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Recycling Trailer has moved

Groton's recycling trailer has been moved to the west of where it used to be. It is now located west of the city shop across Broadway, just south of the railroad tracks.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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World Honey Bee Day – Another Reminder that 40 % of Insect Species Now Threatened With Extinction

By Kathleen Rogers and Dr. Anne Bowser

World Honey Bee Day came and went, but it wasn't a celebration: over 40% of insect species are threatened with extinction. Thanks to science, we know exactly why: habitat loss, pollution from pesticides, invasive species, and climate change all play a significant role. But because professional scientists only have so much time, they cannot always collect all of the data needed to understand where different species are or how populations are changing at the local or global scale. And without our help, professional researchers can't speak strongly enough to advocate for the policies we need to reverse current trends.

One obvious solution to both challenges is citizen science, which brings the public into the research process. Through crowdsourcing, citizen science leads to more data, including from places that professional researchers cannot always access. Citizen science also provides an opportunity for the people who contribute to research to advocate to drive direct change, letting their voice be heard through direct actions that can solve global problems.

Estimates of the number of people who engage in citizen science vary wildly but conservatively tens of millions of students and adults do some form of citizen science every year. Citizen science happens in schools, in informal education settings like museums, through corporate social responsibility expeditions, and in people's backyards. So, too, the economic value of citizen science projects is uncertain, with some estimates calculating the value in the billions of dollars for biodiversity monitoring alone.

Since 2010, there has been a significant rise in the number of peer reviewed publications that mention citizen science. But the impact of citizen science reaches far beyond the production of data. It is a powerful form of experiential learning for everyone, children and adults alike. It also supports an enhanced scientific literacy among different public community members. Engaging people in citizen science and making research data open also democratizes science, which can increase belief and trust in science.

But while thousands of citizen science projects are conducted every day, many are missing two key elements: first, providing access to comprehensive open source data, and second, providing pathways for participants to engage their governments through civic action. Without these two elements, citizen science misses an important opportunity to advance scientific research, and limits the potential to deepen the public's engagement at the intersection of science and public policy.

A new citizen science project, Earth Challenge 2020—led by Earth Day Network, the Wilson Center, and the U.S. Department of State—takes a step forward to address both of those issues. First, while some citizen science data is open source, it is not easily accessible to everyone in one place. One solution is creating the Citizen Science Cloud, a one-stop-shop for citizen science data collected from a wide range of projects. Professional researchers can take advantage of open APIs, while everyday people can use data visualization and mapping tools to see what's happening in their own communities.

Second, the Earth Challenge mobile app (available in the Apple and Google Play stores) directly links science to action, an opportunity to use technology and data to drive change that is unique in the citizen science world. Once a user contributes data, whether taking a photo of a bee or classifying photos of plastic in the environment, they can take country-specific civic engagement actions, such as signing petitions, that are focused on impacting current policy decision-making processed at their national level. To address bee declines, for example, participants can petition their governments to ban certain pesticides,

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address agricultural practices that are decimating bee populations, or create habitats for bees and other pollinators. Guiding citizen scientists down the pathway of civic action builds a deeper relationship between critically important data and its natural outgrowth, strong science-based policy.

Citizen science projects, if created with solid hypotheses and engaging technologies, can aid professional scientists who are interested in acquiring more data and support global monitoring against targets like the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Engaging the public broadly in citizen science can also lead to stronger knowledge and deeper trust in science. Adding a civic action component to citizen science initiatives will build a broader, more diverse, and more active global community of ordinary people who will take action to save their communities and the planet. Well-constructed citizen science, supported by open data and civic action, is a powerful force for the change our planet needs.

Kathleen Rogers is President of Earth Day Network. The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. EDN, the world's largest recruiter to the environmental movement, now works year-round with tens of thousands of partners in 192 countries.

Dr. Anne Bowser is the Director of Innovation at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a quasi-government think tank. and the official memorial to President Woodrow Wilson. Her research explores how new advances in science and technology can lead to positive social and environmental outcomes. Outside the Wilson Center, Anne has formal advisory roles with the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence and the United Nation's Environment Programme.



Preschool Developmental
Screening
Groton Area Schools #06-6

Preschool Developmental Screening is for children ages 3-5 who reside in the Groton Area School District. The child needs to be 3 years of age before the screening date/day. This screening is not required to enter Kindergarten.

The screening consists of communication skills, motor skills, and concepts.

If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

Screenings will be held on an appointment only basis. Please contact Paula Johnson at 605-397-2317 or Paula.M.Johnson@k12.sd.us to schedule a screening time.

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES
IS NOW OFFERING

GRIEF SHARE

2020 DATES
• SEPTEMBER 15
thru NOVEMBER 24

2021 DATES
• FEBRUARY 2
thru APRIL 13
• JUNE 1
thru AUGUST 10
• SEPTEMBER 14
thru NOVEMBER 23

Grief Share is a worldwide Christian-based program. It is a support group for adults who have lost a loved one through death. It combines educational videos, a workbook titled "Your Journey From Mourning to Joy" and time for discussion. The group runs for 11 weeks.

Participants can attend in person at Catholic Family Services or your own parish can participate via Zoom for the educational component and then hold small group discussion lead by an identified team leader. (CFS will train the identified leader and offer continued support.)

[sfcatholic.org/cfs](https://www.sfcatholic.org/cfs) 800-700-7867(STOP)

Catholic Family Services

GRIEF SHARE

Tuesdays 6pm beginning Sept 15th in the SEAS Gathering Space
(This is for adults who have lost a loved one.)

Ruby Donovan from our parish has gone through the training with the Catholic Family Service for the purpose of leading a Grief Sharing Group. Although she is not a professional, she has also gone through the grieving process concerning the loss of several family members.

After viewing the professional counselor from the Catholic Family Services via a zoom conference, Ruby will be hosting a group discussion. As you listen to the professionals and Ruby, you will see you are not alone in your grieving, there is hope and you too can journey from grief to hope.

This program, although run by Catholics is good for any person going through the grieving process. The cost of the program is \$15.00 for the workbook but we will scholarship anyone who may need help. We also need a couple volunteers to be part of the leadership team. These volunteers will help with hospitality and support for our team leader. If you are interested in this program as a volunteer or to join the group, please call our parish office at 605-397-2775 or email us at seas@nvc.net.

#192 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Our pattern holds. 39,300 new cases reported today, a 0.6% increase to 6,127,000 cases. There were 1048 deaths reported today, a 0.6% increase to 185,584. I am seeing a shift toward more states with increasing rates and fewer with declining rates. It's not large, but we really do not want to see this going into fall and winter.

We talked a couple of days ago about phase 3 trials getting underway for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine candidate. Phase 3 has been going in the UK, Brazil, and South Africa for some time, and Friday, the first US participants received their injections. The trial, which I am now hearing may include as many as 50,000 participants before it's over, will move on into Japan next. Trials occur in many countries in order to include a diversity of people and also to chase the infection rates: The more active transmission is occurring in the place where the trials occur, the sooner we will know whether the vaccine candidate works. (Where transmission is low, not many people, vaccinated or not, will acquire the infection, and it can take a very long time to see evidence of a difference between your vaccine and placebo groups.)

This candidate, according to the lead researcher, has been eliciting a robust response that produces neutralizing antibodies (the ones that are most effective against viral infection) and also a cell-mediated response. We have talked about both of those arms of the immune response on a few occasions now. Do be aware, though, that being able to demonstrate these responses occur is not proof the responses are actually protective; that is what these phase 3 trials are really for—seeing whether vaccination prevents infection out in the world. Human-interest note: The first volunteer to receive a trial injection in the US is a young, Latino man who has lost seven family members to this disease; let's wish him well—he's due for some good luck.

Let's talk superspreaders. We've done that before, but a review is in order here so we're all starting on the same page. You may recall we have talked about reproduction number (R) for a virus; this is the number of other individuals one infected person can be expected to infect, on average. Unmitigated, this virus seemed to have an initial R , known as R_0 (or R -naught) between 2 and 3. That's not great, but it's not ridiculous either; for example, the R_0 for measles is around 18. Once some of your population has been exposed and mitigation measures are underway, the R is going to change; we call this later R that has come under some other influences R_t (reproduction number over time) or R_e (effective reproduction number). We've been using R_e when we talk about this concept.

Thing is, R_e is not evenly distributed through the population of infected people. We are becoming more and more aware that many infected people do not transmit to anyone else at all, while others might transmit to many people. That's not uncommon for a virus, but it's a particular feature of this one; so we see superspreaders—people whose R_e is very high. And we see superspreader events where a single person infects many, many others in a gathering or a situation. We still aren't sure whether superspreaders have some distinct biological or physiological characteristic that makes them more efficient spreaders or this is more a function of circumstance—they just happened to be at a place and in a situation where transmission to a lot of folks was favored. But we know they're out there.

Researchers generally are in agreement that transmission for Covid-19 follows the so-called 80/20 Pareto Principle (named after an economist) that says 80% of all consequences come from just 20% of the possible causes, or in terms of Covid-19 infections, 80% of new transmissions are caused by just 20% of infected individuals. This would mean we have a relatively few people aggressively spreading the virus while most are quietly keeping it to themselves. Some papers speculate it might even be more of an 80/10 situation. We would really like to get to the bottom of this and, better yet, learn to identify these superspreaders before they go around superspreading, but for now, we will have to content ourselves with studying superspreader events in an attempt to learn about transmission and get better at preventing outbreaks.

The first superspreader event we noted in the US was a choir practice in Washington that resulted in 52 cases, but we have more recently talked about the Biogen conference in Boston that led to enormous numbers of infections in the Northeast and all across the US, as it turns out. There was a church in South

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Korea that was the source for the entire first wave of infections in that country and a wedding in Jordan that led to 76 infections. We have been looking in on the wedding in Maine at the beginning of August that has led to well over 100 infections.

And now we have a couple of buses in China to study. A paper published this week in JAMA Internal Medicine examines the 31 cases that arose from a single infected person on a bus trip to a Buddhist temple ceremony way back in January before we understood just what we were dealing with—which means no real precautions were taken. It is also relevant that there were no cases in the region prior to this event, so it is nearly certain all of the subsequent cases can be attributed directly to the index case who had lunched with guests from Hubei, the province where Wuhan is and where the initial outbreak in this pandemic occurred.

There were actually two buses that traveled to the temple with 68 passengers in one and 60 in the other; but only people on the 68-passenger bus became infected, so it was like a controlled experiment. The trip each way was about 50 minutes, and people all sat in the same seats on both the outbound and return trips. The index case was apparently at the point in the course of her infection right around symptom onset, a period when we know viral loads are at their highest. The buses had recirculating air conditioners, so fresh air was not being brought in by the ventilating system and no one was wearing masks; so virus was able to spread very efficiently. People sitting far from the index case became infected, even to the last row of seats. The only factor that seemed to mitigate the risk was sitting near an open window or the door.

There was an outdoor ceremony at the temple, followed by an indoor lunch in a spacious room. There were well over 100 in attendance who did not travel on the buses; of these, seven people became infected as well as those on the bus. All seven reported close contact with the index case during the course of the day.

The researchers are concluding that this adds to the growing body of evidence that this virus spreads not just in moist respiratory droplets, but also in aerosols—tiny droplets and dried up droplets known as droplet nuclei. And that adds to our concern that, while social distancing is important, it is not the only measure we should be taking. Aerosols linger much longer in the air than droplets, which are heavy and settle rather quickly. Aerosols can travel farther than droplets because of this tendency to hover longer in the air. And we must be vigilant for ways to interrupt transmission via aerosols. We have a combination of factors here: a lengthy duration of exposure, a confined and poorly-ventilated environment, crowding, and one person who was highly contagious due to the stage of infection. So all the things we've been recommending—masks, distance, hand hygiene, keeping exposures brief—are all relevant and important to protecting yourself and the people around you, as well as slowing down community spread so we can all get back to our lives.

Speaking of superspreader events, experts are now placing the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in that category. While it is impossible to trace all the cases that may result from contacts at the Rally, there is no doubt there have been many identified—and many more we'll never identify. Dr. Victor Huber, biomedical sciences professor at the University of South Dakota, says, "Any time you have a mass gathering of hundreds of thousands of people and then they return to their home states, you're going to increase the likelihood of a 'super spreader' event." At a time when we have so much uncontrolled spread in the country—and we did back in early August before and during the Rally—some people undoubtedly were going to bring the virus to the Rally and others undoubtedly were going to take it back home with them.

There are many reasons we'll never know the true impact of this superspreader event: (a) The governor of South Dakota has said we plan to make no attempt to track cases in other states linked to the Sturgis gathering, (2) the patient would have to self-report to the physician about attendance at Sturgis in order to be included in the count, and (3) secondary contacts of those people may never know they were infected by a Rally participant. This means we will be reliant on what are bound to be incomplete reports trickling out of those other states. Even so, we currently have 260 identified cases in eleven states associated with it, and today the first identified Rally-associated death occurred in a Minnesota man who was in attendance. Since the event concluded, the number of Covid-19 cases in South Dakota has doubled,

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and there has been an uptick in North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. As of last night, the top three states in per capita new cases over the past seven days were, in order, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Since August 16, the last day of the event in Sturgis, South Dakota has recorded 26% of its total cases to date and North Dakota has recorded 28% of theirs. Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa are at 12%, 15%, and 20%, respectively. Meade County in South Dakota, the county that is home to Sturgis, went into the Rally with a total of just 71 diagnosed cases throughout all the months of the pandemic; that count is now up to 305.

Of course, the Rally is not the only factor in these spikes in new case numbers; the return of students to colleges and universities have clearly played a role as well, which can be seen by the spikes in case reports from counties that are homes to post-secondary institutions. As with the Rally, there will be those students who bring their infections to town with them and others who take them off to colleges in other cities and states as well. I'll just add that the South Dakota State Fair opens tomorrow; that should compound the issues we're seeing. There is no question we are seeing widespread community transmission in all of these states at present. One piece of better news: Iowa State has reversed its decision to host fans at its football opener. This is a wise decision.

Tenino, Washington, population 1800, was once a boom town when the local quarries were operating; they sold stone to rebuild Seattle and San Francisco after devastating fires back at the turn of the 20th Century. Not so much anymore. Now its economy is mostly dependent upon tourism which, like so much else, has pretty much dried up in the pandemic. Its restaurants and shops aren't doing much business, and its people are similarly hurting. Not yet defeated, Tenino has a unique solution: wooden money.

The city dug into its emergency accounts and offered \$300 per month in assistance to any residents who need it; but there's a catch. The assistance comes in the form of wooden scrip printed on maple veneer about the size and thickness of an index card printed on the same machine used for a similar purpose back during the Great Depression, and it is legal tender only in Tenino where most merchants have agreed to accept it, although it cannot be used to buy alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana. The merchants can use the wooden money to make their own purchases around town or redeem it for real money at City Hall. And some are selling it on the side to coin collectors who are willing to pay far over face value to add this currency to their collections.

Consider how smart this is: By handing out money that is restricted to use in town, they've created a sub-economy to keep the town afloat on wooden money. People have the cash they need to cover necessities, and the circulation of that money enables businesses to keep the doors open. I remember learning as a kid that every dollar someone brings to town turns over seven times. I'm no economist, but I suspect there are some flaws in this assumption. Even so, keeping the dollars local undoubtedly multiplies the effect of the assistance given so that it seems likely the dollars given out are not a dead loss, but that some portion of each dollar turns over locally, paying local employees and keeping money moving around town.

This would mean they're creating value where there was none, and they're getting great value for every dollar in the original infusion of cash. That should stretch that emergency fund. Additionally—and more importantly in the long run, they have nurtured the idea that a society takes care of its own through hard times. That's worth more than money. Tenino is doing that thing I keep nattering on about: finding a way to build the kind of society they want to live in when this pandemic is over. I really hope they can keep this up long enough to see themselves out the other side. And I hope the rest of us are seeing our way clear to doing the same.

Stay well. 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
	Sept. 2	Sept. 3					
Minnesota	76,355	77,085					
Nebraska	34,574	34,995					
Montana	7,509	7,691					
Colorado	57,775	58,019					
Wyoming	3,282	3,311					
North Dakota	12,000	12,267					
South Dakota	13,749	14,003					
United States	6,073,121	6,115,098					
US Deaths	184,644	185,752					
Minnesota	+491	+730					
Nebraska	+287	+421					
Montana	+88	+182					
Colorado	+351	+244					
Wyoming	+18	+29					
North Dakota	+184	+267					
South Dakota	+240	+254					
United States	+41,835	+41,977					
US Deaths	+1,042	+1,108					

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September 2nd COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Gregory County recorded its first death while Union recorded its fifth. They were one male and one female, one in the 80+ age group and one in the 60s.

Jones and Mellette counties have fallen off the fully recovered list while Sully County is back on the list.

Those currently hospitalized dropped by one from yesterday. The state's positivity rate also dropped to 11.6 percent. Only one positive case in Brown County. Day and Edmunds each had a positive case as well.

Brown County:

Total Positive: +1 (696) Positivity Rate: 1.7%

Recovered: +3 (557)

Active Cases: -2 (136)

Total Tests: 60 (7862)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (27)

Deaths: 0 (3)

Percent Recovered: 80.0% (+0.3)

South Dakota:

Positive: +254 (14,003 total) Positivity Rates: 11.6%

Total Tests: 2,191 (196,300 total)

Hospitalized: +7 (1043 total). 77 currently hospitalized (down 1 from yesterday)

Deaths: +2 (169 total)

Recovered: +127 (10,959 total)

Active Cases: +125 (2,875)

Percent Recovered: 78.2 -0.6

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 50% Non-Covid, 47% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 6% Covid, 68% Non-Covid, 27% Available

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

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Jones, Mellette, gained Sully): Aurora 42-42, Harding 2-2, Jackson 12-11-1, Sully 8-8.

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): +2 positive, +2 recovered (29 active cases)

Bennett: +1 positive (15 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)

Brookings (1): +22 positive, +7 recovered (167 active cases)

Brown (3): +1 positive, +2 recovered (137 active cases)

Brule: +1 positive, +2 recovered (16 active cases)

Buffalo (3): 4 active cases

Butte (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (24 active cases)

Campbell: 1 active case

Charles Mix: 11 active cases

Clark: +2 positive (4 active cases)

Clay (2) +9 positive, +12 recovered (189 active cases)

Codington (2): +27 positive, +8 recovered (149 active cases)

Corson: +3 positive (15 active cases)

Custer: +13 positive, +2 recovered (64 active case)

Davison (2): -1 positive (30 active cases)

Day: +1 positive (6 active cases)

Deuel: +1 positive (13 active cases)

Dewey: +2 positive (33 active cases)

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Douglas: +2 positive (13 active cases)
 Edmunds: +1 positive (7 active cases)
 Fall River (1): +6 positive (30 active cases)
 Faulk (1): +1 positive (5 active cases)
 Grant: +2 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)
 Gregory (1): +7 positive (21 active cases)
 Haakon: 3 active cases
 Hamlin: +2 positive (22 active cases)
 Hand: 4 active cases
 Hanson: 2 active cases
 Harding: Fully Recovered
 Hughes (4): +1 positive, +1 recovered (24 active cases)
 Hutchinson (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)
 Hyde: 3 active cases
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered
 Jerauld (1): +1 positive (2 active cases)
 Jones: +2 positive (2 active cases)
 Kingsbury: 6 active cases
 Lake (6): -1 positive, +1 recovered (11 active cases)
 Lawrence (3): +4 positive, +8 recovered (116 active cases)
 Lincoln (2): +16 positive, +4 recovered (166 active cases)
 Lyman (3): -1 positive (15 active cases)
 Marshall: 5 active cases
 McCook (1): 16 active cases
 McPherson: 1 active case
 Meade (1): +12 positive, +15 recovered (145 active cases)
 Mellette: +1 positive (1 active case)
 Miner: +1 positive (2 active cases)
 Minnehaha (70): +49 positive, +27 recovered (604

active cases)
 Moody: +5 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)
 Oglala Lakota (2): +9 positive, +1 recovered (31 active cases)
 Pennington (33): +27 positive, +23 recovered (432 active cases)
 Perkins: +3 positive (12 active cases)
 Potter: +2 positive (13 active cases)
 Roberts (1): 12 active cases
 Sanborn: +1 positive (3 active cases)
 Spink: 17 active cases
 Stanley: 1 active case
 Sully: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED)
 Todd (5): 7 active cases
 Tripp: 3 active cases
 Turner: +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)
 Union (5): +3 positive, +1 recovered (45 active cases)
 Walworth: +2 positive (15 active cases)
 Yankton (3): +5 positive, +3 recovered (70 active cases)
 Ziebach: +1 positive (16 active cases)

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, September 2:

- 5,786 tests (1,881)
- 12,267 positives (+265)
- 9,834 recovered (+224)
- 148 deaths (+3)
- 2,285 active cases (+40)

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	476	0
10-19 years	1403	0
20-29 years	3501	2
30-39 years	2546	7
40-49 years	1967	7
50-59 years	1914	19
60-69 years	1194	30
70-79 years	560	26
80+ years	442	78

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	7046	85
Male	6957	84

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	42	42	431	0	None
Beadle	641	603	2043	9	Substantial
Bennett	24	9	568	0	Substantial
Bon Homme	53	36	971	1	Substantial
Brookings	362	194	3382	1	Substantial
Brown	696	557	5487	3	Substantial
Brule	68	52	868	0	Substantial
Buffalo	110	103	680	3	Minimal
Butte	49	24	890	1	Substantial
Campbell	5	4	112	0	Minimal
Charles Mix	122	111	1694	0	Moderate
Clark	21	17	437	0	Minimal
Clay	381	190	1775	2	Substantial
Codington	357	206	3522	2	Substantial
Corson	61	46	616	0	Moderate
Custer	130	66	843	0	Substantial
Davison	142	110	2696	2	Substantial
Day	38	30	747	0	Moderate
Deuel	49	34	507	0	Substantial
Dewey	84	56	2466	0	Substantial
Douglas	31	18	449	0	Moderate
Edmunds	32	25	473	0	Moderate
Fall River	56	25	1130	1	Substantial
Faulk	33	27	230	1	Minimal
Grant	44	34	850	0	Minimal
Gregory	32	10	490	1	Substantial
Haakon	6	3	309	0	Minimal
Hamlin	60	38	808	0	Substantial
Hand	15	11	353	0	Minimal
Hanson	23	21	252	0	Minimal
Harding	2	2	59	0	None
Hughes	133	107	2092	4	Substantial
Hutchinson	46	32	1000	1	Moderate

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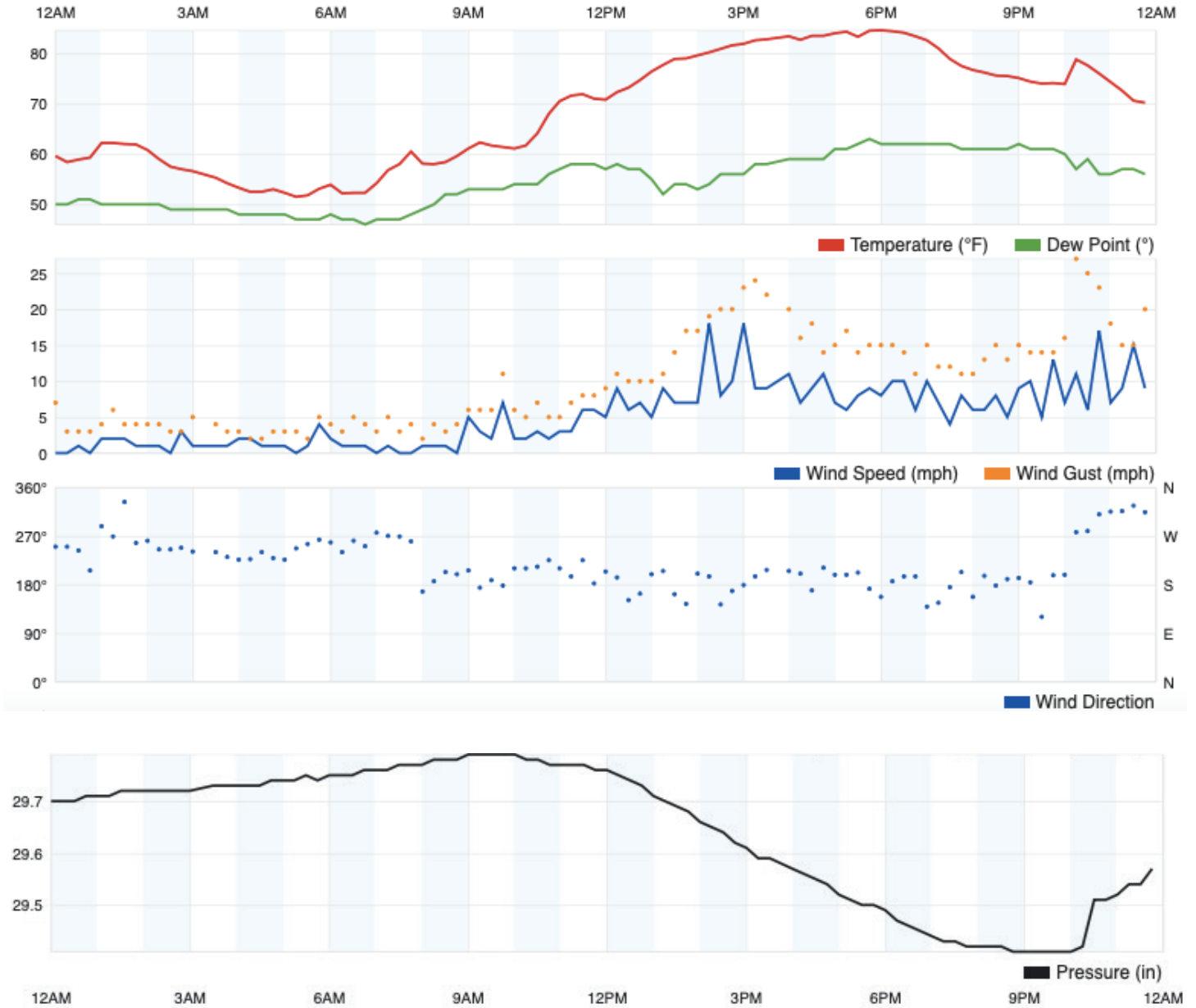
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Hyde	7	4	163	0	Minimal
Jackson	12	11	495	1	None
Jerauld	42	39	294	1	None
Jones	5	3	69	0	None
Kingsbury	23	17	658	0	Moderate
Lake	118	101	1085	6	Moderate
Lawrence	233	114	2363	3	Substantial
Lincoln	935	767	8209	2	Substantial
Lyman	104	86	1093	3	Substantial
Marshall	19	14	537	0	Moderate
McCook	53	36	737	1	Substantial
McPherson	10	9	254	0	None
Meade	317	171	2290	1	Substantial
Mellette	25	24	408	0	None
Miner	17	15	282	0	None
Minnehaha	5389	4715	32226	70	Substantial
Moody	47	37	722	0	Minimal
Oglala Lakota	185	152	3075	2	Moderate
Pennington	1475	1010	12410	33	Substantial
Perkins	19	7	227	0	Moderate
Potter	18	5	350	0	Substantial
Roberts	100	87	2137	1	Substantial
Sanborn	16	13	262	0	Minimal
Spink	54	35	1304	0	Substantial
Stanley	21	20	308	0	Minimal
Sully	8	8	106	0	Minimal
Todd	82	70	2487	5	Minimal
Tripp	23	20	669	0	Minimal
Turner	85	67	1056	0	Substantial
Union	273	223	2250	5	Substantial
Walworth	45	30	895	0	Substantial
Yankton	245	172	3607	3	Substantial
Ziebach	50	34	447	0	Minimal
Unassigned	0	0	12217	0	

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today

Tonight

Friday

Friday
Night

Saturday



Sunny and
Breezy



Mostly Clear



Sunny



Mostly Clear



Mostly Sunny

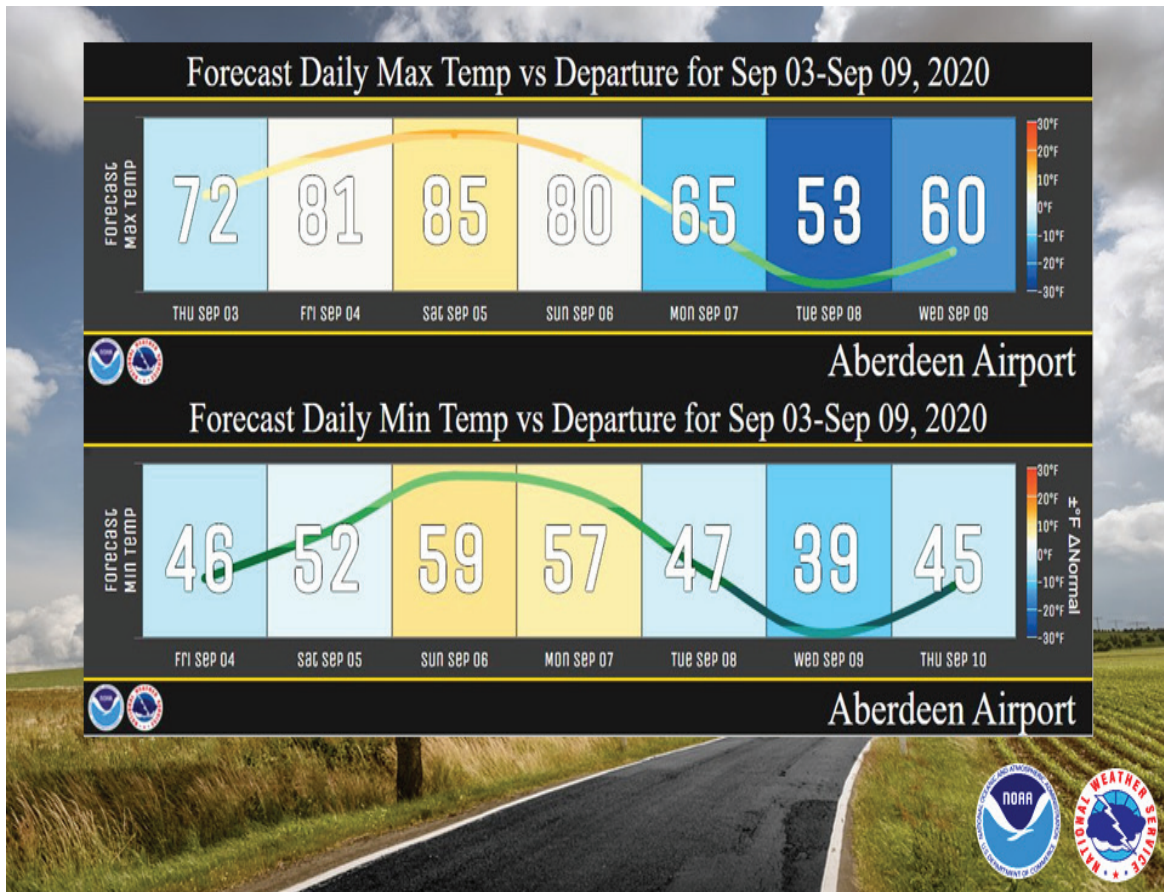
High: 72 °F

Low: 46 °F

High: 81 °F

Low: 51 °F

High: 86 °F



Holiday weekend warmup, followed by significant cool down next week.

