

# Groton Daily Independent

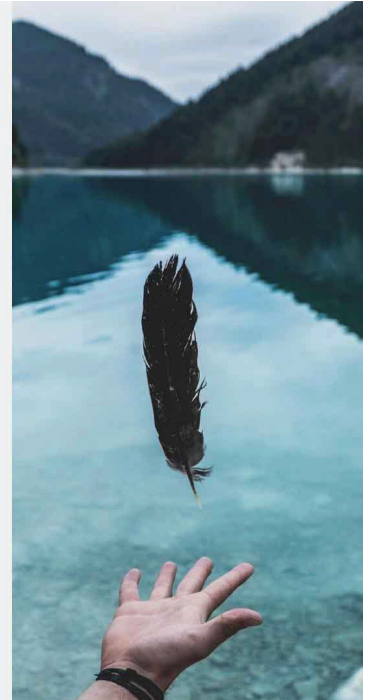
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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul.

“WE MUST BE  
WILLING TO LET  
GO OF THE LIFE  
WE’VE PLANNED,  
SO AS TO HAVE  
THE LIFE THAT IS  
WAITING FOR US.”

-JOSEPH CAMPBELL



Coming up on

# GDILIVE.COM

Thursday, Aug. 27th: Volleyball at Britton sponsored by Ed and Connie Stauch  
Friday, Aug. 28th: Football vs. EEK - Sponsored by Big Iron Auctions, Delbert Hinkelman  
Saturday, Aug. 29th: Girls Soccer vs. Vermillion (sponsors being secured)

**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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## Digging has started for new water tower



The old concrete pad where the electrical transformers were on was being demolished on Tuesday. As they were digging up the pad, notice the huge boulder in the back right side of the photo. Former Electric Superintendent David Anderson said that was one of three footings used when the city had its own generator to generate power for the town. He said back then, a whole month's worth of diesel fuel cost the city \$55. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jamie Sprenger of Clark Engineering is setting a marker that will be used in building the new water tower. These markers are used for elevation purposes and for the pouring of the concrete. Notice the unit that is using satellite signals with the leg setting on top of the wooden stake. Everything has to be precise. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Brevin Flihs and Tristan Traphagen at the NEC Golf meet held Tuesday in Groton.** (Photo by Kristie Flihs)

## **Flihs takes fifth at NEC Golf Meet**

The Northeast Conference Golf Meet was held Tuesday at the Olive Grove Golf Course in Groton. Brevin Flihs finished in fifth place with a score of 79, Tristan Traphagen was 13th with a 92 and Hunter Kassube was 15th with a score of 95. Lucas Simon shot a 103 and Logan Pearson shot a 126.

Aberdeen Roncalli won the team meet with a score of 312 followed by Sisseton with 348, Groton Area with 369, and Redfield and Milbank each scored 398. Caleb Barse of Tiospa Zina won the NEC meet with a score of 72.



## #184 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Well, it's Tuesday, and we can be relatively solid in saying this downturn in new case numbers is a real thing. Numbers were higher today, which is a Tuesday thing, but still below 40,000, which means we're not spiking up. Today, our case total stands at 5,790,500, which is 39,600 or 0.7% more than yesterday. New hot spots emerging have been US islands: Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John), and Guam. The Northern Mariana Islands are still doing well, and the only US state or territory with no reported Covid-19 cases as of today is American Samoa.

There were 1162 deaths reported today, so we're back over 1000 per day, which isn't great. The total is at 178,338, and it grew by 0.7% today. Mississippi and Montana each reported record numbers of deaths.

We've talked now and again about whether being infected leads to immunity and how long any immunity might last. We've discussed the fact that antibodies tend to wane fairly quickly after recovery and how that may not be a big deal. Well, we're fleshing out that understanding. We have a new study from the Karolinska Institutetin Stockholm, Sweden, published Friday in the journal, Cell, that indicates even people with mild or asymptomatic cases who never develop detectable antibodies develop virus-specific T cells.

And T cells are a big deal, as we've also discussed before. Memory T cells identify and kill infected cells, and they hang around, retaining their memory for the virus, ready to attack it if it returns and to activate B cells to make antibody, providing a second approach to protecting you. The authors conclude, "Memory T cells will likely prove critical for long-term immune protection against COVID-19" and "may prevent recurrent episodes of severe COVID-19." Memory T cells hang around for years, and they're found even in patients who never develop antibodies. Irrespective of the severity of the initial infection, patients develop a robust T-cell response. Other studies also conclude that the T-cell response appears to occur in all or most patients.

What's more, some people (more than half in one study, one-third in another) who've never had Covid-19 have memory T cells that can recognize this virus. We've talked about cross-reactivity before, the case where T cells developed in response to one virus react to a similar virus they've never seen before. The initiating virus in those cases is likely to be one of those common cold coronaviruses we've talked about before. This might also help to explain why some folks never get very sick at all from SARS-CoV-2. We still don't know how long these memory T cells last, but there are indications they can even increase in number in between infections and may last for decades. We have direct evidence that T cells produced in response to SARS have lasted for the 17 years since that virus emerged.

All of this may be really good news. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

And in the category of good news disguised as bad news, we have our first confirmed case of reinfection after recovery. Earlier reports here and there of reinfections have not been able to be confirmed, so there's the good possibility that at least some of these are the result of faulty testing rather than true reinfections. This one is not that. The person in Hong Kong has been demonstrated to have been infected with two different strains of the virus, sure evidence that the second case was not a reactivation or faulty testing from the first. The virus in the second infection has a 24-nucleotide difference in its RNA from the virus in the first infection; these are definitely two different infections in the same person. Looks like there might be another couple of cases that just turned up in Europe too. So how worried should we be about this development?

Probably not very.

I see two reasons not to get too exercised about this. The first is that the second infection resulted in no symptoms at all. The first one did cause mild symptoms including a cough, sore throat, headache and fever for several days. Because his symptoms were described as mild, I am not clear why the patient was hospitalized for a couple of weeks; but he was. On the other hand, the second infection caused no symptoms at all and was diagnosed only as part of routine screening as he returned to Hong Kong from Spain four months later. This is quite likely a good sign his immune system worked exactly according to plan; while it couldn't block reinfection, it did protect him from disease. Maybe we can't eliminate this virus,

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but if subsequent infections are milder than the first round, that may be most helpful.

The second reason not to freak out about this case is that it appears to be one of an extremely small subset of all infections. If reinfection with symptoms was very probable, we'd likely have seen evidence of this before now. We have only a handful, at most, of cases where reinfection is even suspected. Even if all of those turn out to be genuine reinfections, the percentage of cases where reinfections are seen appears to be vanishingly small.

Now that I've softened you up with some good news, I'll hit you with the bad news, especially as schools are opening all across the country. Looks more and more like children play a larger role in community spread than we had thought. A new study out from Massachusetts General Hospital and MassGeneral for Children shows that children carry higher viral loads in their upper airways than even very sick adults have, and this can be true even in children with no symptoms at all. The higher the viral load, the more likely the virus will be transmitted, especially in droplets. Children with symptoms are most infectious in the first couple of days of symptoms.

This is a significant issue precisely because children are so seldom symptomatic; that means children who are spreading virus are generally not identified as sources. It also means that temperature and symptom checks are pretty useless for screening. All of this makes a strong case for enforcing mask-wearing and social distancing, as well as using remote learning where is spread in a community.

And now we really have to talk about the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which takes place every August just about 300 miles southwest of where I'm sitting right now. This year's Rally came off on schedule with an estimated 366,000 in attendance between August 6 and August 16. South Dakota was on an uptrend in infections before the Rally started and imposes no quarantines or restrictions on visitors—or residents for that matter. Additionally, I think it's safe to say this was not a crowd that practiced stringent coronavirus precautions; there's plenty of film of people packed into bars and concert venues with only the rare mask in sight. Then, when the Rally ended, they all went home to the rest of the country.

There's no way the full impact of this event across the country will ever be accurately measured; it's a contact-tracing nightmare. When more than 50 times its population mills around a small town late into the night every night for over a week, it is impossible to establish even a ballpark estimate of who had contact with whom. Nonetheless, a lot of experts are trying to assess the fallout. So what do we know so far?

We know people who were in at least five crowded establishments popular with the bikers during the week have tested positive within the window of transmissibility, so there was ample opportunity for acquisition of the virus. We know from analysis of anonymized cell phone data that 61% of the counties in the United States have since been visited by someone who was in Sturgis during the Rally. We know that, so far, state health departments have reported 103 cases from people in South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Washington who were at the Rally. And we know anecdotally from the statements of those who were in attendance that many had no intention of quarantining themselves upon their return home. And we know those folks traveled through a lot of other states and towns on their way home.

We also have South Dakota, a state which hasn't had a test positivity rate under 5% since July 25 and has now had a rate over 11% for nine days running. I took a look at the cluster of counties in the Black Hills around Sturgis because, during the Rally, bikers travel widely through the surrounding Hills; and test positivity rates have run over 10%, sometimes well over—as high as 40, 50, and 60+%-on almost every day since August 16. New cases in the state, which have been running high and increasing for some time before the Rally, have spiked in the last 10 days. And we know kids are back to school—or going back soon—across the state. Now that we also are aware of the role of children in transmission chains, I think we're in for a rocky time.

Just four years ago, Paxton Burns' mom showed him a Facebook post about a box of toiletries someone had placed in a town in Missouri so that people who needed items could take them out and others could add items to the box as the spirit moved them. Paxton wondered whether something like that would work with food. His mom wasn't so sure, but they got a box, painted it red for the University of Kansas colors,

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and attached it to a post in front of their Wichita house. A sign on the front said, "Take a blessing when you need one. Leave a blessing when you can." They filled it up with \$38 worth of prepackaged food. They've never spent another dollar: Donations pour in. The box empties every day, and replacement items are overflowing out of their basement; they estimate they go through around \$500 worth of food each week. The kinds of foods that turn up in the boxes are canned sausage and tuna, peanut butter, oatmeal, cereal, water, pasta, crackers, beans, rice.

A couple of months later, a friend asked if she could put a box in front of her house too, and the idea spread. Burns said, "Whenever I started it, I thought nobody else would ask for any of [the boxes]. In, like, a week, we had three or four people trying to ask for one. It was really big." I guess you could say that; there are now 75 "Paxton's Blessings Boxes" across the state of Kansas.

His mom explained, "One of the things I really love about our program is that it's no questions asked. No paperwork. No lines. No ID. No nothing. You need something? Go take what you need."

Then in 2017, the project expanded to North Carolina. Today, there are boxes in Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas. Just in time too; the pandemic has driven far more demand than they'd seen up until then. The goal is to place boxes in every state. And why not? As Burns has gotten older, he's taken more responsibility for coordinating the project. His mom plays a significant role in managing the project; but don't be too hard on Burns for not doing it all himself: The kid just turned 10.

But he's not too young to understand the value in giving. He told a story about Christmas Eve a couple of years ago when he looked out the window to see an adult and a toddler walking up to their box. The child tore open a box of bagels and devoured them, looking like he hadn't eaten all day. Burns and his mother sat down and cried. "It makes me feel good that people know the food is there for them."

This is another "What did you do on your summer vacation?" story that seems specially designed to make the rest of us feel like putzes. If we want to keep up with the kid, we'd better step it up. All kinds of need surround us.

Be well. I'll see you tomorrow.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

|               | Aug. 26   |
|---------------|-----------|
| Minnesota     | 70,707    |
| Nebraska      | 32,348    |
| Montana       | 6,624     |
| Colorado      | 55,800    |
| Wyoming       | 3,089     |
| North Dakota  | 10,229    |
| South Dakota  | 11,505    |
| United States | 5,779,395 |
| US Deaths     | 178,533   |

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Minnesota     | +409    |
| Nebraska      | +301    |
| Montana       | +135    |
| Colorado      | +459    |
| Wyoming       | +21     |
| North Dakota  | +229    |
| South Dakota  | 80      |
| United States | +41,339 |
| US Deaths     | +1,504  |

|               | Aug. 19   | Aug. 20   | Aug. 21   | Aug. 22   | Aug. 23   | Aug. 24   | Aug. 25   |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Minnesota     | 66,061    | 66,618    | 67,308    | 68,133    | 68,867    | 69,584    | 70,298    |
| Nebraska      | 30,825    | 31,040    | 31,348    | 31,626    | 31,780    | 31,889    | 32,047    |
| Montana       | 5,846     | 5,956     | 6,072     | 6,216     | 6,376     | 6,429     | 6,489     |
| Colorado      | 53,631    | 53,901    | 54,230    | 54,586    | 54,883    | 55,143    | 55,341    |
| Wyoming       | 2,850     | 2,909     | 2,940     | 3009      | 3009      | 3,046     | 3,068     |
| North Dakota  | 8782      | 8968      | 9242      | 9504      | 9736      | 9876      | 10,000    |
| South Dakota  | 10,443    | 10,566    | 10,691    | 10,884    | 11,135    | 11,276    | 11,425    |
| United States | 5,482,823 | 5,530,247 | 5,576,089 | 5,628,070 | 5,668,564 | 5,701,557 | 5,738,056 |
| US Deaths     | 171,833   | 173,193   | 174,290   | 175,467   | 176,371   | 176,797   | 177,029   |

|               |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Minnesota     | +345    | +557    | +690    | +825    | +734    | +717    | +714    |
| Nebraska      | +262    | +215    | +308    | +278    | +154    | +109    | +158    |
| Montana       | +54     | +110    | +116    | +144    | +160    | +53     | +60     |
| Colorado      | +261    | +270    | +329    | +356    | +297    | +270    | +198    |
| Wyoming       | +21     | +59     | +31     | +69     | ----    | +37     | +22     |
| North Dakota  | +135    | +186    | +274    | +262    | +232    | +140    | +124    |
| South Dakota  | +83     | +123    | +125    | +193    | +251    | +141    | +149    |
| United States | +38,708 | +47,424 | +45,842 | +51,981 | +40,494 | +32,993 | +36,499 |
| US Deaths     | +1,274  | +1,360  | +1,097  | +1,177  | +904    | +426    | +232    |

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## August 25th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

This is the most boring report I've done in a very long time. We had more recovered cases than positive in the state, 120-80. Brown County had more recovered than positive cases, 11-6. Outside of that locally, Day County had one recovered case, and Spink County had two positive ones. No one died from COVID-19. Active cases in the state dropped by 15.

So on that happy note - Have a great day!

### Brown County:

Total Positive: +6 (561) Positivity Rate: 7.3%  
Recovered: +11 (475)  
Active Cases: -5 (83)  
Total Tests: 97 (7037)  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (24)  
Deaths: 0 (3)  
Percent Recovered: 84.6% (+1.0)

### South Dakota:

Positive: +80 (11,505 total) Positivity Rates: 8.8%  
Total Tests: 326 (178,860 total)  
Hospitalized: +9 (974 total). 53 currently hospitalized (down 12 from yesterday)  
Deaths: 0 (161 total)  
Recovered: +120 (9,694 total)  
Active Cases: -40 (1,530)  
Percent Recovered: 85.3 -0.5  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 2% Covid, 49% Non-Covid, 49% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 4% Covid, 64% Non-Covid, 32% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 13% Non-Covid, 82% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Bennett) Harding 2-2, Jackosn 12-11-1, Hyde 3-3, Mellette 24-24, Miner 15-15, 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: 3 active case

Beadle (9): +3 positive (30 active cases)  
Bennett: 5 active cases  
Bon Homme: +3 recovered (15 active cases)  
Brookings (1): +7 positive, +7 recovered (35 active cases)  
Brown (3): +6 positive, +9 recovered (85 active cases)  
Brule: 5 active cases  
Buffalo (3): 4 active cases  
Butte (1): +2 positive (12 active cases)  
Campbell: 1 active case  
Charles Mix: +2 recovered (15 active cases)

Clark: 2 active case  
Clay (1): +4 positive, +2 recovered (46 active cases)  
Codington (1): +7 recovered (56 active cases)  
Corson: +5 recovered (9 active cases)  
Custer: +4 positive, +2 recovered (47 active case)  
Davison (2): +4 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)  
Day: +2 recovered (5 active cases)  
Deuel: +1 recovered (9 active cases)  
Dewey: +2 recovered (22 active cases)  
Douglas: 5 active cases  
Edmunds: 6 active cases



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Fall River: 2 active cases  
 Faulk (1): 1 active case  
 Grant: 7 active cases  
 Gregory: +1 positive (3 active cases)  
 Haakon: 1 active case  
 Hamlin: +2 recovered (14 active cases)  
 Hand: 2 active cases  
 Hanson: 3 active cases  
 Harding: Fully Recovered  
 Hughes (3): +2 recovered (14 active cases)  
 Hutchinson (1): +2 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Hyde: 1 active case  
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jerauld (1): 1 active case  
 Jones: 1 active case  
 Kingsbury: 4 active cases  
 Lake (6): 5 active cases  
 Lawrence (1): +5 positive,+2 recovered (57 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +3 positive, +10 recovered (106 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): 8 active cases  
 Marshall: +1 recovered (5 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +2 recovered (5 active cases)  
 McPherson: 3 active cases.  
 Meade (1): +6 positive, +3 recovered (70 active cases)  
 Mellette: Fully Recovered  
 Miner: Fully Recovered  
 Minnehaha (69): +14 positive, +34 recovered (446 active cases)  
 Moody: 8 active cases  
 Oglala Lakota (2): 16 active cases  
 Pennington (33): +12 positive, +6 recovered (179

active cases)  
 Perkins: +1 positive (4 active cases)  
 Potter: +1 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Roberts (1): +2 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered  
 Spink: +2 positive (12 active cases)  
 Stanley: 1 active cases  
 Sully: 4 active cases  
 Todd (5): +1 positive (3 active cases)  
 Tripp: Fully Recovered  
 Turner: +1 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)  
 Union (4): +2 positive, +1 recovered (22 active cases)  
 Walworth: 15 active cases  
 Yankton (3): +2 positive, +6 recovered (40 active cases)  
 Ziebach: 12 active cases

## North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, August 25:

- 3,173 tests (1,581)
- 10,229 positives (+234)
- 8,410 recovered (+204)
- 138 deaths (+1)
- 1,681 active cases (+24)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Age Range   | # of Cases | # of Deaths |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 0-9 years   | 406        | 0           |
| 10-19 years | 1037       | 0           |
| 20-29 years | 2640       | 2           |
| 30-39 years | 2234       | 6           |
| 40-49 years | 1686       | 7           |
| 50-59 years | 1672       | 18          |
| 60-69 years | 1004       | 29          |
| 70-79 years | 443        | 26          |
| 80+ years   | 383        | 73          |

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Sex    | # of Cases | # of Deaths |
|--------|------------|-------------|
| Female | 5726       | 82          |
| Male   | 5779       | 79          |

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| County      | Positive Cases | Recovered Cases | Negative Persons | Deceased | Community Spread |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
| Aurora      | 42             | 39              | 412              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Beadle      | 619            | 580             | 1976             | 9        | Moderate         |
| Bennett     | 11             | 6               | 554              | 0        | Moderate         |
| Bon Homme   | 39             | 23              | 899              | 1        | Substantial      |
| Brookings   | 195            | 159             | 3067             | 1        | Moderate         |
| Brown       | 561            | 475             | 5028             | 3        | Substantial      |
| Brule       | 50             | 45              | 796              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Buffalo     | 109            | 102             | 665              | 3        | None             |
| Butte       | 31             | 18              | 858              | 1        | Moderate         |
| Campbell    | 4              | 3               | 106              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Charles Mix | 116            | 101             | 1543             | 0        | Minimal          |
| Clark       | 18             | 16              | 421              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Clay        | 176            | 129             | 1548             | 1        | Substantial      |
| Codington   | 220            | 163             | 3166             | 1        | Substantial      |
| Corson      | 52             | 43              | 590              | 0        | Moderate         |
| Custer      | 90             | 43              | 837              | 0        | Substantial      |
| Davison     | 112            | 97              | 2557             | 2        | Moderate         |
| Day         | 32             | 27              | 691              | 0        | Moderate         |
| Deuel       | 34             | 25              | 468              | 0        | Substantial      |
| Dewey       | 65             | 43              | 2365             | 0        | Moderate         |
| Douglas     | 22             | 17              | 429              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Edmunds     | 25             | 19              | 446              | 0        | Moderate         |
| Fall River  | 24             | 22              | 1035             | 0        | None             |
| Faulk       | 29             | 27              | 212              | 1        | None             |
| Grant       | 39             | 32              | 792              | 0        | Moderate         |
| Gregory     | 10             | 7               | 422              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Haakon      | 3              | 2               | 306              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Hamlin      | 42             | 28              | 732              | 0        | Substantial      |
| Hand        | 13             | 11              | 324              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Hanson      | 22             | 19              | 236              | 0        | Minimal          |
| Harding     | 2              | 2               | 59               | 0        | None             |
| Hughes      | 111            | 94              | 1978             | 3        | Moderate         |
| Hutchinson  | 35             | 30              | 962              | 1        | Moderate         |

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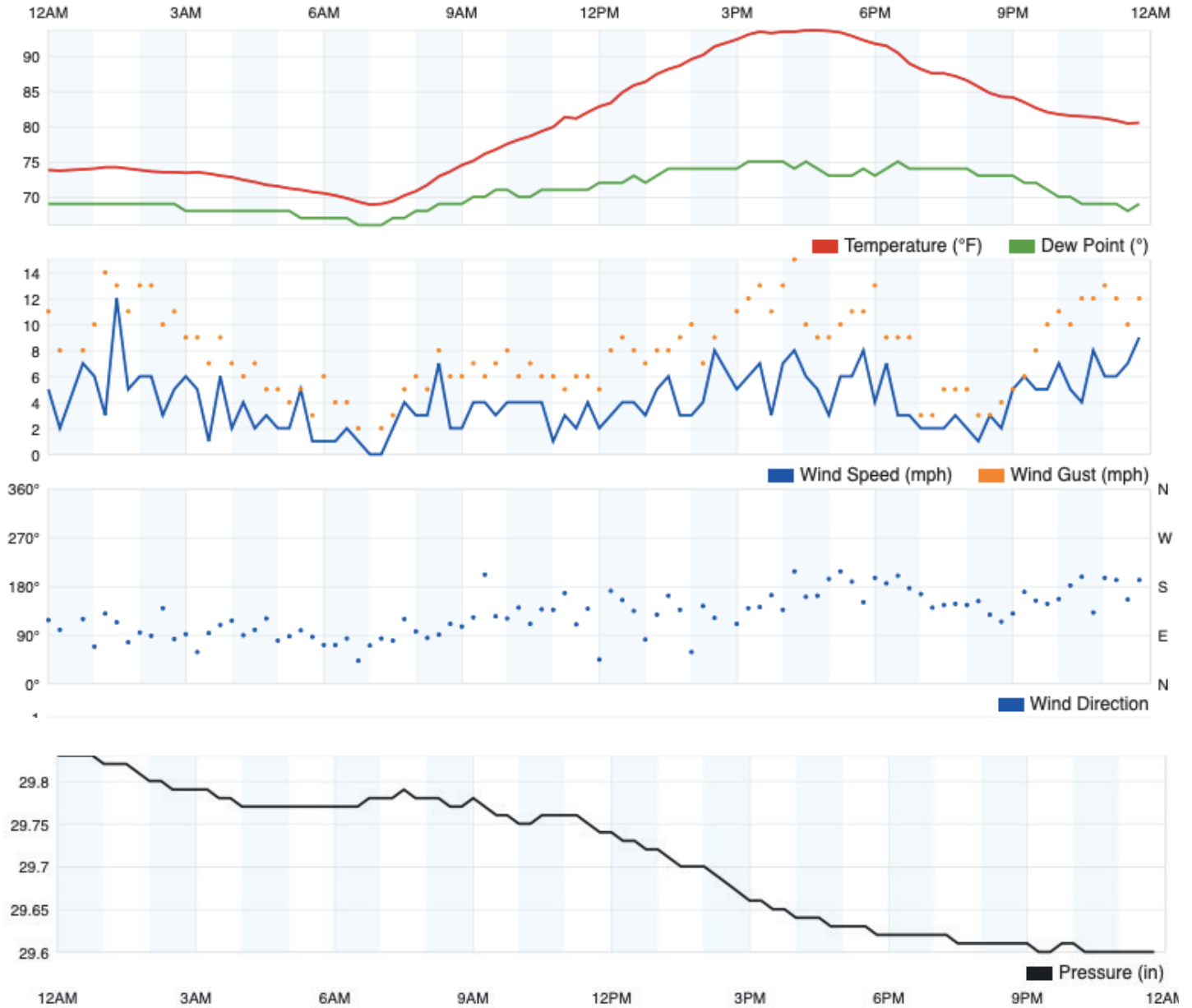
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|               |      |      |       |    |             |
|---------------|------|------|-------|----|-------------|
| Hyde          | 5    | 4    | 152   | 0  | Minimal     |
| Jackson       | 12   | 11   | 488   | 1  | None        |
| Jerauld       | 40   | 38   | 284   | 1  | Minimal     |
| Jones         | 3    | 2    | 65    | 0  | Minimal     |
| Kingsbury     | 18   | 14   | 615   | 0  | Minimal     |
| Lake          | 108  | 97   | 1018  | 6  | Moderate    |
| Lawrence      | 125  | 67   | 2288  | 1  | Substantial |
| Lincoln       | 798  | 690  | 7646  | 2  | Substantial |
| Lyman         | 94   | 83   | 1017  | 3  | Minimal     |
| Marshall      | 15   | 10   | 494   | 0  | Minimal     |
| McCook        | 39   | 33   | 693   | 1  | Minimal     |
| McPherson     | 10   | 7    | 233   | 0  | Minimal     |
| Meade         | 176  | 105  | 2201  | 1  | Substantial |
| Mellette      | 24   | 24   | 401   | 0  | None        |
| Miner         | 15   | 15   | 270   | 0  | None        |
| Minnehaha     | 4938 | 4422 | 30359 | 70 | Substantial |
| Moody         | 38   | 30   | 694   | 0  | Moderate    |
| Oglala Lakota | 163  | 145  | 3010  | 2  | Moderate    |
| Pennington    | 1082 | 870  | 11825 | 33 | Moderate    |
| Perkins       | 9    | 5    | 208   | 0  | Minimal     |
| Potter        | 4    | 2    | 319   | 0  | Minimal     |
| Roberts       | 91   | 81   | 1973  | 1  | Minimal     |
| Sanborn       | 13   | 13   | 247   | 0  | None        |
| Spink         | 37   | 25   | 1228  | 0  | Moderate    |
| Stanley       | 20   | 19   | 292   | 0  | Moderate    |
| Sully         | 8    | 4    | 97    | 0  | Minimal     |
| Todd          | 77   | 69   | 2351  | 5  | Minimal     |
| Tripp         | 20   | 20   | 639   | 0  | None        |
| Turner        | 70   | 58   | 1005  | 0  | Substantial |
| Union         | 237  | 211  | 2132  | 4  | Moderate    |
| Walworth      | 32   | 17   | 798   | 0  | Substantial |
| Yankton       | 185  | 142  | 3405  | 3  | Substantial |
| Ziebach       | 46   | 34   | 370   | 0  | Substantial |
| Unassigned    | 0    | 0    | 10877 | 0  |             |

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

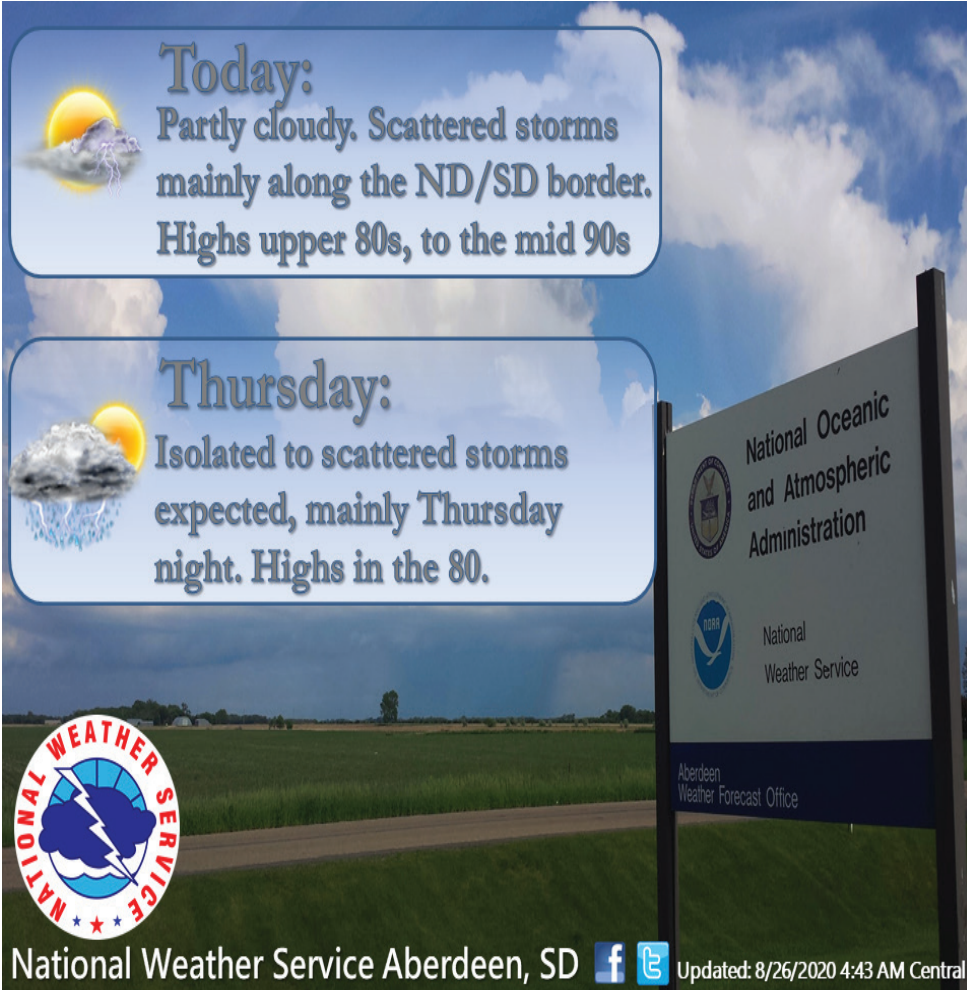




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| Today   | Tonight   | Thursday  | Thursday Night   | Friday  |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Chance<br>T-storms  | Mostly Clear  | Partly Sunny<br>then Slight<br>Chance<br>T-storms                                 | T-storms<br>Likely   | Mostly Sunny  |
| <b>High: 87 °F</b>  | <b>Low: 62 °F</b>   | <b>High: 85 °F</b>  | <b>Low: 62 °F</b>  | <b>High: 79 °F</b>  |





**Today:**  
Partly cloudy. Scattered storms mainly along the ND/SD border. Highs upper 80s, to the mid 90s

**Thursday:**  
Isolated to scattered storms expected, mainly Thursday night. Highs in the 80.

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service  
Aberdeen Weather Forecast Office

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD   Updated: 8/26/2020 4:43 AM Central

An area of low pressure and associated cold front will slide across the region today, bringing a chance for showers and thunderstorms. Locations along and north of Highway 12 will have the best potential of seeing storms today. Additional storms will be possible Thursday through Thursday night.

