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**Sponsors
Needed
for these
events**

Tues., Sept. 8:

Volleyball: Webster in Groton

Thurs., Sept. 10:

Volleyball at Sisseton

Sat., Sept. 12: Boys Soccer:

SF Christian in Groton

**Message us or Call/Text Paul at
605/397-7460 for details**



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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While everyone was looking at the field or visiting, Jeslyn Kosel was looking in the sky and this unique cloud was hoovering over Doney Field at half time.

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Before we get into the week one preview, let's cover what happened this past weekend when the Vikings cut their roster from 90 players down to 53. This is subject to change, but as of now, the Vikings' roster looks like this:

Offense

Quarterbacks Kirk Cousins, Sean Mannion. Running Backs Dalvin Cook, Alexander Mattison, Ameer Abdullah, Mike Boone. Full Back C.J. Ham. Wide Receivers Adam Thielen, Justin Jefferson, Bisi Johnson, Tajae Sharpe, Chad Beebe, K.J. Osborn, Dan Chisena. Tight Ends Kyle Rudolph, Irv Smith Jr., Tyler Conklin. Offensive Linemen Riley Reiff, Dakota Dozier, Garrett Bradbury, Pat Elflein, Brian O'Neill, Ezra Cleveland, Rashod Hill, Dru Samia, Olisaemeka Udoh.

Defense

Defensive Linemen Danielle Hunter, Shamar Stephen, Ifeadi Odenigbo, Yannick Ngakoue, Jalyn Holmes, Jaleel Johnson, James Lynch, Hercules Mata'afa, Armon Watts, D.J. Wonnum, Eddie Yarbrough. Linebackers Anthony Barr, Eric Kendricks, Eric Wilson, Troy Dye, Ryan Connelly (claimed off waivers from the New York Giants). Cornerbacks Mike Hughes, Holton Hill, Jeff Gladney, Cameron Dantzler, Kris Boyd, Harrison Hand. Safeties Harrison Smith, Anthony Harris (I would imagine the Vikings will bring in at least one more safety). Specialists Dan Bailey (K), Britton Colquitt (P), Austin Cutting (LS).

And now, on to the game preview!

Amid a global pandemic, the world hasn't felt normal for a while now. The return of football won't make everything better, but maybe, just maybe, it will help us all feel like things are starting to look up.

On Sunday, September 13, the Minnesota Vikings will start their march towards a championship against their rivals from across the border, the Green Bay Packers. The Vikings are currently favored by 2.5 points, mainly because this game will be played in Minneapolis, but there won't be any fans in the stadium so any home-field advantage will be minimal.

The Packers drafted a quarterback in the first round this year, and while that might have made Vikings fans chuckle, it undoubtedly made Aaron Rodgers enraged. He will be on a mission this season to prove his doubters wrong, and the Vikings – with their young and inexperienced cornerback group – just might be in trouble.

The game plan for the Vikings will be simple: chew up the clock while on offense and unleash their talented pass rushers on defense. As of now Danielle Hunter is still recovering from some unknown injury and hasn't been practicing, and Yannick Ngakoue just got to Minnesota so he will take some time to learn the playbook.

Add it all up, and this could be a rough game for the Vikings. Yet with how strange everything has been this year, who knows what will happen. Either way, we'll be here cheering on the purple and gold! Skol!



By Jordan Wright

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#196 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

I have our usual Sunday two-week summary. Honestly, not much has changed; all of the rates of growth are slightly lower, but that decline is slowing. We still show broadened growth in cases; many different states are having increased growth in cases.

As is typical over weekends, the Sunday increase in numbers of new cases and deaths are both smaller than they've been running and lower than Saturday. I generally mention that we'll need to wait for Tuesday to see whether there's any sort of trend here; it will likely take longer this week because most testing sites have closed for the holiday weekend. I think we're going to see artificially depressed numbers early in the week with some catch-up increases toward the end of the week. For today, we are back below 40,000 new cases with just 32,000, a 0.5% increase. We're now at 6,291,000 reported cases, averaging 40,700 per day over the past week and 41,250 over the past two weeks.

The rate of increase continues to decline; we're in our seventh week that this is so. One-week increase in total cases was 292,600 (5.1%) last week and is 284,900 (4.7%) this week. Two-week increase was 593,200 (11.0%) last week and is 577,500 (10.1%) this week. I hope this trend continues.

I track 54 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and five of these showed two-week rates of increase greater than 25%. Here are the states with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: Hawaii (49.45% - big decrease), Guam (49.08%), North Dakota (38.01%), South Dakota (33.97% - increase), and Montana (28.37%). The US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico both fell off this list this week. We still have 34 states and territories with growth rates above the US growth rate, which is worrisome because it indicates the higher rates of transmission are spread across the country.

I am showing 17 states and territories with 14-day trends that are high and staying high: Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and South Carolina. I have two states high and declining; these are Mississippi and Georgia. I have nine states low but increasing: Montana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Delaware. I have 26 staying low: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Maine, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. There is a fair amount of movement among these categories from day to day.

New deaths today are well below yesterday at 387, a 0.2% increase to 188,788. As usual, we are not overanalyzing weekend numbers. The average death count over the past week is just 832; while that's too many, it's better than we were doing.

I'll note here that I am seeing many unsettling news reports today of large holiday weekend gatherings in many locations across the nation. The photos I am seeing do not indicate that people in some very large crowds are distancing, wearing masks, or taking other precautions. This makes me shudder. I guess we'll see over the oncoming weeks how this plays out, but there is ample cause for concern here.

Eleanor J. Murray, assistant professor of epidemiology at the Boston University School of Public Health suggests a way people who want to enjoy a holiday weekend without worrying about disease can still be responsible citizens. She cites that wedding in Maine with 65 guests which has resulted in 147 cases (and counting) and three deaths of people who didn't even attend the wedding. She said that, if you want to ignore public health guidelines this weekend, then you should place yourself into quarantine for two weeks after the event. "If those people at the wedding had said, 'This is a risk I'm personally willing to take,' but after the wedding they had quarantined, then the maximum number of cases would have been the 65 wedding attendees." And, I might add, at least so far, no dead people at all. I'm going to guess—or at least hope—that if we asked the people who gave the infection to the three dead people whether they'd have quarantined if they had known it would keep those folks alive, they would say, "Of course." Anyone here think you would refuse to give up going places for two weeks if you were saving a life? I certainly

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hope not.

We've talked about campus hot spots over the past few weeks; but something we haven't really addressed is what happens in the communities around these campuses, what happens to the community members who are not students or university employees. And what happens hasn't been so great so far. The University of Iowa is an example, although certainly not the only one. It lies in Iowa City, population 75,000. The town relies economically on the University, its largest employer, whose students are an important market, not to mention the economic impact of its sports programs. There are other impacts, as it turns out: The University has recorded more than 1400 cases since the semester began, Johnson County, home to Iowa City, more than 4000. It's easy to see how a town might really want—need—the students in town, but also fear having the students in town, especially the way things are working out. I don't know how you balance the competing interests. People's livelihoods are on the line, but so are their lives. We should not be in this position at this point in the sequence of events, but here we are, making impossible choices. We're up to over 51,000 cases at 1020 colleges.

We've talked about long-term damage to the lungs seen in Covid-19 survivors. There appears to be good news on that front: two studies, although I will caution that neither has been peer-reviewed yet. Both were presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress (I do not know whether they met remotely or in person). The first shows that lung impairment does "ameliorate over time, which suggests the lungs have a mechanism for repairing themselves," according to Dr. Sagina Sahanic, clinical PhD student at the University Clinic in Innsbruck, Austria. This study of just 86 patients showed 50% with persisting shortness of breath and pathological findings on CT scan of the lungs six weeks after hospital discharge, both of which improved with time. And the second found that pulmonary rehabilitation early in the recovery process was associated with improvements in lung capacity, balance, muscle strength, and fatigue. It's early yet, but these findings are hopeful.

I heard something remarkable yesterday on NPR. Scott Simon, host of Weekend Edition Saturday, often does sort of an essay on something that is of-the-moment. This one spoke to me, so I'm just going to let Simon tell it in his inimitable way. Enjoy.

"Now and then, two news stories rub up against each other and strike sparks.

"This week David Blaine, the magician and illusionist, strapped himself to 52 helium-filled balloons, lifted off into the big, blue skies above Arizona's Great Basin Desert and floated. It was something out of a childhood dream.

"I want to go up and become a tiny dot in the sky," he had told the New York Post.

"He called his performance Ascension. He ascended almost five miles, up where the air is thin and cold, before he cut loose from the balloons, plunged through the sky at more than a hundred miles an hour, then pulled the string on a parachute and steered back to earth, where he landed on his feet and said: 'Wow. That was awesome.'

"Mr. Blaine spent years preparing for his performance, which was live streamed on YouTube. He became a certified hot air balloonist and skydiver, making more than 500 jumps.

"He told his 9-year old daughter, Dessa, 'This is all for you.'

"A day earlier, 16 stories above the streets of Manhattan, a woman clung to the outside of her window in Harlem after a fire broke out in her apartment. A firefighter named Brian Quinn fastened a rope to himself and rappelled down to her from the floor above.

"She was screaming she was going to die," he told CBS News. 'She did not want to let go.' The firefighter added, 'I was scared. When you're up that high, it's scary.'

"He was like Spider-Man, Superman," Kyra Walker, a neighbor, told reporters. 'Coming out that window, encasing her body to make her feel safe.'

"It was apparently the first time in years New York firefighters have used a 'rope rescue,' which may be as dangerous as any feat of daring by David Blaine. But like the performer, they rehearse and prepare.

'They train, they train, they train,' said Daniel Nigro, New York's Fire Commissioner, 'so even something that's so infrequent, they're able to do just like that.' The woman Brian Quinn and his colleagues rescued

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is now recovering in the hospital.

"One of these two people who shared a few seconds of the news this week is a celebrity, famed and rewarded for his daring; the other, a public servant, whose courageous acts are mostly off-camera, often taken for granted. But I think they'd recognize some quality in each other.

"Their stories emerge together in these vexing times, to remind us how human beings can still be bold and brave. We can soar on flights of imagination, and save each other with our hands and hearts."

Shall we all soar on flights of imagination and save each other with our hands and hearts? Sounds good to me.

Stay well. I'll see you tomorrow.

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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 | Sept. 4 | Sept. 5 | Sept. 6 | Sept. 7 | |
| Minnesota | 76,355 | 77,085 | 78,123 | 78,966 | 79,880 | 80,587 | |
| Nebraska | 34,574 | 34,995 | 35,469 | 35,661 | 35,805 | 35,886 | |
| Montana | 7,509 | 7,691 | 7,871 | 8,018 | 8,164 | 8,264 | |
| Colorado | 57,775 | 58,019 | 58,287 | 58,655 | 58,989 | 59,274 | |
| Wyoming | 3,282 | 3,311 | 3,334 | | 3,386 | 3,425 | |
| North Dakota | 12,000 | 12,267 | 12,629 | 12,974 | 13,334 | 13,631 | |
| South Dakota | 13,749 | 14,003 | 14,337 | 14,596 | 14,889 | 15,109 | |
| United States | 6,073,121 | 6,115,098 | 6,151,101 | 6,210,699 | 6,246,162 | 6,277,902 | |
| US Deaths | 184,644 | 185,752 | 186,606 | 187,874 | 188,540 | 188,942 | |
| Minnesota | +491 | +730 | +1,038 | +843 | +914 | +707 | |
| Nebraska | +287 | +421 | +474 | +192 | +144 | +81 | |
| Montana | +88 | +182 | +180 | +147 | +146 | +100 | |
| Colorado | +351 | +244 | +268 | +368 | +334 | +285 | |
| Wyoming | +18 | +29 | +23 | | +52 | +39 | |
| North Dakota | +184 | +267 | +362 | +345 | +360 | +297 | |
| South Dakota | +240 | +254 | +334 | +259 | +293 | +220 | |
| United States | +41,835 | +41,977 | +36,003 | +59,598 | +35,463 | +31,740 | |
| US Deaths | +1,042 | +1,108 | +854 | +1,268 | +666 | +402 | |

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September 6th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Cheer up South Dakota and keep up the good work. If today's numbers are any indication, we may have hit our peak - but we need to do this several days to make it work. Our state's positivity rate tanked to 6.5 percent while North Dakota remains at 18.1 percent. We have had more recovered cases in South Dakota than positive cases, resulting in the active number dropping by 39 to 3,018. Those currently hospitalized dropped by five to 81 with no deaths. North Dakota had one death. Our percentage recovered is inching upward each day, now at 78.9 percent. Haakon and Miner counties are back on the fully recovered list.

Locally, Brown County had 18 positive, 17 recovered, a positivity rate of 8.1 percent and 169 active cases. Day County had two positive and one recovered case for 11 active cases. Edmunds County had three positive, one recovered for nine active cases. Marshall County had no change so they remain with two active cases. McPherson had one person recovered so their active number is down to two. Spink County had seven positive cases, two recovered and their active number is now 27.