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Today in Weather History

September 3, 1974: An early freeze occurred across Minnesota and Wisconsin as temperatures fell into the upper 20s to the lower 30s. The cold was the earliest freeze on record in some parts of the state ending the growing season. The most significant damage was to the soybean and corn crop. Damage estimates were more than \$100 million.

September 3, 1999: Training thunderstorms resulted in extensive flash flooding in a 30 to 40-mile wide band from Fort Pierre in southeast Stanley County to Hecla in northeast Brown County. Rainfall amounts in this corridor ranged from 3 to 7 inches. As a result, the communities of Blunt in Hughes County and Onida in Sully County were severely flooded. Most of the homes and businesses were inundated throughout Blunt and Onida causing severe damage. Only a few houses in these communities were spared from receiving water in their basements. Most homes also experienced sewer backup. The sewer systems in both Onida and Blunt were flooded and shut down. Many people had to go to temporary shelters as a result of the flooding. Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had a lot of street flooding resulting in road closures and detours. Also, several basements in Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had the sewer backup. The torrential rains flooded many township and county roads along with several state and U.S. highways. Sections of Highways 14, 20, 83, and 1806 along with many other roads in central and northeast South Dakota had to be closed due to the flooding. Many of the township and county roads had massive amounts of gravel washed away. Some bridges received minor damage with some culverts also lost. A few pets and livestock were also lost as a result of the flooding. Many acres of crops were flooded throughout the area. Some rainfall amounts included 3 inches at Fort Pierre, 4 inches at Hecla and in the Aberdeen Area, 5 inches at the Sand Lake Wildlife Refuge and Blunt, 6 inches at Seneca, 7 inches 10 miles southeast of Gettysburg and at Onida.

1821: Known as the 1821 Norfolk Long Island Hurricane, this storm ripped up the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast coast September 3 and 4 – coinciding with Labor Day (before the holiday was established).

On this day in 1821, the "famous" Norfolk-Long Island hurricane occurred - "the only major hurricane to pass over New York City." It was probably a strong major hurricane when making landfall in N Carolina, but I have serious doubts it was a major when passing over New York.

1834: A strong hurricane made landfall near Georgetown, South Carolina.

On this date in 1834, a strong hurricane made landfall near Georgetown, SC. Maybe a major hurricane, but I never found enough good proof.

1930: A Category 4 hurricane devastates the Dominican Republic on this day. This storm killed more than 8,000 individuals, which is it the fifth deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record.

1970: During the early evening hours, amid a severe hailstorm at Coffeyville, Kansas, a stone 17.5 inches in circumference and nearly two pounds in weight was recovered. Average stone size from the storm was five inches in diameter, with another stone reportedly eight inches in diameter. This hailstone is currently the third-largest hailstone in the U.S. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

1979: Hurricane David made landfall in south Florida as a Category 2 storm. It caused 15 deaths in the US. Hurricane David was a Category 5 over the Dominican Republic where over 2,000 people died.

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SAY WHAT IS!

The editor of the classified ad section of a newspaper noticed the cornerstone of a large cathedral in New York City. She paused to read the words and became intrigued.

Walking into the church, she made her way down the aisle and finally found the pastor's study. Politely she asked if he had a moment to speak with her.

Seated in front of his desk, she introduced herself and said, "I noticed the words on the cornerstone that quoted the words of Jesus: 'Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils.' Do you do those things here?"

"Oh, no," came the reply. "Years ago, they were placed there because the congregation thought they sounded good."

"Well," she replied, "if you don't do those things, you shouldn't advertise that you do."

It is one thing to say that we believe the gospel but quite another thing to show others that we believe the gospel. Often we speak the words of the Bible as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven but do not live by its rules. Again, we may verbalize the teachings of Jesus, but quite another thing is to verify the value of His words with our life. If we say it and believe it, we ought to do it, and the goal of what we do should honor our Savior and Lord!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to live our faith. We ask that You give us the courage to do what we ought to do wherever we are to show others we belong to Your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1:27

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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)
- 10/30/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

02-07-10-18-32

(two, seven, ten, eighteen, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$149,000

Lotto America

25-34-37-40-47, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(twenty-five, thirty-four, thirty-seven, forty, forty-seven; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.15 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$88 million

Powerball

01-04-11-20-69, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

(one, four, eleven, twenty, sixty-nine; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$56 million

The Latest: Beijing airport receives international flights

By The Associated Press undefined

BEIJING — Beijing's main international airport on Thursday began again receiving international flights from a limited number of countries considered at low risk of coronavirus infection.

Passengers flying in from Cambodia, Greece, Denmark, Thailand, Pakistan, Austria, Canada and Sweden, must have first shown a negative nucleic acid test for coronavirus before boarding, city government spokesperson Xu Hejian told reporters.

Passenger arrivals will be limited to roughly 500 per day during an initial trial period and all will need to undergo additional testing for the virus on arrival, followed by two weeks of quarantine. The first flight under the new arrangement, Air China CA746, arrived from Pnom Penh, Cambodia just before 7:00 a.m.

Beginning in March, all international flights to Beijing had been redirected to a dozen other cities where passengers were tested and processed before being allowed to travel on to the Chinese capital.

China has gone weeks without new cases of local infection and on Thursday recorded 11 cases brought from outside the country. China has recorded a total of 4,634 deaths from COVID-19 among 85,077 cases since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year, sparking the global pandemic.

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

- Italy's ex-Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi tests positive for virus
- Depression, anxiety spike amid outbreak and turbulent times
- Business owners tap into savings to withstand pandemic
- Health departments say they lack the staff, money and tools to distribute, administer and track millions of vaccines, most of which will require two doses, when a vaccine becomes available.
- The U. S. federal budget deficit is projected to hit a record \$3.3 trillion due to COVID-19 costs and the recession.
- The Venice Film Festival opened with coronavirus protection protocols, few A-list celebrities and fewer fans on the premises.
- Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/Under->

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standingtheOutbreak

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

LOS ANGELES -- Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson says he and his family tested positive for the coronavirus. Johnson announced their diagnosis in an 11-plus minute video on Instagram on Wednesday.

The actor says he was shocked after hearing their positive tests. He called the ordeal "one of the most challenging and difficult things we've had ever to endure."

The actor said he along with wife, Lauren Hashian, and two young daughters contracted the virus, but have now recovered.

He says his daughters "bounced back" after having sore throats for a couple days. But for Johnson and his wife, he says they both had a "rough go."

SAN DIEGO -- San Diego State University has halted in-person classes for a month after dozens of students were infected with the coronavirus.

The school announced Wednesday that about 200 course offerings, some of them lab classes, will move to virtual learning. On-campus housing will remain open.

San Diego County health officials say there have been 64 confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 among SDSU students since classes resumed last week. Some, but not all, of the infections were linked to other cases at the university. Some involve students who live off-campus.

California State university at Chico also halted classes this week.

SANTA FE, N.M. -- A top state health official is warning that COVID-19 infections are far more prevalent in low-income areas of the New Mexico, potentially straining Medicaid health care.

Human Services Secretary David Scrase said Wednesday that an analysis of infection rates by census tract shows that highly impoverished areas have infection rates seven times higher than the most affluent zones.

Scrase and Children Youth and Families Secretary Brian Blalock gave a briefing on public health trends and the state's coronavirus response.

State health officials are wary that festivities over the Labor Day holiday weekend could lead to renewed surges in COVID-19 infections.

URBANA, Ill. — The University of Illinois is ramping up enforcement of restrictions on student activity after more than 330 COVID-19 cases in two days on the school's Urbana-Champaign campus, school officials said Wednesday.

In an email to students, Chancellor Robert Jones said he expects all undergraduates to "limit their in-person interactions to only the most essential activities" for the next two weeks starting Wednesday evening.

"These include things like taking twice weekly COVID-19 tests, attending class, purchasing groceries and food, going to work, engaging in individual outdoor activity, attending religious services and seeking medical attention," Jones wrote.

The University of Illinois isn't the only university in the state seeing a spike in COVID-19 cases. Illinois State University in Normal is reporting about 1,025 students have tested positive since the start of the fall semester two weeks ago, nearly 5% of the student body.

Since students returned to the Urbana-Champaign campus Aug. 16, more than 1,000 people on campus have tested positive. University officials say about 800 people are currently in quarantine.

ATLANTA — With more than 3,000 public university students and employees across Georgia testing positive for COVID-19 since Aug. 1, some schools are taking action to slow the spread of the respiratory illness.

Georgia Tech is encouraging students to convert to single rooms, moving out roommates over coming weeks to reduce exposure to the coronavirus. Both Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia announced they are renting more off-campus rooms to isolate or quarantine students who have been infected or exposed to the virus.

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The University of Georgia reported 821 new infections for the week ended Saturday, a number that President Jere Morehead said Wednesday is "concerning." He urged students to "continue to make every effort to prioritize their health and safety by taking the proper steps to avoid exposure to this virus.

Around 4% of all cases recorded in Georgia in the last month have been associated with university campuses, according to figures kept by The Associated Press. The number could be higher because some schools, including the state's largest — Georgia State University — are not posting full reports publicly.

The rising campus infection numbers come as new cases in the rest of Georgia decline. The total number of cases rose to near 275,000 Wednesday, according to state data, but the average number of cases has fallen below 2,000 a day.

BĀTON ROUGE, La. — Advocates for Louisiana prisoners are calling for the state to select an independent health monitor to track the safety of inmates in the coronavirus outbreak. They also urged Gov. John Bel Edwards' administration to do more furloughs because of the health risks.

Lawmakers on the House criminal justice committee heard the suggestions Wednesday, but it was unclear if the recommendations would be followed.

A furlough program the Department of Corrections used earlier this year released only a few dozen people. It drew criticism that it did too little to lessen the spread of COVID-19 or help those most at risk of serious harm from the coronavirus illness.

Ēarly results from an experimental coronavirus vaccine show no major safety problems and suggest that it spurs the desired immune system responses, researchers reported Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The U.S. government has awarded Novavax, a company based in Gaithersburg, Maryland, \$1.6 billion to help develop and make the vaccine, which is given as two shots, three weeks apart. It includes a protein from the coronavirus to prompt the immune system to make antibodies to fight infection.

The study tested two dose levels in 108 healthy people and compared responses to 23 others who got placebo shots. Most of those given vaccine also received an adjuvant -- a substance often included in vaccines to boost the immune system's response and stretch a limited supply.

The adjuvant seemed safe; those who got it with the lower dose made antibodies in far greater numbers than what's typically seen in people recovering from natural infection with COVID-19, researchers reported.

The work was sponsored by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a nonprofit focused on increasing vaccine availability worldwide.

Three other experimental vaccines are in late-stage testing in the United States.

ĒARIS — New daily coronavirus cases in France have tipped above 7,000 for the second time in five days. The daily count adds weight to French authorities' worries about the virus spreading further as the nation's schools reopened their doors on Tuesday and numerous businesses were following suit.

Wednesday's daily count put new cases at just over 7,000, still below Friday's count of more than 7,300. Health officials counted 43 new clusters in 24 hours.

The figures remain well under those at the peak of the pandemic that forced France into a strict two-month lockdown until mid-May.

Paris joined with some other cities in requiring everyone to wear masks outdoors and now also is requiring masks be worn in work places.

New cases began climbing again in France with the summer holidays. The coronavirus has killed more than 30,600 people in France.

ĒIOUX FALLS, S.D. — A Minnesota man who attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota last month has died from COVID-19, Minnesota health officials reported on Wednesday.

The death is the first reported that is possibly linked to the biker rally that drew hundreds of thousands

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of people. Infections among rallygoers have been reported among 269 people in 12 states spanning coast to coast, according to a survey from the Associated Press.

The rally went forward despite fears it could become a super-spread event, with South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem welcoming bikers and the tourist dollars they spend.

Rallygoers crowded into bars and rock shows, mostly ignoring social distancing recommendations. Few wore masks.

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona State University says some students living on the college campus will be moved to other residence halls for social distancing because of an increase in coronavirus cases.

The university says it wants to reduce the density in the dorms. There are 5,000 spaces available in the residence halls to begin shifting students housing arrangements, officials say.

The university reported 775 students and 28 faculty members tested positive for coronavirus on Monday, shortly after in-person classes started Aug. 20.

The state Department of Health Services on Wednesday reported 591 new coronavirus cases and 21 more deaths, raising the statewide totals to 202,861 cases and 5,065 confirmed deaths.

The seven-day rolling average of statewide cases dropped from 883 on Aug. 18 to 438 on Tuesday, while the average of daily deaths went from 47 to 42.

UNITED NATIONS — The top U.N. official for Libya says the coronavirus pandemic “appears to be spiraling out of control” in the conflict-torn north African country.

Acting special representative Stephanie Williams told the U.N. Security Council the number of confirmed coronavirus cases “has more than doubled in the last two weeks, with 15,156 cases and 250 recorded deaths as at Sept. 1.”

She says the country is at “a critical juncture” and community transmission has been reported in Libya’s main cities, including Tripoli and Sebha.

Williams says constraints in dealing with the coronavirus include a shortage of medical supplies, workers and funding.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas reported its largest single-day increase in deaths from the illness caused by the coronavirus on Wednesday.

The Department of Health reported 27 new deaths from COVID-19, bringing the state’s total fatalities since the pandemic began to 841. Thirteen of the new deaths were late reports, with one of them dating back to May.

Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero also urged college students to avoid large parties and gatherings as the state continues to see a rise in campus cases.

OKLAHOMA CITY — A face mask requirement in Oklahoma City has been extended by six weeks to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

The City Council voted to extend the mandate for masks worn indoors until Oct. 20. Oklahoma City had a reported 11,222 total virus cases as of Tuesday, the highest among cities in the state, according to the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

A similar mask ordinance in Tulsa will expire Nov. 30. Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt said Tuesday that he won’t issue a statewide mask mandate.

The health department has confirmed 60,118 total virus cases and 821 deaths. That includes 719 cases and 12 deaths reported Tuesday.

NEW YORK — Gyms in New York City can start reopening with a slew of virus-related restrictions, the latest step in a phased reopening.

Gym members must wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart. Gyms can only operate at one-third capacity

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and group fitness classes are not permitted.

Gyms in other parts of the state opened at restricted capacity on Aug. 24. New York City officials delayed the reopening until Sept. 2 so the health department could conduct safety inspections by video.

Indoor restaurant dining is still prohibited in the city. That's resulted in more outdoor dining and extended fence-protected dining into the street.

WICHITA, Kan. — The state's largest school district in Wichita has overturned its decision to call off all fall sports and activities because of the coronavirus.

The Board of Education for the 50,000-student district reversed itself Tuesday after members were flooded with emails and phone calls that sports be held.

District schools will compete against each other during the regular season but would remain eligible for postseason play. Some of the state's other large districts called off fall sports, including Shawnee Mission and Kansas City, Kansas. The Lawrence district is allowing sports and re-evaluate on Sept. 10.

Statewide, Kansas reported 1,328 coronavirus cases from Monday to Wednesday, bringing the state's confirmed total to 43,940. That includes 15 sports clusters with 119 cases.

Health officials reported 12 deaths for a statewide confirmed toll of 458.

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's health ministry says the country is experiencing the second peak of the first wave of the coronavirus outbreak and blamed gatherings at weddings and holidays.

Health minister Fahrettin Koca says the government has been advised to consider expanding restrictions imposed on social gatherings such as weddings, engagement parties and henna nights in more than a dozen provinces to the entire country.

The minister says nearly 30,000 health sectors workers have contracted the virus since the outbreak and 52 have died.

Koca says the capital Ankara has the highest active coronavirus cases, overtaking Istanbul. More than 273,000 people have tested positive for the virus in Turkey since March, including 1,596 in the last 24 hours.

Another 45 have died in the last day, bringing the confirmed total to 6,462.

ROME — Italy's former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi has tested positive for the coronavirus after a precautionary check.

His press office says he's currently isolated in his Arcore residence, near Milan. He'll continue to work from there as he completes the necessary quarantine period.

The three-time-premier and media tycoon had been recently pictured with his friend and businessman Flavio Briatore, who was recently hospitalized after testing positive for the coronavirus last month. The 83-year-old Berlusconi had tested negative at the time.

ROME — Italy registered a new surge in coronavirus infections, which rose by 1,326 on Wednesday.

That's up from 978 a day before, according to the latest Health Ministry figures.

The data confirm the rising trend in new cases observed in the country over the past month, but also reflect the wider number of swab tests performed daily, which for the first time topped the 100,000 level. The testing reached almost 103,000 in the past 24 hours.

Italy now has 271,515 confirmed infections and 35,497 known deaths, including six in the last day.

Health experts are encouraging Italy to boost testing and tracing of contacts of the newly infected before schools open on Sept. 14.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United Arab Emirates has reported 735 cases of coronavirus, the country's highest one-day increase in over three months.

That brings the total number of recorded infections to 71,540 and 387 confirmed deaths. Students are returning to schools across the country for in-person instruction and tourists are trickling back to the

skyscraper-studded city of Dubai.

The steadily rising infections have some concerned that authorities could reinstate lockdowns in parts of the country.

COVID-19 death tied to Sturgis Rally reported in Minnesota

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Minnesota man who attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota last month has died from COVID-19, Minnesota health officials reported on Wednesday.

It is the first reported coronavirus death that might be linked to the biker rally. At least 290 people in 12 states have tested positive for the coronavirus since attending the rally that drew hundreds of thousands of people, according to an Associated Press survey.

The 10-day rally went forward despite fears it could become a super-spread event, with South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem welcoming bikers and the tourist dollars they spend. Bikers crowded into bars and rock shows, mostly ignoring social distancing recommendations. Few wore masks.

Kris Ehresmann, infectious disease director at the Minnesota Department of Health, said health officials have also seen infections spread from people who attended Sturgis, but those infections weren't included in the state's count of Sturgis-linked infections, which stood at 50 on Wednesday.

She said people who attended the rally have reported moving between events, campgrounds and indoor and outdoor spaces.

"Pretty much everyone was in a crowded setting," Ehresmann said.

The man who died in Minnesota was in his 60s, had underlying health conditions and was hospitalized before he died, according to Ehresmann.

The Washington Post first reported the death.

For 10 days in August, the rally creates a travel hub in western South Dakota comparable to a major U.S. city, according to an analysis of anonymous cellphone data from Camber Systems, a firm that aggregates cellphone activity for health researchers. The research found that 61% of all counties in the U.S. have been visited by someone who attended Sturgis this summer.

Health officials in Wisconsin and New Jersey reported that one person in each of those states has been hospitalized with the coronavirus after attending Sturgis.

Elizabeth Goodsitt, a spokeswoman for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, said some of the 23 people from Wisconsin who tested positive after the rally mentioned other places where they may have been exposed.

"We can't say that Sturgis was or was not the cause of these cases," Goodsitt said.

Tracking possible infections among riders who moved between bars, campgrounds and rock shows then scattered across the country is a nearly impossible task for health officials.

The South Dakota Department of Health has reported 105 confirmed new cases tied to the rally. The city of Sturgis made coronavirus tests available to residents and city employees after the rally in an attempt to uncover those who were infected but had no symptoms.

There's been a surge in infections in South Dakota since the rally; the state ranks third in the country for new cases per capita over the past two weeks.

Sanford Health is first in nation to dose patient with promising novel therapeutic candidate for COVID-19, SAB-185

SIOUX FALLS, S.D., Sept. 2, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Sanford Health, the largest provider of rural health-care in the country, today announced it has initiated a Phase 1b trial of SAB-185, a first-of-its-kind human polyclonal antibody therapeutic candidate developed by SAB Biotherapeutics (SAB), that would be used to treat patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 at an early stage of the disease. The trial will enroll a total of 21 adult patients across several clinical sites. Sanford Health is the first site in the country to open the

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study to patients.

"Today's milestone underscores our relentless commitment to advancing the science of medicine to ensure our patients benefit from new discoveries as quickly as possible," said David A. Pearce, PhD, president of innovation and research at Sanford Health. "Working with SAB Biotherapeutics on this clinical trial gives us an opportunity to deliver on our promise to patients."

"We are eager to participate in this clinical trial to investigate the safety of SAB-185, a human polyclonal antibody therapeutic candidate for COVID-19," said Dr. Susan Hoover, principal investigator and an infectious disease physician at Sanford Health. "Our goal is to advance the science around COVID-19 so physicians can be better prepared to treat this novel coronavirus in the future, especially for our populations most at-risk."

SAB's novel platform, which leverages genetically engineered cattle to produce fully human antibodies, enables scalable and reliable production of specifically targeted, high potency neutralizing antibody products. This approach has expedited the rapid development of this novel immunotherapy for COVID-19, deploying the same natural immune response to fight the disease as recovered patients, but with a much higher concentration of antibodies.

"SAB is pleased to advance SAB-185, one of the leading novel therapeutics for COVID-19, into human trials and leverage the rapid response capabilities of our first-of-its-kind technology during this pandemic, when its needed most," said Eddie Sullivan, founder, president and CEO of SAB Biotherapeutics.

SAB is a Sioux Falls-based biopharmaceutical company advancing a new class of immunotherapies leveraging fully human polyclonal antibodies. Sanford Health is committed to taking research from the bench and bringing promising new treatments to our patients' bedside. New medical discoveries come out of hard work, innovation and research. SAB and Sanford Health are committed to developing and delivering novel solutions to overcome this global pandemic and improve people's lives.

About Sanford Health Sanford Health, one of the largest health systems in the United States, is dedicated to the integrated delivery of health care, genomic medicine, senior care and services, global clinics, research and affordable insurance. Headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the organization includes 46 hospitals, 1,400 physicians and more than 200 Good Samaritan Society senior care locations in 26 states and 10 countries. Learn more about Sanford Health's transformative work to improve the human condition at sanfordhealth.org or Sanford Health News.

About SAB Biotherapeutics SAB Biotherapeutics, Inc. (SAB) is a clinical-stage, biopharmaceutical company advancing a new class of immunotherapies leveraging fully human polyclonal antibodies. Utilizing some of the most complex genetic engineering and antibody science in the world, SAB has developed the only platform that can rapidly produce natural, highly-targeted, high-potency, human polyclonal immunotherapies at commercial scale. The company is advancing programs in autoimmunity, infectious diseases, inflammation and oncology. SAB is rapidly progressing on a new therapeutic for COVID-19, SAB-185, fully human polyclonal antibodies targeted to SARS-CoV-2 without using human donors. For more information visit sabbiotherapeutics.com or follow @SABBantibody on Twitter.

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Man bites 2 officers arresting him on suspicion of assault

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man bit two officers who were trying to arrest him for assaulting his girlfriend, according to police.

The 30-year-old man got in a fight with the woman early Tuesday while she waited for a ride from a friend, police spokesman Sam Clemens said.

The man started hitting the woman and threatened to kill her, he said. After the friend pulled up, the

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man and woman got into another vehicle and drove away. The friend called police.

Police found them nearby and when they tried to arrest the man he fought with them and bit two officers, the Argus Leader reported.

Officers said they found a methamphetamine pipe on the man who was being held on possible charges of aggravated domestic assault, aggravated assault on law enforcement and other counts.

In Kenosha, Biden to test his promise to unify the nation

By BILL BARROW and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden faces the most intense test yet of his pledge to be a calming, unifying leader for a divided nation when he travels Thursday to Kenosha, Wisconsin, a city now at the center of America's election-year reckoning with systemic racism.

The 77-year-old former vice president, traveling two days after President Donald Trump visited the same city, plans to meet with family of Jacob Blake, who remains hospitalized after being shot seven times in the back by a white police officer as authorities tried to arrest him. Biden also plans a community discussion with business figures, civic leaders and law enforcement officials.

"This is about making sure that we move forward," Biden told reporters Wednesday. He added that he's "not going to tell Kenosha what they have to do" but instead encourage a community to "talk about what has to be done."

Two months before Election Day, the trip presents Biden both opportunity and risks, testing his longstanding promise that he can "unify the country" and find consensus even where it's not readily apparent. The approach is an intentional contrast with Trump, who thrives on conflict. But the distinction has sharpened over a summer of nationwide protests — most peaceful, but some of them, as in Kenosha, turned violent and destructive.