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## Today in Weather History

August 26, 1983: Heavy rainfall up to four and a half inches fell in the town of Mahto, Corson County, flooding basements. Hail, up to three inches in diameter, caused significant damage to roofs and broke numerous windows.

August 26, 1998: Massive rainfall of 3 to over 6 inches fell across far eastern Corson, most of Campbell and Walworth counties during the evening hours of the 26th. The heavy rain caused flooding on many roads along with some highways through the night and into the morning hours on the 27th. Near Selby, high winds, heavy rain, and some hail caused damage to sunflowers and moved a barn three feet off the foundation. In Selby, wind-driven rain pushed water through some ceilings and into basements. An old barn near Glenham was also blown down by the strong winds. Some rainfall amounts include 3.50 inches at Herried, 3.80 inches at Java, 4.20 inches at Selby, 4.50 inches 3N of Selby and just southeast of Mclaughlin, 5 inches at Glenham, 5.75 inches 8N of Mobridge, and 6.35 inches 1.5 miles southeast of Glenham.

1864: A train running from Cincinnati to Chicago was derailed by a tornado in Dearborn County, Indiana, or 75 miles southeast of Indianapolis. Two passenger cars were lifted from the tracks and dropped in a ravine which injured 30 people.

1976: A weak tornado touched down briefly in the Hockley Hills near Kiana, AK, about 29 miles north of the Arctic Circle. This tornado is the most northerly report of a tornado on record. Kiana is 545 miles northwest of Anchorage, Alaska.

1992: Hurricane Andrew made a second landfall near Burns Point, LA as a Category 3 hurricane. Morgan City, LA recorded sustained winds of 92 mph with a peak gust of 108 mph. Hammond, LA was deluged with 11.92 inches of rain. As Andrew moved inland and weakened, it spawned 47 tornadoes from this date through the 28th from the South to the Mid-Atlantic States.

1883 - Krakatoa Volcano exploded in the East Indies. The explosion was heard more than 2500 miles away, and every barograph around the world recorded the passage of the air wave, up to seven times. Giant waves, 125 feet high and traveling 300 mph, devastated everything in their path, hurling ashore coral blocks weighing up to 900 tons, and killing more than 36,000 persons. Volcanic ash was carried around the globe in thirteen days producing blue and green suns in the tropics, and then vivid red sunsets in higher latitudes. The temperature of the earth was lowered one degree for the next two years, finally recovering to normal by 1888. (David Ludlum)

1949 - A hurricane made landfall at Delray Beach. Winds reached 153 mph at the Jupiter Lighthouse before the anemometer failed. The hurricane caused 45 million dollars damage to crops, and also caught the Georgia and South Carolina coast resulting in another two million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1965 - Late night severe thunderstorms associated with an unusually strong late summer cold front produced 100 mph winds straight line winds in the Chicago area and northwest Indiana. In Lake County IND, high winds derailed a train near Crown Point, and left a canoe suspended among telephone lines. Two nights later the temperature at Midway Airport in Chicago dipped to 43 degrees, establishing a record for the month of August. (Storm Data) (Hugh Crowther)

1976 - A weak tornado touched down briefly in the Hockley Hills near Kiana, AK, about 29 miles north of the Arctic Circle. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms drenched northern Illinois during the morning and afternoon hours pushing August rainfall totals for Chicago, Moline and Peoria to new all-time highs for any month of the year. By the end of August, Chicago had received 17.10 inches of rain, which easily surpassed the previous record of 14.17 inches established in September 1961. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A dozen cities in Texas, Colorado and California reported record high temperatures for the date, including readings of 100 degrees at Pueblo CO, 106 degrees at Wichita Falls TX, and 109 degrees at Redding CA. Afternoon thunderstorms in Utah deluged the town of Beaver with more than an inch of rain in twenty minutes. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Anchorage, AK, was soaked with a steady rain, and the 24 hour total of 4.12 inches smashed their previous 24 hour precipitation total of 2.10 inches. It also pushed their rainfall total for the month past their previous record for August. (The National Weather Summary)



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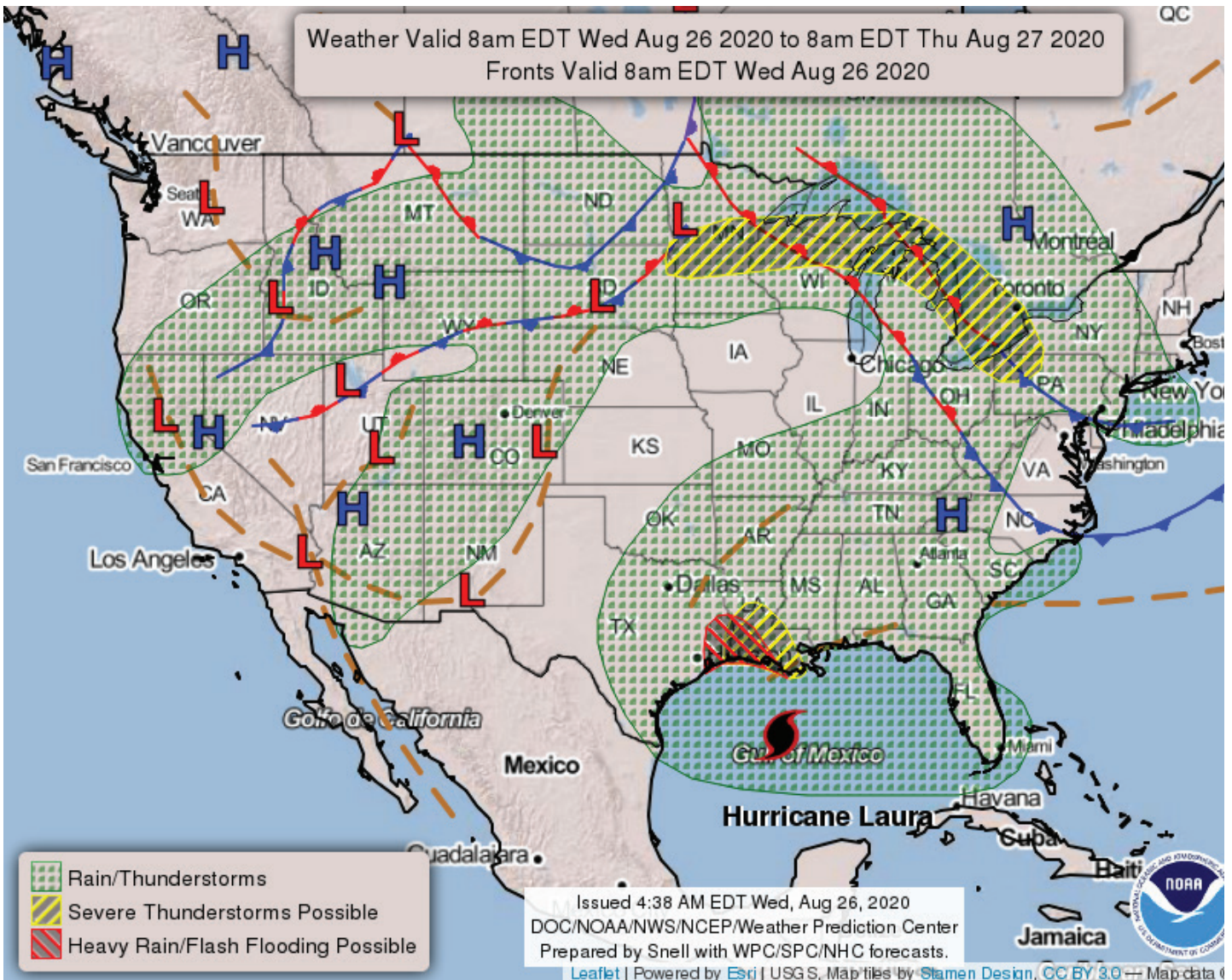
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 94 °F at 4:24 PM (Heat Index: 105.5)**  
**Low Temp: 69 °F at 7:04 AM**  
**Wind: 15 mph at 4:11 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 104° in 1976, 1991**  
**Record Low: 34° in 1914**  
**Average High: 80°F**  
**Average Low: 54°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 1.96**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 1.55**  
**Average Precip to date: 15.82**  
**Precip Year to Date: 12.16**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:21 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:50 a.m.**



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## AT LEAST ONE MORE THING

The elderly deacon was encouraging a young, yet very successful, entrepreneur to pray and surrender his life to the Lord. Arrogantly he said, "There's no need for me to pray. I have everything I can imagine. I am young, handsome, and rich. What else is there?"

"Well," replied the man graciously, "there's at least one more thing you may want to consider. You may want to consider asking God for humility."

It is fascinating to recall the fact that God created the universe out of nothing, and that unless we are willing to become nothing, the Lord will be unable to make anything significant out of us. Pride is a destructive force in so many lives. It limits our potential.

When we come to believe that we deserve what we have and become self-centered and self-serving, we are developing an attitude of self-dependence and not God-dependence. We forget the fact that whatever we have we have by the grace of God, and that our abilities to accomplish anything and everything come from Him. When this happens, we tend to become greedy and forget our responsibility to honor God with everything that we have.

The cure for being self-centered and self-serving is humility. Humility shows that we are submissive and dependent on God and that we approach Him in meekness and respect. David said that the "Lord leads the humble in what is right." God can only lead the humble.

Prayer: Father, we need Your leadership in our lives. Without Your guidance and direction, we may achieve much, but we will miss the greater things You have for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6



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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

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## News from the Associated Press

### Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-22, 25-20, 25-23

Bridgewater-Emory def. McCook Central/Montrose, 26-24, 25-21, 26-24

Canton 3, Beresford 1

Chester def. Flandreau, 25-13, 25-10, 25-12

Colome def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-18, 25-16, 25-18

Estelline/Hendricks def. Iroquis, 25-15, 25-11, 25-18

Florence/Henry def. Webster, 21-25, 25-14, 25-20, 23-25, 15-5

Freeman def. Avon, 27-29, 25-18, 25-17, 25-16

Garretson def. Tri-Valley, 25-15, 25-13, 21-25, 25-6

Gayville-Volin def. Centerville, 25-13, 25-8, 25-15

Howard 3, DeSmet 1

Huron def. Yankton, 25-16, 25-17, 25-19

Ipswich def. Aberdeen Christian, 26-24, 21-25, 31-29, 25-23

James Valley Christian 3, Lake Preston 0

Langford Area def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-20, 17-25, 25-17, 20-25, 15-12

Leola-Frederick def. Britton-Hecla, 25-18, 26-24, 25-12

Newell def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-23, 20-25, 25-18, 11-25, 15-10

Northwestern def. Roncalli, 25-19, 25-8, 25-23

Rapid City Christian def. Bennett County, 25-9, 25-15, 25-11

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Hanson, 21-25, 25-12, 20-25, 25-22, 15-13

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-17, 25-12, 26-24

Sioux Valley def. Deuel, 25-17, 25-17, 25-17

Sisseton def. Wilmot, 26-24, 25-14, 25-22

St. Thomas More def. Douglas, 25-19, 25-15, 25-15

Sturgis def. Belle Fourche, 25-12, 25-22, 22-25, 25-17

Sully Buttes 3, Jones County 2

Vermillion def. West Central, 25-13, 15-25, 25-15, 23 25, 15-8

Winner def. Bon Homme, 25-11, 25-14, 26-24

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

08-10-15-17-57, Mega Ball: 12, Megaplier: 3

(eight, ten, fifteen, seventeen, fifty-seven; Mega Ball: twelve; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$57 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$37 million

### South Dakota-based Sanford Health plans Grand Forks clinic

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Sanford Health officials announced Tuesday they are opening a new clinic in Grand Forks.

The organization plans to build a 22,000 square-foot facility in the south part of Grand Forks that will have space for 15 primary care and specialty care providers. It is slated for opening in spring 2021.

Sanford has operated clinics in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, for over two decades.

"We're constantly exploring the services our patients and regional employers want, where they need them most," said Dr. Lisa Jamsa Tollefson, family medicine specialist and Sanford East Grand Forks physician leader. "We're excited to answer their call and grow with our Grand Forks neighbors while still serving our patients in East Grand Forks.

Headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the organization includes 44 hospitals, 1,400 physicians and more than 200 Good Samaritan Society senior care locations in 26 states and nine countries.

## Police search for suspect in Rapid City double homicide

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are searching for the shooter who killed two people.

Police were called to a disturbance late Monday night and while on their way were told by the caller about hearing a number of gunshots.

Officers arrived and found a parked vehicle with two people inside dead from multiple gunshot wounds. Names of the victims are being withheld until their families are notified.

Police are investigating but believe the victims knew the shooter. Authorities believe drugs may have been involved.

## South Dakota reports dip in COVID-19 cases, testing slows

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The number of new coronavirus cases reported in South Dakota on Tuesday dipped to 80 after a surge over the weekend.

But the Department of Health reported test results for only 216 people, and 37% of the test results were positive. That's a sign that there may be more infections than test results are showing. It's also one of the lowest numbers for daily tests reported in the last several months.

The number of active infections decreased statewide, but it is still at one of its highest points since the Department of Health started posting the number. There are currently 1,530 people with active infections.

A total of 11,505 people have tested positive for COVID-19 statewide. About 85% of those people have fully recovered, while 161 have died. There were no new deaths reported on Tuesday.

## Revved by Sturgis Rally, COVID-19 infections move fast, far

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The hundreds of thousands of bikers who attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally may have departed western South Dakota, but public health departments in multiple states are trying to measure how much and how quickly the coronavirus spread in bars, tattoo shops and gatherings before people traveled home to nearly every state in the country.

From the city of Sturgis, which is conducting mass testing for its roughly 7,000 residents, to health departments in at least eight states, health officials are trying to track outbreaks from the 10-day rally which ended on Aug. 16. They face the task of tracking an invisible virus that spread among bar-hoppers and rallygoers, who then traveled to over half of the counties in the United States.

An analysis of anonymous cell phone data from Camber Systems, a firm that aggregates cell phone activity for health researchers, found that 61% of all the counties in the U.S. have been visited by someone who attended Sturgis, creating a travel hub that was comparable to a major U.S. city.

"Imagine trying to do contact tracing for the entire city of (Washington), D.C., but you also know that you don't have any distancing, or the distancing is very, very limited, the masking is limited," said Navin Vembar, who co-founded Camber Systems. "It all adds up to a very dangerous situation for people all over the place. Contact tracing becomes dramatically difficult."

State health departments have reported 103 cases from people in South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin

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Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming and Washington. Health officials in South Dakota have said they don't know how many people were exposed and have issued public warnings of possible COVID-19 exposure at five businesses popular with bikers.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican, has defied calls to cancel large gatherings and opposes requirements to wear masks. She welcomed the event, which in previous years brought in about \$800 million in tourist spending, according to the state's Department of Tourism.

"I sat at a bar elbow-to-elbow with guys. No one was wearing masks," said Stephen Sample, a rallygoer who rode back to Arizona last week.

He had visited a bar where health authorities later issued warnings — One-Eyed Jack's Saloon — but said he had not had any COVID-19 symptoms. He discussed quarantining with his wife after he returned, but decided against it.

Other bikers said they had gotten tested for COVID-19 after they returned home and received negative results.

In a country where each state has been tasked with doing the heavy-lifting of responding to the pandemic, tracing every infection from the rally is virtually impossible. But the city of Sturgis is doing what it can to head off a local outbreak by holding mass testing for asymptomatic people.

The city, which is a sleepy tourist destination for most of the 355 days of the year outside the rally dates, was a reluctant host this year. After many residents objected to holding the rally during a pandemic, city leaders decided to pay for mass testing with money they had received as part of federal coronavirus relief funding.

About 850 people will be tested, according to Daniel Ainslie, the city manager.

On Monday morning, Linda Chaplin drove with her husband to get tested in the parking lot of the Sturgis Community Center. They had left town during the rally, but the crowds that came before and after concerned them.

While the results from the test will take a couple days to process, the region is already seeing an increase in coronavirus cases.

"For a long time, people would say, 'Well, do you know anybody that has COVID?' and I would say, 'No, I don't, but I'm watching the news,'" Chaplin said. "Now, I do know some people that we've heard have COVID."

While Chaplin said the people she knows who have been infected had not participated in the rally, she said that many residents were relieved it's over.

But like many places across the country, the city is trying to navigate the tension between health and economic concerns. Some residents, like Eunice Peck, were not concerned about the potential for an outbreak. She rented her home out to rallygoers as a way to make extra money. She had avoided the crowds that fill the city's downtown and didn't feel the need to get a test.

"It's a very good thing for the town," Peck said of the rally.

But events like Sturgis concern health experts, who see infections spreading without regard to city and state boundaries. Without a nationally-coordinated testing and tracing system, containing infections in a scenario like Sturgis is "almost impossible," said Dr. Howard Koh, a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health who worked at the Department of Health and Human Services under former President Barack Obama.

"We would need a finely orchestrated national system and we are far from that," he said. "We are really witnessing a 50-state effort with all of them going in different directions right now."

Kris Ehresmann, infectious disease director at the Minnesota Department of Health, on Friday advised people to quarantine for two weeks if they attended the rally.

She said, "We're expecting that we're going to see many more cases associated with Sturgis."

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Follow Stephen Groves on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stephengroves>

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This story corrects the spelling of Navin Vembar's name.



## Triceratops skull excavated in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A seven-foot-long triceratops skull has been unearthed in South Dakota, a Missouri college has announced.

A geology professor and students from Westminster College were excavating fossil remains last year at the Grand River National Grassland when they were alerted that a rancher had discovered something unusual poking out of the earth. The group found it was the tip of a triceratops horn, leading them to believe it could lead to a significant excavation. The college's expeditions usually find just fragments of dinosaur bones.

The professor returned with students and alumni this summer, and they unearthed a skull that weighed 3,000 pounds (1,360 kilograms).

The skull was transported back to Missouri, where Westminster College is hoping to restore it.

## Laura now forecast to be a catastrophic Category 4 hurricane

By JEFF MARTIN, JOHN MONE and STACEY PLAISANCE undefined

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Hurricane Laura is forecast to rapidly power up into a "catastrophic" Category 4 hurricane, even stronger than previously expected, as it churns toward Texas and Louisiana, gathering wind and water that swirls over much of the Gulf of Mexico.

Satellite images show that Laura has become "a formidable hurricane" in recent hours, threatening to smash homes and sink entire communities. It has undergone a remarkable intensification, "and there are no signs it will stop soon," the National Hurricane Center said in an update early Wednesday.

"Some areas when they wake up Thursday morning, they're not going to believe what happened," Stacy Stewart, a senior hurricane specialist at the hurricane center, said Wednesday.

"We could see storm surge heights more than 15 feet in some areas," Stewart said. "What doesn't get blown down by the wind could easily get knocked down by the rising ocean waters pushing well inland."

Laura has grown nearly 70% in power in just 24 hours, with maximum sustained winds increasing to 110 mph (175 kph) with higher gusts, forecasters said early Wednesday.

"We are expecting widespread power outages, trees down. Homes and businesses will be damaged," said Donald Jones, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Lake Charles, Louisiana, which is near the bullseye of Laura's forecast track.

"I'm telling you, this is going to be a very serious situation," Jones said.

A Category 4 hurricane will do catastrophic damage: "Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months," the weather service says.

In the largest U.S. evacuation of the pandemic, more than half a million people were ordered Tuesday to flee from an area of the Gulf Coast along the Texas-Louisiana state line.

More than 385,000 residents were told to flee the Texas cities of Beaumont, Galveston and Port Arthur, and another 200,000 were ordered to leave low-lying Calcasieu Parish in southwestern Louisiana, where forecasters said as much as 13 feet (4 meters) of storm surge topped by waves could submerge whole communities.

The situation could be even worse in Cameron Parish, which could soon be under water.

"Cameron parish is going to part of the Gulf of Mexico for a couple of days based on this forecast track," Jones said.

In Galveston and Port Arthur, Texas, mandatory evacuation orders went into effect shortly before day-break Tuesday. "If you decide to stay, you're staying on your own," Port Arthur Mayor Thurman Bartie said.

Forecasters expect the storm's top winds to increase to 130 mph (209 kmh) before landfall, pushing water onto more than 450 miles (724 kilometers) of coast from Texas to Mississippi. Hurricane warnings were issued from San Luis Pass, Texas, to Intracoastal City, Louisiana, and storm surge warnings from the Port Arthur, Texas, flood protection system to the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Laura also is expected to dump massive rainfall over a short period of time as it moves inland, causing

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widespread flash flooding in states far from the coast. Flash flood watches were issued for much of Arkansas, and forecasters said the risk of heavy rainfall will move to parts of Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky late Friday and Saturday.

Fearing that people would not evacuate in time, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said those in southwest Louisiana need to reach wherever they intend to ride out the storm by noon Wednesday, when the state will start feeling the storm's effects.

Officials urged people to stay with relatives or in hotel rooms to avoid spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Buses were stocked with protective equipment and disinfectant, and they would carry fewer passengers to keep people apart, Texas officials said.

Whitney Frazier, 29, of Beaumont spent Tuesday morning trying to get transportation to a high school where she could board a bus to leave the area.

"Especially with everything with COVID going on already on top of a mandatory evacuation, it's very stressful," Frazier said.

Shelters opened with cots set farther apart to curb coronavirus infections. People planning to enter shelters were told to bring just one bag of personal belongings each, and a mask to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

"Hopefully it's not that threatening to people, to lives, because people are hesitant to go anywhere due to COVID," Robert Duffy said as he placed sandbags around his home in Morgan City, Louisiana. "Nobody wants to sleep on a gym floor with 200 other people. It's kind of hard to do social distancing."

The hurricane is threatening a center of the U.S. energy industry. The government said 84% of Gulf oil production and an estimated 61% of natural gas production were shut down. Nearly 300 platforms have been evacuated.

While oil prices often spike before a major storm as production slows, consumers are unlikely to see big price changes because the pandemic decimated demand for fuel.

Laura passed Cuba after killing nearly two dozen people on the island of Hispaniola, including 20 in Haiti and three in the Dominican Republic, where it knocked out power and caused intense flooding. The deaths reportedly included a 10-year-old girl whose home was hit by a tree and a mother and young son crushed by a collapsing wall.

Laura's arrival comes just days before the Aug. 29 anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which breached the levees in New Orleans, flattened much of the Mississippi coast and killed as many as 1,800 people in 2005. Less than a month later, Hurricane Rita struck southwest Louisiana as a Category 3 storm.

Mone reported from Galveston; Martin reported from Marietta, Georgia, and Plaisance from Stephenville, Louisiana. Associated Press contributors include Juan Lozano in Houston; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland; Julie Walker in New York City; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge; Louisiana; Kevin McGill in New Orleans; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Evens Sanon in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Cathy Bussewitz in New York; and Paul Weber in Austin, Texas.

## **WHAT TO WATCH: Pence, Conway and protest pushback at RNC**

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence will deliver the marquee speech Wednesday night at the Republican convention, making the case for another four years for President Donald Trump and laying the foundation for his own potential White House run in 2024.

Pence, whose future political aspirations could hinge on November, has campaigned aggressively for the president. He's likely to continue making a forceful case in his address while touching on cultural divides that been pepped throughout the convention's program.

What to watch Wednesday night:

PENCE

Pence is delivering the evening's keynote from Baltimore's Fort McHenry, where Americans defended

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Baltimore Harbor from the British in the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." Pence, who is expected to speak to a crowd at the national monument, is likely to pay tribute to American symbols like the national anthem and draw a contrast with social justice demonstrators. Pence has helped steer the White House response to the coronavirus, leading a task force and frequently working with the nation's governors. The GOP convention has mentioned the virus far less than Democrats did last week, but Pence could throw it back into focus if he speaks about the work he's led.

## CONWAY'S EXIT APPEARANCE

Kellyanne Conway, one of the most visible representatives of the Trump administration, will make a convention appearance days before she leaves the White House.

Conway managed Trump's campaign during the last stretch of the 2016 race, becoming the first woman to successfully steer a White House bid. She then became a senior counselor to the president and made unyielding and occasionally befuddling defenses of Trump in her media appearances, coining the phrase "alternative facts" in one rebuttal.

Conway, whose husband has become an outspoken Trump critic, says she is stepping away to spend more time with her family. Before she does at the end of the month, expect her to use the stage to make one more vigorous pitch for the president.

## MRS. PENCE

Before her husband closes out the evening, Karen Pence is scheduled to speak. She has been hitting the campaign trail on behalf of the president and her husband this year. An evangelical Christian and former first lady of Indiana, Pence is seen as speaking particularly to suburban women and is likely to interweave politics and faith into her remarks. Look to whether she joins several speakers this week in sharing a personal story that aims to convey the president's empathy.

## RACIAL INJUSTICE AND PROTESTS

Pence's speech is expected to highlight the president's opposition to those protesting racial injustice, such as professional athletes kneeling during the anthem. Other speakers are likely to continue on the theme and Trump's law-and-order message. Clarence Henderson, a civil rights activist from the 1960s, is expected to speak on the "true meaning of peaceful protest." Also taking the stage will be Burgess Owens, a Black conservative who is running for a Democrat-held Utah congressional seat. Owens, 69, a former NFL player and Fox News Channel commentator, grew up in segregated Tallahassee, Florida, and said during cable news appearances that he disagreed with athletes kneeling during the anthem.