Brown County:

Total Positive: +18 (792) Positivity Rate: 8.1%

Recovered: +17 (620)

Active Cases: +1 (169)

Total Tests: 223 (8574)

Ever Hospitalized: +1 (30)

Deaths: 0 (3)

Percent Recovered: 78.3 (+0.4)

South Dakota:

Positive: +220 (15,109 total) Positivity Rates: 6.5%

Total Tests: 3,388 (207,850 total)

Hospitalized: +11 (1,079 total). 81 currently hospitalized (down 5 from yesterday)

Deaths: +0 (173 total)

Recovered: +259 (11,918 total)

Active Cases: -39 (3,018)

Percent Recovered: 78.9 +0.6

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 46% Non-Covid, 51% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 5% Covid, 58% Non-Covid, 37% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 14% Non-Covid, 81% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Haakon, Miner): Aurora 42-42, Haakon 6-6, Harding 2-2, Jackson 12-11-1, Miner 17-17, 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): +6 recovered (18 active cases)

Bennett: +1 positive, +2 recovered (15 active cases)

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

Brookings (1): +23 positive, +26 recovered (186 active cases)

Brown (3): +18 positive, +17 recovered (169 active cases)

Brule: +2 positive (17 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +2 positive, +1 recovered (5 active cases)

Butte (1): +2 positive, +2 recovered (25 active cases)

Campbell: Fully Recovered

Charles Mix: +1 recovered (10 active cases)

Clark: 5 active cases

Clay (3) +3 positive, +12 recovered (167 active cases)

Codington (2): +32 positive, +16 recovered (201 active cases)

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Corson: +1 recovered (14 active cases)
 Custer (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (63 active case)
 Davison (2): +3 positive, +2 recovered (29 active cases)
 Day: +2 positive, +1 recovered (11 active cases)
 Deuel: +1 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)
 Dewey: +2 positive (32 active cases)
 Douglas: +1 recovered (10 active cases)
 Edmunds: +3 positive, +1 recovered (9 active cases)
 Fall River (1): +2 positive (36 active cases)
 Faulk (1): +2 positive (10 active cases)
 Grant: +1 positive (17 active cases)
 Gregory (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (25 active cases)
 Haakon: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 6-6)
 Hamlin: +3 positive (22 active cases)
 Hand: 2 active cases
 Hanson: 4 active cases
 Harding: Fully Recovered
 Hughes (4): +4 positive, +1 recovered (24 active cases)
 Hutchinson (1): +4 positive, +2 recovered (20 active cases)
 Hyde: 4 active cases
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered
 Jerauld (1): 4 active cases
 Jones: +1 positive (3 active cases)
 Kingsbury: +2 recovered (3 active cases)
 Lake (6): +1 positive, +2 recovered (15 active cases)
 Lawrence (4): +2 positive, +11 recovered (96 active cases)

Lincoln (2): +21 positive, +20 recovered (164 active cases)
 Lyman (3): +1 recovered (12 active cases)
 Marshall: 2 active cases
 McCook (1): +1 positive, +4 recovered (15 active cases)
 McPherson: +1 recovered (2 active case)
 Meade (1): +6 positive, +12 recovered (130 active cases)
 Mellette: 1 active case
 Miner: +2 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 17-17)
 Minnehaha (70): +30 positive, +47 recovered (643 active cases)
 Moody: +4 positive (18 active cases)
 Oglala Lakota (2): +2 positive, +1 recovered (35 active cases)
 Pennington (33): +19 positive, +24 recovered (444 active cases)
 Perkins: +1 recovered (12 active cases)
 Potter: +4 recovered (14 active cases)
 Roberts (1): 16 active cases
 Sanborn: +1 recovered (4 active cases)
 Spink: +7 positive, +2 recovered (27 active cases)
 Stanley: +1 recovered (1 active case)
 Sully: Fully Recovered
 Todd (5): +1 recovered (9 active cases)
 Tripp: 3 active cases
 Turner: +5 positive, +1 recovered (25 active cases)
 Union (5): +3 recovered (41 active cases)
 Walworth: +2 positive, +3 recovered (19 active cases)
 Yankton (3): +7 positive, +3 recovered (70 active cases)
 Ziebach: 12 active cases

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Age Range | # of Cases | # of Deaths |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 0-9 years | 496 | 0 |
| 10-19 years | 1587 | 0 |
| 20-29 years | 3854 | 2 |
| 30-39 years | 2690 | 7 |
| 40-49 years | 2081 | 7 |
| 50-59 years | 2034 | 19 |
| 60-69 years | 1279 | 30 |
| 70-79 years | 610 | 27 |
| 80+ years | 478 | 81 |

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, September 5:

- 4,759 tests (1,654)
- 13,631 positives (+299) 18.1%
- 10,821 recovered (+181)
- 156 deaths (+1)
- 2,653 active cases (+114)

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Sex | # of Cases | # of Deaths |
|--------|------------|-------------|
| Female | 7643 | 87 |
| Male | 7466 | 86 |

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| County | Positive Cases | Recovered Cases | Negative Persons | Deceased | Community Spread |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
| Aurora | 42 | 42 | 442 | 0 | None |
| Beadle | 645 | 618 | 2074 | 9 | Substantial |
| Bennett | 33 | 18 | 581 | 0 | Substantial |
| Bon Homme | 58 | 41 | 1003 | 1 | Substantial |
| Brookings | 491 | 304 | 3602 | 1 | Substantial |
| Brown | 792 | 620 | 5746 | 3 | Substantial |
| Brule | 76 | 59 | 906 | 0 | Substantial |
| Buffalo | 112 | 104 | 685 | 3 | Minimal |
| Butte | 54 | 28 | 892 | 1 | Substantial |
| Campbell | 4 | 4 | 120 | 0 | Minimal |
| Charles Mix | 124 | 114 | 1788 | 0 | Moderate |
| Clark | 22 | 17 | 452 | 0 | Minimal |
| Clay | 449 | 279 | 1906 | 3 | Substantial |
| Codington | 446 | 245 | 3728 | 2 | Substantial |
| Corson | 67 | 53 | 650 | 0 | Moderate |
| Custer | 138 | 74 | 849 | 1 | Substantial |
| Davison | 155 | 124 | 2810 | 2 | Substantial |
| Day | 44 | 33 | 783 | 0 | Moderate |
| Deuel | 54 | 38 | 536 | 0 | Substantial |
| Dewey | 93 | 61 | 2532 | 0 | Substantial |
| Douglas | 32 | 22 | 468 | 0 | Moderate |
| Edmunds | 37 | 28 | 489 | 0 | Moderate |
| Fall River | 65 | 28 | 1179 | 1 | Substantial |
| Faulk | 39 | 28 | 240 | 1 | Minimal |
| Grant | 51 | 34 | 880 | 0 | Minimal |
| Gregory | 37 | 11 | 520 | 1 | Substantial |
| Haakon | 6 | 6 | 310 | 0 | Minimal |
| Hamlin | 68 | 46 | 831 | 0 | Substantial |
| Hand | 15 | 13 | 364 | 0 | Minimal |
| Hanson | 25 | 21 | 264 | 0 | Minimal |
| Harding | 2 | 2 | 59 | 0 | None |
| Hughes | 145 | 117 | 2256 | 4 | Substantial |
| Hutchinson | 56 | 35 | 1041 | 1 | Moderate |

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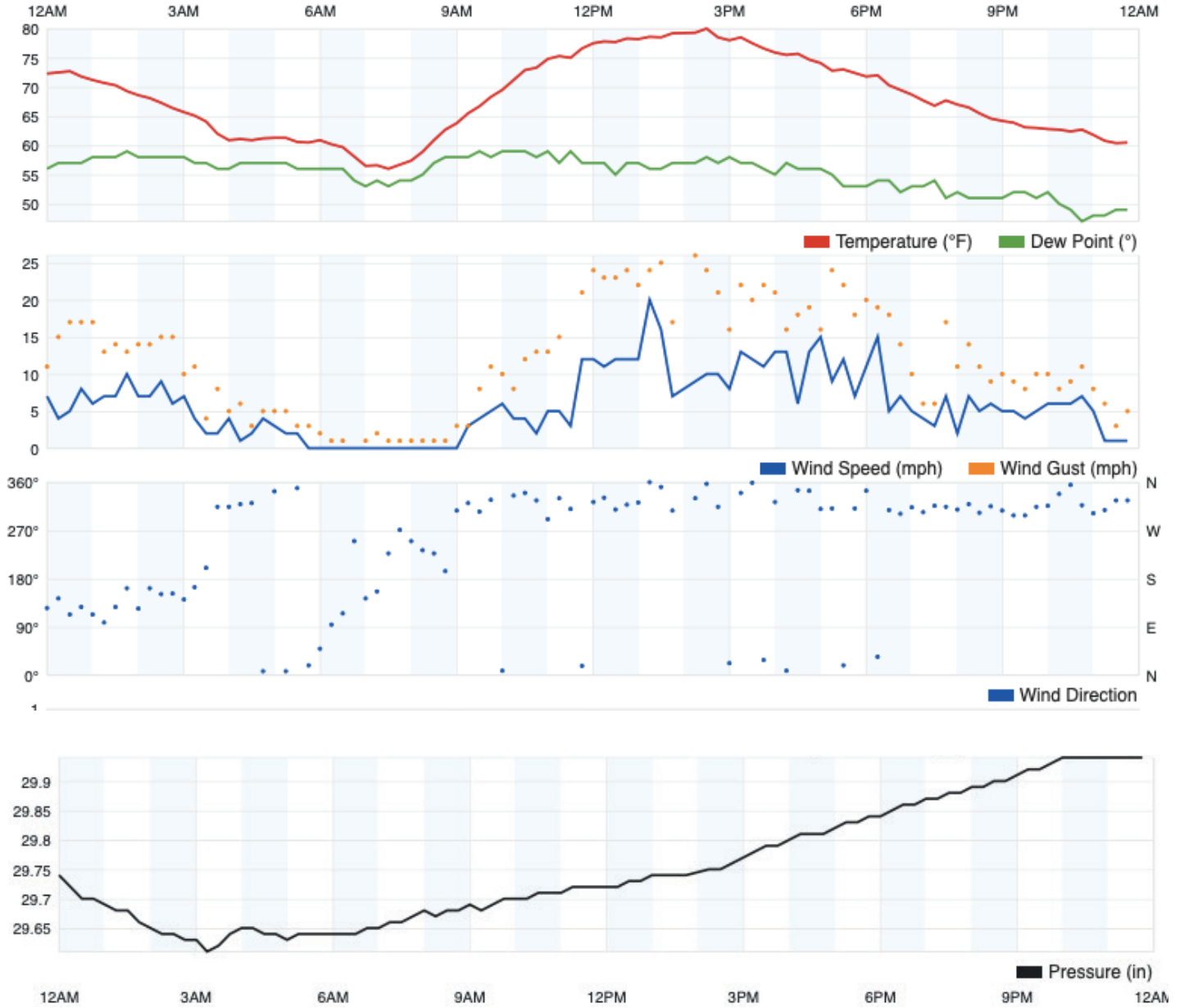
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| | | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-------|----|-------------|
| Hyde | 8 | 4 | 171 | 0 | Minimal |
| Jackson | 12 | 11 | 500 | 1 | None |
| Jerauld | 44 | 39 | 297 | 1 | None |
| Jones | 6 | 3 | 76 | 0 | None |
| Kingsbury | 24 | 21 | 681 | 0 | Moderate |
| Lake | 127 | 106 | 1108 | 6 | Moderate |
| Lawrence | 260 | 160 | 2374 | 4 | Substantial |
| Lincoln | 993 | 827 | 8511 | 2 | Substantial |
| Lyman | 104 | 89 | 1121 | 3 | Substantial |
| Marshall | 19 | 17 | 558 | 0 | Moderate |
| McCook | 59 | 43 | 758 | 1 | Substantial |
| McPherson | 12 | 10 | 258 | 0 | None |
| Meade | 344 | 213 | 2342 | 1 | Substantial |
| Mellette | 25 | 24 | 410 | 0 | None |
| Miner | 17 | 17 | 293 | 0 | None |
| Minnehaha | 5578 | 4864 | 33122 | 71 | Substantial |
| Moody | 55 | 37 | 750 | 0 | Minimal |
| Oglala Lakota | 195 | 158 | 3103 | 2 | Moderate |
| Pennington | 1617 | 1140 | 12811 | 33 | Substantial |
| Perkins | 23 | 11 | 235 | 0 | Moderate |
| Potter | 24 | 10 | 370 | 0 | Substantial |
| Roberts | 105 | 88 | 2244 | 1 | Substantial |
| Sanborn | 16 | 14 | 269 | 0 | Minimal |
| Spink | 67 | 40 | 1346 | 0 | Substantial |
| Stanley | 22 | 21 | 326 | 0 | Minimal |
| Sully | 8 | 8 | 113 | 0 | Minimal |
| Todd | 87 | 73 | 2525 | 5 | Minimal |
| Tripp | 25 | 22 | 685 | 0 | Minimal |
| Turner | 97 | 72 | 1084 | 0 | Substantial |
| Union | 290 | 244 | 2312 | 5 | Substantial |
| Walworth | 54 | 35 | 940 | 0 | Substantial |
| Yankton | 260 | 187 | 3771 | 3 | Substantial |
| Ziebach | 55 | 43 | 467 | 0 | Minimal |
| Unassigned | 0 | 0 | 13075 | 0 | |

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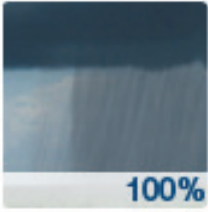
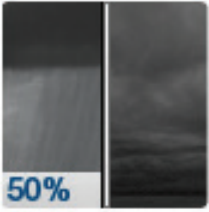



