

# Groton Daily Independent

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“HOW BEAUTIFUL A DAY  
CAN BE WHEN  
KINDNESS TOUCHES IT.”

-GEORGE ELLISTON

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

## GDILIVE.COM

**Volleyball Action in Groton**

**Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020**

**Ipswich vs. Groton**

**JV Game at 6 p.m. sponsored by**

**Melanie Johnson**

**Varsity game to follow sponsored by**

**Ed & Connie Stauch**

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE BUILDING**



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## The following was approved at the Board of Education meeting last night

### Resolution Declaring School District Employees as Critical Infrastructure Employees

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and the South Dakota Department of Health define "close contact" as someone who has

- Been within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- Provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Had direct physical contact with a person who is sick with COVID-19 (hugged or kissed them)
- Shared eating or drinking utensils with a person who is sick with COVID-19
- Been coughed or sneezed on by someone who is sick with COVID-19

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and the South Dakota Department of Health define the close contact quarantine period as the 14-day period after the date of last contact with a person who has COVID-19.

Whereas the Groton Area School District does not have available a sufficient number of substitute teachers nor the necessary personnel to fill in for absent staff members to safely or effectively operate the school system through periods of high absenteeism.

Whereas Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) new Essential Critical Worker Guidance version 4.0 identifies the following essential critical infrastructure workers in education

- Workers who support the education of pre-school, K-12, college, university, career and technical education, and adult education students, including professors, teachers, teacher aides, special education and special needs teachers, ESOL teachers, para-educators, apprenticeship supervisors, and specialists.
- Workers who provide services necessary to support educators and students, including but not limited to, administrators, administrative staff, IT specialists, media specialists, librarians, guidance counselors, school psychologists and other mental health professions, school nurses and other health professionals, and school safety personnel.
- Workers who support the transportation and operational needs of schools, including bus drivers, crossing guards, cafeteria workers, cleaning and maintenance workers, bus depot and maintenance workers, and those that deliver food and supplies to school facilities.
- Workers who support the administration of school systems including, school superintendents and their management and operational staff.
- Educators and operational staff facilitating and supporting distance learning.

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue to work following potential exposure to COVID-19 provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

Whereas the Groton Area School District will enforce the additional precautions as outlined below to protect "close contact" employees and the community:

- Pre-Screening. The District will conduct pre-shift symptom screening including temperature check prior to each shift during the "close contact" quarantine period.
- Monitoring. The District will conduct mid-shift symptom screening including temperature check during each shift during the "close contact" quarantine period.
- Masking. The "close contact" employee will wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace during the "close contact" quarantine period.
- Physical Distancing. The employee should maintain 6 feet of physical distance as work duties permit while in the workplace.
- Disinfection and Cleaning. All work areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared equipment will be cleaned routinely.

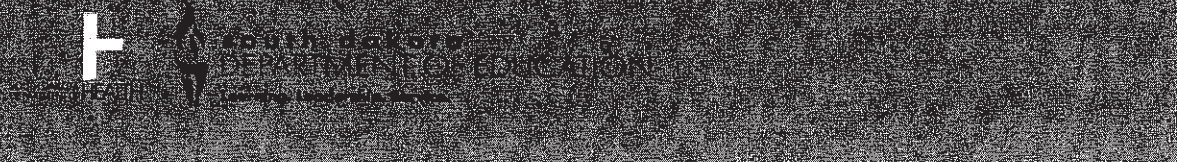
Therefore be it resolved that the Groton Area School District hereby declares all employees as critical infrastructure workers for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**Be aware that Brown County is now considered substantial community spread**

## Screening K12 Students/Staff for Symptoms of COVID-19



**Staff/Students: Please complete this short check each morning before leaving for school.** This screening checklist can be used at home or if symptoms occur during school.

- School staff who interact with someone who becomes ill at school should use transmission-based precautions when caring for sick people.
- Students/Staff who are sick should not attend school in-person.

### Please check for these Symptoms:

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

### Please also check for any Exposure:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19: OR
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting substantial spread of COVID-19 cases;
  - For the latest information on community spread go to <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>

**ORANGE Symptom Alone =** Exclusion for COVID 19 not necessary. Follow existing school policy.

**BLUE Exposure + ORANGE Symptom =** Any individual displaying symptoms as well as possible exposure criteria should be directed to contact their healthcare provider for testing consideration. If untested, exclude at least 10 days since symptom onset (and 24 hours without fever AND symptoms improved).

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**And be aware that the Board of Education voted last night that everyone attending an indoor event at GHS will be required to wear a mask.**

**Face Mask**



**Required**

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**#190 in a series**

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

Today looks only a bit worse than yesterday; we'll want to remember that Sunday is always the low point in the week, followed by Monday, so let's see what tomorrow brings. It would be good if the numbers stay this low or, ideally, start moving down again. We had 35,700 new cases reported today, a 0.6% increase to 6,041,800 cases in the US. We should note that only two other countries in the world have more than one million cases; neither of them is over four million. The number of deaths is up to 183,450, which is 485 or 0.3% higher than yesterday.

The hottest spots in the country are North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Their small populations mean spikes in cases don't really register in the national totals, but they are states in trouble. North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Minnesota, and Iowa all set records this week for seven-day new cases. With 4% of the nation's population, they accounted for 6.4% of the nation's new cases; this is significant. Most of these states see their biggest surges in college towns. North and South Dakota have both set single-day new case records last week, and Grand Forks County, home of the University of North Dakota has one of the highest per capita growth rates in the country. Iowa, likewise, has its biggest numbers in Ames and Iowa City, homes to Iowa State University and the University of Iowa, respectively, which reported the largest numbers of per capita new cases in the United States. Kansas faces a similar situation in Lawrence, home to the University of Kansas where major outbreaks are underway at the Greek houses on campus. Minnesota, by comparison, is in a bit better shape, but the rural areas seem to be surging, with test positivity rates over 10%, definite danger territory. Most of these states experience harsh winter weather and can be expected to suffer significant surges as people move indoors and closer together in the coming cold months; it will be critical to get community spread under some semblance of control before that cold weather sets in, or it will be a long, difficult winter on the Plains.

Additionally, we are seeing more data on Sturgis (SD) Motorcycle Rally-associated cases. While we accept we will never be able to effectively track all of the fallout from this event, we do now have at least 260 cases across the country linked to the Rally. There are 25 cases in Colorado, 11 cases in Michigan, 46 cases in Minnesota, 7 cases in Montana, 7 cases in Nebraska, 8 cases in New Hampshire, 3 cases in New Jersey, 30 cases in North Dakota, 105 cases in South Dakota, 3 cases in Washington, 2 cases in Wisconsin, and 13 cases in Wyoming. I hope everyone had fun at the Rally.

Next challenge on the horizon: Labor Day. Holidays seem to cause us problems in the US as we continue to gather in large groups against all advice. We had a surge after Memorial Day, another surge after July 4; and now we have the opportunity to get one more big surge in after Labor Day and before the winter holidays. We do not want to do that. The start of school and the upcoming winter will offer enough challenges; we really don't need another one. If you must gather with family and/or friends for the holiday, please do it outdoors, observe social distance, and wear masks as much as possible during the event. It will also help if you are observant about not drinking too much; people under the influence tend to make poor decisions about their own well-being and that of others. We really need to begin developing the stomach for small sacrifices, or the virus will impose larger sacrifices we aren't so nuts about: a funeral for Grandma or Junior being quarantined from school, maybe even a stint on a ventilator.

The CDC has released a report on health care workers' seropositivity for Covid-19. Seropositivity is a sign you have detectable antibodies to the virus in your blood, which indicates you have been infected. The results are sobering, indicating a large number of these people are going undiagnosed. That means they could be spreading infection within the hospitals because they are still finding themselves short of personal protective equipment (PPE) far too often. Workers who reported they did not always wear a face covering showed 50% greater rates of infection, but the thing is these coverings are not always available, which makes the workers more likely to become infected and more likely to spread those infections. They are also apparently not being tested often enough since more than two-thirds of them had not previously been diagnosed. Health care workers are at risk, and we are not adequately protecting them. These workers are positioned to contribute significantly to transmission to people least equipped to deal with

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the infection, and we are not providing the means to interrupt that transmission. Health care workers are critical to our ability to respond effectively to this pandemic, and we are not keeping them healthy and on the job. All these months in, we are still getting these elementary principles so very wrong.

A study from the Department of General and Endocrine Surgery at Lille University Hospital in France has sought to quantify the risk for severe disease for obese individuals. Defining obesity as a BMI over 30 (BMI = body mass index – calculator for finding yours can be found at [https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/educational/lose\\_wt/BMI/bmicalc.htm](https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/educational/lose_wt/BMI/bmicalc.htm)), they found that half of the Covid-19 patients in ICU had obesity. The findings are stark: “Our data show that the chances of increasing to more severe disease increases with BMI, to the point where almost all intensive care Covid-19 patients with severe obesity will end up on a ventilator.” Dr. Francois Pattou added, “Several months into the Covid-19 pandemic, the increased risk posed by this virus to people living with obesity could not be clearer.” That does, indeed, seem clear enough.

We have a new vaccine candidate going into phase 3 trials in the US, the entrant from AstraZeneca. Like the others, the maker is recruiting up to 30,000 adults and looking for representation from the ethnic and racial groups most affected by this virus, as well as other groups at increased risk of infection. This candidate is also a two-dose vaccine, but it has just a two-week wait between doses, which will speed things up a bit. Phase 3 trials are already underway in the UK, Brazil, and South Africa; the US is being added to the trial now with plans for Japan and Russia in the future. The total enrollment in this massive trial will be around 50,000.

There’s some pretty interesting news on the immunologic response front, and it may inform a therapeutic approach to Covid-19. It involves a group of cytokines called interferons, so I think we’re going to need to lay some groundwork before we get to the news portion of our program.

Cytokines, you may recall, are messaging molecules produced by cells of the immune system during the response to infections; they are secreted by various cells and have their effects on other cells which can initiate and/or enhance a response. Interferon (IFN) is one type of cytokine which is involved in the innate (nonspecific) responses, and it comes in a variety of forms: There are three kinds of IFN, called type I, type II, and type III. (Scientists are highly creative when naming things.) We’re only really interested here in type I IFN, and these things get complicated fast, so we’re going to ignore the other two types for tonight.

Type I IFNs are produced by a couple of different kinds of immune cells. These chemicals include IFN-alpha (which has 13 subtypes also creatively named IFN-alpha1, IFN-alpha2, etc.) and IFN-beta. These type 1 IFNs have potent antiviral effects in three ways: (1) They directly interfere with viral replication (which is where the name, interferon, comes from, (2) they promote the expression of signaling molecules on infected cells which marks them as targets for killing and increase the ability of lymphocytes (specialized white blood cells) called natural killer (NK) cells that do the actual killing, and (3) they stimulate the development of Th1 (helper T, sometimes called CD4) cells which help other cells by secreting more cytokines that stimulate and regulate the adaptive (specific—antibody and cell-mediated) responses. (And before you ask, this IS the stripped-down, basic explanation. So sorry.) So essentially, these IFNs directly interfere with virus, activate the killing of infected cells so new virus doesn’t get released, and activate specific responses, your next line of defense. Handy little guys, aren’t they?

What generally happens when one of the IFN-secreting cells is presented with bacteria or viruses is they erupt in massive production of IFNs and other cytokines. This is one of the very first things that happens when you encounter a pathogen, so IFN is largely responsible for getting a response underway. These chemicals are remarkably effective in shutting down a huge share of potential infections and getting the specific response started as well; they’re a first-line defense that does its own job and also activates second-line defenses.

So, with that under our belts, we can talk about the news. An article published a few weeks ago in the journal *Science* by a group of colleagues at the National Reference Center for Rare Systemic Autoimmune Diseases in Paris’s Cochin Hospital, includes in its findings that “[t]hese results suggest that SARS-CoV2 has developed efficient mechanisms to shut down host IFN production.” This was shown by assessing the

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amount of circulating IFN in the bloodstreams of infected people; the diminished type I IFN seen suggests the patients' ability to produce IFN is compromised. Further, they identified "distinct patterns of circulating IFN-alpha" that "characterized each disease grade" of severity. So the sicker you are, the less IFN the scientists can find in your blood. This leads us pretty inescapably to the conclusion this virus is impeding people's production of these protective and regulatory cytokines and, as a result, yielding a disordered immunologic response to infection.

These findings dovetail nicely with another paper published this spring in the journal *Cell* by a research group at the Icahn School of Medicine at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, also reporting impaired production of IFN in humans, in ferrets, and in tissue cultures in the lab. One of the co-authors of that paper said, "The virus is very actively repressing both the production of and the sequencing of interferons." That work resulted in many of the same conclusions about the ways in which this virus is producing an imbalanced immunologic response.

A third research effort at Stanford University School of Medicine, reported in the journal *Science* just a couple of weeks ago, demonstrated in the lab that IFN-producing cells from patients with severe Covid-19 showed basically no reaction to challenge with viruses and bacteria. After eight days of infection, "the type-1 interferon system is completely absent, and silenced, by the infection."

This would explain a lot about what we're seeing in severe cases; hampering this critical front-line defense diminishes efforts to contain the virus, enabling it to take hold in a host and produce all of its various deleterious effects. The thinking is that this lack of containment leads to other defensive mechanisms spiraling out of control, producing elevated levels of other cytokines with pro-inflammatory effects. This can help to explain the sometimes deadly inflammatory damage we're seeing in so many of the severely ill, the so-called cytokine storms we've discussed several times.

According to Petter Brodin at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, "We know that individuals differ in their ability to mount an interferon response." There is some speculation that some people may have an underlying deficiency in their ability to produce IFNs, and this could be why some people get so much sicker than others. There was a case study of four young men with rare genetic variants that cause impaired IFN responses and were hospitalized with severe Covid-19 which seems to support this line of thinking. Likewise, infections might tend to more severity in older people because the elderly tend to have a weakened ability to produce IFNs and to immunoregulate in the first place.

Now, we can put that information together with preliminary results from a small randomized clinical trial by the company Synairgen of its proprietary inhalable formulation of interferon-beta for treatment of Covid-19. In 101 hospitalized patients, its investigational drug, SNG001, "greatly reduced the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients who progressed from 'requiring oxygen' to 'requiring ventilation;'" patients receiving the drug were 79% less likely to progress to ventilation than those receiving placebo. They were also more than twice as likely to recover "to the point where their everyday activities were not compromised." We do want to be cautious in interpreting the meaning of these results as this was a very small trial and the results have not been peer-reviewed; but this is a promising finding.

The NIH (National Institutes of Health) has launched a clinical trial for injected IFN-beta-1a, a synthetic version of the stuff our cells make, in hospitalized patients who are not receiving mechanical ventilation. The thinking is that this may be an intervention that is effective earlier in the course of the disease to prevent progression to the more severe stages. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, explained, "What you're likely going to see, as more antivirals come along and then the monoclonal antibodies come along, will be a propensity to treating as early as you possibly can to prevent people from getting into the hospital." This trial will include the use of remdesivir, a drug we've discussed often which has an emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA for Covid-19 patients. Everyone in the 1000-patient trial will receive the remdesivir, and then half of the patients will also receive the IFN-beta-1a while the others receive remdesivir alone.

IFN is already approved for the treatment of other diseases, including multiple sclerosis, so it is already demonstrated safe and is widely available. There are down-sides to IFN treatment, among them some fairly

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unpleasant side-effects including muscle aches and fever. A significant goal of trials will be to establish a dosage and to determine when in the course of an infection it is most effective to treat because there is some concern treating too late may actually worsen symptoms.

In March, Valerie Xu began hearing how much trouble health care workers were having getting PPE to use in caring for Covid-19 patients and also much anger was being directed at Asian Americans because of the virus's origins. Wanting to help with both problems she pulled her own savings of \$1200 out of her bank account and then started raising more money, including a \$10,000 match from a corporation. She then used her Mandarin-speaking mother's help to communicate with Chinese companies which produce most of the world's supplies and make some orders.

She located vendors, contacted the companies, and imported face masks, all in an effort to help health care workers and destigmatize Asian Americans. Starting in April, Xu was giving the first of 52,600 CDC-approved face masks she'd purchased to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. She later branched out to homeless shelters. She said, "With this campaign, I hope to send a message that Asians like myself are standing along with health care workers in our common goal to defeat this virus." She wants to share the message that all Americans are in this together, no matter their racial background."

Dr. John Warner, executive vice president for health system affairs said donations like this one not only help to stretch their stock of masks, but give the staff an important boost. The Center wrote, "We are living through a generation-defining moment. Now more than ever before, your gift unites us in our mission to promote health and a healthy society."

Xu adds, "If there is one thing that I have learned from this experience, it is that people care and are willing to help our community, which is the truth of our American spirit." Another summer vacation spent wisely.

Take care. We'll talk again.