## VETERANS AND RISING STARS

The theme will be "Land of Heroes," and the lineup features several military veterans, including New York Rep. Lee Zeldin, Texas Rep. Dan Crenshaw and Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst.

Other GOP officials and rising stars on tap to speak include Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn, New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and presidential daughter-in-law Lara Trump.

## BIDEN

Unlike Trump during the Democratic convention, Joe Biden has not planned public appearances to counter the GOP message. His running mate, however, has several events planned Wednesday. California Sen. Kamala Harris is expected to appear at an afternoon virtual event aimed at reaching out to Black women in Michigan and to headline three virtual fundraisers.

## HOW TO WATCH

The program starts at 8:30 p.m. ET (a half-hour earlier than the DNC convention) and runs through 11 p.m. ET. It's available on the GOP convention's social media channels and AT&T U-VERSE, Direct TV, Twitch, Youtube and Amazon Prime TV. CNN, C-SPAN, MSNBC and PBS will air the full prime-time presentation while ABC, CBS, Fox News Channel and NBC will air the final hour, from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe in Washington and Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

## Kenosha police: 3 shot, 2 fatally, during Wisconsin protests

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER and SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Two people died and one person was injured as shots were fired late Tuesday in Kenosha during the third night of unrest in Wisconsin following the shooting of a Black man by police, Kenosha police said.

The shooting was reported at about 11:45 p.m. in an area where protests have taken place, Kenosha police Lt. Joseph Nosalik said in a news release.

Kenosha County Sheriff David Beth said one victim had been shot in the head and another in the chest late Tuesday, just before midnight, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Beth didn't know where the other person was shot, but his or her injuries are not believed to be life threatening.

The shooting was under investigation and no other information was released. The victims have not been identified.

Jacob Blake, who was shot multiple times by police in Wisconsin, is paralyzed, and it would "take a miracle" for him to walk again, his family's attorney said Tuesday, while calling for the officer who opened fire to be arrested and others involved to lose their jobs.

The shooting of Blake on Sunday in Kenosha — apparently in the back while three of his children looked on — was captured on cellphone video and ignited new protests over racial injustice in several cities, coming just three months after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police touched off a wider reckoning on race.

Earlier Tuesday, Blake's father spoke alongside other family members and lawyers, telling reporters that police shot his son "seven times, seven times, like he didn't matter."

"But my son matters. He's a human being and he matters," said Blake's father, who is also named Jacob Blake.

The 29-year-old was in surgery Tuesday, said attorney Ben Crump, adding that the bullets severed Blake's spinal cord and shattered his vertebrae. Another attorney said there was also severe damage to organs.

"It's going to take a miracle for Jacob Blake Jr. to ever walk again," Crump said.

The legal team plans to file a civil lawsuit against the police department over the shooting. Police have said little about what happened, other than that they were responding to a domestic dispute. The officers involved have not been named. The Wisconsin Department of Justice is investigating.

Police fired tear gas for a third night Tuesday to disperse protesters who had gathered outside Kenosha's courthouse, where some shook a protective fence and threw water bottles and fireworks at officers lined up behind it. Police then used armored vehicles and officers with shields pushed back the crowd when protesters ignored warnings to leave a nearby park.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers had called for calm Tuesday, while also declaring a state of emergency under which he doubled the National Guard deployment in Kenosha from 125 to 250. The night before crowds destroyed dozens of buildings and set more than 30 fires in the city's downtown.

"We cannot allow the cycle of systemic racism and injustice to continue," said Evers, who is facing mounting pressure from Republicans over his handling of the unrest. "We also cannot continue going down this path of damage and destruction."

Blake's mother, Julia Jackson, said the damage in Kenosha does not reflect what her family wants and that, if her son could see it, he would be "very displeased."

She said the first thing her son said to her when she saw him was he was sorry.

"He said, 'I don't want to be a burden on you guys,'" Jackson said. "I want to be with my children, and I don't think I'll walk again."

Three of the younger Blake's sons — aged 3, 5 and 8 — were in the car at the time of the shooting, Crump said. It was the 8-year-old's birthday, he added.

The man who said he made the cellphone video of the shooting, 22-year-old Raysean White, said he saw Blake scuffling with three officers and heard them yell, "Drop the knife! Drop the knife!" before the gunfire erupted. He said he didn't see a knife in Blake's hands.



In the footage, Blake walks from the sidewalk around the front of his SUV to his driver-side door as officers follow him with their guns drawn and shout at him. As Blake opens the door and leans into the SUV, an officer grabs his shirt from behind and opens fire. Seven shots can be heard, though it isn't clear how many struck Blake or how many officers fired.

Blake's father told the Chicago Sun-Times that his son had eight holes in his body.

Anger over the shooting has spilled into the streets of Kenosha and other cities, including Los Angeles, Wisconsin's capital of Madison and in Minneapolis, the epicenter of the Black Lives Matter movement this summer following Floyd's death.

Hundreds of people again defied curfew Tuesday in Kenosha, where destruction marred protests the previous night as fires were set and businesses vandalized. There were 34 fires associated with that unrest, with 30 businesses destroyed or damaged along with an unknown number of residences, Kenosha Fire Chief Charles Leipzig told the Kenosha News.

"Nobody deserves this," said Pat Oertle, owner of Computer Adventure, surveying the damage on Tuesday. Computers were stolen, and the store was "destroyed," she said.

"This accomplishes nothing," Oertle said. "This is not justice that they're looking for."

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson and U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil, both Republicans, called on the governor to do more to quell the unrest. Steil said he would request federal assistance if necessary.

Evers continued to call for protesters to be peaceful.

"Please do not allow the actions of a few distract us from the work we must do together to demand justice, equity, and accountability," he said.

Blake's family also called for calm.

"I really ask you and encourage everyone in Wisconsin and abroad to take a moment and examine your hearts," Blake's mother said. "Do Jacob justice on this level and examine your hearts. ... As I pray for my son's healing physically, emotionally and spiritually, I also have been praying even before this for the healing of our country."

Bauer reported from Madison, Wisconsin. Associated Press reporters Todd Richmond in Madison, Wisconsin, Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis, Aaron Morrison in New York, and Tammy Webber in Fenton, Michigan, contributed.

## 5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **FIRST LADY MAKES HER CASE FOR TRUMP VOTE** Saying he's "fighting for you," Melania Trump casts her husband as the best hope for America in a Rose Garden address as the president turns to family to boost his reelection chances.

2. **WISCONSIN PROTESTS TURN DEADLY** Two people died and one person was injured as shots were fired in Kenosha during the third night of unrest following the police shooting of Jacob Blake.

3. **LAURA FORECAST TO BE 'CATASTROPHIC'** The storm is expected to rapidly intensify into a Category 4 hurricane as it churns toward Texas and Louisiana, threatening to smash homes and sink entire communities.

4. **COVID-19'S UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE** Winter is ending in the Southern Hemisphere and countries like South Africa, Australia, Argentina had a surprise: Their steps against the coronavirus also apparently blocked the flu.

5. **'ALL A DAUGHTER EVER WANTS IS HER DAD'** Families of victims of the Christchurch mosque massacre offer moving tributes while the white supremacist who killed them said he wouldn't speak before he is sentenced.

## Lawyer says Blake paralyzed, protests erupt for 3rd night

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER and SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

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KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Jacob Blake, the Black man shot multiple times by police in Wisconsin, is paralyzed, and it would “take a miracle” for him to walk again, his family’s attorney said Tuesday, while calling for the officer who opened fire to be arrested and others involved to lose their jobs.

The shooting of Blake on Sunday in Kenosha — apparently in the back while three of his children looked on — was captured on cellphone video and ignited new protests over racial injustice in several cities, coming just three months after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police touched off a wider reckoning on race.

Some demonstrations devolved into unrest, including for a third night in Kenosha, where multiple gunshots could be heard in social media posts from at least one neighborhood where residents and people carrying long guns and other weapons remained in the streets hours after the city’s 8 p.m. curfew. Kenosha Police were investigating after videos appeared to show at least two people with gunshot wounds, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

Earlier Tuesday, Blake’s father spoke alongside other family members and lawyers, telling reporters that police shot his son “seven times, seven times, like he didn’t matter.”

“But my son matters. He’s a human being and he matters,” said Blake’s father, who is also named Jacob Blake.

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## 'Fighting for you': First lady makes her case for Trump vote

By STEVE PEOPLES, MICHELLE L. PRICE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Melania Trump portrayed her husband as an authentic, uncompromising leader in a Rose Garden address as President Donald Trump turned to family, farmers and the trappings of the presidency to boost his reelection chances on the second night of the scaled-down Republican National Convention.

Mrs. Trump offered a polished portrait of Trump's presidency Tuesday night that was often at odds with the crises, division and unforgiving actions of his administration.

But it was part of a broader effort to show a more forgiving side of a combative president who will soon face the voters. Beyond the first lady's remarks, Trump pardoned a reformed felon and oversaw a naturalization ceremony for several immigrants in the midst of the program, though he frequently states his vigorous opposition to more immigration, legal as well as illegal.

"In my husband, you have a president who will not stop fighting for you and your families," said Mrs. Trump, an immigrant herself. "He will not give up."

Democrat Joe Biden's camp was not impressed.

"Immigrants and Latinos are not props, and these empty gestures won't make us forget Donald Trump's failures," said the Biden's Latino media director, Jennifer Molina.

Mrs. Trump and two of the president's five children led a diverse collection of supporters, including a convicted bank robber, calling for Trump's reelection on a night that featured a distinctly more positive tone than the night before.

Trump has ground to make up. Most polls report that Democratic rival Biden has a significant advantage in terms of raw support; the former vice president also leads on character issues such as trustworthiness and likability. That makes character assessments such as the one Mrs. Trump provided on Tuesday important if the president hopes to win back voters — particularly women — who have strayed amid the pandemic, economic collapse and a reckoning on racism.

In a particularly emotional moment, Trump showed a video of himself signing a pardon for Jon Ponder,

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a man from Nevada who has founded an organization that helps prisoners reintegrate into society.

"We live in a nation of second chances," Ponder said, standing alongside Trump.

"Jon's life is a beautiful testament to the power of redemption," Trump said before he signed the pardon.

The lineup also had a Maine lobsterman, a Wisconsin farmer and a Native American leader. Social conservatives were represented by an anti-abortion activist and Billy Graham's granddaughter. The convention also featured a Kentucky high school student whose interaction last year with Native Americans became a flashpoint in the nation's culture wars.

With Election Day just 10 weeks off and early voting beginning much sooner, Trump is under increasing pressure to reshape the contours of the campaign. But as he struggles to contain the pandemic and the related economic devastation, Republicans have yet to identify a consistent political message arguing for his reelection.

Mrs. Trump noted that the lives of Americans changed "drastically" in March with the onset of the coronavirus. But other speakers made little mention of the pandemic even as it remains a dominant issue for voters.

The COVID-19 death toll surged past 178,000 on Tuesday, by far the highest in the world, and there is no sign of slowing. The nation's unemployment rate still exceeds 10%, which is higher than it was during the Great Recession. And more than 100,000 businesses are feared closed forever.

At the same time, the White House seems to have abandoned efforts to negotiate another federal rescue package with Congress.

There were fierce attacks on Biden throughout the night, although the lineup generally maintained a positive tone -- in part due to some last-minute changes.

Mary Ann Mendoza, an Arizona woman whose son, a police officer, was killed in 2014 in a car accident involving an immigrant in the country illegally, was pulled from the program minutes before the event began. She had directed her Twitter followers to a series of anti-Semitic, conspiratorial messages.

There were also barrier breakers featured like Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, the first African American to hold statewide office in Kentucky, and Florida Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez, first Latina to hold that office in her state.

And the convention featured a Democrat for the second night: Robert Vlasisavljevich, the mayor of Eveleth, Minnesota, who praised Trump's support for his state's mining industry in particular.

"President Trump is fighting for all of us. He delivered the best economy in our history and he will do it again," Vlasisavljevich said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo addressed the convention and the nation during an official overseas trip in Israel.

"President Trump has put his America First vision into action," Pompeo said. "It may not have made him popular in every foreign capital, but it's worked."

Pompeo's taped appearance broke with decades of tradition of secretaries of state avoiding the appearance of involving themselves in domestic politics. That his video was filmed in Jerusalem, where he was on an official foreign trip, raised additional questions of propriety.

Still Mrs. Trump was the intended star of the night.

Out of the public view for much of the year, she stepped into the spotlight while avoiding the missteps that marred her introduction to the nation four years ago.

At her 2016 convention speech, she included passages similar to what former first lady Michelle Obama had said in her first convention speech. A speechwriter for the Trump Organization later took the blame.

Only the second foreign-born first lady in U.S. history, Mrs. Trump, 50, is a native of Slovenia, a former communist country in eastern Europe. She became Trump's third wife in 2005 and gave birth to their now 14-year-old son, Barron, in 2006 — the year she became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

The first lady spoke from the renovated Rose Garden, despite questions about using the White House for a political convention. She addressed an in-person group of around 50 people, including her husband.

"Whether you like it or not, you always know what he's thinking. And that is because he's an authentic



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person who loves this country and its people and wants to continue to make it better," Mrs. Trump said. "He wants nothing more than for this country to prosper and he doesn't waste time playing politics."

Peoples reported from New York. Price reported from Las Vegas. AP writers Kevin Freking and Zeke Miller in Washington and Dave Bauder in New York contributed.

## AP Analysis: Trump's convention aims to airbrush his tenure

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — At President Donald Trump's Republican convention, he is welcoming to immigrants, not the architect of some of the nation's harshest anti-immigration policies.

At Trump's convention, the coronavirus pandemic has largely subsided, not continued to infect thousands of Americans a day. The economy is booming, not sputtering. Trump is a leader in healing racial strife, not stoking divisions.

Tuesday's gauzy prime-time programming amounted to an airbrushing of some of the darker and more controversial episodes of Trump's nearly four years in office — an effort to urgently address the vulnerabilities that have imperiled his reelection prospects just over two months until his November face-off against Democrat Joe Biden.

His campaign and his party were effectively asking voters to believe a polished and packaged portrait of the president more than the unrestrained version he puts on display each day. That version of Trump may energize his most ardent supporters, but it frequently frustrates more moderate Republicans and has alienated some voters, including many suburban women, whom Trump wants to win back before Election Day.

The gap between reality and convention rhetoric was particularly glaring on immigration, the signature issue of Trump's political rise and his presidency. Trump ran for office in 2016 on a platform to dramatically crack down on immigration, both illegal and legal. Since winning the White House, he has fundamentally transformed the nation's immigration system, including effectively ending asylum at the southern border and trying to scare people off crossing the border illegally by separating children from their parents.

But Trump's convention made scant reference Tuesday to those policies and only passing nods to his signature plan to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Instead, the most prominent mention of immigration came during a taped segment in which Trump oversaw a naturalization ceremony at the White House, jovially congratulating five immigrants as they were sworn in as new American citizens.

"You've earned the most prized, treasured, cherished and priceless possession anywhere in the world. It's called American citizenship," Trump said. He made no mention of the fact that he has also systematically made it much harder for people to come to the U.S. legally to work, study or settle in the country.

Trump has long been adroit at creating an alternate reality and is often unconcerned with shifting focus when it's politically expedient. It's been a signature of his business life and his rise in politics, and now, as he is nominated by the Republican Party for a second term, he is doing so with the White House as a literal backdrop.

To be sure, political conventions are always aimed at creating a lofty image of a presidential candidate — a days-long opportunity for their party to control their own narrative and shape their own story. For example, Biden's convention last week spun his more than four decades in Washington as necessary experience in a moment of crisis rather than the mark of a politician past his prime, as many Republicans contend.

But Trump's challenge in shifting public perception is made more difficult, both because he is running on a real record from his nearly four years in office and because his campaign is asking Americans to look past many of the crises that are still actively battering the country.

That's particularly true regarding the pandemic, which has killed more than 170,000 Americans this year, but was largely an afterthought in Tuesday's convention proceedings. Larry Kudlow, a top Trump economic adviser, described the pandemic in the past tense, not as a virus that continues to upend nearly every aspect of American life. Only first lady Melania Trump, the night's final speaker, paid sustained tribute to those who have died this year.

"I want to acknowledge the fact that since March our lives have changed drastically," Mrs. Trump said in a convention address from the White House Rose Garden. "My deepest sympathy goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one and my prayers are with all those who are ill or suffering."

The virus has also cratered the U.S. economy, shuttering businesses across the country and sending the unemployment rate soaring above 10%. Though some aspects of the economy have recovered as cities and states have eased pandemic-related restrictions, the economy overall is in a far different place than it was at the start of the year.

Nearly half of Americans whose families experienced a layoff during the pandemic believe those jobs are lost forever, according to a July poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Yet the convention featured Americans and political leaders heaping praise on Trump's economic stewardship, describing the economy in glowing terms that no longer apply to many Americans.

Trump's campaign also made a concerted effort to showcase a diverse array of speakers, particularly Black Americans, in a nod to the racial strife that has coursed through the country following the deaths of George Floyd and others while in police custody. Speakers defended Trump against charges of racism, but made no mention of his heated rhetoric about the protests that followed Floyd's death and the aggressive crackdown on the crowds that gathered outside the White House earlier this summer.

Polling also underscores the reality of Trump's abysmal support among Black voters, despite the diverse lineup on the convention stage. According to a Gallup poll, Trump's approval rating among Black Americans has hovered around 1 in 10 over the course of his presidency.

AP writers Michelle L. Price and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Editor's Note: Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for the AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>.

## London carnival show goes on \_ with more import than ever

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Organizers of Europe's biggest street fair, which traces its roots to the emancipation of Black slaves and race riots in London during the late 1950s, say the event is more important than ever amid the worldwide campaign for justice after George Floyd died in police custody in Minneapolis.

But their message of resistance and reconciliation will be delivered online worldwide this weekend after the COVID-19 pandemic forced London's Notting Hill Carnival to reinvent itself as a virtual event.

Even though it won't be the same, carnival must be celebrated as a mark of Black liberation, said Clary Salandy, artistic director of Mahogany Carnival Arts, which creates brightly colored costumes that are essentially wearable sculptures — some 15-feet-high — for carnival dancers.

"We can't be on the street," she said. "But carnival is very much alive."

The Notting Hill Carnival is a product of the massive influx of Black immigrants who came to Britain from its former colonies to help rebuild the country after World War II.

The wave of immigration created tensions in British society, with widespread discrimination in housing and employment that boiled over into riots in 1958. The next year, Black activist Claudia Jones organized a precursor to the carnival, a dance at St. Pancras town hall that raised money for the defense of those arrested in the turmoil.

In 1966, Carnival took to the streets of Notting Hill, one of the few places in London where landlords would rent to Blacks. The celebration of Afro-Caribbean culture has grown into a two-day street party that attracts millions of visitors to a parade of costumed dancers, steel drum bands and smoky barbecue pits serving jerk chicken and plantains.

This year, elements of the event will be prerecorded and streamed to the world on Aug. 29-31, the long weekend that traditionally ends Britain's summer holiday season. One channel will focus on the parade, including the dancers who normally snake through the streets of Notting Hill wearing colorful headdresses,

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masks and movable art. Others will stream music, cultural discussions and presentations on food and drink.

Executive Director Matthew Phillip said the online format provides an opportunity to reach more people.

"From the comfort of your own home, you'll not only to be exposed to the entertainment of carnival, but also the people behind carnival ... and hear stories of how it came to be and the struggles that people have undergone," he said.

This year's themes include the Black Lives Matter movement and a celebration of Britain's National Health Service, which is working to control the pandemic that has hit the Black community harder than others.

Among those featured is Carolyn Roberts-Griffith, who recently showed off the immense replica of the scales of justice she will carry on her slender shoulders, tilting the canary yellow sculpture gracefully as she moves.

The costume embodies the fight for equal treatment under the law, the 59-year-old said.

"This is what we're asking," she said wiping a tear from her eye. "We're just asking for a balance."

Participants hope this year's carnival message will help to make up for the lack of human interaction. They want to convey a story in which passion and protest trump the pain that Floyd's death and the COVID-19 pandemic have brought to the Black community and other minority groups.

"As disastrous as this year has been, it has opened our eyes to so many struggles that other people are facing in the world," said Jez Smith, 23, showing off the 15-foot-tall sculpture he will wear to honor Floyd. "I think it's kind of giving people the momentum to speak up for change. We can't argue with change. Change is what we need."

The sculpture shows Floyd's portrait suspended within a black wire mesh structure representing a man's head. It invites the viewer to look past the outer covering and see what's inside, Smith said.

"I want them to know that this man represents all of us," he said. "I want them to be able to look through that face, look at him and realize that our differences are what bring us together. They should be celebrated and cherished and respected."

Carnival grew out of traditional festivals in Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean nations, where former slaves took to the streets to celebrate their freedom. Like those events, the Notting Hill Carnival is a mixture of celebration and protest.

Costume designer Salandy remembers the joy of seeing enormous costumes of bees and white elephants when she went to her first carnival as a child in Trinidad, wearing wings on her shoulders. After she moved to London in 1978 she channeled that sense of childhood wonder into a career creating costumes for the Notting Hill Carnival and other events.

Her workshop now provides an opportunity for young people to learn about their culture and share it with the world. as they are transformed by her costumes into swans, zebras and other creatures that exist largely in Salandy's imagination.

Salandy is hoping people see the online carnival and get inspired because she's worried COVID-19 will reduce funding for the arts and programs like hers.

"Just taking part in carnival, you are joining the commemoration and you are standing up for what is right. You're standing up for freedom," Salandy said. "And so that's why it's really important. ... Look at it! Make sure you engage with it, understand it and support it."

## New Zealand mosque shooter won't speak at court sentencing

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — On a day when the poetic words of love from a daughter to her murdered father brought many people to tears in a New Zealand courtroom, the white supremacist who killed him and 50 other worshippers at two mosques said he wouldn't speak before he is sentenced.

Gunman Brenton Harrison Tarrant had earlier pleaded guilty to murder, attempted murder and terrorism for the March 2019 attacks. After earlier firing his lawyers and deciding to defend himself, he could have spoken on the final day of his sentencing hearing, scheduled for Thursday.

But the 29-year-old Australian told the judge Wednesday he didn't plan to say anything and instead a

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standby lawyer would make a short statement on his behalf.

Over the first three days of the hearing, 90 survivors and family members told the judge about the pain and aftermath of the attacks. Many said Justice Cameron Mander should hand down the maximum available sentence — life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The hearing has provided some degree of catharsis. Some chose to yell at the gunman and give him the finger. Others called him a monster, a coward, a rat. Some sung verses from the Quran or addressed him in Arabic. A few spoke softly to Tarrant, saying they forgave him.

Sara Qasem spoke about her beloved father.

She said she wonders if, in his last moments, he was frightened or in pain, and wishes she could have been there to hold his hand. She told the gunman to remember her dad's name, Abdelfattah Qasem.

"All a daughter ever wants is her dad. I want to go on more road trips with him. I want to smell his garden-sourced cooking. His cologne," she said. "I want to hear him tell me more about the olive trees in Palestine. I want to hear his voice. My dad's voice. My baba's voice."

Tarrant has shown little emotion during the sentencing. He has watched the speakers, occasionally giving a small nod or covering his mouth as he laughs at jokes, often made at his expense.

Qasem said Tarrant had made a choice.

"A conscious, stupid, irresponsible, cold-blooded, selfish, disgusting, heinous, foul, uninformed and evil choice," she said.

She said she pitied Tarrant's coarse and tainted heart, and his narrow view of the world that couldn't embrace diversity.

"Take a look around this courtroom," she said to the gunman. "Who is the 'other' here, right now, is it us, or is it you? I think the answer is pretty clear."

Qasem said that love will always win.

Tarrant is noticeably thinner than when he was first arrested. At the current hearing, he hasn't shown the brazenness he did at his first court appearance the day after the attacks, when he made a hand gesture sometimes adopted by white supremacists.

The attacks targeting people praying at the Al Noor and Linwood mosques shocked New Zealand and prompted new laws banning the deadliest types of semi-automatic weapons. They also prompted global changes to social media protocols after the gunman livestreamed his attack on Facebook, where it was viewed by hundreds of thousands of people.

Also speaking at Wednesday's hearing was Ahad Nabi, whose father Haji was killed. An imposing man, Ahad Nabi stared at the gunman and gave him the finger with both hands.

"Your father was a garbageman and you have become trash of society," Nabi said.

He said Tarrant was a sheep who wore a wolf's jacket for 10 minutes of his life and that only fire awaited him.

A statement from the father of the youngest victim, 3-year-old Mucaad Ibrahim, was also read to the court.

The boy's father said his son loved playing in the mosque and made friends with all the worshippers, young and old. Mucaad loved to run around at home and dress up as a police officer, his father said, and they wondered if he would one day join the force.

"Your atrocity and hatred did not turn out the way you expected," the father said in the statement. "Instead, it has united our Christchurch community, strengthened our faith, raised the honor of our families, and brought our peaceful nation together."

## 'Our hands are tied': Local aid workers exposed in pandemic

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The coronavirus is exposing an uncomfortable inequality in the billion-dollar system that delivers life-saving aid for countries in crisis: Most money that flows from the U.S. and other donors goes to international aid groups instead of local ones. Now local aid workers are exposed on the pandemic's front lines with painfully few means to help the vulnerable communities they know so well.



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Often lacking protective equipment, the groups are carrying a bigger burden than ever as COVID-19 adds to the already vast challenges of conflict, drought and hunger in places like Afghanistan and Somalia.

At times, they tell communities they have nothing to give.

"Our hands are tied," a South Sudanese aid leader, Gloriah Soma, told an online event last month. She described foreign aid workers being evacuated early in the pandemic or working from home as many feared infection.

"Is this a humanitarian response?" she asked, saying she hopes the crisis will spark more help "at this critical moment." Her country can hardly bear another disaster: A five-year civil war killed nearly 400,000 people, and hunger stalks half the population.

The world's most precarious regions are long accustomed to the sight of international aid organizations, often managed by expats. Now some of those foreign workers are questioning their roles amid the reckoning over racial injustice in the U.S. and elsewhere.

At times criticized as "white saviors," some say local partners should be given more responsibility — and money. A local group can do more with it, Soma said. She asserted that \$100,000 could help over 10,000 people, while the same amount to an international group will only pay one or two staff, "and that's it."

Recognizing the problem, major global donors including the U.S., Germany and Japan and humanitarian groups had pledged to give at least one-quarter of international aid money to local partners as directly as possible by this year. But just over 2% reached them directly last year, according to a report by the U.K.-based Development Initiatives last month.

"COVID is a horrible tragedy, but it's going to force us to work differently," the United Nations humanitarian agency's director of humanitarian financing, Lisa Carty, has said. U.N. leaders are discussing "how to make sure money moves more quickly" to frontline responders.

One-quarter of the \$1 billion allocated by U.N. country-based funds went to local aid organizations last year, Carty said, "but I think we all agree that we want to do better."

And those funds manage just a small fraction of overall aid money. Most goes to U.N. agencies, while local aid groups are often seen as subcontractors of those agencies and international organizations. Tracking where the money goes remains a challenge.

Now some pandemic-hit donor countries are reducing humanitarian aid — meaning even less money is trickling down to people on the front lines.

In Somalia, where the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group remains a deadly threat, local aid groups "are able to reach and deliver aid in places where access is difficult. Unfortunately, very little COVID-19 funding has been directly allocated" to them," said Amy Croome, Oxfam's communications manager there.

In South Sudan, a survey of 19 local organizations found 58% had lost at least half their funding because of the pandemic.

Many are ill-prepared for COVID-19.

"People believe the disease is widespread across the country, but there's very limited testing capacity," said Jeff Okello, who leads The Health Support Organization in South Sudan. The group's limited supply of personal protective equipment is left over from the recent Ebola outbreak in neighboring eastern Congo, he said.