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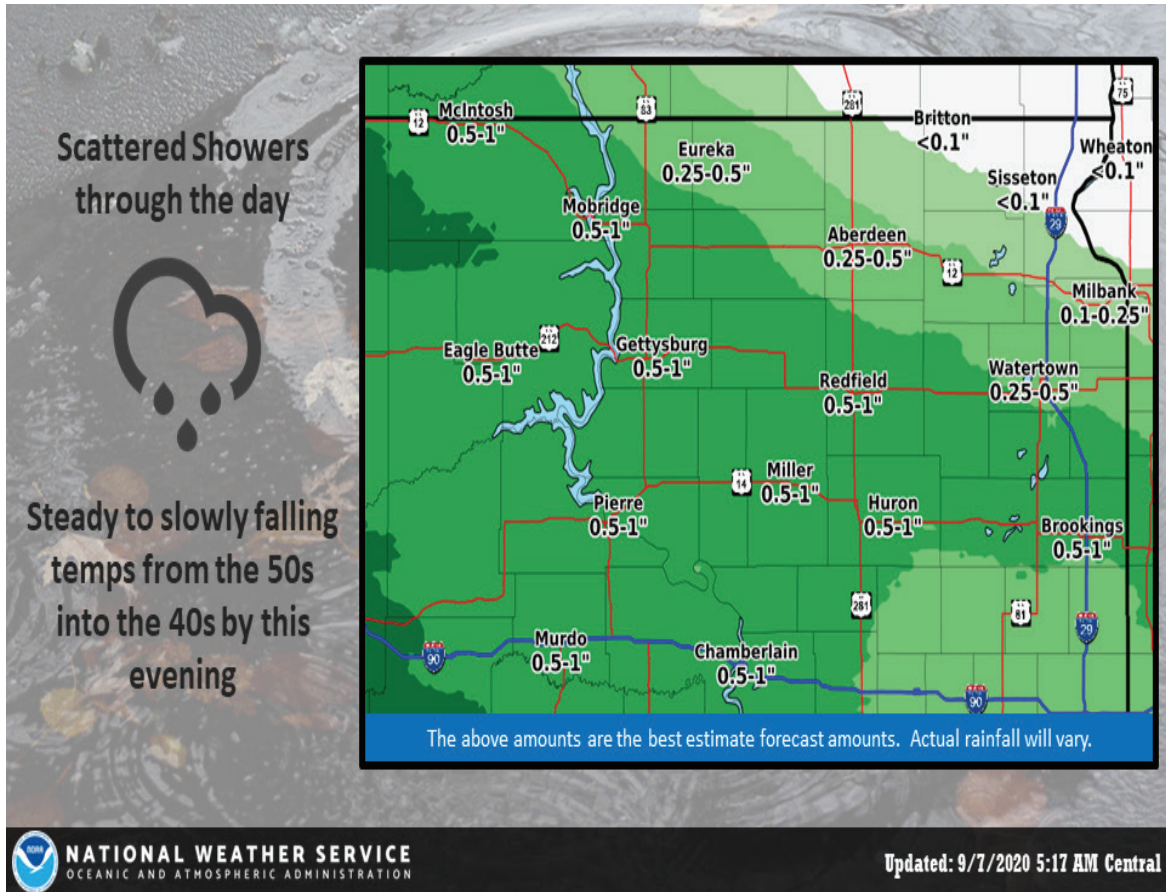
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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| Labor Day | Tonight | Tuesday | Tuesday Night | Wednesday |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Showers | Chance Showers then Cloudy | Decreasing Clouds | Partly Cloudy then Areas Frost | Areas Frost then Mostly Sunny |
| High: 54 °F | Low: 38 °F | High: 56 °F | Low: 34 °F | High: 60 °F |



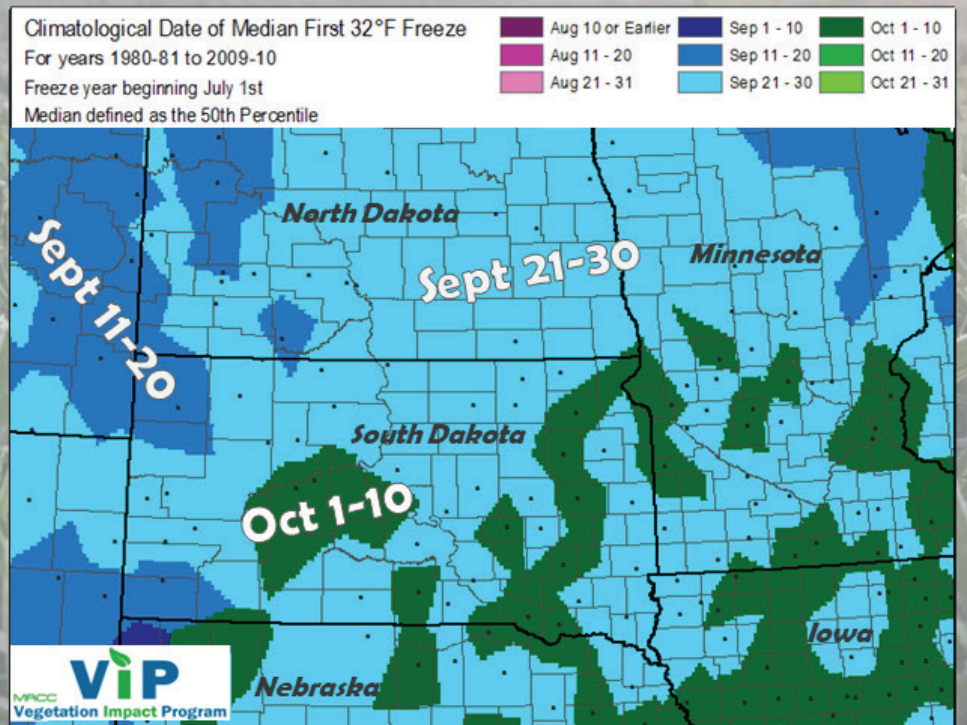
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The **first frost** of the season is possible **Tue night/Wed AM** as low temps dip to 30-35 F.

When is the season's first 32 F temp typically?

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Eureka: | Sept 21 |
| Britton: | Sept 22 |
| McIntosh: | Sept 23 |
| Aberdeen: | Sept 23 |
| Watertown: | Sept 23 |
| Kennebec: | Sept 23 |
| Timber Lake: | Sept 23 |
| Sisseton: | Sept 27 |
| Milbank: | Sept 27 |
| Gettysburg: | Sept 27 |
| Wheaton: | Sept 28 |
| Mobridge: | Sept 29 |
| Pierre: | Oct 5 |
| Murdo: | Oct 5 |



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Record Cold Possible Monday - Wednesday



Sept 7 - 9th, 2020

Cold High Temp Monday, Sept 7

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Record</u> | <u>Forecast</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Aberdeen | 53 F (1929) | 56 F |
| Watertown | 53 F (1911) | 54 F |
| Pierre | 58 F (1946) | 57 F |
| Sisseton | 57 F (1964) | 57 F |
| Mobridge | 56 F (1992) | 55 F |

Minimum Temp Tuesday, Sept 8

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Record</u> | <u>Forecast</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Aberdeen | 32 F (1992) | 39 F |
| Watertown | 30 F (1907) | 38 F |
| Pierre | 39 F (1995) | 40 F |
| Sisseton | 37 F (2008) | 38 F |
| Mobridge | 35 F (1943) | 35 F |

Cold High Temp Tuesday, Sept 8

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Record</u> | <u>Forecast</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Aberdeen | 52 F (1911) | 56 F |
| Watertown | 48 F (1929) | 52 F |
| Pierre | 55 F (1946) | 53 F |
| Sisseton | 54 F (1946) | 55 F |
| Mobridge | 53 F (1941) | 54 F |

Minimum Temp Wednesday, Sept 9

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Record</u> | <u>Forecast</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Aberdeen | 26 F (1898) | 34 F |
| Watertown | 27 F (1898) | 35 F |
| Pierre | 35 F (1943) | 35 F |
| Sisseton | 37 F (2008) | 34 F |
| Mobridge | 30 F (1943) | 34 F |

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Today in Weather History

September 7, 1961: A tornado struck a farm near the McPherson-Brown county line, or about 10 miles east and 2 miles north of Leola, at around 825 pm CDT. All farm buildings were destroyed, including two chicken coops, granary, machine shop, and two trailer homes. The house was pushed about a foot off its foundation and had windows broken, plaster cracked, and part of the roof ripped. A farm truck and tractor were both blown about 500 feet and demolished. Rain up to 2.5 inches and hail accompanied the storm and caused minor damage.

1769: Considered one of the worst storms of the Eighteenth century, this hurricane passed over Williamsburg.

1881 - The temperature soared to 101 degrees at New York City, 102 degrees at Boston MA, and 104 degrees at Washington D.C. (David Ludlum)

1888 - Much of the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast Region experienced freezing temperatures. Killer frosts resulted in a million dollars damage to crops in Maine. (David Ludlum)

1909 - Topeka, KS, was drenched with 8.08 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for that location. (6th- 7th) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A lightning bolt struck a group of football players at Gibbs High School in Saint Petersburg FL, killing two persons and injuring 22 others. All the thirty-eight players and four coaches were knocked off their feet. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced 4 to 8 inch rains in three to six hours in Virginia, with totals across the state for the Labor Day weekend ranging up to fourteen inches. The Staunton River crested at 34.44 feet at Altavista on the 8th, its highest level since 1940. Damage due to flooding was estimated at seven million dollars around Bedford, Henry, and Franklin. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Fifty cities across the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 56 degrees at Mobile AL was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Athens OH, and to 30 degrees at Thomas WV. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms in the central U.S. produced four inches of rain at Texamah overnight, and up to six inches of rain in southwestern Iowa. Evening thunderstorms in eastern Colorado produced golf ball size hail at Clear Creek and at Nederland. Late evening thunderstorms in Iowa drenched Harlan with more than four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1998: Two Derechos occurred on this day with one affecting most of Pennsylvania and New York City, the other impacting central New York.

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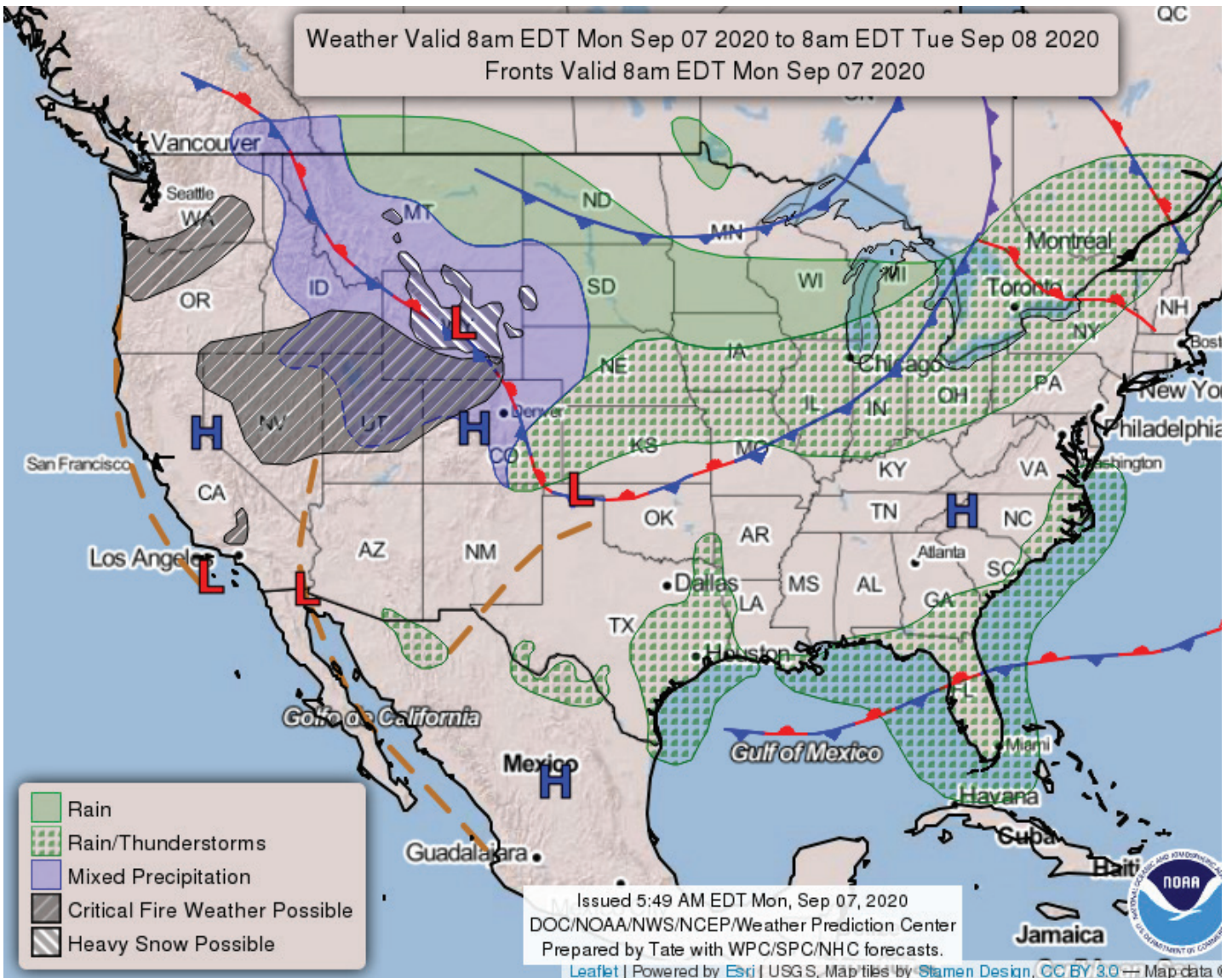
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 2:29 PM
Low Temp: 56 °F at 7:28 AM
Wind: 28 mph at 12:30 PM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 1897
Record Low: 29° in 1895
Average High: 76°F
Average Low: 50°F
Average Precip in Sept...: 0.45
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 16.74
Precip Year to Date: 13.35
Sunset Tonight: 7:59 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:04 a.m.



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THE THINKING TABLE

A local television station sent one of its reporters to a kindergarten to interview the children. One young boy seemed to stand out above all of the other children. His energy, his enthusiasm, and his excitement were very obvious.

Approaching him, the reporter asked, "Do you like school?"

"Oh, yes," he replied. Then he became quiet for a moment and said, "Except for the thinking table."

"The thinking table? What's the thinking table?" asked the reporter.

"It's that table over in the corner. The teacher sends us over there to make us think," he responded.

"Think? Think about what?" continued the interviewer.

"Well," the boy answered, "the last time I had to go there and think was after I hit Sarah. I had to go over there and think about why I hit her and why I shouldn't have."

Paul said that we "should think of others better than ourselves." His statement does not mean that we should put ourselves down, but that we are to set aside our desires and not take advantage of others. We are to treat others with respect and common courtesy that we ourselves want. If we did think of their needs first, we would not need "thinking tables."

Prayer: Often, Father, we think "more highly of ourselves" than we should. We ask You to convict and convince us to "let Your mind be in (control) of us." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. Philippians 2:3-4

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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

South Dakota teachers use 3D printers to aid responders

By J.T. FEY Watertown Public Opinion

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — 3D printers are cranking out all kind of plastic items these days — auto parts, jewelry, tools, to name a few.

