but it also does not show that he had an explosive device that blew up in his hand as the government has said.

About 5,000 demonstrators gathered Saturday in the area where Taraikovsky died. They laid a mass of flowers in tribute, piling into a mound about 1.5 meters (5 feet) tall, as passing cars blared their horns.

"It's awful to live in a country where you can be killed at a peaceful protest. I will leave, if power isn't changed," said 30-year-old demonstrator Artem Kushner.

Earlier, the 65-year-old Lukashenko on Saturday rejected suggestions that foreign mediators become involved in trying to resolve the country's political crisis.

"Listen — we have a normal country, founded on a constitution. We don't need any foreign government, any sort of mediators," Lukashenko said at a meeting with Defense Ministry officials. He appeared to be referring to an offer from the leaders of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to help resolve the political crisis in Belarus, a nation of 9.5 million people.

But he did discuss the situation in a call Saturday with Putin, the first publicly known direct contact between the two leaders since the election. A Kremlin statement said Putin and Lukashenko both expressed hope for a quick resolution to 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 that stopped 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.

Protests about the political crisis in Belarus were also held Saturday in the Czech Republic and in front of the Belarusian Embassy in Moscow.

The brutal suppression of protests in Belarus has drawn harsh criticism in the West. European Union foreign ministers said Friday that they rejected the election results in Belarus and began drawing up a list of officials in Belarus who could face sanctions over their role in the crackdown on protesters.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Saturday that he was glad to see that some protesters in Belarus had been freed but that it was not enough. He also said the presidential election in Belarus fell short of democratic standards.

"We've said the elections themselves (in Belarus) weren't free. I've spent the last days consulting with our European partners," he said Saturday at a news conference in Warsaw with his Polish counterpart.

"Our common objective is to support the Belarusian people. These people are demanding the same things that every human being wants," Pompeo said. "We urged the leadership to broaden the circle to engage with civil society."

— Jim Heintz in Moscow and Matthew Lee in Warsaw contributed to this story.

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## 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 Minsk, the capital, denouncing official figures that showed 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.

Video shot by an Associated Press journalist on Monday shows Taraikovsky with a bloodied shirt before collapsing on the ground. Several police are seen nearby and some walk over to where Taraikovsky is lying on the street and stand around him.

The video does not show why he fell to the ground or how his shirt became bloodied, but it also does not show that he had an explosive device that blew up in his hand, as the government has 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 Aug. 9 presidential election.

The family's views began to change after she and her husband attended a 60,000-strong campaign rally for the main opposition candidate, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, a former teacher and the wife of a jailed blogger. 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.

Later Saturday, thousands rallied at the site where Taraikovsky died in Minsk, demanding that Lukashenko resign, with some protesters showing bruises they said were due to police beatings. The authoritarian leader himself said Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed to help provide security to counter the protests in Belarus if he asked for such help.

—  
Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this story.

## Fear, language barriers hinder immigrant contact-tracing

By TAMMY WEBBER and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

Only a handful of contact tracers working to slow COVID-19 in 125 communities near Chicago speak Spanish, despite significant Hispanic populations. Churches and advocacy groups in the Houston area are trying to convince immigrants to cooperate when health officials call. And in California, immigrants are being trained as contact tracers to ease mistrust.

The crucial job of reaching people who test positive for the coronavirus and those they've come in contact with is proving especially difficult in immigrant communities because of language barriers, confusion and fear of the government.

The failure of health departments across the U.S. to adequately investigate coronavirus outbreaks among non-English speakers is all the more fraught given the soaring and disproportionate case counts among Latinos in many states. Four of the hardest-hit states -- Florida, Texas, Arizona and California -- have major Spanish-speaking populations.

In the ZIP code with the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Maryland, 56% of adults speak Spanish. But only 60 of Maryland's 1,350 contact tracers speak Spanish.

And the language barriers go beyond Spanish: Minneapolis needs tracers who also speak Somali, Oromo and Hmong, Chicago needs Polish speakers and Houston's Harris County is grappling with a population that includes Vietnamese, Chinese and Hindi speakers.