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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1
Minnesota	70,707	71,236	72,390	73,240	74,257	75,189	75,864
Nebraska	32,348	32,727	33,101	33,436	33,753	34,046	34,287
Montana	6,624	6,785	6,929	7,063	7,251	7340	7,421
Colorado	55,800	55,993	56,343	56,773	57041	57,223	57,424
Wyoming	3,089	3,135	3,166	3,196	3,210	3245	3264
North Dakota	10,229	10,467	10,800	11,109	11,484	11,702	11,816
South Dakota	11,505	11,571	12,194	12,517	12,942	13,322	13,509
United States	5,779,395	5,823,685	5,869,692	5,919,670	5,961,582	5,997,622	6,031,286
US Deaths	178,533	179,743	180,857	181,798	182,779	183,068	183,602
Minnesota	+409	+529	+1,154	+850	+1,017	+932	+607
Nebraska	+301	+379	+374	+335	+317	+293	+241
Montana	+135	+161	+144	+134	+188	+89	+81
Colorado	+459	+193	+350	+430	+268	+182	+201
Wyoming	+21	+46	+31	+30	+14	+35	+19
North Dakota	+229	+238	+333	+309	+375	+218	+114
South Dakota	80	+66	+623	+323	+425	+380	+187
United States	+41,339	+44,290	+46,007	+49,978	41,912	+36,040	+33,664
US Deaths	+1,504	+1,210	+1,114	+941	+981	+289	+534
	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 31st COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

We used to think 187 positive cases was high, now we're glad to see that low number after the past few days. Our positivity rate also dropped in South Dakota to 12.6 percent. Currently hospitalized dropped by two as well to 76. There was no change in the fully recovered list and there were no deaths today in South Dakota.

Brown County had 13 positive rates while Spink County had four recovered cases locally.

### Brown County:

Total Positive: +13 (675) Positivity Rate: 14.1%  
Recovered: +7 (541)  
Active Cases: +6 (131)  
Total Tests: 92 (7742)  
Ever Hospitalized: +0 (26)  
Deaths: 0 (3)  
Percent Recovered: 80.1% (-0.5)

### South Dakota:

Positive: +187 (13,509 total) Positivity Rates: 12.6%  
Total Tests: 1,482 (192,432 total)  
Hospitalized: +12 (1029 total). 76 currently hospitalized (down 2 from yesterday)  
Deaths: (167 total)  
Recovered: +101 (10,612 total)  
Active Cases: +86 (2,730)  
Percent Recovered: 78.6 -0.3  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 49% Non-Covid, 48% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 5% Covid, 69% Non-Covid, 26% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 16% Non-Covid, 79% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases: Aurora 42-42, Harding 2-2, Jackson 12-11-1, Jerauld 40-39-1, Jones 3-3, Mellette 24-24.

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: Fully Recovered

Beadle (9): +3 positive, +1 recovered (33 active cases)

Bennett: +1 positive (14 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +1 positive (17 active cases)

Brookings (1): +13 positive, +5 recovered (137 active cases)

Brown (3): +13 positive, +7 recovered (131 active cases)

Brule: +1 recovered (17 active cases)

Buffalo (3): 4 active cases

Butte (1): +1 positive (27 active cases)

Campbell: 1 active case

Charles Mix: 12 active cases

Clark: 3 active cases

Clay (2) +9 positive, +10 recovered (195 active cases)

Codington (2): +8 positive, +9 recovered (126 active cases)

Corson: +3 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)

Custer: +1 positive, +2 recovered (56 active case)

Davison (2): +1 positive (28 active cases)

Day: 5 active cases

Deuel: +1 positive, +2 recovered (11 active cases)

Dewey: 28 active cases

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Douglas: +1 positive (10 active cases)  
 Edmunds: 8 active cases  
 Fall River (1): +4 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Faulk (1): 4 active cases  
 Grant: 9 active cases  
 Gregory: +3 positive (13 active cases)  
 Haakon: 3 active cases  
 Hamlin: +3 positive, +1 recovered (20 active cases)  
 Hand: 4 active cases  
 Hanson: +2 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Harding: Fully Recovered  
 Hughes (4): +1 recovered (26 active cases)  
 Hutchinson (1): +2 positive (9 active cases)  
 Hyde: 3 active cases  
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jerauld (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jones: Fully Recovered  
 Kingsbury: 6 active cases  
 Lake (6): +1 positive (13 active cases)  
 Lawrence (3): +8 positive, +2 recovered (129 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +19 positive, +10 recovered (148 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): 16 active cases  
 Marshall: 7 active cases  
 McCook (1): +3 positive (15 active cases)  
 McPherson: -1 positive (1 active case)  
 Meade (1): +6 positive, +5 recovered (159 active cases)  
 Mellette: Fully Recovered  
 Miner: 1 active case  
 Minnehaha (70): +32 positive, +26 recovered (555 active cases)

Moody: +1 recovered (5 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (2): +1 positive, +1 recovered (23 active cases)  
 Pennington (33): +26 positive, +7 recovered (447 active cases)  
 Perkins: +3 positive (10 active cases)  
 Potter: 11 active cases  
 Roberts (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Sanborn: 2 active case  
 Spink: +4 recovered (17 active cases)  
 Stanley: 1 active case  
 Sully: +1 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Todd (5): 3 active cases  
 Tripp: 2 active cases  
 Turner: +2 positive (19 active cases)  
 Union (4): +2 positive, +1 recovered (45 active cases)  
 Walworth: +1 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Yankton (3): +13 positive, +2 recovered (64 active cases)  
 Ziebach: 14 active cases

## North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, August 31:

- 1,920 tests (741)
- 11,816 positives (+114)
- 9,295 recovered (+216)
- 143 deaths (+1)
- 2,378 active cases (-103)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	463	0
10-19 years	1340	0
20-29 years	3347	2
30-39 years	2479	7
40-49 years	1909	7
50-59 years	1866	19
60-69 years	1150	29
70-79 years	527	26
80+ years	428	77

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	6779	84
Male	6730	83

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	42	42	425	0	None
Beadle	639	597	2035	9	Substantial
Bennett	23	9	567	0	Substantial
Bon Homme	52	34	961	1	Substantial
Brookings	321	183	3329	1	Substantial
Brown	675	541	5401	3	Substantial
Brule	66	49	853	0	Substantial
Buffalo	110	103	676	3	Minimal
Butte	47	19	889	1	Substantial
Campbell	5	4	111	0	Minimal
Charles Mix	122	110	1658	0	Moderate
Clark	19	16	430	0	Minimal
Clay	353	156	1719	2	Substantial
Codington	318	190	3422	2	Substantial
Corson	58	46	612	0	Moderate
Custer	117	61	848	0	Substantial
Davison	136	106	2672	2	Substantial
Day	37	30	743	0	Moderate
Deuel	45	32	496	0	Substantial
Dewey	79	56	2461	0	Substantial
Douglas	27	17	447	0	Moderate
Edmunds	31	23	467	0	Moderate
Fall River	42	25	1108	1	Substantial
Faulk	32	27	225	1	Minimal
Grant	42	33	843	0	Minimal
Gregory	22	9	466	0	Substantial
Haakon	6	3	309	0	Minimal
Hamlin	57	37	791	0	Substantial
Hand	15	11	348	0	Minimal
Hanson	23	21	246	0	Minimal
Harding	2	2	59	0	None
Hughes	133	103	2083	4	Substantial
Hutchinson	41	31	997	1	Moderate

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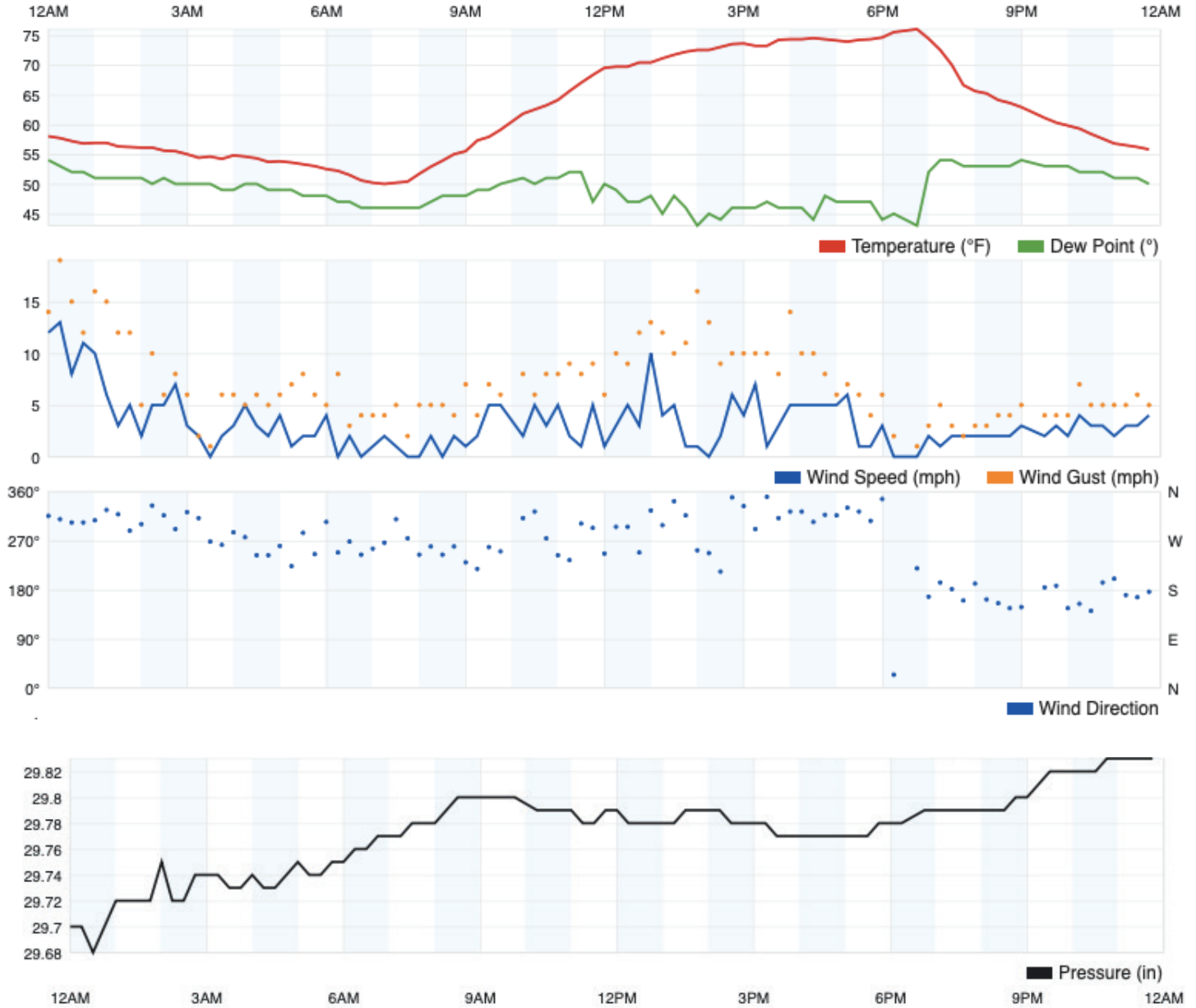
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Hyde	7	4	162	0	Minimal
Jackson	12	11	491	1	None
Jerauld	40	39	292	1	None
Jones	3	3	67	0	None
Kingsbury	23	17	651	0	Moderate
Lake	117	98	1069	6	Moderate
Lawrence	225	93	2366	3	Substantial
Lincoln	907	757	8040	2	Substantial
Lyman	105	86	1080	3	Substantial
Marshall	19	12	528	0	Moderate
McCook	52	36	727	1	Substantial
McPherson	10	9	250	0	None
Meade	300	140	2289	1	Substantial
Mellette	24	24	409	0	None
Miner	16	15	279	0	None
Minnehaha	5267	4641	31650	70	Substantial
Moody	41	36	718	0	Minimal
Oglala Lakota	174	149	3063	2	Moderate
Pennington	1432	952	12313	33	Substantial
Perkins	16	6	228	0	Moderate
Potter	16	5	346	0	Substantial
Roberts	100	86	2143	1	Substantial
Sanborn	15	13	260	0	Minimal
Spink	52	33	1299	0	Substantial
Stanley	21	20	307	0	Minimal
Sully	8	6	104	0	Minimal
Todd	78	70	2455	5	Minimal
Tripp	22	20	663	0	Minimal
Turner	83	64	1032	0	Substantial
Union	265	216	2219	4	Substantial
Walworth	43	27	866	0	Substantial
Yankton	231	164	3565	3	Substantial
Ziebach	48	34	438	0	Minimal
Unassigned	0	0	11954	0	

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Partly Sunny  
then Sunny  
and Breezy

High: 80 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 53 °F

Wednesday



Sunny then  
Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 88 °F

Wednesday  
Night



Mostly Clear

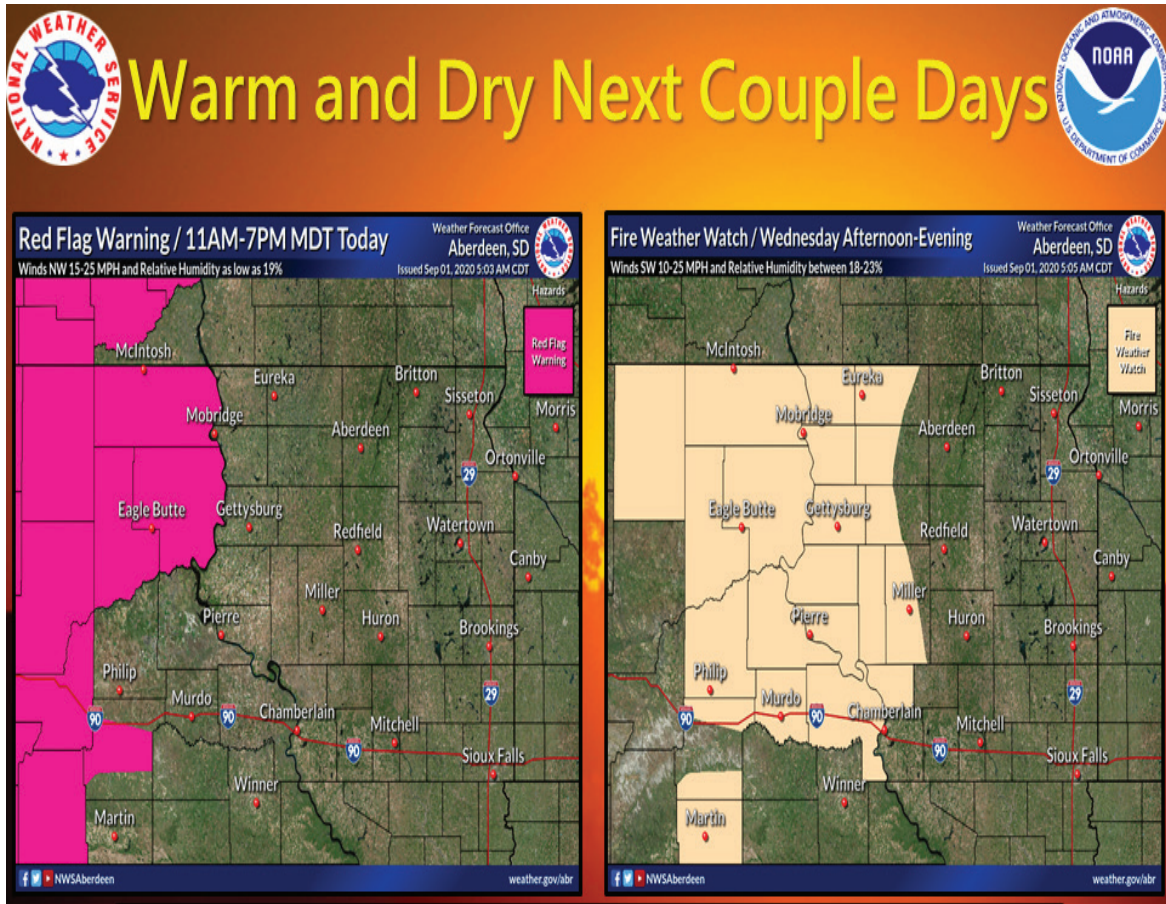
Low: 54 °F

Thursday



Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 73 °F



The combination of gusty winds, warming temperatures and dry fuels will create favorable conditions for erratic to extreme fire behavior the next couple days. These conditions will be especially realized across the Missouri valley in central South Dakota. With no precipitation in the forecast, these conditions will perhaps continue on and off through the end of the week.

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## Today in Weather History

September 1, 1990: Several severe thunderstorms in northwest South Dakota dropped from penny to softball size hail during the afternoon and early evening hours. The hail caused a good deal of structural damage to houses and farm buildings. The largest hailstone of 4 inches in diameter was reported at Sorum in Perkins County. There was also a wind gust to 86 mph measured at Buffalo during a severe thunderstorm.

September 1, 2010: A couple of weak tornadoes touched down briefly in the late evening west of Tulare with no damage occurring.

1859: One of the largest geomagnetic storms on record occurred on this day in 1859.

1862: The Battle of Ox Hill (or Chantilly) is also known as the only major Civil War battle to have been fought during a storm. "A severe thunderstorm erupted, resulting in limited visibility and an increased dependence on the bayonet, as the rain soaked the ammunition of the infantry and made it useless." From Taylor, Paul. He Hath Loosed the Fateful Lightning: The Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly), September 1, 1862.

1869: Cleveland Abbe issued the first Weather Bulletin for the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. It contained a few observations telegraphed from distant observers and the "probabilities" for the next day. The bulletin was written by hand.

1894: The Great Hinckley Fire, which burned an area of at least 200,000 acres or perhaps more than 250,000 acres including the town of Hinckley, Minnesota occurred on this day. The official death count was 418 though the actual number of fatalities was likely higher.

1928: Leslie Gray from the Weather Bureau in San Francisco was the first weather forecaster to be deployed to a wildfire.

1952: A cold front brought damaging winds to Fort Worth, Texas, including the Carswell Air Force Base where thirty-five B-36 planes received damage. The anemometer indicated 90 mph winds before being smashed by debris.

1961: An F4 tornado traveled through parts of Butler and Bremer Counties in Iowa. Unfortunately, there is limited information in the Storm Data entry about this event. Per Thomas Grazulis in Significant Tornadoes, the tornado began NW of Dumont and ended NE of Horton. Several farms along the path were "leveled". It was reported at one farm that fruit jars were "sucked out of the basement" after the house was swept away. There were 7 injuries reported with this event and zero fatalities.