In Watertown, they've even created a few heroes.

Brooks Jacobsen at Lake Area Technical College and Mark Iverson at the Watertown Middle School teach 3D printing among the many other science-related topics.

When the coronavirus began taking its toll on Americans last March, Jacobsen noticed how others nationally and internationally were using 3D printers to produce personal protective equipment, items in critically short supply across the U.S.

Jacobsen initiated the idea of creating face shields and received approval from LATC officials. Healthcare workers at Prairie Lakes Healthcare System gave him input on the type of face shield they preferred.

"I put out an email to our 3D printing community here in town," Jacobsen told the Watertown Public Opinion. "A bunch of people had printers at home, and I already knew Mark. He's been part of the 3D printer club and all sorts of stuff for years. That's kind of what got us going."

Five months later, the volunteers had created 37,000 to 40,000 face shields that went to the frontline heroes of the pandemic — the healthcare workers who daily risk their well being while caring for the sick and the dying.

"It's a surreal thing," Iverson said. "It's a hobby of mine that I teach to students, and then it turns around to be something that's saving lives. It was something that I enjoy doing anyway, and it was actually going to a good cause."

The number of face shields created is one thing. The steps they took, the resolve they showed and the help they received is also notable.

The face shields weren't complex, consisting of a forehead band to which a clear plastic shield could be attached, an elastic cord and an ear saver. The rubberized ear saver was connected to the cord and placed at the back of the head so the cord wouldn't rub on a user's ears. The forehead band was the object created by 3D printers.

Iverson started with five printers in his house. A \$3,000 grant from the Watertown Area Community Foundation allowed him to expand to around 20, which he moved to the middle school. The printers cost about \$250 each.

"It turned pretty quickly into a huge, huge operation," said Iverson. "I think Brooks had about 36 printers going during this whole thing. He was the driving force behind it."

There were others. J.J. Clendenin at the Watertown Intermediate School and Bob Poor at LATC each had a few printers and contributed in other ways, as did Travis Lage, a friend of Iverson who teaches in Harrisburg. Others in Watertown, Brookings and other locations also assisted.

Many of the printers operated 24/7, needing an occasional refill of the plastic filament needed to create the head bands. Ten headbands would take about eight hours to complete.

Sometimes, life got in the way.

"I was doing 3D printing and still teaching 165 kids through online learning," said Iverson about last spring. "Plus, I was homeschooling my own four kids. It was a nuthouse."

Another early problem was finding clear plastic for the shields.

"As soon as people found out about this thing, we started scrounging plastic from anywhere we could," said Iverson. "Teachers were donating their old transparencies from overhead projectors or taking 3-hole divider tab things and cutting those apart. It was literally from anywhere we could find any type of clear plastic."

The group created a Facebook page and began getting noticed. Their first order was for 5,000 face

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shields from the S.D. Department of Health.

But interest quickly grew, and much needed support came from different businesses. When needed, Falcon Plastics of Brookings would send 600 ear savers. Fargo Additive Manufacturing Equipment 3D provided the plastic filament, and Raven Industries of Sioux Falls, through experimentation, produced thinner clear plastic than it needed and donated it to Jacobsen.

Jacobsen used lasers at LATC's LAB building to cut the clear plastic and bore the four holes needed for attaching the shield to the headband. Iverson relied on a 3-hole punch to perforate the lighter plastic material until he eventually ran out of supply and switched to what Jacobsen had obtained.

The final product wasn't assembled in Watertown. To save on shipping costs, the pieces would be placed in smaller boxes and the recipients would take the short time needed to snap the parts together.

The Watertown group's only request was that the recipients pay shipping costs.

"We put together an Amazon Shopping Cart, shared it on Facebook, and people from across the nation were buying stuff for us," said Iverson, who recognized the kindness of the donations but knew scant few of the contributors.

Some of the recipients' reactions came straight from the heart.

"There were a couple of nurses who sent me emails who said that when they opened the boxes they just cried because they finally had something to protect themselves with," said Iverson. "We got a lot of messages of thanks and praise."

Other reports were similar to what was being reported nationally, about doctors and nurses being overwhelmed by thousands of patients who needed testing and care.

"You had nurses talking about how they were treating people in hallways," Iverson said. "They didn't have room for ventilators. They even mentioned the bodies. It was absolute carnage, and then to not have any protection."

Eventually, the need began to subside, and the teachers needed to prepare for upcoming classes. Iverson, however, recently completed an order for another 1,000 face shields.

Jacobsen's efforts were aided by an intern and work study students. He estimates he has about 2,600 face shields still available.

"That was our goal, to get a big stockpile because I needed the printers for one of my classes," Jacobsen said. "We print a lot of stuff in our classes."

The only profit for the volunteers was perhaps the richest — the knowledge they had helped those in need. Their face shields went to as many as 18 states.

"We didn't make a dime," said Iverson. "We probably spent more money than we should have. But all the messages of thanks and praise ... it was pretty cool."

South Dakota tops 15K positive COVID-19 tests; no new deaths

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials on Sunday reported 220 new cases of the coronavirus. The state has now had a total of more than 15,000 cases of COVID-19. There were 3,018 cases still active Sunday.

South Dakota's death toll from the disease is 173, with no new deaths reported Sunday

Health officials report nearly 12,000 recoveries from the disease, and a total of 81 people who are currently hospitalized.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Daktronics announces job cuts blamed on coronavirus pandemic

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota-based Daktronics Inc. is cutting about 100 jobs as the company anticipates financial setbacks created by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Argus Leader reports the Brookings-based maker of electronic displays and billboards reported its

net sales, net income and cash generated by operations for the first fiscal quarter were down.

The company reported net sales dropped from \$180.3 million to \$143.6 million, for the quarter, while cash generated dropped from \$18.2 million to \$8.5 million.

The company said the job cuts will affect employees across the United States and Canada. The layoffs equal less than 4% of the company's workforce.

Belarus activist goes missing, colleagues fear detention

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A leading opposition activist and several other members of an opposition council in Belarus went missing Monday and their colleagues feared they were detained as part of the authorities' efforts to squelch nearly a month of protests against the re-election of the country's authoritarian leader.

Maria Kolesnikova, a member of the Coordination Council created by the opposition to facilitate talks with President Alexander Lukashenko on a transition of power, was reportedly put on a minibus in the capital, Minsk, and driven away by unidentified people.

Her disappearance follows a massive rally Sunday that drew an estimated 100,000 protesters pushing for the resignation of Lukashenko, who extended his 26-year rule in the Aug. 9 election that the opposition sees as rigged.

A council member, Maxim Znakh, said Kolesnikova's colleagues fear she was detained. Two other members of the council also couldn't be reached on Monday, according to Znakh.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius tweeted that Kolesnikova's disappearance is part of the Belarusian authorities' effort to "cynically eliminate one by one" and called for her immediate release.

The Belarusian Interior Ministry said it hasn't detained Kolesnikova, while other law enforcement agencies have kept mum.

After a brutal crackdown in the first few days after the vote that stoked international outrage and swelled the ranks of protesters, the authorities have switched to threats and selective arrests of opposition activists and demonstrators.

Sunday's demonstrations in Minsk and other cities went on despite the authorities' warning that participants could face reprisals. The Interior Ministry said 633 people were detained Sunday for taking part in unsanctioned protests.

Targeting the protest leaders, Belarusian prosecutors have opened a criminal probe of the Coordination Council that opposition activists set up after the election to try to negotiate a transition of power. Two of its members were given 10-day jail sentences on charges of staging unsanctioned protests last week. One of them, Olga Kovalkova, said she was pressured to leave for Poland over the weekend after being threatened with a longer jail term.

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the main opposition challenger in the election, who moved to Lithuania a day after the vote under pressure from authorities, said Monday that Kolesnikova's disappearance marked another attempt by the government to intimidate the opposition.

"It's an attempt to derail the work of the Coordination Council, but we will not be stopped," she said. "The more they try to scare us, the more people will take to the streets. We will continue our struggle and push for the release of all political prisoners and a new, fair election."

Last week, Kolesnikova announced the creation of a new party, Together. She said the move will help overcome the current crisis, but the party founders' call for constitutional changes has stunned some other opposition council members, who argued that it could divert attention from the main goal of pushing for Lukashenko to step down.

Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow and Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark, contributed to this report.

WikiLeaks' Assange in UK court to fight US extradition bid

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

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LONDON (AP) — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange appeared in a London court on Monday to fight a U.S. extradition request, at a high-stakes hearing that was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Assange, who has spent almost a year and a half in a British prison, sat in the dock at the Old Bailey criminal court and formally refused the U.S. demand he be extradited to face trial on espionage charges. He wore a dark suit, white shirt and maroon tie, with glasses perched atop his neatly trimmed white hair.

Several dozen supporters, including fashion designer Vivienne Westwood and Assange's partner, Stella Moris, gathered outside the courthouse, chanting, banging drums and calling his prosecution a threat to press freedom.

"Julian Assange is the trigger, he is shining the light on all the corruption in the world," Westwood said.

American prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over Wikileaks' publication of secret U.S. military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

American authorities allege that Assange conspired with U.S. army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to hack into a Pentagon computer and release hundreds of thousands of secret diplomatic cables and military files on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a new indictment filed in June, U.S. prosecutors also say he conspired with members of hacking organizations and sought to recruit hackers to provide WikiLeaks with classified information. That indictment expanded the U.S. case against Assange but did not add any new charges.

Assange's lawyers say the prosecution is a politically motivated abuse of power that will stifle press freedom and put journalists around the world at risk.

They argue that Assange is a journalist entitled to First Amendment protection, and say the leaked documents exposed U.S. military wrongdoing. Among the files released by WikiLeaks was video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists.

"Journalists and whistle-blowers who reveal illegal activity by companies or governments and war crimes — such as the publications Julian has been charged for — should be protected from prosecution," Assange attorney Jennifer Robinson said before the hearing.

Assange's legal troubles began in 2010, when he was arrested in London at the request of Sweden, which wanted to question him about allegations of rape and sexual assault made by two women. He refused to go to Stockholm, saying he feared extradition or illegal rendition to the United States or the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2012, Assange sought refuge inside the Ecuadorian Embassy, where he was beyond the reach of U.K. and Swedish authorities — but also effectively a prisoner, unable to leave the tiny diplomatic mission in London's tony Knightsbridge area.

The relationship between Assange and his hosts eventually soured, and he was evicted from the embassy in April 2019. British police immediately arrested him for jumping bail in 2012.

Sweden dropped the sex crimes investigations in November 2019 because so much time had elapsed, but Assange remains in London's high-security Belmarsh Prison as he awaits the extradition decision.

Supporters say the ordeal has harmed Assange's physical and mental health, leaving him with depression, dental problems and a serious shoulder ailment. The hearing is expected to include expert psychiatric evidence about his mental state.

Journalism organizations and human rights groups have called on Britain to refuse the extradition request. Amnesty International said Assange was "the target of a negative public campaign by U.S. officials at the highest levels."

The extradition hearing opened in February but was put on hold when the U.K. went into lockdown in March to slow the spread of the coronavirus. It is resuming with social distancing measures in court and video feeds so that journalists and observers can watch remotely.

The case is due to run until early October. District Judge Vanessa Baraitser is expected to take weeks or even months to consider her verdict, with the losing side likely to appeal.

Typhoon lashes South Korea after battering Japanese islands

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea on Monday after battering islands in southern Japan, killing one person and injuring dozens of others.

The Korea Meteorological Administration said Typhoon Haishen was passing over waters off the eastern coastal city of Sokcho on Monday afternoon after barreling through South Korea's southern and eastern regions.

The typhoon was weakening, with its maximum winds measured at 108 kilometers (67 miles) per hour after blowing at 144 kilometers (80 miles) in the morning, and was forecast to be downgraded to a tropical storm within six hours.

Japanese disaster management officials in Kagoshima said a woman in her 70s died of a head injury after falling into a roadside ditch while evacuating from a coastal town as Haishen lashed southwestern Japan over the weekend with strong winds and rain. Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said at least 38 other people were injured, five of them seriously. Schools and department stores were closed in Hiroshima and other cities in the country's southwest.

Damage caused by the typhoon was less than feared because it took a path farther from the coast and weakened more quickly than expected, officials said.

In South Korea, more than 100 homes were destroyed or flooded, while cars struggled to navigate flooded roads in Ulsan and other coastal cities such as Busan, Sokcho and Gangneung. Emergency workers scrambled to clean up toppled trees and damaged traffic signs, buildings, port facilities and other structures.

At least one person was missing after getting swept away by water that filled a drainage channel at a limestone mine in the eastern coastal town of Samcheok. Another person was found dead in Busan, but officials said it wasn't immediately clear whether the death was caused by the typhoon.

At least five people were hurt, including one in Busan who sustained light injuries after a car flipped over in strong winds, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said.

The storm also destroyed or sank around 80 fishing boats, and caused generating turbines at two nuclear reactors in the southeastern city of Gyeongju to automatically stop. No leakage of radioactive materials was detected.

Hundreds of flights in and out of the southern island province of Jeju and across the mainland were canceled. Some bridges and railroad sections were shut down, thousands of fishing boats and other vessels were moved to safety, and more than 2,600 residents in the southern mainland regions were evacuated due to the possibility of landslides and other concerns.

Workers as of Monday afternoon had restored power to 49,643 of the 75,237 households that lost electricity in the southern mainland areas and Jeju.

Haishen, which means "sea god" in Chinese, plowed through Okinawa and other southern Japanese islands over the weekend. Traffic was still paralyzed in places, bullet train service was suspended and most domestic flights in and out of airports in southwestern Japan were canceled Monday.

Regional officials in Miyazaki said rescue workers were looking for four people missing after a mudslide hit the mountainous village of Shiiba earlier Monday. A fifth person who was rescued at the site was seriously injured.

Electricity was restored to thousands of homes in Japan, but more than 340,000 others were still without power. Nearly 4 million people in Japan were still advised to evacuate as of Monday afternoon.