Biden is a white man propelled to the Democratic nomination by Black voters. Since the May 25 death of George Floyd, a Black man killed by a white Minneapolis police officer, Biden has called for an overhaul of U.S. policing and embraced a national conversation on racism. The significance of the moment was a factor in Biden selecting California Sen. Kamala Harris as the first Black woman to join a major party presidential ticket.

Trump, meanwhile, has countered with sweeping condemnations of protesters, an absolute defense of law enforcement and denials that Americans with black and brown skin face barriers that whites do not — moves aimed at his overwhelmingly white political base.

The president pressed his "law and order" mantra during his own Kenosha trip Tuesday. He toured damaged buildings and discussed ways to quell unrest with law enforcement officials. Trump was greeted by supporters who occasionally mixed with — and yelled at — Black Lives Matter organizers.

"These are not acts of peaceful protest but, really, domestic terror," Trump said.

Despite repeated questions from reporters, the president refused to address racism in the country or its police departments. Instead, he asserted anew that a Biden presidency would bring riots and destruction to American cities. Trump falsely claims that Biden backs violent protests and activists' calls to "defund the police."

In fact, Biden has repeatedly denounced violence, from a June 2 speech after Floyd's death up to a Monday address that his campaign quickly turned into a one-minute digital and television ad. The campaign has spent \$45 million for the spot, which has English and Spanish language versions, to circulate on national cable networks and in local markets across Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Yet the ad's necessity highlights Biden's tightrope as he openly discusses the complexities of the moment while running against a president whose brief political career — and his business career before that — has been defined by loud absolutes.

Biden on Wednesday repeated that "to engage in violence — burning, looting, the rest — in the name of protesting is wrong. And that person should be held accountable for their actions." But he stood by First

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Amendment guarantees that "protest is a right."

He also praised law enforcement, saying "the vast majority of police officers are good, decent honorable women and men. They put on that shield every morning. They have a right to go home that night safely — the vast majority."

But then he uttered words Trump doesn't say: "Bad cops."

Good officers, Biden said, "want to get rid of the bad cops more than anybody else does, because it reflects on them."

He stands by his proposals to overhaul policing — not to "defund the police"— but to require local forces to agree to certain best practices to get federal funding and to invest more in services, such as mental health counseling, intended to ease social problems that fall to police to handle, sometimes with violent consequences.

Biden noted that he's "gotten overwhelming support from law enforcement my whole career," alluding to endorsements from police unions as a U.S. senator and as vice president. But it was Trump who featured police union leaders and the relatives of fallen officers at his presidential nominating convention. And it was Biden on Wednesday calling for a "full investigation" into police shootings and saying the officers who shot Blake should be charged with a crime.

To a large degree, Biden has asked for the difficulty of campaigning on nuance, if not defined his candidacy that way.

He's the center-left establishment figure who is too conservative on universal health, college tuition assistance, climate action and taxation for his party's ascendant — and loud — left flank. But he's moved far enough to the left that many Republicans still hammer him as a radical. He's the old police union ally now embracing the Black Lives Matter movement, the septuagenarian white man leading a racially diverse party that gets most of its votes from women.

Biden previewed Wednesday how he believes he can make that work in Kenosha and, if he defeats Trump, in the White House.

"I spent my whole life ... bringing people together, bringing the community and police officers together, bringing business leader and civic leaders together," he said, casting the national moment in terms of its possibilities.

"There's been so many fissures exposed as a consequence of what's happened that people are now realizing, 'My Lord, I didn't know people in that circumstance didn't have that kind of help. I didn't know,'" he said. "What an enormous opportunity to bring the country together."

Barrow reported from Atlanta.

Mideast's confirmed coronavirus death toll goes over 50,000

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The confirmed death toll from the coronavirus went over 50,000 in the Middle East on Thursday as the pandemic continues.

That's according to a count from The Associated Press, based on official numbers offered by health authorities across the region.

Those numbers still may be an undercount, though, as testing in war-torn nations like Libya and Yemen remains extremely limited. The top U.N. official for Libya on Wednesday warned the coronavirus pandemic in the war-ravaged country appears to be "spiraling out of control." Yemen's Houthi rebels, who hold parts of the nation, have refused to release virus statistics.

The hardest-hit nation remains Iran, which saw the region's first major outbreak. Over 21,900 people have died there from the virus, with over 380,000 confirmed cases and 328,000 recoveries.

Israel just recorded a record-high 3,000 new cases in a day as the country's coronavirus czar is set to submit a list of more detailed recommended restrictions where infection rates have been highest. Israel earned praise for its early handling of the virus crisis and imposing tight movement restrictions. But since

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reopening the economy in May, new cases have spiked to record levels and the government has been blamed for mismanaging the resurgence.

Pakistan's numbers have continued to decline — befuddling expectations in mid-June when even the authorities were anticipating a massive increase in cases. In Afghanistan, the government also has opened up its recreational facilities and most businesses. But experts fear the real numbers are likely far higher than officially reported.

The United Arab Emirates, which has embarked on a mass testing campaign, saw its highest daily confirmed new case count in over three months. That came as schools have reopened in the country and Dubai has offered itself as a tourist destination.

Facebook moves to target misinformation before election

By ZEN SOO AP Technology Writer

With just two months left until the U.S. presidential election, Facebook says it is taking more steps to encourage voting, minimize misinformation and reduce the likelihood of post-election "civil unrest."

The company said Thursday it will restrict new political ads in the week before the election and remove posts that convey misinformation about COVID-19 and voting. It will also attach links to official results to posts from candidates and campaigns that declare premature victories.

"This election is not going to be business as usual. We all have a responsibility to protect our democracy," Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a post on Thursday. "That means helping people register and vote, clearing up confusion about how this election will work, and taking steps to reduce the chances of violence and unrest."

Facebook and other social media companies are being scrutinized over how they handle misinformation, given issues with President Donald Trump and other candidates posting false information and Russia's ongoing attempts to interfere in U.S. politics.

Facebook has long been criticized for not fact-checking political ads or limiting how they can be targeted at small groups of people.

With the nation divided, and election results potentially taking days or weeks to be finalized, there could be an "increased risk of civil unrest across the country," Zuckerberg said.

In July, Trump refused to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming election, as he scoffed at polls that showed him lagging behind Democratic rival Joe Biden. Trump also has made false claims that the increased use of mail-in voting because of the coronavirus pandemic allows for voter fraud. That has raised concern over the willingness of Trump and his supporters to abide by election results.

Under the new measures, Facebook says it will prohibit politicians and campaigns from running new election ads in the week before the election. However, they can still run existing ads and change how they are targeted.

Posts with obvious misinformation on voting policies and the coronavirus pandemic will also be removed. Users can only forward articles to a maximum of five others on Messenger, Facebook's messaging app. The company also will work with Reuters to provide official election results and make the information available both on its platform and with push notifications.

After being caught off-guard by Russia's efforts to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Facebook, Google, Twitter and others companies put safeguards in place to prevent it from happening again. That includes taking down posts, groups and accounts that engage in "coordinated inauthentic behavior" and strengthening verification procedures for political ads. Last year, Twitter banned political ads altogether.

Zuckerberg said Facebook had removed more than 100 networks worldwide engaging in such interference over the last few years.

"Just this week, we took down a network of 13 accounts and two pages that were trying to mislead Americans and amplify division," he said.

But experts and Facebook's own employees say the measures are not enough to stop the spread of misinformation — including from politicians and in the form of edited videos.

Facebook had previously drawn criticism for its ads policy, which cited freedom of expression as the reason for letting politicians like Trump post false information about voting.

Asia Today: Beijing receiving 1st int'l flights since March

BEIJING (AP) — Beijing's main international airport on Thursday began receiving international flights again from a limited number of countries considered at low risk of coronavirus infection.

Passengers flying in from Cambodia, Greece, Denmark, Thailand, Pakistan, Austria, Canada and Sweden must have first shown a negative coronavirus test before boarding, city government spokesperson Xu Hejian told reporters.

Passenger arrivals will be limited to roughly 500 per day during a trial period and all will need to undergo additional testing for the virus on arrival, followed by two weeks of quarantine. The first flight under the arrangement, Air China Flight 746, arrived from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, just before 7 a.m.

Beginning in March, all international flights to Beijing had been redirected to a dozen other cities where passengers were tested and processed before being allowed to travel on to the Chinese capital.

China has gone weeks without new cases of local infection and the 11 new cases recorded Thursday were all imported.

Beijing's last local outbreak in July was linked to a wholesale food market, and the city's customs department announced Wednesday it would test all imported frozen foods, along with other goods arriving from countries considered to be at high risk.

Storage and transportation facilities for imported food would also be disinfected and Beijing customs would work with other cities to ensure the safety of the supply chain.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— India has registered a record single-day spike of 83,883 new cases, driving the country overall tally to 3.85 million. The Health Ministry on Thursday also reported 1,043 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 67,376. India has been reporting the highest daily increases for more than three weeks. The ministry said the country's fatality rate had declined to 1.76% and its deaths per million population was "one of the lowest in the world." Experts say deaths could be substantially undercounted in several states.

— South Korea reported its first drop below 200 new coronavirus cases in more than two weeks, but the country's strained hospitals were treating more seriously ill patients after the prolonged recent surge in infections. Thursday's increase of 195 new cases, the first daily increase below 200 in 17 days, indicated the country was beginning to see the effects of stringent social distancing restrictions recently imposed in the greater capital area. However, the number of patients in serious or critical condition with active COVID-19 increased to 154, compared to 14 on Aug. 14 when the country began what's now a 21-day run in triple-digit daily jumps in infections. The country has added more than 5,800 newly ill people to its caseload during the streak, raising fears about overwhelmed hospitals.

— Hong Kong says just six people have tested positive for the coronavirus out of 128,000 residents who have taken part in the city's mass testing program that began Tuesday. Four of the six people were previous coronavirus patients who were discharged last month and still carried traces of the virus when they were tested. As of Thursday, 850,000 people in the city of 7.5 million have registered to take part in the weeklong free testing program aimed at identifying silent carriers of the virus. The low number of positive cases has drawn criticism that the testing program is not cost-effective, amid privacy concerns and fears that DNA data could be sent to mainland China. Coronavirus infections surged in Hong Kong in early July. At its peak, the territory recorded more than 100 locally transmitted cases a day, after going weeks without any in June. Tough restrictions were imposed, including limiting restaurant dining-in hours and shuttering bars and karaoke lounges, and cases have steadily dwindled. Apart from the six people who tested positive in the mass testing program, Hong Kong reported eight other coronavirus infections on Thursday. It has confirmed a total of 4,839 cases, including 93 deaths.

— Australia's hot spot Victoria state on Thursday recorded its second consecutive day of increased COVID-19 cases. The state health department said there had been 113 new infections and 15 deaths in the

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latest 24-hour period. There were 90 new infections and six deaths recorded on Wednesday. There were only 70 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, the lowest tally since June.

— A pregnant woman in Australia says she didn't know she was breaking any law when she was handcuffed by police in front of her children and led away in her pajamas for allegedly inciting people to demonstrate against Victoria state's pandemic lockdown. Zoe Buhler's partner helped her live stream the arrest on Wednesday at her home where she lives with two children aged 3 and 4 in the city of Ballarat. The video has been viewed millions of times. She has been charged with using social media platforms to incite others to break pandemic restrictions by attending weekend rallies to protest the restrictions.

Hurricane Nana makes landfall in Belize with wind, rain

PUNTA GORDA, Belize (AP) — Hurricane Nana made landfall in Belize, pelting a relatively sparsely populated stretch of the country's coast with heavy rain and wind before weakening to a tropical storm.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center reported early Thursday that Nana hit land between the coastal towns of Dangriga and Placencia, at an area around 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Belize City with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph), making it barely a hurricane. The storm was moving west-southwest at 16 mph (26 kph).

Later in the morning, Nana weakened to a tropical storm with maximum sustained winds near 70 mph (110 kph).

Thousands of people stocked up on food, water and construction materials Wednesday ahead of the landfall. Long lines stretched through supermarkets and hardware store shelves were nearly bare as residents of Belize bought materials to board up windows and doors.

Belize issued a hurricane warning for its coastline. Heavy rains were expected in Belize, as well as in northern Honduras. Forecasters said Nana would weaken rapidly as it moved inland Thursday, drenching Belize and Guatemala.

Local leaders in rural villages in Belize's southernmost district of Toledo were awaiting word from the National Emergency Management Organization to open hurricane shelters.

The Latest: Hong Kong's mass testing finds only few cases

By The Associated Press undefined

HONG KONG — Only six people in Hong Kong have tested positive for the coronavirus out of a batch of 128,000 residents who had undergone the mass-testing program that began on Tuesday.

Four of the six were previous coronavirus patients who had been discharged last month, and still carried traces of the virus when they were tested.

As of Thursday, 850,000 people in the city of 7.5 million had registered to take part in the weeklong program that offers all residents a one-time, free coronavirus test as the city seeks to identify silent carriers of the virus.

The low number of positive cases found so far has drawn criticism that the government's universal testing program was not cost effective amid privacy concerns and fears that DNA data could be sent to mainland China.

Hong Kong saw its third and worst surge of coronavirus infections in early July. At its peak, Hong Kong recorded more than 100 local cases a day, after going weeks without any in June. Cases have steadily dwindled following a raft of tough restrictions, including limiting dining-in hours and shuttering businesses such as bars and karaoke lounges.

Apart from the six people, Hong Kong reported eight other coronavirus infections on Thursday. In total, it has reported 4,839 confirmed cases with 93 deaths.

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

— CDC tells states: Be ready to distribute vaccines on Nov. 1

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- Slammed by virus, France unveils huge economic rescue plan
- Afghans return to games, parks, weddings despite virus fears
- Amnesty International says Mexico leads the world in coronavirus deaths among its health care workers. The group says Mexico has reported 1,320 confirmed deaths from COVID-19 so far, surpassing the United States at 1,077, the United Kingdom at 649, and Brazil at 634.
- New studies confirm that multiple types of steroids improve survival for severely ill COVID-19 patients, cementing the cheap drugs as a standard of care.
- Scientists are reporting that the antibodies people make to fight the new coronavirus do not fade quickly. The new study is the most extensive work yet on the immune system's response to the virus and is good news for efforts to develop vaccines.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

BERLIN — One of Europe's biggest brothels has filed for bankruptcy after being unable to operate for months due to coronavirus restrictions.

German daily Express reported Thursday that the Pascha brothel in Cologne had used up all of its financial reserves paying for the upkeep of its 10-story building and 60 staff.

As part of a wide range of efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, the German state of North-Rhine Westphalia, where Cologne is located, banned prostitution five months ago.

Organizations representing sex workers have warned that the closure of brothels will likely force prostitution underground, where women are at greater risk of exploitation.

JOHANNESBURG — Africa's top public health official says the rate of confirmed new coronavirus cases has fallen again, by 14% from the previous week.

John Nkengasong dismisses the idea of a "hidden pandemic" on the continent, telling reporters that testing has improved significantly in Africa's 54 countries and close to 1% of the total population of 1.3 billion has been tested for the virus.

He says earlier concerns about testing shortages are disappearing as countries test more, and the easing curve "represents a sign of hope."

Africa has a total of 1.2 million confirmed cases, roughly half in South Africa.

"In the coming weeks we'll see dynamics begin to change with the introduction of antigen tests," Nkengasong says. "We're very encouraged it can transform the situation" as they can be easily decentralized for use beyond major cities and give a clearer picture of infections.

In response to the Trump administration saying it will not work with an international cooperative effort to develop and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine globally, Nkengasong says "we are in this together. No country will be safe if any country in the world still has cases of COVID."

LONDON — The families of dementia patients are demanding the British government ease restrictions on visiting care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying they prevent people from getting the love and attention they need at the end of life.

Many care homes have curtailed visits during the pandemic, arguing that a lack of personal protection equipment and inadequate testing capacity have made it impossible to comply with government guidelines any other way.

But Julia Jones, co-founder of the dementia charity John's Campaign, told the BBC that family visits are an important part of caring for people in care homes and shouldn't be considered optional.

"These are not visitors," she said. "These are people's husbands, these are people's children who have been their children for 60 years. This is a human rights matter. You can't restrict people's right to family life."

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MELBOURNE, Australia — A pregnant woman says she didn't know she had broken any law when she was handcuffed by police in front of her children in her Australian home and led away in pajamas for allegedly inciting activists to demonstrate against pandemic lockdown.

Zoe Buhler's partner helped her livestream the arrest on Wednesday at her home where she lives with two children aged 3 and 4 in the Victoria state city of Ballarat. The video has been viewed millions of times.

The 28-year-old has since been charged with using social media platforms to incite others to break pandemic restrictions by attending weekend rallies.

LONDON — The British government says it is investing in a coronavirus test that gives results in as little as 20 minutes, as critics say tests for the virus are being rationed because the system can't cope with demand.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock says the government is expanding trials of two new tests — a no-swab saliva test and another that gives results in minutes. It's also running a trial on the benefits of repeat testing of people without symptoms.

Britain has hugely expanded its testing capacity since the start of the pandemic, but critics say it is still not doing enough to find and isolate people with the coronavirus.

Anyone with symptoms is eligible for a test, but the BBC reported Thursday that people who enter their postcode into the government's website are sometimes being directed to drive-through centers hundreds of miles away.

Hancock insisted the system was working well despite some "operational challenges."

The government says it has the capacity to perform almost 350,000 tests a day, though only about 180,000 are actually being processed daily.

LONDON — Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline say they are beginning human trials of a potential vaccine for COVID-19 after positive results from preclinical testing.

The drugmakers said Thursday they plan to test the vaccine on 440 adults at 11 sites in the U.S., with the first results expected in early December. If these tests are successful, the companies plan to begin large-scale trials later that month.

Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline say they plan to seek regulatory approval for the vaccine in early 2021 if data from the trials supports it.

The two companies in July announced plans to collaborate with the U.S. government to produce up to 100 million doses of the vaccine, with the government taking an option to purchase up to 500 million more doses in the future. The British government has agreed to buy up to 60 million doses.

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey is expanding restrictions imposed on social gatherings such as wedding and engagement parties and henna nights in more than a dozen provinces to the entire country.

An Interior Ministry circular sent to Turkey's 81 provinces late Wednesday says such social gatherings will be banned from Friday. Marriage registration ceremonies will be allowed but will be restricted to one hour only.

The decision came after the health minister said the country is experiencing the second peak of the first wave of the coronavirus outbreak and blamed gatherings at weddings and holidays.

The number of daily infections have tipped above 1,500 — levels previously seen in mid-June. More than 273,000 people have tested positive for the virus in Turkey since March.

PRAGUE — The Czech Republic has registered the biggest day-to-day increase in the new confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The Health Ministry says a record 650 people tested positive on Wednesday, up from 504 on Tuesday.

Health Minister Adam Vojtech says new restrictions are likely to be imposed.

Vojtech is currently quarantined after a senior official in his department tested positive for COVID-19.

The Czech Republic has had 25,773 confirmed infections with 425 deaths.

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LOS ANGELES -- The Los Angeles City Council has declared a fiscal emergency because of the coronavirus pandemic, paving the way to furlough about 15,000 employees.

Wednesday's declaration comes as the city looks at a tax shortfall this year of up to \$400 million.

Mayor Eric Garcetti is expected to approve the measure.

The furloughs, which would begin Oct. 11, would require civilian employees to take up to 18 days off from work. But a labor union official tells the Los Angeles Daily News that the furloughs violate labor contracts and will be vigorously fought.

BEIJING — Beijing's main international airport on Thursday began again receiving international flights from a limited number of countries considered at low risk of coronavirus infection.

Passengers flying in from Cambodia, Greece, Denmark, Thailand, Pakistan, Austria, Canada and Sweden, must have first shown a negative nucleic acid test for coronavirus before boarding, city government spokesperson Xu Hejian told reporters.

Passenger arrivals will be limited to roughly 500 per day during an initial trial period and all will need to undergo additional testing for the virus on arrival, followed by two weeks of quarantine. The first flight under the new arrangement, Air China 746, arrived from Phnom Penh, Cambodia just before 7 a.m.

Beginning in March, all international flights to Beijing had been redirected to a dozen other cities where passengers were tested and processed before being allowed to travel on to the Chinese capital.

China has gone weeks without new cases of local infection and on Thursday recorded 11 cases brought from outside the country. China has recorded a total of 4,634 deaths from COVID-19 among 85,077 cases since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year, sparking the global pandemic.

LOS ANGELES -- Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson says he and his family tested positive for the coronavirus.

Johnson announced their diagnosis in an 11-plus minute video on Instagram on Wednesday.

The actor says he was shocked after hearing their positive tests. He called the ordeal "one of the most challenging and difficult things we've had ever to endure."

The actor said he along with wife, Lauren Hashian, and two young daughters contracted the virus, but have now recovered.

He says his daughters "bounced back" after having sore throats for a couple days. But for Johnson and his wife, he says they both had a "rough go."

SAN DIEGO -- San Diego State University has halted in-person classes for a month after dozens of students were infected with the coronavirus.

The school announced Wednesday that about 200 course offerings, some of them lab classes, will move to virtual learning. On-campus housing will remain open.

San Diego County health officials say there have been 64 confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 among SDSU students since classes resumed last week. Some, but not all, of the infections were linked to other cases at the university. Some involve students who live off-campus.

California State university at Chico also halted classes this week.

SANTA FE, N.M. -- A top state health official is warning that COVID-19 infections are far more prevalent in low-income areas of the New Mexico, potentially straining Medicaid health care.

Human Services Secretary David Scrase said Wednesday that an analysis of infection rates by census tract shows that highly impoverished areas have infection rates seven times higher than the most affluent zones.

Scrase and Children Youth and Families Secretary Brian Blalock gave a briefing on public health trends and the state's coronavirus response.

State health officials are wary that festivities over the Labor Day holiday weekend could lead to renewed

surges in COVID-19 infections.

URBANA, Ill. — The University of Illinois is ramping up enforcement of restrictions on student activity after more than 330 COVID-19 cases in two days on the school's Urbana-Champaign campus, school officials said Wednesday.

In an email to students, Chancellor Robert Jones said he expects all undergraduates to "limit their in-person interactions to only the most essential activities" for the next two weeks starting Wednesday evening. "These include things like taking twice weekly COVID-19 tests, attending class, purchasing groceries and food, going to work, engaging in individual outdoor activity, attending religious services and seeking medical attention," Jones wrote.

The University of Illinois isn't the only university in the state seeing a spike in COVID-19 cases. Illinois State University in Normal is reporting about 1,025 students have tested positive since the start of the fall semester two weeks ago, nearly 5% of the student body.

Since students returned to the Urbana-Champaign campus Aug. 16, more than 1,000 people on campus have tested positive. University officials say about 800 people are currently in quarantine.

ATLANTA — With more than 3,000 public university students and employees across Georgia testing positive for COVID-19 since Aug. 1, some schools are taking action to slow the spread of the respiratory illness.

Georgia Tech is encouraging students to convert to single rooms, moving out roommates over coming weeks to reduce exposure to the coronavirus. Both Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia announced they are renting more off-campus rooms to isolate or quarantine students who have been infected or exposed to the virus.

The University of Georgia reported 821 new infections for the week ended Saturday, a number that President Jere Morehead said Wednesday is "concerning." He urged students to "continue to make every effort to prioritize their health and safety by taking the proper steps to avoid exposure to this virus.

Around 4% of all cases recorded in Georgia in the last month have been associated with university campuses, according to figures kept by The Associated Press. The number could be higher because some schools, including the state's largest — Georgia State University — are not posting full reports publicly.

The rising campus infection numbers come as new cases in the rest of Georgia decline. The total number of cases rose to near 275,000 Wednesday, according to state data, but the average number of cases has fallen below 2,000 a day.

UK public tribunal to probe Uighur 'genocide' claims

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A prominent British human rights lawyer is convening an independent tribunal in London to investigate whether the Chinese government's alleged rights abuses against Uighur Muslims in the far western Xinjiang region constitute genocide or crimes against humanity.

The tribunal is expected to reveal new evidence and testimony over several days' hearings next year. While the tribunal does not have government backing, it is the latest attempt to hold China accountable for its treatment of the Uighurs and ethnic Turkic minorities, who have been subject to an unprecedented crackdown since 2017.

Barrister Geoffrey Nice, who previously led the prosecution of ex-Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic over the Balkans war and worked with the International Criminal Court, was asked by the World Uighur Congress to investigate "ongoing atrocities and possible genocide" against the Uighur people.

Allegations against China about potential genocide are "questions that should be asked and answered" but such claims have never been legally scrutinized in public, Nice told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Organizers are in the initial stages of gathering evidence, and expect to receive a substantial number of submissions from Uighurs exiled abroad over the next few months. New evidence that may emerge includes testimony from several former security guards who were involved in the Xinjiang detention camps.

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"At the moment, the strongest evidence would appear to be evidence of incarceration and possibly evidence of enforced sterilization," Nice said.

A recent investigation by the AP found that the Chinese government is systematically forcing birth control on Uighurs and other Muslims in an apparent effort to reduce their population. The report found that authorities regularly subject minority women to pregnancy checks and force intrauterine devices, sterilization and abortion on hundreds of thousands. While scores have been thrown in detention camps for alleged "religious extremism," many others were sent to the camps simply for having too many children.

Such enforced sterilization practices could be found to breach the Genocide Convention, Nice said.

The Chinese Embassy in London did not respond to emailed requests for comment. Chinese officials have repeatedly derided allegations of rights abuses in Xinjiang as fabricated, and insist that all ethnicities are treated equally.

China has long suspected the Uighurs, who are mostly Muslim, of harboring separatist tendencies because of their distinct culture, language and religion. In a lengthy press conference in August, the Chinese ambassador to the U.K. played graphic videos of terrorist attacks in Xinjiang to show that the Chinese government's measures there are "necessary and important."

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming also called allegations about rights abuses in Xinjiang made in Western media "lies of the century," and denied that nearly 1 million Uighurs have been detained in Xinjiang.

The London tribunal's judgement is not binding on any government. However, Nice said that the process will nonetheless be one way to address the lack of action in tackling the alleged abuses by "filling the gap with reliable information."

"There is no other way of bringing the leadership of the (Chinese) Communist Party collectively or individually to judgement," Nice said.

In July, lawyers representing exiled Uighur activists filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court against China, asking the court in The Hague, Netherlands, to investigate the forced repatriation of thousands of Uighurs from Cambodia and Tajikistan and alleged genocide in Xinjiang.

However, Beijing does not recognize the international court's jurisdiction, and Nice — who is not involved in that case — said it will likely focus more on the repatriating countries' culpability and less on that of Chinese authorities.

The World Uighur Congress, an international organization representing Uighur exiles, has provided initial evidence and funding to the London tribunal. Organizers expect to hold two public hearings in London next year, each lasting several days.

The tribunal will comprise of at least seven members who will act as jury. They include British property businessman Nicholas Vetch, one of the organizers. A verdict is expected by the end of 2021.

Darren Byler, an academic studying Uighurs at the University of Colorado, said that, despite its limitations, the tribunal is an important step because it can provide a "detailed and legal accounting of what has transpired," and add perspective to the prevailing U.S.-centric reaction to the issue.

"So far the world response to what is happening to the Uighurs and Kazakhs in Northwest China has been largely confined to unilateral actions by the United States and been associated with President Trump's more general anti-China position. An independent investigation conducted from outside of the U.S. will be helpful in adding an additional perspective," Byler said.

In July the Trump administration imposed sanctions on three senior Chinese Communist Party officials for alleged human rights abuses targeting Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and other minorities in Xinjiang, including mass detention and forced population control.