But even when health officials overcome language barriers, they still must dispel the deep suspicions raised among immigrants when someone with the government calls to ask about their movements in an era of hardline immigration enforcement under President Donald Trump.

"It should come as no surprise that people may be afraid to answer the phone," said Dr. Kiran Joshi, senior medical officer at the Cook County Department of Public Health, which serves 2.4 million people in communities just outside Chicago.

Exacerbating the challenges even further is the lag in getting COVID test results around the U.S., with waits routinely exceeding a week. The nation also is averaging more than 60,000 new cases a day, which has overwhelmed many laboratories.

All that can significantly affect tracers' ability to reach 75 percent of a patient's contacts within 24 hours of a positive test, a threshold that experts say is necessary to control outbreaks.

Officials say it's especially difficult to meet that threshold in immigrant communities.

Contact tracers take pains to reassure patients that nothing will be passed along to immigration officials, that they don't have to provide Social Security or insurance information, and that their contacts won't know who shared their names and phone numbers.

Still, "there are a lot of rumors and myths," said Hevert Rosio-Benitez, who oversees contact tracing for Harris County Public Health. "We do try to train our staff to be convincing enough to establish trust and tell them what the contact-tracing process is about, but we can only do so much with that."

So, every week, the health department meets with clergy, lawmakers and advocacy groups to get feedback and answer questions about immigrants' concerns "and tell them that we need the community participation so that we can be successful in curbing the virus," Rosio-Benitez said.

Many of those being approached are essential workers who worry about being sidelined for days or weeks awaiting test results, while others fear how members of their community will react to contracting the virus, said Fernando Garcia, founder and executive director of the El Paso, Texas-based Border Network for Human Rights.

"I believe there's a growing stigma about people being sick, so if you're infected you don't want to tell," said Garcia, whose group works with farm laborers.

The University of California-Irvine is trying to help counties by training people from low-income, minority areas to be contact tracers in their own communities, said Daniel Parker, an infectious disease epidemiologist and assistant professor of public health.

Tracers are provided with loose scripts to help with their calls, but "they already have the intuition (about)

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the best way to get the information and what to ask," he said. "They have the same lived experiences and know how to approach the community better."

In Maryland, state health officials have created public service announcements for both English and Spanish-language TV stations imploring people to pick up the phone when contact tracers call.

"The personal information we're asking for is totally protected," Dr. Michelle LaRue assures viewers in Spanish.

LaRue is a manager at CASA de Maryland, an immigration advocacy group that has partnered with health officials in Prince George's County just outside of Washington, D.C., to make the calls to Spanish speakers. She said earning trust begins with hiring contact tracers who not only speak Spanish but also intimately understand immigrant communities.

Ruth Rivera, who is from Puerto Rico, fits that mold.

"I feel the connection right away," said Rivera, a bilingual contact tracer with a company called Health-Care Dynamics International. "I know their fears."

In Illinois, Joshi said Cook County is planning to use a \$3 million state grant to expand its tracing program in the coming months, including public communication.

The department plans to partner with local organizations to help ensure that people in all communities know they could receive a phone call from health officials, that the caller ID will indicate clearly who's calling, and that "it's really important for the health of the public that folks pick up the phone," Joshi said.

Rosio-Benitez said his tracers' success rate currently is 40 to 50 percent because of a lack of cooperation overall -- especially in immigrant communities. Some of the patients "are very forthcoming," but others may identify people they've come in contacts but won't provide a phone number, he said.

Rosio-Benitez said about one-third of Harris County's 300 contact tracers speak Spanish, but that more are needed because the area's Hispanic population has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Joshi said his department has few Spanish-speakers among its 25 tracers but plans to hire more, as well as people who speak Polish, Arabic and other languages.

"If the caller ... speaks one's own language, they're more likely to answer honestly and feel comfortable," he said.

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Webber reported from Fenton, Michigan; Garcia Cano from Baltimore. Michelle R. Smith contributed from Providence, Rhode Island, and Brady McCombs from Salt Lake City.