The storm by late Monday was expected to reach North Korea's northeastern region, which was battered by Typhoon Maysak last week, inflicting further pain on an economy ravaged by U.S.-led sanctions, border closures from the coronavirus pandemic and chronic food shortages.

North Korean TV aired video of widespread flooding in the eastern coastal city of Wonsan and nearby Tongchon, but the country's state media didn't immediately report any casualties caused by Haishen.

The North's state media earlier said leader Kim Jong Un visited typhoon-stricken areas, fired a top

regional official for poor readiness, and promised to send 12,000 workers from Pyongyang to help with recovery efforts. The North said Maysak destroyed more than 1,000 houses and inundated public buildings and farmland.

Maysak damaged roads and buildings and left at least one person dead in South Korea. In addition, a livestock cargo ship sank off Japan's coast as Maysak passed. Two of its 43 crew members were rescued and one body was recovered before the search was halted because of Haishen. An aerial search resumed later Monday after Haishen passed the area. The ship was transporting 5,800 cows from New Zealand to China.

Yamaguchi reported from Tokyo.

India now 2nd behind US in virus cases amid economic pain

By SHEIKH SAALIQ and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's increasing coronavirus caseload made the Asian giant the world's second-worst-hit country behind the United States on Monday, as its efforts to head off economic disaster from the pandemic gain urgency.

The 90,802 cases added in the past 24 hours pushed India's total past Brazil with more than 4.2 million cases. India is now behind only the United States, where more than 6.2 million people have been infected, according to Johns Hopkins University.

India's Health Ministry on Monday also reported 1,016 new deaths for a total of 71,642, the third-highest national toll.

The world's second-most populous country with 1.4 billion people, India has been recording the world's largest daily increases in coronavirus cases for almost a month. Despite over 2 million new cases in the past month and the virus spreading through the country's smaller towns and villages, the Indian government has continued relaxing restrictions to try and resuscitate the economy.

On Monday, the Delhi Metro, which serves India's sprawling capital, New Delhi, and adjoining areas, resumed operations after remaining shuttered for more than five months. The commuters were scarce and stations deserted. Only asymptomatic people were allowed to board the trains, with masks, social distancing and temperature checks mandatory.

Security personnel used metal detectors attached to rods to ensure social distancing during frisking at the stations, and commuters were allowed to enter only after sanitizing their hands.

New Delhi's streets have already returned to their normal bustle, and people are again flocking to markets. The city's bars will reopen on Wednesday.

The reopenings come after India's economy shrank faster than any other major nation's, nearly 24% in the last quarter.

India's economic pain dates to the demonetization of the nation's currency in 2016 and a hasty rollout of a goods and services tax the next year. But the strict virus lockdown that started on March 24 further exacerbated the economic woes.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered everyone in the country to stay indoors, the whole economy shut down within four hours. Millions lost their jobs instantly and tens of thousands of migrant workers, out of money and fearing starvation, poured out of cities and headed back to villages. The unprecedented migration not only hollowed out India's economy but also spread the virus to the far reaches of the country.

Now, as cases surge, most of the country, except in high-risk areas, has already opened up, with authorities saying they have little choice.

"While lives are important, livelihoods are equally important," Rajesh Bhushan, the top official of India's federal health ministry, said at a news briefing last week.

Almost 60% of India's virus cases are now coming from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the nation's most populous state. But infections are also returning to areas that had managed to slow the spread of the virus, offsetting marginal gains.

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Initially hit hard by the virus, New Delhi had seemed to turn the tide through its aggressive screening for patients. But after reopening steadily, the state has reported a recent surge in cases and fatalities. The reopening of the metro is expected to further worsen the situation, experts fear.

The recent surge in cases also highlights the risks of India's strategy on relying too heavily on rapid tests that screen for antigens or viral proteins. These tests are cheap, yield results in minutes and have allowed India to test over a million people a day.

But they are also less precise and likely to miss infected people, said Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an infectious diseases expert of Christian Medical College at Vellore in southern India.

India also says its recovery rate is 77.3% and that the fatality rate has declined to around 1.72%.

But the economic crisis means that people in India, especially the poor who were inordinately impacted by the harsh lockdown, have to go out and work. They are also less likely to have access to good healthcare.

The virus has already deepened misery in the country's vast hinterlands and poorer states, where surges have crippled the underfunded healthcare system and stretched resources.

S.P. Kalantri, a public health specialist, said India's poor face a "desperate choice" between "an immediate death versus a death that could come any time."

"The disease is already there in the villages," he said.

Portland, Oregon, demonstrators gather near police precinct

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Demonstrators against police brutality gathered Sunday night near a police precinct on the city's north side.

Shortly before 10 p.m., the Portland Police Bureau said the demonstrators had blocked streets near the precinct. The protesters had come to the area after rallying at a nearby park, KOIN-TV reported.

The agency issued the following warning to the demonstrators on Twitter: "To those gathered at North Precinct: You are not to enter the property of North Precinct. Southeast Emerson Street is closed between NE MLK and NE 6th Ave. If you enter the property, you are trespassing and subject to arrest, citation, and/or the use of crowd control munitions."

Firefighters came to the scene shortly after 10 p.m. and put out a mattress fire that was set by protesters, KATU-TV reported. Police later thanked protesters for moving away from the blaze.

On Saturday, hundreds of people gathered for rallies and marches.

Molotov cocktails thrown in the street during a march sparked a large fire and prompted police to declare a riot. Police confirmed that tear gas was deployed to defend themselves and said 59 people were arrested, ranging in age from 15 to 50.

Demonstrations in Portland started in late May after the police killing of Floyd in Minneapolis. During the clashes, some have broken windows, set small fires and pelted police with rocks and other objects.

Earlier Saturday, hundreds of people gathered in a park just north of Portland in Vancouver, Washington, for a memorial service for Aaron "Jay" Danielson. Danielson, a supporter of a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer, was shot and killed Aug. 29 after a pro-Trump caravan cruised through downtown Portland. The suspected killer was fatally shot by police Thursday.

California avoids major power outages as wildfires rage

By MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. (AP) — Rescuers in military helicopters airlifted 207 people to safety over the weekend after an explosive wildfire trapped them in a popular camping area in California's Sierra National Forest, one of dozens of fires burning amid record-breaking temperatures that strained the state's electrical grid and for a time threatened power outages for millions.

The California Office of Emergency Services said Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters were used for the rescues that began late Saturday and continued into Sunday morning at Mammoth Pool Reservoir. At least two people were severely injured and 10 more suffered moderate injuries. Two campers refused rescue and stayed behind, the Madera County Sheriff's Office said, and there was no immediate word on their fates.

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A photo tweeted by the California National Guard showed more than 20 evacuees packed tightly inside one helicopter, some crouched on the floor clutching their belongings. In another photo taken on the ground from a helicopter cockpit, the densely wooded hills surrounding the aircraft were in flames.

The blaze dubbed the Creek Fire has charred more than 71 square miles (184 square kilometers) of timber, and the 800 firefighters on the scene had yet to get any containment after two days of work on steep terrain in sweltering heat. Some homes and businesses have burned, but there was no official tabulation yet.

Other blazes broke out in Southern California and forced evacuations in San Diego and San Bernardino counties. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, said the latter blaze, called the El Dorado Fire, started Saturday morning and was caused by a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device, used during a gender-reveal party.

The Creek Fire churned southward from the reservoir through miles of dense forest and by Sunday afternoon threatened a marina and cabins along Shaver Lake, where Jack Machado helped friends remove propane tanks from the lodge Cottages at the Point. Sheriff's deputies went through the town of several hundred residents to make sure people complied with evacuation orders.

"The lake is totally engulfed with smoke. You can't hardly see in front of you," Machado said. "The sky's turning red. It looks like Mars out there."

Temperatures in the fire zone were in the 90s, but that was cool compared to many parts of the state. Downtown Los Angeles reached 111 degrees (44 Celsius). and a record-shattering high of 121 degrees (49.4 Celsius) was recorded in the nearby Woodland Hills neighborhood of the San Fernando Valley.

It was the highest temperature ever recorded in Los Angeles County, according to the National Weather Service. The mark rivaled the high in California's Death Valley, typically the hottest place in the country.

Meanwhile, downtown San Francisco set a record for the day with a high of 100 (37.7 Celsius), smashing the previous mark by 5 degrees.

"By our calculations, over 99% of California's population is under an Excessive Heat Warning or Heat Advisory today," the weather service in Sacramento tweeted Sunday afternoon.

The exceptionally hot temperatures were driving the highest power use of the year, and transmission losses because of the wildfires have cut into supplies. Eric Schmitt of the California Independent System Operator that manages the state's power grid said up to 3 million customers faced power outages if residents didn't curtail their electricity usage.

About 7 p.m., the California Independent System Operator declared an emergency and said power outages were imminent because a transmission line carrying power from Oregon to California and another in-state power plant went offline unexpectedly. The cause of the outages is unknown at this time, the agency said.

But about 8:30 p.m., the agency issued a tweet calling off the emergency "thanks to conservation of Californians!" It said no power outages were ordered by operators of the grid.

Pacific Gas & Electric, the state's largest utility, warned customers that it might cut power starting Tuesday because of expected high winds and heat that could create even greater fire danger. Some of the state's largest and deadliest fires in recent years have been sparked by downed power lines and other utility equipment.

The Creek Fire started Friday and by Saturday afternoon exploded in size, jumped the San Joaquin River and cut off the only road into the Mammoth Pool Campground, national forest spokesman Dan Tune said. At least 2,000 structures were threatened in the area about 290 miles (467 kilometers) north of Los Angeles. The cause of the fire hasn't been determined.

While some campers were rescued by helicopters, others made a white-knuckle drive to safety. Juliana Park recorded video of flames on both sides of her car as she and others fled down a mountain road.

"A backpacking trip cut short by unforeseen thunder, ash rain, and having to drive through literal fire to evacuate #SierraNationalForest in time," Park tweeted. "Grateful to the SNF ranger who led us down ... wish we got her name."

The Mammoth Pool Reservoir is about 35 miles (56 kilometers) northeast of Fresno. It's surrounded by thick pine forests and is a popular destination for boating and fishing. Bone-dry conditions and the hot weather fueled the flames once the fire started, and it grew rapidly.

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Lindsey Abbott and her family were guided to safety by a stranger they followed down from their campsite near Whisky Falls.

"It was so hot, you could feel the flames going through the window," she told ABC30 in Fresno.

Ashley Wagner was among those rescued, along with two relatives and a friend. They were trapped in Logan's Meadow behind Wagner's Store, a 63-year-old business run by her aunt that was destroyed.

"My family's history just went up in flames," Wagner told the station.

In Southern California, crews scrambled to douse several fires that popped up, including one that closed mountain roads in Angeles National Forest. The largest was a blaze in the foothills of Yucaipa east of Los Angeles that prompted evacuation orders for eastern portions of the city of 54,000 along with several mountain communities. Cal Fire said the fire scorched at least 4.7 square miles (12.2 square kilometers) of brush and trees.

In eastern San Diego County, the Valley Fire broke out Saturday afternoon, and fire officials warned the blaze was burning at a "dangerous rate of speed." By Sunday morning it had destroyed at least 10 structures after burning 6.25 square miles (16 square kilometers) and prompting evacuations near the remote community of Alpine in the Cleveland National Forest. At least two of the lost structures were homes, ABC10 News in San Diego reported.

Cal Fire said 14,800 firefighters were battling 23 major fires in the state. California has seen 900 wildfires since Aug. 15, many of them started by an intense series of thousands of lightning strikes. The blazes have burned more than 1.5 million acres (2,343 square miles). There have been eight fire deaths and nearly 3,300 structures destroyed.

Weber reported from Los Angeles.

Big tippers: Alaska man joins push to aid restaurant workers

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — It was a busy Taco Tuesday at Midnight Sun Brewing Co. in Anchorage, Alaska — a blessing these days at any restaurant — when a guy at a table with three buddies wanted to chat with their waitress.

"I wasn't totally paying attention, to be honest," lead server Angelina Backus recalled. "And then all of a sudden he pulled out his wallet and he's pulling out five \$100 bills."

The conversation that customer Jack Little was trying to have with Backus was about the Venmo Challenge, a social media trend in which people around the country use the online payment app to send money to a friend, who builds up a bankroll for big tips.

"It was all starting to come together," Backus recalled about Little fanning out the \$100 bills to give to her. "I'm like, oh my gosh, they're giving money to random people, and it was very special."

Restaurants and their employees nationwide have been decimated by the pandemic. The National Restaurant Association says it's been the hardest hit industry.

"According to our analysis, the industry has lost more than \$165 billion in sales since March and is on track to lose \$240 billion by the end of the year," association spokeswoman Vanessa Sink said.

The industry also lost 6.1 million jobs in March and April, about half of the 12 million positions at places that offered food and drink, Sink said, citing U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.

Like other cities across the country, Anchorage limited restaurants to take-out dining after the virus first hit, eventually easing restrictions to allow dine-in seating. But as the number of cases began to spike again, Anchorage shut down inside dining, limiting restaurants to takeout or outdoor seating.

Little, who works for a telecommunications company, heard about the tip challenge and decided to see what he could do for servers in Anchorage.

"I have a lot of good friends that are in that industry that have personally been affected by this, and so I just wanted to do something to help them," he said.

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Little took to Facebook and Instagram, asking friends to send 50 cents or a dollar, whatever they could spare, to his Venmo account.

"My friends have been incredibly generous," he said. The account to help wait staff has reached nearly \$7,000.

Venmo agreed that people have embraced its effort. "We're inspired by how our Venmo community is helping one another during this time," the company said in a statement.

Little started by giving \$500 tips to five separate waiters or waitresses across the city. One of his latest totaled \$1,000 — an amount that could cover rent, a car payment or phone bill.

He said the luck of the draw determines who gets the money. "Whoever they sit me with is who gets it," he said. "You can tell right away that it's going to help."