Most parts of South Sudan are reached only by local organizations, he said. Now the pandemic has worsened everything. "I think we have over 30 letters written by different communities across the country asking us to help them," Okello said. His response: "If we get the resources, we will come."

He pointed out that international aid groups have the benefit of medical evacuation if workers get infected, while local aid groups must "survive on their own."

Several other South Sudanese local aid leaders said they've cut staff or restricted work in communities where they're often the only source of help.

"We always say 'Thank God' for the little we get, but it's not what we used to get," said James Keah, who leads UNIDO South Sudan.

His group received \$400,000 this year from the U.N.'s South Sudan Humanitarian Fund for health services.



With few other means of substantial support, some 100 field staffers have left and services in several regions have stopped.

Local communities are told, "You just have to cope with it," Keah said.

Moses Poloya with Health Link South Sudan said his group received about \$400,000 less than last year. It now struggles to serve more than 1 million people at over 100 health centers, some lacking protective gear.

He believes donors think local aid partners aren't ready to handle larger amounts of money, a source of frustration. Groups like his are "resilient and always present," he said.

The U.N. humanitarian agency said nearly half, or 44%, of the \$34 million in the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund has gone to local organizations this year. Forty-four such groups received money, down from 120 last year, reflecting changes meant to make projects more sustainable.

But with the unprecedented global crisis, the U.N. said it and others "simply do not have enough to meet the growing humanitarian needs."

More than 300 local aid groups are registered in South Sudan, meaning nearly all must scramble for support, said Angelina Nyajima. Her Hope Restoration group has added the production of face masks and soap to its women-focused services to meet soaring demand.

Groups like hers are at a disadvantage because international aid groups have the backing of richer home countries, she said. "For us, we have no mother country." South Sudan's government limps along two years after its civil war ended, with humanitarian groups providing most basic services.

But Nyajima said COVID-19 is forcing donors to take notice as South Sudanese find ways to serve desperate communities on very little.

"I think it's high time, with the corona incident," she said. "It has shown exactly what the locals can do."

## Greece battles coronavirus resurgence after early success

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

PIRAEUS, Greece (AP) — Workers in bright yellow vests stand on the dock in Greece's main port of Piraeus, greeting hundreds of masked ferry passengers with fliers and the occasional temperature check.

"Would you like a coronavirus test? Yes, it's free. Right over there, in the white structure, you'll see the signs," they tell disembarking passengers.

Free on-the-spot tests for travelers returning from Greek islands where outbreaks have occurred is the latest in an arsenal of measures authorities are using to tackle a resurgence of COVID-19 in a country that has so far managed to dodge the worst of the pandemic.

New localized restrictions, including a midnight curfew for bars, restaurants and cafes and a ban on large gatherings have been imposed, mainly in popular tourist destinations such as the Aegean Sea island of Mykonos,

Maria Skopeliti, whose husband and son work on Mykonos, was one of a handful of people opting for the voluntary coronavirus test in Piraeus on a recent morning. She estimated that more than two-thirds of people in Mykonos had been ignoring personal protective measures.

"Even though I was quite careful... you can't be sure because it's an island that lives to a different beat," said the 57-year-old Skopeliti. "It's logical because there are many young people, you can't restrict them."

The number of confirmed virus cases and deaths in Greece remains lower than in many other European countries. As of Tuesday, total cases in the country of about 11 million people stood at just under 9,000, with 243 deaths and 31 people intubated in intensive care units.

Belgium, by comparison, with a population of around 11.5 million, has reported nearly 82,000 confirmed cases and close to 10,000 deaths, one of the world's highest per capita pandemic mortality rates.

But Greece's new confirmed cases have been spiraling in recent weeks, reaching a record 284 on Sunday.

"Yes I'm worried, of course I'm worried, and we've rung the alarm bell," Gkikas Magiorkinis, a University of Athens assistant professor of hygiene and epidemiology, told the AP last week. "That's why we're taking measures." including the generalized use of masks.

The measures appear to be working, Magiorkinis, who serves on a committee of scientists advising the

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Greek government, said during a Tuesday news conference.

"For now it seems that the dramatic increase of cases ... has been limited," he said, noting the spike in the first week of August was projected to lead to more than 400 new cases per day, which so far has not occurred.

"The slowdown of this dramatic increase came relatively earlier than the natural development of a full second wave, and coincides with the taking of measures for the use of masks, and with the reinforced restrictions taken in areas with outbreaks," Magiorkinis said.

For a small country barely emerging from the grip of a brutal decade-long financial crisis, Greece appeared to have done remarkably well during the pandemic's initial phase in the spring, when Europe became the second continent after Asia with the coronavirus spreading exponentially.

The government imposed a nationwide lockdown, ordering people to stay home, shuttering businesses and closing the borders. It also scrambled to bolster a weak health system pummeled by years of budget cuts, announcing the hiring of thousands of temporary health workers and increasing intensive care capacity.

Its strategy seemed to work. Greece was spared the heart-rending scenes all too common in fellow Mediterranean countries Italy and Spain: of overflowing morgues, decimated nursing homes and anguished intensive care doctors forced to choose who to try to save and who to let die due to a lack of equipment and space.

But no country can survive in a vacuum, certainly not one still grappling with the aftermath of a depression that wiped out a quarter of its economy.

In a bid to salvage its vital tourism industry, Greece welcomed foreign visitors and gradually lifted nearly all lockdown restrictions in the early summer.

Inevitably, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases mounted.

Critics have accused the government of reopening to tourists without a coherent plan, a charge officials vehemently reject.

"Is tourism responsible for the increase in the number of cases in Greece? The answer is categorically no," Civil Protection Deputy Minister Nikos Hardalias said last week. The main culprits, he said, were large private gatherings such as weddings and residents ignoring protective measures like social distancing.

Travelers arriving from abroad accounted for just 17% of new cases, Hardalias said, while 83% was domestic transmission.

On Tuesday, Hardalias said that 360,200 tests were carried out on the nearly 3 million international arrivals between July 1 — when Greece opened its borders to tourists — and Aug. 23, and just 723 people tested positive.

Government spokesman Stelios Petsas insisted last week that Greece "was and continues to be at a better epidemiological level, compared to other countries."

Petsas also attributed the increase to people ignoring protective measures, and noted the average age of those testing positive had dropped to around 36, from just over 48 in March.

Authorities have been particularly alarmed by the summer party scene on the islands, involving both tourists and vacationing Greeks.

On Mykonos, police have played a cat-and-mouse game with parties held in private villas to skirt restrictions on bars and clubs.

In one incident, police broke up a party where the nearly 500 guests reportedly included a couple from Spain that had been placed in a quarantine hotel after at least one of them tested positive for the virus on arrival.

What currently worries experts most is the virus spreading in facilities that house the most vulnerable people: retirement homes and hospitals.

Ominously, outbreaks have already been reported in two retirement homes and at two hospitals, all on the mainland. Extra measures have been imposed, including compulsory coronavirus tests for employees returning from vacation.

"There is an effort to reduce the risk," Magiorkinis said. "We can't eliminate it, but there is risk mitigation."

## Palestinian leaders stay the course as crises mount

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — In three decades of failed peace efforts, the Palestinians have never faced a more hostile U.S. administration, a more self-assured Israel or a more ambivalent international community. But even as their hopes for statehood have never seemed so dim, there's no indication their aging leadership will change course.

President Mahmoud Abbas remains committed to the same strategy he has pursued for decades — seeking international support to pressure Israel to agree to a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, lands Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war.

That quest seems even more quixotic after the United Arab Emirates' decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, which shattered the Arab consensus behind land for peace, a rare source of leverage for the Palestinians.

Other Arab nations are expected to follow the Emirates' lead, lending support to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's contention that Israel can make peace with its Arab neighbors without any concessions to the Palestinians.

The UAE agreement has also resurrected President Donald Trump's Mideast plan, which overwhelmingly favors Israel and was rejected by the Palestinians. It would remain the cornerstone of U.S. policy for another four years if Trump is reelected.

But while the odds are overwhelmingly stacked against them, the Palestinians make up nearly half the population between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. Their leaders say Israel still needs their signature if it hopes to resolve the conflict, a source of frustration for Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner, the architect of the plan.

"There is an erroneous assumption that the Palestinians are defeated, and they have to accept the facts of their defeat," said Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official. "The Palestinians are willing, generation after generation, to continue their struggle until we get our rights."

Here's a look at the Palestinians' options going forward:

### THE DIPLOMATIC ROUTE

The Palestinians' demand for a state based on the 1967 lines still enjoys broad international support and is enshrined in U.N. resolutions. Palestine was granted "observer state" status in 2012, allowing it to join several global forums, including the International Criminal Court.

The Palestinians have requested an ICC war crimes investigation of Israel that could eventually see charges filed against political or military leaders. Israel is not a member of the ICC and says there is no legal basis for any investigation, but its citizens could be subject to arrest in other countries if warrants are issued.

Those moves have put pressure on Israel, but have not led to any concessions. They also haven't prevented it from cultivating closer ties to Arab and African countries that historically supported the Palestinians, culminating in the agreement with the UAE.

The Palestinians responded to the UAE agreement by calling for an urgent meeting of the Arab League and the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation, but the oil-rich UAE is a powerful member of both and the meetings have yet to materialize.

The EU — divided and preoccupied by the coronavirus crisis — also seems unable to offer significant support.

### BOYCOTTS AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

In recent years, a Palestinian-led international movement has sought to mobilize grassroots support for a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions.

BDS organizers say they are leading a nonviolent campaign for Palestinian rights modeled on the struggle against apartheid South Africa. Israel accuses them of seeking to delegitimize its existence.

While BDS has notched some successes, it has had no discernible impact on Israel's economy. Popular

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among left-wing activists in Western countries, it also has faced setbacks, including anti-BDS legislation in the U.S. and Germany.

Tareq Baconi, an analyst for the International Crisis Group, says the growing solidarity between Palestinian and Black Lives Matter activists "is an example of some of the pressure that can be brought to bear on Israel eventually. But this is, for the moment, too fragmented and not sufficiently powerful enough to have any kind of political leverage."

## A ONE-STATE SOLUTION

In recent years a growing number of Palestinians and their supporters have suggested abandoning the two-state solution in favor of a single binational state for Jews and Palestinians or some kind of Israeli-Palestinian confederation.

The idea gained new attention last month when Peter Beinart, a prominent Jewish-American commentator, came out in favor of the idea.

The argument is that Israel's right-wing government and its sprawling West Bank settlements — now home to more than 500,000 Israelis — make any partition impossible. There have been no substantive peace talks in more than a decade.

One-state proponents say Palestinians should instead seek equal rights, including the vote.

While it has gained traction among intellectuals, the idea has little support in Israel or the Palestinian territories. A June poll carried out by the respected Palestinian Center for Survey and Policy Research found that just 37% of Palestinians support the idea, and only 6% would choose it over other options.

The Palestinian leadership remains staunchly opposed to a one-state solution, which would entail dismantling the Palestinian Authority and plunging into an uncertain future.

## CLEANING HOUSE

Many Palestinians argue that their leadership needs to pursue fundamental reforms. Abbas' popularity has plunged in recent years and the Palestinian Authority is widely seen as corrupt and incompetent.

There have been no national elections in nearly 15 years because of the bitter division between Abbas' Fatah movement and the Islamic militant group Hamas, which seized Gaza from his forces in 2007.

Fatah and Hamas are united in their rejection of the Trump plan and Arab normalization and in recent weeks have held joint meetings and rallies to project a united front. But several past attempts at a broader reconciliation have all failed.

That has left the 85-year-old Abbas entrenched at the head of an aging and inflexible Palestinian leadership.

## BANKING ON BIDEN

The election of former Vice President Joe Biden would likely spell the end of the Trump plan. But few Palestinians believe a return to the Obama-era approach of trying to coax the two sides toward a negotiated settlement will succeed.

"It's very difficult to envision anyone doing more damage than Trump," Ashrawi said. "At the same time, I would like to caution against thinking that Biden is a knight in shining armor."

Biden "will go back to managing the conflict," said Ali Jarbawi, a political science professor at Birzeit University in the West Bank.

"Under the banner of a two-state solution you give money to the Palestinians, you tell the Israelis please don't do this and don't do that, and engage once more in negotiating that will take another 20 years." he said.

Associated Press writer Mohammed Daraghmeh contributed.

**AP FACT CHECK: GOP taps distortions to heap praise on Trump**



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By JOSH BOAK, HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eric Trump echoed falsehoods of his father, Melania Trump credited her husband with a dubious religious first, and the president's economic adviser wholly distorted the conditions Donald Trump inherited as Republicans stepped up to praise him at their national convention Tuesday.

Crucial context was missing at various parts of the evening, as when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo addressed Trump's jousting with China and North Korea and others weighed in on Trump's judgment in world affairs.

A look at rhetoric from the second night of the virtual Republican National Convention:

## RELIGION

MELANIA TRUMP: "He's the first president to address a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to call upon countries across the world to end religious persecution and honor the right of every person to worship as they choose."

CISSIE GRAHAM LYNCH, evangelist and granddaughter of Billy Graham: "On the world stage, President Trump became the first president to talk about the importance of religious freedom at the United Nations, giving hope to people of faith around the world."

THE FACTS: No, Trump is certainly not the first U.S. president to address the United Nations General Assembly about religious freedom. President Barack Obama did so, discussing religious tolerance and liberty during a speech to the assembly Sept. 25, 2012. Several predecessors did so as well.

"We not only respect the freedom of religion, we have laws that protect individuals from being harmed because of how they look or what they believe," Obama said in his remarks, which focused on an anti-Muslim film that had touched off violent protests in the Middle East. "Like me, the majority of Americans are Christian and yet we do not ban blasphemy against our most sacred beliefs."

Last year Trump was host for a U.N. meeting devoted to religious freedom, and boasted at the time that he was the first to convene such a meeting at the U.N. But contrary to the impression created by the first lady and the evangelist, he was not at all the first American president to make a case for religious liberty to the General Assembly.

LARRY KUDLOW, Trump economic adviser: Trump was "inheriting a stagnant economy on the front end of recession," and under the president, "the economy was rebuilt in three years."

THE FACTS: This is false. The economy was healthy when Trump arrived at the White House.

Even if the recovery from the 2008 financial crisis was agonizingly slow, Trump took office with unemployment at a low 4.7%, steady job growth and a falling federal budget deficit. The longest expansion in U.S. history began in the middle of 2009 and continued until the start of the year, spanning both the Barack Obama and Trump presidencies.

The U.S. economy did benefit from Trump's 2017 tax cuts with a jump in growth in 2018, but the budget deficit began to climb as a result of the tax breaks that favored companies and the wealthy in hopes of permanently expanding the economy.

Annual growth during Obama's second term averaged about 2.3%. Trump notched a slightly better 2.5% during his first three years, but the country swung into recession this year because of the coronavirus and will probably leave Trump with an inferior track record to his predecessor over four years.

## SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO

### CHINA

POMPEO: "The president has held China accountable for covering up the China virus and allowing it to spread death and economic destruction in America and around the world."

THE FACTS: That's misleading. In his videotaped remarks from Israel, Pompeo failed to mention Trump's initial personal affinity and repeated praise for Chinese leader Xi Jinping as he publicly extolled the country's handling of the coronavirus early on.

In a CNBC interview on Jan. 22, for instance, Trump was asked if he trusted information from China about the coronavirus. "I do," Trump said. "I have a great relationship with President Xi."

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Two days later, he was even more effusive. "China has been working very hard to contain the Corona-virus," he tweeted. "The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well. ...I want to thank President Xi!"

Trump kept up the compliments when asked several times in February about whether data from China, where the virus originated, can be trusted. He called Xi "extremely capable" and said he's "doing a very good job with a very, very tough situation."

His praise only faded when the pandemic hit hard in the U.S. and his administration's response stumbled. He then became quick to blame China for what he started calling the "China virus."

## TRADE

POMPEO: "He has ended ridiculously unfair trade deals with China that punched a hole in our economy."

THE FACTS: That, too, is misleading. Whatever the weaknesses of the trade deals Trump inherited, it's become clear that what he negotiated instead is not a gamechanger.

The trade war that Trump escalated with China caused several self-inflicted wounds. Farmers and factories were part of the collateral damage from the volley of tariffs as the two largest countries in the world jockeyed for an edge.

It's still too soon to judge the limited agreement reached by Trump as a triumph or a flop.

China committed to buy an additional \$200 billion in American goods above 2017 levels by the end of 2021 in what was initially a truce against further aggression. Yet the deal lacked meaningful progress on support that China gives its state-owned companies, a key problem for the United States. The global pandemic also means that trade volumes have fallen, making it harder for China to meet its target for American-made goods. "It appears that President Trump accepted an IOU as a declaration of victory," analysts at the Brookings Institution concluded.

SEN. RAND PAUL: "Joe Biden voted for the Iraq war, which President Trump has long called the worst geopolitical mistake of our generation."

THE FACTS: Trump had no more foresight on this matter than Biden. Neither was against it when it started.

When asked during a Sept. 11, 2002, radio interview if he would support an Iraq invasion, Trump responded, "Yeah, I guess so." The next month, Biden as a senator voted to authorize George W. Bush to use force in Iraq.

The next March, just days after the U.S. launched its invasion, Trump said it "looks like a tremendous success from a military standpoint."

It wasn't until September 2003 that Trump first publicly raised doubts about the invasion, saying "a lot of people (are) questioning the whole concept of going in in the first place." In November 2005, Biden called his Senate vote to authorize force a mistake.

## MILITARY

ERIC TRUMP: "My father rebuilt the mighty American military — added new jets, aircraft carriers."

THE FACTS: That's an exaggeration.

It's true that his administration has accelerated a sharp buildup in defense spending, including a respite from what the U.S. military considered to be crippling spending limits under budget sequestration.

But a number of new Pentagon weapons programs, such as the F-35 fighter jet, were started years before the Trump administration. And it will take years for freshly ordered tanks, planes and other weapons to be built, delivered and put to use.

The Air Force's Minuteman 3 missiles, a key part of the U.S. nuclear force, for instance, have been operating since the early 1970s and the modernization was begun under the Obama administration. They are due to be replaced with a new version, but not until later this decade.

ERIC TRUMP, on his father: "He increased wages for our incredible men and women in uniform."

THE FACTS: Yes, but military pay has been raised every year for decades, and the raises under Trump

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have been smaller compared with past years.

## POLICE

ERIC TRUMP: "Biden has pledged to defund the police."

THE FACTS: False. Biden has made no such pledge.

He's rejected calls from some on the left to defund the police, proposing more money for departments to improve their practices. His agenda includes federal money for training to "avert tragic, unjustifiable deaths" and hiring more officers to ensure police departments reflect the populations they serve. He's proposed \$300 million in federal community policing grants.

## RACIAL INEQUALITY

KENTUCKY ATTORNEY GENERAL DANIEL CAMERON: "On the economy: Joe Biden couldn't do it, but President Trump did build an economy that worked for everyone, especially minorities."

THE FACTS: Not accurate.

Republicans can talk successfully about the decline in unemployment rates for Black and Hispanic workers. But that's just one gauge — and plenty of troubles and inequalities abound for minorities. Minority groups still lagged behind white people with regard to incomes, wealth and home ownership before the pandemic. But when the disease struck, it became clear that the economy did not work well for everybody as the job losses and infections disproportionately hit minorities.

Black unemployment now stands at 14.6%. Hispanic unemployment is 12.9%. The white unemployment rate is 9.2%. For every dollar of total wealth held by white households, Blacks have just 5 cents, according to the Federal Reserve. It's 4 cents for Hispanics.

## TAXES

ERIC TRUMP: The president slashed taxes and "wages went through the roof."

THE FACTS: Not quite. Wage growth did improve, but there is clearly still a roof on workers' incomes.

The 2017 tax cuts appear unlikely to deliver on their promised pay increases. White House economists argued that incomes would surge by at least \$4,000 because of the lower corporate tax rate. That has yet to occur and seems unlikely given the current recession.

But average hourly wages did improve to a 3.5% annual gain by February 2019, much better than the 2.7% annual gain in December 2016 before Trump became president. The problem was that wage growth then began to slip through the end of last year despite the steady hiring. Wage gains only accelerated again with the pandemic and layoffs of millions of poor workers that artificially raised average wages.

What workers have yet to see is a meaningful change in the distribution of income. More than half of total household income goes to the top 20% of earners, according to the Census Bureau. Their share has increased slightly under Trump with data that is current through 2018. The bottom 20% of earners get just 3.1% of total income, just as they did before Trump's presidency.

## NORTH KOREA

POMPEO: "The president lowered the temperature and, against all odds, got North Korean leadership to the table. No nuclear tests, no long range missile tests and Americans held captive in North Korea came home to their families, as did the precious remains of scores of our heroes who fought in Korea."

THE FACTS: This statement leaves out the fact that Trump helped raise the temperature before he helped lower it.

Trump has often told the story that his predecessor, President Barack Obama, warned him North Korea was the gravest immediate threat to the country. Indeed in the early months of Trump's presidency, North Korea was heightening tensions with nuclear and long-range missile tests. Trump responded by dialing up belligerent rhetoric, threatening North Korea with "fire and fury" and nicknaming North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "little rocket man."

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Tensions grew to such extremes that at points some experts were actually concerned about tit-for-tat nuclear strikes if not all-out war.

The temperature began to cool when Pompeo became secretary of state, the North released three American prisoners, agreed to repatriate the remains of U.S. servicemen killed during the Korean war and the first of Trump's three meetings with Kim was held in Singapore.

But while the North has not resumed nuclear or long-range missile tests, it has stepped up activity at its atomic facilities. Negotiations with the U.S. on its weapons programs have been stalled since October.

## ISLAMIC STATE

POMPEO: "Today, because of the president's determination and leadership, the ISIS caliphate is wiped out."

THE FACTS: His claim of a 100% defeat is misleading as the Islamic State group still poses a threat.

IS was defeated in Iraq in 2017, then lost the last of its land holdings in Syria in March 2019, marking the end of the extremists' self-declared caliphate. Still, extremist sleeper cells have continued to launch attacks in Iraq and Syria in recent weeks and are believed to be responsible for targeted killings against local officials and members of the Syrian Democratic Forces.

The recent resurgence of attacks is a sign that the militant group is taking advantage of governments otherwise focused on the pandemic and the ensuing slide into economic chaos. The virus is compounding longtime concerns among security and U.N. experts that the group will stage a comeback.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper has said the U.S. fight against the group was continuing.

## FARMING

CRIS PETERSON, from a Wisconsin dairy family: "Our entire economy and dairy farming are once again roaring back. One person deserves the credit and our vote, President Donald J. Trump."

THE FACTS: Not everyone in the dairy industry views it as booming, especially as larger operations are putting smaller family farms out of business.

The Agriculture Department reported this summer that "dairy herds fell by more than half between 2002 and 2019, with an accelerating rate of decline in 2018 and 2019, even as milk production continued to grow."

Part of the problem is that smaller farms face higher production costs. Farms with more than 2,000 cattle are more likely for their sales to exceed their total costs, while smaller farms are more likely to operate at a loss by this metric, according to government figures.

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

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee in Washington, David Klepper in Providence, Rhode Island, and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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## COVID-19 lockdowns blocked flu in some places but fall looms

By ANDREW MELDRUM, MOGOMOTSI MAGOME and LAURAN NEERGAARD Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Winter is ending in the Southern Hemisphere and country after country -- South Africa, Australia, Argentina -- had a surprise: Their steps against COVID-19 also apparently blocked the flu.

But there's no guarantee the Northern Hemisphere will avoid twin epidemics as its own flu season looms while the coronavirus still rages.

"This could be one of the worst seasons we've had from a public health perspective with COVID and flu coming together. But it also could be one of the best flu seasons we've had," Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told The Associated Press.

U.S. health officials are pushing Americans to get vaccinated against the flu in record numbers this fall, so hospitals aren't overwhelmed with a dueling "twindemic."



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It's also becoming clear that wearing masks, avoiding crowds and keeping your distance are protections that are "not specific for COVID. They're going to work for any respiratory virus," Redfield said.

The evidence: Ordinarily, South Africa sees widespread influenza during the Southern Hemisphere's winter months of May through August. This year, testing tracked by the country's National Institute of Communicable Diseases is finding almost none — something unprecedented.

School closures, limited public gatherings and calls to wear masks and wash hands have "knocked down the flu," said Dr. Cheryl Cohen, head of the institute's respiratory program.

That not only meant lives saved from flu's annual toll, but it "freed up our hospitals' capacity to treat COVID-19 patients," Cohen added.

In Australia, the national health department reported just 36 laboratory-confirmed flu-associated deaths from January to mid-August, compared to more than 480 during the same period last year.

"The most likely and the biggest contributor is social distancing," said Dr. Robert Booy, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Sydney.

The coronavirus is blamed for about 24 million infections and more than 810,000 deaths globally in just the first eight months of this year. A normal flu year could have the world's hospitals dealing with several million more severe illnesses on top of the COVID-19 crush.

Back in February and March, as the worldwide spread of the new virus was just being recognized, many countries throughout the Southern Hemisphere girded for a double whammy. Even as they locked down to fight the coronavirus, they made a huge push for more last-minute flu vaccinations.

"We gave many more flu vaccinations, like four times more," said Jaco Havenga, a pharmacist who works at Mays Chemist, a pharmacy in a Johannesburg suburb.

Some countries' lockdowns were more effective than others at stemming spread of the coronavirus. So why would flu have dropped even if COVID-19 still was on the rise?

"Clearly the vigilance required to be successful against COVID is really high," said CDC's Redfield. "This virus is one of the most infectious viruses that we've seen."

That's in part because 40% of people with COVID-19 show no symptoms yet can spread infection, he said.

Flu hasn't disappeared, cautions a World Health Organization report earlier this month. While "globally, influenza activity was reported at lower levels than expected for this time of year," it found sporadic cases are being reported.

Plus, some people who had the flu in Southern countries might just have hunkered down at home and not seen a doctor as the coronavirus was widespread, WHO added.

But international influenza experts say keeping schools closed — children typically drive flu's spread — and strict mask and distancing rules clearly helped.

"We don't have definitive proof, but the logical explanation is what they're doing to try to control the spread of (the coronavirus) is actually doing a really, really good job against the flu as well," said Richard Webby of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, who is part of a WHO committee that tracks flu evolution.

In contrast, the U.S. and Europe didn't impose coronavirus rules nearly as restrictive as some of their Southern neighbors — and in many cases are reopening schools and relaxing distancing rules even as COVID-19 still is spreading and the cooler months that favor influenza's spread are fast approaching.

So the U.S. CDC is urging record flu vaccinations, preferably by October. Redfield's goal is for at least 65% of adults to be vaccinated; usually only about half are.

The U.S. expects more than 190 million doses of flu vaccine, about 20 million more than last year. States are being encouraged to try drive-thru flu shots and other creative ideas to get people vaccinated while avoiding crowds.

In an unusual move, Massachusetts has mandated flu vaccination for all students — from elementary to college — this year. Typically only some health care workers face employment mandates for flu vaccine.

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Boris Johnson likewise is urging widespread flu vaccination.

To be clear, the flu vaccine only protects against influenza — it won't lessen the chances of getting the coronavirus. Vaccines against COVID-19 still are experimental and several candidates are entering final testing to see if they really work.

But for coronavirus protection, Redfield continues to stress vigilance about wearing masks, keeping your distance, avoiding crowds and washing your hands.

"Once one stops those mitigation steps, it only takes a couple weeks for these viral pathogens to get back on the path that they were on," he said.

While the U.S. has been mask-resistant, most states now have some type of mask requirement, either through statewide orders issued by governors or from city and county rules.

Meanwhile, countries where flu season is ending are watching to see if the Northern Hemisphere heeds their lessons learned.

"It could be very scary — we honestly don't know. But if you're going to get the two infections at the same time, you could be in big trouble," said Booy, the Sydney infectious diseases expert.

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

Neergaard reported from Alexandria, Virginia. Associated Press reporter Victoria Milko in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

## US crackdown on nonessential border travel causes long waits

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A Trump administration crackdown on nonessential travel coming from Mexico amid the coronavirus pandemic has created massive bottlenecks at the border, with drivers reporting waits of up to 10 hours to get into the U.S.