5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. BIDEN TO TEST PROMISE TO UNIFY NATION The Democrat travels to Kenosha, Wisconsin — a city wrenched by police and protest violence — where he believes he can help community leaders find com-

mon ground.

2. VIDEO: ROCHESTER POLICE DEATH FEATURED HOOD A Black man who had run naked through the streets of a western New York city died of asphyxiation after officers put a hood over his head, then pressed his face into the pavement for two minutes.

3. 'INJUSTICE SQUARE' KEEPS FOCUS ON BREONNA TAYLOR For the past three months, a group has been keeping vigil at a park in Louisville, Kentucky, the epicenter of the nation's rage over the police killing of the 26-year-old emergency medical technician.

4. 'AFRAID OF THE SECOND WAVE' As Kabul eases a monthslong virus lockdown, Afghans are back out in the shopping malls, markets, parks and wedding halls — but mostly without the protective gear to keep them safe.

5. NEW YORK METS ICON DIES Tom Seaver, one of the greatest pitchers in baseball history and the revered and resplendent star of the 1969 Miracle Mets championship team, was 75.

In Breonna Taylor's hometown, 90-day protest becomes family

By CLAIRE GALOFARO AP National Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Amber Brown had climbed into a city bus before dawn, had driven her eight-hour shift, and she was tired. But she knew she couldn't go home.

Instead she headed down to "Injustice Square" -- a single city block that was until a few months ago an unremarkable Louisville park. Now it is the nucleus of the nation's rage over the police killing of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor, an emergency medical technician shot dead when police burst into her home in the middle of the night.

"This is where I've got to be," said Brown, part of a group that has kept vigil here every day for three months. "This is my moment, this is my space."

They were here in this square before Oprah erected billboards all over town, before Taylor graced the cover of Vanity Fair magazine, before her name was proclaimed by the most famous celebrities and athletes and politicians in the world.

They arrived months ago to join the tens of thousands who took to the streets across the country to demand justice for Taylor and George Floyd, whose death under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer was captured on video and shocked the world. They were strangers to each other then, faces in a sea of humanity, unaware that their devotion to this square would soon tether them together.

The crowds dwindled, until about 50 people were coming to this park day after day: bus drivers, pastors, grocery store workers, retirees. Together, they have been tear-gassed and sprayed with pepper bullets by police in riot gear. They witnessed a killing. They've received death threats.

Some jolt out of bed with nightmares. Brown rarely takes the pistol off her hip. Still they show up each day because they say this movement has given them a sense of community and purpose greater than any they've known before.

Brown set up a table with snacks and hand sanitizer. She said hello to the man who showed up one day, started cleaning up trash and has swept the park every day since. And to the women tending to the tomato plants and watermelons they're growing in a circle around the memorial to Taylor. She chatted with volunteer security about the right-wing militia gathering a couple miles away carrying AR-15s -- an occurrence so common now that it doesn't draw much alarm.

Brown never expected to become a central figure in a protest movement; she had thought she would drive a bus for 30 years, keep her head down and retire happily, with a pension. Now some call her the "park mom," because she tries to solve people's problems and scolds them when they step out of line.

Her primary rules: no spray-painting, fighting, breaking windows or any kind of troublemaking around this square. Any of that could draw police, the last people she wants here.

The protests in Louisville, as in many cities, included flashes of violence for several days when they began in late May. But for the three months since, it has been a mostly peaceful occupation with occasional flare-ups of lawlessness; there was the time a few weeks ago when marchers went to an entertainment

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strip, flipped tables over and set trash cans on fire.

However peaceful they've been, protesters have been arrested by the dozens, mostly for blocking roadways or refusing to leave when police ordered them away.

For blocks in every direction, windows are boarded up, and some see Brown and her fellow demonstrators as agitators destroying downtown. Brown said she sees power in the fear those boards represent: The protesters can upend the heart of a city until they get what they want -- and what she wants is bigger now than when they started.

It began with a demand that the police officers who killed Taylor be prosecuted. Had that been met quickly they would have probably gone home, Brown said. But months later, the investigation into the incident continues, no charges have been filed, and so here they are.

The rage that fueled the first days morphed into purpose, she said, and now justice for Taylor alone will no longer be enough to convince them to leave. They want to dismantle the policing system that has left so many Black people dead -- and funnel much of the policing budget into what they see as more constructive crime prevention, such as addiction treatment, mental health care and housing.

"The system is broken," Brown said. "It's like you keep trying to fix an engine that keeps blowing up. How many times is it going to catch fire before you're just like, 'you know what, maybe we just need a whole new car.'"

She believes the evolution of life in this square shows that is possible. The die-hards have settled into roles -- gardeners, janitors, security -- and hers is social work. She and others here connect people to housing and health care, sort through clothing donations, put out calls for food and water so everyone who passes through gets fed. That includes the city's homeless population, many of whom have been drawn to the resources now suddenly available here.

Brown hasn't seen her biological family in months. She has two nephews she adores, but she knows she's risking exposing herself to coronavirus by being around so many people, so she stays away. The sacrifice is worth it, she said. Those nephews are Black children who will grow up to be Black men, and she wants the country to be safer for them.

"When I come out here, it's like finding a whole new family," she said. She calls Travis Nagdy her "new little brother." The 21-year-old grew up cycling through foster homes and battled drug addiction until he detoxed in jail. In this square full of people who were strangers to him a few months ago, he feels a sense of family greater than ever before in his life.

He had been adrift, he said, until he realized he was good at things: leading chants, making up rhymes. People followed his lead.

"It makes me feel good that I can come out here and it doesn't matter where you came from, it doesn't matter what happened previously in your life," he said. "You're here right now, you're in this movement."

Brown also spent part of her childhood in foster care. It left her closed off and guarded, she said, and she struggled to connect with most people on a deeper level.

"I didn't have that sense of community and I really didn't want it. I don't know my neighbors. I don't have a whole lot of people in my life that I consider to be close," she said.

But something changed her here. She has gone through things with people that make the surface-level relationships she's used to no longer possible.

On June 27, about a month into the protest, a man opened fire in the square. A photographer, 27-year-old Tyler Gerth, well-known and well-loved by the protesters, was shot and killed. The alleged gunman had been a regular at the park, but other protesters kicked him out for misbehavior and they'd worried he was mentally unstable. He came back and fired into the square.

Brown, not far from the shooter, threw her body on top of a fellow protester to shield them from the bullets.

Millicent Cahoon, a local therapist, put out a call to her network that day and a contingent of mental health counselors arrived at the square. Dozens of protesters have since sought help to deal with Gerth's death, and all the other traumas of this occupation, which, especially in the beginning, routinely collided

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with an aggressive police response. People have described having nightmares and panic attacks, she said. They can't focus, they dissociate from their family and friends, constantly recreating in their minds all they've seen.

Chris Will, a prominent local activist, said on the worst days, early on, tear gas canisters felt like they were raining on them. The air was so thick with gas, he couldn't see right in front of him.

"I thought we were going to die," he said. "You couldn't see, you couldn't breathe."

He could barely sleep because of the dreams. He asked around the park, and everyone told him they felt it, too.

"I wanted to give up a whole lot of times," said Rose Henderson, who everyone calls "Mama Rose." "There's days I come home crying. I'm tired, I'm worn out."

Yet she said she feels called by God to come back every day, often from before noon until after midnight. Her job here is to tend to the growing memorial, she said, so that when the families of both Taylor and Gerth come by it will be pretty for them. She talked to the local artist who was working on a portrait of Taylor to stand as a centerpiece in the square.

"I told him to make it as big as he could, big and beautiful, to remind people why we're here," she said. Now that portrait stands nearly 8 feet tall, circled in gold and surrounded by paintings and posters others made for her. It had rained for days, so they had stacked them all up and covered them with a tarp.

But the sun was coming out, so Brown and others began unpacking them.

She set up a black-and-white painting of Taylor, and remarked how beautiful she looked in it.

Taylor, though absent, is part of this community, too. Brown tries not to spend much time thinking about the life she might have led. It's just too overwhelming to contemplate.

"Why did she have to die?" she asked. "All of these problems existed before Breonna Taylor died. Why couldn't she have been part of this movement alive? Instead of the name that we're chanting."

Follow AP National Writer Claire Galofaro at @clairegalofaro.

Can I get the coronavirus twice?

By The Associated Press undefined

Can I get the coronavirus twice?

It seems possible, though how often it happens isn't known.

Researchers in Hong Kong recently reported evidence of a person who got the coronavirus a second time, months after an initial infection.

The finding has not yet been published in a journal. But scientists said the 33-year-old man had mild symptoms the first time and none the second time, suggesting his immune system may have provided some protection against serious illness even if it could not prevent a reinfection. His more recent infection was detected through screening and testing at the Hong Kong airport, and researchers said genetic tests revealed different strains of the virus.

Several other possible cases have been reported, including a U.S. man who was sicker the second time than the first.

Even if people can get reinfected, the World Health Organization says it likely wouldn't happen regularly.

Health experts generally believe people who had COVID-19 will have some immunity against a repeat infection. But they don't know how much protection, or how long it would last.

This is important because if immunity wears off, it could pose a challenge for vaccines. Some experts say booster shots may be needed.

It's also unclear whether reinfected people would be able to spread the virus to others. That's another reason scientists say people should continue to wear masks, social distance and practice good hygiene.

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

More Viral Questions:

Can I use a face shield instead of a mask?

Has the coronavirus mutated in any significant way?

Can the coronavirus spread through the air?

Afghans return to games, parks, weddings despite virus fears

By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — When the bowling alley reopened, Zohal Bayat was eager to get back to the lanes. For four long months amid Afghanistan's coronavirus, it and other recreational facilities had been closed. So that meant Bayat, a member of the country's national women's bowling team, had been unable to practice,

On top of that, Bayat was at one point struck with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. She spent more than 20 days in isolation, with fever, shortness of breath and coughing. Her father was infected as well, but now both are well.

"I am so excited," the 25-year-old Bayat said, as she practiced at the Friend's Café, her favorite alley.

Still, she only comes on weekdays. Weekends are too crowded, as young people pack the place, which also features pool tables, music and the café itself. "I will continue to exercise," said Bayat, who also plays basketball. "But I am afraid of the second wave of the virus."

Desperate for relief from endless war combined with the pandemic, Afghans are rushing back to public recreation as the government eases the lockdown it imposed to fight the coronavirus. Since mid-July, Afghans can once again frequent parks, swimming pools and gyms, shop in malls and celebrate marriages in wedding halls. Universities and private schools have reopened, and at government schools, the 11th and 12th grades have restarted.

Few wear masks or take other precaution — and authorities are left trying to remind the public of the danger of a second wave of the pandemic.

So far, the official figures have not shown new cases spiking since the easing of the lockdown, with a steady average of around 50 to 70 a day the past month. According to Health Ministry figures, Afghanistan has recorded over 38,200 cases of the virus so far, including 1,409 deaths.

But the real numbers are likely far higher, and the depth of the tragedy is far greater than people understand, said Mohammad Yaqoub Haidari, the provincial governor for the capital Kabul and head of the committee to fight COVID-19.

He told The Associated Press that in Kabul alone, close to 8,000 people have died due to the virus. At the peak, his teams were dealing with 200 to 700 deaths per day, especially during the months of May and June, and dozens of new graveyards have been made to take in the increased dead, he said.

There is no doubt the virus is still circulating. Haidari estimated that 53% of the capital's population of more than 4 million people have been infected.

Afghanistan's fractured health care system makes the virus even more difficult to control. More than 2,700 medical workers, including 40 at the Afghan-Japan hospital, one of two hospitals in Kabul that handle virus patients, have contracted the virus, according to the Health Ministry. The ministry said 72 health care workers have died across the country.

Still, after months of lockdown, Kabul's residents have been relieved to finally get out. Thousands have been going to the capital's City Park, where the amusement park has reopened as well. The park restaurant is built out of an old passenger jet, and children rush excitedly to sit in the plane seats inside.

Obaidullah Rasouly came on a recent weekend with his two kids, his first outing to the park in months. He was happy to be there — but also worried. He wore a mask while few others in the crowded park did.

"Unfortunately, our country did not implement the lockdown effectively, and now that it has been lifted, people are failing to take the appropriate precautions." The 30-year-old said as his children played on the slides.

It's good to finally give people freedom of movement, he said. "but they should use protective kits, or

at least wear masks.”

At the amusement park, with its Ferris wheel and bumper cars, workers clean the machines three to five times a day, its director Habibullah Esmati said. Attendance is down from before the pandemic, both because of coronavirus worries and the security situation, he said.

He sees the reopening as a way to ease people's stress from the outbreak. "If we can provide a place for entertainment, that is a help to people," he said.

But what many Afghans have looked forward the most to reopening are wedding halls. Marriages were virtually put on hold during the lockdown because wedding parties — whether at halls or at home — were banned.

That pent-up demand means reopened wedding halls are now fully booked every night. That means gatherings that can pack with thousands of people into a hall, presenting a significant risk of transmission of the virus.

Mohammad Nader Qarghayi, director of the Kabul Wedding Halls Association, insisted that halls will reclose voluntarily if there are signs of a new spike in cases. "This is our country; we live here, and we service the people. The lives of our people are so much more important than our business," he said.

Still, at the other Cafés and blowing centers, university students who had come to bowl had mixed feelings. Several said they were happy to have the chance to relax once more.

But if a second wave strikes, said 20-year-old Ahmad Sohail, "reopening of recreational places, given the circumstances, could be very dangerous."

Tom Seaver, heart and mighty arm of Miracle Mets, dies at 75

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Seaver transformed a franchise and captivated a city, setting enduring standards as he whipped his powerful right arm overhead for the Miracle Mets and dirtied his right knee atop major league mounds for two decades.

A consummate pro and pitching icon, he finished fulfilled after a career remembered with awe long after his final strikeout.

"It is the last beautiful flower in the perfect bouquet," Seaver said on the afternoon he was inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame.

Seaver, the galvanizing force who steered the New York Mets from National League laughingstock to a stunning World Series title in 1969, has died. He was 75.

The Hall said Wednesday night that Seaver died Monday from complications of Lewy body dementia and COVID-19. Seaver spent his final years in Calistoga, California.

Seaver's family announced in March 2019 he had been diagnosed with dementia and had retired from public life. He continued working at Seaver Vineyards, founded by the three-time NL Cy Young Award winner and his wife, Nancy, in 2002 on 116 acres at Diamond Mountain in Northern California.

Seaver was diagnosed with Lyme disease in 1991, and it reoccurred in 2012 and led to Bell's Palsy and memory loss, the Daily News of New York reported in 2013.

"He will always be the heart and soul of the Mets, the standard which all Mets aspire to," Mike Piazza, a former Mets catcher and Hall of Famer, tweeted when Seaver's dementia diagnosis was announced.

Said ex-Mets closer and captain John Franco: "As a kid, you always wanted to be Tom Seaver."

Nicknamed Tom Terrific and The Franchise, the revered Seaver was a five-time 20-game winner and the 1967 NL Rookie of the Year. He went 311-205 with a 2.86 ERA, 3,640 strikeouts and 61 shutouts during an illustrious career that lasted from 1967-86. He became a constant on magazine covers and a media presence, calling postseason games on NBC and ABC even while still an active player.

"He was simply the greatest Mets player of all-time and among the best to ever play the game," Mets owner Fred Wilpon and son Jeff, the team's chief operating officer, said in a statement.

Seaver was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1992 when he appeared on 425 of 430 ballots for a then-record 98.84%.

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"Tom was a gentleman who represented the best of our national pastime," Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "He was synonymous with the New York Mets and their unforgettable 1969 season."

"After their improbable World Series championship, Tom became a household name to baseball fans — a responsibility he carried out with distinction throughout his life," he said.

Seaver's plaque in Cooperstown lauds him as a "power pitcher who helped change the New York Mets from lovable losers into formidable foes."

He changed not only their place in the standings, but the team's stature in people's minds.

"Tom Seaver hated to lose," said Jerry Grote, his longtime Mets catcher. "In May of 1969, we had a celebration in the locker room when we reached .500 for the first time. Tom said, 'We want more than .500, we want a championship.'"

Seaver pitched for the Mets from 1967-77, when he was traded to Cincinnati after a public spat with chairman M. Donald Grant over Seaver's desire for a new contract. It was a clash that infuriated baseball fans in New York.

"My biggest disappointment? Leaving the Mets the first time and the difficulties I had with the same people that led up to it," Seaver told The Associated Press ahead of his Hall induction in 1992. "But I look back at it in a positive way now. It gave me the opportunity to work in different areas of the country."

He threw his only no-hitter for the Reds in June 1978 against St. Louis and was traded back to New York after the 1982 season. But Mets general manager Frank Cashen blundered by leaving Seaver off his list of 26 protected players, and in January 1984 he was claimed by the Chicago White Sox as free agent compensation for losing pitcher Dennis Lamp to Toronto.

While pitching for the White Sox, Seaver got his 300th win at Yankee Stadium and did it in style with a six-hitter in a 4-1 victory. He finished his career with the 1986 Boston Red Sox team that lost to the Mets in the World Series.

"Tom Seaver was one of the best and most inspirational pitchers to play the game," Reds Chief Executive Officer Bob Castellini said in a statement. "We are grateful that Tom's Hall of Fame career included time with the Reds. We are proud to count his name among the greats in the Reds Hall of Fame. He will be missed."

Supremely confident — and not necessarily modest about his extraordinary acumen on the mound — Seaver was a 12-time All-Star who led the major leagues with a 25-7 record in 1969 and a 1.76 ERA in 1971. A classic power pitcher with a drop-and-drive delivery that often dirtied the right knee of his uniform pants, he won Cy Young Awards with New York in 1969, 1973 and 1975. The club retired his No. 41 in 1988, the first Mets player given the honor.

"From a team standpoint, winning the '69 world championship is something I'll remember most," Seaver said in 1992. "From an individual standpoint, my 300th win brought me the most joy."

Seaver limited his public appearances in recent years. He did not attend the Baseball Writers' Association of America dinner in 2019, where members of the 1969 Mets were honored on the 50th anniversary of what still ranks among baseball's most unexpected championships.

Five months later, as part of a celebration of that team, the Mets announced plans for a statue of Seaver outside Citi Field, and the ballpark's address was officially changed to 41 Seaver Way in a nod to his uniform number.

Seaver did not attend those ceremonies, either, but daughter Sarah Seaver did and said her parents were honored.

"This is so very appropriate because he made the New York Mets the team that it is," said Ron Swoboda, the right fielder whose sprawling catch helped Seaver pitch the Mets to a 10-inning win in Game 4 of the '69 Series against Baltimore. "He gave them credibility."

Seaver's death was announced, in fact, hours after the Mets beat the Orioles in an interleague game.

"Just a class act. Just a gentleman in the way he handled himself, and really the way he handled his whole career," said Miami manager Don Mattingly, a former New York Yankees captain. "We just left New York, and every time you walk in a door there, it's like Tom Seaver Hall, with different pictures."

When the Mets closed their previous home, Shea Stadium, on the final day of the 2008 regular season,

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Seaver put the finishing touches on the nostalgic ceremonies with a last pitch to Piazza, and the two walked off together waving goodbye to fans.

"He was a star. A shining star," Mets teammate Ed Kranepool said. "No one can replace Tom Seaver."

Seaver is survived by Nancy, daughters Sarah and Anne, and grandsons Thomas, William, Henry and Tobin.

George Thomas Seaver was born in Fresno, California, on Nov. 17, 1944, a son of Charles Seaver, a top amateur golfer who won both his matches for the U.S. over Britain at the 1932 Walker Cup.

Tom Seaver was a star at the University of Southern California and was drafted by Atlanta in 1966. He signed with the Braves for \$51,500 only for Commissioner William Eckert to void the deal. The Trojans already had played exhibition games that year, and baseball rules at the time prohibited a club from signing a college player whose season had started. Any team willing to match the Braves' signing bonus could enter a lottery, and Eckert picked the Mets out of a hat that also included Cleveland and Philadelphia.

Among baseball's worst teams from their expansion season in 1962, the Mets lost more than 100 games in five of their first six seasons and had never won more than 73 in any of their first seven years. With cherished Brooklyn Dodgers star Gil Hodges as their manager, a young corps of pitchers led by Seaver, Jerry Koosman, Gary Gentry and a still-wild Nolan Ryan, and an offense that included Cleon Jones and Tommie Agee, the Mets overtook the Chicago Cubs to win the NL East with a 100-62 record in 1969.

They swept Hank Aaron and the Atlanta Braves in the first NL Championship Series to reach the World Series against heavily favored Baltimore, which had gone 109-53. Seaver lost the opener 4-1 in a matchup with Mike Cuellar, then pitched a 10-inning six-hitter to win Game 4, and the Mets won the title the following afternoon.

"He is the man of New York City. He put the Mets on the map," said Franco, who grew up in Brooklyn. "There will never be another pitcher like him."

Seaver was an All-Star in each of his first seven seasons. Aaron introduced himself to Seaver at the pitcher's first All-Star Game in 1967.

"Kid, I know who you are, and before your career is over, I guarantee you everyone in this stadium will, too," Aaron said.

For Seaver, that All-Star appearance made him feel like he belonged.

"I may have been paid before, but that's when I really became a professional," he said.

Perhaps Seaver's most memorable performance on the mound came at Shea Stadium on July 9, 1969, when he retired his first 25 batters against the Chicago Cubs to get within two outs of a perfect game. Pinch-hitter Jimmy Qualls looped a single to left-center in the ninth inning before Seaver retired Willie Smith on a foulout and Don Kessinger on a flyout.

"I had every hitter doing what I wanted," Seaver recalled in 1992. "Afterward, my wife was in tears and I remember saying to her: 'Hey, I pitched a one-hit shutout with 10 strikeouts. What more could I ask for?'"

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Portland protests set up clash between journalists, police

By SARA CLINE Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The beam of a police officer's flashlight swept across a group of 15 people standing on the sidewalk in downtown Portland, Oregon, recording and taking photos of the nightly protests that have roiled the city for three months.

Most in the recent group wore helmets, reflective vests or shirts emblazoned with the word "PRESS" and had media badges dangling from their necks. But some were demonstrators, taking cover behind reporters despite orders to go home or face arrest.

"Hey," an officer yelled at his colleagues as they cleared streets and arrested people who weren't leaving. "Half this group is not press. ... Purple mask isn't press. Bicyclist not press. ... If they are not press, take them into custody."

For nearly 100 days, reporters have been covering protests that often turn violent in Oregon's largest city, and in the chaos, some journalists have been injured or arrested despite press freedoms laid out in the First

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Amendment. The clash also led to a lawsuit against federal authorities sent in to help local police in July.

Reporters — whether they're from major media outlets, freelancers or self-proclaimed "citizen journalists" — say they are doing their job and law enforcement is hindering that work. Police say protesters have masqueraded as journalists and then set fires or thrown fireworks, making it a struggle to figure out who is a real reporter during the pandemonium.

Suzette Smith, a freelance journalist who has covered the protests, recorded the Aug. 29 encounter between police and reporters. "Blue mask," an officer could be heard saying in the video Smith tweeted. Her mask was blue, and she held up her press badge. At least five people around her were detained, including someone else in a blue mask.

Smith, who was arts editor of the Portland Mercury alternative newspaper but was laid off during COVID-19 pandemic, said it was the first time she has seen officers approach a crowd of journalists and arrest people around her. But protesters will stay behind reporters to try to blend in, she said.

"Certainly that's annoying as a press person when there is somebody behind you yelling," Smith said. "I have definitely asked them not to yell in my ear or to stand so close."

Sergio Olmos, a reporter for Oregon Public Broadcasting, has been covering the Portland protests for months and has reported from other demonstrations in the city and civil unrest around the world. He said reporters have been treated differently during protests over the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Olmos said police went from viewing reporters as professionals and neutral observers to demonstrators. While covering Portland's protests, he says he has been pushed to the ground by police, hit in the lip with a baton and tear gassed.

"(Journalists) who stay out there have made a mental commitment of 'I might get beat or I might get arrested, and that's just the cost of doing this job I guess,'" Olmos said.

According to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, made up of more than two dozen press freedom groups, over 740 aggressions against journalists have been reported during national Black Lives Matter protests this year. That can include attacks, arrests or equipment getting damaged, searched or seized.

"What really has been striking about these weeks of protests is that there has not just been one incident that stands out," said Kelly Simon, interim legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. "It is such a high volume of concerning abuses of our constitutional rights, that there is no way we can sit on the sidelines."

In July, the ACLU of Oregon sued Portland police and federal agents on behalf of a group of legal observers and journalists. A freelance photographer covering the protests for The Associated Press submitted an affidavit saying he was beaten with batons, sprayed with chemical irritants and hit with rubber bullets.

A federal judge granted a preliminary injunction exempting journalists and legal observers from orders to disperse after authorities declare a riot. But an appeals court later suspended it.

Police report that people with "press markings" have thrown commercial-grade fireworks, rocks and bottles at officers over the past two months and mingled with people in the crowd. In mid-August, police said an officer was seriously injured after a person with "press" on their clothing threw a 9-pound rock.

Police declined requests for an interview. In a June video, Lt. Tina Jones said Portland police "continue to work with our media partners about the importance of following the lawful orders given by the sound truck, officers and social media so they can stay safe and avoid arrest and altercation."

While many reporters clearly identify themselves, officials have discussed if more can be done.

U.S. District Judge Michael Simon suggested redefining a journalist as "someone who is authorized by the ACLU," saying the organization "could maintain a list of who they are giving vests to and give them appropriate guidance and instructions. That way we might be able to solve the problem of somebody just putting 'press' on their helmet or their shirt."

Media experts say it's broader than that.

"Who is a journalist and who isn't a journalist? Well, here is my definition: You are a journalist if you are committing journalism — if you are there at the scene of the news to collect information and present it to an audience in journalistic form," said Patricia Gallagher Newberry, national president of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Cline is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

Friends bring businesses to aid needy Bangladeshi people

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — When Bangladeshi authorities prepared to enforce a nationwide lockdown in late March, three friends fretted: How would rickshaw drivers, factory workers and other working poor people survive?

With only 20,000 takas (\$236) in hand, their challenge was to channel resources from the generous haves to the desperate have-nots. They started making appeals for money.

The first response came from Bangladeshi cricket star Shakib Al Hasan who donated 2 million takas (\$24,000). With that, they began distributing food packs in the impoverished neighborhoods in Dhaka.

Eventually, they succeeded in bringing about 120 organizations and business houses under one umbrella for their aid campaign, Mission Save Bangladesh. Their work has since expanded to helping families fighting cancer and to arranging supplies of masks and sanitizers.

"People are so generous! They responded to our calls from their hearts," said Imran Kadir, who founded the campaign with friends Tajdin Hasan and Imtiaz Halim. Kadir spoke with The Associated Press as he and other volunteers visited a cancer hospital in Dhaka to distribute food packs.

"We started distributing food packs in impoverished neighborhoods in Dhaka with the initial funds that came from the Shakib Al Hasan," said Kadir, 32. "Slowly we expanded our reach outside the capital city."

Bangladesh's leading exporter, the garment industry, has been hit hard by the pandemic, and so have its 4 million low-paid workers. The industry reports that orders worth more than \$3 billion have been canceled or suspended.

The Bangladeshi development agency BRAC said the incomes of about 51 percent of the country's rickshaw drivers, 58 percent of factory workers, 66 percent of hotel and restaurant workers and 62 percent of day laborers in non-agricultural sectors have been reduced to zero since the lockdown began.

Businesses have reopened but the recovery would take time.

Many companies channeled money from their corporate social responsibility funds to Mission Save Bangladesh.

"Till now we have raised about \$230,000. This is very inspiring," Kadir said.