1974: Lt. Judy Neuffer became the first female to fly a Hurricane Hunter aircraft through the eye of a hurricane.

2017: The temperature at Downtown San Francisco reached 106° setting their all-time record high. The previous record was 103° on June 14th, 2000.



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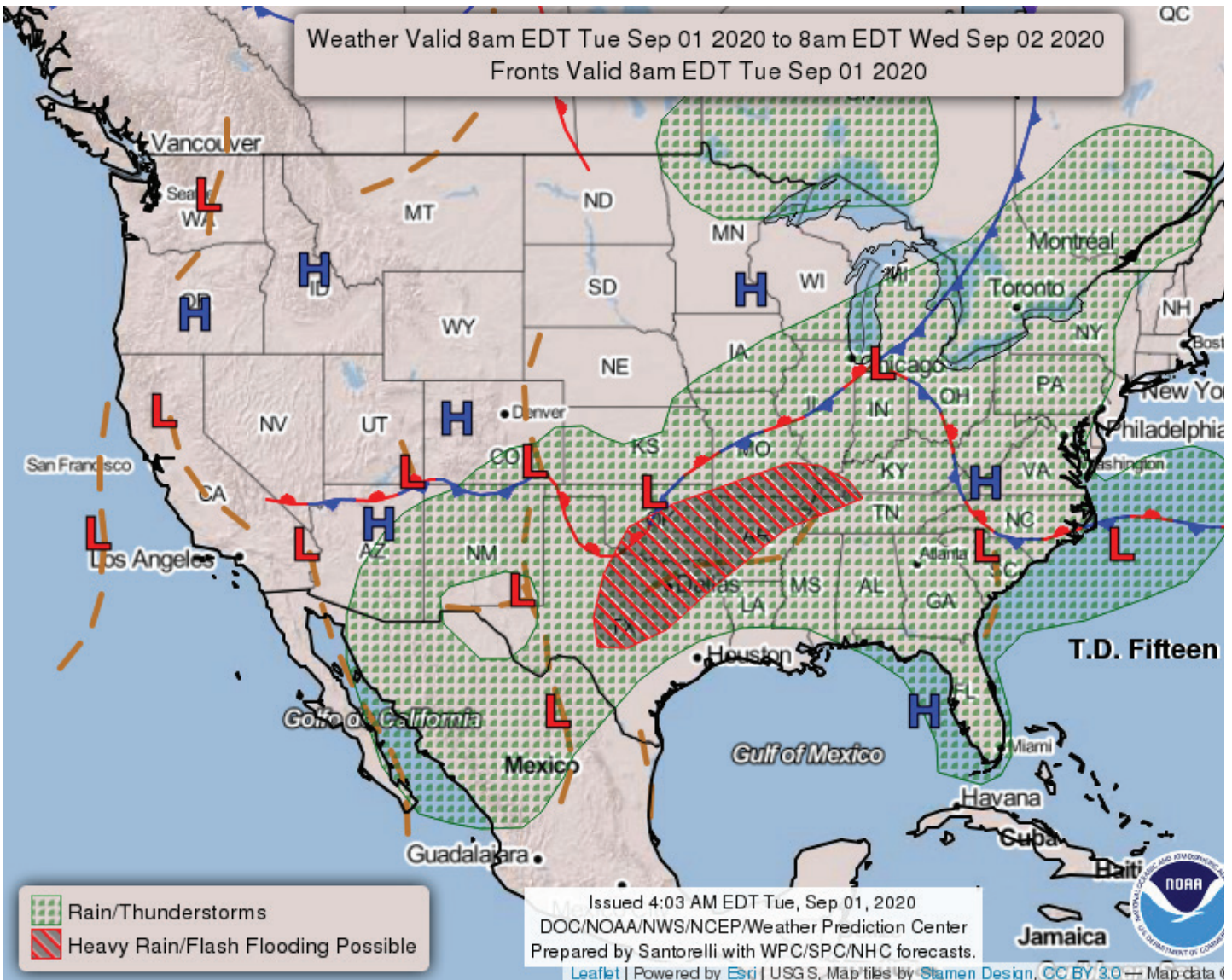
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 77 °F at 6:36 PM**  
**Low Temp: 50 °F at 7:08 AM**  
**Wind: 19 mph at 12:10 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 102° in 1970**  
**Record Low: 30° in 1893**  
**Average High: 78°F**  
**Average Low: 52°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 2.43**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 2.74**  
**Average Precip to date: 16.29**  
**Precip Year to Date: 13.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:10 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:57 a.m.**



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## ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION

A salesman was calling on one of his favorite customers - an elderly gentleman who owned a country store. He found "Old Sam" sitting on the porch of his store, gently rocking back and forth with an old Labrador retriever lying quietly beside him. As he walked up the steps, he said, "That's a beautiful dog. Does your dog bite?"

"Nope," said "Old Sam," as he continued to rock.

The salesman reached down to pet the dog. Just as he touched the dog's head, it growled and snapped viciously at him. He jumped back and shouted, "I thought you said that your dog didn't bite!"

"I did. My dog doesn't bite. But that's not my dog," responded "Old Sam."

All of us collect information. It is an ongoing process in everyone's life. But the value of the information depends on the questions we ask. Otherwise, the information is useless.

Thomas, the disciple, known as "the doubter," once asked, "Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know 'the way'?" Jesus replied, "I am 'the way' and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus answered life's most important question, and one everyone must answer: "Do you know 'the way' to God?" Jesus left no doubt about the route: We can only get to God through Him. "The way" that Jesus taught is established on God's "truth" and promises eternal "life."

Prayer: Lord, we thank You that Your Son clearly and consistently explained the only way to come to You is through Him. May, we in faith, accept Your "way." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

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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

### South Dakota Prep Polls

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Prep Media football polls for the week of Sept. 3 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.

#### Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(22)	1-0	110	1	
2. Brandon Valley -	0-1	72	2		
3. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	-	1-0	69	3	
4. Harrisburg -	1-0	49	4		
5. Sioux Falls Washington -	1-0	23	5		

Others receiving votes: Lincoln 7.

#### Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Pierre (22)	1-0	110	1		
2. Yankton -	1-0	81	2		
3. Mitchell -	1-0	64	3		
4. Brookings -	1-0	50	5		
5. Huron -	0-1	23	4		

Others receiving votes: Sturgis 2.

#### Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Tea Area (19)	1-0	107	2		
2. Dell Rapids	1-0	84	3		
3. Canton -	0-1	64	1		
4. West Central -	1-0	47	4		
5. Madison -	1-0	23	RV		

Others receiving votes: Sioux Falls Christian 3, Lennox 2.

#### Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Winner (22)	2-0	108	1		
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	(2)	2-0	90	2	
3. McCook Central-Montrose	-	2-0	64	3	
4. Sioux Valley -	2-0	46	4		
5. St. Thomas More	-	1-1	11	5	

Receiving votes: Mobridge-Pollock 8, Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 2, Elk Point-Jefferson 1.

#### Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Viborg-Hurley (23)	2-0	110	1		
2. Lemon-McIntosh	-	2-0	85	2	
3. Hamlin -	2-0	57	5		
4. Platte-Geddes -	1-0	48	4		
5. Deuel -	0-1	12	3		

Others receiving votes: Baltic 8, Florence-Henry 6, Bon Homme 4.

#### Class 9A

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Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Canistota-Freeman		(21)	2-0	109 1
2. Howard (1)	2-0	84	2	
3. Gregory -	2-0	63	3	
4. Warner -	2-0	34	5	
5. De Smet -	1-1	26	4	

Others receiving votes: Wall 7, Britton-Hecla 5, Philip 2.

## Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Wolsey-Wessington		(18)	2-0	106 1
2. Colman-Egan (4)	2-0	91	2	
3. Langford Area -	2-0	62	3	
4. Alcester-Hudson -	2-0	45	4	
5. Dell Rapids St. Mary	-	1-1	23	5

Others receiving votes: Kadoka Area 3.

## South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota Media volleyball poll for the week of Aug. 31, 2020.

Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

### CLASS AA

1. O'Gorman (12)	1-0	64	1
2. Watertown (1)	2-0	45	5
3. Aberdeen Cent.	2-0	30	RV
4. Huron	2-0	26	RV
5. S.F. Washington	1-1	19	2

Receiving Votes: Harrisburg (1-0) 10; S.F. Lincoln (0-2) 1.

### CLASS A

1. S.F. Christian (13)		2-0	65	1
2. Dakota Valley	1-0	52	2	
3. Winner	1-0	37	3	
4. Madison	2-0	26	4	
5. R.C. Christian	5-0	12	RV	

Receiving Votes: McCook Central-Montrose (1-1) 1; Miller (0-0) 1; Garretson (3-0) 1

### CLASS B

1. Northwestern (13)		2-0	65	1
2. Faulkton Area	1-0	47	2	
3. Warner	1-0	42	3	
4. Chester Area	2-0	2	4	
5. Faith	1-0	7	RV	

Receiving Votes: Ethan (0-1) 2; Bridgewater-Emery (2-0) 2; Elkton-Lake Benton (0-0) 1; Langford Area (1-0) 1

## Agency denies critical habitat for endangered bumblebee

By JOHN FLESHER AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Federal regulators said Monday they would not designate critical habitat for the first bee species in the continental U.S. to be listed as endangered, a move that environmentalists said would worsen its chances for recovery.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it had determined the rusty patched bumblebee could survive

without having specific areas managed for its protection, even though its population has plummeted 90% in the past couple of decades.

Biologists have concluded that habitat loss is not the biggest reason for the bee's decline, the service said. Additional factors include pesticides, disease and climate change.

Once found in 31 states and provinces from Connecticut to South Dakota, the bee now occupies only scattered areas in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada.

"The designation of critical habitat plays a very specific role in species recovery and is prudent when a species' recovery is dependent on specific habitat elements it needs to survive," said Lori Nordstrom, assistant regional director for Ecological Services in the Service's Great Lakes region.

"As a habitat generalist, the rusty patched bumblebee can find the habitat it needs in a variety of ecosystems, including prairies, woodlands, marshes, agricultural landscapes and residential parks and gardens, all of which are abundant across the bee's range."

The Fish and Wildlife Service approved the bee's endangered listing shortly before President Barack Obama left office. The Trump administration delayed it from taking effect in early 2017 but relented after the Natural Resources Defense Council filed a lawsuit.

The service's decision not to designate critical habitat is "shocking" and probably will bring another legal challenge, said Rebecca Riley, an attorney with the council. The rusty patched bumblebee, named for the rusty reddish patch on the backs of workers and males. relies heavily on historical grasslands and prairies that have mostly been developed, she said.

"The bee has lost over 90% of its historic range," she said. "We were expecting the Fish and Wildlife Service to do its job and protect what is left."

Critical habitat designations can prevent damage to areas that provide shelter, breeding and rearing sites and food for endangered species. Denying it "may increase the rusty patched bumblebee's risk of extinction," said Sarina Jepsen of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, which filed the petition that prompted the bee's consideration for listing.

Business groups previously raised concerns about the bumblebee designation, saying it could affect industries such as agriculture, residential and commercial development, and energy production.

Some of the bee populations were turning up in urban and suburban areas, said Michael Mittelholzer, vice president for environmental policy with the National Association of Home Builders.

"There's a high likelihood that landowners or home builders would be encumbered" if critical habitat were designated, he said.

## **Man dies when tornado blows RV off South Dakota highway**

MILLER, S.D. (AP) — A man driving a recreational vehicle died when a tornado blew it off the highway near the central South Dakota town of Miller, the state Department of Public Safety said Monday.

The 73-year-old man was driving an RV with a car trailer southbound on South Dakota Highway 45 when the tornado struck around 6:15 p.m. Sunday, about 13 miles north of Miller. The tornado crossed the road east to west.

According to a news release, the tornado caused the RV and trailer to detach. The trailer flipped in the west ditch, destroying the trailer and tossing the car away. The RV came down on its roof 150 to 200 yards west of the road in a corn field.

An obituary from the Luce Funeral Home in Gettysburg identified the victim as Paul Dean Nelson, a 73-year-old farmer and businessman from Gettysburg,

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating

## **South Dakota active coronavirus cases continue to climb**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Active coronavirus cases continue to climb in South Dakota with 187 new positive results, the state Department of Health reported Monday.

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At the same time, hospitalization rates remain well below their peak in May. The 76 people hospitalized with COVID-19 in Monday's report were two fewer than Sunday. No new deaths were reported, so the state's total remained 167.

Kim Malsam-Rysdon, the Department of Health secretary, said fatalities in the previous week were 33% lower than the week before.

"Our death rate is, in fact, on a downward trend," she said.

South Dakota hasn't reported a decrease in active cases since Aug. 18. At the time, there were 1,163 active cases. As of Monday, there were 2,730. The state's total positive case count rose to 13,509. People under 30 accounted for 95 of the new cases, including 63 people in their 20s.

Minnehaha County had 32 of the newly reported cases, while Lincoln County added 19, Twenty-six new cases were reported in Pennington County.

State epidemiologist Dr. Joshua Clayton said there were now 105 cases among South Dakotans connected with the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which ended Aug. 16. He didn't have data on other states, but the Rapid City Journal has counted at least 111 cases in other states, raising the total to 216.

## Report: Amazon commits to build new facility in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Online retailing and tech giant Amazon has committed to building a facility in Sioux Falls that would add 1,000 jobs and \$200 million worth of private investment to an industrial park in the northwestern corner of the city, according to a published report Monday.

According to documents obtained Monday by the Argus Leader newspaper, Seattle-based Amazon joined a combined effort with the city, several state agencies and the Sioux Falls Development Foundation in requesting \$1.9 million in grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration,

The money would be used to build out and add infrastructure and utilities for Foundation Park, with Amazon signing on to the grant application as a beneficiary. Amazon told federal officials the facility would serve as a hub of economic growth.

"The company will invest in real and personal property for this project," Amazon Director Holly Sullivan said in a statement. "This will include construction of the facility, tenant improvements, roadwork infrastructure, material handling equipment, robotics, and more."

The project would include sewer, water and road upgrades as well as new street lighting with a combined estimated cost of \$2.37 million, according to the grant application.

## University of Wyoming adds partner in coal emission research

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — The University of Wyoming announced that a utility company would help the School of Energy Resources research how to burn coal with little to no carbon emissions.

The department announced its partnership last Thursday. The company, Black Hills Energy, will help the school test a new technology called flameless, pressurized oxy-fuel. The technology burns fuel such as coal or gas without emitting the same amount of pollutants or carbon dioxide into the environment.

"It's highly efficient and doesn't need downstream carbon capture," said Holly Krutka, executive director of the UW School of Energy Resources, to lawmakers during a hearing on Thursday. "It's flexible in a carbon-constrained world."

The South Dakota-based company provides electricity to customers in eight states including Wyoming. The company will provide scientists and resources to aid in the research.

The project is primarily funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The project's first two phases have been approved by the department, but the third phase still needs the federal department's authorization. Krutka told lawmakers she was optimistic that the university's application will be fully approved with the help of Black Hills Energy.

The project team will now include Black Hills Energy, Southwest Research Institute, UW's School of Energy Resources, General Electric, Sargent and Lundy, and the Electric Power Research Institute.

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## Woman dies in ambulance crash in southeastern South Dakota

JEFFERSON, S.D. (AP) — One person has died in an ambulance crash on Interstate 29 in southeastern South Dakota.

The driver of the ambulance lost control of the vehicle about 3:30 a.m. Saturday near Jefferson, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol. The southbound ambulance crossed two lanes and the median before crashing into a semi in the northbound lanes. The impact caused the semi to roll on its side.

A 29-year-old passenger in the ambulance was thrown from the vehicle and died at the scene. The 22-year-old man driving the ambulance and the 62-year-old man behind the wheel of the semi suffered minor injuries.

The ambulance was not transporting any patients at the time.

The crash shut down Interstate 29 in the area for about eight hours.

## Fire damages feed mill plant in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Fire has damaged a feed mill processing plant in Sioux Falls.

Firefighters were called to the plant on the city's west side just after midnight Monday. Smoke and flames could be seen shooting through the roof of the plant.

Officials say firefighters quickly had the blaze under control and limited damage to one section of the building. No one was injured.

The cause is under investigation.

## French leader marks Lebanon centennial ahead of gov't talks

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron planted a cedar tree in a forest north of Beirut on Tuesday, marking Lebanon's centenary ahead of talks with officials on ways to help extract the country from an unprecedented economic crisis and the aftermath of last month's massive blast that ripped through the Lebanese capital.

The visit was Macron's second since the devastating Aug. 4 explosion — the most destructive single incident in Lebanon's history — that killed at least 190 people and injured more than 6,000. This time Macron's visit, packed with events and political talks aimed at charting a way out of the crisis, also comes as Lebanon celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Macron arrived late Monday, a few hours after Lebanon's Ambassador to Germany Mustapha Adib was appointed by the president, Michel Aoun, to form a new government after winning the backing of major political parties and leaders in Lebanon.

But the 48-year-old diplomat, little known to the public before he emerged abruptly as a consensus candidate, faces a mammoth task and has been rejected by activists and a public demanding that long-ruling politicians stand down.

France and the international community have said they will not provide financial assistance to Lebanon unless it implements reforms to fight widespread corruption and mismanagement that have brought the tiny nation to the brink of bankruptcy. Adib, a dual Lebanese-French citizen, promised to carry out the mission as he prepared to form a new Cabinet, saying he will work on reaching a bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund.