Little tips separately for whatever he orders and even covers the cost of the app's transaction fee so the lucky recipient gets the full \$500.

Backus said the generosity of the brewery's customers has been amazing during the pandemic, especially when they were only allowed to get to-go orders. She said they went out of their way to buy to-go food and tipped generously for it.

Backus said the \$500 tip from Little came as she was struggling to make ends meet. "It didn't go to anything exciting, unfortunately, but debt. Bills, rent, things like that," she said. "I was like, 'thank you, universe' when it happened because it was just amazing."

Waiters and waitresses are getting a boost in other ways. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri partnered with the non-profit National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to start the Restaurant Employee Relief Fund. The fund provided \$500 cash grants to more than 43,000 workers during the pandemic, Sink said.

Little said he'd like to continue the tipping as long as he can.

"I'm having a blast with it," he said. "How could you not enjoy giving someone \$500?"

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's errant views on voting, Biden miscues

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has been putting forth convoluted guidance to his supporters on submitting double votes in the November election, an act that would be illegal and risk public safety in the pandemic.

In a week filled with fabrication, half-truths and misrepresentation, he also wrongly took full credit for veterans improvements that were underway before he took office.

He said he never called John McCain a loser — he did — and also distorted events in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, Democratic rival Joe Biden falsely claimed to have been the first person to have called for the use of emergency production powers in the pandemic, and he tried to shed light on the history of the incandescent bulb, but was a bit hazy.

A look at recent claims and reality:

NOVEMBER ELECTION

TRUMP: "So you sign your ballot and mail it in, just mail it ... On election day or early voting, go to your polling place, even though you've mailed it in, go to your polling place to see whether or not your mail-in vote has been tabulated or counted. ... So if it hasn't been counted, if it doesn't show up, go and vote. And then if your mail-in ballot arrives after you vote, which it shouldn't, but possibly it could, perhaps. That ballot will not be used ... So send it in and then see, and then vote, and let's see what happens." — North Carolina tele-rally on Friday.

TRUMP: "Send in your ballots, send them in strong ... And you send them in, but you go to vote. If they haven't counted it, you can vote." — interview Wednesday with WECT TV6 in Wilmington, North Carolina.

THE FACTS: To be clear, it is illegal in all 50 states and under federal law to vote twice in an election.

Election officials also advise people against heading to the polls to check on their mail-in ballots and then attempting to cast another ballot if there isn't full verification, saying it will cause unnecessary chaos, long waits and health dangers in the pandemic.

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Contrary to what Trump suggests, information on whether a ballot has been counted is typically not available right away. In several states, absentee ballots aren't even counted until after polls close. What can be checked is whether an absentee ballot has been received, and in some cases, whether it has passed a security review and will be submitted for counting.

A flood of voters showing up on Nov. 3 to check the status of their ballots would mean even more disruption, election officials say.

Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, said the board "strongly discourages" people from following the president's guidance. "That is not necessary, and it would lead to longer lines and the possibility of spreading COVID-19," she said in a statement.

Brinson Bell added: "Attempting to vote twice in an election or soliciting someone to do so also is a violation of North Carolina law."

Many states offer ways for voters to verify the status of their ballot online that provide information on when an absentee ballot request has been received, when a ballot has been sent, when the ballot has been received by a local election office and whether it has passed the security review and been accepted. These are typically available on the website of the state election board or the secretary of state.

Voters in the few states that don't provide this information online have the option to call their local election office.

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM BARR on fraud in the vote-by-mail process: "Elections that have been held with mail have found substantial fraud and coercion." — CNN on Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Actually, multiple studies have debunked the notion of pervasive voter fraud in general and in the vote-by-mail process.

The five states that relied on mail-in ballots even before the coronavirus pandemic — Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Utah — have said they have necessary safeguards in place to ensure against fraud and to prevent hostile foreign actors from co-opting the vote. More states intend to rely more heavily on mail-in voting this fall because of the pandemic.

The attorney general cited a report from more than a decade ago from a commission led by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker that said vote-by-mail was vulnerable to fraud. But the commission pointed out in a statement in May that it had found little evidence of fraud in states such as Oregon that had sufficient safeguards.

Barr also said he was basing on "logic" his concern that a hostile foreign actor could produce bogus ballots for the election. But senior U.S. officials said on a conference call with reporters last month that they had no intelligence to suggest that was happening.

VETERANS and McCain

TRUMP: "I was never a big fan of John McCain, disagreed with him on many things including ridiculous endless wars and the lack of success he had in dealing with the VA and our great Vets." — part of a series of tweets Thursday.

VETERANS AFFAIRS SECRETARY ROBERT WILKIE, referring to Trump: "I see the proof in the pudding. And the proof in the pudding is, our military is stronger, and our Veterans Affairs Department is in a place that it has never been. This is the renaissance. And it's all because of one man." — interview Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

THE FACTS: Trump and his VA chief are ignoring the accomplishments begun during the Obama-Biden administration, which included McCain's singular successes on behalf of fellow veterans.

McCain was a leading force in the Senate behind the law that gave veterans an option to go outside the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system and get private care at public expense under certain conditions. President Barack Obama signed the VA Choice legislation into law. Ignoring that reality, Trump persistently claims that he brought Choice into law when no one else could.

Trump signed a law in 2018 that expanded the options for using the Choice program established by

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Obama, McCain and other lawmakers.

The 2018 law is named after three lawmakers who were veterans of war. All of them now are dead. They are Rep. Samuel R. Johnson, R-Texas, and Democratic Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, D-Hawaii, and McCain, R-Ariz.

Both Trump and Wilkie also frequently point to VA accomplishments such as improved wait times and the offering of same-day mental health services. But those same-day services at VA were started during the Obama administration under Wilkie's predecessor, David Shulkin, who was a VA health undersecretary at the time. A 2019 study by the Journal of the American Medical Association, meanwhile, found improved wait times at VA from 2014 to 2017, a period largely covering the Obama administration, with VA patient satisfaction also on the rise.

While the VA has shown good ratings during the Trump administration, the VA improvements that Wilkie attributes all to "one man" — Trump alone — are sorely misplaced.

TRUMP: "Also, I never called John a loser and swear on whatever, or whoever, I was asked to swear on, that I never called our great fallen soldiers anything other than HEROES." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: He called McCain a loser.

In addition, The Associated Press has confirmed many of the comments Trump was reported by The Atlantic to have made disparaging fallen or captured U.S. service members, such as his description of the American dead in a military graveyard as "losers."

As for McCain, Trump told a conservative forum in Iowa in 2015 that his view of McCain changed when McCain lost the 2008 presidential election to Obama. "He lost, so I never liked him as much after that, 'cause I don't like losers," he said. Trump went on to dismiss McCain's war service: "He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured."

Trump in 2015 also tweeted a news article on Twitter calling McCain a "loser."

THE WALL

TRUMP, claiming Biden wants to "eliminate America's borders": "He wants to tear down the wall — he actually suggested tearing down the wall that we fought so hard to get built." — North Carolina tele-rally on Friday.

THE FACTS: That's false.

Biden's immigration plan does not include money for new border fencing, and he and his campaign task force on immigration aren't calling for any new walls. But neither has proposed taking down existing barriers.

Asked specifically by NPR last month if he would tear down the wall, Biden said: "No. There will not be another foot of wall constructed on my administration, No. 1."

"No. 2 ... I'm going to make sure that we have border protection, but it's going to be based on making sure that we use high-tech capacity to deal with it and at the ports of entry. That's where all bad stuff is happening."

PANDEMIC

BIDEN: "When it got up to March, I kept saying, 'Look, you've got to invoke,' and you remember, I think I was the first — I may be mistaken — person calling for the Defense Production Act." — comment after a news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He is correct about being mistaken.

Biden issued a statement March 18 saying he was issuing a call for Trump to invoke the Defense Production Act to give priority to "and immediately increase domestic production of any critical medical equipment required to respond to this crisis — such as the production of ventilators and associated training to operate." His call came the same day Trump signed an order to use his authority under the act.

Five days earlier a group of Democrats in Congress wrote to Trump asking him to use powers under the act, a step that Trump officials and others had been discussing publicly for several weeks.

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LIGHT BULB

BIDEN: "Why in God's name don't we teach history in history classes? A Black man invented the light bulb, not a white guy named Edison." — in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on Thursday.

THE FACTS: Biden is shading the actual story a bit. Thomas Edison invented the incandescent electric light bulb, but it burned out quickly. It was Lewis Latimer, an African American inventor who worked with Alexander Bell and later with Edison, who made light bulbs practical to use. Latimer created a light bulb with a durable carbon filament and sold the patent to the U.S. Electric Co. in 1881.

According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Although today's light bulbs use filaments of tungsten, which lasts even longer than carbon, Latimer will always be remembered for making the widespread use of electric light possible, in public and at home." Latimer is a member of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

PROTESTS and VIOLENCE

TRUMP, on Wisconsin officials and the National Guard: "Once they responded and once we took, you know, control of it, things went really well." — remarks in Kenosha on Tuesday.

TRUMP: "One of the reasons I'm making the trip today and going to Wisconsin is we've had such a big success in shutting down what would be, right now, a city — that would've been Kenosha — a city that would've been burnt to the ground by now. ... And it all stopped immediately upon the National Guard's arrival." — remarks Tuesday before visiting Wisconsin.

THE FACTS: Not true. He had nothing to do with the deployment of the National Guard in Wisconsin. The federal government never "took control of it."

Gov. Tony Evers, D-Wis., activated the state's National Guard the day after a Kenosha police officer shot Jacob Blake, sparking protests and violence over police actions and racism. When National Guard forces from three other states came in to help, it was because the governor had asked for that help from fellow governors, not the White House.

Evers said National Guard troops from Arizona, Michigan and Alabama were operating under the control of those states and Wisconsin, "not in a federal status." National Guards answer to governors and sometimes state legislatures, not Washington.

The federal government sent deputy marshals from the U.S. Marshals Service and agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, about 200 in all. The restoration of order was primarily in the hands of National Guard units and local law enforcement.

As of last week, 1,000 National Guard troops from Wisconsin were in Kenosha along with 500 National Guard troops from the other three states, said Wisconsin National Guard Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp.

TRUMP, asked if he would condemn the actions of Kyle Rittenhouse, the 17-year-old charged in the shooting deaths of two men during Kenosha protests: "You saw the same tape as I saw. And he was trying to get away from them, I guess; it looks like. And he fell, and then they very violently attacked him. And it was something that we're looking at right now and it's under investigation. But I guess he was in very big trouble. He would have been — I — he probably would have been killed." — news conference on Aug. 31.

THE FACTS: His implication that Rittenhouse only shot the men after he tripped and they attacked him is wrong. The first fatal shooting happened before Rittenhouse ran away and fell.

Trump did not say whom he meant by "they" — the two men he shot or others in pursuit of him. But he spoke in defense of someone who opposed racial justice protesters, who authorities say was illegally carrying a semi-automatic rifle and who prosecutors accuse of committing intentional homicide.

According to the criminal complaint released by prosecutors, victim Joseph Rosenbaum was shot and killed first, after following Rittenhouse into a parking lot, where Rosenbaum threw a plastic bag at the gunman and tried to take the weapon from him.

The medical examiner found that Rosenbaum was shot in the groin and back — which fractured his pelvis and perforated his right lung and liver — and his left hand. He also suffered a superficial wound to

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his left thigh and a graze wound to his forehead.

Rittenhouse then ran down the street and was chased by several people trying to stop him and shouting that he just shot someone, according to the criminal complaint and cellphone video footage.

He tripped and fell. Anthony Huber, who was carrying a skateboard, was shot in the chest after apparently trying to wrest the gun from Rittenhouse, the complaint said. A third man was shot and injured.

Rittenhouse's lawyer said he acted to defend himself.

JOBS

BIDEN: "Donald Trump may be the only president in modern history to leave office with fewer jobs than when he took office." — Wilmington, Delaware, speech Friday.

THE FACTS: Maybe yes, maybe no.

Not since Depression-era Herbert Hoover has a president left office with a record of fewer jobs than when he began.

This could happen to Trump because of the pandemic, but he could also end up with a small gain.

In August there were 4.7 million fewer jobs than there were when Trump was inaugurated in January 2017. But if he leaves office in five months, and if the economy adds more than 1 million jobs each month, as happened in July and August, he could end up in the black. There are signs, though, that the gains are slowing as businesses have recalled many of the workers who were temporarily laid off from restaurants, bars, retailers and other businesses. So Biden's prediction could come true.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Deb Riechmann, Lynn Berry, Will Weissert, Eric Tucker, Josh Boak and Christopher Rugaber in Washington and Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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

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Trump looms large over campaigns for control of Congress

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The battle for control of Congress is solidifying into a race about President Donald Trump, as Republicans hitch their fortunes to their party's leader and Democrats position themselves as a bulwark against him — and as partners in a potential Joe Biden White House.

So far, voters are signaling they want to finish the job they started in 2018 by installing Democrats for House majority control. Now, they're on track to potentially do the same in the Senate.

"The president continues to overshadow and impact the races for the Senate and the House," said Nathan Gonzales, the editor of Inside Elections, which tracks the campaigns.

Usually, a president at the top of the ticket boosts his party's chances, but Trump's slump is shifting the congressional map, strategists said. House Democrats are expected to easily retain the majority, without too many losses. The Senate, now in Republican hands, could almost as easily flip to Democrats.

Together, the congressional races provide a snapshot of an American electorate ahead of a voting season unlike any other. The coronavirus crisis, a shattered economy and a new civil rights era are forcing a reassessment of the way the federal government approaches longstanding problems. In a volatile political climate, health care, jobs and even what the parties are calling the soul of the nation are all on the ballot.

As Democrats gain momentum, Republicans are digging in, echoing Trump's harsh criticism of the nationwide protests over police violence, particularly against Black people. He sounds dire warnings about the demonstrations happening in some cities. It's an opening for the GOP, an attempt to win back wary suburban voters, particularly white women, who voted for Trump in 2016 but have since drifted away.

"It's a winning message," said Bob Salera, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Com-

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mittee, the House GOP's campaign arm.