The group provided food packs to about 13,000 families and another 60,000 individuals. It provided an ambulance to a group to help families cremate or bury people who died of coronavirus.

In a cancer hospital in Dhaka, volunteers brought food packages for two weeks for the patients, most of whom came from villages.

Abdullah Biswas, a father of a cancer patient in a specialized cancer hospital in Dhaka, was happy to get food packs.

"We came here from Shariatpur," an area that flooded this year, Biswas said. "We are in serious financial crisis. This aid will help us a lot."

Slum dwellers were similarly thrilled to receive aid from the volunteers.

"We are delighted. As we are out of work, we have been facing a lot of difficulties to survive with our children," said Nurjahan Begum, a resident of a slum in Dhaka's Kalabagn area.

"We pray for the well-being of the aid givers and hope to get more help. We will give them blessings as long as we are alive," she said.

While nonstop news about the effects of the coronavirus has become commonplace, so, too, have tales of kindness. "One Good Thing" is a series of AP stories focusing on glimmers of joy and benevolence in a dark time. Read the series at <https://apnews.com/OneGoodThing>

Budget deficit to hit record \$3.3T due to virus, recession

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal budget deficit is projected to hit a record \$3.3 trillion as huge government expenditures to fight the coronavirus and to prop up the economy have added more than \$2 trillion to the federal ledger, the Congressional Budget Office said.

The spike in the deficit means that federal debt will exceed annual gross domestic product next year — a milestone that would put the U.S. where it was in the aftermath of World War II, when accumulated debt exceeded the size of the economy.

The \$3.3 trillion figure released Wednesday is more than triple the 2019 shortfall and more than double the levels experienced after the market meltdown and Great Recession of 2008-09. Government spending, fueled by four coronavirus response measures, would register at \$6.6 trillion, \$2 trillion-plus more than 2019.

The recession has caused a drop in tax revenues have fallen, but the changes are not as dramatic as seen on the spending side, with individual income tax collections running 11% behind last year. Corporate tax collections are down 34%.

The economy shut down in the spring so people could be in isolation, in a failed national attempt to defeat the pandemic. That shutdown led lawmakers and President Donald Trump to pump money into business subsidies, larger unemployment benefits, \$1,200 direct payments and other stimulus steps that have helped the economy in the short term.

Most economists are untroubled by such huge borrowing when the economy is in peril, and the debt was barely a concern when a cornerstone \$2 trillion coronavirus relief bill passed almost unanimously in March.

But now that lawmakers and the White House are quarreling over the size and scope of a fifth virus relief bill, Republicans are growing skittish at the enormous costs of battling the pandemic. The Democratic-controlled House passed a \$3.5 trillion measure in May, though House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., says she is willing to cut that figure to \$2.2 trillion.

Caseloads remain unacceptably elevated, however, as the virus exacts a painful, lingering toll on the economy and sentiment remains high for a fifth virus rescue package that would include money to reopen schools, patch state budgets and continue enhanced jobless benefits that have kept families afloat.

Among Republicans, there seems to be less ardor for a deal — at least at what they see as unfavorable terms. GOP leaders had been pressing for a package in the \$1 trillion range, but party talks during August have focused on a smaller package.

The enormous deficit is bringing the federal debt, as measured by the size of the economy, near levels not experienced since the end of World War II, when explosive borrowing to finance the war effort caused a historic spike. But those levels quickly receded during the postwar boom — something that won't happen now, since federal spending is now dominated by retirement programs like Medicare and Social Security, whose costs increase automatically with inflation and the ongoing retirement of the Baby Boom generation.

Deficit scolds have long warned that rising levels of debt will serve as a drag on the economy in the coming years. If interest rates rise too high, servicing the debt will put significant strain on the budget. The Federal Reserve has stepped in to keep credit markets stable and interest rates low for years as debt levels have risen.

"At a certain point, Washington's insatiable borrowing needs will crowd out other investments and harm growth," said Brian Riedl, a senior fellow at the conservative Manhattan Institute. "Washington should help end the pandemic and rescue the economy, yet must also address these unsustainable long-term deficits."

By year's end, the publicly held national debt will total 98% of the U.S. gross domestic product, the total output of goods and services. That compares with 79% of GDP at the end of 2019 and 35% back in 2007.

The CBO projected that the debt would exceed 100% of GDP in 2021 and set a new record high of 107% in 2021.

CBO, the nonpartisan economic and research arm of Congress, predicts that deficit will total \$13 trillion over the coming decade.

Video shows deadly deputy shooting of Black bicyclist in LA

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A grainy video shows a Black man stopped while riding a bicycle struggling with a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy. But it doesn't confirm whether he reached toward a dropped gun before being shot and killed, as authorities contend.

Monday afternoon's killing of Dijon Kizzee, 29, in South Los Angeles follows several other shootings of Black men that have sparked protests around the nation. They include the police shooting of Jacob Blake, who was left paralyzed last month in his hometown of Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump, the Blake family's lawyer, announced Wednesday that he also is representing Kizzee's relatives and called the shooting a "despicable and tragic killing."

"When officers shoot first and ask questions later, precious lives are lost and police lose credibility and trust from those they are sworn to protect," Crump said in a statement.

Kizzee was riding a bicycle when sheriff's deputies tried to stop him for an unspecified traffic violation, according to an account from the Sheriff's Department.

Kizzee dropped the bike and ran before deputies caught up to him. The Sheriff's Department account said he punched a deputy in the face.

A 41-second video obtained by the Los Angeles Times shows a police SUV stop in a street. A deputy gets out, runs around a parked car and appears to try to grab Kizzee as he walks down the sidewalk. They tussle, standing, and move down the street together for several seconds. Kizzee appears to throw a punch, although the view is too unclear to confirm whether he struck the deputy.

The video then shows Kizzee breaking free, stumbling and falling to the ground. A second deputy arrives. Within about 2 seconds, they repeatedly open fire.

Sheriff's officials have said a gun fell out when Kizzee dropped a jacket as he fell to the ground and he "made a motion" for the weapon — prompting the shooting.

But on the video, a fence obstructs the view at that period in the sequence of events.

The Sheriff's Department provided no new information about the case on Wednesday.

Authorities haven't said how many times Kizzee was shot. The video had no audio.

However, the Times said another video from a front-door camera that didn't show the shooting recorded the sound of 15 gunshots over a 10-second period.

There isn't any body camera footage because deputies in the nation's largest sheriff's department aren't equipped with them. The county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved funding, and the first group of deputies will be equipped with cameras next month.

Kizzee's relatives have described him as devoted to his late mother and 18-year-old brother. They said he was an energetic man who loved go-karts, cars and music and that he was working toward becoming a plumber.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva offered his condolences to Kizzee's relatives on Tuesday, who he said includes a cousin who is a Sheriff's Department member.

Residents on bicycles in communities of color are regularly stopped for supposed vehicle violations, said Donny Joubert, vice president of the Watts Gang Task Force group in Los Angeles that was created to reduce gang violence and improve community relations with police.

White cyclists in wealthy neighborhoods rarely face the same treatment, Joubert said.

"They'll pull you over on a skateboard," Joubert said. "It means our kids can't even ride a bike in their community without being blamed for something or being accused of something."

The office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who represents the district where Kizzee was shot, has not received complaints alleging police harassment of Black bicyclists. But Ridley-Thomas said he heard similar accounts anecdotally following Kizzee's death.

"It is not something with which those who are involved in criminal justice reform and representing clients are unfamiliar," he said.

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Statistics nationwide show that “biking while Black” can result in disproportionate citations for people of color. A 2015 Tampa Bay Times investigation revealing that eight out of 10 bicyclists ticketed by Tampa police were Black prompted a federal probe.

A Chicago Tribune review in 2017 found that more than twice as many citations were written in African-American communities than in white or Latino areas.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department did not provide statistics regarding bicycle stops and citations on Wednesday. The Los Angeles Police Department’s figures do not break down vehicle stops by category.

Nana strengthens into hurricane as it barrels toward Belize

PUNTA GORDA, Belize (AP) — Hurricane Nana barreled westward Wednesday just off the coast of Honduras on a collision course with the Central American nation of Belize, where thousands of people were stocking up on food, water and construction materials.

Long lines stretched through supermarkets and hardware store shelves were nearly bare as residents of Belize bought materials to board up windows and doors ahead of Nana’s expected landfall early Thursday as a hurricane.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center reported that Nana was located about 60 miles (95 kilometers) southeast of Belize City with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph), making it a hurricane. The storm was moving at 16 mph (26 kph).

Belize issued a hurricane warning for its coastline. Heavy rains were expected in Belize, as well as in northern Honduras and throughout Guatemala as the storm crosses the isthmus Thursday.

Local leaders in rural villages in the southernmost district of Toledo were awaiting word from the National Emergency Management Organization to open hurricane shelters.

As evening approached, dark clouds hung on the horizon as uneasy residents awaited the storm’s arrival.

Critics: Eviction ban may only delay wave of homelessness

By MICHAEL CASEY and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Housing advocates say the Trump administration’s surprise national moratorium on evictions only delays a wave of crushing debt and homelessness, and an attorney representing landlords questions whether the measure is aimed at voters ahead of the November election.

The White House announced Tuesday that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would act under its broad powers to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The measure would forbid landlords from evicting anyone for failure to pay rent, providing the renter meets four criteria.

Critics call it everything from an empty stall tactic to an outright political ploy.

“My first reaction was, ‘Thank God,’” said Matthew Hill, an attorney with the Public Justice Center in Baltimore. But he noted that tenants will be expected to repay their rent when the moratorium expires on Jan. 1, and without some kind of rental assistance, “we are just going to be kicking the can down the road.”

Richard Vetstein, the lead attorney representing landlords who are challenging an eviction moratorium in Massachusetts, called the CDC order “convoluted” and poorly drafted.

“It’s a pretty blatant political play by Trump in an election year,” Vetstein said. “It purports to apply nationwide to every residential situation for nonpayment of rent, so that would be many, many millions of rental properties.”

The move is a good first step, said Bill Faith, executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. But the order just “puts the problem on pause.”

“In January, when this would cease to be in place, all of those tenants would still owe all of the rent they owed to start with,” Faith said. “If they are covered by the moratorium and don’t pay what rent they can pay, their hole is thousands of dollars deep.”

Faith also said implementing the order could be “messy,” since it would often fall to local judges to determine if a tenant qualifies. In Ohio alone, that would involve hundreds of housing courts.

The CDC order covers only people who:

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- Have an income of \$198,000 or less for couples filing jointly, or \$99,000 for single filers.
- Demonstrate they have sought government assistance to make their rental payments.
- Are unable to pay rent because of COVID-19 hardships.
- Are likely to become homeless if they are evicted.

The CDC order comes as many local and state eviction bans are set to expire. California's measure was supposed to end Wednesday, but Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation Monday to extend it through Jan. 31 for people who pay at least 25% of the rent owed during that time.

He described the law as "a bridge to a more permanent solution" from the federal government.

"We need a real, federal commitment of significant new funding to assist struggling tenants and homeowners in California and across the nation," Newsom said.

Brian Morgenstern, a deputy White House press secretary, said the administration "has also made federal funds available to alleviate any economic impact to tenants, landlords, and property owners." Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson said his agency had allocated nearly \$10 billion in resources and rental assistance.

Landlords say the order forces them to shoulder a heavy financial burden.

"It's great to say nobody can be evicted," said Mitch Matorin, who is owed \$11,400 in back rent on property he owns in Worcester, Massachusetts. "But all that does is push this large societal cost onto the landlords."

Matorin, a lead plaintiff in the case against the state moratorium, said he has had to dip into savings to make monthly mortgage payments.

"If there is a societal interest that requires no evictions, then society needs to step up and fund it," he said. "Otherwise, it is incredibly unfair and untenable to shove the cost on the landlords."

A \$3 trillion coronavirus relief bill passed in May by Democrats in the House would provide about \$175 billion to pay rents and mortgages. A counter proposal from Senate Republicans offers far less. Advocacy groups have sought more than \$100 billion.

Vetstein said there were many questions about the order, including whether it applies to eviction cases already filed in the courts. It is also unclear how the order would affect lawsuits like the one in Massachusetts challenging the state moratorium.

"One of our clients is a nurse," he said. "She is owed over \$20,000, and now she is going to be stuck. Through the end of the year she will be owed \$30,000, and the tenant can just live there for free. It's literally going to cause her financial ruin."

Faith said it's good to see the administration acknowledge the public health threat posed by evictions that could send people into crowded shelters and other housing. But the moratorium is "not the ideal way to proceed."

Whatever the order's limitations, renters like Natasha Blunt are relieved.

"Sign me up!" the New Orleans resident said after learning about the government directive.

A GoFundMe campaign and earnings from a part-time housekeeping job helped her catch up on rent through September on the two-bedroom apartment she shares with her two young grandchildren. But she was worried about what would happen after that.

"Oh my God. That would be a blessing for me and my babies," said Blunt, who lost her banquet porter's job at the beginning of the pandemic. "I would be able to buy food. It would just lift a huge weight off my shoulders."

GoFundMe and donations from several community groups helped Amanda Wood of Columbus, Ohio, stave off eviction in August. But Wood, who is 23 and pregnant and has a 6-month-old at home, is scrambling again to pay September's bills.

"It makes me feel good that I can't get evicted," said Wood, who lost her job with a claims-management company in April. But she's still worried about paying all those months of rent in January.

"You could still face eviction after that," she said. "The landlord isn't going to dismiss all the months of rent that has been built up."

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Garcia Cano reported from Baltimore. Associated Press Financial Markets Writer Ken Sweet in New York and Associated Press Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson in Washington state contributed to this report.

Biden: Trump ignores pandemic, stokes unrest, solves neither

By BILL BARROW and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden is calling the struggle to reopen U.S. schools amid the coronavirus a “national emergency” and accusing President Donald Trump of turning his back to stoke passions instead about unrest in America’s cities.

The Democratic presidential nominee’s broadsides came a day ahead of his own trip to Kenosha, Wis-consin, where Biden said he wants to help “heal” a city reeling from another police shooting of a Black man. The wounding of Jacob Blake and subsequent demonstrations have made the political battleground state a focal point for debate over police and protest violence, as well as the actions of vigilante militias.

Biden assailed Trump for his vilifying of protesters as well as his handling of the pandemic that has killed nearly 190,000 Americans and crippled the national economy, leaving millions out of work, schools straining to deal with students in classrooms or at home and parents struggling to keep up. An American president, Trump’s challenger declared, should be able to lead through multiple crises at the same time.

“Where is the president? Why isn’t he working on this?” Biden asked. “We need emergency support funding for our schools — and we need it now. Mr. President, that is your job. That’s what you should be focused on — getting our kids back to school. Not whipping up fear and division — not inciting violence in our streets.”

Trump answered almost immediately with his own event in North Carolina, where he continued casting the protests generally as “violent mobs here at home” that must be met with a strong show of force. “These people know one thing: strength,” he said. If local leaders would ask for federal muscle, Trump said, “We’ll have it done in one hour.”

Trump later tweeted, “My Administration will do everything in its power to prevent weak mayors and lawless cities from taking Federal dollars while they let anarchists harm people, burn buildings, and ruin lives and businesses.” To that end, he signed a memorandum directing agencies to review federal funding sent to Seattle, New York City, Washington and Portland, Oregon.

The opposing Biden and Trump events reflected the clear fault lines of the general election campaign. Each man casts the other as a threat to Americans’ day-to-day security, but Trump uses “law and order” as his rallying cry while Biden pushes a broader referendum on Trump’s competence, temperament and values.

Biden said Wednesday that he’d use existing federal disaster law to direct funding to schools to help them reopen safely, and he urged Trump to “get off Twitter” and “negotiate a deal” with Congress on more pandemic aid. He repeated his assertions that a full economic recovery isn’t possible with COVID-19 still raging, and that reopening schools safely is a necessary part of both limiting the virus’ spread and allowing parents to return to work.

The Trump campaign noted in reply that the president has asked Congress for \$105 billion in aid for schools.

Addressing the ongoing unrest over racial injustice and policing, Biden told reporters he believes the Kenosha officer who shot Blake “needs to be charged.” Biden also called for charges in the death of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman killed in her Louisville, Kentucky, home by police in March. Biden did not name specific charges and said authorities must conduct full investigations.

Biden also called for legal action on citizens who’ve committed violence as part of civil unrest, a direct answer to Trump’s continued assertions that Biden backs violent protests.

The former vice president said he plans to meet in Kenosha with civic and business leaders and law enforcement. He also will meet with members of the Blake family; he’s already talked with some of them by phone. Blake remains hospitalized after he was shot seven times in the back by police as he was trying to get into a car while authorities were trying to arrest him.

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"We've got to put things together, bring people together," Biden said, adding that he was "not going to tell Kenosha what they have to do" but instead would encourage citizens to "talk about what has to be done." The president, he said, "keeps throwing gasoline on the fire" and "encouraging people to retreat to their corners."

Trump made his own foray to Kenosha on Tuesday, underscoring his blanket support for law enforcement, while blaming "domestic terror" for looting and arson that's taken place in the city. The violence included the burning of several buildings and the killing of two protesters by a 17-year-old, who said he went to Kenosha, armed, to help protect businesses. He is now in custody.

Before his remarks Wednesday, Biden and his wife, Jill, a longtime community college professor and former high school teacher, met with public health experts. He emerged saying Trump's inaction on school aid has left a haphazard response nationally.

Biden said he doesn't want to usurp local authorities' power to decide how to conduct classes. But he said the federal government should make local systems financially whole as they incur considerable costs from software for virtual instruction, personal protective equipment for on-site employees and reducing class sizes for social distancing at schools that bring students to campus.

As Trump and Biden dueled Wednesday, presidential debate organizers announced moderators for the fall. Chris Wallace of Fox News will lead the Sept. 29 debate, followed Oct. 15 by Steve Scully of C-SPAN and NBC's Kristin Welker on Oct. 22.

Also ahead of his Wisconsin trip, Biden's campaign launched a \$45 million advertising buy for a one-minute ad featuring his condemnations of violence during a speech Monday, along with his assertions that Trump is "fomenting" the unrest. The ad, which has English and Spanish language versions, is running on national cable networks and in local markets across Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

"Violence will not bring change. It will only bring destruction," Biden says in the ad. Trump, he says, "shows how weak he is" by "his failure to call on his own supporters to stop acting as an armed militia."

It's an answer to a consistent charge from Trump and his allies: "You won't be safe in Joe Biden's America." Indeed, when in Kenosha, Trump toured a block charred by protesters' fire, called the destruction "anti-American" and suggested Biden's election would ensure similar scenes in U.S. cities across the country.

The ad was launched as the Biden campaign announced a record \$360 million fundraising haul for August. Biden said Wednesday the money will allow an aggressive ad campaign to counter "lies" from Trump, such as the president's erroneous claims that Biden has not denounced violent protesters and that he wants to "defund the police."

Trump's advisers hope his stances shift attention away from the pandemic that has all but crippled the nation during the president's fourth year in office. They also believe the tactics help Trump attract white voters in suburbs and exurbs, key slices of his 2016 coalition. Trump won Wisconsin by less than 1 percentage point in 2016, becoming the first Republican to win the state since Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Biden's trip Thursday will be the first time since 2012 that a Democratic presidential nominee campaigns in Wisconsin. Hillary Clinton did not campaign in the state after she lost the primary in 2016, one of the reasons often cited for Trump's narrow victory.

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press reporters Jonathan Lemire in Washington, Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, and Kevin Freking in Wilmington, North Carolina, contributed.

House subpoenas embattled Postal Service leader over delays

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The House Oversight Committee on Wednesday subpoenaed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy for records about the widespread mail delivery delays that have pulled the Postal Service into the political spotlight as it prepares to handle an onslaught of ballots in the November election.

The subpoena, which seeks documents related to operational changes that have slowed mail and the

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agency's plans for the presidential election, comes after committee chair Rep. Carolyn Maloney said DeJoy has not sufficiently answered the panel's requests for more information.

"It is clear that a subpoena has become necessary to further the Committee's investigation and help inform potential legislative actions," Maloney, D-N.Y., said this week.

DeJoy, a major donor to Republicans and President Donald Trump, took over the agency in June after a career in logistics and set in motion a set of policy changes that have delayed mail and sparked concern over the agency's ability to process mail-in ballots this fall.

He has appeared before Congress twice in recent weeks to testify about the removal of the agency's blue collection boxes and mail sorting machines, as well as changes to trucking operations and overtime hours that postal workers say are resulting in delays. Amid a public outcry, DeJoy said he halted some of the changes until after election.

Democrats have been pushing for increased oversight of the Postal Service following DeJoy's operational changes and Trump's baseless claims that mail-in voting will lead to widespread fraud. The president has also admitted that he was withholding emergency money from the agency in order to make it more difficult for the service to process what is expected to be a record number of mail-in ballots due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The committee is also asking for information about how DeJoy, whose appointment broke a long line of postmaster generals with previous experience at the agency, was picked for the job, as well as any communications between DeJoy and the Trump campaign. It is also requesting DeJoy's unredacted calendar along with records on potential communications with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows.

In a letter Friday to the committee, DeJoy said postal leadership has expanded a task force on election mail with local officials and said his staff was working to provide the requested materials. He has said election mail is his "No. 1 priority," and that he will authorize expanded use of overtime, extra truck trips and other measures in the weeks before the election to ensure on-time delivery of ballots.

A spokesman for the Postal Service said the agency will comply with its legal obligations.

"We remain surprised and confused by Chairwoman Maloney's insistence on issuing a subpoena to the Postal Service in the midst of ongoing dialogue with her staff on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to produce information in an orderly fashion. We fully intend to comply with our obligations under the law," the statement read.

The subpoena placed a noon Sept. 16 deadline for DeJoy to provide the records.

Separately, an audit from the inspector general of the Postal Service found that more than a million mail-in ballots were sent to voters late during the primary elections. The watchdog urged greater cooperation between states and the agency ahead of the November election.

The report found state election boards sent more than a million ballots within a week of their primaries, creating a "high risk" that they couldn't be filled out and returned in time to be counted. In thousands of cases across the country, ballots were sent out after states' mailing deadlines or on election day.

The inspector general also identified a handful of "concerns" surrounding election mail, including ballots sent without bar-coded tracking technology, mail-in ballot designs that make processing difficult, postmark requirements and out-of-date voter addresses.

"Resolving these issues will require higher level partnerships and cooperation between the Postal Service and various state officials, including secretaries of state and state election boards," the auditors wrote. "Timely delivery of election and political mail is necessary to ensure the integrity of the U.S. election process."

The report found election officials in Kentucky and New York sent more than 600,000 mail-in ballots late during their primaries. In Pennsylvania, 500 ballots were mailed after election day. Seventeen states sent more than a half-million ballots after mailing deadlines, and 44,000 ballots were mailed on or a day before election day in 11 states. Also, an analysis of political and election mail in seven Postal Service processing centers between April and June identified around 1.6 million mailpieces that were not delivered on time.

The report did not evaluate controversial operational changes implemented by DeJoy. The inspector

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general's office has opened a separate inquiry into those changes.

DeJoy has recommended that voters request absentee ballots at least 15 days before the election and then return them within seven days from election day.

"To be clear, these recommendations are designed to help ensure that ballots will be delivered and counted, and should in no way be misconstrued to imply that we lack confidence in our ability to deliver those ballots. We can, and will, handle the volume of election mail we receive," DeJoy told the House Oversight committee last week.

The Associated Press produced this coverage with support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

CDC tells states: Be ready to distribute vaccines on Nov. 1

By MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The federal government has told states to prepare for a coronavirus vaccine to be ready to distribute by Nov. 1.

The timeline raised concern among public health experts about an "October surprise" — a vaccine approval driven by political considerations ahead of a presidential election, rather than science.

In a letter to governors dated Aug. 27, Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said states "in the near future" will receive permit applications from McKesson Corp., which has contracted with CDC to distribute vaccines to places including state and local health departments and hospitals.

"CDC urgently requests your assistance in expediting applications for these distribution facilities and, if necessary, asks that you consider waiving requirements that would prevent these facilities from becoming fully operational by November 1, 2020," Redfield wrote.

He wrote that any waivers will not compromise the safety or effectiveness of the vaccine. The Associated Press obtained the letter, which was first reported by McClatchy.

The CDC also sent three planning documents to some health departments that included possible timelines for when vaccines would be available. The documents are to be used to develop plans for early vaccination when the supply might be constrained, according to one of the documents, which outlined a scenario in which a vaccine could be available as soon as the end of October.

"The COVID-19 vaccine landscape is evolving and uncertain, and these scenarios may evolve as more information is available," the document reads.

Another of the documents says that limited COVID-19 vaccine doses may be available by early November and that supply will increase substantially in 2021.

It also states that initially available vaccines will either be approved by the Food and Drug Administration or authorized by the agency under its emergency powers.

The documents encourage health officials to work out now which groups to prioritize for a vaccine, identify providers who will administer vaccine, and take other steps to prepare. The planning documents were first reported by The New York Times.

Redfield told Yahoo Finance that officials were preparing "for what I anticipate will be reality, is that there'll be one or more vaccines available for us in November, December."

James S. Blumenstock, a senior vice president at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, said the CDC was offering "an aggressive but necessary timetable" and that public health agencies were mobilizing to prepare detailed plans.

Several public health experts pointed out that final stage trials of experimental vaccines are still recruiting, and are at best halfway through that process. The vaccines are two doses, and each is given a month apart. The experts told the AP they did not understand how there could be adequate data on whether the vaccines work and are safe before Nov. 1.

"Being ready is reasonable. Cutting short phase 3 trials before you get the information you need isn't," said Dr. Paul Offit, a Children's Hospital of Philadelphia immunization expert who sits on the FDA's vaccine

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advisory committee.

Peter Hotez, dean of Baylor University's tropical medicine school, said he was "very concerned" about whether the FDA would use an emergency use authorization to approve a vaccine before knowing whether it works and is safe.

"It gives the appearance of a stunt rather than an expression of public health concern," Hotez said.

FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn previously said the agency wouldn't cut corners in evaluating vaccines, though it would aim to expedite its work. He told the Financial Times this week that it might be "appropriate" to approve a vaccine before clinical trials were complete if the benefits outweighed the risks.

Unlike a therapeutic that is given to sick people who may have no alternative, a vaccine is given to healthy people, "so you have a much higher burden of proof," said Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University's public health school.

"I think it's reasonable to be communicating to hospitals and saying — at some point late in the fall or winter," Jha said. "November feels awfully early."

Michael Osterholm, a University of Minnesota infectious disease expert, said he was concerned about an "October surprise" with a vaccine being rushed through ahead of the election.

"The public health community wants a safe and effective vaccine as much as anybody could want it," Osterholm said. "But the data have to be clear and compelling."

He said there was a "credibility gap" between doctors and the FDA about how rigorously products are being evaluated during the pandemic.

Some state officials said Wednesday that they were working on next steps while still awaiting details from CDC, and some sounded a cautious note.

Kris Ehresmann, Minnesota's infectious disease director, told the AP the state would only move forward "once we know it is safe." She said they would take their lead from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which she said "will only recommend a vaccine that has met the safety criteria."

The Oregon Board of Pharmacy said it would expedite McKesson's applications but wouldn't waive requirements necessary to maintain public health and safety. Its executive director, Joe Schnabel, said in a statement that the board didn't have enough information on how distribution would work "to speculate about whether it will be fully operational by November 1st."

The office of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, said state officials don't know yet what is being asked of them, and will first need to do "an extensive review of the potential benefits or pitfalls of such waivers."

New Mexico Human Service Secretary David Scrase said the state was preparing to administer coronavirus vaccines on a limited basis starting in November to health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities. The broad public vaccine roll-out is slated for January. He said current vaccine provider networks are robust and adequate for the COVID-19 effort.