## 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. As part of the U.S.-brokered deal, Israel agreed to temporarily put off the annexation of occupied land sought by the Palestinians for their future state.

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.

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.

Less than 100 people gathered in front of the Emirates embassy in the capital Tehran on Saturday eve-

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ning to protest the deal. They chanted "death to Israel" and "death to America" and burned an Israeli flag. 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.

## UK remembers Far East war on 75th anniversary of V-J Day

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The U.K. marked the 75th anniversary of the defeat of Japan in World War II on Saturday, with Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip leading tributes to those who fought during the six-year campaign.

In a special message on Victory over Japan Day, the queen and Philip offered their "grateful thanks" to those involved in a campaign that has been widely overlooked in the decades since.

The war cost the lives of some 50,000 British and Commonwealth troops, nearly half of whom perished in brutal prison camps.

"Those of us who remember the conclusion of the Far East campaign, whether on active service overseas, or waiting for news at home, will never forget the jubilant scenes and overwhelming sense of relief," said the 94-year-old queen, who remains in quarantine at her residence in Windsor Castle because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Amongst the joy at the end of the conflict, we also remembered, as we do today, the terrible devastation that it brought, and the cost borne by so many," she added.

Following the surrender of the Nazis on May 8, 1945, which is called Victory in Europe Day, Allied troops carried on fighting the Japanese until an armistice was declared on Aug. 15, 1945 after the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Japan formally surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945, but many Pacific War veterans felt their efforts were not fully recognized in the fog of the mushroom clouds. They dubbed themselves the "forgotten army."

They were being remembered Saturday across the U.K., first with a commemoration at the National Memorial Arboretum in central England that included a two-minute silence and a flypast by Battle of Britain planes.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prince Charles and his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall. They all spoke with some of the 40 veterans present, carefully observing social distancing guidelines.

One of the veterans, 97-year-old Edward Woodward, prompted some amusement when he told the prince and the duchess that the most sought-after item among the air-dropped rations was "toilet paper."

Another, Richard Day, 93, remembered the harsh conditions facing everyone, including how he contracted malaria and dysentery at the same time while fighting a highly determined enemy.

"I think the worse part was crossing rivers at night. It was cold at night, then all night in wet clothes and wet equipment, still having to move about," he said. "It was a glory for them (the Japanese troops) to die for their emperor. They didn't appear to have any fear at all."

In an open V-J Day anniversary letter addressed to "Veterans of the Far East Campaign," Johnson hailed the courage of those who fought in Asia and the Pacific.

"You were the last to come home but your achievements are written in the lights of the glittering capitals of the dynamic region we see today," he said.

Johnson acknowledged their wartime experiences had been "overshadowed in popular imagination by the conflict in Europe," but he stressed that their service had brought World War II to an end and inau-

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gured a period of peace and prosperity across southeast Asia that remains to this day.

Britain, which had been a colonial power across much of the region, suffered arguably its biggest military defeat to Japanese forces in the early years of the war. Overwhelmed troops had to retreat from Malaysia, Singapore and Burma in some of the most inhospitable conditions imaginable.

"These blows were so heavy that many feared they would break your will to fight on," Johnson said in his tribute letter. "But you survived the longest retreat in British history, marching almost 1,000 miles from Burma to India, and then you regrouped and reformed."

The prime minister also highlighted the creation of the "formidable" 14th Army, a fighting force that was made up of nearly a million soldiers, including ones from India and Africa, and which helped "turn defeat into victory."

Heavy clouds on Saturday meant that the Royal Air Force's aerobatics display team, the Red Arrows, could not do their designated flypasts of the U.K.'s four nation capitals for the first time since the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

The poor weather meant they couldn't fly over London, or the Scottish and Welsh capitals, Edinburgh and Cardiff. Only residents in the Northern Irish capital of Belfast were able to see the aerial display.

## New push on training officers how to stop abuse in own ranks

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Despite policies on the books for years that require officers across the United States to stop colleagues from using excessive force, there has been little or no effort to teach officers how to intervene, law enforcement officials and experts say.