The International Monetary Fund welcomed Adib's nomination, hoping a new government will be formed shortly "with a mandate to implement the policies and reforms that Lebanon needs to address the current crisis and restore sustainable growth."

Ahead of his second visit, Macron warned Lebanon's political class, telling POLITICO that he wants credible commitments from political party leaders on reforms, including a concrete timetable for changes and parliamentary elections within "six to 12 months."

The next three months will be "fundamental" for real change to happen, and if it doesn't, Macron said



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he would switch tack, taking punitive measures that range from withholding a vital international financial bailout to imposing sanctions against the ruling class.

"It's the last chance for this system," he told POLITICO while en route from Paris to Beirut on Monday evening.

In another step to show Lebanon is moving ahead with reforms, outgoing Finance Minister Ghazi Wazni signed Tuesday three contracts related to a forensic audit of Lebanon's Central Bank accounts to determine how massive amounts of money were spent in this nation plagued by corruption.

After landing, Macron went straight to meet the country's top diva, Fairouz, at her home near Beirut. He later met with former Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

On Tuesday morning, the French president went to a forest in northeast Lebanon where he planted a cedar tree to mark 100 years since the State of Greater Lebanon — the precursor of the modern state of Lebanon — was established. Lebanon was a former French protectorate until it gained independence in 1943.

French warplanes flew in formation, drawing the colors of a Lebanese flag over the Jaj forest in the Byblos region in Lebanon.

During the planting ceremony, Macron hugged Tamara Tayah, an 11-year-old victim of Beirut's port blast, whose mother, Hala Tayah was killed in the explosion.

From the forest, Macron went to the port of Beirut where nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrates stored there for six years exploded on Aug. 4, killing 190 people, injuring more than 6,000 and damaging entire neighborhoods of the city.

Macron came to Lebanon two days after the blast, getting a hero's welcome in one of the damaged neighborhoods amid absence by local leaders.

During last month's visit, Macron warned Lebanon's political class that he wouldn't give "blank checks to a system that no longer has the trust of its people." He called on them to create a "new political order."

Lebanon that has one of the highest debt ratios in the world standing at 170% of the GDP defaulted on paying back its debt for the first time in March. Seventeen rounds of talks between the IMF and the former government, that resigned six days after the blast, did not lead to a breakthrough.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump tweets distort truth on National Guard

By CALVIN WOODWARD and SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's become a pattern when unrest flares in a city: President Donald Trump suggests he has National Guard troops ready to send to the scene and takes credit for dispatching them and restoring calm while he accuses Democrats of being squishy on law and order.

That's a distortion.

Trump omits the fact that he is largely a bystander in National Guard deployments. While presidents can tap rarely used powers to use federal officers for local law enforcement, there is no National Guard with national reach for Trump to send around the country.

And when violence broke out in Kenosha, Wisconsin, a week ago, Trump's demand that National Guard troops be used came a day after the Democratic governor had already activated them.

National Guard units in each state answer to the governor and sometimes state legislatures, not to the president. When National Guard forces from outside Wisconsin came in to help, it was because the governor has asked for that help from fellow governors, not the White House.

You would know none of this from Trump's Twitter account and much of his other rhetoric in recent weeks as he has assailed Democratic officials in Minnesota, Oregon and Wisconsin for not doing enough quickly enough to stem violence..

Here's how Trump's words played against reality after a Kenosha, Wisconsin, police officer shot Jacob Blake, sparking protests and yet more violence over police actions and racism:

TRUMP, TUESDAY, AUG. 25: "Governor should call in the National Guard in Wisconsin. It is ready, willing, and more than able. End problem FAST! "

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THE FACTS: Although Trump was within his right to urge use of the National Guard, he did not seem up to speed on the fact it had already happened.

On Monday, Aug. 24 — the day after Blake's shooting — Gov. Tony Evers issued a statement saying that at the request of local officials, he had "authorized the Wisconsin National Guard to support local law enforcement in Kenosha County to help protect critical infrastructure and assist in maintaining public safety and the ability of individuals to peacefully protest."

On that Tuesday night, when police say a 17-year-old armed civilian shot and killed two protesters, Wisconsin National Guard troops were on the ground.

TRUMP, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26: "TODAY, I will be sending federal law enforcement and the National Guard to Kenosha, WI to restore LAW and ORDER!"

THE FACTS: The statement that he was sending the National Guard is false.

The statement that he would send federal law enforcement is true. The federal government sent deputy marshals from the U.S. Marshals Service and agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, about 200 in all.

Meantime the governor declared a state of emergency and kept increasing the numbers of deployed Wisconsin National Guard troops while saying he was working with other states to get "additional National Guard and state patrol support."

The next day, Thursday, Evers announced that National Guard troops from Arizona, Michigan and Alabama were coming and would operate under the control of those states and Wisconsin, "not in a federal status."

TRUMP, FRIDAY, AUG. 28: "Success: Since the National Guard moved into Kenosha, Wisconsin, two days ago, there has been NO FURTHER VIOLENCE, not even a small problem. When legally asked to help by local authorities, the Federal Government will act and quickly succeed. Are you listening Portland?"

THE FACTS: This statement falsely insinuates that the federal government sent the National Guard and took care of the problem. He also implies that Portland, Oregon, was dragging its feet in having federal authorities do the same there.

In Wisconsin, officials said the ranks of the Guard had swollen to 1,000 in Kenosha and more were coming from the three states tapped to help.

TRUMP, SATURDAY, AUG. 29: "Kenosha has been very quiet for the third night in a row or, since the National Guard has shown up. That's the way it works, it's all very simple. Portland, with a very ungifted mayor, should request help from the Federal Government. If lives are endangered, we're going in!"

THE FACTS: Another boast based on the falsehood that Trump sent in the Guard to Kenosha.

That night, in Portland, a skirmish broke out between Trump supporters and counterprotesters, and afterward a right-wing Trump supporter was fatally shot.

TRUMP, AUG. 30, referring to Portland: "The National Guard is Ready, Willing and Able. All the Governor has to do is call!"

THE FACTS: No, calling the White House is not what governors do when they want National Guard help. They call other governors. In earlier protests in Portland, Seattle and Washington, D.C., Trump sent security teams from federal agencies over the objections of local leaders.

TRUMP, MONDAY: "If I didn't INSIST on having the National Guard activate and go into Kenosha, Wisconsin, there would be no Kenosha right now. Also, there would have been great death and injury. I want to thank Law Enforcement and the National Guard."

THE FACTS: He insisted on action that the governor had already taken and claims a success he did not earn. \_\_\_\_

Bauer reported from Madison, Wisconsin. Associated Press writers Robert Burns and Michael Balsamo

contributed to this report.

Corrects paragraph 11 to say that it was a Tuesday night, not Monday.

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

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## India eases virus restrictions as cases near 3.7 million

By SHEIKH SAALIQ and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL undefined

NEW DELHI (AP) — Many Indian states eased lockdown restrictions on Tuesday, allowing more businesses and public areas to reopen to reduce economic pain caused by the coronavirus, even as the country's new daily infections remain the highest in the world and its confirmed cases near 3.7 million.

A day earlier, the government reported that the economy contracted by 23.9% in the April-June quarter, its worst performance in at least 24 years. Unemployment is soaring, with millions left jobless. Hoping to avoid more economic damage, India is gradually relaxing restrictions and has announced that urban metro trains can resume service next Monday.

India has been reporting the highest single-day caseload in the world for nearly three weeks. On Tuesday it recorded 69,921 new coronavirus infections. More than 65,000 people have died.

Experts say India, the world's third most affected country, is fast becoming the new coronavirus epicenter and its case total is likely to soon pass Brazil and ultimately the United States.

Most of India's cases are in western Maharashtra state and the four southern states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, but new surges are being recorded in the country's vast hinterlands, overwhelming the poorly equipped healthcare system. In poorer states, the federal government has deployed special teams to monitor the situation.

"This was to be expected," said Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an infectious diseases expert at the Christian Medical College at Vellore in southern India. "It was inevitable that the numbers would climb."

Indian authorities have pointed to the recovery rate of virus patients in the country, now at more than 76%, as evidence of the success of its policy. India is also doing more tests — nearly 100,000 per day — but its testing rate at around 32,000 per million is still far lower than in the U.S.

Kang said insufficient data still hampers public health efforts.

"A case becomes a case because you detected an infection. It doesn't actually tell you about the disease," said Kang. "What we really need to be concerned about is the disease, whom is it affecting and how are we handling it."

India's initial strategy in controlling the virus was an abrupt, risky gamble: the lockdown of its entire population of 1.4 billion people at the cost of hollowing out its economy.

It worked for some time. While other large countries struggled with the pandemic, India's cases remained low, although testing was limited.

The general sense of a looming health crisis in March and April was largely missing. By May and June, cases began to gradually increase, with megacity Mumbai and the capital, New Delhi, faring the worst.

The virus has now spread even to remote areas such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where members of a tribe tested positive last week.

Some government decisions to reopen the economy and society have met sharp criticism.

On Tuesday, India held competitive college exams despite demands from students that they be postponed because of the pandemic. Students and many opposition parties say they fear the exams will result in a surge in infections. The exams were earlier postponed twice.

## 5 Things to Know for Today

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By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. TRUMP HEADS TO KENOSHA The president — over the objection of local leaders — is visiting the protest-riven Wisconsin city where Jacob Blake was shot seven times in the back by police.

2. SHERIFFS SLAM PLAN TO CURB PORTLAND UNREST Law enforcement officials say the governor's plan to mobilize units from surrounding counties wouldn't end the violence that's approaching 100 consecutive nights of protests.

3. 'IT WAS A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE' Poll workers in Belarus are providing details to the AP of vote-rigging in the Aug. 9 election that kept authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko in power.

4. WHY HONG KONG IS WARY OF VIRUS TESTING The voluntary program has become a flash point of political debate, with many distrustful over resources and staff being provided by Beijing and fears that the residents' DNA could be collected.

5. VENICE RECLAIMS CINEMA SPOTLIGHT But not without changes as the public will be barred from the red carpet, Hollywood stars and films will be largely absent and face masks will be required.

## Sheriff: LA deputies killed Black man who dropped a handgun

Los Angeles (AP) — The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was investigating the fatal shooting of a Black man by two deputies Monday afternoon.

In a statement, Deputy Juanita Navarro-Suarez said detectives responded at 3:16 p.m. to the 1200 block of West 109th Place, unincorporated Los Angeles, to investigate the shooting.

The department said on its Twitter account that, "During the contact, a fight ensued between the suspect and deputies." The man produced a handgun and "a deputy-involved 'hit' shooting" occurred.

Sheriff's Lt. Brandon Dean said late Monday that two deputies from the South Los Angeles station were driving when they saw a man riding his bicycle in violation of vehicle codes, according to the Los Angeles Times. It was not known which codes the man allegedly broke, Dean said.

When deputies tried to stop the man, he dropped his bike and ran, with deputies in pursuit, Dean said. Deputies again tried to make contact with the man and Dean said, he allegedly punched a deputy in the face. The man then dropped a bundle of clothes he'd been carrying and they spotted a black handgun in the bundle, at which point both deputies opened fire, Dean said.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene, Navarro-Suarez said. Police say the handgun was recovered and no deputies were injured.

Family members at the scene identified the dead man as Dijon Kizzee, 29, CBS-Los Angeles reported.

Protesters gathered demanding answers, and more than 100 people marched to a sheriff's station on Imperial Highway. Some said they didn't think the shooting was justified while others chanted, "Say his name" and "No justice, no peace" the Times reported.

Arlander Givens, 68, lives in the neighborhood. He questioned why deputies fired at a man who, according to the sheriff's official, wasn't holding a weapon.

"If he reached down to grab it, that's different," Givens told the Times. "But if it's on the ground, why shoot? That means he was unarmed."

The investigation is ongoing.

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This story has been corrected. The dead man's surname is reportedly Kizzee, not Kizee.

## Trump to wade into racial tensions with visit to Kenosha

By ZEKE MILLER, ALEXANDRA JAFFE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Claiming the mantle of the "law and order" candidate, President Donald Trump is offering himself as the leader best positioned to keep Americans safe, a day after Democratic rival Joe Biden assailed him over the deadly protests that have sprung up on his watch.

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Trump is diving head-first into the latest eruption in the nation's reckoning over racial injustice with a trip Tuesday — over the objections of local leaders — to Kenosha, Wisconsin, which has been riven by protests since the Aug. 23 shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, seven times in the back by police. Trump has defended a teenage supporter accused of fatally shooting two men in Kenosha last week and accused the former vice president of siding with "anarchists" and "rioters."

Wisconsin's Democratic governor, Tony Evers, who deployed the National Guard to quell demonstrations in response to the Blake shooting, pleaded with Trump to stay away for fear of straining tensions further. The White House said the president was expected to meet with law enforcement and tour "property affected by recent riots."

"I am concerned your presence will only hinder our healing. I am concerned your presence will only delay our work to overcome division and move forward together," Evers wrote in a letter to Trump.

Trump insisted his appearance could "increase enthusiasm" in Wisconsin, perhaps the most hotly contested battleground state in the presidential race, as the White House said he "wants to visit hurting Americans." He was expected to take credit for calling in the National Guard — an act taken by Evers — and for surging federal law enforcement to the city to restore the peace. The White House said Trump was not going to meet with Blake's family.

"I am a tremendous fan of law enforcement and I want to thank law enforcement," Trump told Fox News in an interview Monday night. "They've done a good job."

Trump suggested that some police officers "choke" when faced with challenging situations and compared them to golfers who "miss a 3-foot putt."

Biden, in his most direct attacks yet, accused Trump earlier Monday of causing the divisions that have ignited the violence. He delivered an uncharacteristically blistering speech in Pittsburgh and distanced himself from radical forces involved in altercations.

Biden said of Trump: "He doesn't want to shed light, he wants to generate heat, and he's stoking violence in our cities. He can't stop the violence because for years he's fomented it."

Trump, for his part, reiterated that he blames radical troublemakers stirred up and backed by Biden. But when he was asked about one of his own supporters who was charged with killing two men during the mayhem in Kenosha, Trump declined to denounce the killings and suggested that the 17-year-old suspect, Kyle Rittenhouse, was acting in self-defense.

After a confrontation in which he fatally shot one man, police say, Rittenhouse fell while being chased by people trying to disarm him. A second person was shot and killed.

"That was an interesting situation," Trump said Monday during a news conference. "He was trying to get away from them, I guess, it looks like, and he fell. And then they very violently attacked him. ... He was in very big trouble. He would have been — you probably would've been killed."

Biden saw Trump's impact far differently, accusing the president of "poisoning" the nation's values.

In a statement after Trump's news conference but before his Fox News remarks, Biden said: "Tonight, the president declined to rebuke violence. He wouldn't even repudiate one of his supporters who is charged with murder because of his attacks on others. He is too weak, too scared of the hatred he has stirred to put an end to it."

Trump and his campaign team have seized upon the unrest in Kenosha, as well as in Portland, Oregon, where a Trump supporter was shot and killed, leaning hard into a defense of law and order while suggesting that Biden is beholden to extremists. Trump aides believe that tough-on-crime stance will help him with voters and that the more the national discourse is about anything other than the coronavirus, the better it is for the president.

In the interview with Fox, Trump insisted that if he were not president, "you would have riots like you've never seen."

In Pittsburgh, Biden resoundingly condemned violent protesters and called for their prosecution — addressing a key Trump critique.

"It's lawlessness, plain and simple. And those who do it should be prosecuted," Biden said. And he leaned on his own 47-year career in politics to defend himself against Republican attacks.

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"You know me. You know my heart. You know my story, my family's story," he said. "Ask yourself: Do I look like a radical socialist with a soft spot for rioters? Really?"

The former vice president also tried to refocus the race on what has been its defining theme — Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, which has left more than 180,000 Americans dead — after a multi-day onslaught by the president's team to make the campaign about the violence rattling American cities.

Worried Democrats, including some inside his own campaign, have pushed Biden to deal with the violence head on and at greater length, though he had previously condemned it. With Trump pounding the issue in his convention speech, which was then followed by more bloodshed over the weekend, many in Biden's party, still shell-shocked by the 2016 loss, urged Biden to get ahead of the rare issue that has broken through the national focus on the pandemic.

Biden declared that even as Trump is "trying to scare America," what's really causing the nation's fear is Trump's own failures.

"You want to talk about fear? They're afraid they're going to get COVID, they're afraid they're going to get sick and die," Biden said.

Weissert reported from Pittsburgh. Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

## **Pandemic brings hard times for farmers, worsening hunger**

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

The coronavirus pandemic has brought hard times for many farmers and has imperiled food security for many millions both in the cities and the countryside.

United Nations experts are holding an online conference beginning Tuesday to brainstorm ways to help alleviate hunger and prevent the problems from worsening in the Asia-Pacific region — a challenge made doubly difficult by the loss of many millions of jobs due to the crisis.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization forecasts that the number of undernourished people will increase by up to 132 million in this year, while the number of acutely malnourished children will rise by 6.7 million worldwide due to the pandemic.

"We must come to terms with what is before us and recognize that the world and our region has changed," said Jong-Jin Kim, the FAO's assistant director-general and regional representative for Asia and the Pacific.

"We must find new ways to move forward and ensure sustainable food security in the face of these twin pandemics, as well as prepare for threats that can and will evolve in the future," Kim said.

Disruptions due to outbreaks of the illness and restrictions on businesses and travel to control them run the gamut, from crops going unharvested by migrant workers unable to reach their jobs to transport problems to farm families selling livestock and equipment to survive. the FAO said in a report prepared ahead of the meeting.