Regarding the timing of the CDC request to expedite or waive permits for distribution centers to open Nov. 1, Scrase said, "I can't tell you about the political motivations on that."

A spokesman for Tennessee Republican Gov. Bill Lee said the state was reviewing its next steps.

"News of a vaccine is encouraging and a testament to the power of American innovation," said the spokesman, Gillum Ferguson.

And in Florida, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis said he wasn't aware of the CDC news, but he said people shouldn't think that the virus will be gone in two months once a vaccine is released.

"I would hope that the federal government would kind of take the lead on that," said DeSantis, a Trump ally. "Hopefully they have a plan to do it and will really focus on those vulnerable among us."

AP writers Marc Levy, Brendan Farrington, Morgan Lee, Andrew Selsky and Jonathan Matisse contributed to this report.

Magic to open arena to voters, as NBA election push grows

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By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — The Orlando Magic announced Wednesday that their home arena will serve as an early voting site for the upcoming general election, continuing the rapidly growing movement from across the NBA to open buildings to voters in the coming weeks.

The Magic are opening Amway Center on Sept. 22 for a voter registration event, then will be open to all voters from Orange County daily from Oct. 19 through Nov. 1 to take early ballots. The general election is Nov. 3.

“Voting to me is the most American thing you can do for a democracy to work,” said Magic center Mo Bamba, who will be working at the arena as a volunteer during early voting. “I learned that at a very young age in elementary school, just voting for a class president. This is something I just want to push for.”

At least 20 NBA teams have revealed plans to set up voting centers for this year’s election — with the majority of those announcements coming in the last week and sparked in large part by the decision of NBA players to halt their participation in the ongoing playoffs for three days in protest of racial injustice and police brutality.

Players returned to work after agreeing with the league and teams on a plan for action which largely revolves around encouraging voting this fall. Teams, in every city where they own and control arena property, promised to work with local elections officials to convert the facility into a voting location — or, at the very least, hold voter registration events.

“I think the idea originated with the NBA and the players,” Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said. “I suppose if the Supervisor of Elections had come and asked us, it probably would have happened as well. But it certainly was the impetus from the NBA and the purpose in doing that — so I’ll change my mind and say no, it probably wouldn’t have happened without the NBA.”

Some teams, such as Atlanta, Charlotte, Detroit, Cleveland, Washington and Sacramento, were committed to setting up voting centers — whether it will be for actual casting of ballots or registering citizens to vote — before last week’s stoppage of play.

Added to that list in recent days: Brooklyn, Dallas, Houston, Indiana, the Los Angeles Clippers and the Los Angeles Lakers (in two different arenas), Milwaukee, New York, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, San Antonio, Utah, the Magic, and later Wednesday Phoenix announced plans as well. The Suns, in concert with the WNBA’s Mercury, said they secured Veterans Memorial Coliseum as a voting center and early voting ballot drop location; Phoenix’s home building, the Talking Stick Resort Arena, is not available because of construction projects.

Multiple other teams, including Miami, are pushing local and county officials to allow their facilities be early voting sites starting next week as well.

“Ultimately, I think it’s maybe the most important thing that we as an organization, the players, the coaches, everybody just really encouraging and helping to facilitate people voting,” Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said Wednesday. “That’s what democracy is. It’s founded on all of us being represented.”

Top NBA players such as LeBron James have been promoting the need to vote this fall for some time. James is part of a voting rights group, More Than A Vote, formed this spring with other black athletes and entertainers — and part of its platform is to push for mega voting sites to accommodate in-person balloting amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Health officials worry nation not ready for COVID-19 vaccine

By LIZ SZABO Kaiser Health News

Public health departments, which have struggled for months to test and trace everyone exposed to the novel coronavirus, are now being told to prepare to distribute COVID-19 vaccines as early as Nov. 1.

In a four-page memo this summer, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told health departments across the country to draft vaccination plans by Oct. 1 “to coincide with the earliest possible

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release of COVID-19 vaccine.”

The CDC’s director, Dr. Robert Redfield, also wrote to governors last week about the urgent need to have vaccine distribution sites up and running by Nov. 1. Redfield asked governors to expedite the process for setting up these facilities. McClatchy first reported Redfield’s letter.

But health departments that have been underfunded for decades say they currently lack the staff, money and tools to educate people about vaccines and then to distribute, administer and track doses to some 330 million people. Nor do they know when, or if, they’ll get federal aid to do that.

“There is a tremendous amount of work to be done to be prepared for this vaccination program and it will not be complete by Nov. 1,” said Dr. Kelly Moore, associate director of immunization education at the Immunization Action Coalition, a national vaccine education and advocacy organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. “States will need more financial resources than they have now.”

Dozens of doctors, nurses and health officials interviewed by Kaiser Health News and The Associated Press expressed concern about the country’s readiness to conduct mass vaccinations, as well as frustration with months of inconsistent information from the federal government.

The gaps include figuring out how officials will keep track of who has gotten which doses and how they’ll keep the workers who give the shots safe, with enough protective gear and syringes to do their jobs.

With only about half of Americans saying they would get vaccinated, according to a poll from AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, it also will be crucial to educate people about the benefits of vaccination, said Molly Howell, who manages the North Dakota Department of Health’s immunization program.

The unprecedented pace of vaccine development has left many Americans skeptical about the safety of COVID-19 immunizations; others simply don’t trust the federal government.

“We’re in a very deep-red state,” said Ann Lewis, CEO of CareSouth Carolina, a group of community health centers that serve mostly low-income people in five rural counties in South Carolina. “The message that is coming out is not a message of trust and confidence in medical or scientific evidence.”

PAYING FOR THE ROLLOUT

The U.S. has committed more than \$10 billion to develop new coronavirus vaccines but hasn’t allocated money specifically for distributing and administering vaccines.

And while states, territories and 154 large cities and counties received billions in congressional emergency funding, that money can be used for a variety of purposes, including testing and overtime pay.

An ongoing investigation by KHN and the AP has detailed how state and local public health departments across the U.S. have been starved for decades, leaving them underfunded and without adequate resources to confront the coronavirus pandemic. The investigation further found that federal coronavirus funds have been slow to reach public health departments, forcing some communities to cancel non-coronavirus vaccine clinics and other essential services.

States are allowed to use some of the federal money they’ve already received to prepare for immunizations. But AP and KHN found that many health departments are so overwhelmed with the current costs of the pandemic — such as for testing and contact tracing — that they can’t reserve money for the vaccine work to come. Health departments will need to hire people to administer the vaccines and systems to track them, and pay for supplies such as protective medical masks, gowns and gloves, as well as warehouses and refrigerator space.

CareSouth Carolina is collaborating with the state health department on testing and the pandemic response. It used federal funding to purchase \$140,000 retrofitted vans for mobile testing, which it plans to continue to use to keep vaccines cold and deliver them to residents when the time comes, said Lewis.

But most vaccine costs will be new.

Pima County, Arizona, for example, is already at least \$30 million short of what health officials need to fight the pandemic, let alone plan for vaccines, said Dr. Francisco Garcia, deputy county administrator and chief medical officer.

Some federal funds will expire soon. The \$150 billion that states and local governments received from a fund in the CARES Act, for example, covers only expenses made through the end of the year, said Gretchen Musicant, health commissioner in Minneapolis. That’s a problem, given vaccine distribution may not have even begun.

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Although public health officials say they need more money, Congress left Washington for its summer recess without passing a new pandemic relief bill that would include additional funding for vaccine distribution.

"States are anxious to receive those funds as soon as possible, so they can do what they need to be prepared," said Moore of the Immunization Action Coalition, a national vaccine education and advocacy organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. "We can't assume they can take existing funding and attempt the largest vaccination campaign in history."

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

Then there's the basic question of scale. The federally funded Vaccines for Children program immunizes 40 million children each year. In 2009 and 2010, the CDC scaled up to vaccinate 81 million people against pandemic H1N1 influenza. And last winter, the country distributed 175 million vaccines for seasonal influenza vaccine, according to the CDC.

But for the U.S. to reach herd immunity against the coronavirus, most experts say, the nation would likely need to vaccinate roughly 70% of Americans, which translates to 200 million people and — because the first vaccines will require two doses to be effective — 400 million shots.

Although the CDC has overseen immunization campaigns in the past, the Trump administration created a new program, called Operation Warp Speed, to facilitate vaccine development and distribution. In August, the administration announced that McKesson Corp., which distributed H1N1 vaccines during that pandemic, will also distribute COVID-19 vaccines to doctors' offices and clinics.

"With few exceptions, our commercial distribution partners will be responsible for handling all the vaccines," Operation Warp Speed's Paul Mango said in an email.

"We're not going to have 300 million doses all at once," said Mango, deputy chief of staff for policy at the Health and Human Services Department, despite earlier government pledges to have many doses ready by the new year. "We believe we are maximizing our probability of success of having tens of millions of doses of vaccines by January 2021, which is our goal."

Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said it will take time for the vaccines to be widespread enough for life to return to what's considered normal. "We have to be prepared to deal with this virus in the absence of significant vaccine-induced immunity for a period of maybe a year or longer," Adalja said in August.

In preliminary guidance for state vaccine managers, the CDC said doses will be distributed free of charge from a central location. Health departments' local vaccination plans may be reviewed by both the CDC and Operation Warp Speed.

The CDC spent two days working with vaccine planners in five locations — North Dakota, Florida, California, Minnesota and Philadelphia — to discuss potential obstacles and solutions.

No actual vaccines were distributed during the planning sessions, which focused on how to get vaccines to people in places as different as urban Philadelphia, where pharmacies abound, and rural North Dakota, which has few chain drugstores but many clinics run by the federal Indian Health Service, said Kris Ehresmann, who directs infectious disease control at the Minnesota Department of Health.

Those planning sessions have made Ehresmann feel more confident about who's in charge of distributing vaccines. "We are getting more specific guidance from CDC on planning now," she said. "We feel better about the process, though there are still a lot of unknowns."

OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY COULD HAMPER RESPONSE

Still, many public health departments will struggle to adequately track who has been vaccinated and when, because a lack of funding in recent decades has left them in the technological dark ages, said Dr. Marcus Plescia, chief medical officer at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

In Mississippi, for example, health officials still rely on faxes, said the state's health officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs. "You can't manually handle 1,200 faxes a day and expect anything efficient to happen," he said.

When COVID-19 vaccines become available, health providers will need to track where and when patients receive their vaccines, said Moore, the medical director of Tennessee's immunization plan during the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009 and 2010. And with many different shots in the works, they will need to know

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exactly which one each patient got, she said.

People will need to receive their second COVID-19 dose 21 or 28 days after the first, so health providers will need to remind patients to receive their second shot, Moore said, and ensure that the second dose is the same brand as the first.

The CDC will require vaccinators to provide "dose-level accounting and reporting" for immunizations, so that the agency knows where every dose of COVID-19 vaccine is "at any point in time," Moore said. Although "the sophistication of these systems has improved dramatically" in the past decade, she said, "many states will still face major challenges meeting data tracking and reporting expectations."

The CDC is developing an app called the Vaccine Administration Monitoring System for health departments whose data systems don't meet standards for COVID-19 response, said Claire Hannan, executive director of the Association of Immunization Managers, a nonprofit based in Rockville, Maryland.

"Those standards haven't been released," Hannan said, "so health departments are waiting to invest in necessary IT enhancements." The CDC needs to release standards and data expectations as quickly as possible, she added.

Meanwhile, health departments are dealing with what Minnesota's Ehresmann described as "legacy" vaccine registries, sometimes dating to the late 1980s.

A HISTORIC TASK

Overwhelmed public health teams are already working long hours to test patients and trace their contacts, a time-consuming process that will need to continue even after vaccines become available.

When vaccines are ready, health departments will need more staffers to identify people at high risk for COVID-19, who should get the vaccine first, Moore said. Public health staff also will be needed to educate the public about the importance of vaccines and to administer shots, she said, as well as monitor patients and report serious side effects.

At an August meeting about vaccine distribution, Dr. Ngozi Ezike, director of Illinois' health department, said her state will need to recruit additional health professionals to administer the shots, including nursing students, medical students, dentists, dental hygienists and even veterinarians. Such vaccinators will need medical-grade masks, gowns and gloves to keep themselves safe as they handle needles.

Many health officials say they feel burned by the country's struggle to provide hospitals with ventilators last spring, when states found themselves bidding against one another for a limited supply. Those concerns are amplified by the continuing difficulties providing enough testing kits; supplying health workers with personal protective equipment; allocating drugs such as remdesivir; and recruiting contact tracers — who track down everyone with whom people diagnosed with COVID-19 have been in contact.

Although Ehresmann said she's concerned Minnesota could run out of syringes, she said the CDC has assured her it will provide them.

Given that vaccines are far more complex than personal protective equipment and other medical supplies — one vaccine candidate must be stored at minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit — Plescia said people should be prepared for shortages, delays and mix-ups.

"It's probably going to be even worse than the problems with testing and PPE," Plescia said.

Szabo is a writer for Kaiser Health News. Associated Press writer Michelle R. Smith and KHN Midwest correspondent Lauren Weber contributed to this report.

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Mississippi flag: Magnolia could replace old rebel symbol

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi voters will decide whether to accept a new state flag with a magnolia to replace an old one legislators retired under pressure because it included the Confederate battle emblem

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that's widely seen as racist.

A commission voted 8-1 Wednesday to recommend the magnolia over one other final design that featured a shield with wavy lines representing water.

"We'll send a message that we live in the future and not in the past," former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Reuben Anderson, the flag commission chairman, said after the vote.

The single design will go on the November ballot. If voters accept the design, it will become the new state flag. If they reject it, the design process will start anew — and Mississippi will remain a state without a flag for a while longer.

The commission decided Wednesday that leading to the November election, it will promote the magnolia flag by calling it the "In God We Trust" flag.

"More than any other time in our country, we need the mercy and grace of God," said commission member TJ Taylor, who is an attorney and policy director for the state House speaker.

After the meeting Wednesday, the magnolia flag was raised on a pole outside the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson, where it fluttered in a brisk breeze.

Later in the day, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves praised the magnolia design.

"I think they did a good job," Reeves said. "It's, I think, a well-done flag."

Legislators shelved the Confederate-themed flag two months ago against the backdrop of widespread protests over racial injustice. The flag had been divisive for decades in a state with a 38% Black population. The final push for change came from business, education, religious and sports groups — including, notably, the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southeastern Conference.

By law, the new flag cannot include the Confederate battle flag, and it must have the phrase, "In God We Trust." Requiring the religious phrase on the new flag helped persuade some conservative legislators to retire the old one.

The public submitted nearly 3,000 designs. The commission — with members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and House speaker — narrowed the choices to the final two last week.

Creators of the final designs said their work reflects a love for Mississippi and a desire for a banner that a wide range of people can fly with pride.

The magnolia flag has the state flower on a dark blue background with red bars on either end. The flower is encircled by stars representing Mississippi as the 20th state. It also has a single star made of diamond shapes representing the Native American people who lived on the land before others arrived.

The magnolia flag is a combination of elements submitted by six people. Four live in Mississippi, and the others live in San Francisco and Massachusetts.

Graphic designer Rocky Vaughan of Ackerman, Mississippi, created the overall design of the magnolia flag, which was altered with work from others. He said Tuesday that he started working on designs years ago, when Mississippi residents were bickering about the flag with the Confederate image.

"What I wanted to do was show every Mississippian that there's a compromise out there, and we are the magnolia state," said Vaughan, 43. "If it's appealing to the eyes, it will be accepted."

The magnolia on that flag came from Sue Anna Joe, a Greenwood native living in San Francisco. Her parents were born in China, and they moved to the United States in the 1960s. Joe, 44, said Tuesday that as a person of Chinese background growing up in Mississippi, she felt "disassociated" with the flag the state had used since 1894. She heard white people say the Confederate symbol represented their ancestors and African Americans say it represented slavery.

"I felt like I was part of a broken family," she said.

Joe said she watched online as Mississippi legislators voted to retire the old flag. Because she has worked in design, she felt it was her civic duty to submit a proposal. She chose a magnolia because she believes the flower is an easily recognizable symbol of Mississippi.

"I still very much love my home state," Joe said.

Kara Giles of Oxford also worked on the magnolia flag. She's a graphic designer and executive assistant to Oxford Mayor Robyn Tannehill, who is one of the nine flag commissioners. Giles tweaked the design to strengthen some elements of it.

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The other flag with the red-and-white shield on a dark blue background also had the single star made of diamond shapes. The banner, nicknamed the "Great River Flag," is by graphic designer Micah Whitson, who grew up in Alabama, graduated from the University of Mississippi and now lives in Boston. The commission Wednesday also gave Whitson, 39, credit for helping design the magnolia flag.

Follow Emily Wagster Pettus on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus>.

Fox, C-SPAN, NBC moderators for upcoming Trump-Biden debates

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Representatives from Fox News, C-SPAN and NBC will moderate the upcoming debates between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

According to the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, the moderators will be:

- Chris Wallace of Fox News for the debate Sept. 29 in Cleveland.
- Steve Scully of C-SPAN for the "town meeting" debate Oct. 15 in Miami.
- NBC's Kristen Welker for the debate Oct. 22 in Nashville, Tennessee.

The commission also announced Wednesday that USA Today's Susan Page will moderate the vice presidential debate on Oct. 7 in Salt Lake City with Vice President Mike Pence and Democrat Kamala Harris. The commission makes its moderator selection independently of the candidates.

Trump and Biden have said they will attend the scheduled debates, which are meant to offer voters to opportunity to see the contrast between the candidates on live television.

"I'm looking forward to debating the president and I'm going to lay out as clearly as I can my vision for the county," Biden said

Trump's team complained that the moderators were not those "we would have recommended if the campaign had been allowed to have any input," said campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh. "Some can be identified as clear opponents of President Trump, meaning Joe Biden will actually have a teammate on stage most of the time to help him excuse the radical, leftist agenda he is carrying."

Murtaugh noted that Biden, who has not sat recently for an interview with Wallace, will not go face to face with the tough interviewer. Wallace was widely praised for a tough interview with Trump earlier this summer.

Trump's team has tried to pressure the commission to move up the debates, citing increased use of early and absentee voting because of the coronavirus.

AP writer Will Weissert contributed from Wilmington, Delaware.

Kennedy loss in Massachusetts may mark end of 'Camelot' era

By STEVE LeBLANC Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — After the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy famously compared his 1,000-day presidency to "Camelot," a popular Broadway musical about the legend of King Arthur — crafting a wistful shorthand for the Kennedy tenure, and by extension the entire Kennedy dynasty.

Now, 60 years after JFK's election as president, some are wondering if the days of "Camelot" are over after U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy III's failed attempt to oust incumbent U.S. Sen. Edward Markey in Tuesday's state Democratic primary.

The loss marks the first time a member of the political dynasty has come up short in a race for Congress in Massachusetts.

The 39-year-old Kennedy, even as he conceded the election, seemed to leave open the possibility of a future chapter in his family's long political saga.

"No matter the results tonight, I would do this again with all of you again in a heartbeat," Kennedy told supporters. "We may have lost the final vote count tonight, but we built a coalition that will endure because

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this coalition, our coalition, is the future of a Democratic Party.”

In reality, a successful revival for Kennedy is going to be tough given the state’s changing political landscape, said Jeffrey Berry, a professor of American politics and political behavior at Tufts University.

“It’s going to be difficult for him to come back and do elected politics here in Massachusetts because the Democratic side is very crowded with a lot of very capable people,” Berry said, pointing to potential rivals including U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley.

Berry said Kennedy was in a difficult position because it was hard for him to run to the left of Markey, given New York U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s endorsement of Markey.

Kennedy instead won the endorsement of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

“That left him as the establishment candidate, which was not a good position to be in,” Berry said.

The Kennedy legacy hung over the race, especially in the closing weeks, when Kennedy more explicitly invoked his pedigree including JFK; former U.S. Senator and U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, his grandfather; and former U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, who held a Senate seat in Massachusetts for nearly half a century until his death in 2009.

Kennedy’s father, Joe Kennedy II, also held a Massachusetts seat in Congress from 1987 to 1999.

For his part, the 74-year-old Markey was able to flip the Kennedy script, highlighting his blue-collar roots growing up as the son of a driver for the Hood Milk Co. in working-class Malden, a Boston suburb.

In one campaign ad, Markey also offered an updated take on a famous JFK quote, saying: “We asked what we could do for our country. We went out, we did it. With all due respect, it’s time to start asking what your country can do for you.”

One loss doesn’t necessarily mean the end of the Kennedy mystique, said Erin O’Brien, a professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts-Boston.

“Is ‘Camelot’ over? No,” she said.

O’Brien pointed out that early on, polls were giving Kennedy the edge, in large part because of the political cachet of his last name.

But as the race wore on, Kennedy struggled to answer the fundamental question of why he was running — a question that helped trip up Edward Kennedy’s 1980 campaign for president, which was also against an incumbent, Democratic President Jimmy Carter.

“He was trying to make a change argument, but became a corporate moderate, and Ed Markey became the second coming of Bernie Sanders,” O’Brien said. “He became the embodiment of privilege or inherited wealth, and those are two things that Democrats are not looking for in elected officials.”

In the end, she said, Kennedy couldn’t reveal his real reason for challenging Markey — to avoid a crowded Democratic field in a future race for an open Senate seat that could include popular Democrats like Pressley, U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton and Attorney General Maura Healey.

“Joe Kennedy gambled and he lost,” she said.

Kennedy’s defeat is also a loss for the national Democratic Party’s bank account.

The scion of one of the country’s most famous political dynasties was popular among high-dollar donors well beyond Massachusetts. Kennedy helped raise millions of dollars for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the House Democrats’ campaign arm, during the 2018 midterm elections. He also stumped for more than a dozen other candidates.

Massachusetts voters may have rejected him, but few remaining House Democrats carry the same national fundraising appeal as Kennedy.

Lost in the talk of the Kennedy legacy is Markey’s own long history of winning elections. First elected to the House in a special election in 1976, Markey has never lost a subsequent race in the House or Senate.

Other members of the extended Kennedy clan have lost congressional contests outside Massachusetts. In 1986, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend lost a U.S. House race in Maryland, and in 2002, Mark Kennedy Shriver also lost a congressional primary in Maryland.

In his concession speech, Kennedy gave a nod to the extended Kennedy clan.

“To my mom, my dad, my twin brother and the rest of a rowdy bunch of crazy cousins, you all are my heroes,” he said. “You are my example of what public service should be and can be when it is done with

courage and grit.”

And while there may be no other members of the family waiting in the political wings, you can't count the family out completely, Berry said.

“He has two adorable children, and maybe 40 years from now, they'll run,” he said.

Associated Press writer Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

Venice opens 'miraculous' film festival, but veterans lament

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VENICE (AP) — The beachfront terrace at the Excelsior Hotel, usually hopping with movie industry VIPs and minor celebrities, is pleasantly quiet. The red carpet has a three-meter-high (ten-foot) wall blocking the public's view. Veteran film-goers walk away dejected after being told they had to reserve seats online, well in advance.

Welcome to the Venice Film Festival in the time of coronavirus.

The world's oldest film festival opened Wednesday under a slew of anti-COVID protocols, with the few A-list celebrities making the trip wearing face masks and the general public largely absent.

Paparazzi who in past years rented boats to chase stars as they crossed the lagoon to the Lido filmed the opening arrivals from special, socially-distanced spots along the red carpet. Masked guards took temperatures at nearly every turn, and no jostling, crowding or cramming was allowed.

It's all part of the measures imposed by Venice organizers to try to safely host the first major in-person festival of the COVID-19 era when others canceled or went online. That the festival is happening at all is significant, given Italy was the first country in the West to be hit hard by the virus.

But Italy also largely brought infections under control with a rigid lockdown and continued vigilance — measures that festival organizers have embraced and enhanced.

“We feel the responsibility (of) being the first one. We know the festival of Venice will be a sort of test for everybody,” said festival director Alberto Barbera. “We worked a lot on strict plans of safety measures to ensure that everybody who attended the festival would be safe until the end. And if it works like we hope, everybody can learn from our experience.”

Usually, the public is warmly welcomed at Venice both indoors and out: They flock to screenings, and wait in the sun for hours to secure a spot along the red carpet, standing ten-deep to catch a glimpse of celebrities making their entrances.

This year, a huge wall was erected to block their view and dissuade them from gathering, though some dedicated fans crowded at the entrances and peeked through the fencing to try to catch a glimpse of Matt Dillon or Tilda Swinton as they arrived for the opening ceremony.

Swinton, who was awarded a lifetime achievement Golden Lion on Wednesday, gave them a treat for their persistence, sporting a gilded Venetian-style masquerade mask and offering a tribute to the lagoon city for having dared to have the festival at all.

“I would like to thank our sublime Venice and all who sail in her, the most venerable and majestic film festival on Earth, for raising her banner this year,” she said in her acceptance speech. “Viva Venezia! Cinema Cinema Cinema! Wakanda Forever!” she said, citing the salute made famous by the late “Black Panther” star Chadwick Boseman.

The pandemic hit the film industry hard, forcing the closure of theaters as well as the cancellation of production on sets around the globe. Venice has tried to offer the industry a source of hope in a rebirth, but the absence of Hollywood films has deprived the festival of much of its star power and deal-making pull.

The terrace bar at the Excelsior is usually ground-zero for the schmoozing and movie rights deals which are key parts of the festival marketplace, with gala parties on the opening and closing night.

This year, as the sun set on the terrace ahead of the opening night, a few festival-goers in black tie and gowns sipped cocktails as hotel guests returned from the beach in their bathing suits. No big parties were planned.

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Jury president Cate Blanchett said it was "miraculous" that the festival came off at all.

But for veteran Venice festival-goers, the new restrictions created unprecedented hurdles that threatened to shut them out.

Maria Luisa Biffis, who lives part-time in Venice, said for years she would come to the festival on the first day to pick up the program and scope out which films she wanted to see over the following 10 days. She'd then come back to buy tickets and queue on the day of the screening to get in.

"Now you can only buy tickets online," Biffis said as she walked away from the help desk after realizing she'd been shut out. "I'm on vacation, and I don't have a computer."

In addition, seating is limited to ensure at least every two or three seats are vacant, meaning some films have already sold out, particularly those that are screening in the two new sought-after open-air venues.

"I would have liked to have seen the new Segre one," Biffis said, referring to the pre-opening film "Molecules" by Italian director Andrea Segre. "I'll see if there's anything else I can get."

She is not the only one nostalgic for the way things used to be.

Carlo Lazzarini has worked at the Venice film festival for 22 years, this year as chief inspector for one of the smaller screening venues. He is so well-known and well-loved by veteran festival-goers that they bring him bottles of wine and gifts from home when they come back each year.

"The beautiful thing about the festival was the embrace with the public, and the joy in meeting them every year," Lazzarini said as he helped guests negotiate the online ticketing system at a Wednesday morning screening. "But unfortunately, COVID has massacred our social relations."

Germany says Soviet-era nerve agent used on Russia's Navalny

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with the same type of Soviet-era nerve agent used in a 2018 attack on a former Russian spy, the German government said Wednesday, provoking outrage from Western leaders who demanded Moscow provide an explanation.

The findings — which experts say point strongly to Russian state involvement — added to tensions between Russia and the West. German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Navalny's poisoning attempted murder, meant to silence one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics.

The Berlin hospital treating the dissident said he remains on a ventilator though his condition is improving. It said it expects a long recovery and still can't rule out long-term effects on his health from the poisoning.

The German government said that testing by a German military laboratory showed "proof without doubt of a chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group." British authorities identified Novichok as the poison used on former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England.