That's now changing following the killing of George Floyd, who died after a white Minneapolis police officer held a knee to Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes while three colleagues watched. Police departments nationwide are showing new interest in training officers how they should stop, or try to stop, abuse in their own ranks.

"I don't think departments have prepared their officers sufficiently to deal with that sort of situation," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, a Washington-based think tank. "Have we really thought through what that actually means, what's actually expected of them? 'Duty to intervene' has to mean more than words. It has to mean actions."

Officials in New Orleans, which has what many consider to be the nation's model police peer intervention program, say that since Floyd's death in May, they have received more than 100 inquiries from police departments seeking information about their specialized training

Baltimore's police department, led by former New Orleans Police Superintendent Michael Harrison, is putting in place similar peer intervention training, as are the Philadelphia police and several other departments.

Minneapolis adopted a policy in 2016 requiring officers to intervene when colleagues are using inappropriate force. Yet three other officers at the scene failed to stop 19-year police veteran Derek Chauvin when he put his knee on Floyd's neck despite Floyd's cries that he could not breathe.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter. The three other officers — two of whom say they voiced concerns to Chauvin — are charged with aiding and abetting.

In New Orleans, all officers have to take the peer intervention training, called Ethical Policing Is Courageous, or EPIC. They are put through a variety of scenarios in which they are taught different ways to verbally intervene, then physically intervene if needed, and how to respond when they themselves are the target of the intervention.

"Almost all situations are not going to be like the one in Minnesota where you actually have to physically remove somebody," said Chief Deputy Superintendent Paul Noel. "Most of the interventions that we're talking about are going to be verbal."

Floyd's death spurred nationwide protests and prompted many places to consider policing changes. Dallas, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Louisville, Kentucky, are among the cities that have implemented duty to intervene policies in recent months. Connecticut recently passed a wide-ranging police law that includes

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a statewide duty to intervene.

"These reforms are long overdue," Gov. Ned Lamont, D-Conn., said after signing the bill into law.

The duty to intervene is not a new concept. There were calls for requiring officers to stop inappropriate use of force after the beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles police in 1991 as many officers looked on. Similar calls came after Eric Garner died in 2014 when a New York City officer put him in a chokehold with other officers present.

New York City has had an intervention policy since 2016. Los Angeles has had a policy for years requiring officers to stop others from committing misconduct, but officials are now updating it to specifically include excessive force.

Court rulings, some dating to the early 1970s, have said officers are required to intervene when colleagues are violating people's civil rights.

But the culture at many departments may look down at officers who intervene and lead to retaliation against them, and that has been an obstacle to duty to intervene policies, said Jon Blum, a law enforcement consultant and former police officer.

"Having a policy in place is great, but to a degree it can be window dressing," said Blum, who was North Carolina's statewide police training director in the late 1990s and early 2000s. "Policy does not necessarily change the culture of an organization or the culture of what officers are doing. I think it comes down to training."

In 2008, Buffalo, New York police officer Cariol Horne was fired for interfering with another officer who she said was choking a handcuffed suspect. When she yelled at Officer Gregory Kwiatkowski and grabbed his arm during the 2006 incident, he responded by punching her in the face, she said.

An arbitration process determined she put the lives of the officers at the scene in danger, and she lost her appeals of her firing. Buffalo officials recently asked New York's attorney general to review the case.

In New Orleans, calls for change came more than a decade ago in response to deadly incidents against unarmed civilians following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The police department remains under a consent decree with the U.S. Justice Department that resolved allegations of unconstitutional conduct and ordered an overhaul.

Noel, the New Orleans chief deputy police superintendent, said there was a lot of skepticism within the department when officials launched the peer intervention program in 2016.

"As it was unveiled, more and more people saw how important this was and eventually we were able to get our department on board," he said. "Our organization didn't have the best reputation about seven to 10 years ago. We've been working really hard to change the culture of our organization and this has been a major piece of that."

Los Angeles police officers credit the agency's duty to intervene policy and training along with other changes to contributing to a 30-year low in officer-involved shootings last year.