The NRCC used Trump's visit to Kenosha, Wisconsin, to unleash a flurry of attacks against vulnerable Democrats, primarily those freshmen who built the House majority in 2018 from districts the president won in 2016. One television ad claimed a Democrat was choosing "criminals over cops."

The Democratic campaigns are taking an opposite approach. As their calling card to voters, they are offering health care policy — preserving and expanding the coverage under the Affordable Care Act and strategies to end the COVID-19 crisis.

Ten ads released by House Democrats last week targeted Republicans who voted to repeal and replace "Obamacare" or pushed a quick economic reopening despite COVID-19 health risks. Democratic Senate candidates are taking similar cues as they appeal to voters concerned about health care access or costs.

"We're gonna win back the Senate," Biden told donors last week on a fundraising call.

The former vice president is eyeing a handful of Senate seats he believes Democrats could wrest from Republicans, with plans to campaign in North Carolina, Georgia, Texas and other states where Republican senators are vulnerable.

Two months before the election, the races are still in flux. Any boost in Trump's standing could bolster Republican chances, analysts said. Any missteps by Biden could hurt Democrats.

On top of that is the uncertainty of the COVID-19 crisis, which upended campaigning. While many Republicans are following Trump's lead, holding events and meeting voters in person, Democrats are largely matching Biden's approach of avoiding health risks by holding campaign events online.

A memo from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee obtained by The Associated Press said candidates should remind voters "through your actions" that they take the COVID-19 threat seriously. Republicans mock Democrats' virtual campaigning as hiding from voters.

Republicans hold a slim 53-47 majority in the Senate. That means they could afford to lose two or three seats, while Democrats would need to pick up three or four for a working majority. If either party has 50 seats, the vice president becomes a tie breaker.

While election season began with the parties on defense, protecting their incumbent senators, it has shifted to a decidedly lopsided Senate map. Only one Democrat, Sen. Doug Jones in Alabama, appears seriously at risk of defeat, running in a Deep South state where Trump is more popular than almost anywhere else.

The list of potentially endangered Republican senators has only grown. Sen. Cory Gardner is running against popular former Gov. John Hickenlooper in Colorado, a state that has become more Democratic blue than toss-up purple.

In battleground Arizona, Republican Sen. Martha McSally is trailing Democrat Mark Kelly, a former astronaut. GOP Sen. Susan Collins is relying on her independent brand to try to fend off challenger Sara Gideon in Maine.

Some incumbent Republican senators walk a fine line on support for Trump. Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina distances himself from Trump on some issues, but pulls close on others, and he joined the president for his speech accepting the GOP nomination on the White House lawn.

GOP senators in Iowa, Montana and Georgia are now facing races suddenly in play. Even in Texas, South Carolina and Kentucky, where big-name GOP senators are up for reelection — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in the Bluegrass State, Lindsey Graham in the Palmetto State — races are becoming costly, even if the seats are not seriously in jeopardy.

In the House, Republicans face an even tougher haul. They would need to net some 19 seats to wrest control from Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats, a tall order in any election but especially now in the hard-fought suburban districts with Trump wobbly at the top of the ticket.

Some of the Democrats elected in 2018 in places Trump won in 2016 were surprise winners, like Rep. Kendra Horn in Oklahoma City, and they are among the most vulnerable. Rep. Ben McAdams in Utah faces a challenge from Burgess Owens, a former NFL player and Black conservative who delivered a standout speech at the GOP convention.

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Some freshman Democrats, though, have tried to carve out brands to steel themselves against challenges in districts where Republicans typically would win.

Many of the issues once thought to define the candidates — including the Trump impeachment votes — have dimmed against the COVID crisis.

At the same time, Trump's willingness to push the norms of executive power suddenly makes Congress matter not just as a legislative branch of government, but one conducting oversight.

Gonzales said after GOP losses in 2018 there was an expectation that Trump atop the ticket would bring back Republican voters in 2020. "But President Trump continues to drive Democratic energy and turnout," he said.

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

California simmers while it burns, but no big power outages

By MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ and CHRISTOPHER WEBER undefined

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. (AP) — Rescuers in military helicopters airlifted 207 people to safety after an explosive wildfire trapped them in a popular camping area in California's Sierra National Forest, one of dozens of fires burning Sunday amid record-breaking temperatures that strained the state's electrical grid and for a time threatened power outages for millions.

The California Office of Emergency Services said Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters were used for the rescues that began late Saturday and continued into Sunday morning at Mammoth Pool Reservoir. At least two people were severely injured and 10 more suffered moderate injuries. Two campers refused rescue and stayed behind, the Madera County Sheriff's Office said, and there was no immediate word on their fates.

A photo tweeted by the California National Guard showed more than 20 evacuees packed tightly inside one helicopter, some crouched on the floor clutching their belongings. In another photo taken on the ground from a helicopter cockpit, the densely wooded hills surrounding the aircraft were in flames.

The blaze dubbed the Creek Fire has charred more than 71 square miles (184 square kilometers) of timber, and the 800 firefighters on the scene had yet to get any containment after two days of work on steep terrain in sweltering heat. Some homes and businesses have burned, but there was no official tabulation yet.

Other blazes broke out in Southern California and forced evacuations in San Diego and San Bernardino counties. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, said the latter blaze, called the El Dorado Fire, started Saturday morning and was caused by a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device, used during a gender-reveal party.

The Creek Fire churned southward from the reservoir through miles of dense forest and by Sunday afternoon threatened a marina and cabins along Shaver Lake, where Jack Machado helped friends remove propane tanks from the lodge Cottages at the Point. Sheriff's deputies went through the town of several hundred residents to make sure people complied with evacuation orders.

"The lake is totally engulfed with smoke. You can't hardly see in front of you," Machado said. "The sky's turning red. It looks like Mars out there."

Temperatures in the fire zone were in the 90s, but that was cool compared to many parts of the state. Downtown Los Angeles reached 111 degrees (44 Celsius). and a record-shattering high of 121 degrees (49.4 Celsius) was recorded in the nearby Woodland Hills neighborhood of the San Fernando Valley.

It was the highest temperature ever recorded in Los Angeles County, according to the National Weather Service. The mark rivaled the high in California's Death Valley, typically the hottest place in the country.

Meanwhile, downtown San Francisco set a record for the day with a high of 100 (37.7 Celsius), smashing the previous mark by 5 degrees.

"By our calculations, over 99% of California's population is under an Excessive Heat Warning or Heat Advisory today," the weather service in Sacramento tweeted Sunday afternoon.

The exceptionally hot temperatures were driving the highest power use of the year, and transmission losses because of the wildfires have cut into supplies. Eric Schmitt of the California Independent System

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Operator that manages the state's power grid said up to 3 million customers faced power outages if residents didn't curtail their electricity usage.

About 7 p.m., the California Independent System Operator declared an emergency and said power outages were imminent because a transmission line carrying power from Oregon to California and another in-state power plant went offline unexpectedly. The cause of the outages is unknown at this time, the agency said.

But about 8:30 p.m., the agency issued a tweet calling off the emergency "thanks to conservation of Californians!" It said no power outages were ordered by operators of the grid.

Pacific Gas & Electric, the state's largest utility, warned customers that it might cut power starting Tuesday because of expected high winds and heat that could create even greater fire danger. Some of the state's largest and deadliest fires in recent years have been sparked by downed power lines and other utility equipment.

The Creek Fire started Friday and by Saturday afternoon exploded in size, jumped the San Joaquin River and cut off the only road into the Mammoth Pool Campground, national forest spokesman Dan Tune said. At least 2,000 structures were threatened in the area about 290 miles (467 kilometers) north of Los Angeles. The cause of the fire hasn't been determined.

While some campers were rescued by helicopters, others made a white-knuckle drive to safety. Juliana Park recorded video of flames on both sides of her car as she and others fled down a mountain road.

"A backpacking trip cut short by unforeseen thunder, ash rain, and having to drive through literal fire to evacuate #SierraNationalForest in time," Park tweeted. "Grateful to the SNF ranger who led us down ... wish we got her name."

The Mammoth Pool Reservoir is about 35 miles (56 kilometers) northeast of Fresno. It's surrounded by thick pine forests and is a popular destination for boating and fishing. Bone-dry conditions and the hot weather fueled the flames once the fire started, and it grew rapidly.

Lindsey Abbott and her family were guided to safety by a stranger they followed down from their campsite near Whisky Falls.

"It was so hot, you could feel the flames going through the window," she told ABC30 in Fresno.

Ashley Wagner was among those rescued, along with two relatives and a friend. They were trapped in Logan's Meadow behind Wagner's Store, a 63-year-old business run by her aunt that was destroyed.

"My family's history just went up in flames," Wagner told the station.

In Southern California, crews scrambled to douse several fires that popped up, including one that closed mountain roads in Angeles National Forest. The largest was a blaze in the foothills of Yucaipa east of Los Angeles that prompted evacuation orders for eastern portions of the city of 54,000 along with several mountain communities. Cal Fire said the fire scorched at least 4.7 square miles (12.2 square kilometers) of brush and trees.

In eastern San Diego County, the Valley Fire broke out Saturday afternoon, and fire officials warned the blaze was burning at a "dangerous rate of speed." By Sunday morning it had destroyed at least 10 structures after burning 6.25 square miles (16 square kilometers) and prompting evacuations near the remote community of Alpine in the Cleveland National Forest. At least two of the lost structures were homes, ABC10 News in San Diego reported.

Cal Fire said 14,800 firefighters were battling 23 major fires in the state. California has seen 900 wildfires since Aug. 15, many of them started by an intense series of thousands of lightning strikes. The blazes have burned more than 1.5 million acres (2,343 square miles). There have been eight fire deaths and nearly 3,300 structures destroyed.

Weber reported from Los Angeles.

Djokovic out of US Open after hitting line judge with ball

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Novak Djokovic was kicked out of the U.S. Open for accidentally hitting a line judge

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in the throat with a tennis ball after dropping a game in his fourth-round match Sunday, a stunning end to his 29-match winning streak and bid for an 18th Grand Slam title.

As he walked to the Arthur Ashe Stadium sideline for a changeover, trailing Pablo Carreño Busta 6-5 in the first set, Djokovic — who was seeded and ranked No. 1 and an overwhelming favorite for the championship — angrily smacked a ball behind him. The ball flew right at the line judge, who dropped to her knees at the back of the court and reached for her neck.

During a discussion of about 10 minutes near the net involving tournament referee Soeren Friemel, Grand Slam supervisor Andreas Egli and chair umpire Aurelie Tourte, Djokovic pleaded his case.

"His point was that he didn't hit the line umpire intentionally. He said, 'Yes, I was angry. I hit the ball. I hit the line umpire. The facts are very clear. But it wasn't my intent. I didn't do it on purpose.' So he said he shouldn't be defaulted for it," said Friemel, who made the decision to end the match. "And we all agree that he didn't do it on purpose, but the facts are still that he hit the line umpire and the line umpire was clearly hurt."

Friemel didn't see what happened, and said he was not allowed to check a video replay, but was given a rundown by Egli and Tourte. Friemel said that even if Djokovic didn't intend to hurt the line judge, she was hurt, and that was enough to merit the ruling.

Eventually, Djokovic walked over to shake hands with Carreño Busta. Tourte then announced that Djokovic was defaulted, the tennis equivalent of an ejection.

"I was a little bit in shock, no?" Carreño Busta said later at a news conference done via video conference because of social-distancing rules at the U.S. Open, the first Grand Slam tournament staged amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Djokovic quickly left the tournament grounds without speaking to reporters, posting an apology on social media hours later.

"This whole situation has left me really sad and empty. I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me that thank God she is feeling ok. I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such stress. So unintended. So wrong," Djokovic wrote.

"As for the disqualification, I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being," he wrote. "I apologize to the @usopen tournament and everyone associated for my behavior."

Asked whether he thought Djokovic should have been allowed to continue to play, Carreño Busta shrugged and replied: "Well, the rules are the rules. ... The referee and the supervisor (did) the right thing, but it's not easy to do it."

Indeed, the U.S. Tennis Association issued a statement saying that Friemel defaulted Djokovic "in accordance with the Grand Slam rulebook, following his actions of intentionally hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences."

The USTA went on to say Djokovic forfeits the ranking points and \$250,000 in prize money he earned in the tournament — "in addition to any or all fines levied with respect to the offending incident."

"Novak was angry. He hit the ball recklessly, angrily back. And taking everything into consideration, there was no discretion involved," Friemel said. "Defaulting a player at a Grand Slam is a very important, very tough decision. And for that reason, it doesn't matter if it's on Ashe, if it's No. 1, or any other player on any other court, you need to get it right."

This was the latest example of Djokovic finding himself at the center of the tennis world for a reason other than his best-in-the-game returns, can't-miss groundstrokes and body-contorting defensive prowess.

Djokovic tested positive for the coronavirus — as did his wife, one of his coaches and other players — after participating in a series of exhibition matches with zero social distancing he organized in Serbia and Croatia in June.

Then, on the eve of the U.S. Open, he helped establish a new association he says will represent men's tennis players.

And, of course, there's been his dominance on the court.

Djokovic began the day 26-0 this season and with an unbeaten run that extended to his last three matches

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of 2019. He had won five of the past seven Grand Slam tournaments to raise his total to 17, closing in on rivals Roger Federer, who has a men's-record 20, and Rafael Nadal, who has 19.

With reigning U.S. Open champion Nadal, who cited concerns about traveling amid the pandemic, and Federer, sidelined after two knee operations, not in the field, the 33-year-old from Serbia was expected to claim a fourth trophy in New York and gain on them.

But it all came apart so suddenly Sunday. Djokovic wasn't looking in the line judge's direction when his racket made contact with the ball, and there was concern on his face as soon as he realized what had happened.

Players who hit a ball out of anger and make contact with an on-court official have been disqualified in the past.

In 2017, Denis Shapovalov — the 21-year-old Canadian who is Carreño Busta's next opponent — was defaulted from a Davis Cup match against Britain when he accidentally hit the chair umpire in the face with a ball. At Wimbledon in 1995, Tim Henman hit a ball into the head of a ball girl and was defaulted from a doubles match.