"There are very serious questions now that only the Russian government can answer, and must answer," Merkel said.

The United Kingdom and Italy also called on Russia to explain what happened, with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling the use of a chemical weapon "outrageous." In Washington, National Security Council spokesman John Ulyot tweeted that it was "completely reprehensible."

"We will work with allies and the international community to hold those in Russia accountable, wherever the evidence leads," Ulyot said.

The European Union's foreign affairs chief, Josep Borrell, said any use of chemical weapons was "a breach of international law."

Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator, fell ill on a flight to Moscow on Aug. 20 and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk after the plane made an emergency landing.

He was moved two days later to Berlin's Charite hospital, where doctors last week said initial tests indicated Navalny had been poisoned.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the Russian ambassador was summoned to his ministry Wednesday after the latest findings.

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyansky, dismissed the finger pointing as a knee-jerk reac-

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tion. "Today accusing #Russia is a must-do for any Western country," he said in a tweet.

In Moscow, Russian authorities were quick to blame Germany for not sharing its findings.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russian authorities are "ready and interested in full cooperation and exchange of information" with Germany but added that Berlin still hasn't provided any official response to formal requests from the Russian prosecutor general's office and doctors who treated Navalny.

Peskov reiterated that Russian doctors didn't find any poisonous substances in Navalny's system. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova charged on state TV that Germany preferred "public statements without providing any facts whatsoever" to "a thorough investigation."

The German government said it would inform its partners in the European Union and NATO about the test results and would consult them on a response. Germany also will contact the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Shortly after the test results were announced, the Charite hospital said that Navalny is still in intensive care but "continues to improve."

"Recovery is likely to be lengthy," it said in a statement. "It is still too early to gauge the long-term effects, which may arise in relation to this severe poisoning."

Andrea Sella, a professor of inorganic chemistry at University College London, said Navalny's prognosis is hard to predict. He said that "very swift action" is needed to stabilize patients in poisoning cases and noted the "significant delay," given that Navalny was initially cared for by Russian doctors who said they had ruled out poisoning.

"The problem is that even if Mr Navalny were to survive there may be lingering long-term neurological issues," Sella said.

Navalny's allies in Russia have insisted he was deliberately poisoned by the country's authorities, accusations that the Kremlin has rejected as "empty noise."

"To poison Navalny with Novichok in 2020 would be exactly the same as leaving an autograph at a crime scene, like this one," Navalny's longtime ally and strategist Leonid Volkov said in a tweet that featured a photo of Putin's name and a signature next to it.

It would not be the first time a prominent, outspoken Russian was targeted in such a way — or the first time the Kremlin was accused of being behind it.

Navalny's allies have also accused Russian authorities of delaying his transfer out of the country after the poisoning. It took much wrangling and 48 hours to move Navalny to Berlin. Local doctors at the time said he was too unstable to be transported, and the Kremlin said it would defer to the physicians.

The Siberian medical team relented only after a charity that had organized a medevac plane revealed that German doctors who examined the politician said he was stable enough to be moved.

The reversal came as international pressure on Moscow mounted substantially.

"The system has long lost its ability to operate in an optimal way. It had to choose between the scandal related to Navalny's (possible) death in Omsk and the risk of the poisoning being discovered by German doctors," political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said.

Novichok is a class of military-grade nerve agents developed by the Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War. Western weapons experts believe it was only ever manufactured in Russia. After the Skripals were poisoned, Russia said the U.S., Britain and other Western countries had acquired the expertise to make the nerve agent and that the Novichok used in that attack could have come from them.

Several Russian lawmakers have said Russia isn't manufacturing Novichok-type agents.

"Unless you are working for the military, it is impossible to be accidentally exposed," Richard Parsons, a senior lecturer in biochemical toxicology at King's College London, said. "It is unavailable from anywhere except the Russian military as far as I am aware."

Britain charged two Russians — alleged to be agents of the Russian military intelligence service GRU — in absentia with the 2018 attack that left the Skripals in critical condition and killed a British woman. Russia has refused to extradite the men to the U.K.

thew Lee in Washington, David Rising and Frank Jordans in Berlin, and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this story.

Depression, anxiety spike amid outbreak and turbulent times

By LINDSEY TANNER AP Medical Writer

Mental health therapists' caseloads are bulging. Waiting lists for appointments are growing. And anxiety and depression are rising among Americans amid the coronavirus crisis, research suggests.

In the latest study to suggest an uptick, half of U.S. adults surveyed reported at least some signs of depression, such as hopelessness, feeling like a failure or getting little pleasure from doing things. That's double the rate from a different survey two years ago, Boston University researchers said Wednesday in the medical journal JAMA Network Open.

The study did not ask about any diagnosis they might have received, and for many people, the problem is mostly angst rather than full-blown psychiatric illness. But experts say the feeling is genuine and deserving of professional help.

For some people, it stems from lost loved ones and the financial distress and social isolation the outbreak has caused. Experts say Americans are also feeling anxiety over the racial and political upheaval of the past few months, though the BU study was conducted before the recent tumult.

"There is no question that many people in the U.S. and worldwide are experiencing real and often distressing emotional reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic and, in some cases, to contracting the virus," said psychiatrist Dr. Ronald Pies, a retired professor at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

The global outbreak has caused more than 850,000 deaths and almost 26 million confirmed infections. U.S. cases total 6 million, with about 185,000 deaths. The crisis has also thrown millions out of work, crippled the economy and forced shutdowns of bars, restaurants, theaters and gyms.

Calls from March through July to the U.S. government-funded Disaster Distress Helpline, which offers counseling and emotional support, surged 335% from the same period last year.

"Helpline counselors have reported callers expressing feelings of isolation and interpersonal concerns related to physical distancing such as being cut off from social supports," said Hannah Collins, a spokeswoman for Vibrant Emotional Health, a group that runs the helpline.

While not all calls are COVID-19-related, many people have sought help for anxiety and fear about getting the virus, distress over being diagnosed, or anguish over the illness or death of a loved one, she said.

The BU study involved a survey of 1,440 U.S. adults questioned about depression symptoms in early April. Symptoms were most common in young adults, low-income participants and in those who reported several outbreak-related troubles, including financial problems, lost jobs or COVID-19 deaths of relatives. Almost 1,000 participants had experienced at least of three such struggles.

The study results echo research from China early in the outbreak, and studies done during the Ebola and SARS crises and after major hurricanes and 9/11, said lead author Dr. Sandro Galea, a BU public health expert.

The survey was done before the U.S. spike in civil unrest, including the May 24 death of George Floyd, who authorities say was killed when a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck for several minutes. But Galea said that other studies have shown increases in depression symptoms after traumatic events and that it is likely the unrest has contributed to American angst.

At Cityscape Counseling in Chicago, the new client caseload jumped from 95 to 148 over the past two months, said executive director Chelsea Hudson. The group's 17 therapists see about 500 clients a week, and Hudson said she has hired two more therapists to deal with the increased demand.

"We see a lot of single young professionals. I think it's been especially tough on them. The isolation, lack of connection, often enhances depression," she said.

Hudson said many clients are distressed about social justice issues. With more free time, she said, they are paying more attention to the news, and Chicago has been hit by vandalism and protests over killings by police.

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She said there is "a general consensus in the mental health field on our need to be ready to brush up on our trauma training. Right now people are still in a state of shock."

Wendy Zirbel of Dodge County, Wisconsin, said she developed anxiety and depression after testing positive for the virus in June. She said that was partly from getting sick — she still has breathing and memory troubles — and partly from her husband's reaction.

"He thought COVID was a joke and that it's all Democrats trying to get Trump out of office," she said. "It still hurts."

Zirbel, 45, said she spent days in tears, and her doctor prescribed an antidepressant.

"It was just overwhelming for a couple of weeks. I just couldn't function," she said. "That's totally not me. I'm usually the one that's making people laugh."

The first therapist she called had a waiting list. She is hoping sessions with the one she found will help.

"I need someone to help me get the tools to cope," she said.

Todd Creager, a Southern California therapist who specializes in relationship troubles, has upped his weekly workload from 22 hours of therapy to 30 to handle increased demand. He is seeing anxiety, depression and stress related to financial woes brought on by the pandemic. And in some cases, virus-related shutdowns have amplified existing strife.

"In the past, people could get distracted by going to concerts and dinners. Now their problems are kind of staring them in the face," he said. "I've heard people say, 'This pandemic has made me realize how toxic my relationship is.'"

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at @LindseyTanner.

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

Once-unsafe streets now provide pupils refuge from pandemic

By CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press/Report for America

NEW YORK (AP) — A public school in Brooklyn is looking to show how classes can be moved outside to more safely facilitate in-person learning.

Teachers and parents at Public School 15 in the Red Hook neighborhood took to the street outside their campus Wednesday to demonstrate one way outdoor learning could work.

From afar, the demonstration looked like a street fair or a farmer's market. Past a crossing guard, a traffic barricade and a handwashing station, teachers held lessons with children under 10, who sat on cushions on asphalt.

"Teachers and principals and parents are modeling outdoor learning, and fighting to get more of it and soon," said City Council Member Brad Lander, who has been polling school districts on their desire for outdoor schooling since July.

The demonstration follows a deal Tuesday between Mayor Bill de Blasio and unions representing school staff and administrators, who had been talking about a possible strike out of concern that the school system wasn't ready to safely start the school year. In a compromise, the start of mixed in-person and online learning was delayed for several days, and city officials promised to test 10-20% of students and staff for the virus each month.

If New York City schools open their classrooms to students as planned on Sept. 21, it will be the largest district to have pupils physically in school buildings during the pandemic.

Schools like P.S. 15 have completed surveys on their furniture and street permitting needs in recent days as part of a last-minute effort by the city to support outdoor learning. The city's Department of Education is not expected to respond to the requests before school starts.

The idea of educating students outside in Red Hook would have once raised serious safety concerns.

P.S. 15 is also known as the Patrick F. Daly School, named after a principal who was killed by a stray bullet in 1992 when the neighborhood was infested with violent drug gangs. These days it is exponentially

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safer, like the rest of the city.

Eighth grader Lina Rosario, of M.S. 839, is looking forward to getting out of the house and seeing her friends again.

"I was sitting at home and it was really boring," she said of the online learning that started in March, as her mother watched the demonstration outside P.S. 15. "It got really old, really quickly."

Naila Rosario, 39, co-president of the PTA at Lina Rosario's school, says she feels comfortable with the security measures — a guard at each end of the block — and says streetside classrooms aren't that different from outdoor school events she's seen at her school in previous years.

Schools across the country have decided to delay in-person schooling as late as January, citing ventilation issues or lack of space to ensure social distancing.

Supporters of outdoor schooling in Red Hook say that outdoor classrooms can happen on any street with few resources.

The tents used in the demonstration could be vulnerable to wind. The cold might make lessons impossible for a few months. But questions remain as to whether schools can sprawl into city streets while protecting students, and what, if any funding may be available for amenities like tents to protect students from the rain.

But Lander, the city council member, argues that some degree of increased outdoor space is possible and useful.

"I think even when it gets really quite cold that kids and teachers would much rather come outside and eat their lunch outdoors than stay sitting at their desks, in the same desk they've been sitting at in the same room, with their masks off," Lander said.

Attanasio is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues. Follow Attanasio on Twitter.

Migrants trying to reach Europe pushed to deadly Atlantic

RENATA BRITO Associated Press

FUERTEVENTURA, Spain (AP) — The only person who wasn't crying on the boat was 2-year-old Noura. Noura's mother, Hawa Diabaté, was fleeing her native Ivory Coast to what she believed was continental Europe. Unlike the 60 adults on board, only Noura was oblivious to the risks of crossing the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean in an overcrowded rubber dinghy.

As the waves quickly got bigger and people more nervous, Noura told her mother, "Be quiet, mama! Boza, mama! Boza!", Diabaté recalled. The expression is used by sub-Saharan migrants to celebrate a successful crossing.

After several hours in the ocean, it was finally "Boza." Spain's Maritime Rescue Service brought them to safety on one of the Canary Islands.

Migrants and asylum-seekers are increasingly crossing a treacherous part of the Atlantic Ocean to reach the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago near West Africa, in what has become one of the most dangerous routes to European territory. Noura and her mother are among about 4,000 people to have survived the perilous journey this year.

But many never make it. More than 250 people are known to have died or gone missing so far this year according to the International Organization for Migration. That's already more than the number of people who perished trying to cross the Western Mediterranean in all of last year. In the week that The Associated Press spent in the Canary Islands to report this story, at least 20 bodies were recovered.

This story was funded in part by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

The increase in traffic to the Canaries comes after the European Union funded Morocco in 2019 to stop

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migrants from reaching southern Spain via the Mediterranean Sea. While arrivals to mainland Spain decreased by 50% compared to the same period last year, landings in the Canary Islands have increased by nearly 580%. In August alone there were more than 850 arrivals by sea to the Canaries, according to an AP tally of numbers released by Spain's Interior Ministry and reports by local media and NGOs.

Arrivals this year are still low compared to the 30,000 migrants who reached the islands in 2006. But they are at their highest in over a decade since Spain stemmed the flow of sea arrivals to just a few hundred a year through deals with West African countries.

The striking shift in migration back to the Canaries has raised alarms at the highest levels of the Spanish government. Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's first trip abroad following the pandemic lockdown was to Mauritania, one of the main departure points. Most recently, the interior ministry announced a donation of 1.5 million euros in border surveillance equipment to six West African countries.

But human rights organizations say those arriving to Spanish shores are only a fraction of those departing. "We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg," said Sophie Muller, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' representative in Spain, who recently visited the archipelago. "They are taking impossible routes."

For every 16 people who make it to the Canaries via the Atlantic Ocean, one person dies, according to the IOM. That compares to one death for every 98 that make it to Spain via the western Mediterranean, one death for every 49 that make it to Italy or Malta via the central Mediterranean and one death for every 120 that make it to Greece via the eastern Mediterranean.

"The data show that in comparison to other maritime routes to Europe, the route to the Canaries has the highest number of deaths compared to the number of people who survive the journey and reach their destination," the IOM told the AP in a written statement.

It can take one to 10 days to reach the Spanish islands, with the closest departure point being in Tarfaya, Morocco (100 km, 62 miles) and the furthest recorded this year in Barra, in The Gambia (more than 1,600km, 1,000 miles). It is common for migrants to run out of food, water and fuel after only a few days.

On August 19, 15 lifeless Malians were spotted inside a wooden boat by a Spanish plane 148 km, (92 miles) from the island of Gran Canaria and towed back to port. At nightfall, workers pulled the bloated corpses, one by one, out of the boat with a crane. The next day, police collected what was left behind as evidence: a wallet, a dozen cell phones, windbreakers and waterproof boots.

Less than 24 hours later, another migrant boat was rescued and brought to the island with 12 people and four dead, as the AP watched. The survivors had witnessed their comrades die along the way.

"They almost didn't speak," said José Antonio Rodríguez, who heads the regional Red Cross immediate response teams. "They were in a state of shock."

One of the 12 rescued died before he could reach a hospital.

Human rights organizations aren't just concerned with the high number of deaths.

"There's been a change in profile," said Muller, the UNHCR representative in Spain. "We see more arrivals from the Sahel, from the Ivory Coast, more women, more children, more profiles that would be in need of international protection."

The Interior Ministry of Spain denied requests by the Associated Press to share nationalities of recent arrivals to the Canary Islands, claiming the information could impact international relations with the countries of origin. But UNHCR estimates that around 35% of those arriving by boat come from Mali – the nation at war with Islamic extremists where a coup d'état recently toppled president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. Around 20% of arrivals are women and 12% under 18, Muller said.

Kassim Diallo fled Mali after his father was killed in an extremist attack targeting an army base near his village in Sokolo in late January.

On Feb. 29, the 21-year-old got aboard a rubber boat in Laayoune in the Western Sahara with 35 other men, women and children. After nearly 20 hours in the water, his group was rescued and brought to the island of Fuerteventura.

"It is not normal. A human being shouldn't do this. But how else can we do it?" said Diallo.

Like most of those who crossed by boat to the archipelago this year, Diallo has been stuck on the islands

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for months. Although forced return flights to Mauritania have been halted by the pandemic, the Spanish government has also forbidden newly arrived migrants from going to the mainland, even after travel restrictions were lifted for nationals and tourists. Only a few groups, mainly women and children, have been transferred on an ad-hoc basis via the Red Cross.

"Blocking people from leaving the Canaries has turned the islands into an open-air prison," said Txema Santana, who represents the local office of the Spanish Commission to Help Refugees.

Until Diallo is granted asylum, which he has yet to apply for, he cannot work. He would love to learn Spanish, but there aren't classes available to him.

The Canary Islands were meant to be just a stepping-stone to reach "The Big Spain" or continue to France where he can at least understand the language. But for now, he remains closer to Africa than to continental Europe.

"On a European level, it should be like managing a land border," said Ángel Manuel Hernández, an evangelical pastor whose church is the main shelter for rescued migrants on Fuerteventura. "Borders are meant to be areas of transit, not areas to stay."

Hernández's church, the Modern Christian Mission, went from hosting 30 migrants two years ago to 300 this summer.

"We don't have the resources or the capacity to care for all these people with the dignity and the respect that these human beings deserve," he said.

As shelters fill up, recently arrived migrants sometimes have nowhere to sleep. More than 100 people, including women and children are currently sleeping on the floor in makeshift tents on the docks of Arguineguin, on the island of Gran Canaria, following disembarkation. The coronavirus only adds another layer of difficulty as passengers on migrant boats must be tested and quarantined as a group if any of them are found to be positive.

In response to questions emailed by the AP, Spain's government delegate in the Canary Islands Anselmo Pestana wrote: "Our effort has to focus not so much on thinking "how we distribute" immigrants, but on working at origin, so that we can prevent anyone from risking their life."

Spain's government has yet to reveal where it will place hundreds of migrants now housed in local schools when classes resume in September.

Ironically, half of the islands' hotels and resorts are closed due to the effects of the pandemic. Across the island, tourists sunbathe in the largely empty resorts as exhausted Spanish maritime rescuers continue their every-day search in the Atlantic for migrant boats in distress, hoping to reach survivors before it's too late.

Diabaté, the Ivorian mother, hopes one of them will be her eight-year-old son Moussa. They got separated back in Morocco as smugglers rushed them to the beach and onto the rubber boat that would take them to the Canary Islands.

Moussa stayed behind.

"I've been crying every day from the moment I got on that boat," she said.

Biden raises over \$360 million in August, shattering record

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden raised \$364 million in August, a record sum that will give him ample resources to compete in the final two months of the campaign against President Donald Trump.

Biden struggled to raise money early in the primary. But since he became the presumptive nominee in the spring, money has poured into his campaign. In July, he all but closed the huge cash-on-hand advantage enjoyed by Trump, who held \$300 million in reserve.

Biden's August total, which was announced on Wednesday, speaks to the enthusiasm among Democrats to oust Trump from office.

The flood of new contributions came from grassroots supporters, as well as deep-pocketed donors, and should alleviate any lingering concern over whether Democrats will be able to inundate the airwaves in

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key states.

"These numbers humble me," Biden wrote in a message to supporters. "Even in a global recession, working families set aside some money to power this campaign, and a little bit added up in a big way."

Already there are signs Biden is flush with cash.

On Monday, the campaign announced it would spend \$45 million on a broadcast and digital campaign this week. The 60-second spot features an excerpt from Biden's Monday speech in Pittsburgh when he pushed back on Trump's efforts to portray him as a supporter of the violence and unrest that has erupted in cities such as Portland, Oregon, and Kenosha, Wisconsin.

"What I'm having to spend a lot of it on is to counter the lies," Biden told reporters following a speech in Wilmington, Delaware, referring to inaccurate statements from Trump and his allies, as well as recent ads by a political action committee called Preserve America.

Preserve America, which recently launched an over \$20 million ad campaign attacking Biden, is overseen by a GOP strategist who led Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. That organization helped tank Democrat John Kerry's 2004 presidential run with misleading ads that questioned his record in the Vietnam War.

The ads they've begun airing against in battleground states against Biden feature the widow of a slain police officer who questions whether Biden supports law enforcement and inaccurately suggest he condones "rioting and looting." Biden has repeatedly spoken out against the unrest.

Trump has yet to release his fundraising figures for August. But his campaign recently acknowledged it was conserving money for after Labor Day. Though Trump plans to spend \$200 million on advertising before the election, the campaign recently they went mostly dark on the airwaves.

Trump's campaign placed an additional \$6 million in advertising this week, though he was still getting outspent by Biden by nearly double, according to advertising data, and that was before Biden announced his new \$45 million advertising plan.

Democratic officials attribute the amount raised in August to antipathy toward Trump, the selection of California Sen. Kamala Harris as Biden's vice presidential nominee and a convention that showcased Biden's empathy.

"Donald Trump is the greatest fundraising tool in the history of politics," said finance Chair Chris Korge of the Democratic National Committee.

The money was raised in conjunction with the DNC. Though candidates face a \$2,800 limit per election, Biden can raise far more than that through a joint fundraising committee with the DNC that allows him to collect individual checks worth upward of \$700,000.

The money is split between his campaign, the DNC and state parties.

The money also gives outside groups supporting Biden's campaign additional leeway to their use dollars for other efforts that could give Democrats an edge in what's expected to be a tight election, instead of just giving Biden advertising air cover.

Both parties and their allies are currently litigating dozens of court cases that pertain to election procedures — often over whether hurdles to mail voting should be upheld or eliminated.

The court cases come as Trump has tried to sow doubt about mail voting, arguing it will lead to widespread voter fraud. In fact, fraud has been exceedingly rare in the five states that previously switched to mail voting.

"Because Biden has been so successful raising money, it has allowed us to move resources into vote by mail and get out the vote programs," said Guy Cecil, chairman of Priorities USA, the largest Democratic super political action committee.

Business owners tap into savings to withstand pandemic

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When the coronavirus outbreak forced cruise lines to cancel trips to Alaska, it wiped out Midgi Moore's tour business, leaving her with thousands of dollars in deposits to refund.

Moore's company, Juneau Food Tours, didn't have enough cash on hand. So, she withdrew \$30,000 from

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her retirement account — a painful decision for a 56 year old starting to look forward to the day when she can stop working.

“It was a gut punch,” Moore says.

Many business owners are tapping the money they socked into personal savings and retirement accounts to withstand the pandemic. For some, like Moore, there are big expenses coming due while for others it’s a way to offset the losses and stay afloat until the virus eases its grip.

Owners are trying to keep their businesses alive at a critical time for the U.S. economy. Small businesses employ nearly half the nation’s work force. In April, payroll provider ADP reported nearly 20 million jobs were lost at U.S. companies and said more than half were at businesses employing under 500 people. Many economists expect a sizable portion of those job losses will be permanent.

A report issued by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that 2% of small businesses surveyed had shut down permanently in March, a number that certainly has increased since, meaning it’s likely hundreds of thousands of businesses have failed. The government’s Paycheck Protection Program helped by giving out more than 5.2 million loans to small businesses and non-profits. But owners and advocates say struggling companies need more help from Congress, and lawmakers themselves are urging the Federal Reserve to expand its lending to small and medium-sized businesses.

EDITOR’S NOTE — Click here to see the latest small business coverage from The Associated Press, including the series “Small Business Struggles,” where AP journalists tell the stories of small businesses fighting for survival.

How many owners have raided savings to shore up their companies during the pandemic is also unclear; in surveys, the number has varied widely from 4% to about 20%. Even owners with companies outside the stricken restaurant, retailing and travel industries have needed extra funds as high unemployment and a weakened economy made consumers and companies cautious about spending.

Alissa Kelly is forgoing most of her salary and has taken nearly \$15,000 out of savings to keep her Las Vegas-based publicity firm running. Kelly says she lost almost all her clients in the entertainment and restaurant industries within hours back in March.

Kelly, owner of PR Plus, was forced to lay off two of seven staffers and cut other expenses. A loan from the Paycheck Protection Program helped cover payroll for about two months. Kelly was able to get some new clients, but there was still a shortfall and she didn’t want to take on a bank loan.

Luckily, Kelly didn’t have to touch her retirement account; she and her husband had put money aside for a rainy day.

“Who would have known it would have been for this type of emergency,” she says.

Cracking open a nest egg is not a step owners take lightly; it’s a gamble that the business will recover and they’ll replenish their savings. For many it’s a better alternative than borrowing — they don’t want the burden of debt, especially during an uncertain economy. And as many owners have discovered during the virus outbreak, even a government relief loan might not fully make up for lost cash flow.

John Holloway saw sales at his life insurance website increase when news about the coronavirus broke during the winter, but business plunged when Americans retreated to their homes in March. A loan from the government “helped a bit but was quickly in and out,” says Holloway, co-founder of NoExam.com.

Holloway and his business partner each turned to personal savings to live on. Holloway estimates he’s taken between \$25,000 and \$30,000 out of retirement and emergency fund accounts to pay his family’s expenses.

Holloway says withdrawing the money made him feel like he was going backward. But business has been improving and that makes him optimistic.

“I’m banking on the long-term outlook for the business. It might in the future potentially be sold. That in my mind is where we’d be making up some of that money,” he says.

Up in Alaska, Moore has started two other businesses and plans to get a job this winter, hoping that will

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help her not only replace the savings she pumped into Juneau Food Tours but also create reserves for her companies.

Juneau Food Tours gets most of its revenue from cruise ship passengers who take tours of restaurants and bars in Alaska's capital; more than 1.3 million people took Alaskan cruises during the 2019 cruise season, according to the industry group Alaska Travel Industry Association. Moore is aware she can't count on revenue from cruise-goers for some time.

"I'm not planning for a big rebound in 2021. I'm looking at 2022," she says.

Business owners have varying strategies when it comes to savings. Those with retirement plans for their employees usually are savers, and those with children are likely to be putting money away for college tuition. But some owners see their companies as their investment. They plow profits back into their business rather than save; they expect to fund their retirement with the eventual sale of their companies.

Financial advisers recommend owners do some soul-searching before dipping into savings.

"It comes down to trying to be realistic with yourself. It's looking at not only, are you going to be able to replenish what you're going to take out, it's also looking at the missed savings that you would have hopefully captured if we weren't going through a global pandemic," says Jennifer Myers, president of Sagevest Wealth Management in McLean, Virginia.

Tom Tunney's three Ann Sather restaurants are breakfast, brunch and lunch stalwarts in their Chicago neighborhoods. Social distancing requirements have curtailed revenue and the government loan Tunney got was quickly spent paying staff.

Tunney, who's also an alderman in the Chicago City Council, estimates he's put \$250,000 of his own money into running the restaurants. He dipped into proceeds of real estate sales to replace his lost revenue, and says he's prepared to continue tapping savings until business returns to normal.

"My community and my business are everything, pretty much my family," Tunney says.

When the pandemic slammed the tourism industry, attorney Tina Willis had fewer clients at her practice in Orlando, Florida. She specializes in personal injury cases, and many clients are tourists who have accidents while on vacation.

Willis has \$5,000 in expenses each month and dipped into her retirement savings to help cover them, something she expects to have to keep doing in the coming months. While Orlando theme parks like Walt Disney World and Universal Studios are open, attendance is still a fraction of normal levels.

"We expect that the downturn will probably last at least until next spring in our business," she says.

Willis is also working at cutting costs; she expects to close her office when her lease is up in November.

"I can't keep spending \$60,000 a year," she says.

Pelosi takes heat over visit to California hair salon

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is getting heat over a solo hair salon visit in San Francisco at a time when California businesses are limited by concern over coronavirus.

But Pelosi's spokesman said she was complying with the rules as presented to her by eSalon.

"This business offered for the Speaker to come in on Monday and told her they were allowed by the city to have one customer at a time in the business," said spokesman Drew Hammill in a statement. "The Speaker complied with the rules as presented to her by this establishment."