The labor union that represents city officers believes the duty to intervene should be a national policy, Los Angeles Police Protective League Spokesman Tom Saggau said.

"We saw firsthand one of the most egregious examples in Minneapolis that any of us have ever seen, where officers should have intervened. There's an absolute duty to intercede," he said.

## Pompeo inks deal to support more US troops in 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 deploy more American troops 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 Blaszczak 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."



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

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 President Donald 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.

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

The pact signed Saturday supplements a NATO pact 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.

Trump said the pact was the culmination of months of negotiations.

"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.

Trump has long and loudly complained that Germany does not spend enough on defense. 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. "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.

## Homes with grandparents weigh virus risk as school starts

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Zita Robinson, who's 77 and diabetic, has been careful around her granddaughter since the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

A door connects Robinson's apartment in Phoenix to the main house where 8-year-old Traris "Trary" Robinson-Newman and her mother live, but it mostly stays shut. Their only physical contact is if Trary walks in with her back toward Grandma. Then Robinson will kiss her own hand and lightly touch Trary's back — "like I'm sending her a kiss with my hand."

"It's very hard," Robinson said. "We live together, but we live apart."

Not hugging Grandma is hard for Trary, too: "It's like I can't see her anymore."

The separation Trary and her grandmother experience in their home is becoming a bigger issue as children go back to school. Many public schools nationwide are starting remotely in the fall, but if classes resume in person later this year, the chasm could grow between generations who live together.

Millions of seniors 65 and up, one of the populations most vulnerable to the virus, live with a school-age child. For those households, the new school year means reconsidering interactions from family dinner to bedtime hugs.

While studies so far suggest children are less likely to become infected with COVID-19 or only experience mild symptoms, data isn't conclusive on whether infected kids easily spread the disease. In a Georgia school district that has reopened classrooms, possible exposure has forced more than 1,200 students and staff into quarantine and two high schools to close.

If a grandchild does bring the virus home, grandparents of color are at higher risk than their white counterparts, experts say.

As of 2018, the U.S. had 51 million seniors, with 3.3 million, or 6%, living with at least one child between 5 and 18, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation study. The situation is far more prevalent among communities of color: 19% of Asian and Pacific Islander seniors live with a school-age child, 17% of Hispanics, 13% of American Indian or Alaska Natives, and 11% of Black people. Just 4% of older whites live with a school-age child.

"I think there hasn't been a lot of attention to the ripple effects on older people who may live in the same household," said Tricia Neuman, one of the report's authors.

People of color are already at greater risk from the virus because they're more likely to be essential workers who can't work from home, among other factors, Neuman said. They more often live in multigenerational households because of cultural norms, sharing expenses or getting help with child care.

That could become more prevalent as COVID-19 clobbers the U.S. economy. Living with extended family increased during the Great Recession in 2009, according to Jaia Peterson, deputy executive director of Generations United, an advocacy group focused on intergenerational issues.

Malia Letalu lives in a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house in Santa Clara, California, with her husband, four children — ages 9, 5, 2 and 3 months — and her mother and stepfather. Letalu, who is Samoan and Filipino, decided to live with her parents a few years ago so she could help if they got sick. They're in their mid-60s and have several health conditions between them, including diabetes and heart disease.

But Letalu won't separate them from her oldest kids if school transitions to both remote and in-person learning later this year.

"I guess you could say it's for emotional reasons," Letalu said. "If there really was a possibility of exposure at the school ... then I would definitely social distance them and quarantine them inside. I would also take us all to go get tested."

Yoma Villalobos, whose parents live with her in Phoenix, worries about big changes at home if the virtual lessons for her 12-year-old and 9-year-old sons at the start of the school year become a mix of in-person classes.

If that happens, she will have them shower and change clothes when they get home from school. The boys hate wearing masks, but Villalobos thinks they might use them if it meant protecting their grandpar-

ents, who they kiss and hug each morning.

"We're such a close family. For us, eating together is our thing," said Villalobos, who's Latina. "If we were to change our dynamic, that changes the whole family."