The combined impacts of COVID-19, natural disasters such as typhoons and drought, diseases and pests such as locusts have highlighted the need to build stronger capacity to "manage multiple risks to food systems," the report said.

The FAO is urging faster deployment of high-tech tools such as drones and smartphone apps to monitor crops, pests and other farming conditions as part of a transformation of food systems to make them more resilient and reduce risks, especially for the most vulnerable small farmers in poor countries.

That includes food insecure places like Yemen, where the U.N. says more than a quarter of a million children are suffering from severe malnutrition and will die without treatment, and parts of Africa where nearly 5 million people are threatened with starvation due to locust outbreaks.

But long lines at food banks even in wealthy countries like the United States attest to the struggle to keep families fed with tens of millions newly unemployed.

In countries like Thailand, where tourism helps to keep the economy afloat, closed borders and cancelled commercial flights have had a ripple effect across many industries.

The government has provided more than \$5 billion in emergency aid to more than 10 million farmers, the agriculture minister Pisan Pongsapitch told the conference.

But the loss of livelihoods is a long-term crisis.

The question is how to fix a broken food system, said one participant.

The FAO report released for the conference, sponsored by Bhutan, recommended providing loans to farmers to help them avoid selling their livestock and other assets to get by.

It noted that enterprising fishing villages in southern Thailand's Phuket have arranged barter deals with rice farmers in the northeast of the country. Some fisher folk in Indonesia unable to export their catches switched to netting more affordable fish that they can sell to local villages.

In many countries, farmers increasingly are using e-commerce and digital data to fine tune planting and other aspects of agriculture. Chinese e-commerce platforms are helping to match supply and demand for farm produce and other food.

On a smaller scale, FAO experts noted there were many potential home-grown solutions, literally, like farming using sacks or hydroponics, growing crickets for food and processing camels' milk to make cheese.

## Russia's virus cases exceed 1 million, globally 4th highest

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's tally of confirmed coronavirus cases surpassed 1 million on Tuesday as authorities reported 4,729 new cases.

With a total of 1,000,048 reported cases, Russia has the fourth largest caseload in the world after the U.S., Brazil and India. Over 815,000 people have so far recovered, authorities said, and more than 17,000 have died.

Experts say the true toll of the pandemic is much higher than all reported figures, due to limited testing, missed mild cases and concealment of cases by some governments, among other factors.

As of Tuesday, Russia has lifted most lockdown restrictions in the majority of the country's regions.

Last month, Russian authorities announced approval of the first ever COVID-19 vaccine — a move that Western experts met with skepticism and unease as the shots were only tested on a few dozen people. Last week, officials announced starting advanced trials of the vaccine among 40,000 people.

It remains unclear whether vaccination of risk groups — such as doctors and teachers — announced earlier this year will be part of the trials or carried out in parallel.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said last month one of his daughters had already been vaccinated.

## Hong Kong begins mass-testing for virus amid public doubts

By ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong tested thousands of people for coronavirus Tuesday at the start of a mass-testing effort that's become another political flash point in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Volunteers stood in lines at some of the more than 100 testing centers, though many residents are distrustful over the resources and staff being provided by China's central government and some have expressed fear DNA could be collected.

The Hong Kong government has dismissed such concerns, and leader Carrie Lam urged the public to see the program in a fair and objective light and appealed to critics to stop discouraging people from being tested since participation was crucial to the program's success.

Priscilla Pun, a sales manager, got tested to give herself peace of mind. "I don't see any reason not to do it, and this way I can let my family in Canada know that I am safe," said Pun, who was tested at a center in the eastern Quarry Bay neighborhood.

Others, like Giselle Ming, said that she decided to take part to support the Hong Kong government's initiative even though she was not worried that she might be a carrier of the coronavirus. "In this bad situation of the coronavirus, I hope I can do something to help the society," she said.

Lam said at her weekly news conference that over 10,000 people, including most of Hong Kong's gov-

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ernment ministers, had been tested by Tuesday morning.

"This large-scale universal community testing program is beneficial to fighting the epidemic and beneficial to our society. It will also help Hong Kong come out of the pandemic unscathed and is conducive to the resumption of daily activities," Lam said.

More than 500,000 people in the city of 7.5 million signed up in advance for the program, which will last at least a week. It is aimed at identifying silent carriers of the virus — those without symptoms — who could be spreading the disease.

The government expects 5 million people will take part in the program, which could be extended to two weeks depending on demand.

Hong Kong's worst outbreak in early July was blamed in part on an exemption from quarantine requirements for airline staff, truck drivers from mainland China and sailors on cargo ships.

At its peak, Hong Kong recorded more than 100 locally transmitted cases a day, after going weeks without any in June.

The outbreak has slowed, with the city reporting just nine cases on Monday, the first time in two weeks that daily infections had fallen to single digits. However, the government and some experts say that community testing can help detect asymptomatic carriers to further stop the spread of the virus.

Respiratory medicine expert professor David Hui that even though infections have dwindled, the proportion of cases with untraceable sources of infection remain between 30% and 40%.

"That means there must be some silent transmission going on, so community testing has some role in picking up these silent transmitters," said Hui, who is a public health adviser to the city's government. "Hopefully if we can identify these people and isolate them for a period of time that may help to break the transmission chain in the community."

The program is more effective if most of the population takes part, Hui said.

"If only 1 or 2 million people take part, then we may not be able to achieve that objective," he said.

Other experts, such as Dr. Leung Chi-chiu, a respiratory specialist and a member of the Medical Council of Hong Kong, said that the testing program plays only a supplementary role in controlling the pandemic in the city, due to the long and variable incubation period of the coronavirus.

Leung said that mass-testing may not be the most cost-effective method, as it is not easy to pick up the disease in its early development, especially if a person is not having symptoms or have not had recent exposure to an infected patient.

Even if mass-testing could identify infected patients, they may already be past the infectious stage, he said.

Leung said that large-scale testing will not be able to replace traditional methods of social distancing and contact tracing measures, and should only be used as a complementary measure.

Some pro-democracy activists, such as Joshua Wong, have publicly opposed the program. Wong called for a boycott, citing Swedish media reports that some test kits being used had high rates of false-positive results.

Lam noted that while false-positives can happen, the tests used in the program have passed quality assurance procedures.

## Belarus poll workers describe fraud in Aug. 9 election

By KOSTYA MANENKOV and DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Even before the Aug. 9 presidential election in Belarus ended, a poll worker in Minsk said she was asked to sign a document summing up its result, with the vote totals left blank.

Another worker who pointed out violations during the vote-counting was fired on the spot.

In the small city of Vitebsk, a poll worker signed a document with falsified results in favor of President Alexander Lukashenko and later was wracked with guilt for betraying the trust of the voters.

In the three weeks since the election that kept Lukashenko in power with a landslide win, hundreds of thousands of people have protested what they say was a rigged outcome. Demonstrations and strikes



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in the country have been met by a police crackdown including mass detentions, beatings and criminal charges against organizers.

The Associated Press interviewed election workers who said they saw ballot fraud or were pressured to falsify results in favor of Lukashenko. In addition, other evidence has been posted online showing falsifications and other irregularities.

To many in Belarus, where Lukashenko has ruled with an iron fist since 1994 and has been accused of rigging previous elections, his victory last month seemed clearly implausible.

His main opponent, former English teacher Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, drew crowds of tens of thousands of people after she entered the race in place of her husband, Sergei, a popular opposition blogger who was jailed before the election. She had managed to unite fractured opposition groups, channeling the growing frustration over the country's weak economy and Lukashenko's swaggering dismissal of the coronavirus pandemic.

When the results were announced, however, the Central Election Commission said Lukashenko won 4.6 million votes, or 80%, and Tsikhanouskaya got only 588,000, or 10%.

The opposition was prepared for such an outcome — allegations of rigged elections have surfaced in every vote in Belarus since Lukashenko took power in 1994. This time, it trained people to be independent monitors at polling stations, it encouraged poll workers to report violations, and it set up a website where voters could submit photos of their marked ballots to compare with the official count.

Activists monitoring the election said in a report that they received complaints about violations, irregularities and incidents of some form of vote-rigging from at least 24% of the country's 5,767 precincts.

The report said that they studied just under one-fourth of the nation's precincts and found that Tsikhanouskaya received over 471,000 votes in those areas alone.

Valeria Artikhovskaya, who worked at a polling station in Minsk, said she still doesn't know the official results of the vote at her precinct because they were never released.

Artikhovskaya said she was asked to sign the final protocol — a document summing up the vote totals each precinct must display after counting the ballots — before voting even ended, with the totals left blank. Artikhovskaya refused, and once the count started, she noticed other poll workers putting ballots for different candidates into a stack for Lukashenko.

"I said I wouldn't sign the protocol because it's a crime, it's fraud. (I said,) 'Allow me to recount these ballots,' and they refused. I didn't sign the protocol and left the precinct," the 30-year-old told the AP on Friday. "My conscience is dearer to me."

Vadim Korzykov, who worked at another Minsk polling station, told AP he didn't even get to the signing stage -- a senior poll worker dismissed him after he pointed out violations during the count.

The 20-year-old student said his colleagues told him later that the number of votes for Tsikhanouskaya at the precinct was five times higher than what Lukashenko received there.

"It was a travesty of justice. There is no other name I can call it," Korzykov said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

Andrei Gnidenko, who worked at a poll in Vitebsk, a small city in northeastern Belarus, said he gave in to the pressure and signed a document with falsified results.

According to the final protocol from the station, a photo of which Gnidenko showed AP, Tsikhanouskaya got a total of 156 votes, while Lukashenko received 488. But Gnidenko says he and other workers counted over 250 ballots for Tsikhanouskaya.

When the time came to sign the protocol late at night, everyone was exhausted, and a crowd of residents had gathered outside the polling station, demanding to see the results. Gnidenko felt sorry for everyone and decided to get it over with, a decision he now regrets.

"For the next few days, we were all very severely depressed," the 29-year-old said Friday. "I decided that since I betrayed the Belarusian people, since I took part in this rigging and put my signature on it, it was my duty to honestly tell it (to the public)."

An audio recording from another polling station in Vitebsk was posted on YouTube in which poll workers are heard being told by an official to falsify the results in favor of Lukashenko. The official suggests that

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poll workers “swap the numbers” for Lukashenko and Tsikhanouskaya.

“I’m prepared to agree that a lot of people voted for Tsikhanouskaya ... but we have other goals and other problems we need to solve,” the official says. After some back and forth, poll workers swap the results.

Some of the workers later confirmed to Belarusian media the authenticity of the recording, which has received over 450,000 hits on YouTube.

Alexander Khomich, a spokesman for the activist group Honest People that monitored the election, said Tsikhanouskaya got significantly more votes and Lukashenko got significantly fewer votes.

“Given the manner in which the vote has been rigged, I can vouch that no one — not us, not the Central Election Commission — knows the real result of the election,” Khomich told the AP.

The Central Election Commission has refused all the candidates’ requests for a recount, and Lukashenko bristled at demands to rerun the vote.

In comments to the AP on Thursday, the commission again rejected the accusations of widespread rigging, saying complaints it received from monitors and voters mostly pointed to procedural violations.

“Most complaints are about final protocols not being put out (for the public),” said Galina Mkrtychyan, head of the commission’s legal department.

The results were not recognized by the four candidates on the ballot with Lukashenko. Both the U.S. and the European Union have called the election neither free nor fair, and EU foreign ministers are preparing sanctions against senior Belarus officials suspected of election fraud and the subsequent crackdown on protesters.

The Belarus Supreme Court last week refused to overturn the vote, saying it could not rule after election authorities declared it valid.

Maxim Znak, a lawyer and a member of the Coordination Council, which was set up after the election by the opposition to try to negotiate a transition of power with the Lukashenko government, said the court didn’t even look at 26 folders of evidence from Tsikhanouskaya’s allies.

“They did not investigate this evidence, they didn’t check anything, they didn’t call witnesses. They just said that’s not possible,” he told AP.

But activists believe the legal battle is far from over. Voters and independent monitors are submitting individual complaints and demanding that law enforcement agencies investigate rigging in their precincts, Znak said.

“For each of those polling stations where people know that they have voted in one way and official results are different, they continue to fight for their votes. They go to the police. They ask to start a criminal investigation,” he added.

Artikhovskaya, the Minsk poll worker, did just that last week, submitting a formal complaint to the prosecutor’s office about the rigging she saw.

“We know that people will not forget about this. People will not forgive what happened,” Znak said.

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Litvinova reported from Moscow.

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## Venice reclaims spotlight as 1st COVID-era film fest opens

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Venice is reclaiming its place as a top cultural destination with the opening of the Venice Film Festival — the first major in-person cinema showcase of the coronavirus era after Cannes canceled and other international festivals opted to go mostly online this year.

But don’t be fooled. The 77th edition of the world’s oldest film festival will look nothing like its predecessors.

The public will be barred from the red carpet, Hollywood stars and films will be largely absent and face masks will be required indoors and out as the festival opens Wednesday.

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Those strict measures are evidence of the hard line Venice and the surrounding Veneto region took to contain the virus when it first emerged in the lagoon city in late February. Unlike neighboring Lombardy, which became the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe, Veneto largely kept the virus under control with early local lockdowns and broad testing once the virus was widespread.

La Biennale chief Robert Cicutto said the decision to hold the festival at all was an important sign of rebirth for Venice and the film industry, and said the experience on the Lido will serve as a "laboratory" for future cultural gatherings.

"It will be an experiment on the ground of how to confront an important event" in the COVID era, he said in presenting this year's Venice lineup.

The Sept. 2-12 festival marks Italy's return to the art world stage after it became the first country in the West to be slammed by COVID. Even Tom Cruise's "Mission: Impossible 7," in Venice at the time for three weeks of filming, had to pull out.

Italy's strict 10-week lockdown largely tamed the virus, but infections are now rebounding after summer vacations. Health authorities are scrambling to test passengers at airports and seaports to try to identify imported cases before they can spread.

Guests to the glamorous film festival are not exempt. If they arrive from outside Europe's open-border Schengen area, they will be tested upon arrival. Other measures to limit contagion include reserved seats, spaced apart, for all screenings and a requirement to wear masks even during screenings and outdoors.

"Clearly we have to abide by anti-COVID measures," said Paola Mar, Venice's culture chief. "Each of us has a personal responsibility. And if all of us do our jobs, we can limit the harm."

But she said the show must go on, given the importance of the film festival and the Biennale's other longer-term cultural contributions to Venice's economy, which depends almost entirely on tourism.

Restrictions on travel from the U.S. to Europe have meant that Hollywood films, which often use Venice as a springboard for other festivals and ultimately the Oscars, are essentially no-shows this year.

That means no sightings of Venice regulars George Clooney and Brad Pitt arriving by water taxi, no red carpet photo ops with Lady Gaga, who premiered "A Star is Born" here, or Joaquin Phoenix, whose "Joker" won Venice's top prize, the Golden Lion, last year before going on to Oscar glory.

This year's slightly reduced lineup still contains in-competition films from a variety of countries, but will be a mostly European affair. Italian films are well represented, including the first Italian opening-night film in years, the out-of-competition family drama "Lacci" by Daniele Luchetti.

Two Italian documentaries filmed during lockdown are making their debuts: Andrea Segre's "Molecules," a haunting study of an empty, ethereal Venice, premieres as the festival's pre-opening film Tuesday. And director Luca Guadagnino, whose documentary about Italian shoemaker Salvatore Ferragamo is an official out-of-competition film, offered up a last-minute short "Fiori, Fiori, Fiori!" about reconnecting with his childhood friends in Sicily during the lockdown.

Spanish director Pedro Almodovar is premiering his first-ever English-language film, "The Human Voice," which he filmed and edited in the weeks after Spain's lockdown ended. The short film, an adaptation of the Jean Cocteau play of the same name, stars Tilda Swinton, who will be picking up a Golden Lion Lifetime Achievement award in Venice this year.

Cate Blanchett heads the main jury, which added Matt Dillon at the last minute after Romanian director Cristi Puiu pulled out.

But other A-list celebrities are largely staying away. Venice itself still has a long way to go to recover from the economic devastation of a pandemic, the halt to cruise ship stops and a lockdown on a city beloved by the jet-set.

All this happened after Venice was already brought to its knees by the historic "acqua alta" floods last November, which raised deep questions about how Italy's lagoon city will function as climate change and rising sea levels grow to be increasing threats.

"The city hasn't worked since November," said gondolier Maurizio Carlotto. "There's nothing. Absolutely nothing. The hotels that are open are half-empty. You look at the restaurants at night, they're empty."

"To relaunch Venice, and tourism in general, we need this virus to end," he said, looking out at an eerily empty canal. "They have to find the antidote."

Visual journalist Brian Hendrie contributed from Venice.

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

## Trump, friends mourn right-wing activist killed in Portland

By ANDREW SELSKY, GILLIAN FLACCUS and BERNARD CONDON Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A supporter of a right-wing group who was shot dead on a Portland, Oregon, street was mourned by both friends and President Donald Trump as a victim of mob violence while an online fundraising effort raised tens of thousands of dollars in his memory.

Just hours before he was shot in the chest Saturday night, 39-year-old Aaron "Jay" Danielson and a friend were seen heading downtown to protect a flag-waving caravan of Trump supporters. They wore hats with the insignia of Patriot Prayer, a group that has clashed with left-wing protesters in Portland for years, and appeared armed with knives and paintball guns.

"Paint is a defensive mechanism. Paint is not bullets," Trump said during his White House briefing Monday, adding that someone connected with violent protests "shot a young gentleman and killed him. Not with paint but with a bullet."