An employee at a company that provides support for businesses with Mexican operations saw the huge lines Sunday night from his home in Tijuana, Mexico. A U.S. citizen, he lined up at midnight for his 8 a.m. shift Monday in San Diego and still arrived 90 minutes late.

"I hope that it's just startup fits and starts and that it will be a little more streamlined down the road," said Ross Baldwin, the man's boss and president of the TACNA Services Inc.

U.S. citizens and legal residents cannot be denied entry under a partial ban that the Trump administration introduced in March to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Going to work, school and medical appointments are deemed essential travel but going to shop, dine or socialize is not.

Andrea Casillas, who works at a Bed Bath & Beyond store in San Diego and lives in Tijuana because it's less expensive, waited for four hours Monday.

"There is a price to pay (for commuting from Mexico), but it should be reasonable," Casillas said. "This is going too far."

The crackdown comes after U.S. Customs and Border Protection said it surveyed about 100,000 travelers coming from Mexico by car or on foot and found 63% of U.S. citizens and legal residents traveled for reasons that were not essential.

The agency on Friday began redirecting staff at 14 larger crossings in California, Arizona and Texas to get people through quickly on weekday mornings, when essential travel is heaviest, leading to big backups on the weekends.

On Tuesday, traffic was unusually light, with pedestrians wearing masks and keeping a short distance from each other. Weekend and weeknight delays are expected to grow, affecting people going to the beach or a restaurant. Waits soared across the border last weekend, with California crossings hit hardest.

The measures don't apply on the Canadian border, which is also subject to the nonessential travel ban. Air travel isn't affected.

Lines that snaked through Tijuana streets last weekend were the longest that many residents had seen, posing challenges for drivers desperate for a bathroom break.

Tijuana police said some people ran out of a gas in line. An 87-year-old woman died of a heart attack in her car as she waited Sunday to get through the nation's busiest border crossing, in San Diego.

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Angry people stuck in traffic lit up social media, posting photos and videos taken from their cars. One of them, Yadir Melendrez, said he waited five hours to cross for work Monday.

"The crossing is being slowed down to exasperate people on vacations or non-essential trips!" he wrote in a text message. "The bad thing is that those of us who go to work get hurt!"

Anne Maricich, deputy director of CBP field operations in San Diego, said the wait in California peaked at six hours by the agency's count. Witnesses reported longer waits.

Taco vendor Christian Mendoza said a customer he served Monday morning told him he waited seven hours. CBP officials believe the weekday jam was carryover from the weekend. Lines were so short Tuesday that Mendoza hadn't made a single sale in three hours.

Before the pandemic, about 200,000 people a day entered the U.S. at California crossings with Mexico, according to CBP. The daily average plunged to about 70,000 people after the ban was announced in March but has since climbed to about 120,000.

CBP is under pressure to ease restrictions as border economies dependent on Mexican consumers come under more strain. U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, a Texas Democrat, says downtown Laredo, in his district, is a "ghost town."

Jason Wells, executive director of the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, said 13% of businesses in the area near the San Diego-Tijuana crossing have permanently closed and those that are open have seen their revenue more than halved.

Wells wrote to members that "the arbitrary border restrictions, and punitive actions against those not fitting some whimsical definition of 'essential,' is causing more harm than good."

CBP is emphasizing public health considerations.

"We need people to think twice about nonessential travel and to ask themselves if the travel is worth risking their lives and the lives of others," CBP spokesman Rusty Payne said.

Christopher Landau, U.S. ambassador to Mexico, said many people are crossing the border to visit family, shop or dine out.

"Such irresponsible behavior is exacerbating the health crisis," he wrote on Twitter.

CBP is working with business groups and health officials in California to minimize the impact, Maricich said.

"It's a very difficult balance right now," she said.

## 'Fighting for you': First lady makes her case for Trump vote

By STEVE PEOPLES, MICHELLE L. PRICE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Melania Trump portrayed her husband as an authentic, uncompromising leader in a Rose Garden address Tuesday night as President Donald Trump turned to family, farmers and the trappings of the presidency to boost his reelection chances on the second night of the scaled-down Republican National Convention.

Mrs. Trump offered a polished portrait of Trump's presidency that was often at odds with the crises, division and unforgiving actions of his administration.

But it was part of a broader effort to show a more forgiving side of a combative president who will soon face the voters. Beyond the first lady's remarks, Trump pardoned a reformed felon and oversaw a naturalization ceremony for several immigrants in the midst of the program, though he frequently states his vigorous opposition to more immigration, legal as well as illegal.

"In my husband, you have a president who will not stop fighting for you and your families," said Mrs. Trump, an immigrant herself. "He will not give up."

Democrat Joe Biden's camp was not impressed.

"Immigrants and Latinos are not props, and these empty gestures won't make us forget Donald Trump's failures," said the Biden's Latino media director, Jennifer Molina.

Mrs. Trump and two of the president's five children led a diverse collection of supporters, including a convicted bank robber, calling for Trump's reelection on a night that featured a distinctly more positive tone than the night before.

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Trump has ground to make up. Most polls report that Democratic rival Biden has a significant advantage in terms of raw support; the former vice president also leads on character issues such as trustworthiness and likability. That makes character assessments such as the one Mrs. Trump provided on Tuesday important if the president hopes to win back voters — particularly women — who have strayed amid the pandemic, economic collapse and a reckoning on racism.

In a particularly emotional moment, Trump showed a video of himself signing a pardon for Jon Ponder, a man from Nevada who has founded an organization that helps prisoners reintegrate into society.

"We live in a nation of second chances," Ponder said, standing alongside Trump.

"Jon's life is a beautiful testament to the power of redemption," Trump said before he signed the pardon.

The lineup also had a Maine lobsterman, a Wisconsin farmer and a Native American leader. Social conservatives were represented by an anti-abortion activist and Billy Graham's granddaughter. The convention also featured a Kentucky high school student whose interaction last year with Native Americans became a flashpoint in the nation's culture wars.

With Election Day just 10 weeks off and early voting beginning much sooner, Trump is under increasing pressure to reshape the contours of the campaign. But as he struggles to contain the pandemic and the related economic devastation, and Republicans have yet to identify a consistent political message arguing for his reelection.

Mrs. Trump noted that the lives of Americans changed "drastically" in March with the onset of the coronavirus. But other speakers made little mention of the pandemic even as it remains a dominant issue for voters.

The COVID-19 death toll surged past 178,000 on Tuesday, by far the highest in the world, and there is no sign of slowing. The nation's unemployment rate still exceeds 10%, which is higher than it ever was during the Great Recession. And more than 100,000 businesses are feared closed forever.

At the same time, the White House seems to have abandoned efforts to negotiate another federal rescue package with Congress.

There were fierce attacks on Biden throughout the night, although the lineup generally maintained a positive tone -- in part due to some last-minute changes.

Mary Ann Mendoza, an Arizona woman whose son, a police officer, was killed in 2014 in a car accident involving an immigrant in the country illegally, was pulled from the program minutes before the event began. She had directed her Twitter followers to a series of anti-Semitic, conspiratorial messages.

There were also barrier breakers featured like Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, the first African American to hold statewide office in Kentucky, and Florida Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez, first Latina to hold that office in her state.

And the convention featured a Democrat for the second night: Robert Vlasisavljevich, the mayor of Eveleth, Minnesota, who praised Trump's support for his state's mining industry in particular.

"President Trump is fighting for all of us. He delivered the best economy in our history and he will do it again," Vlasisavljevich said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo addressed the convention and nation during an official overseas trip in Israel.

"President Trump has put his America First vision into action," Pompeo said. "It may not have made him popular in every foreign capital, but it's worked."

Pompeo's taped appearance broke with decades of tradition of secretaries of state avoiding the appearance of involving themselves in domestic politics. That his video was filmed in Jerusalem, where he was on an official foreign trip, raised additional questions of propriety.

Still Mrs. Trump was the intended star of the night.

Out of the public view for much of the year, she stepped into the spotlight while avoiding the missteps that marred her introduction to the nation four years ago.

At her 2016 convention speech, she included passages similar to what former first lady Michelle Obama had said in her first convention speech. A speechwriter for the Trump Organization later took the blame.



Only the second foreign-born first lady in U.S. history, Mrs. Trump, 50, is a native of Slovenia, a former communist country in eastern Europe. She became Trump's third wife in 2005 and gave birth to their now 14-year-old son, Barron, in 2006 — the year she became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

The first lady spoke from the renovated Rose Garden, despite questions about using the White House for a political convention. She addressed an in-person group of around 50 people, including her husband.

"Whether you like it or not, you always know what he's thinking. And that is because he's an authentic person who loves this country and its people and wants to continue to make it better," Mrs. Trump said. "He wants nothing more than for this country to prosper and he doesn't waste time playing politics."

Peoples reported from New York. Price reported from Las Vegas. AP writers Kevin Freking and Zeke Miller in Washington and Dave Bauder in New York contributed.

## Biden campaign 'flooding the zone' with celebrity backers

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Poised over the piano, Carole King was set to play "I Feel the Earth Move" during a recent virtual fundraiser for Joe Biden when the Democratic presidential nominee himself beat her to it.

"On my playlist, Carole!" Biden proclaimed, holding up his phone and letting a few seconds of the song blast.

"Oh, well, I'll just sit back and let you play your playlist," King said with a laugh.

The four-time Grammy winner isn't the only Biden playlist mainstay helping his campaign against President Donald Trump. Jimmy Buffett noted that "Come Monday" was among the hits stored on Biden's phone before singing it at another recent fundraiser. And James Taylor told another group that he learned to play "America the Beautiful" for President Barack Obama's 2013 inauguration, when Biden was sworn in for four more years as vice president.

With in-person campaigning largely suspended because of the coronavirus, a parade of movie and TV stars, pop icons and sports standouts are proving crucial in helping Biden raise money and energize supporters as campaign surrogates. Events this week with celebrities and advocates including actress Alyssa Milano are serving as counter-programming to the Republican National Convention.

"We're just flooding the zone as much as possible," said Michelle Kwan, Biden's surrogate director and an Olympic silver and bronze medalist figure skater who held a similar post for Hillary Clinton in 2016. "Our artists and actors who are surrogates, they tend to be at home so their availability and their schedule has opened up (and) they're willing to do more things."

Biden's campaign now has a team of 15 staffers dedicated to organizing surrogate activities.

Republicans point to the events as evidence that Biden and his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, are closer to Hollywood than the heartland. Speaking at the RNC this week, party chairwoman Ronna McDaniel noted that actress Eva Longoria, known for her role on "Desperate Housewives," moderated one night of last week's Democratic convention.

"Well, I'm actually a real housewife and a mom from Michigan with two wonderful kids in public school who happens to be only the second woman in 164 years to run the Republican Party," McDaniel said.

Still, Biden has gone beyond celebrities in search of campaign surrogates. He's enlisted the help of nearly all of the 20-plus Democrats he beat during the primary. And Obama has taken a more aggressive role in supporting his former vice president.

The campaign often pairs celebrities with lesser-known officials from all levels of government to make personalized pitches to voters, especially when Biden himself isn't able to attend an event.

Milano has appeared with former Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, and actors like Connie Britton held an online event with former Obama administration official Valerie Jarrett while Don Cheadle hosted a youth activist forum.

Other times it is elected officials who are far from household names carrying online events alone: Former

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Interior Secretary Ken Salazar addressed Hispanics in New Mexico and former Secretary of State John Kerry brought his New England appeal to Maine voters. As many as a half dozen such events now come multiple times per week — often when Biden himself is only doing a single, separate fundraiser or two in the meantime.

The campaign also holds events partnering some of its staffers with celebrities so that discussions on policy reach audiences that may not be closely following the presidential race, deliberately blurring the line between pop culture and politics even more.

“We’re introducing our campaign to their followers who might not always be involved with the campaign,” said Adrienne Elrod, a Clinton 2016 spokeswoman who is now Biden’s director of surrogate strategy and operations.

Biden’s team distributes a one-page list of virtual event guidelines, with tips including making sure wifi is working correctly and that no one in the house sucks up bandwidth during showtime. Such preparations can’t prevent everything. Just as actor Forest Whitaker was introducing Biden at a virtual event in June, an Amber alert shrieked from his phone.

Star appeal doesn’t always translate to votes. Clinton’s unsuccessful presidential bid was endorsed by everyone from singer Lady Gaga to actress Lena Dunham to NBA star LeBron James. She failed to win Pennsylvania, despite a sprawling Philadelphia rally on Election Day eve featuring singers Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi and the Obamas.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire political science professor Eric T. Kasper compared celebrity endorsements to yard signs, saying they are unlikely to sway a race but are effective at getting people talking. Stars generate candidate buzz, help with fundraising and can build campaign event crowds — even for those online.

“You have this national audience as a presidential candidate you’re trying to seek favor from,” said Kasper, who has researched the intersection of politics and popular culture. “It’s much more difficult to connect in terms of retail politics, especially in a general election, on a nationwide scale.”

Trump used his personal celebrity to build hype for his 2016 bid. His reelection campaign has been holding its own online events with top supporters nearly every night for months and says its online events average 2.6 million views per broadcast, though its headliners are often the president’s children. A similar roster is dominating this week’s convention.

“Enthusiasm for Joe Biden simply does not exist,” said Trump reelection campaign spokeswoman Courtney Parella, “and no celebrity he hides behind will fix that problem.”

Some stars are supporters of the president, including actors Dean Cain and Jon Voight, who narrated a pro-Trump convention video. So far, though, they haven’t been actively campaigning for him. Instead, Trump has used the advantages of incumbency to crisscross the country on official business that draws throngs of supporters.

The Trump campaign has also seized on Biden’s preferred venue for participating in online events, a basement studio in his Delaware home — accusing the former vice president of hiding from voters.

Biden has shrugged off such criticisms and, during a recent fundraiser, actor Tom Hanks noted that Biden was appearing from his “notoriously bad basement,” which the actor said didn’t seem so terrible.

“I could talk to you for another four and a half hours,” Hanks joked after 40-plus minutes. “But I don’t think America needs another Zoom call that long.”

## AP FACT CHECK: GOP taps distortions to heap praise on Trump

By JOSH BOAK, HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eric Trump echoed falsehoods of his father, Melania Trump credited her husband with a dubious religious first, and the president’s economic adviser wholly distorted the conditions Donald Trump inherited as Republicans stepped up to praise him at their national convention Tuesday.

Crucial context was missing at various parts of the evening, as when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo addressed Trump’s jousting with China and North Korea and others weighed in on Trump’s judgment in

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world affairs.

A look at rhetoric from the second night of the virtual Republican National Convention:

RELIGION

MELANIA TRUMP: "He's the first president to address a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to call upon countries across the world to end religious persecution and honor the right of every person to worship as they choose."

CISSIE GRAHAM LYNCH, evangelist and granddaughter of Billy Graham: "On the world stage, President Trump became the first president to talk about the importance of religious freedom at the United Nations, giving hope to people of faith around the world."

THE FACTS: No, Trump is certainly not the first U.S. president to address the United Nations General Assembly about religious freedom. President Barack Obama did so, discussing religious tolerance and liberty during a speech to the assembly Sept. 25, 2012. Several predecessors did so as well.

"We not only respect the freedom of religion, we have laws that protect individuals from being harmed because of how they look or what they believe," Obama said in his remarks, which focused on an anti-Muslim film that had touched off violent protests in the Middle East. "Like me, the majority of Americans are Christian and yet we do not ban blasphemy against our most sacred beliefs."

Last year Trump was host for a U.N. meeting devoted to religious freedom, and boasted at the time that he was the first to convene such a meeting at the U.N. But contrary to the impression created by the first lady and the evangelist, he was not at all the first American president to make a case for religious liberty to the General Assembly.

LARRY KUDLOW, Trump economic adviser: Trump was "inheriting a stagnant economy on the front end of recession," and under the president, "the economy was rebuilt in three years."

THE FACTS: This is false. The economy was healthy when Trump arrived at the White House.

Even if the recovery from the 2008 financial crisis was agonizingly slow, Trump took office with unemployment at a low 4.7%, steady job growth and a falling federal budget deficit. The longest expansion in U.S. history began in the middle of 2009 and continued until the start of the year, spanning both the Barack Obama and Trump presidencies.

The U.S. economy did benefit from Trump's 2017 tax cuts with a jump in growth in 2018, but the budget deficit began to climb as a result of the tax breaks that favored companies and the wealthy in hopes of permanently expanding the economy.

Annual growth during Obama's second term averaged about 2.3%. Trump notched a slightly better 2.5% during his first three years, but the country swung into recession this year because of the coronavirus and will probably leave Trump with an inferior track record to his predecessor over four years.

SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO

CHINA

POMPEO: "The president has held China accountable for covering up the China virus and allowing it to spread death and economic destruction in America and around the world."

THE FACTS: That's misleading. In his videotaped remarks from Israel, Pompeo failed to mention Trump's initial personal affinity and repeated praise for Chinese leader Xi Jinping as he publicly extolled the country's handling of the coronavirus early on.

In a CNBC interview on Jan. 22, for instance, Trump was asked if he trusted information from China about the coronavirus. "I do," Trump said. "I have a great relationship with President Xi."

Two days later, he was even more effusive. "China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus," he tweeted. "The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well. ...I want to thank President Xi!"

Trump kept up the compliments when asked several times in February about whether data from China, where the virus originated, can be trusted. He called Xi "extremely capable" and said he's "doing a very

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good job with a very, very tough situation.”

His praise only faded when the pandemic hit hard in the U.S. and his administration’s response stumbled. He then became quick to blame China for what he started calling the “China virus.”

## TRADE

POMPEO: “He has ended ridiculously unfair trade deals with China that punched a hole in our economy.”

THE FACTS: That, too, is misleading. Whatever the weaknesses of the trade deals Trump inherited, it’s become clear that what he negotiated instead is not a gamechanger.

The trade war that Trump escalated with China caused several self-inflicted wounds. Farmers and factories were part of the collateral damage from the volley of tariffs as the two largest countries in the world jockeyed for an edge.

It’s still too soon to judge the limited agreement reached by Trump as a triumph or a flop.

China committed to buy an additional \$200 billion in American goods above 2017 levels by the end of 2021 in what was initially a truce against further aggression. Yet the deal lacked meaningful progress on support that China gives its state-owned companies, a key problem for the United States. The global pandemic also means that trade volumes have fallen, making it harder for China to meet its target for American-made goods. “It appears that President Trump accepted an IOU as a declaration of victory,” analysts at the Brookings Institution concluded.

SEN. RAND PAUL: “Joe Biden voted for the Iraq war, which President Trump has long called the worst geopolitical mistake of our generation.”

THE FACTS: Trump had no more foresight on this matter than Biden. Neither was against it when it started.

When asked during a Sept. 11, 2002, radio interview if he would support an Iraq invasion, Trump responded, “Yeah, I guess so.” The next month, Biden as a senator voted to authorize George W. Bush to use force in Iraq.

The next March, just days after the U.S. launched its invasion, Trump said it “looks like a tremendous success from a military standpoint.”

It wasn’t until September 2003 that Trump first publicly raised doubts about the invasion, saying “a lot of people (are) questioning the whole concept of going in in the first place.” In November 2005, Biden called his Senate vote to authorize force a mistake.

## MILITARY

ERIC TRUMP: “My father rebuilt the mighty American military — added new jets, aircraft carriers.”

THE FACTS: That’s an exaggeration.

It’s true that his administration has accelerated a sharp buildup in defense spending, including a respite from what the U.S. military considered to be crippling spending limits under budget sequestration.

But a number of new Pentagon weapons programs, such as the F-35 fighter jet, were started years before the Trump administration. And it will take years for freshly ordered tanks, planes and other weapons to be built, delivered and put to use.

The Air Force’s Minuteman 3 missiles, a key part of the U.S. nuclear force, for instance, have been operating since the early 1970s and the modernization was begun under the Obama administration. They are due to be replaced with a new version, but not until later this decade.

ERIC TRUMP, on his father: “He increased wages for our incredible men and women in uniform.”

THE FACTS: Yes, but military pay has been raised every year for decades, and the raises under Trump have been smaller compared with past years.

## POLICE

ERIC TRUMP: “Biden has pledged to defund the police.”



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THE FACTS: False. Biden has made no such pledge.

He's rejected calls from some on the left to defund the police, proposing more money for departments to improve their practices. His agenda includes federal money for training to "avert tragic, unjustifiable deaths" and hiring more officers to ensure police departments reflect the populations they serve. He's proposed \$300 million in federal community policing grants.

## RACIAL INEQUALITY

KENTUCKY ATTORNEY GENERAL DANIEL CAMERON: "On the economy: Joe Biden couldn't do it, but President Trump did build an economy that worked for everyone, especially minorities."

THE FACTS: Not accurate.

Republicans can talk successfully about the decline in unemployment rates for Black and Hispanic workers. But that's just one gauge — and plenty of troubles and inequalities abound for minorities. Minority groups still lagged behind white people with regard to incomes, wealth and home ownership before the pandemic. But when the disease struck, it became clear that the economy did not work well for everybody as the job losses and infections disproportionately hit minorities.

Black unemployment now stands at 14.6%. Hispanic unemployment is 12.9%. The white unemployment rate is 9.2%. For every dollar of total wealth held by white households, Blacks have just 5 cents, according to the Federal Reserve. It's 4 cents for Hispanics.

## TAXES

ERIC TRUMP: The president slashed taxes and "wages went through the roof."

THE FACTS: Not quite. Wage growth did improve, but there is clearly still a roof on workers' incomes.

The 2017 tax cuts appear unlikely to deliver on their promised pay increases. White House economists argued that incomes would surge by at least \$4,000 because of the lower corporate tax rate. That has yet to occur and seems unlikely given the current recession.

But average hourly wages did improve to a 3.5% annual gain by February 2019, much better than the 2.7% annual gain in December 2016 before Trump became president. The problem was that wage growth then began to slip through the end of last year despite the steady hiring. Wage gains only accelerated again with the pandemic and layoffs of millions of poor workers that artificially raised average wages.

What workers have yet to see is a meaningful change in the distribution of income. More than half of total household income goes to the top 20% of earners, according to the Census Bureau. Their share has increased slightly under Trump with data that is current through 2018. The bottom 20% of earners get just 3.1% of total income, just as they did before Trump's presidency.

## NORTH KOREA

POMPEO: "The president lowered the temperature and, against all odds, got North Korean leadership to the table. No nuclear tests, no long range missile tests and Americans held captive in North Korea came home to their families, as did the precious remains of scores of our heroes who fought in Korea."

THE FACTS: This statement leaves out the fact that Trump helped raise the temperature before he helped lower it.

Trump has often told the story that his predecessor, President Barack Obama, warned him North Korea was the gravest immediate threat to the country. Indeed in the early months of Trump's presidency, North Korea was heightening tensions with nuclear and long-range missile tests. Trump responded by dialing up belligerent rhetoric, threatening North Korea with "fire and fury" and nicknaming North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "little rocket man."

Tensions grew to such extremes that at points some experts were actually concerned about tit-for-tat nuclear strikes if not all-out war.

The temperature began to cool when Pompeo became secretary of state, the North released three American prisoners, agreed to repatriate the remains of U.S. servicemen killed during the Korean war and

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the first of Trump's three meetings with Kim was held in Singapore.

But while the North has not resumed nuclear or long-range missile tests, it has stepped up activity at its atomic facilities. Negotiations with the U.S. on its weapons programs have been stalled since October.

## ISLAMIC STATE

POMPEO: "Today, because of the president's determination and leadership, the ISIS caliphate is wiped out."

THE FACTS: His claim of a 100% defeat is misleading as the Islamic State group still poses a threat.

IS was defeated in Iraq in 2017, then lost the last of its land holdings in Syria in March 2019, marking the end of the extremists' self-declared caliphate. Still, extremist sleeper cells have continued to launch attacks in Iraq and Syria in recent weeks and are believed to be responsible for targeted killings against local officials and members of the Syrian Democratic Forces.

The recent resurgence of attacks is a sign that the militant group is taking advantage of governments otherwise focused on the pandemic and the ensuing slide into economic chaos. The virus is compounding longtime concerns among security and U.N. experts that the group will stage a comeback.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper has said the U.S. fight against the group was continuing.

## FARMING

CRIS PETERSON, from a Wisconsin dairy family: "Our entire economy and dairy farming are once again roaring back. One person deserves the credit and our vote, President Donald J. Trump."

THE FACTS: Not everyone in the dairy industry views it as booming, especially as larger operations are putting smaller family farms out of business.

The Agriculture Department reported this summer that "dairy herds fell by more than half between 2002 and 2019, with an accelerating rate of decline in 2018 and 2019, even as milk production continued to grow."

Part of the problem is that smaller farms face higher production costs. Farms with more than 2,000 cattle are more likely for their sales to exceed their total costs, while smaller farms are more likely to operate at a loss by this metric, according to government figures.

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

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee in Washington, David Klepper in Providence, Rhode Island, and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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## Only Native American on federal death row set to be executed

By MICHAEL TARM and FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The only Native American on federal death row is set to die Wednesday for the slayings of a 9-year-old and her grandmother nearly two decades ago, though many Navajos are hoping for last-minute intervention by President Donald Trump to halt the execution.

If Lezmond Mitchell is put to death on schedule and becomes the fourth federal inmate executed this year, the federal government under the pro-death penalty president will have carried out more executions in 2020 than in the previous 56 years combined.

Mitchell, 38, and an accomplice were convicted of killing Tiffany Lee and 63-year-old Alyce Slim, who had offered them a lift in her pickup truck as they hitchhiked on the Navajo Nation in northeastern Arizona in 2001. They stabbed Slim 33 times, slit Tiffany's throat and stoned her to death. They later mutilated both bodies.

The Navajo government asked Trump to commute Mitchell's sentence on grounds his execution would violate Navajo culture and sovereignty. Mitchell's lawyers are still seeking last-minute court intervention,

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though the U.S. Supreme Court late Tuesday declined to step in and halt the execution. The first three federal executions in 17 years went ahead in July after similar legal maneuvers failed.

Critics accuse Trump of pushing to resume executions after a nearly 20-year hiatus in a quest to claim the mantle of law-and-order candidate. If Mitchell's execution goes ahead as planned, it would happen on the third night of the GOP convention.

Keith Nelson, who was also convicted of killing a child, is slated to die Friday at the Terre Haute, Indiana, prison where all federal executions are carried out by a lethal injection of pentobarbital. Nelson's lawyers say pentobarbital can cause severe pain and so should be deemed unconstitutional.

Death-penalty advocates say the Trump administration's restart of executions is bringing justice — too long delayed — to victims and families. There are currently 58 men and one woman on federal death row, many of whose executions have been pending for over 20 years.

Tiffany Lee's father, Daniel Lee, has told The Associated Press, he believes in the principle of "an eye for an eye" and wants Mitchell to die for the slayings. He also said Navajo leaders don't speak for him: "I speak for myself and for my daughter."

Family and friends described Slim, a school bus driver who was approaching retirement, as gracious, spiritual and well-liked by students on her route.

Several relatives had said they opposed Mitchell's execution. But lawyers recently wrote a letter on behalf of some saying they want the sentence carried out, including because Mitchell showed no "respect for ... Navajo cultural teachings that stress the sanctity of life."

Mitchell has long maintained that his accomplice, Johnny Orsinger, took the lead in the killings. Orsinger was a juvenile then and couldn't be sentenced to death. He's serving a life sentence in Atlanta.

Prior to this year, the federal government had carried out just three executions since 1963, all of them between 2001 and 2003, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center. Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was among them.

The first of the resumed executions was of former white supremacist Daniel Lewis Lee on July 14. Two others, Wesley Purkey and Dustin Honken, were executed later the same week. The victims of all three also included children.

The executions of Christopher Andre Vialva and William Emmett LeCroy are scheduled for late September.

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Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mtarm>. Fonseca reported from Flagstaff, Arizona. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/FonsecaAP>

## Hundreds of thousands flee US coast ahead of Hurricane Laura

By JOHN MONE and STACEY PLAISANCE Associated Press

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — In the largest U.S. evacuation of the pandemic, more than half a million people were ordered to flee the Gulf Coast on Tuesday as Laura strengthened into a hurricane that forecasters said could slam Texas and Louisiana with ferocious winds, heavy flooding and the power to push seawater miles inland.