Being in the same house can make it tempting to bend the rules on social distancing or wearing masks. Peterson of Generations United advises families to agree on what rules to stick to and find unique ways to connect.

"I also believe when something happens, and families get creative ... those can be some of the strongest memories for children and positive memories," Peterson said.

Grandparents who are primary caregivers potentially face a more dire situation. Chris Svaldi, 71, helped raise her 8-year-old grandson and got permanent custody of him two years ago. He will return to his private Catholic school in Montrose, Colorado, on Aug. 24, with fewer than 10 students so they can practice social distancing, Svaldi said. Still, she's pushing COVID-19 worries to the back of her mind.

"I can't allow myself to go there because if I do, I struggle a little bit with anxiety," said Svaldi, who's white. "It would affect the way I raise him, and I don't want him to be a kid who's afraid of everything."

It's crucial for "grandfamilies" like Svaldi's to be prepared for the worst, whether it's COVID-19 or some other calamity, Peterson said. With grandparents raising grandchildren, there can be legal matters at stake, too. They may be the last option before foster care. Plus, COVID-19 is probably already on children's minds.

"It's better to be open about it so that children have a chance to ask questions and know there's a plan, versus if there's any hesitancy to talk about it because they don't want to bring it up," Peterson said.

Robinson, the grandmother in Phoenix who's Latina, reminds herself that being separated from her granddaughter by doors or walls is better than being separated by a hospital.

"I would never want my loved ones to be in that situation," Robinson said. "I'd rather just listen to her laugh out there than having to go through something like that."

\_\_\_\_ Terry Tang is a member of The Associated Press Race and Ethnicity team. Follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ttangAP>.

## Female member of Afghan peace team survives attack by gunmen

By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A female member of Afghanistan's peace negotiating team was lightly wounded in an assassination attempt, officials said Saturday.

Tariq Arian, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said Fawzia Koofi, who is also a former parliamentarian, was attacked Friday afternoon near the capital Kabul while returning from a visit to the northern province of Parwan.

Koofi is part of a 21-member team charged with representing the Afghan government in upcoming peace talks with the Taliban, following a U.S. deal with the militants that was struck in February.

The head of the Afghan peace delegation, Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai, tweeted that Koofi had survived the attack and was "in good health."

Fawzia Koofi and her sister Maryam Koofi stopped at a market in the Qarabagh district when gunmen attacked them, Arian said.

Both Taliban and an Islamic State group affiliate continue to carry out attacks against Afghan government figures, but Zabihullah Maujhid, a Taliban spokesman, denied the group was involved.

Koofi is also a women's rights activist who has been a vocal Taliban critic. A message on her Facebook page said she suffered a wound to her right arm. "Thankfully not a life threatening injury," it said.

Arian said police were launching an investigation. No further details of the assault were available, he said.

The U.S. peace deal aims to recruit the Taliban to fight Islamic State militants in Afghanistan, a mutual enemy. The Taliban and IS are staunch rivals.

The peace deal also paved the way for U.S. and NATO forces to begin withdrawing from Afghanistan and for the Taliban and Afghan government to begin direct talks.

The Afghan government said on Friday that it had released the first 80 of a final 400 Taliban prisoners

ahead of direct negotiations between the two sides.

Prisoner releases on both sides are part of the agreement signed in February between the U.S. and the Taliban. It calls for the release of 5,000 Taliban held by the government and 1,000 government and military personnel held by the insurgent group as a good will gesture ahead of intra-Afghan negotiations.

Talks are expected to be held in Qatar where the Taliban maintain a political office. Several Afghan leaders told The Associated Press talks could begin by Aug. 20.

## 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.

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"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>

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Aug. 16, the 229th day of 2020. There are 137 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 16, 1987, 156 people were killed when Northwest Airlines Flight 255 crashed while trying to take off from Detroit; the sole survivor was 4-year-old Cecelia Cichan (SHEE'-an).

On this date:

In 1777, American forces won the Battle of Bennington in what was considered a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1812, Detroit fell to British and Indian forces in the War of 1812.