In cellphone video of the shooting, both Danielson and his assailant were seen on a darkened street. At least three shots rang out in a smoky haze, followed by images of Danielson crumpled on the ground as the friend, Chandler Pappas, slaps him in the face and rolls him over, yelling "Jay! Jay!"

"He was a good man and he was just killed senselessly for no reason other than he believed something different than they do," Pappas told supporters during a rally Sunday. "He was Christian. He was conservative."

Added Patriot Prayer founder Joey Gibson on his Facebook page: "We love Jay and he had such a huge heart. God bless him and the life he lived."

Ex-girlfriend Christine Banks said Monday Danielson didn't discuss politics much but of the weeks-long protests in Portland: "He didn't think it was right. ... He was there for peace."

Banks said Danielson was a good person who loved nature and animals.

"If you ask anybody, the one thing they'll remember him by is his goofy, beautiful smile," she said. "He cared about what you believed in and not the color of your skin."

A GoFundMe site late Monday said it had raised \$33,000 from more than 900 donors for "legal/lawyer fees, and towards fulfilling all other incurred costs in this time of need."

Danielson, a burly, bearded man, helped run a company in Portland called North West Specialty Moving that focused on transporting heavy items such as marble statues, hot tubs and gun safes. The company's address, which is the same address listed for Danielson for two parking violations in 2019, is a modest blue bungalow in a residential neighborhood in southwest Portland.

Luke Carrillo, Danielson's long-time business partner, said they'd been friends for 20 years.

"We have lived and worked together day in and day out," he told reporters. "We are like brothers, brothers that chose one another."

Danielson is associated with another company, Oregon Pro Arms LLC, which according to state records is focused primarily on moving gun safes.

Just hours before the shooting on Saturday, Pappas stood in a mall parking lot in suburban Clackamas talking to a reporter from the Portland Tribune.

The man next to him who appeared to be Danielson didn't say much, except to make a reference to a journalist who had been attacked last year in Portland.

"We're all about independent journalism," the man said.

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Pappas at one point interjected, referring to the Trump caravan, "I'm here to stop people from assaulting these people."

Critics have said that instead of keeping the peace, Patriot Prayer has helped incite violence. Last month in nearby Gresham, Pappas showed up to counter a Black Lives Matter event and, according to the Portland Tribune, declared: "I came here ready for war."

Portland police have yet to make an arrest. On Monday, they asked for witnesses and those who had taken video of the scene to contact them.

A small memorial to Danielson took shape Monday on a sidewalk in front of the parking structure where he collapsed. It included four yellow daisies tied to a tree, a small American flag flapping in the wind, and a sympathy card with a Bible verse and handwritten note.

"Jay went to Jesus, where will you go?"

Selskey reported from Salem, Ore., Condon from New York. Video journalist Aron Ranen contributed to this report.

## Can I use a face shield instead of a mask?

By The Associated Press undefined

Can I use a face shield instead of a mask?

No. Health officials don't recommend the clear plastic barriers as a substitute for masks because of the lack of research on whether they keep an infected person from spreading viral droplets to others.

However, those who want extra protection may want to wear a face shield in addition to a mask.

Face shields have the added benefit of protecting your eyes and discouraging you from touching your face by acting as a physical barrier, says Christopher Sulmonte, project administrator of the biocontainment unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Meanwhile, the available research so far indicates that the best face shields for preventing viral spread are hooded or wrap around the sides and bottom of the face, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's because those shields leave less space for droplets from sneezing, coughing and talking to escape.

If you do wear a reusable face shield in addition to a mask, the CDC notes the importance of cleaning it after each use. The agency also says you should wash your hands before and after taking it off, and avoid touching your face while removing it.

The AP is answering your questions about the coronavirus in this series. Submit them at: [FactCheck@AP.org](mailto:FactCheck@AP.org).

More Viral Questions:

Does a face mask protect me, or just the people around me?

Does wearing a mask pose any health risks?

How should I clean and store my face mask?

## Facing a coronavirus crisis, Israel calls in the army

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

RAMLE, Israel (AP) — Over a three-decade military career, Israeli Maj. Gen. Ori Gordin has led commando raids, fought in wars and even earned a degree at Harvard. But he has never seen anything quite like his latest mission.

As head of the Israeli army's Home Front Command, Gordin is now overseeing the military's coronavirus "task force," formed last month to bring one of the developed world's worst outbreaks under control. Its main responsibility is taking the lead in contact tracing and breaking chains of infection.

"This is a operation on a different scale," Gordin told The Associated Press, speaking in his first interview since taking over the Home Front Command in May.

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Israel appeared to be a model of crisis management last spring, when the coronavirus first arrived. Authorities quickly sealed the borders and imposed tough lockdown measures, bringing the number of new infections down to just a handful each day in May.

But officials reopened the economy too quickly, and the virus soon returned. Throughout the summer, the rate of new cases has remained at record levels, while the death toll has steadily climbed to over 900 people.

Under heavy public pressure, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in July appointed Dr. Ronni Gamzu, a respected hospital director and former Health Ministry director, as the national "coronavirus project manager."

One of Gamzu's first acts was to turn to the military for help, giving it the critical mission of cutting the chain of infections.

"You have to have the best operational forces, and in Israel, it's the IDF," he told journalists recently, referring to the Israel Defense Forces.

Founded in the wake of Iraqi Scud missile attacks on Israel during the 1991 Gulf War, the Home Front Command serves as Israel's civil defense force. It helps maintain the country's network of bomb shelters and air raid sirens, and is trained to assist civilians during wars and natural disasters. It has sent rescue teams around the world to help countries coping with earthquakes, tsunamis and other emergencies.

For months, the command has been managing a network of coronavirus hotels, providing both isolation facilities and recovery services for infected people with mild symptoms. Its soldiers have also distributed food and supplies in hard-hit areas — including communities that have had little contact with the military, such as Arab towns and ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods.

Morad Ammash, the head of the municipal council of the Arab town of Jisr al-Zarqa, said the command worked well with his community when it dealt with an outbreak in March.

"They helped us with public information, managing the system, handing out food to the needy," he said. "A good connection was formed."

Gordin said public trust in the military is perhaps his most important asset. He said the army's experience in emergency management and its bottomless pool of manpower also are key strengths.

Working under the direction of the Health Ministry, his task force acts largely as a coordinator and support body for civilian authorities in four key areas: expanding the number of tests; working with labs to speed up the results; interviewing those who are infected to identify who has been in contact with them; and quickly placing those at risk into quarantine.

It is also working closely with municipalities, other government ministries, medical rescue services, police and public and private labs to help streamline the national response.

"It's like the management of one large factory," Gordin said. "I can bring them all to one table and cooperate effectively and synchronize them in an effective manner."

At the Home Front Command's headquarters in central Israel, the task force has already set up a situation room. On a recent day, masked military officials sat alongside officials from the Health Ministry and other government ministries, representatives of municipalities and health-care providers, plotting strategies as they analyzed data on large TV screens.

Upstairs was the "hotel unit," where workers keep tabs on the thousands of people staying in the 25 facilities the force is managing. In nearby military tents, dozens of uniformed soldiers sat in front of computer screens, interviewing newly infected patients to retrace their steps and contacts.

Epidemiological experts from the Health Ministry, including an Arabic speaking Druze nurse, hovered about to offer guidance and answer questions. The contact-tracing data is fed in real time to the Health Ministry.

"Our goal is to stop the chain early on," Gordin said. "If you don't do it fast enough, it's not relevant."

Israel is not the first to enlist the military in the war on the coronavirus. Throughout Latin America, soldiers have delivered food, monitored traffic and enforced stay-at-home orders, while in China, the Communist Party's military wing brought some 1,400 doctors, nurses and experts to the city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the pandemic, to build two hospitals and treat patients early this year.

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A military-led task force in Australia has helped local authorities with contact tracing, and Spain announced last week that the military is offering 2,000 soldiers to regional governments to assist in contact tracing.

Given Israel's relatively small size of just 9 million people, the new task force appears to be among the world's most ambitious efforts. It already has enlisted 2,300 soldiers and expects to soon hit 3,000, in addition to the many civilian local officials and medical professionals.

While the task force is still in its early stages, Gordin said it has already been able to increase the number of daily tests and shorten the time for receiving results. Soldiers have conducted almost 2,000 interviews. "I think that by Nov. 1 we should be in control of the situation. That's our desire," he said.

Despite the ambitious goals, the country faces some serious obstacles.

Medical professionals say the nation's epidemiological system is overstretched after years of government neglect.

Gamzu, the national coronavirus czar, has also found himself feuding with politicians and powerful interest groups, all while trying to avoid another national lockdown.

He has been clashing with politically powerful religious parties, for instance, over his refusal to allow traditional September pilgrimages to the grave of a revered rabbi in Ukraine. Arab communities continue to hold large weddings — a popular custom despite the high infection rate plaguing the Arab population. The reopening of schools and upcoming Jewish high holidays also will present challenges.

Dr. Nadav Davidovitch, chairman of Ben Gurion University's school of public health and a member of a board of advisers helping Gamzu, said there is no guarantee of success, but agreed that bringing in the army is a good move.

"If the right balance is achieved with the oversight and guidance and training by the Ministry of Health, I think that's the right way of doing it," he said. "This should have been done long ago."

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Associated Press writers Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia; Christopher Sherman in Mexico City and Aritz Parra in Madrid contributed to this report.

## **At military academies, COVID-19 is the enemy to be defeated**

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — As eight Navy midshipmen file into their economics class, instructor Kurtis Swope points to the antibacterial wipes on the desk. "Did you grab wipes?" he asks, then tells each one to take two, wipe down the desk when they arrive and again when they leave. "That should be your process."

As chairman of U.S. Naval Academy's economics department, Swope broke his class into two sections, so every student could attend in person. Down the hall another instructor, flanked by chemistry equipment, stands in front of two computers teaching in an empty classroom. And another instructor sits in her office, talking to a grid of camo-clad students on her laptop.

Under the siege of the coronavirus pandemic, classes have begun at the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. But unlike at many colleges around the country, most students are on campus and many will attend classes in person.

This is largely due to advantages the military schools have. They're small, each with about 4,500 students who know that joining the military means they're subject to more control and expected to follow orders. Their military leaders, meanwhile, are treating the virus like an enemy that must be detected, deterred and defeated. They view the students as the next generation of commanders who must learn to lead troops through any crisis, including this one.

"If you look at COVID as a threat, it helps you frame it in a way that I think you can then conduct action against it," said Brig. Gen. Curtis Buzzard, West Point's commandant. The cadets, he said, are getting lessons in "leading through uncertainty and adversity. I've had to do that throughout my career in the Army, particularly in combat, and they're getting a little dose of it."

The virus outbreak sent most academy students home to finish spring semester online. Air Force seniors stayed and graduated early.

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Now students have returned, and 1% to 2% tested COVID-19 positive on arrival and went into isolation. Since then, officials say they've seen few new cases. The Navy and Air Force will randomly test 15% of students weekly; West Point will test 15% to 20% monthly.

Because they need dozens of on-campus rooms to potentially isolate COVID students or quarantine those who come in contact with infected persons, the Navy and Air Force academies are renting space off-site for healthy students. The Navy, in Annapolis, Maryland, is putting 375 students at St. John's College and the Air Force, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, will put 400 in three local hotels.

"We know that with this population that about 90% of this age group is asymptomatic," said Brig. Gen. Linell A. Letendre, Air Force Academy dean. "That's what's really scary about this disease. How do we find those individuals who have it when they don't even know they have it."

To limit any spread, the academies made physical and academic changes. At the Navy's Michelson Hall, blue tape marks seats that must remain empty, red tape forms large arrows on the floor showing students which way to go, and stairways are designated up or down. Signs remind students about social distancing. Library books borrowed online sit in paper bags for pick-up.

The Navy has the smallest campus, but two large tents were wedged next to the dorm for dining. The Air Force and Army, however, have been able to create large outdoor classrooms and meeting areas.

"I wanted outdoor classrooms for a long time and we're finally getting them," said Letendre. "I never waste a good crisis."

At West Point, instructors tested their classroom air quality. They added time between classes for cleaning. And faculty walk the halls to ensure students follow health procedures.

The Army and Navy academies will limit students' movements off campus. That may be difficult, since the tourist-filled restaurants and bars of Annapolis' waterfront are nearby. Air Force leaders said they'll let students go to stores or take-out restaurants initially, but will clamp down if there are COVID cases.

"I don't know that anyone else can demand the same things we do with respect to self-discipline. That's just part of being in an academy," said Col. Matthew Dabkowski, director of West Point's systems engineering program. "There's a level of control with respect to the staff and faculty and the cadets that, I think, is helpful."

Academy officials said roughly 50% of their classes will be in-person, the rest will be online or a mix. Some students will attend in person more often if they have lab work.

Students attending academies also need hands-on military experience. The virus made some of that impossible this year, and some students missed critical time in military units or on ships.

"You can do academic course work online. We can teach online," said Andrew Phillips, Naval Academy provost. "But the professional experiences they missed this summer are very hard to make up."

Phillips said most juniors who must pick their service specialty now didn't get out to active-duty units but will, he hopes, choose wisely. Navy students heading to the Marine Corps, however, got a shortened summer experience because Marine leaders felt strongly about seeing them in person.

"You want an individual who is a good fit for the Marine Corps, whose attitude is right," Phillips said. "And you really only can judge that face to face."

Technology is also a challenge, with thousands online for classes. Many instructors want students to have their cameras on, which requires more bandwidth.

Swope, for example, has one computer set up showing his online students; his iPhone camera faces the class, so they are visible online, and his iPad displays his lessons.

Instructors have to be ready to provide online classes to students in isolation, and also be prepared to teach from home if they're quarantined. Celeste Luning started her junior leadership class at the Naval Academy seeking volunteers to set up the computers if she's not there.

"Have you had in-person classes yet?" Luning asks. Amid the chorus of "no," she turns to her computer to address those online: "Can you see your classmates?"

One voice from the computer sums it up. "It's pretty weird," he said.



## Absent details, police shooting narratives seek to distract

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A familiar narrative emerged in the days that followed Jacob Blake's shooting by a police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, one seen many times after a Black man or woman is killed or grievously wounded by police: That somehow Blake's actions or his past can explain why an officer fired seven bullets into his back.

Despite shocking bystander video and impassioned pleas from community and family members, authorities have offered few details about the shooting or the white officer who carried it out, instead highlighting scant information about Blake without elaborating or explaining its relevance to the shooting.

So, the sexual assault charge levied against Blake in July in connection with domestic abuse allegations quickly became part of the story, though authorities have refused to discuss its bearing on the police use of force on Aug. 23.

"This is what they do. They are trying to distract us from what we saw on the video," said Blake family attorney Ben Crump, who has represented the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and dozens of other victims of police brutality and vigilante violence.

"They are trying to leave him with any kind of criminal history (so) it's OK not to care about his life," said Crump, who called it a "playbook" for when police maim or kill Black people.

That's the message Blake's family has hammered home as the 29-year-old remains in the hospital, where doctors have told them he may never walk again.

"They shot my son seven times — seven times, like he didn't matter," Blake's father, Jacob Blake Sr., said. "But my son matters. He's a human being and he matters."

Relatives have called Blake a devoted father who was attempting to break up a domestic dispute, "trying to be a hero," as his cousin, Adria-Joi Watkins put it. The grandson of an Illinois minister who was active in the civil rights movement, Blake, his mother tearfully told reporters, would have been "very displeased" by the eruption of unrest in Kenosha after the shooting.

In the absence of investigative details, police unions have been particularly aggressive in putting as much responsibility for violent confrontations as possible on those killed or injured by officers.

In 2014, for example, a union spokesman rushed to the scene where a white Chicago officer fatally shot 17-year-old Laquan McDonald. He told reporters that, in the moments before the shooting, the teenager had lunged at the officer and his partner, leaving them "no choice at that point but to defend themselves."

It was not until a year later, when dash-cam video of the shooting was finally made public, that the city saw that the teen was in fact walking away from police when he was shot 16 times. The video became the centerpiece of the trial in which the officer was convicted of second-degree murder.

This year, after video showed the waning minutes of Floyd's life under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer after he allegedly passed a counterfeit bill at a store, the police union president complained about media coverage of the subsequent unrest and firing of the officers involved, falsely claiming that Floyd's "violent history" wasn't being reported.

While state and local authorities issued vague statements about the investigation of Blake's shooting and refused to address most questions seeking clarity, the police union in Kenosha issued a statement combating what it called "the purely fictional depiction of events" from Blake's lawyers and others. Among the contentions were that Blake was holding a knife, had resisted arrest and even put one of the officers in a head lock — none of which authorities investigating the shooting have been willing to comment on.

And because arrests and civil court proceedings are a matter of public record, details about people wounded or killed by police officers that have nothing to do with the encounter in question — ranging from divorces to minor drug charges — also enter the narrative. In contrast, service records of police officers are guarded and often only made public after lengthy legal battles.

As a result, the information authorities have provided thus far about the officer who shot Blake begins and ends with this: His name is Rusten Sheskey and he's been with the Kenosha police department for seven years.

As for the shooting itself, authorities, citing the need to protect the integrity of the investigation, have

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raised far more questions than they've answered.

In cellphone video recorded by a bystander, Blake is seen walking to the driver-side door of an SUV as officers follow him with guns drawn, shouting. As Blake opens the door and leans into the SUV, an officer grabs his shirt from behind and opens fire. Three of Blake's children were in the vehicle. A shakier second bystander video taken from the other side shows officers appearing to try to grab Blake while he is on the ground before he stands up and walks toward the vehicle.