More than 385,000 residents were told to flee the Texas cities of Beaumont, Galveston and Port Arthur, and another 200,000 were ordered to leave low-lying Calcasieu Parish in southwestern Louisiana, where forecasters said as much as 13 feet (4 meters) of storm surge topped by waves could submerge whole communities.

Forecasters Tuesday night expected the storm to increase in strength by 33%, from 90 mph (144 kmh) to 120 mph (193 kmh) in just 24 hours. They project Laura to strike the coast as a major Category 3 hurricane. The strengthening may slow or stop just before landfall, forecasters said.

"The waters are warm enough everywhere there to support a major hurricane, Category 3 or even higher. The waters are very warm where the storm is now and will be for the entire path up until the Gulf Coast," National Hurricane Center Deputy Director Ed Rappaport said.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said Laura is shaping up to look a lot like Hurricane Rita did 15 years

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ago when it ravaged southwest Louisiana.

"We're going to have significant flooding in places that don't normally see it," he said.

Ocean water was expected to push onto land along more than 450 miles (724 kilometers) of coast from Texas to Mississippi. Hurricane warnings were issued from San Luis Pass, Texas, to Intracoastal City, Louisiana, and storm surge warnings from the Port Arthur, Texas, flood protection system to the mouth of the Mississippi River.

The evacuations could get even bigger if the storm's track veers to the east or west, said Craig Fugate, the former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Fearing that people would not evacuate in time, Edwards said those in southwest Louisiana need to be where they intend to ride out Laura by noon Wednesday, when the state will start feeling the storm's effects.

Officials urged people to stay with relatives or in hotel rooms to avoid spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Buses were stocked with protective equipment and disinfectant, and they would carry fewer passengers to keep people apart, Texas officials said.

Whitney Frazier, 29, of Beaumont spent Tuesday morning trying to get transportation to a high school where she could board a bus to leave the area.

"Especially with everything with COVID going on already on top of a mandatory evacuation, it's very stressful," Frazier said.

The storm also imperiled a center of the U.S. energy industry. The government said 84% of Gulf oil production and an estimated 61% of natural gas production were shut down. Nearly 300 platforms have been evacuated.

While oil prices often spike before a major storm as production slows, consumers are unlikely to see big price changes because the pandemic decimated demand for fuel.

As of Tuesday evening, Laura was 435 miles (700 kilometers) southeast of Lake Charles, Louisiana, traveling west-northwest at 17 mph (28 kmh). Its peak winds were 85 mph (140 kph).

Laura passed Cuba after killing nearly two dozen people on the island of Hispaniola, including 20 in Haiti and three in the Dominican Republic, where it knocked out power and caused intense flooding. The deaths reportedly included a 10-year-old girl whose home was hit by a tree and a mother and young son crushed by a collapsing wall.

As much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain could fall in some parts of Louisiana, said Donald Jones, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

At Grand Isle, Louisiana, Nicole Fantiny said she planned to ride out the hurricane on the barrier island along with a few dozen other people.

"It could still change, but we keep on hoping and praying that it keeps on going further west like it's doing," said Fantiny, who manages a restaurant.

In Galveston and Port Arthur, Texas, mandatory evacuation orders went into effect shortly before day-break Tuesday. "If you decide to stay, you're staying on your own," Port Arthur Mayor Thurman Bartie said.

Shelters opened with cots set farther apart to curb coronavirus infections. People planning to enter shelters were told to bring just one bag of personal belongings each, and a mask to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

"Hopefully it's not that threatening to people, to lives, because people are hesitant to go anywhere due to COVID," Robert Duffy said as he placed sandbags around his home in Morgan City, Louisiana. "Nobody wants to sleep on a gym floor with 200 other people. It's kind of hard to do social distancing."

Officials in Houston asked residents to prepare supplies in case they lose power for a few days or need to evacuate homes along the coast. Some in the area are still recovering from Hurricane Harvey three years ago.

Laura's arrival comes just days before the Aug. 29 anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which breached the levees in New Orleans, flattened much of the Mississippi coast and killed as many as 1,800 people in 2005. Less than a month later, Hurricane Rita struck southwest Louisiana as a Category 3 storm.

Laura wasn't much of a concern for Kerry Joe Richard of Stephenville, Louisiana. As the storm approached, he was angling for catfish from a small dock overlooking the bayou that's behind his elevated



wood-frame home.

"The only thing I'm worried about is if the fish quit biting," he said.

Plaisance reported from Stephenville, Louisiana. Associated Press writers Juan Lozano in Houston; Jeff Martin in Marietta, Georgia; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge; Louisiana; Kevin McGill in New Orleans; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Evens Sanon in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Cathy Bussewitz in New York; and Paul Weber in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

## California faces huge fires before usual peak of season

By DON THOMPSON and HAVEN DALEY Associated Press

VACAVILLE, Calif. (AP) — California's firefighting agency is in talks with the National Guard and California Conservation Corps about providing reinforcements as an already devastating wildfire season threatens to get even worse.

Lightning-sparked fires that have grown to some of the largest in state history have pushed firefighters to the breaking point as they also deal with complications from the coronavirus pandemic and depleted inmate crews.

"Historically it's September and October when we experience our largest and our most damaging wildfires. So to be in the middle of August and already have the second- and the third-largest wildfires in our state's history is very concerning to us," Daniel Berlant, chief of wildfire planning and engineering at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said Tuesday.

For now, cooler temperatures are helping firefighters begin to corral three huge clusters of fires ignited Aug. 15. The blazes have killed at least seven people, burned some 1,300 homes, and prompted evacuation orders that still affect an estimated 170,000 people.

Firefighters in wine country north of San Francisco have cleared containment lines — used to prevent fires from spreading — around a quarter of the fires there that have scorched nearly 557 square miles (1442 square kilometers) and destroyed nearly 980 buildings. It is now the third-largest blaze in California history.

To the east of San Francisco, firefighters created containment lines around 20% of a group of fires that have charred 571.5 square miles (1480 square kilometers), making it the second-largest in state history.

And to the south, officials said progress was made against fires in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties that have grown to more than 124 square miles (322 square kilometers), destroyed 319 homes and other buildings and threatens another 25,000.

People were trickling back to the outskirts of Vacaville to see what remained of their homes. Art Thomas, 76, said he found only ashes and melted metal at the site of the home he built with his own hands in a rural area where he had lived for 32 years.

"Possessions dating back to when I was a kid were all in the house, everything is gone," Thomas said. "Between sad, crying, laughing every emotion is there."

He said he had left with his wife, two dogs and a pair of shorts and tennis shoes.

Bob Zupo's house survived, unlike the homes of three of his neighbors. But all the land around his property burned along with a barn he owned.

Zupo, 68, attributed his good fortune to "the grace of God;" hung a sign on his mailbox that said, "Thank You All;" and put up an American flag as he assessed the damage.

With limited crews to tackle fires on the ground, the state has been relying more on bulldozers, aircraft and firefighters from other states and the federal government, Berlant said.

"We are having ongoing discussions with the National Guard as well as with the (California Conservation Corps) on how we can expand, if needed, the number of crews," he said.

The hand crews do what Gov. Gavin Newsom calls "the really hard grunt work" — using chainsaws and hand tools to scrape and cut road-like clearings through grass, brush and trees in remote areas in hopes of stopping the spread of a wildfire.

The severe challenges have occurred even before the traditional peak of fire season, when hot, dry autumn winds can send flames roaring faster than any attempts to contain them.

"We have to continue to plan for seeing if there are additional resources" not only within California, but what would be quickly available from nearby states, Berlant said.

Despite the size of the current fires, California has benefited because the three huge fire clusters are all in the northern part of the state and began just as firefighters could be redeployed after wrapping up several blazes in Southern California, Berlant said.

Tim Edwards, president of the union representing state firefighters, said 96% of Cal Fire's resources are committed to fighting the fires. He was with a three-man fire engine crew that had traveled more than 400 miles from Riverside County to help fight the wine country wildfires.

"Between the fires in Southern California and these, they've been going nonstop," he said. "Fatigue is really starting to set in, but they're doing it."

By Tuesday, more than 280 hand crews, each with 12 to 20 firefighters, were deployed to the lines by Cal Fire, the conservation corps, state corrections department and U.S. Forest Service.

About 300 Guard troops were finishing firefighter training and were expected to be on the lines Wednesday as another 300 begin four days of training, said spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Shiroma.

California has scrambled over recent years to field enough prison fire crews as their numbers dwindled while the state released lower-level inmates. Thousands more were released early as the state responded to the coronavirus pandemic.

The number of inmate firefighters is down nearly 30% from last year, from 1,895 to 1,354, said corrections department spokesman Aaron Francis.

However, a dozen inmate firefighting camps that had been forced to shut down in June for two-week quarantines because of the coronavirus are back in operation, meaning all 43 camps are operating but at about 40% of capacity, Francis said.

Newsom has dedicated \$72.4 million to hire 858 additional seasonal firefighters and field six more California Conservation Corps crews through October.

"During this extreme fire activity it's all hands on deck," Berlant said.

Thompson reported from Sacramento. Associated Press writers John Antczak in Los Angeles and Jocelyn Gecker and Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco also contributed to this report.

## Trump — 'No Mr. Nice Guy' — shows softer side to win voters

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump kicked off his reelection campaign with a swaggering World Series ad that declared he's "No Mr. Nice Guy," but his campaign has taken pains to highlight a softer side of the famously brusque and bombastic chief executive during this week's Republican convention.

The competing depictions of the president come after the Democrats spent last week showcasing the compassion of Joe Biden. But the attempt to humanize Trump was already in the works, part of a strategy to win back senior and suburban voters who have abandoned him in no small part due to his aggressive rhetoric and lack of obvious empathy during the coronavirus pandemic.

Republicans went all-out to depict a gentler Trump over the first two nights of their convention.

House Minority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana on Monday recalled how Trump sat by his hospital bedside as he recovered from a near fatal gunshot wound in 2017. Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio spoke of how Trump embraced his request two years ago to talk with relatives whose son had died in a car accident. The president was shown talking to COVID-19 first responders, thanking his "friends" for their service.

And Sen. Rand Paul on Tuesday revealed how the president supported his medical missions to perform emergency eye surgeries in Guatemala and Haiti.

Trump's tough-guy persona, built over half a lifetime in business, is well known. He made millions telling people "you're fired" on "The Apprentice" and championed his hard-nosed business practices. Recognizing that it is an immutable part of Trump's image, his allies have long worked to hold it up as an asset, both in last October's splashy ad campaign as well as during the convention.

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"Joe Biden is a very good guy. I know him. He's just as nice as they come," former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley said Tuesday on Fox. "But that's just the problem. We saw what happens when you try to be nice at the United Nations. Basically, everybody was running over America when Obama and Biden were in there."

Herschel Walker, the former NFL player, acknowledged in a convention speech Monday night that "Some people don't like Trump's style." But he added: "People on opposing teams didn't like it when I ran right over them either. But that's how you get the job done."

Walker acted as a pivot point in the Republican messaging, relaying a story of how Trump — in his business suit — once joined the ex-NFL star and their respective kids on a trip to Disney World. Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel did much the same, offering testimony to Trump's toughness but also saying, "I've seen private moments where he comforts Americans in times of pain and sadness."

Notably, however, none of the three adult Trump children who spoke during the first two days offered a humanizing anecdote about their father, sticking to political talking points.

Much of last week's Democratic National Convention was used to flesh out a portrait of Biden as a man who has suffered immense personal tragedy and can relate to others, including Americans who have lost jobs or loved ones during the pandemic. Testimonials were offered about the pain he has suffered — his first wife and infant daughter died in a 1972 car crash; his son Beau died of cancer in 2015. And there was considerable talk about how he empathizes with others, including a 13-year-old New Hampshire boy who, like the former vice president, stuttered.

Trump aides privately concede that the Democrats told those stories well and that it accentuated their need to showcase some sense of empathy from Trump, who has previously struggled to publicly connect with victims of tragedies, including natural disasters and the pandemic.

Mark Meadows, the president's chief of staff, promised before the GOP convention began that the "biggest surprises" would be moments that showed "a different side of President Trump that a lot of people don't really see."

Trump aides noticed that within months of him taking office, he began losing the support of women, particularly those in the suburbs, who were turned off by some of his callous behavior and bellicose tweets.

That only accelerated this spring, after the pandemic arrived. Many suburban voters and some seniors were turned off by Trump's perceived lack of empathy for those touched by COVID-19 and those marching for racial justice after the death of George Floyd. Campaign surveys showed Trump trailed Biden badly in how voters perceived them relating to and understanding Americans' troubles.

"Everybody in public life has a strength which exposes a weakness," said Ari Fleischer, who served as press secretary to former President George W. Bush. "Trump's strength is that he's a tough guy. But it makes people wonder, is he so tough that he's not a caring guy, that he doesn't get it?"

The new push to humanize Trump, like much of the GOP convention, is not aimed at winning over Biden supporters. Rather, it is an effort to win back some of the voters whose support Trump has lost, as well as to motivate non-voters to turn out for the president or stay home instead of casting ballots for Biden.

Democrats derided Trump's failure to recognize the presidency's "duty to care," in the words of Biden spokesman Andrew Bates.

"So much of what our nation is suffering through," Bates said, "stems from Trump's inability to grasp that: the tragic and needlessly high death toll and lost jobs from the pandemic that he didn't and doesn't take seriously, and the compounded divisions that he deliberately and unjustifiably inflames for his own perceived political gain."

Trump allies insisted that the president has a softer side. But not every moment meant to display it went perfectly.

In one of the taped pieces shown Monday night, Trump talked to a half-dozen former hostages his administration had freed from foreign prisons. For Pastor Andrew Brunson, held hostage by the Turkish government for two years, Trump offered a welcome home — only to then salute Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as "very good."

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Kevin Freking and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

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## Falwell says he's resigned from Liberty University

By ELANA SCHOR and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Jerry Falwell Jr. announced his resignation Tuesday as the head of Liberty University after a provocative photo and revelations of his wife's extramarital affair roiled the evangelical school founded by his father.

Falwell's exit marks a precipitous fall from power for one of the country's most visible conservative Christian leaders and ardent supporters of President Donald Trump. He confirmed his decision to resign in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press.

According to the school, he initially offered to resign Monday, hours after a news outlet published an interview with a man who said that he had a yearslong sexual relationship with Becki Falwell and that Jerry Falwell participated in some of the liaisons as a voyeur. Falwell, who denied any participation, later reversed course on his resignation and began telling news outlets he had no intention of leaving. Then he changed direction again.

"That's the only reason I resigned: because I don't want something my wife did to harm the school I've spent my whole life building," he said in a phone interview. "I never broke a single rule that applies to staff members at Liberty, which I was. So I want everybody to know that."

The university confirmed in a statement that its board had accepted Falwell's resignation as president, chancellor and board member. All were effective immediately, the statement said.

Becki Falwell also spoke with the AP on Tuesday, saying she and her husband are "more in love than ever" — a sentiment echoed by an audibly tearful Jerry Falwell.

"We have the strongest relationship, and Jerry is the most forgiving person I've ever met," she said. "It's a shame that Christians can't give us the same forgiveness that Christ gave us."

Falwell had already been on leave since earlier this month after alumni and others recoiled at a photo he posted on social media. The image showed him with his pants unzipped, stomach exposed and arm high around the waist of his wife's pregnant assistant. He also held a glass of dark liquid that he described in a caption as "black water." Falwell has said the photo was taken at a costume party during a family vacation.

The board "put me on leave for showing my belly in a picture and my contract doesn't allow that," he said Tuesday. He later added, "I'm 58 years old, and I think there's something else in the cards for me. And so the board was gracious in accepting my resignation ... and it's time to move on."

The latest controversy began to unfold late Sunday, when The Washington Examiner published a lengthy statement from Falwell disclosing that his wife had an extramarital affair. The statement, later shared with the AP, said the man involved had been threatening to reveal the relationship "to deliberately embarrass my wife, family, and Liberty University unless we agreed to pay him substantial monies."

Falwell said he was seeking mental health counseling after dealing with fallout from the affair, which he said he had no role in. He said he has no "alcohol problem," addressing questions raised by the social media photo depicting apparent alcohol in his glass.

"Over the course of the last few months ... we have decided the only way to stop this predatory behavior is to go public," the statement said.

But on Tuesday Giancarlo Granda released a statement reaffirming his allegation that Jerry Falwell was aware of Granda's relationship with his wife and acted as a voyeur.

Granda and the Falwells met while Granda worked as a pool attendant in Miami. Falwell did not address Granda's version of events during Tuesday's interview, but has previously said they were false. Granda called the Falwells' denials of his account a "fiction" akin to victim shaming.

Granda's professional and personal relationship with the Falwells later sparked legal jostling that involved Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer and fixer. Falwell described Cohen as a good friend who tried to



help him resolve a dispute with Granda. He added that his eventual endorsement of Trump in 2016 — a key win for then-candidate Trump during his outreach to the evangelical community — had nothing to do with Cohen.

Rather, Falwell said, his endorsement stemmed from a prediction by Mark DeMoss, a former Liberty board member, that Trump would win the 2016 election. DeMoss “hates Trump as much as he hates me,” Falwell said, which prompted him to back the president.

Granda did not return a phone call from AP on Tuesday. DeMoss declined comment.

Falwell, who declined comment on whether he anticipates pursuing legal action against Granda, began his leave Aug. 7 amid intense criticism of the vacation photo.

Critics of the image said it was evidence of hypocritical behavior from the leader of a university where students must follow a strict code of conduct. The photo prompted new pushback against Falwell from school alumni and supporters that intensified after the reports about Granda.

The Rev. Jerry Falwell Sr. had aspired to make Liberty University an academic and athletic leader for evangelicals in the vein of the University of Notre Dame. The younger Falwell’s success in shoring up the school’s finances after he took over in 2007 following his father’s death bolstered his standing among the school’s board members.

But as his propensity toward divisive public behavior grew — and particularly following his endorsement of Trump in 2016 — a number of alumni and faculty became dissatisfied with the university’s direction under Falwell.

Several of Falwell’s more incendiary recent public statements were connected to his political conservatism. This summer, 35 Black Liberty University alumni publicly rebuked Falwell after he responded to a coronavirus mask mandate by Virginia’s Democratic governor, Ralph Northam, with a tweet invoking the blackface scandal that nearly forced Northam from office.

Four years after his endorsement, Falwell is taking a lower profile in Trump’s reelection bid. But he declared unwavering support for Trump, whom he described as “the most pro-evangelical Christian president we’ve ever had — not in his lifestyle, but in his actions, and that is what matters.”

This fall, Falwell predicted, Trump “will win and he will win big.”

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Schor reported from New York.

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## **New COVID-19 mandates on health care facilities get pushback**

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Threatening fines and funding cut-offs, the Trump administration on Tuesday issued new COVID-19 requirements for nursing homes and hospitals, prompting immediate pushback from beleaguered industries.

To check the spread of the coronavirus in nursing homes, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced it will require facilities to test staff regularly or face fines.

The move comes months after the White House first urged governors to test all nursing home residents and staff. With residents, nursing homes are being required to offer them coronavirus tests if there is an outbreak or if any show symptoms.

Officials also reinforced a reporting mandate for hospitals. It included a thinly veiled threat to cut off Medicare and Medicaid funds to facilities that fail to report certain COVID-19 data daily to the federal Health and Human Services department. Hospitals responded with a sharp rebuke, calling the move “heavy-handed” and raising the specter of loss of vital services for local communities in a pandemic, less than three months before Election Day.

Long-term care facilities represent less than 1% of the U.S. population, but they account for 42% of the

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COVID-19 deaths, with more than 70,000 fatalities reported by the COVID Tracking Project.

The plight of frail elders in nursing homes is politically sensitive for President Donald Trump, who is trying to maintain support from older voters amid disapproval of the government's pandemic response. His administration is distributing fast-test machines to nursing homes, but there are continued reports that cases have been rising and facilities still face shortages of supplies like masks.

"Our recommendations for testing in nursing homes go back as far back as March and April," said Seema Verma, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS. "What's different about today is that this is now a requirement ... we want to make sure every single nursing home is complying."

Independent research indicates that the coronavirus most likely gets into nursing homes via staffers who unwittingly bring it in from surrounding communities where it has started to spread. Staffers who have yet to develop symptoms may have no clue that they're infected.

Verma said the testing requirement for staff will be keyed to the level of virus activity in local areas. If the positive rate is below 5%, nursing homes will have to test staff once a month. If the rate is 5% - 10%, testing will be required once a week. If the rate is above 10%, staff will have to be tested twice a week. Florida, Iowa and Nevada are examples of states where the COVID-19 positive rate is now above 10%.

The government will provide \$2.5 billion to help nursing homes with testing costs, Verma also announced. The administration's campaign to distribute fast-test machines and an initial supply of tests is supposed to be done by the end of September.

The nursing home industry said it supports mandatory testing as long as facilities are given what they need to comply with requirements.

Mark Parkinson, head of the industry group American Health Care Association, said nursing homes in many parts of the country still can't get timely results on COVID-19 tests.

CMS "must factor in the delays that continue to be a reality," Parkinson said in a statement. "Otherwise facilities could face fines for circumstances beyond their control and be conducting tests that are so delayed that they have little clinical value."

The hospital reporting requirement that was also announced Tuesday follows confusion and misgivings surrounding a Trump administration directive that facilities send critical COVID-19 data directly to HHS instead of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as had been the case.

The information includes numbers of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases, how many intensive-care beds are occupied, and the availability of essential supplies and equipment such as ventilators and masks and gowns.

The regulation basically says if hospitals want to continue to participate in Medicare and Medicaid, they must report the information as required. The American Hospital Association called for the requirement to be immediately rescinded.

"Hospitals and health systems consistently have put forward a good faith effort to report the data needed to battle COVID-19 under very trying circumstances, despite the ever-changing requests from the government on data reporting," Rick Pollack, president of the American Hospital Association, said in a statement. "Since February, the government has made at least six changes to how they want hospitals to report data."

Federal statistics show that 94% of hospitals are reporting the required data, said Pollack. He added his organization has done some investigation of its own and found that in some cases hospitals had sent in their reports, but the information had not gotten through the government system.

"It's beyond perplexing why CMS would use a regulatory sledgehammer — threatening Medicare participation — to the very organizations that are on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19."

CMS chief Verma said the requirement is meant to correct deficiencies in reporting vital data needed to track and contain the pandemic.

## **Attorney: Woman was in body bag 2 hours before found alive**

By RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press

An attorney for the family of a young woman found breathing at a Detroit funeral home after being

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declared dead said Tuesday the 20-year-old was in a body bag for some two hours before it was opened and she was discovered to be alive, with her eyes open.

Geoffrey Fieger, who was hired by Timesha Beauchamp's family, said she remains in critical condition at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit, where she is on a respirator and her heart is beating on its own.

"The doctors are unable to give a prognosis right now, and have indicated that it's touch and go," Fieger said during an online news conference.

Fieger said the family of the Southfield woman, who was born with cerebral palsy and has always needed constant medical care, are shaken by the blunder that led to her being incorrectly declared dead.

He read a statement from Timesha's mother, Erica Lattimore, who said that, "On behalf of the family we are devastated by what has happened. We would like people to continue to pray for Timesha and keep her family in their prayers."

Fieger said he's just begun investigating at the family's request what he called the "negligence" that led to Timesha being declared dead Sunday morning at the family's suburban Detroit home, only to be discovered to be alive after she arrived at the James H. Cole funeral home in Detroit.

He said he believes that after she was declared dead, police put Timesha in a body bag at her family's home and she was inside it, breathing, for about 2 1/2 hours before she arrived at the funeral home. Fieger said she was found to be alive as she was about to be embalmed.

"She was alive. Her eyes were open and she was breathing. My recollection is that the embalmer was actually there and was the person who opened the body bag," he said.

Timesha receives three breathing treatments every day that are needed due to her medical condition, Fieger said. On Sunday, the family called 911 about 7:30 a.m. after her mother and brother became concerned after her first breathing treatment and noticed she was in distress. He said Timesha had apparently suffered a seizure.

"It was at that time that the family noticed that her lips were pale, and that she had some secretions around her mouth and that she was having difficulty breathing. And the family called Steven, Timesha's brother, in and then they called 911," Fieger said.

He said police arrived within about 15 minutes and four paramedics also arrived at the family home. Fieger said the medical responders were told of Timesha's medical history, the medications she receives and about her daily breathing treatments.

Fieger said following live saving efforts, what happened next remains "very, very murky" to the family and himself but Timesha was declared to be dead, when she actually needed urgent medicare care.

"She needed medical treatment and needed transportation to a hospital, but got transportation to a funeral home," he said.

Fieger said she was declared dead even though her godmother, who he said is a registered nurse, told the paramedics she had seen Timesha breathing and she felt that she had a pulse. He said the paramedics dismissed the godmother's concerns, telling her drugs they had given Timesha were causing those movements.

"The godmother felt that she saw chest movements and felt that she had a pulse. She told the paramedics and the paramedics told her that the movements were involuntary and were the result of the medication. And they went, according to the family, a total of three times to Timesha's room to look at her," he said.

After she was declared dead, he said an officer with Southfield police gave the family his card, wrote on the back of it the medical examiner's number and told the family to provide that number to the funeral home when funeral home staff came to pick up Timesha. The funeral home was called at 9 a.m. and she was picked up about 11:25 a.m., he said, only to be discovered alive about 20 minutes later at the funeral home.

The city of Southfield said it's conducting an internal investigation but insisted that the fire and police departments followed procedures.

The Southfield fire department has acknowledged it was involved in Sunday's events, and said Monday in a statement that the situation began when a medical crew was summoned to a home on a report that

a 20-year-old woman was unresponsive.

Paramedics tried to revive her for 30 minutes and consulted an emergency room doctor, the department said. The doctor "pronounced the patient deceased based upon medical information provided" from the scene, it said in Monday's statement.

The department said it then informed the Oakland County medical examiner's office of the death and the on-duty forensic pathologist "released the body" to the family.

Battalion Chief Chris Smith said Wednesday that the fire department's chief would have an updated statement, but he was uncertain when that would be released.

## US crackdown on nonessential border travel causes long waits

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A Trump administration crackdown on nonessential travel coming from Mexico amid the coronavirus pandemic has created massive bottlenecks at the border, with drivers reporting waits of up to 10 hours to get into the U.S.

An employee at a company that provides support for businesses with Mexican operations saw the huge lines Sunday night from his home in Tijuana, Mexico. A U.S. citizen, he lined up at midnight for his 8 a.m. shift Monday in San Diego and still arrived 90 minutes late.

"I hope that it's just startup fits and starts and that it will be a little more streamlined down the road," said Ross Baldwin, the man's boss and president of the TACNA Services Inc.

U.S. citizens and legal residents cannot be denied entry under a partial ban that the Trump administration introduced in March to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Going to work, school and medical appointments are deemed essential travel but going to shop, dine or socialize is not.

Andrea Casillas, who works at a Bed Bath & Beyond store in San Diego and lives in Tijuana because it's less expensive, waited for four hours Monday.

"There is a price to pay (for commuting from Mexico), but it should be reasonable," Casillas said. "This is going too far."

The crackdown comes after U.S. Customs and Border Protection said it surveyed about 100,000 travelers coming from Mexico by car or on foot and found 63% of U.S. citizens and legal residents traveled for reasons that were not essential.

The agency on Friday began redirecting staff at 14 larger crossings in California, Arizona and Texas to get people through quickly on weekday mornings, when essential travel is heaviest, leading to big backups on the weekends.

On Tuesday, traffic was unusually light, with pedestrians wearing masks and keeping a short distance from each other. Weekend and weeknight delays are expected to grow, affecting people going to the beach or a restaurant. Waits soared across the border last weekend, with California crossings hit hardest.

The measures don't apply on the Canadian border, which is also subject to the nonessential travel ban. Air travel isn't affected.