Footage aired by Fox News Channel shows Pelosi, her mask around her neck rather than on her face, walking through the establishment. A stylist follows her, wearing a mask.

The salon owner said she rents chairs to stylists, one of whom let her know in advance that Pelosi wanted a wash and a blow dry. California guidelines on salons vary by county, but San Francisco officials have not yet permitted indoor salons to open. The owner said she considered the service "a slap in the face" to business owners who have been forced to close.

Conservatives pounced, casting Pelosi as a hypocrite.

"Speaker Pelosi has pushed policies that would keep our economy closed and our small businesses shut down. But for herself?" Senate Republicans tweeted. "A salon visit whenever she pleases."

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Pelosi says Republicans could help create the conditions to safely reopen if they would only "listen to the scientists."

"Republicans are rejecting the funding needed for testing and tracing to crush the virus and safely reopen schools and the economy," she wrote in a letter Friday to her Democratic colleagues.

This story was first published on September 1, 2020. It was updated on September 2, 2020 to correct that California guidelines on salons vary by county and San Francisco officials have not yet permitted indoor salons to reopen.

Charlie Hebdo terror attack suspects go on trial in Paris

By LORI HINNANT and NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Thirteen men and a woman went on trial Wednesday in the 2015 attacks against the Charlie Hebdo satirical newspaper and a kosher supermarket in Paris that marked the beginning of a wave of violence by the Islamic State group in Europe.

Seventeen people and all three gunmen died during the three days of attacks in January 2015. Later that year, a separate network of French and Belgian fighters for Islamic State struck Paris again, this time killing 130 people in attacks at the Bataclan concert hall, the national stadium, and in bars and restaurants.

Those on trial in France's terrorism court are accused of buying weapons, cars, and helping with logistics in the January 2015 attacks. Most say they thought they were helping plan an ordinary crime. Three, including the only woman accused, are being tried in absentia after leaving to join Islamic State.

"The trial will establish and confirm that the two attacks were coordinated. One was an attack on freedom of expression and the other was against Jews because they were Jews," Francois Hollande, who was then France's president, told RTL radio.

The attacks from Jan. 7-9, 2015, started during an editorial meeting at Charlie Hebdo, whose offices had been unmarked and guarded by police since the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad years before. Brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi gunned down 12 people before carjacking a vehicle and fleeing. They claimed the attacks in the name of al-Qaida.

Two days later, on the eve of the Jewish Sabbath, Amedy Coulibaly stormed the Hyper Cacher supermarket, killing four hostages and invoking the Islamic State group as the Kouachi brothers took control of a printing office outside the French capital. The attackers died that day during near-simultaneous police raids.

It took days more for investigators to realize that Coulibaly was also responsible for the seemingly random death of a young policewoman the previous day.

It took further weeks to unravel the network of petty criminals and neighborhood friends linking the three attackers. By then, Hayat Boumedienne, who was married to Coulibaly, had left for Syria with the help of two brothers also charged in the case. Most of the 11 who will appear insist their help in the mass killings was unwitting.

"Since 2012, terrorism capitalized on the prevailing delinquency there is around these terrorists," said Samia Maktouf, a lawyer for one of the attack survivors. "They are not second fiddles, they are full accomplices."

Despite a global outpouring of support, the attacks were also seen as a massive intelligence failure. French authorities ended a phone tap on one of the Kouachi brothers a few months before they stormed the editorial offices. At least one had trained with al-Qaida in Yemen and been convicted of an earlier terrorism offense. The brothers walked away from the carnage they had caused, escaping easily and drove through multiple dragnets before being trapped two days later.

"The government failed. If the intelligence services had done their job, this would not have happened," said Isabelle Coutant-Peyre, lawyer for the only defendant in court facing a life term. "The victims don't just want a guilty verdict, but real justice. The truth must come out."

The chief judge declined to rule on Coutant-Peyre's request for a delay in the trial to learn more about the sale of the weapons to the Kouachi brothers and Coulibaly. Investigators never determined who sold the weapons.

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Her client, Ali Riza Polat, is accused of serving as the link between the Kouachi brothers and Coulibaly. He was involved in each stage of the attack planning, according to the judicial investigation, organizing secure phone lines, checking the price of explosives and ammunition, and traveling with Coulibaly to Belgium.

Wednesday's trial opened under tight security, with multiple police checks for the main courtroom and the overflow rooms. At nearby newsstands, the latest issue of Charlie Hebdo appeared, defiantly reprinting the caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed cited by the gunmen who killed so many of the publication's editorial staff.

Patrick Pelloux, a Charlie Hebdo contributor who missed the editorial meeting the day of the killings, said he had been dreading the trial.

"You have to understand the emotion we're feeling, it's very hard," Pelloux said. "We have to let justice run its course."

Turkey condemned Charlie Hebdo's decision to republish the cartoon, saying "the insult and disrespect toward Muslims" cannot be justified as art or within the scope of freedom of expression.

"We invite our friends and politicians in Europe to take a clear stand against such attacks against our sacred values, which have been increasing recently," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

French President Emmanuel Macron refused.

"The president of the republic in France should never qualify editorial choices of a journalist, editorial staff — never," he said. "Because there is a freedom of press that you are rightly so attached to, deeply. ... There is also in France the freedom to blaspheme, which is attached to the freedom of conscience."

Angela Charlton contributed from Paris.

US further restricts Chinese diplomats travel, meetings

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Wednesday stepped up its battle with China by further restricting the ability of Chinese diplomats to travel, hold meetings with academics and host cultural events in the United States.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that senior U.S.-based Chinese diplomats will now be required to get permission to visit American universities or meet with local government officials. Previously, under rules announced last fall, Chinese officials had been required only to notify the State Department of plans for such meetings.

Pompeo also said that Chinese diplomats will have now to get permission to host cultural events of more than 50 people outside of their diplomatic missions. In addition, he said the State Department would act to ensure that the social media accounts of Chinese officials be identified as belonging to the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party.

"The United States insists on reciprocal access to educational and cultural institutions for U.S. diplomats around the world," Pompeo said. "These new requirements on PRC diplomats are a direct response to the excessive restraints already placed on our diplomats by the PRC, and they aim to provide further transparency on the practices of the PRC government. Should the PRC eliminate the restrictions imposed on U.S. diplomats, we stand ready to reciprocate."

The moves come as the administration ramps up actions against Chinese officials in a widening effort to counter what it says is unfair treatment of American diplomats in China. And they come as relations between the two countries continue to plummet amid a numerous disputes over trade, Taiwan, Tibet, human rights, Hong Kong and the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump has blamed China for failing to adequately respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, which began in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The United States has had the most deaths in the world and Trump's Democratic rival, Joe Biden, has blamed Trump for the rapid spread of the virus in the United States, which surged after Trump pushed for a lifting of restrictions. Trump, meanwhile, has accused Biden, of being soft on China.

Despite Trump's previous affinity for Chinese President Xi Jinping, his administration has since last year

consistently ratcheted up restrictions and sanctions on Chinese officials, government agencies and companies, beginning with travel limits imposed on diplomats and registration requirements for Chinese media outlets. The number of visas for Chinese journalists was also cut.

In June, the U.S. ordered China to close its consulate in Houston, Texas, which drew a reciprocal response from Beijing that forced the closure of the U.S. consulate in Chengdu. Last month, the administration demanded that Chinese-funded language and culture programs in the U.S. register as foreign missions of the Chinese Communist Party.

Zimbabwe investigating deaths of 22 elephants, more expected

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — The number of elephants dying in western Zimbabwe from a suspected bacterial infection, possibly from eating poisonous plants, has risen to 22, and “more deaths are expected,” a spokesman for the country’s parks agency said Wednesday.

Most of the elephants dying in the Pandamasue Forest, located between the vast Hwange National Park and Victoria Falls, were young or weak, said Tinashe Farawo, spokesman for the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.

With food scarce, younger elephants that can’t reach higher tree branches “end up eating everything and some of the vegetation that they eat might be poisonous,” Farawo told The Associated Press.

He said the problem could persist through the dry season. Zimbabwe has been facing successive climate-induced droughts in recent years, leaving animals with less water and vegetation for food, he said.

Apart from possible bacterial infection, some of the animals could be dying due to the stress of walking long distances for food and water, said Farawo.

Farawo said overpopulation had become “the biggest threat” to the survival of wildlife in the southern African country’s parks. The “animals are becoming a threat to themselves,” he said.

The dead young elephants were found with their tusks still on their bodies, ruling out poaching. In recent years poachers in Zimbabwe have poisoned dozens of elephants with cyanide and then have taken their ivory tusks to sell them to illegal traders.

Investigations will also try to establish if there is a link between the deaths and those reported in neighboring Botswana. Farawo, the parks spokesman, said so far “there is no evidence to link the Botswana incident and what is happening in Zimbabwe.”

Scientists are investigating the deaths last month of more than 275 elephants in Botswana’s Okavango Delta area. Poaching, poisoning and anthrax have also been ruled out in those deaths.

Animal welfare groups such as the African Wildlife Foundation, have expressed “concern” at the mysterious deaths of elephants in Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Parks rangers should urgently remove and destroy the carcasses of the elephants that are in close proximity to human settlements “to prevent any potential transfer of pathogens as a precautionary measure,” said African Wildlife Foundation Vice President of Species Conservation and Science Philip Muruthi, who is based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Botswana has the world’s largest elephant population, estimated at 156,000 and Zimbabwe has the second largest, estimated at 85,000. Last year about 200 elephants in Zimbabwe died of starvation as a result of the country’s drought.

Zimbabwe argues that it should be allowed to sell some of its elephants to foreign zoos to ease congestion and also raise more money for conservation, especially with COVID-19 induced lockdowns preventing visits of tourists from rich countries.

The congestion of wildlife in Zimbabwe’s parks has also resulted in increased conflict between animals and humans living close to the national parks or forests. More than 50 people have been killed in such conflicts countrywide so far this year, the deadliest in a decade, said the parks spokesman.

In Peru, virus erodes centuries-old burial traditions

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Every day Joselyn García lights two red candles before a marble urn that holds her mother's ashes in the living room of her wooden home in the north of Peru's capital.

She tells her mother how much everyone misses her, and recounts the latest goings-on in the family — the state of García's online clothing business and how people are handling the lockdown.

"It's such a relief," says García, 25, the only daughter of María Cochachín, who worked cleaning offices in Peru's Economy Ministry before she contracted the novel coronavirus.

Burial was a tradition for both Peru's indigenous Inca culture and the Spanish who colonized the country. And millions of Peruvians would visit their loved ones' graves at least once a year, many more frequently, to eat and drink and pay tribute to the deceased on the Day of the Dead every November.

With the arrival of the pandemic, that tradition has taken a blow. To prevent infection and save space in the capital's overstretched cemeteries, people have begun to cremate the dead, fundamentally changing the rites and traditions that surround death in the country.

"It's unprecedented," said Christopher Heaney, a history professor and expert on Inca funeral rites at Penn State University.

The Day of the Dead tradition is replicating itself, in tiny ways across Lima, in the shrines people are building inside their homes, said Adam Warren, an expert on medicine in Peru at the University of Washington.

At least 4,686 coronavirus victims were cremated in Peru between March and mid-August, according to Health Ministry officials. That's nearly 20% of the 25,000 confirmed coronavirus deaths in the country.

In March, Peru ordered the cremation of all coronavirus victims, one of the strictest rules in the region, in order to prevent people from being infected by contact with bodies. Other countries including Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Ecuador allowed burials, and at the end of April, Peru softened the rule somewhat, allowing funerals, but with no more than five mourners.

Still, many families complained that hospitals were insisting on cremation anyway.

When Cochachín died May 24, García said, hospital officials said cremation was mandatory to avoid infection of the living.

Her mother's ashes were delivered several weeks later. García remains convinced that she could have buried her mother as she wanted, in a white coffin.

She said she dreams regularly of her mother bemoaning her cremation.

Along with cremations, burials have continued, with nearly 200 deaths daily due to a rate of infection that continues to be among the world's highest. Many families must hunt down spots in economical and far-flung cemeteries on the outskirts of Lima.

Rolando Yarlequé has put the urn holding the ashes of his wife, María Carmen, 68, next to his bed in the tiny room the two rented together in the City of God neighborhood in southeast Lima.

Yarlequé, a 62-year-old evangelical Christian, says he is saving up the \$200 he will need to bury her ashes someday because he believes it will be necessary for her resurrection.

"One day the earth will give back the dead," he says, "And the Bible doesn't talk about cremation."

'Tiger King' star Carole Baskin to 'Dancing With the Stars'

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

Like all cool cats and kittens, Carole Baskin is going to "Dancing With the Stars."

The reality TV star who became a pop culture sensation with Netflix's docuseries "Tiger King" is joining the new crop of celebrity dancers that includes TV and film actress Anne Heche, former NBA star Charles Oakley and Backstreet Boys singer AJ McLean.

The new season premieres on ABC on Sept. 14.

On the Netflix series "Tiger King", Baskin, who owns a big cat refuge, sought to shut down Joseph Maldonado-Passage's for-profit breeding of big cats. His nickname is "Joe Exotic" and her signature line is "cool cats and kittens."

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Maldonado-Passage is serving a 22-year federal prison term for killing five tigers and plotting to have Baskin killed. In June, a federal judge awarded Baskin ownership of the private Oklahoma zoo run by Maldonado-Passage.

Others slated to appear on the dancing show are cheer team coach Monica Aldama, "Bachelorette" star Kaitlyn Bristowe, NFL star Vernon Davis, actress Skai Jackson, actress Justina Machado, TV host Jeannie Mai, Jesse Metcalfe, rapper Nelly, TV host Nev Schulman, real estate agent Chrishell Stause and Olympian Johnny Weir.

Supermodel and businesswoman Tyra Banks will host the new season after longtime co-host Tom Bergeron and Erin Andrews announced their exits from the series in July.

HHS canceling ventilator contracts, says stockpile is full

By MICHAEL BIESECKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is canceling some of its remaining orders for ventilators, after rushing to sign nearly \$3 billion in emergency contracts as the COVID-19 pandemic surged in the spring.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a statement Tuesday affirming that the national stockpile has now reached its maximum capacity for the life-saving breathing machines, with nearly 120,000 available for deployment to state and local health officials if needed. Though the orders were billed as a cost-saving measure, Democrats said the cancellations show the White House vastly overspent in its quest to fulfill President Donald Trump's pledge to make the United States the "King of Ventilators."

"By terminating the remainder of deliveries from these contracts, HHS is balancing federal stockpile requirements with commercial market demand for ventilators," said Carol Danko, an agency spokesperson. "As a result, HHS is saving the U.S. taxpayer millions of dollars by halting delivery of additional ventilators that are no longer required."

The agency didn't have an estimate for how much taxpayers would save by canceling the contracts because the terms and potential penalties for the early terminations were still being negotiated with the companies involved.

HHS confirmed it was terminating contracts with ventilator manufacturers Hamilton Medical and Vyair Medical, which will result in the reduction of 38,000 ventilators that had been scheduled for delivery to the National Strategic Stockpile by the end of 2020.

An agency spokesperson declined to comment on the status of its largest ventilator contract, a massive \$647 million deal with Philips that is now the subject of an internal HHS investigation and legal review.

But Steve Klink, a spokesman for Philips at the company's headquarters in Amsterdam, confirmed that its contract had also been canceled and that it will not deliver the remaining 30,700 ventilators on its order to the U.S. stockpile.

Klink said HHS had not yet given the company any "formal reason" for the cancellation.

"Unlike typically in the private sector, the U.S. government does not need any reason to terminate an agreement," Klink said. "We can confidently say that we have delivered on our commitments. While we are disappointed in light of our massive efforts, we will work with HHS to effectuate the partial termination of this contract."

The Philips contract has been under scrutiny because the company had signed a 2019 agreement to deliver 10,000 basic emergency ventilators to the national stockpile by 2022 at a cost of about \$3,280 each. But once the COVID pandemic hit, the company inked a new deal with the Trump administration to provide 43,000 of its more complicated and expensive hospital-grade models at an average cost of about \$15,000 each.

The company has said it still plans to deliver the 10,000 low-cost ventilators over the next two years under its earlier contract.

House Democrats said they would expand their probe into the White House's handling of the Phillips contract, which they said was negotiated by Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro.

"American taxpayers deserve to have their money well spent," said Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, chairman

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of the House Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy. "Incompetent negotiations by top Trump Administration officials, like Peter Navarro, wasted hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars."

White House deputy press secretary Sarah Matthews said Navarro "played a vital role in our coronavirus response" by helping oversee federal contracts that helped create thousands of jobs.

"While the Trump Administration has been focused on saving lives, House Democrats continue to focus on pointless investigations," Matthews said.

As the virus took hold and began to spread widely across the U.S. in March, governors and mayors of big cities urged Trump to use his authority under the Defense Production Act to direct private companies to ramp up production of ventilators. At the time, the national stockpile had only about 16,660 ventilators ready to deploy.

Trump initially resisted calls to invoke the Korean War-era production act, but at the end of March he promised to deliver 100,000 new ventilators within 100 days. The president then tasked his son-in-law, White House adviser Jared Kushner, with leading the effort. During the month of April, HHS issued a flurry of emergency contracts to established ventilator companies, as well as U.S. automakers Ford and General Motors.

"We became the king of ventilators, thousands and thousands of ventilators," Trump boasted in an April 29 speech.

But by the time the new machines were being delivered to the stockpile in the early summer, most doctors were moving away from the widespread use of ventilators in all but the most critically ill COVID-19 patients due to high death rates for those put on the machines.

The AP reported in May that the administration had issued contracts for delivery of nearly 200,000 ventilators by the end of 2020 — roughly twice what experts then predicted the country would need.

GM said Tuesday it has finished making all 30,000 ventilators under its \$489 million contract. Ford announced earlier it had finished making 50,000 ventilators for the government at a cost of \$336 million.

Follow Associated Press Investigative Reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://Twitter.com/mbieseck>

In mock funerals and '42' jerseys, kids mourn Black Panther

By LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In their driveways or in their bedrooms, using little cardboard boxes or piles of backyard dirt, young fans of "Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman paid their respects with lots of Wakanda salutes and mock funerals attended by action figures.

Soon after the shocking news of Boseman's death Friday at age 43, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles began posting photos of funerals staged by kids for King T'Challa, the actor's lead character from the Marvel blockbuster. Some of those posts have been shared thousands of times amid an outpouring of grief from admirers of all ages who were unaware he had been battling colon cancer for four years.

Other young fans mourned in more private ways, watching "Black Panther" and "42" for the umpteenth time with their families in Boseman's honor.

To many kids, his passing was a life event, driven by the change-makers he portrayed but also by his heartfelt comments in awards speeches and interviews about the need for more opportunities for people of color.

Boseman's King T'Challa, ruler of the fictional African nation of Wakanda, was introduced in 2016's "Captain America: Civil War." His "Wakanda Forever" salute reverberated around the world after the release of "Black Panther" two years ago. The actor's turn as baseball great Jackie Robinson in "42" came out in 2013 and is now being discovered by younger fans.

Nick Cummings, 11, of Louisville, Kentucky, loves both films. He stumbled on word of Boseman's death on TikTok, before his mother had broken the news.

"At first when I heard it I didn't believe it," he said Monday. "I felt like a part of me got erased."

A little too old for action figure funerals, Nick, who is Black, donned his baseball jersey emblazoned with

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Robinson's "42" and had no plans to take it off any time soon.

Twins Lenny and Bobby Homes in Mesa, Arizona, are 10. Their mom, Annalie, had no intention of telling the boys, who are Filipino American, about Boseman's death, but they found out on their own Sunday on YouTube. They went the funeral route, using a black car seat for their prone Black Panther.

Dad David Homes is a big Marvel enthusiast. He began schooling his sons in both the comics and films when they were little. How many times have they seen "Black Panther"?

"A lot!" the two chimed in unison.

Of Boseman's death, Lenny said: "We were really sad. He was one of our favorite actors. When we heard, we were like, the Panther needs a funeral. He was a good king. He was very nice and kind, and he followed the rules."

Annalie said she wanted to shield the boys from the news because they lost a grandfather less than a month ago.

The twins have more than 100 action figures and their own YouTube channel. They gathered up 13 of their favorite characters for the funeral Sunday, including Thor, Black Widow, Rocket Raccoon, Hulk and Spider-Man. The toys' arms can't bend into the Wakanda salute, so the boys arranged them with arms extended, reaching out to T'Challa.

Djoser Burruss, 12, of San Diego took the news hard. One of his grandmothers died of the same type of cancer. Djoser, who is African American, posted a tribute to Boseman on Instagram: "R.I.P. Chadwick Boseman, the one and only Black Panther. We mourn your passing but you will forever live in our hearts. Thank you for showing us what KINGS do."

In an interview Tuesday, Djoser added: "I saw it on my phone and I was devastated. We kind of owe it to ourselves to be better every day because not every day is guaranteed, just like Chadwick, but he did so much in those four years."

His mother, Christina, said the family rewatched "Black Panther" last weekend, along with videos of Boseman speaking out on behalf of Black people to "soak up all of his energy and his wisdom."

Gavyn Batiste, 7, in Lafayette, Louisiana, has seen "Black Panther" a half dozen times. He invited Captain America, Thor and Hulk, among other Avengers, to the funeral he held. He also wrote a song for T'Challa that goes like this:

"Black Panther is gone. I don't know what to say. I never thought this would happen in my day. This is sad. I am mad. I don't know how to feel. It still feels unreal. Wakanda Forever!"

Sonya Antoine, Gavyn's mom, said the film offers Black children a "sense of hope, a sense of dreaming, and to just embrace who you are in your culture and what that culture can mean to you and your family."

Nick's mother, Deedee Cummings, writes children's books with diverse characters and knows how rare it is to find Afrocentric fare for children like the futuristic world in "Black Panther." She recalled how happy her son was to see the film in a theater with a neighbor when it first came out. Both wore Wakanda gear.

The family watched the movie again on TV after Boseman's death. Nick sat solemnly this time around. "He never sits still," Deedee said. "This time he did."

Deedee thinks parents shouldn't keep the news of Boseman's death from their young kids.

"It's so important to acknowledge this loss to children, especially Black children," she said.

Susan Nicholas in Atlanta also writes for children. Her book, "The Death of Cupcake," is out in November and focuses on grief among kids. Boseman's death, she said, may be difficult for parents to discuss because they're reluctant to burst the larger-than-life bubble created in movies.

"But kids actually have insights that are quite profound," she said. "We can all elevate our perspectives around death to really heal from that. At the end of the day, those are human beings in those costumes and they succumb to death, too, even if Hollywood doesn't allow them to die."

Former Italian premier Berlusconi tests positive for COVID

ROME (AP) — Italy's former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi has tested positive for COVID-19 after a precautionary check and will quarantine at home, his press office said on Wednesday.

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Berlusconi, who is 83, is currently isolated in his Arcore residence near Milan, his office said, adding that he will continue to work from there as he completes the necessary quarantine period.

His personal doctor, Alberto Zangrillo, said that the former premier is "asymptomatic," Italian media reported.

Reports said Berlusconi confirmed the news in a private Zoom conversation with the women's movement of Forza Italia, his centrist party.

The three-time premier and media tycoon had been recently pictured in Sardinia with an old friend, businessman Flavio Briatore, who was hospitalized after testing positive to COVID-19 in mid August. Berlusconi had tested negative at the time.

Berlusconi has recently gained new attention on Italy's political scene ahead of regional elections in late September, when Forza Italia could prove crucial for a possible win of the center-right opposition.

"(Berlusconi) will continue to support Forza Italia and center-right candidates at the regional and administrative elections, with daily interviews on papers, TV and social media," his office said in a statement.

As Italy continues to battle against the coronavirus pandemic – which killed more than 35,400 people nationwide – the political leader known around the world for his personal life was back at the center of both political action and summer gossip.

He made headlines last month after Italian tabloids published pictures of him walking hand-in-hand in Sardinia with his new girlfriend, Forza Italia lawmaker Marta Fascina, who is 53 years his junior.

Berlusconi split in March from his long-time partner Francesca Pascale.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 3, the 247th day of 2020. There are 119 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 3, 2005, President George W. Bush ordered more than 7,000 active duty forces to the Gulf Coast as his administration intensified efforts to rescue Katrina survivors and send aid to the hurricane-ravaged region in the face of criticism it did not act quickly enough.

On this date:

In 1609, English explorer Henry Hudson and his crew aboard the Half Moon entered present-day New York Harbor and began sailing up the river that now bears his name. (They reached present-day Albany before turning back.)

In 1861, during the Civil War, Confederate forces invaded the border state of Kentucky, which had declared its neutrality in the conflict.

In 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail." The same day, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner SS Athenia some 250 miles off the Irish coast, killing more than 100 out of the 1,400 or so people on board.

In 1943, Allied forces invaded Italy during World War II, the same day Italian officials signed a secret armistice with the Allies.

In 1967, Nguyen Van Thieu (nwen van too) was elected president of South Vietnam under a new constitution.

In 1970, legendary football coach Vince Lombardi, 57, died in Washington, D.C.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the red planet's surface.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was installed as the 264th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1995, the online auction site eBay was founded in San Jose, California, by Pierre Omidyar under the name "AuctionWeb."

In 1999, a French judge closed a two-year inquiry into the car crash that killed Princess Diana, dismissing

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all charges against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist, and concluding the accident was caused by an inebriated driver.

In 2003, Paul Hill, a former minister who said he murdered an abortion doctor and his bodyguard to save the lives of unborn babies, was executed in Florida by injection, becoming the first person put to death in the United States for anti-abortion violence.

In 2012, Sun Myung Moon, 92, a self-proclaimed messiah who founded the Unification Church, died in Gapeyeong, South Korea. Prolific character actor Michael Clarke Duncan, 54, died in Los Angeles.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates toured U.S. bases and war zones in Afghanistan, saying he saw and heard evidence that the American counterinsurgency strategy was taking hold in critical Kandahar province. The Fox network announced that Kara DioGuardi was stepping down as one of the judges on "American Idol," following the departures of Simon Cowell and Ellen DeGeneres.

Five years ago: A federal judge jailed Rowan County, Kentucky, Clerk Kim Davis for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, but five of her deputies agreed to issue the licenses themselves, potentially ending the church-state standoff. (Davis was freed five days later.) Tom Brady had his four-game "Deflategate" suspension lifted after U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman criticized NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for dispensing "his own brand of industrial justice." Judy Carne, 76, a star of the comedy show "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In," died at Northampton General Hospital in England.

One year ago: Relief officials reported scenes of utter ruin in parts of the Bahamas from Hurricane Dorian, the most powerful storm on record ever to hit the islands. Walmart said it would stop selling ammunition for handguns and short-barrel rifles, and the store chain requested that customers not openly carry firearms in its stores; the announcement followed a shooting at a Walmart store in Texas that left 22 people dead. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered a major defeat in Parliament as rebellious lawmakers voted to seize control of the Brexit agenda; they sought to keep Britain from leaving the EU without a deal in place.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Pauline Collins is 80. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 78. Actor Valerie Perrine is 77. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 72. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 65. Actor Steve Schirripa is 63. Actor Holt McCallany is 56. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 55. Actor Costas Mandylor is 55. Actor Charlie Sheen is 55. Singer Jennifer Paige is 47. Dance-rock musician Redfoo is 45. Actor Ashley Jones is 44. Actor Nichole Hiltz is 42. Actor Joel Johnstone is 42. Actor Nick Wechsler is 42. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 41. Bluegrass musician Darren Nicholson (Balsam Range) is 37. Actor Christine Woods is 37. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 36. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 34. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 28.