Blake's family has said that he initially went to the scene to break up a domestic dispute.

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul would not address that contention at his only news conference about the shooting, saying only that police were dispatched to the scene after a woman reported her boyfriend was "present and was not supposed to be on the premises." On police audio from the day of the shooting, a dispatcher can be heard telling officers a "complaintant says Jacob Blake isn't supposed to be there."

But Kaul refused to address whether Blake was indeed the boyfriend referred to in his statements or on what charge Blake was being arrested.

In discussing whether Blake was armed, Kaul said Blake admitted to police that "he had a knife in his possession." But Kaul did not say when Blake said that or whether Blake was holding the knife. Instead, he said a knife was found after the shooting on the driver's side floorboard of the SUV.

For Crump and others, the shooting and all that followed has again revealed the existence of two criminal justice systems: one for Black defendants and the other for white defendants. They point to video footage showing police vehicles driving past Kyle Rittenhouse in Kenosha as the white teen carried an assault rifle moments after he allegedly fatally shot two protesters.

"Do you think armed vehicles and Jeeps are going to ride right past a Black man?" asked filmmaker Spike Lee during an interview on CNN last week.

To Crump, investigators' failure to release information is the first chapter in a story he's seen over and over. "They are trying to cover for this officer, they don't want him held accountable," the attorney said.

## 75 years later, Japanese man recalls bitter internment in US

By EMILY WANG Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, the first thing Hidekazu Tamura, a Japanese American living in California, thought was, "I'll be killed at the hands of my fellow Americans." It wouldn't be the last time he felt that way.

At 99, amid commemorations of Wednesday's 75th anniversary of the formal Sept. 2, 1945, surrender ceremony that ended World War II, Tamura has vivid memories of his time locked up with thousands of other Japanese Americans in U.S. internment camps. Torn between two warring nationalities, the experience led him to refuse a loyalty pledge to the United States, renounce his American citizenship and return to Japan.

"I have too many stories to tell," he chuckles in an interview with The Associated Press.

Born in Los Angeles to Japanese farmers, his parents earned enough money to return to Japan in just a few years, buying a farm near Osaka.

Against his family's wishes, Tamura moved back to the United States alone in 1938 when he was 17, after his dream of becoming an aircraft pilot was crushed when he failed an eye exam. The United States, he hoped, would provide him the same opportunities his parents received.

But Tamura arrived in California amid rising discrimination against Asians, and Japanese in particular. His uncle, who ran a grocery store, once drove him to a fancy hilltop restaurant in San Francisco and showed him a sign outside that read, "Orientals Not Allowed."

"You won't ever go in there until you die," his uncle told him. "That's the sort of country this is, (it) discriminates against Japanese."

"I saw that and thought, 'Bloody hell!' And that awakened me as a Japanese," he said.

When the war began, Tamura was finishing his college studies in aircraft engineering. But in February

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1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an order that led to the incarceration of an estimated 120,000 people with Japanese ancestry, including those, like Tamura, with U.S. citizenship.

The following year, the government asked those in the camps whether they would serve in combat for the U.S. military, and whether they would swear unqualified allegiance to the United States, renouncing loyalty to the Japanese emperor.

The questions divided the Japanese community between those seen as loyal to the United States and those loyal to Japan. The split caused fights and even killings in the camps.

Many men answered "yes" to both questions, enlisting to fight in the U.S. military abroad even as their families were stripped of their property and locked in the camps.

Tamura said he answered "no" to both questions. He was sent to Tule Lake, a segregation center for those deemed disloyal, where he joined a group called "Hokoku Seinen Dan," which means, "Young Men's Association to Serve the Fatherland."

The group was initially meant to educate and prepare U.S.-born, second-generation Japanese Americans, many of whom had never been to Japan, for an uncertain future, including possible deportation, according to Sachiko Takita-Ishii, professor of Sociology at the Yokohama City University. As war raged, some members began to feel betrayed by the United States and took to demonstrations, the professor said.

For a time, Tamura said he served as spokesman for the group, whose activities were eventually seen as subversive by the U.S. government.

Hundreds of its members would march around the outer perimeter of the camps at dawn, with white headbands and shaved heads, a symbol of devotion to Japan.

As they marched, Tamura could see U.S. military guards aiming their machine guns at them. "They were itching to shoot at us," he said.

At a meeting with U.S. officials, Tamura said he was told that the American guards had just returned from war and "hated the Japanese," and that the safety of group members couldn't be guaranteed if they continued to march.

Looking back, Tamura admits the marches were dangerous, but patriotism had inspired the young members of the group, which Tamura said numbered around 500 during the time he was there.

"It's war with Japan, so we thought we'd be killed eventually anyway," he said, by way of explanation of his risky activities in the camps. Secretly, Tamura hoped the Japanese military would rescue him from the camps.

U.S. administrators at the time called the group "subversive" and "traitors."

Barbara Takei, a board member of the Tule Lake Committee, a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the history of the camp, and an independent researcher and activist, said in an email that such groups "were demonized by the white administrators as disloyal, even subversive, helping to validate the lie of military necessity (that) justified the wartime incarceration."

"If that incarceration had been a little more humane, there probably wouldn't have been a large number of protests," said Hiroshi Shimizu, president of the Tule Lake Committee, but there were few other outlets for dissenters.

While at Tule Lake, Tamura and a group of others were branded as troublemakers and transferred to the higher security Santa Fe Internment Camp. It was his fourth and last camp.

Government records show that Tamura was at Tule Lake starting Oct. 8, 1943, and was sent to Santa Fe Internment Camp on Dec. 27, 1944. Records provided by the Tule Lake Committee show Tamura was a member of the Hokoku Seinen Dan's leadership.

At Santa Fe, he heard the Japanese emperor's mid-August surrender broadcast while listening to a hand-made radio. But Tamura wasn't convinced the war was over and thought the address was propaganda.

He still didn't believe the war had ended when he was released from Santa Fe and boarded a ship in Seattle in November 1945 for the two-week trip back to Japan.

On his 25th birthday, in December 1945, he arrived at the Japanese port of Uruga and asked a woman cooking over a clay stove on the street, "Did Japan win?"

The woman angrily gestured at the surrounding area, which was still ashes and rubble. "Of course we

lost. Look around you," she said.

Tamura now marvels at his youthful blind belief that Japan would win.

Despite the turmoil of internment, he now remembers with bittersweet nostalgia the camaraderie and friendships he made during those days.

Even though he resisted in the camps, he said he has always liked Americans. There's "no feeling (of being an) enemy or anything like that," he said.

Seventy-five years after returning to Japan, Tamura still follows U.S. news, including incidents of racial injustice and the upcoming presidential election.

"Almost 70, 80 years since I knew America then, the same thing, discrimination, (is happening) now" against minorities, he said. It "never improves, this problem."

## **New focus for campaign: Will Biden or Trump keep you safer?**

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ALEXANDRA JAFFE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The battle over who can keep Americans safe after recent deadly protests has emerged as the sharpest dividing line for the presidential campaign's final weeks, with Joe Biden on Monday condemning the violence and President Donald Trump defending a supporter accused of fatally shooting two men.

While the president blamed Biden, his Democratic foe, for siding with "anarchists," Biden, in his most direct attacks yet, accused Trump of causing the divisions that have ignited the violence. He delivered an uncharacteristically blistering speech and distanced himself from radical forces involved in altercations.

Biden said of Trump: "He doesn't want to shed light, he wants to generate heat, and he's stoking violence in our cities. He can't stop the violence because for years he's fomented it."

Trump blames radical troublemakers whom he says are stirred up and backed by Biden. But when he was asked about one of his own supporters who was charged with killing two men during the mayhem in Kenosha, Wisconsin, he declined to denounce the killings and suggested that 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse was acting in self-defense.

After a confrontation in which he fatally shot one man, police say, Rittenhouse fell while being chased by people trying to disarm him.

"That was an interesting situation," said Trump. "He was trying to get away from them, I guess, it looks like, and he fell. And then they very violently attacked him. ... He was in very big trouble. He would have been — you probably would've been killed."

Trump's refusal to condemn the shootings could add to tensions in Kenosha when he visits Tuesday. He's going despite pleas from Wisconsin's Democratic governor to stay away for fears of sparking further tumult.

In Kenosha, the National Guard has been deployed to quell demonstrations in response to the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man.

Trump said his appearance could "increase enthusiasm" in Wisconsin, which is a hotly contested battleground state in the presidential race.

Biden saw Trump's impact far differently, accusing the president of "poisoning" the nation's values.

In a statement after Trump's news conference comments, he said: "Today, I traveled to Pittsburgh to explain how the president was making America less safe — on COVID, on the economy, on crime, on racism, on violence — and reiterated my clear message that violence is not the answer to any of these problems. ..."

"Tonight, the president declined to rebuke violence. He wouldn't even repudiate one of his supporters who is charged with murder because of his attacks on others. He is too weak, too scared of the hatred he has stirred to put an end to it."

In Pittsburgh, the former vice president also tried to refocus the race on what has been its defining theme — Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic that has left more than 180,000 Americans dead — after a multi-day onslaught by the president's team to make the campaign about the violence rattling American cities.

Biden himself has largely remained near his home in Delaware to prevent the spread of the coronavirus,

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but he stepped out in a new phase of his campaign on Monday, making a speech in Pittsburgh and a brief stop at a local firehouse.

Trump and his campaign team believe that the more the national discourse is about anything other than the virus, the better it is for the president. They have seized upon the recent unrest in Portland, Oregon — where a Trump supporter was shot and killed — and Kenosha, leaning hard into a defense of law and order while suggesting that Biden is powerless to stop extremists.

Biden rejected the charge, firmly decrying the clashes.

Set aside Monday were his lofty appeals about the “soul of the nation,” a staple of his usual stump speech, replaced by an urgent call for action and his fierce accusation that Trump was a “toxic presence in this nation for four years” who was “poisoning the values this nation has always held dear, poisoning our very democracy.”

The president and his team continued to hammer away on what they believe is a powerful electoral argument, contending that Biden is in thrall to leftist forces and emphasizing chaotic protest images they believe could send worried suburban and senior voters back to Trump’s column.

“Just watched what Biden had to say,” Trump tweeted soon after the former vice president concluded his remarks in Pittsburgh. “To me, he’s blaming the Police far more than he’s blaming the Rioters, Anarchists, Agitators, and Looters, which he could never blame or he would lose the Radical Left Bernie supports!”

Biden has been pushed by worried Democrats — including some voices inside his own campaign — to deal with the violence head-on and at greater length, though he had previously condemned it. With Trump pounding the issue in his convention speech, which was then followed by more bloodshed over the weekend, many in Biden’s party, still shell-shocked by 2016, urged the former vice president to get ahead of the rare issue that has broken through the national focus on the pandemic.

But Biden didn’t just play defense, he went on the attack.

Following up his Democratic convention address, in which he didn’t mention Trump’s name, Biden on Monday invoked Trump’s name 32 times, directly assailing the president in remarks that seemed intended to silence worries in his party and the Beltway’s chattering class. He pulled no punches about the violence.

“It’s lawlessness, plain and simple. And those who do it should be prosecuted,” Biden said. And he leaned on his own 47-year career in politics to defend himself against Republican attacks.

“You know me. You know my heart. You know my story, my family’s story. Ask yourself: Do I look like a radical socialist with a soft spot for rioters? Really?”

He declared that even as Trump is “trying to scare America,” what’s really causing the nation’s fear is Trump’s own failures.

“You want to talk about fear? They’re afraid they’re going to get COVID, they’re afraid they’re going to get sick and die,” Biden said.

For months, Trump has tried to distract from the pandemic, and at times he seemed to receive slight positive bumps in support when touting the possible economic recovery. But other attempts to change the narrative with cultural wedge issues fell flat, including a defense of Confederate monuments, and polling suggested that Trump was far out of step with the Black Lives Matter movement, which enjoyed wide public support.

Though a law and order push backfired when the president cleared Lafayette Square, near the White House, of peaceful protesters in early June, the Trump campaign has seized on the violence as a means to drive up Biden’s negatives and bring home disenchanting suburban voters.

The former vice president’s speech Monday appeared to jump-start the general election campaign a week ahead of its normal Labor Day kickoff, as both Biden and his running mate, Kamala Harris, will begin venturing out despite the pandemic. Biden, who may make his own visit to Wisconsin this week, has missed the glad-handing of a traditional campaign and managed to have a brief moment of retail politics when he delivered pizzas to Pittsburgh firefighters.

The setting for Biden’s speech was no accident: Pennsylvania, his native state, is a vital battleground with both candidates competing for its working-class voters. Trump, whose campaign is focusing on the

state's rural counties, eked out a 44,000-vote win in 2016 but Biden, who is running strong in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia suburbs, also made certain Monday to make a pitch on an issue of local interest. "I am not banning fracking, no matter how many times Donald Trump lies about me," he said.

Jaffe reported from Washington. Lemire reported from New York.

## Guilty plea in Hawaii woman's lobbying of Trump officials

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — An American consultant pleaded guilty Monday in an illicit lobbying effort to get the Trump administration to drop an investigation into the multibillion-dollar looting of a Malaysian state investment fund, and to arrange for the return of a Chinese dissident living in the U.S.

Federal prosecutors say Nickie Mali Lum Davis failed to disclose to the federal government that the lobbying effort was done on behalf of a fugitive Malaysian financier who has been charged in the U.S. with conspiring to launder billions of dollars from the fund.

Davis, 45, pleaded guilty to a single count involving a violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, which requires individuals enlisted by foreign entities to lobby the U.S. government to register that work with the Justice Department.

Davis said that she knew the government contacts she made would require registration but she "willfully failed to register."

The charge arises from the complicated saga of 1MDB, a Malaysian wealth fund that was established more than a decade ago to accelerate the country's economic development but that prosecutors say was actually treated as a piggy bank by associates of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

U.S. prosecutors allege that at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by Najib's associates to finance Hollywood films and buy hotels, a luxury yacht, artwork, jewelry and other extravagances. Najib was sentenced July 28 in Malaysia to 12 years in prison.

The effort to wipe away legal troubles for the Malaysian financier who prosecutors say helped orchestrate the pilfering was ultimately unsuccessful.

The Justice Department in 2018 charged Jho Low, who remains at large, in connection with the alleged money laundering and last year reached a civil settlement to recover more than \$700 million in assets that officials say are traceable to the looted funds. Low denies any wrongdoing and did not admit any guilt or liability as part of the settlement.

The latest case accuses Davis of working with a politically connected fundraiser with close ties to President Donald Trump to press the Justice Department to abandon forfeiture claims seeking the recovery of assets purchased with laundered proceeds.

Davis faces up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine when she's sentenced in January.

Prosecutors say Davis is cooperating with the U.S. government. As part of a plea agreement where prosecutors agree not to pursue additional charges against her, she must forfeit \$3 million in proceeds from the offense.

She pleaded guilty via video from Los Angeles during a hearing in Honolulu, where she is charged. When the judge asked if she lives in Beverly Hills, her attorneys said she lives in California and has a home in Hawaii.

U.S. District Judge Leslie Kobayashi said she isn't allowed to travel without court approval anywhere besides the two states.

Abbe David Lowell, one of her defense attorneys, said Davis needs to travel internationally for business and to meet with her attorneys and prosecutors in Washington, D.C.

Kobayashi said that wouldn't be possible without her permission. Details of Davis' travel must be provided in advance, the judge said.

"The government wants her to travel all over the world because she's cooperating — that's their kuleana," she said, using the Hawaiian word that can mean "responsibility."

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The judge's responsibility is the safety of the community and ensuring that Davis doesn't disappear, she said.

Kobayashi said she won't grant Davis special treatment because of her wealth.

Lowell said his client isn't a flight risk, noting Davis has a 6-year-old daughter in Los Angeles.

Kobayashi disagreed, saying Davis has the resources to flee, along with the motivation of a serious charge that will likely involve some prison time.

"She has a high risk of non-appearance," Kobayashi said.

AP journalist Eric Tucker contributed to this report from Washington.

## **Detroit turns island park into COVID-19 memorial garden**

DETROIT (AP) — A Detroit island park was transformed Monday into a drive-thru COVID-19 victims memorial as policy makers across the U.S. moved forward with plans to reopen schools and public spaces.

Hearses led processions around Belle Isle Park in the Detroit River, where more than 900 large photos of local coronavirus victims provided by relatives were turned into posters and staked into the ground.

As the death toll continued to rise around the world, officials announced plans to bring children back to school in Rhode Island, allow diners back inside New Jersey restaurants and let fans watch football inside an Iowa college stadium.

New COVID-19 cases were linked to travelers on vacation in Europe and the head of the World Health Organization cautioned against opening societies too quickly. Nearly 1,000 inmates at a Tennessee prison tested positive.

More than 847,000 people worldwide have perished from the virus and more than 25.3 million have contracted it, according to Johns Hopkins University — figures experts say understate the true toll due to limited testing, missed mild cases and other factors.

### **DETROIT COVID VICTIMS**

The pictures in the Detroit park showed those who died of COVID-19 during better times: Darrin Adams at his college graduation; Daniel Aldape catching a fish; Shirley Frank with an Elvis impersonator; and Veronica Davis crossing the finish line at a race.

They had "dreams and plans and a story," Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said at the park. "They weren't finished yet."

Detroit's director of arts and culture, Rochelle Riley, said officials hope the memorial will "wake people up to the devastating effect of the pandemic" and also "bring some peace to families whose loved ones didn't have the funerals they deserved."

### **LABOR DAY**

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, said Labor Day weekend will be key in determining whether the U.S. gets a "running start" at containing the coronavirus this fall.