Lines that snaked through Tijuana streets last weekend were the longest that many residents had seen, posing challenges for drivers desperate for a bathroom break.

Tijuana police said some people ran out of a gas in line. An 87-year-old woman died of a heart attack in her car as she waited Sunday to get through the nation's busiest border crossing, in San Diego.

Angry people stuck in traffic lit up social media, posting photos and videos taken from their cars. One of them, Yadir Melendrez, said he waited five hours to cross for work Monday.

"The crossing is being slowed down to exasperate people on vacations or non-essential trips!" he wrote in a text message. "The bad thing is that those of us who go to work get hurt!"

Anne Maricich, deputy director of CBP field operations in San Diego, said the wait in California peaked at six hours by the agency's count. Witnesses reported longer waits.

Taco vendor Christian Mendoza said a customer he served Monday morning told him he waited seven hours. CBP officials believe the weekday jam was carryover from the weekend. Lines were so short Tuesday



that Mendoza hadn't made a single sale in three hours.

Before the pandemic, about 200,000 people a day entered the U.S. at California crossings with Mexico, according to CBP. The daily average plunged to about 70,000 people after the ban was announced in March but has since climbed to about 120,000.

CBP is under pressure to ease restrictions as border economies dependent on Mexican consumers come under more strain. U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, a Texas Democrat, says downtown Laredo, in his district, is a "ghost town."

Jason Wells, executive director of the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, said 13% of businesses in the area near the San Diego-Tijuana crossing have permanently closed and those that are open have seen their revenue more than halved.

Wells wrote to members that "the arbitrary border restrictions, and punitive actions against those not fitting some whimsical definition of 'essential,' is causing more harm than good."

CBP is emphasizing public health considerations.

"We need people to think twice about nonessential travel and to ask themselves if the travel is worth risking their lives and the lives of others," CBP spokesman Rusty Payne said.

Christopher Landau, U.S. ambassador to Mexico, said many people are crossing the border to visit family, shop or dine out.

"Such irresponsible behavior is exacerbating the health crisis," he wrote on Twitter.

CBP is working with business groups and health officials in California to minimize the impact, Maricich said.

"It's a very difficult balance right now," she said.

## New US virus cases fall as masks gain favor but testing lags

By CARLA K. JOHNSON and ADAM GELLER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of Americans newly diagnosed with the coronavirus is falling — a development experts say most likely reflects more mask-wearing but also insufficient testing — even as the disease continues to claim nearly 1,000 lives in the U.S. each day.

About 43,000 new cases are being reported daily across the country, down 21% from early August, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. While the U.S., India and Brazil still have the highest numbers of new cases in the world, the downward trend is encouraging.

"It's profoundly hopeful news," said Dr. Monica Gandhi, an infectious-diseases expert at the University of California, San Francisco, who credits the American public's growing understanding of how the virus spreads, more mask-wearing and, possibly, an increasing level of immunity.

"Hopefully all those factors are coming into play to get this virus under control in this country that's really been battered by the pandemic," she said.

But insufficient testing is probably concealing the full extent of the crisis, said Dr. Jonathan Quick, who leads the pandemic response for the Rockefeller Foundation, which has recommended the U.S. test 4 million people a day by fall.

"We're grossly under-testing in some of the places that are still having high caseloads," Quick said, singling out Mississippi, Texas, Georgia and North Dakota as hot spots with high rates of positive test results.

Even at 43,000 new cases per day, the U.S. remains far above the numbers seen during the spring, when new daily cases peaked at about 34,000, he said.

"It's a good trend, but nowhere near what we need to be," Quick said of the recent decline.

The virus is blamed for more than 5.7 million confirmed infections and about 178,000 deaths in the U.S. Worldwide, the death toll is put at more than 810,000, with about 23.7 million cases.

Jeffrey Shaman, a public health expert at Columbia University, said he is skeptical enough people are immune to significantly slow the spread. But he agreed that changes in Americans' behavior could well be making a difference, recalling the impact that people's actions had in containing Ebola in West Africa several years ago.

"Ebola stopped for reasons we didn't anticipate at the time. It was so horrifying that people stopped touching each other," Shaman said. Something similar may be happening with the coronavirus, he said.

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"I know I don't have nearly the number of contacts that I used to," Shaman said. "But if we relax that, if we get complacent, will we just see another outbreak?"

The decline in newly reported cases in the U.S. comes even as deaths from the virus remain alarmingly high. Officials have reported an average of 965 deaths per day from COVID-19 recently, down from 1,051 deaths a day in early August.

Deaths from the coronavirus are a lagging indicator — they trail new infections because of the time it takes for people to get sick and succumb to the disease.

The percentage of tests coming back positive for the disease has also declined over the past two weeks, from 7.3% to 6.1%. But that comes as the total number of tests administered has fallen from its August peak of more than 820,000 a day, leveling off in recent weeks at about 690,000 a day.

The situation has improved dramatically in several states that struggled with high caseloads earlier this summer.

In Arizona, for example, officials reported 859 new cases Tuesday, down from a peak of 5,500 in late June. More than 2,000 people arrived at the state's hospitals showing symptoms of the virus on a single day in early July. This week, that number has been less than 1,000.

In Florida, where more than 10,000 people have died, the state reported 2,600 new virus cases Tuesday. Earlier in the summer, it was regularly reporting more than 10,000 new cases.

Malinda Coler, 37, of San Francisco, said she has been diligent about mask wearing and other preventive measures, less to protect herself than a best friend who has a compromised immune system, with severe arthritis psoriasis.

"So I wear a damned mask and get infuriated when others don't," she said.

Most states now have some type of mask requirement, either through statewide orders issued by governors or from city and county rules that cover most of their population.

Even some conservative governors have gone along with masks. Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves mandated masks in all public places earlier this month, and Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp dropped a lawsuit against Atlanta in a dispute over a requirement by the state's largest city.

In Leeds, Alabama, Will Heath said he has seen greater adherence to mask rules around town, whether in stores or at his 5-year-old daughter's cheerleading practice.

He and his wife, a nurse, have worn masks all along but said the attitude among others has shifted from "Even if I get it, I'll be OK," to "Let's make sure we don't give it to somebody else."

"We have all been sort of operating under the assumption that we all have it or we're going to get it eventually. So we want to make sure we don't spread it," Heath said.

Many places around the U.S. are seeing pockets of contagion, especially in college towns where students are holding parties and crowding into bars.

Over the past week, 531 students, faculty and staff at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa have tested positive for the virus, according to the school. Alabama said it tested nearly 30,000 students before classes began. The mayor of Tuscaloosa shut down bars for two weeks because of the spike, which could derail plans to continue the semester on campus.

The university is still moving ahead with fall sports in the football-crazed state, with plans to allow only about 20,000 fans at its 101,000-capacity stadium and a ban on tailgating. Coach Nick Saban weighed in on the virus Monday, urging people to wear masks.

"It's not just about football. So, for people to make the right choices and decisions to wear their masks, do the things when they're out publicly, respect the rules, respect the virus, that's important," he said.

It's not clear what will happen to case numbers as more school districts bring students back to classrooms and colleges reopen their campuses. In recent weeks, schools including the University of North Carolina, Michigan State and Notre Dame have moved instruction online after outbreaks on their campuses.

Officials at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville said four students are facing disciplinary proceedings after three hosted off-campus parties with no mask or other distancing and another left isolation to meet with others despite testing positive for the virus.

"If the facts reported to the university are accurate, these students will face at least suspension from

the university, and potentially greater penalties," Chancellor Donde Plowman wrote.

Associated Press writers Mae Anderson, Nicky Forster and John Zenor contributed to this story.

## Lions skip practice after discussing shooting of Jacob Blake

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writer

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — The Detroit Lions decided not to practice on Tuesday, protesting after a Black man was shot by police in Wisconsin.

"We came up with this one as a unit," Detroit defensive end Trey Flowers said.

Lions coach Matt Patricia opened the team's morning meeting by allowing players to share their thoughts on the shooting of Jacob Blake, who is paralyzed from the waist down. Blake was shot Sunday, three months after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

The players continued to discuss Blake's shooting and shared their personal experiences regarding race in the locker room.

Lions players and Patricia later filed out of the team's practice facility, pushing a dry-erase board on wheels along the sidewalk to address the media. The words: "The world can't go on," was written in blue on one side of the dry-erase board and "We won't be silent!! One pride," was in black on the other side of the white board.

"If you're being silent, you're OK with it," Detroit safety Duron Harmon said. "You're OK with what's happening. No one in this organization or on this team is OK with it."

Patricia said he is proud of the players and hopes they inspire other people and teams in the NFL to take a stand for social justice.

"I challenge everybody to do this, everybody in the league to do this," Patricia said.

Seattle Seahawks defensive back Quandre Diggs showed his support on social media.

"Respect!" Diggs, a former Lion, posted on his Twitter account.

Colin Kaepernick, exiled from the NFL since the 2016 season when he took a knee during the national anthem, shed light on police brutality and racial inequality while playing for the San Francisco 49ers.

Following the nationwide protests in the aftermath of Floyd's death, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell apologized to players for not listening to them earlier, encouraged them to protest peacefully, and denounced racism.

Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford said social justice issues were discussed as a team in Zoom meetings during the spring, when players were prevented from gathering at the team's facility due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're dealing with times right now, where something is shaking in the world," Flowers added. "It's definitely an unprecedented time with the pandemic and something that has been going on for quite some time with the social injustice."

The conversations about race continued when the team reported for training camp earlier this month, and in face-to-face discussions Tuesday morning a player shared that his mother calls him nightly to make sure he arrived home safely.

"It's an incredible group of guys that we have in this locker room led by a coach who is unwavering in his ability to give us space to talk," Stafford said. "We spent all morning talking about it. You have to give a lot of credit to coach for allowing us to do that. I've never been more proud."

"We had our team meeting this morning and no football was talked about," Stafford added.

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## US Sen. Stabenow urges USDA to extend food program waivers

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By ANNA LIZ NICHOLS Associated Press / Report for America  
LANSING, Mich (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will not continue to provide food program waivers that have ensured students are fed while schools are closed during the coronavirus pandemic unless Congress acts, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan warned Tuesday.

Stabenow, a Democrat, said she is fighting the department's decision. At the end of August, locations other than schools will no longer be able to provide government-reimbursed meals to children and students will no longer receive meals on weekends, which was allowed under the summer rules.

"This is really, really important. We are not done with this pandemic. We are still in the middle of it, and families in Michigan and across the country are facing incredible hardships," Stabenow said during a virtual news conference in which she and other officials talked about the 30 million children in the U.S. that get government-funded meals. "Some children get their only meals at school. We have about 800,000 children traditionally in Michigan who had been in that category."

According to a letter sent to Stabenow last week from Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, the department does not have the authority to extend the summer waivers without congressional approval and funding.

"While we want to provide as much flexibility as local school districts need during this pandemic, the scope of this request is beyond what USDA currently has the authority to implement and would be closer to a universal school meals program which Congress has not authorized or funded," Perdue said in his letter. "Should Congress choose to go in this direction, USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance."

The USDA did not return a request for further comment Tuesday.

Stabenow said Congress has not taken away the department's ability to provide the necessary flexibility to ensure students receive healthy meals and she is uncertain where the decision was coming from. She said she hoped it was not coming from the Trump administration's push to put students back in schools for in-person instruction.

"I sure would hate to think that somehow holding access to food over their heads, over a parents' head, school's heads, would be used in that process, but there's been no deadline. At this point in time it's a choice that they are making," Stabenow said.

Stabenow, along with Democratic U.S. Rep. Robert Scott of Virginia, said she would reach out to the department to denounce its decision to take away meal flexibility.

As school districts in Michigan publish their back-to-school plans, more and more are transitioning to hybrid learning or completely online instruction in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

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Anna Liz Nichols is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## **Pompeo warned diplomats to avoid politics; he'll talk at RNC**

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sent a cable to all U.S. diplomatic missions last month warning American diplomats that under federal law they should not take overt sides in the presidential campaign. On Tuesday, he plans to ignore his own warning by speaking to the Republican National Convention endorsing President Donald Trump for a second term.

Pompeo's message to State Department employees reminding them of restrictions on political activity under the Hatch Act was not unusual. Similar, if not identical, cables have been sent by successive secretaries of state every presidential election year. None of his predecessors, however, has disregarded those instructions so obviously.

Despite State Department assurances that Pompeo will be speaking to the convention in his personal capacity and won't violate the Hatch Act, Democrats and other critics have cried foul. They accuse the country's top diplomat of inappropriate political behavior that has been anathema to his predecessors and of trashing his own admonition to State Department staffers.



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A senior Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee announced Tuesday that he had opened an investigation into whether Pompeo is violating the Hatch Act and demanded that the State Department produce its legal justification for the speech. Rep. Joaquin Castro, who chairs the committee's panel on government oversight, called Pompeo's actions "unacceptable."

"The Trump administration and Secretary Pompeo have shown a gross disregard not only of basic ethics, but also a blatant willingness to violate federal law for political gain. Congress has a responsibility to stand up for the rule of law and hold them accountable for this corrupt behavior," said Castro, D-Texas.

"It's absolutely unacceptable that a sitting U.S. secretary of state, America's top diplomat, would use official taxpayer-funded business to participate in a political party convention, particularly after the State Department published guidance that explicitly prohibits such activity," he said.

In a July 24 cable sent over his signature, Pompeo told employees "it is important to remember that in order to avoid any confusion or misperception in this regard, the department's longstanding policy is that U.S. citizen employees and family members may not engage in partisan political activity while posted or on (temporary duty) abroad, even on personal time."

"Similarly, presidential and political appointees and career (senior executives) are subject to significant restrictions on their political activity; they may not engage in any partisan political activity in concert with a partisan campaign, political party, or partisan political group, even on personal time and outside of the federal workplace," it said.

The cable was released late Monday by Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a fierce Pompeo critic who is engaged in multiple battles with the secretary over what he believes to be inappropriate and possibly illegal partisan behavior. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the cable independently and verified its authenticity.

"Once again, the rules go out the window for Secretary Pompeo when they get in the way of serving his political interests and Donald Trump," Engel said in a statement.

The State Department has defended Pompeo's decision to appear at the convention. "Secretary Pompeo will address the convention in his personal capacity," it said. "No State Department resources will be used. Staff are not involved in preparing the remarks or in the arrangements for Secretary Pompeo's appearance. The State Department will not bear any costs in conjunction with this appearance."

Meanwhile, a person close to Pompeo said four teams of lawyers, including the State Department legal counsel, have reviewed the speech that will be recorded in Jerusalem and broadcast in prime-time at the Republican convention on Tuesday to ensure that it does not cross ethical lines. The person was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

That person and the State Department said no taxpayer money was used in the production of the video, which was filmed in Jerusalem on Monday on the first stop of a multi-nation trip to the Middle East that is dominated by official government business.

Critics, though, say Pompeo is violating the spirit, if not the letter, of the Hatch Act by using government resources to travel to the venue and jeopardizing long-standing tradition that domestic politics ends at the water's edge when it comes to diplomacy.

At the same time, they complained using Jerusalem as the venue, Pompeo would further politicize the U.S.-Israel relationship with a pitch for Trump's reelection.

Trump has proudly claimed the mantle of being America's most pro-Israel president ever and as proof pointed to his decisions to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state, move the U.S. Embassy to the holy city from Tel Aviv, recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and sideline the Palestinians.

Such actions have won him high praise from conservative Israelis and American Jews and also appealed strongly to evangelical Christians in the United State whose support Trump is counting on in November.

While previous secretaries of state have naturally supported the policies of the presidents they served, they have steered clear of public political endorsements, sometimes going to great lengths to avoid their parties' conventions.

## Floyd's death sparks new activism among communities of color

By FELICIA FONSECA, DEEPTI HAJELA and JANIE HAR Associated Press

When Washington, D.C.'s NFL team dropped the offensive reference to Native Americans from its name last month after decades of resistance, activist Frances Danger knew why: the Black Lives Matter movement.

Danger said the change would never have happened without the massive marches to protest the death of an African American man under the knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis.

"Unfortunately, George Floyd had to lose his life for this to happen," Danger said. "That is too big a price, but I will forever be thankful to him because my grandkids are going to wake up in a world and maybe never hear the word 'redskin' in their life."

Kenosha, Wisconsin became the latest flashpoint this week with the police shooting of Jacob Blake, apparently in the back, as he leaned into his SUV while his three children sat in the vehicle.

The climate of racial reckoning that has emerged in the United States since Floyd's death has reinvigorated Native Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos and other people of color to fight back against the racism and discrimination they also have experienced for decades.

"I feel like the conversation has been more accepted," said Jessica Rodriguez, 38, a Chicana who lives in Southern California. "For the first time I feel like a lot of people who gave me pushback are saying, 'Hey, you're right, this is systemic. I can't believe I haven't noticed it.'"

But the movement has also forced minority communities to come to terms with their own internal biases and the conflicts that exist among them. Solidarity among people of color has never been a given in the U.S., notes Claire Jean Kim, professor of political science and Asian American studies at the University of California, Irvine.

"There are enduring tensions and conflict among all groups, including among groups of color, communities of color, because they're not, in fact, comparably situated," Kim said. "We tend to think, yes, they're all subjected to white supremacy, but there are also differences in how they're positioned, with Blacks clearly being positioned at the bottom of the racial order."

The largest ethnic or racial group in the U.S. after whites are Latinos, who make up 18% of the population. Black Americans are next with 13% of the population. Asian Americans are nearly 6% of the U.S., while Native Americans are barely 2% and often aren't counted among statistics for social indicators.

Competing economic interests, whitewashed American history classes and, in some cases, a fight for daily survival that leaves no time to reflect on the state of race relations, have traditionally made it difficult for people of color to unite.

Some Asian Americans for example, see affirmative action programs that favor African American and Latino students as an attack on Asian students, who may test higher but could be passed over.

Frank Xu, a 42-year-old software engineer from San Diego who emigrated from China 15 years ago, is among those fighting to defeat an affirmative action measure on the California ballot that supporters say is essential to dismantling decades of systemic racism.

"We are not the majority and we are not the minority," he said of Asian Americans, who have also been the target of anti-China attacks during the coronavirus pandemic. The virus was first detected in China and President Donald Trump has been among those who have derogatorily named COVID-19 the "China virus."

Steven Tauber, professor of political science at the University of South Florida in Tampa, who studies race in politics, said one of the barriers to minority groups coming together is a lack of knowledge about each other's histories in the U.S.: slavery and Jim Crow laws for Black Americans; the colonization of Latinos when large swaths of Mexico became part of the U.S.; immigration laws that excluded Asian Americans; and the Native American struggle to maintain sovereignty.

"I think a lot of it is ignorance," Tauber said. "Groups understand their own history but not the other group's history."

That might be changing, with a younger, savvier generation that is more aware of racial dynamics and the shared history of discrimination.

Rodriguez said when she was growing up, her generation felt powerless to fight back against the police officers who seemed to always be pulling over cars driven by people of color for seemingly no reason. But

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she said her niece, who is in eighth grade, is not only protesting racial discrimination on social media but also sharing information with classmates about how to become an ally to other minority groups.

"New generations are understanding this is not right," she said. "Black Lives Matter conversations are happening with younger kids: 'It's OK to push back, to fend for yourself.'"

Chinese American Daisy Tam, now 38, says it wasn't until she took a race relations class in college that she realized how prevalent the perpetuation of stereotypes was in the U.S.

"Racism is just learned when you're a kid and it's sad, but it's true," she said.

After Floyd's death, she had a talk with her parents, telling them, "You came here and you're discriminated against and Blacks are discriminated against too. There's really no difference."

There have been moments of great unity: Black Lives Matter protesters have shown up for young Latino immigrants petitioning to stay in the country after being brought here illegally as children. They were also among the thousands who joined Native Americans in protesting an oil pipeline near the North Dakota-South Dakota border for fear it would ruin the water supply. And people of many races, ethnicities and cultures have joined the ongoing BLM protests around the country.

On Friday, allies of the BLM movement will have an opportunity to hear directly from organizers of The Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of more than 150 Black-led organizations, during its virtual Black National Convention.

"Solidarity is not just an altruistic activity, but one that says, 'My life and the conditions of my folks rest upon the conditions of Black and Indigenous people in this country,'" said Nikita Mitchell, a national coordinator of The Rising Majority, a multiracial and multicultural coalition seeking alignment between movements.

Amanda Blackhorse, a Navajo woman and the lead plaintiff in a trademark case against the former Washington Redskins, has watched the nationwide protests against police brutality and racial inequality unfold on television and social media, and has marveled at those standing up for change.

"We have the same common enemy to fight," she said. "Right now in this country it's white supremacy and racism."

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Fonseca, Hajela and Har are members of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow them on Twitter: @FonsecaAP, @dhajela and @janiehar. Team member Aaron Morrison contributed to this report. Follow him on Twitter: @aaronlmorrison.

## AP Exclusive: Inmate beaten to death at federal lockup

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

The killing of an inmate who was beaten to death at a federal lockup in Indiana is under investigation by the FBI, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press about an attack that revives questions about safety in the beleaguered federal prison system.

An autopsy determined the May death of Jose Nieves-Galarza, 59, was caused by "blunt-force injuries" that caused him to bleed to death in his cell. The fatal beating was not publicly disclosed by prison officials and has not previously been reported.

The blows nearly ruptured the man's aorta and were "most likely inflicted" by someone's foot, according to an autopsy report obtained by the AP.

Nieves-Galarza's death, ruled a homicide, came just months before he was scheduled to be released from the FCI Terre Haute, where he was serving a seven-year sentence for being a felon in possession of a firearm. He had several prior convictions for robbery in New York and had been sentenced under the Armed Career Criminal Act.

The fatal beating is at least the third killing inside a federal prison since December. In March, the AP reported a 31-year-old inmate had been fatally beaten at USP Thomson, a high-security federal penitentiary in Illinois. Another inmate died following a knife attack at the federal lockup in Chicago in December.

The killings are among the latest security issues for the federal Bureau of Prisons, which has been plagued by chronic violence, serious misconduct and persistent staffing shortages as it also attempts to contain

the spread of the coronavirus among its facilities.

FCI Terre Haute, where Nieves-Galarza had been held since late 2018, currently has 10 inmates and two staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19, according to the BOP. The medium-security lockup is in the same prison complex that houses federal death row inmates.

The BOP made no mention of jailhouse violence in a May news release that said Nieves-Galarza had been found "unresponsive" and that his death did not appear to be related to the coronavirus.

The autopsy report, however, says Nieves-Galarza had been "involved in an altercation with another inmate approximately one hour earlier, but had not complained." It determined that "altercation injuries" were responsible for his death.

The BOP did not respond to questions from the AP about Nieves-Galarza's death, including whether any staff or inmates have been disciplined.

Nieves-Galarza's niece, Diana Hernandez, said prison officials said nothing about an attack when informing the family of his May 5 death.

The prison's warden also made no mention of an assault he wrote about in a letter to a federal judge informing her of Nieves-Galarza's death, saying the inmate had "passed away" from causes that had not yet been determined.

"We were asking questions and they had no answers for us," Hernandez said. "I felt like I was getting blown off and getting the runaround."

The BOP said in a statement that "family members may not learn of the circumstances surrounding an inmate death or the official cause of death until after this is determined by the medical examiner or appropriate official."

The FBI sent a letter to Hernandez last month saying Nieves-Galarza had been identified as "a possible victim of a crime."

"A criminal investigation can be a lengthy undertaking and, for several reasons, we cannot tell you about its progress at this time," the letter says.

The FBI referred questions about the investigation to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Indianapolis, which declined to comment because the investigation is "active and ongoing."

## **FDA chief apologizes for overstating plasma effect on virus**

By MATTHEW PERRONE and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Responding to an outcry from medical experts, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn on Tuesday apologized for overstating the life-saving benefits of treating COVID-19 patients with convalescent plasma.

Scientists and medical experts have been pushing back against the claims about the treatment since President Donald Trump's announcement on Sunday that the FDA had decided to issue emergency authorization for convalescent plasma, taken from patients who have recovered from the coronavirus and rich in disease-fighting antibodies.

Trump hailed the decision as a historic breakthrough even though the treatment's value has not been established. The announcement on the eve of Trump's Republican National Convention raised suspicions that it was politically motivated to offset critics of the president's handling of the pandemic.

Hahn had echoed Trump in saying that 35 more people out of 100 would survive the coronavirus if they were treated with the plasma. That claim vastly overstated preliminary findings of Mayo Clinic observations.

Hahn's mea culpa comes at a critical moment for the FDA which, under intense pressure from the White House, is responsible for deciding whether upcoming vaccines are safe and effective in preventing COVID-19.

The 35% figure drew condemnation from other scientists and some former FDA officials, who called on Hahn to correct the record.

"I have been criticized for remarks I made Sunday night about the benefits of convalescent plasma. The criticism is entirely justified. What I should have said better is that the data show a relative risk reduction not an absolute risk reduction," Hahn tweeted.



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The FDA made the decision based on data the Mayo Clinic collected from hospitals around the country that were using plasma on patients in wildly varying ways -- and there was no comparison group of untreated patients, meaning no conclusions can be drawn about overall survival. People who received plasma with the highest levels of antibodies fared better than those given plasma with fewer antibodies, and those treated sooner after diagnosis fared better than those treated later.

Hahn and other Trump administration officials presented the difference as an absolute survival benefit, rather than a relative difference between two treatment groups. Former FDA officials said the misstatement was inexcusable, particularly for a cancer specialist like Hahn.

"It's extraordinary to me that a person involved in clinical trials could make that mistake," said Dr. Peter Lurie, a former FDA official under the Obama administration who now leads the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest. "It's mind-boggling."

The 35% benefit was repeated by Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar at Sunday's briefing and promoted on Twitter by the FDA's communication staff. The number did not appear in FDA's official letter justifying the emergency authorization.

Hahn has been working to bolster confidence in the agency's scientific process, stating in interviews and articles that the FDA will only approve a vaccine that meets preset standards for safety and efficacy.

Lawrence Gostin of Georgetown University said Hahn's performance Sunday undermined those efforts.

"I think the integrity of the FDA took a hit, if I were Stephen Hahn I would not have appeared at such a political show," said Gostin, a public health attorney.

Hahn pushed back Tuesday morning against suggestions that the plasma announcement was timed to boost Trump ahead of the Republican convention.

"The professionals and the scientists at FDA independently made this decision, and I completely support them," Hahn said, appearing on "CBS This Morning."

Trump has recently accused some FDA staff, without evidence, of deliberately holding up new treatments "for political reasons." And Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, said over the weekend that FDA scientists "need to feel the heat."

The administration has sunk vast resources into the race for a vaccine, and Trump aides have been hoping that swift progress could help the president ahead of November's election.

At Sunday's briefing Hahn did not correct Trump's description of the regulatory move as a "breakthrough." He also did not contradict Trump's unsupported claim of a "deep state" effort at the agency working to slow down approvals.

Former FDA officials said the political pressure and attacks against the FDA carry enormous risk of undermining trust in the agency just when it's needed most. A vaccine will only be effective against the virus if it is widely taken by the U.S. population.

"I think the constant pressure, the name-calling, the perception that decisions are made under pressure is damaging," said Dr. Jesse Goodman of Georgetown University, who previously served as FDA's chief scientist. "We need the American people to have full confidence that medicines and vaccines are safe."

Convalescent plasma is a century-old approach to treating the flu, measles and other viruses. But the evidence so far has not been conclusive about whether it works, when to administer it and what dose is needed.

The FDA emergency authorization is expected to increase its availability to additional hospitals. But more than 70,000 Americans have already received the therapy under FDA's "expanded access" program. That program tracks patients' response, but cannot prove whether the plasma played a role in their recovery.

Some scientists worry the broadened FDA access to the treatment will make it harder to complete studies of whether the treatment actually works. Those studies require randomizing patients to either receive plasma or a dummy infusion.

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Associated Press writer Lauran Neergaard contributed to this report.

## Revved by Sturgis Rally, COVID-19 infections move fast, far

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The hundreds of thousands of bikers who attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally may have departed western South Dakota, but public health departments in multiple states are trying to measure how much and how quickly the coronavirus spread in bars, tattoo shops and gatherings before people traveled home to nearly every state in the country.