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued Proclamation 86, which prohibited the states of the Union from engaging in commercial trade with states that were in rebellion — i.e., the Confederacy.

In 1920, Ray Chapman of the Cleveland Indians was struck in the head by a pitch thrown by Carl Mays of the New York Yankees; Chapman died the following morning.

In 1948, baseball legend Babe Ruth died in New York at age 53.

In 1960, Britain ceded control of the crown colony of Cyprus.

In 1962, The Beatles fired their original drummer, Pete Best, replacing him with Ringo Starr.

In 1977, Elvis Presley died at his Graceland estate in Memphis, Tennessee, at age 42.

In 1978, James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., told a Capitol Hill hearing he did not commit the crime, saying he'd been set up by a mysterious man called "Raoul."

In 2002, terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal reportedly was found shot to death in Baghdad, Iraq; he was 65.

In 2014, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency and imposed a curfew in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, where police and protesters repeatedly clashed in the week since a Black teenager was shot to death by a white police officer.

In 2018, Aretha Franklin, the undisputed "Queen of Soul," died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76.

Ten years ago: A Boeing 737 filled with vacationers crashed in a thunderstorm and broke apart as it slid onto the runway on Colombia's San Andres Island; all but two of the 131 people on board survived. China eclipsed Japan as the world's second biggest economy after three decades of blistering growth. Bobby Thomson, whose 1951 "Shot Heard 'Round the World" clinched the National League pennant for the New York Giants, died in Savannah, Georgia, at age 86.

Five years ago: Trigana Air Service Flight 257, an Indonesian ATR 42-300, crashed during a domestic flight; all 54 people on board were killed. Tens of thousands of Brazilians demonstrated their discontent with President Dilma Rousseff.

One year ago: New York City's chief medical examiner ruled that the death of jailed financier Jeffrey Epstein was a suicide, confirming that Epstein hanged himself in his jail cell as he faced sex trafficking

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charges. Actor Peter Fonda died at his California home of complications from lung cancer at the age of 79; the son of Hollywood legend Henry Fonda became a star in his own right after writing and starring in the counter-culture classic "Easy Rider."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ann Blyth is 92. Actor Gary Clarke is 87. Actor Julie Newmar is 87. Actor-singer Ketty Lester is 86. Actor John Standing is 86. College Football Hall of Famer and NFL player Bill Glass is 85. Actor Anita Gillette is 84. Country singer Billy Joe Shaver is 81. Movie director Bruce Beresford is 80. Actor Bob Balaban is 75. Ballerina Suzanne Farrell is 75. Actor Lesley Ann Warren is 74. Rock singer-musician Joey Spampinato is 72. Actor Marshall Manesh is 70. Actor Reginald VelJohnson is 68. Former TV host Kathie Lee Gifford is 67. Rhythm-and-blues singer J.T. Taylor is 67. Movie director James Cameron is 66. Actor Jeff Perry is 65. Rock musician Tim Farriss (INXS) is 63. Actor Laura Innes is 63. Singer Madonna is 62. Actor Angela Bassett is 62. Actor Timothy Hutton is 60. Actor Steve Carell (kuh-REHL) is 58. Former tennis player Jimmy Arias is 56. Actor-singer Donovan Leitch is 53. Actor Andy Milder is 52. Actor Seth Peterson is 50. Country singer Emily Robison (The Chicks) is 48. Actor George Stults is 45. Singer Vanessa Carlton is 40. Actor Cam Gigandet is 38. Actor Agnes Bruckner is 35. Singer-musician Taylor Goldsmith (Dawes) is 35. Actor Cristin Milioti is 35. Actor Shawn Pyfrom is 34. Country singer Ashton Shepherd is 34. Actor Okieriete Onaodowan is 33. Country singer Dan Smyers (Dan & Shay) is 33. NHL goalie Carey Price is 33. Actor Kevin G. Schmidt is 32. Actor Rumer Willis is 32. Actor Parker Young is 32. Rapper Young Thug is 29. Actor Cameron Monaghan is 27. Singer-pianist Greyson Chance is 23.