Fauci said Monday he has a "great deal of faith in the American people" to wash their hands, practice social distancing, wear masks, avoid crowds, and congregate outside during the weekend celebrations.

He said it's important to avoid a surge in coronavirus cases like those seen after the Memorial Day and July 4th holidays.

### **COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

President Donald Trump's new pandemic adviser, Dr. Scott Atlas said he believes college football should be played this year even though many universities have canceled all fall sports.

Atlas, appearing with Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis Monday in Tallahassee, said stadiums have plenty of room for distancing.

"The communities of college towns depend on these activities," Atlas said.

Iowa State said it will allow about 25,000 season-ticket holders to attend that team's opener in Ames against Louisiana-Lafayette on Sept. 12, despite rising COVID-19 numbers in Iowa.

Iowa State Athletic director Jamie Pollard told fans in a letter that they will be required to wear face

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coverings and that tailgating will be banned. Pollard asked that fans respect others' wishes for distancing. The decision came as Iowa continues to struggle with the virus spreading in several counties.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

In Rhode Island, all but two public school districts have been given the go-ahead to resume in-person classes when schools reopen in two weeks.

Only Providence and the Providence suburb of Central Falls did not meet metrics required for reopening. The two cities have had the state's highest coronavirus infection rates.

Gov. Gina Raimondo said reopening schools is not risk-free but that she expects children will return to the classroom.

## COLLEGE CLOSING

In Northern California, California State University, Chico has switched to online the limited number of in-person classes it was offering. The move came after at least 30 people tested positive for the coronavirus three days after the fall semester started.

University President Gayle Hutchinson said students in campus housing must leave by the weekend.

## RESTAURANTS OPENING

In New Jersey, indoor dining with limited capacity will resume at restaurants Friday, Gov. Phil Murphy announced.

Restaurants will be allowed 25% capacity under the new rules, which includes maintaining social distancing between tables.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The United Nations chief said the pandemic has deepened inequality between men and women and reversed "decades of limited and fragile progress on gender equality and women's rights."

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said during a virtual town hall meeting on Monday that 70 to 90 per cent of healthcare workers are women but only 30 percent have decision-making roles,

He also said the pandemic has also impacted physical and mental health, education, and employment. "Today, millions of teenage girls around the world are out of school, and there are alarming reports of an increase in teenage pregnancies in some countries," he said. "We know from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa that when teenage girls leave school, they may never return."

## TENNESSEE PRISON OUTBREAK

Nearly 1,000 inmates at a Tennessee prison have tested positive for COVID-19, corrections officials said. Officials tested 1,410 inmates at South Central Correctional Facility late last week after several inmates and staff began showed symptoms, the Tennessee Department of Correction said in a statement.

As of late Monday afternoon, 974 of the inmates had tested positive while another 189 results were pending for the prisoners housed at the lockup run by private prison company Corecivic, the statement said.

## FEDERAL PRISON VISITS

The federal Bureau of Prisons will begin allowing inmates to have visitors again in October, nearly seven months after visits were suspended at the 122 federal prisons across the U.S., according to a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

The visitation plan — detailed in a memo to senior bureau officials on Monday — instructed wardens to "immediately begin developing local procedures to reinstate social visiting."

Social visiting is scheduled to begin no later than Oct. 3. Physical contact will be prohibited, according to the memo.

Inmates and visitors would be required to wear face coverings and visitors would have their temperatures taken and would be questioned about whether they have shown any coronavirus-related symptoms.

## EUROPE VACATION INFECTIONS

British authorities said 16 coronavirus cases have been linked to a flight that brought U.K. tourists back from Greece. All people who were aboard have been told to isolate themselves for two weeks.

Public Health Wales said it was contacting nearly 200 people who were on the Tui flight from the Greek island of Zante to Cardiff, Wales, last Tuesday.



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Gwen Lowe of Public Health Wales said 30 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed over the last week among people who returned from Zante on several flights and that the number is expected to rise.

In Italy, the popular holiday destination of Sardinia had experienced a handful or fewer cases for weeks. But with clusters of infections linked to crowded discos or holiday-goers' parties on the Mediterranean island, Sardinia registered 79 new infections on Monday.

Associated Press journalists from around the globe contributed to this report.

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

## Appeals court keeps Flynn case alive, won't order dismissal

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court in Washington declined Monday to order the dismissal of the Michael Flynn prosecution, permitting a judge to scrutinize the Justice Department's request to dismiss its case against President Donald Trump's former national security adviser.

The decision keeps the case at least temporarily alive and rebuffs efforts by both Flynn's lawyers and the Justice Department to force the prosecution to be dropped without further inquiry from the judge, who has for months declined to dismiss it. The ruling is the latest development in a criminal case that has taken unusual twists and turns over the last year and prompted a separation of powers tussle involving a veteran federal judge and the Trump administration.

In a separate ruling Monday, a three-judge panel of the same appeals court again threw out a lawsuit by House Democrats to compel former White House counsel Don McGahn to appear before a congressional committee.

The Flynn conflict arose in May when the Justice Department moved to dismiss the prosecution despite Flynn's own guilty plea to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian ambassador during the presidential transition period.

But U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan, who had upbraided Flynn for his behavior at a 2018 court appearance, signaled his skepticism at the government's unusual motion. He refused to dismiss the case and instead scheduled a hearing and appointed a retired federal judge to argue against the Justice Department's position. That former judge, John Gleeson, challenged the motives behind the department's dismissal request and called it a "gross abuse" of prosecutorial power.

Flynn's lawyers sought to bypass Sullivan and obtain an appeals court order that would have required the case's immediate dismissal. They argued that Sullivan had overstepped his bounds by scrutinizing a dismissal request that both sides, the defense and the Justice Department, were in agreement about and that the case was effectively moot once prosecutors decided to abandon it.

At issue before the court was whether Sullivan could be forced to grant the Justice Department's dismissal request without even holding a hearing into the basis for the motion.

"We have no trouble answering that question in the negative," the court wrote in an unsigned opinion for the eight judges in the majority.

The judges also rejected defense efforts to have the case reassigned to a different judge.

In a concurring opinion, U.S. District Judge Thomas Griffith wrote that the court's opinion did not concern the merits of the Justice Department's prosecution of Flynn or even its decision to abandon the case. Rather, he said the question before the judges was a much more simple one.

"Today we reach the unexceptional yet important conclusion that a court of appeals should stay its hand and allow the district court to finish its work rather than hear a challenge to a decision not yet made," Griffith said. "That is a policy the federal courts have followed since the beginning of the Republic."

He said it was very possible that Sullivan could wind up granting the Justice Department's dismissal request and that it would in fact be "highly unusual if it did not, given the Executive's constitutional prerogative to direct and control prosecutions and the district court's limited discretion" in cases prosecutors

want dropped.

Two judges, Neomi Rao and Karen LeCraft Henderson, each wrote dissenting opinions arguing that Sullivan had usurped his authority by keeping alive a case the Justice Department sought to have dismissed. Both judges were part of a 2-1 ruling in June that ordered Sullivan to dismiss the case.

"In Flynn's case, the prosecution no longer has a prosecutor," Rao wrote. "Yet the case continues with district court proceedings aimed at uncovering the internal deliberations of the Department. The majority gestures at the potential harms of such a judicial intrusion into the Executive Branch, but takes a wait-and-see approach, hoping and hinting that the district judge will not take the actions he clearly states he will take.

Flynn was questioned by the FBI just days after Trump's inauguration about his conversations with the then-Russian ambassador to the U.S. pertaining to sanctions that had just been imposed by the Obama administration for Russian election interference.

The private conversation alarmed law enforcement and intelligence officials who were already investigating whether the Trump campaign had coordinated with Russia to sway the presidential election in Trump's favor. Officials were also concerned by the White House's public insistence that Flynn and the diplomat had not discussed sanctions.

Flynn's guilty plea to lying to the FBI became a signature prosecution in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into ties between the 2016 Trump campaign and Russia. He also agreed to cooperate with the authorities in hopes of receiving a lighter sentence.

But as Flynn awaited sentencing, Attorney General William Barr appointed a U.S. attorney from St. Louis to investigate the handling of the Flynn case and later endorsed that prosecutor's recommendation that the case be dismissed.

In May, the Justice Department said it had concluded that the FBI had an insufficient basis to question Flynn about his conversations with the diplomat, which Barr has said were appropriate for an incoming national security adviser to have had, and that statements made during the interview were not material to the FBI's underlying counterintelligence investigation into the Trump campaign.

Law enforcement officials who were involved in the investigation vehemently disagreed with that conclusion.

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Associated Press writer Mark Sherman in Washington contributed to this report.

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Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## **Ailing Kenosha on edge as Trump visit looms amid tensions**

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Some residents in Kenosha fear a planned visit by President Donald Trump after unrest over the police shooting of Jacob Blake may stir more emotions and cause more violence and destruction in the southeastern Wisconsin city after several days of peace.

The city's mayor, and the state's governor, also said they believed Trump's visit comes at a bad time. But others welcomed the president's trip, scheduled for Tuesday, when he will tour damage and meet with law enforcement. Trump's visit comes as demonstrators are calling for the officer who shot Blake to be fired and face attempted murder charges, and more than a week after authorities say a 17-year-old from northern Illinois shot and killed two protesters.

Asked Monday whether he feared Trump's visit could stir more violence, Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser said: "We'll find out tomorrow, won't we?"

The tension began Aug. 23 after a video showed a Kenosha police officer shooting Blake, a Black man, in the back while responding to a call about a domestic dispute. All last week, Black Lives Matter protesters held events to call for changes to policing. Democratic Gov. Tony Evers called a special session of the Legislature for Monday to take up a host of police reform measures, but Republicans took no immediate

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action.

Authorities said they had resources in place to protect the bedroom community between Chicago and Milwaukee, including more than 1,500 National Guard members.

Kenosha County Sheriff David Beth said more than 200 people have been arrested since the protests began. Of those, more than half were from outside Kenosha, he said. Many arrests were for curfew violations, and included possible charges for burglary, possession of illegal drugs and carrying concealed weapons without a permit, officials said. The Kenosha Police Department has said more than 20 firearms were seized.

Beth also said that "outside agitators" have used social media or made phone calls to churches and businesses to scare people and spread false rumors.

"I want the people of Kenosha to know there's a huge amount of resources here to protect you," Beth said.

Family members say Blake, 29, is paralyzed, and a lawyer said most of his colon and small intestines were removed. His family led a large peaceful protest Saturday, just before Trump announced his plans to visit.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Monday that Trump has no immediate plans to meet with Blake's family when he's in Kenosha.

Trump told reporters Monday that he spoke with the Blake family pastor about speaking with the family, who insisted that their lawyer take part in the phone call.

"I thought it would be better not to do anything where there're lawyers involved," Trump said. "They wanted me to speak but they wanted to have lawyers involved and I thought that was inappropriate, so I didn't do that."

The White House later confirmed that Trump spoke with The Rev. James E. Ward, Jr., founder and lead pastor of Skokie, Illinois-based INSIGHT Church. The Associated Press left and email and voicemail seeking comment Monday evening from Ward.

Ben Crump, an attorney for Blake's family, told CNN that Blake's mother "was ready to receive the phone call, but for some reason the call never came, and we now understand why."

"I don't know why the president wouldn't want the family to have their lawyers on the phone," Crump said. "He seems to have lawyers with him when he talks to people."

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden spoke with Blake's family last week.

Blake's family planned a Tuesday "community celebration" to correspond with Trump's visit.

"We don't need more pain and division from a president set on advancing his campaign at the expense of our city," said uncle Justin Blake in a statement. "We need justice and relief for our vibrant community."

On Sunday, Evers sent Trump a letter urging him not to come, saying the visit "will only delay our work to overcome division and move forward together." But Kenosha County Board supervisors urged him not to cancel.

"Kenoshans are hurting and looking for leadership, and your leadership in this time of crisis is greatly appreciated by those devastated by the violence in Kenosha," a letter from seven supervisors said.

Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian reiterated Monday that he believes Trump's visit is coming at the wrong time.

"I think that Kenosha, at this present time, needs peace and needs to heal and needs people to allow us to do that," he said.

Trump showed no signs of backing down, tweeting about the unrest in Kenosha and saying, "I will see you on Tuesday!"

Diana Kreye, a 60-year-old resident of nearby Brighton, said Trump is exploiting the conflict.

"I don't like that this has all become political," said Kreye, an undecided voter.

Angel Tirado, 42, however, thinks Trump's visit could help. "I hope he says something that can calm us all down," said Tirado. "Maybe he'll bring us together."

Others doubt the president had any intention of closing divisions and pointed to his recent tweets and history of making racist comments.

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"He's not coming down here to heal," said David Sanchez, 66, a retiree and Kenosha resident who expects thousands of people to show up to protest Trump. "He's coming to Kenosha to start more trouble. I don't care what he says."

"He has done nothing over the last three years to bring people together," said Raymond Roberts, 38, a data scientist and Afghanistan War veteran. "This is a bellwether county in a bellwether state. It's all about his reelection."

Trump has throughout the summer sought to cast U.S. cities as under siege by violence and lawlessness, despite the fact that most of the demonstrations against racial injustice have been peaceful.

Still, Trump is likely to find some support in a county he won in 2016 by fewer than 250 votes.

Oscar Escobar, 41, a Kenosha resident who owns a moving company and co-owns a bar and grill, said he doesn't align with either Democrats or Republicans. He said it's good that Trump plans to visit.

"I think it's a great thing for him to show that he cares about what's happening here in Kenosha and not turning his back on us and just leaving us alone," Escobar said.

AP reporters Jennifer Peltz in Kenosha; Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; Don Babwin in Chicago; and Amy Forliti in Minneapolis contributed.

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's Race and Ethnicity Team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 1, the 245th day of 2020. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 1, 1945, Americans received word of Japan's formal surrender that ended World War II. (Because of the time difference, it was Sept. 2 in Tokyo Bay, where the ceremony took place.)

On this date:

In 1894, the Great Hinckley Fire destroyed Hinckley, Minnesota, and five other communities, killing more than 400 people.

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

In 1941, the first municipally owned parking building in the United States opened in Welch, W. Va.

In 1942, U.S. District Court Judge Martin I. Welsh, ruling from Sacramento, Calif., on a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Fred Korematsu, upheld the wartime detention of Japanese-Americans as well as Japanese nationals.

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1972, American Bobby Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik (RAY'-kyuh-vik), Iceland, as Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union resigned before the resumption of Game 21. An arson fire at the Blue Bird Cafe in Montreal, Canada, claimed 37 lives.

In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

In 1985, a U.S.-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 400 miles off Newfoundland.

In 2005, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin issued a "desperate SOS" as his city descended into anarchy amid the flooding left by Hurricane Katrina.

In 2009, Vermont's law allowing same-sex marriage went into effect.

In 2018, at a nearly three-hour memorial service for the late Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain in

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Washington, McCain's daughter and two former presidents led a public rebuke of President Donald Trump's divisive politics and called for a return to civility among the nation's leaders.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama convened a new round of ambitious Mideast peace talks at the White House as he hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the first face-to-face negotiations in nearly two years. A man upset with the Discovery Channel's programming took two employees and a security officer hostage at the network's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland; police shot and killed the gunman, James Jae Lee, and all three hostages escaped safely.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama stared down a melting glacier in Alaska in a dramatic use of his presidential pulpit to sound the alarm on climate change. Invoking "God's authority," Rowan County, Kentucky, Clerk Kim Davis denied marriage licenses to gay couples again in direct defiance of the federal courts, and vowed not to resign, even under the pressure of steep fines or jail. Lt. Charles Joseph Gliniewicz, a police officer for Fox Lake, Illinois, was found shot to death after reporting he was pursuing a group of men; authorities eventually concluded that Gliniewicz's death was a suicide. Actor Dean Jones, 84, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Hurricane Dorian struck the northern Bahamas as a catastrophic Category 5 storm with record 185 mph winds that ripped off roofs and overturned cars. South Carolina's governor ordered a mandatory evacuation of the entire coast of the state amid the threat from Dorian. The United States and China put into effect their latest tariff increases on each other's goods; the 15% U.S. taxes applied to about \$112 billion of Chinese imports. Actor and comedian Kevin Hart suffered a serious back injury when the vintage muscle car in which he was riding went out of control on a Southern California highway, careening down an embankment and into a tree. Thousands of people who were gathered in St. Peter's Square for the traditional Sunday noon appearance by the pope were left waiting for several minutes; Francis explained that he had been stuck in an elevator. Justin Verlander pitched his third career no-hitter, striking out 14 to lead the Houston Astros past the Toronto Blue Jays, 2-0.

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Maharis is 92. Conductor Seiji Ozawa (SAY'-jee oh-ZAH'-wah) is 85. Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 82. Comedian-actor Lily Tomlin is 81. Actor Don Stroud is 77. Conductor Leonard Slatkin is 76. Singer Archie Bell is 76. Singer Barry Gibb is 74. Rock musician Greg Errico is 72. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 70. Singer Gloria Estefan is 63. Former White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers is 59. Jazz musician Boney James is 59. Singer-musician Grant Lee Phillips (Grant Lee Buffalo) is 57. Country singer-songwriter Charlie Robison is 56. Retired NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway is 54. Rap DJ Spigg Nice (Lost Boyz) is 50. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 49. Actor Maury Sterling is 49. Rock singer JD Fortune is 47. Actor Scott Speedman is 45. Country singer Angaleena Presley (Pistol Annies) is 44. Actor Boyd Holbrook is 39. Actor Zoe Lister-Jones is 38. Rock musician Joe Trohman is 36. Actor Aisling (ASH'-ling) Loftus is 30.