From the city of Sturgis, which is conducting mass testing for its roughly 7,000 residents, to health departments in at least eight states, health officials are trying to track outbreaks from the 10-day rally which ended on Aug. 16. They face the task of tracking an invisible virus that spread among bar-hoppers and rallygoers, who then traveled to over half of the counties in the United States.

An analysis of anonymous cell phone data from Camber Systems, a firm that aggregates cell phone activity for health researchers, found that 61% of all the counties in the U.S. have been visited by someone who attended Sturgis, creating a travel hub that was comparable to a major U.S. city.

"Imagine trying to do contact tracing for the entire city of (Washington), D.C., but you also know that you don't have any distancing, or the distancing is very, very limited, the masking is limited," said Navin Vembar, who co-founded Camber Systems. "It all adds up to a very dangerous situation for people all over the place. Contact tracing becomes dramatically difficult."

State health departments have reported 103 cases from people in South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming and Washington. Health officials in South Dakota have said they don't know how many people were exposed and have issued public warnings of possible COVID-19 exposure at five businesses popular with bikers.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican, has defied calls to cancel large gatherings and opposes requirements to wear masks. She welcomed the event, which in previous years brought in about \$800 million in tourist spending, according to the state's Department of Tourism.

"I sat at a bar elbow-to-elbow with guys. No one was wearing masks," said Stephen Sample, a rallygoer who rode back to Arizona last week.

He had visited a bar where health authorities later issued warnings — One-Eyed Jack's Saloon — but said he had not had any COVID-19 symptoms. He discussed quarantining with his wife after he returned, but decided against it.

Other bikers said they had gotten tested for COVID-19 after they returned home and received negative results.

In a country where each state has been tasked with doing the heavy-lifting of responding to the pandemic, tracing every infection from the rally is virtually impossible. But the city of Sturgis is doing what it can to head off a local outbreak by holding mass testing for asymptomatic people.

The city, which is a sleepy tourist destination for most of the 355 days of the year outside the rally dates, was a reluctant host this year. After many residents objected to holding the rally during a pandemic, city leaders decided to pay for mass testing with money they had received as part of federal coronavirus relief funding.

About 850 people will be tested, according to Daniel Ainslie, the city manager.

On Monday morning, Linda Chaplin drove with her husband to get tested in the parking lot of the Sturgis Community Center. They had left town during the rally, but the crowds that came before and after concerned them.

While the results from the test will take a couple days to process, the region is already seeing an increase in coronavirus cases.

"For a long time, people would say, 'Well, do you know anybody that has COVID?' and I would say, 'No, I don't, but I'm watching the news,'" Chaplin said. "Now, I do know some people that we've heard have COVID."

While Chaplin said the people she knows who have been infected had not participated in the rally, she said that many residents were relieved it's over.

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But like many places across the country, the city is trying to navigate the tension between health and economic concerns. Some residents, like Eunice Peck, were not concerned about the potential for an outbreak. She rented her home out to rallygoers as a way to make extra money. She had avoided the crowds that fill the city's downtown and didn't feel the need to get a test.

"It's a very good thing for the town," Peck said of the rally.

But events like Sturgis concern health experts, who see infections spreading without regard to city and state boundaries. Without a nationally-coordinated testing and tracing system, containing infections in a scenario like Sturgis is "almost impossible," said Dr. Howard Koh, a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health who worked at the Department of Health and Human Services under former President Barack Obama.

"We would need a finely orchestrated national system and we are far from that," he said. "We are really witnessing a 50-state effort with all of them going in different directions right now."

Kris Ehresmann, infectious disease director at the Minnesota Department of Health, on Friday advised people to quarantine for two weeks if they attended the rally.

She said, "We're expecting that we're going to see many more cases associated with Sturgis."

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Follow Stephen Groves on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stephengroves>

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This story corrects the spelling of Navin Vembar's name.

## Rap at auction: Biggie's crown and Tupac Shakur letters

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rivals in life, the rappers Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur are being united for an auction at Sotheby's, the first-ever dedicated hip-hop auction at a major international auction house.

Bidders will be able to vie for the crown worn and signed by the Notorious B.I.G. during a 1997 photo shoot held three days before he was killed in Los Angeles. They'll also get to bid on an archive of 22 autographed love letters written by Shakur at the age of 15-17 to a high school sweetheart.

The auction will be held Sept. 15 and features over 120 hip-hop-related lots. The items can be viewed in person — reservations are required during the pandemic — at Sotheby's in New York City and the exhibition will also be available to the public online via its digital gallery.

"The impact of hip-hop is everywhere — sneakers, clothing, jewelry, art, music. I wanted to have a sale that really recognized how massive that impact really is," said Cassandra Hatton, the Sotheby's senior specialist who organized the sale.

The estimates for the headlining lots — \$200,000 to \$300,000 for the crown and \$60,000 to \$80,000 for the letters — are low, with the hope that the auction house can attract first-time bidders and show it is not just a stuffy place for multi-million-dollar watches and paintings.

Overtime friends who became rivals in a hype-fueled war between the East and West Coast rap scenes, Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G. — also known as Biggie Smalls — were gunned down within months of each other. Both crimes remain unsolved.

The crown has been in photographer Barron Claiborne's possession since he captured Biggie for the cover of Rap Pages magazine. Claiborne had provided the prop, hoping to portray Biggie as the king of New York. Sean "Diddy" Combs, owner of Biggie's label Bad Boy Entertainment, was with the rapper on the photo shoot.

"I've seen the crown. Everybody's seen the crown. It's so famous. It's so iconic. When I was first thinking of doing this sale, I thought, 'Wouldn't it be great to track that crown down?'" Hatton said. "I've sold all sorts of wild things. But this is a little different."

Shakur's letters — many on lined stationary pages with neat hand-lettered script — were written in 1987 and 1988 to Kathy Loy, a fellow student at the Baltimore School for the Arts. The 42 pages chronicle their approximately two-month long romance, including a letter of regret for breaking up sent a year later. Loy provided the letters for auction.

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"I'll always be there for you," Shakur wrote to her in one. In a poem, we writes: "Everything is so beautiful/since I fell in love." The trove also reveal his friendship with fellow student Jada Pinkett Smith, who he mentions in one letter: "Jada told me she can see how much I love you."

What interested Hatton most is the tone of the letters. Unlike Shakur's tough public persona, the letters reveal a "sweet, poetic, sensitive young man."

"There are definitely moments that made me blush reading the letters — he is a 16-year-old boy after all," she added. "But he is very respectful. He advocates for clear communication and boundaries and wants to define relationships."

The auction continues Sotheby's recent trend toward embracing items prized by popular culture, including hosting the first dedicated sneaker auction at one of the big auction houses in July 2019. A pair of Michael Jordan's signed, game-worn Nikes was recently auctioned by Christie's for a record \$615,000.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Iowa farmers unsure what's next after winds flatten corn

By DAVID PITT Associated Press

WOODWARD, Iowa (AP) — Usually this time of year, someone could get lost in the tightly packed sea of corn that surrounds farmer Rod Pierce's house in central Iowa.

But two weeks after a rare storm tore a 40-mile-wide (65-kilometer-wide) swath through Iowa, it's more like a lush, thick mat of flattened cornstalks stretching in all directions, far past Pierce's farm.

"It's just unbelievable, is probably the word. I don't know how else to describe it," he said.

Pierce is among hundreds of Iowa farmers who are still puzzling over what to do after the Aug. 10 derecho, a storm that hit several Midwestern states but was especially devastating in Iowa as it cut through the middle of the state with winds of up to 140 mph (225 kph). The National Weather Service described the storm's intensity as a "once-in-a-decade occurrence in this region."

The storm damaged crops in just over one-third of Iowa's 99 counties, according to early estimates. Iowa is typically a national leader in corn and soybean production, and farmers in the worst hit counties had planted 3.6 million acres of corn and 2.5 million acres of soybeans.

Not all the damaged crops have been ruined, and even those like Pierce who saw the worst of the devastation might be able to salvage some kind of harvest. But for many it will be a devastating end to a season that at one time seemed so promising. After years of trade wars, exports were increasing to China, an increase in driving was raising demand for corn-based ethanol, and Iowa was expected to approach a record for the crop.

For those in the storm's path, much of that optimism has been blown away.

"It's discouraging, I guess. Frustrating. We had a nice looking crop," said Pierce who began farming in 1973.

Or as Mark Licht, an Iowa State University assistant professor and crop specialist, put it: "A good portion of the state had a really good crop before the storm. Now there are farmers outside the storm path who have a really good crop."

Licht said the extent of damage to Iowa corn is probably worse than during a 2012 drought. Iowa's crop was reduced by about 20%.

Soybeans — which grow on bushy plants closer to the ground — seem to have fared far better than the corn.

Corn damage varies. Some fields battered by hail and wind have nothing remaining but sticks poking out of the ground. Others are oddly flattened with 8-foot-tall (2.4-meters-tall) stalks lying in the dirt, broken off or bent so severely that the plants are turning brown. Many in the path of the storm's strongest blasts still stand but lean eastward at severe angles.

About 95% of Iowa's corn crop was insured. The mix of damage means insurance adjusters will write off some fields as a total loss while others will harvest something, but much less than they had expected.



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Last week, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds requested a disaster declaration from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue for more than half of the state, a move that would offer federal help, including immediate access to low-interest Farm Service Agency emergency loans. The USDA also is considering other steps.

Reynolds said Tuesday that Perdue is expected to visit Iowa next week to see the damage.

"There's some assistance there. We'll see what this federal disaster proclamation amounts to and what the criteria is to meet that," said Dave Struthers, who farms 1,100 acres with his brother and parents in central Iowa near Collins, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) northeast of Des Moines.

Although Struthers' corn is leaning at a 45-degree angle, he expects he'll be able to harvest it. The yield will drop through by 15 bushels, or more an acre. His farm also lost two 8,000-bushel grain bins and buildings housing 800 hogs, which were moved a few miles away.

Licht, the Iowa State professor, said he's concerned about the physical and emotional toll such losses could mean for farmers.

He advised them to take it easy during this fall's harvest, especially those who may be asked to try to harvest bent cornstalks. It may be a tedious process that could require special equipment. There's additional risk in damaging a combine, which can cost as much as \$500,000 to buy and tens of thousands of dollars to repair.

Farmers outside the wind-damaged area are likely to see a boost in crop prices if the damage turns out to be as significant as expected. Consumers likely won't see much difference in grocery prices.

Struthers said it's a reminder that farming is a gamble.

"We are the eternal optimists always looking for things to get better and sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't," Struthers said.

## Parsons, Sewell among AP preseason All-Americans not playing

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Penn State linebacker Micah Parsons and Oregon tackle Penei Sewell are among 11 players selected to The Associated Press preseason All-America first team who are not slated to play this fall.

The team was selected by 47 AP poll voters, who were asked to consider all Division I players — even those who had already opted out of the season or whose teams had postponed football.

The results show just how much star power will be missing from this pandemic-altered college football season. Twelve second-team All-Americans will also not play in the fall, including quarterback Justin Fields from defending Big Ten champion and preseason No. 2 Ohio State.

The Big Ten, Pac-12, Mid-American and Mountain West conferences have decided to try to play football in the second semester. As of now, Fields has given no indication that he won't be with the Buckeyes if they do. Same goes for Sewell, the Outland Trophy winner and potential top-five NFL draft pick, and Oregon teammate Kayvon Thibodeaux, a sophomore defensive end.

Parsons is among a handful of stars who have said they are gone for good, opting out of the season to concentrate on preparing for the draft. Along with Parsons, Purdue's Rondale Moore, selected as an all-purpose player, Miami defensive end Gregory Rousseau and Pittsburgh defensive tackle Jaylen Twyman were first-team All-America opt outs.

The All-Americans who will play this season include Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence, Oklahoma State running back Chuba Hubbard and LSU receiver Ja'Marr Chase.

### FIRST TEAM

#### Offense

Quarterback — Trevor Lawrence, junior, Clemson.

Running backs — Chuba Hubbard, junior, Oklahoma State; Travis Etienne, senior, Clemson.

Tackles — x-Penei Sewell, junior, Oregon; Alex Leatherwood, senior, Alabama.

Guards — x-Wyatt Davis, junior, Ohio State; Trey Smith, senior, Tennessee.

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Center — Creed Humphrey, junior, Oklahoma.

Tight end — x-Pat Freiermuth, junior, Penn State.

Receivers — Ja'Marr Chase, junior, LSU; DeVonta Smith, senior, Alabama.

All-purpose player — y-Rondale Moore, junior, Purdue.

Kicker — x-Keith Duncan, senior, Iowa.

## DEFENSE

Ends — x-Kayvon Thibodeaux, sophomore, Oregon; y-Gregory Rousseau, junior, Miami.

Tackles — Marvin Wilson, senior, Florida State; y-Jaylen Twyman, junior, Pitt.

Linebackers — y-Micah Parsons, junior, Penn State; x-Hamilcar Rashed Jr., senior, Oregon State; Dylan Moses, senior, Alabama.

Cornerbacks — Derek Stingley Jr., sophomore, LSU; x-Shaun Wade, junior, Ohio State.

Safeties — Richard LeCounte, senior, Georgia; Andre Cisco, junior, Syracuse.

Punter — Max Duffy, senior, Kentucky.

## SECOND TEAM

### Offense

Quarterback — x-Justin Fields, junior, Ohio State.

Running backs — Najee Harris, senior, Alabama; Kenneth Gainwell, sophomore, Memphis.

Tackles — Samuel Cosmi, junior, Texas; x-Cole Van Lanen, senior, Wisconsin.

Guards — x-Nolan Laufenberg, senior, Air Force; x-Alijah Vera-Tucker, junior, Southern California.

Center — x-Tyler Linderbaum, junior, Iowa.

Tight end — Charlie Kolar, junior, Iowa State.

Receivers — Tylan Wallace, senior, Oklahoma State; y-Rashod Bateman, junior, Minnesota.

All-purpose player — Jaylen Waddle, junior, Alabama.

Kicker — Gabe Brkic, sophomore, Oklahoma.

### Defense

Ends — Carlos Basham, senior, Wake Forest; Quincy Roche, senior, Miami.

Tackles — y-Jay Tufele, junior, Southern California; x-Levi Onwuzurike, senior, Washington.

Linebackers — Chazz Surratt senior, North Carolina; Nick Bolton, junior, Missouri; x-Paddy Fisher, senior, Northwestern.

Cornerbacks — Patrick Surtain II, junior, Alabama; y-Caleb Farley, junior, Virginia Tech.

Safeties — x-Jevon Holland, junior, Oregon; Trevon Moehrig, junior, TCU.

Punter — x-Adam Korsak, junior, Rutgers.

(x-team not scheduled to play in the fall; y-opted out of season)

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## AP-NORC poll: Many in US shoring up finances amid downturn

By JOSH BOAK and EMILY SWANSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's the paradox of a pandemic that has crushed the U.S. economy: 12.9 million lost jobs and a dangerous rash of businesses closing, yet the personal finances of many Americans have remained strong — and in some ways have even improved.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 45% of Americans say they're setting aside more money than usual. Twenty-six percent are paying down debt faster than they were before the coronavirus pandemic. In total, about half of Americans say they've either saved more or paid down debt since the outbreak began.

The findings highlight the unique nature of the current crisis. Nearly \$3 trillion in government aid in the form of direct payments, expanded jobless benefits and forgivable payroll loans helped cushion against the fastest economic downturn in American history. Meanwhile, health fears and mandated closures prompted many Americans to spend less on restaurant meals, clothing and travel.

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About two-thirds say they're spending less than usual during the pandemic. Since February, there has been a \$1.3 trillion jump in money kept in checking accounts — a 56% increase tracked by the Federal Reserve. While the greater savings helps to keep families more financially secure, it may also limit the scope of any recovery in a country that relies on consumer spending for growth.

Kent Sullivan, a landscape painter from Orlando, Florida, has been making extra mortgage payments. The 68-year-old and his wife received \$1,200 in direct government payments and hope to own their home free and clear within 18 months.

"Everything goes into extra mortgage payments," he said. "As an artist, it's feast or famine. You never know if you're going to get a big commission or if the gallery does well."

The findings shed light on a persistent riddle of a global pandemic in which a weakened economy has somehow spared most U.S. families from the worst of the financial toll. Just 37% call the national economy good, down from 67% in January. But at the same time, 63% describe their personal financial situation as good, largely in line with what it was before the pandemic began more than six months ago.

People's positive feelings about their own finances might also be helping President Donald Trump as he seeks reelection this November against former Vice President Joe Biden. About half of Americans, 47%, approve of how Trump is handling the economy. That's significantly higher than his overall favorable rating of 35%.

"He's a businessman, not a politician," said Sally Gansz, 78, from Trinidad, Colorado. "He'll get jobs back — he did it before."

But while the initial burst of aid helped Americans, Trump — who touted his ability as a dealmaker in real estate — could not reach an agreement with Democrats to keep the money flowing after many of the benefits expired this month.

Alan Vervaeke, 59, from Gilford, New Hampshire, said the Trump administration's failure to contain COVID-19 has forced the government to take on debt, rather than investing in infrastructure and scientific research that could help growth long-term.

"The American economy is going to come back, but I don't think it's going to be as robust," said Vervaeke, a military veteran who manages software engineers. "We need an actual statesman who can create opportunities for average Americans, instead of politicians making a lot of promises they may never keep."

About a quarter of Americans say they've been unable to pay at least one bill because of the pandemic, including 14% who've been unable to make a rent or mortgage payment, 14% who have been unable to pay a credit card bill and 21% who have been unable to pay another type of bill. Seventeen percent have been unable to pay multiple types of bills.

The downturn has also exposed the depth of inequality in the United States.

About half of Black Americans and roughly 4 in 10 Hispanic Americans say they've been unable to pay a bill, compared with about 2 in 10 white Americans. And 66% of Hispanic Americans say they've experienced household income loss, compared with 50% of Black Americans and 44% of white Americans.

Overall, about half of Americans say they've experienced at least one form of household income loss. That includes 23% who say they've experienced a household layoff, 34% who say someone in the household has been scheduled for fewer hours, 22% who've taken unpaid time off and 25% who've had their wages or salaries reduced.

People in households that have lost income, including a layoff, are about as likely as those who have not to say they've been spending less, saving more and paying down debt, though they are also more likely to say they've been unable to pay at least one type of bill.

Overall, 48% of those who say someone in their household has been laid off have been unable to pay at least one type of bill, compared with 19% of those who have not.

Those who say they've spent less during the pandemic are much more likely than those who have not to say they're putting more into savings (58% to 21%) and paying down debt faster than usual (32% to 15%).

Those savings might help sustain the economy if the downturn worsens or might propel growth if the coronavirus fades and people become more comfortable with venturing out. Brynn Alexander, 36, is cautiously optimistic.

"It's better than it was in March, a little bit better," said Alexander, a mother to four girls with her husband, who serves in Army at Fort Benning, Georgia. "A lot of my friends are getting back to work."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,075 adults was conducted Aug. 17-19 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Online:

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

## **Kenosha delayed body cameras for years before Blake shooting**

By RYAN J. FOLEY Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — City and law enforcement leaders in Kenosha, Wisconsin, unanimously endorsed the use of body cameras in 2017 as a way to increase police accountability and collect evidence at scenes of domestic violence, among other benefits.

But since then, they have balked at the price tag, raised policy concerns and put off implementation. The delays meant that officers who were on the scene of Sunday's shooting of Jacob Blake while responding to a domestic call were not equipped with technology that could give their perspective on an incident that has roiled the nation.

Instead, the public has only seen video captured by a neighbor that shows one or more officers shooting Blake, 29, in the back several times as the Black man walked away from them, opened his SUV's driver-side door and leaned into the vehicle. It doesn't show what happened before or after the shooting like body camera footage would.

The shooting left Blake paralyzed from the waist down, his father told the Chicago Sun-Times, and it sparked civil unrest in Kenosha, a city of 100,000 people between Milwaukee and Chicago. But it also shined a light on Kenosha's delays in equipping its roughly 200 police officers with body-worn cameras, which has made the city fall behind many of its neighbors and similar-sized peers.

"This is a tragedy. But at least some good could come from this if this is finally the incident where Kenosha says, 'we've got to get body cameras on these cops right away,'" said Kevin Mathewson, a former member of the common council.

Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian confirmed Monday that current plans call for the city to buy them in 2022 — more than five years after he endorsed their adoption. Kenosha officers do have cameras in their squad cars, but it's unclear whether any captured the shooting.

Mathewson pushed the city to buy cameras during his tenure on the council from 2012 to 2017, saying he saw them as a tool to remove bad police officers from the department after a series of troubling use-of-force and misconduct incidents. Body cameras became particularly popular nationwide as a way to improve policing after the 2014 fatal shooting of Michael Brown, a Black 18-year-old, by a white officer in Ferguson, Missouri.

Mathewson recalled proposing a budget amendment to buy the equipment in early 2017 and hitting resistance from the mayor, police chief and other council members, who argued that would be unwise without clear state regulations governing their use.

By then, Kenosha had already fallen behind most other midsized police departments nationwide that were moving forward with body camera programs. By 2016, 56% of departments with between 100 and 250 officers had acquired them, and most had some officers wearing them, according to a 2018 U.S. Department of Justice study. Their use is believed to have increased substantially since then, although funding challenges remain.

Instead of providing the money immediately, Kenosha's council passed a unanimous resolution in March 2017 recommending their use, listing their numerous benefits and noting that the police chief, the district attorney and the mayor were in favor.



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But the resolution said that their adoption in Kenosha hinged on the state providing guidance to departments on usage, storage, public records and privacy issues.

Gov. Tony Evers signed a law in February outlining body camera regulations for police departments. The law requires footage to be retained for 120 days at minimum — longer in certain cases — and says recordings are generally subject to Wisconsin's open records law.

Kenosha initially planned to buy the cameras this year, but funding shortfalls and technological concerns prompted the city to push that back to 2022, said Rocco LaMacchia, chairman of the council's public safety committee.

"We have moved it back so many times," he said. "I got a feeling this is going to move up on the ladder really fast because of what's going on around the United States right now. Body cameras are a necessity. There's no doubt about it."

Of the Blake shooting, he said, "The body camera footage on this one would have told right from wrong right away."

The city's current plans call for purchasing 175 Axon body cameras from Taser International and a five-year evidence storage and maintenance plan in 2022. After the first year, the city would incur an estimated \$145,000 cost annually for using Evidence.com to store video evidence.

Michael Bell Sr. has been advocating for police reforms since officers in Kenosha fatally shot his 21-year-old son, Michael Bell Jr., in 2004. He has had success at the state level, helping in 2014 to push through a law requiring outside investigation when people die in the hands of law enforcement. But the retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel said officials in Kenosha have consistently failed to act on years of calls for police body cameras, which he likened to the "black box" on an airplane.

"I feel that there has been no movement," he said. "Every time they put (body camera funding) into the budget it's been kicked downstream."

But the ongoing storage costs are significant as cities face budget crises during the coronavirus pandemic and many critics push for cuts to police departments, said Steven Casstevens, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Casstevens, the police chief in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, said he recently asked Vice President Mike Pence to make federal funding available for those costs, which many departments can't afford. Until now, grants have mostly covered the upfront costs of buying the equipment, he said.

"There's a demand to defund the police. Yet the flip side is that people are demanding body cameras," he said. "You can't have it both ways."

He said the cameras are helpful but have not turned out to be the game-changing reform that many had hoped. One reason: Some officers fail to activate their cameras during life-and-death encounters, he said.

An increasing number of studies also suggest the cameras do not change how often officers use force.

In Milwaukee, officers used slightly less force after starting to wear cameras at first but then returned quickly to normal levels, said Daniel Lawrence, a researcher at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., who studied their adoption.

Complaints against officers dropped significantly, but it's unclear whether that's due to improved interactions, citizens' fears of filing false claims or both, he said.

Body camera footage of the Blake shooting would have been important, but video from squad cars or other sources may be able to provide key perspectives for investigators, Lawrence said.

"The cameras themselves can provide a lot of insight into an officer's mindset before and after a shooting, but they may not be the crucial piece of evidence that makes or breaks a case," he said.

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Associated Press reporter Jake Bleiberg contributed from Dallas.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined  
Today in History

# Groton Daily Independent

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Today is Wednesday, Aug. 26, the 239th day of 2020. There are 127 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 26, 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago; the four-day event that resulted in the nomination of Hubert H. Humphrey for president was marked by a bloody police crackdown on antiwar protesters in the streets.

On this date:

In 55 B.C., Roman forces under Julius Caesar invaded Britain, with only limited success.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

In 1944, French Gen. Charles de Gaulle braved the threat of German snipers as he led a victory march in Paris, which had just been liberated by the Allies from Nazi occupation.

In 1957, the Soviet Union announced it had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile.

In 1958, Alaskans went to the polls to overwhelmingly vote in favor of statehood.

In 1961, the original Hockey Hall of Fame was opened in Toronto.

In 1972, the summer Olympics games opened in Munich, West Germany.

In 1974, Charles Lindbergh — the first man to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic — died at his home in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1985, 13-year-old AIDS patient Ryan White began "attending" classes at Western Middle School in Kokomo, Indiana, via a telephone hook-up at his home -- school officials had barred Ryan from attending classes in person.

In 2004, the nation's supply of vaccine for the impending flu season took a big hit when Chiron Corp. announced it had found tainted doses in its factory, and would hold up shipment of about 50 million shots.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey spun into Texas, unloading extraordinary amounts of rain. (The hurricane killed nearly 70 people, damaged more than 300,000 structures and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage.) Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. beat UFC fighter Conor McGregor in a boxing match in Las Vegas that was stopped by the referee in the 10th round; it was the last fight of Mayweather's career and earned him an estimated \$200 million.

In 2018, a gunman opened fire on fellow gamers at a video game tournament in Jacksonville, Fla., killing two men and wounding 10 others before taking his own life. Playwright Neil Simon, whose comedies included "The Odd Couple" and "Barefoot in the Park," died at the age of 91.

Ten years ago: The government of Chile released a video of the 33 miners trapped deep in a copper mine; the men appeared slim but healthy as they sang the national anthem and yelled, "Long live Chile, and long live the miners!"

Five years ago: Alison Parker, a reporter for WDBJ-TV in Roanoke, Virginia, and her cameraman, Adam Ward, were shot to death during a live broadcast by a disgruntled former station employee who fatally shot himself while being pursued by police.

One year ago: As the Group of Seven summit wrapped up in France, President Donald Trump pitched his own Doral golf resort in Florida as an ideal site for the next G-7 summit; the idea was scrapped after bipartisan concern that Trump would violate a clause in the Constitution prohibiting presidents from accepting gifts or payments from governments. Charges including aggravated manslaughter were filed against four employees of a Florida nursing home where 12 people died in sweltering heat after a hurricane cut power. An Oklahoma judge found that Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries had helped fuel the state's opioid crisis; the judge ordered the consumer products giant to pay \$572 million. (The award was later reduced to \$465 million after the judge acknowledged a miscalculation; the case is on appeal.)

Today's Birthdays: Pop singer Vic Dana is 80. Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Valerie Simpson is 75. Pop singer Bob Cowsill is 71. Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker is 69. Actor Brett Cullen is 64. Former NBA coach Stan Van Gundy is 61. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 60. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 59. Actor Chris Burke is 55. Actor-singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 54. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crows) is 54. TV writer-actor Riley

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Weston is 54. Rock musician Adrian Young (No Doubt) is 51. Actor Melissa McCarthy is 50. Latin pop singer Thalía is 49. Actor Meredith Eaton is 46. Rock singer-musician Tyler Connolly (Theory of a Deadman) is 45. Actor Mike Colter is 44. Actor Macaulay Culkin is 40. Actor Chris Pine is 40. Comedian/actor/writer John Mulaney is 38. Actor Johnny Ray Gill is 36. Country singer Brian Kelley (Florida Georgia Line) is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cassie (AKA Cassie Ventura) is 34. Actor Evan Ross is 32. Actor Danielle Savre is 32. Actor Dylan O'Brien is 29. Actor Keke Palmer is 27.