"I've been through that myself. Honestly, I feel awful for him. I feel terrible for everybody. Nobody wants to be in this situation," Shapovalov said after beating No. 7 David Goffin 6-7 (0), 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 Sunday night. "Just a fluke. It's accidents like this that happen. Same thing with me."

No. 5 seed Alexander Zverev, who will face No. 27 Borna Coric in the other quarterfinal on that side of the draw, called Djokovic "unlucky."

"If it would have landed anywhere else — we're talking a few inches — he would have been fine," Zverev said.

Among the many oddities about the 2020 U.S. Open, which has no spectators, is that only the two largest arenas — Ashe and Louis Armstrong Stadium — have full complements of line judges. Elsewhere, chair umpires are aided by an electronic line-calling system.

Djokovic's mood had soured over the preceding few minutes Sunday. In the prior game, he wasted three consecutive break points, then whacked a ball off a courtside advertising sign.

On the second point of what would become Djokovic's last game at this year's U.S. Open, he stumbled and fell, clutching his left shoulder.

Play was delayed for a few minutes while a trainer checked on him.

On the second point after they resumed, the 20th-seeded Carreño Busta hit a passing winner to break Djokovic's serve. That's when Djokovic got himself into trouble.

His departure means there is no man left in the field who has won a Grand Slam singles title. Whoever emerges as champion will be the first first-time major trophy winner in men's tennis since 2014, when Marin Cilic won the U.S. Open.

Plus, each of the last 13 Grand Slam trophies had been won by a member of the Big Three of Federer, Nadal and Djokovic.

"This is definitely not the way we wanted to have a new Grand Slam champion," Shapovalov said, before noting: "It's been getting pretty boring with these three guys winning every tournament."

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More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Mayor promises police reforms following Daniel Prude's death

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — The mayor of Rochester promised reforms are coming to the city's police department as community elders sought to bring calmer minds to a fifth night of demonstrations Sunday over the March death of Daniel Prude, who lost consciousness after police held him down with a hood over his head.

Mayor Lovely Warren announced at a news conference Sunday that the crisis intervention team and its

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budget would move from the police department to the city's department of youth and recreation services. Warren did not provide specifics, but said the move would be part of a series of reforms planned for "the coming weeks, months and years."

"We had a human being in a need of help, in need of compassion. In that moment we had an opportunity to protect him, to keep him warm, to bring him to safety, to begin the process of healing him and lifting him up," Warren said. "We have to own the fact that in the moment we did not do that."

Police Chief La'Ron Singletary, who joined Warren at the news conference, said he supports the need for reform in his department and is working with experts and clinicians in getting outpatient services for people with mental health issues that bring them into repeated police contact.

Warren suspended the seven officers involved in Prude's death last week after his family released police video from the March night when he was restrained on a city street.

The video shows the officers covering Prude's head with a "spit hood" designed to protect police from bodily fluids, after he complied with being handcuffed, then pressing his face into the pavement for two minutes. Prude, 41, was naked at the time of his arrest on the light-snowy day in March. He died a week later after he was taken off life support.

The police union head said the officers were following their training.

Protests have followed each day since the family released the video on Wednesday, sometimes spawning confrontations with demonstrators and the police.

On Sunday night, police said more than 1,000 demonstrators gathered in downtown Rochester as people chanting "We are elders, and we support our youth" and "say his name, Daniel Prude," led a march to the Public Safety Building that houses police headquarters. Protest organizers had speeches scheduled, uniting the crowd early on in the night.

"I came out tonight as a born and raised rochesterian who loves her city," said Kera Turner, a protester.

Turner said she "threw up" when she first saw the footage of Prude from March. "It's just unacceptable," she added.

The protest appeared to be peaceful late into Sunday night.

Three officers were treated at hospitals for injuries they suffered when "projectiles and incendiary devices" were hurled at them during Saturday night's protests over Prude's death, Lt. Greg Bello of the Rochester police said in a news release. Nine protesters were arrested.

The Democrat and Chronicle reported that some protesters were hit by projectiles as well as thousands marched through the streets of New York's third-largest city. No information about injuries to protesters was provided by police.

The Rev. Myra Brown called for about 50 church elders to gather at Spiritus Christi Church in downtown Rochester on Sunday evening to serve as a "buffer" so protesters are free to express themselves without police interference.

"We elders have volunteered to put our bodies on the line to make sure that happens," Brown said at the news conference with the mayor and police chief Sunday.

The New York Civil Liberties Union criticized the police use of "military tactics," including sound cannons, flash bangs, tear gas, and pepper balls against the demonstrators.

"People speaking out are not enemy combatants, and to fire flash bangs, tear gas, and pepper balls at demonstrations against police violence only proves the point," NYCLU Genesee Valley chapter director Iman Abid said in a statement Sunday. "The mayor and RPD must stop these warfare tactics now."

The marches took place as New York's attorney general announced Saturday that a grand jury would investigate Prude's death.

"The Prude family and the Rochester community have been through great pain and anguish," Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement Saturday. She said the grand jury would be part of an "exhaustive investigation."

Prude's death came after his brother, Joe Prude, had called 911 seeking help for his erratic behavior. Prude had run away from his brother's home late in the night, about eight hours after officers had already

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taken him into custody for a mental health evaluation because of suicidal thoughts. Prude spent a few hours in the hospital for the evaluation and then was released, Joe Prude told officers.

The Monroe County medical examiner listed the manner of death as homicide caused by "complications of asphyxia in the setting of physical restraint." The report cited excited delirium and acute intoxication by phencyclidine, or PCP, as contributing factors.

A police internal affairs investigation cleared the officers involved of any wrongdoing, concluding in April that their "actions and conduct displayed when dealing with Prude appear to be appropriate and consistent with their training." The seven officers were suspended Thursday.

Protesters have called on Warren and Singletary to step down over the delay in releasing details of Prude's death. They've also demanded police accountability and legislation to change how authorities respond to mental health emergencies.

The mayor and police chief said Sunday they had no plans to resign.

Warren did not provide specifics Sunday about how the crisis intervention team's move would change the policing of a person going through a mental health crisis. But she said the city will double the availability of mental health professionals and work with Rochester's Commission on Racial and Structural Equity, or RASE, to re-envision the police department and how it responds to mental health crises.

"The chief and I, we love our city. We were born and raised here," she said Sunday. "We are committed to making the necessary changes to make sure this community moves forward."

The Latest: Australia OKs funding for two potential vaccines

By The Associated Press undefined

CANBERRA, Australia — Australia announced on Monday it had struck supply and production agreements with pharmaceutical companies worth 1.7 billion Australian dollars (\$1.2 billion) over two potential COVID-19 vaccines.

Under the agreement, Britain's University of Oxford in collaboration with AstraZeneca and Australia's University of Queensland working with CSL will provide more than 84.8 million vaccine doses for Australia's population of 26 million people, almost entirely manufactured in the Australian city of Melbourne, a government statement said.

Australians would have access to 3.8 million doses of the University of Oxford vaccine in January and February, it said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said both vaccines would need to be proven safe and effective and meet all necessary regulatory requirements before being made available to the public. Any vaccine would be free to all Australians.

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

- Pandemic turns summer into European tourism's leanest season
- As the pandemic raged, roadways became speedways
- States are planning for cuts as Congress deadlocks on virus aid
- As coronavirus cases fall in the U.S., governors in hard-hit states are rethinking lockdown orders on bars.
- Cutbacks in credit insurance are creating a dilemma for suppliers, caught between potentially going unpaid and losing customers. That could affect retailers as they approach the critical holiday season.
- Some colleges are turning campus sewage into a public health tool. At least two schools in Utah and Arizona have quarantined students after tests showed the presence of genetic material from the new coronavirus in wastewater.

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

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HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has added 119 more cases of the coronavirus, its lowest daily jump in more than three weeks amid a downward trend in new cases.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday the additional figures took the country's total to 21,296 with 336 deaths.

It's the fifth straight day the country's daily jump has stayed under 200. The 119 additional cases are the lowest in kind since mid-August.

South Korea's caseload had risen since early last month, with many associated with churches, restaurants and schools and an anti-government street rally in the greater Seoul area. In late August, South Korea's daily jump once marked over 400.

But the caseload has gradually slowed down, largely thanks to toughened social distancing rules that restricts at dining at restaurants and bans gatherings at churches, night spots, after-school academics and fitness centers.

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — West Virginia University has suspended 29 members of a fraternity house for not following health and safety orders related to the coronavirus pandemic.

A Theta Chi fraternity member, who tested positive for the virus and had been ordered into isolation, attended a party at the fraternity house on Friday, the university said in a statement. In addition, all residents of the fraternity house had previously been notified by the university to isolate or quarantine due to confirmed virus cases and close contacts.

The university said the 29 students received notifications letters of the interim suspensions Sunday stating they have been banned from campus and cannot take classes, including those offered online.

"Their flagrant disregard for the health and safety of their classmates, our campus and the entire Morgantown community will not be tolerated," Dean of Students Corey Farris said.

The university also is investigating photos and videos from a large party hosted by another fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi. Neither fraternity is recognized by the university.

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australia's hot spot Victoria state on Monday recorded its lowest count of new COVID-19 cases in more than 10 weeks.

The state reported 41 news cases and nine deaths in the latest 24-hour period. That was the lowest infection tally since 37 were recorded on June 26 in the early days of the state's second wave of infections.

The state on Sunday announced a slight easing of restrictions in Melbourne that began in early August, but the country's second-largest city will remain in lockdown until at least Oct. 26.

The new infections bring the 14-day average in Victoria to 96 a day. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said the average would have to be brought below 50 before restrictions can be relaxed.

"This is not about eradicating it," Andrews said. "We will finish up with cases and outbreaks in 2021, but they'll be of such low numbers that we can probably put the lid on those and not have to put restrictions back on," Andrews said.

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced overnight curfews on some 40 cities and towns hit hard by the coronavirus.

But he backed away from reported calls for full lockdowns after an uproar by powerful religious politicians.

The measures were announced late Sunday after hours of consultations with decision-makers. The government has been forced to take new action after failing to contain an outbreak that has claimed more than 1,000 lives and remains at record levels of new infections. The curfews will go into effect Monday at 7 p.m. and will be in effect until 5 a.m. It was not known how long they will remain in place.

HAVANA — A small outbreak of COVID-19 cases has prompted authorities to reclose schools in a central Cuban province only a week after they opened.

Ciego de Avila schools director Bárbara Rodríguez said 75 of the province's 90 schools would return to

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televised teaching on Monday. Students had returned to classrooms only on Sept.1 after a six-month break.

The province has reported 30 new infections with the new coronavirus over the past 15 days. Cuba as a whole has reported 4,309 infections and 100 deaths from the disease since March.

The largest outbreak has been in the capital, Havana, which remains under a nighttime curfew.

Cuba's baseball season is scheduled to start on Saturday before stadiums without spectators.

LONDON — Britain has recorded its highest daily number of new coronavirus cases since May, with 2,988 new infections announced on Sunday.

Like other European countries, the U.K. is seeing the number of infections rise as society reopens after lockdown.

Some of the increase can be accounted for by expanded testing, which is identifying people who have mild or no symptoms. The number of hospital admissions and deaths has so far not shown a corresponding rise. Two new deaths were reported Sunday.

The increased number of cases comes as British schoolchildren return to class, a milestone in the resumption of normal life.

Britain's confirmed coronavirus death toll stands at 41,551, the highest in Europe.

YANGON, Myanmar — Myanmar on Sunday reported 166 confirmed new cases of the coronavirus, topping the previous single-day high of 107 reported on Aug 31 and bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 1,419. The total number of dead from the disease has risen to eight after two new deaths were announced over the weekend.

Myanmar had its first confirmed case in late March, but a surge in the western state of Rakhine has roughly doubled the total in the past week alone.

The government has responded by imposing new lockdowns along with other restrictions in Rakhine and in major urban areas in other parts of the country. In Yangon, police have begun strictly enforcing a late-night curfew implemented several months ago, arresting more than 1,000 people since late last week.

ATHENS, Greece — Greek health authorities announced 144 new cases of the coronavirus Sunday, 24 from international arrivals, and four deaths.

The total number of cases is 11,544, with 284 deaths. While the median age of those who got sick is 39, that of those who died is 78.

Although the latest numbers are well off the recent highs, when the number of new daily cases reached nearly 300, authorities are stepping up controls and fines for people not wearing masks in closed spaces or not keeping social distancing.

TIRANA, Albania - An Albanian restaurant owner has been arrested after repeatedly violating the government ban on wedding gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic. It's the first time authorities have made such an arrest.

Police reported on Sunday that the 52-year old was arrested in the port city of Durrës, about 35 kilometers (20 miles) west of the capital, Tirana, after organizing a wedding. He had earlier been fined twice for the same offense.

Albanian authorities have banned mass activities such as weddings and funerals to impede spread of the virus.

The country has reported 10,255 confirmed virus cases and 316 deaths as of Sunday.

ROME — Silvio Berlusconi's doctor says that the hospitalized former Italian premier is responding "optimally" to COVID-19 treatment, but that he belongs to the most vulnerable category of patients and is in "the most delicate phase" of the virus.

Dr. Alberto Zangrillo, who is head of intensive care at the San Raffaele hospital in Milan, repeated Sunday

that he nevertheless remained "cautiously optimistic" about Berlusconi's recovery.

"The patient is responding optimally to treatment," he said. "This doesn't mean we can claim victory because, as you know, he belongs to the most fragile category" given his age. He also suggested Berlusconi would not be released anytime soon, recalling that the virus "requires adequate treatment and takes its time."

The three-time premier turns 84 in a few weeks and has had a history of heart problems that required being fitted with a pacemaker several years ago. He checked into San Raffaele Friday after testing positive for the virus earlier in the week. Zangrillo said at the time that he had the early stages of a lung infection.

Data from Italy's Superior Institute of Health indicates men aged 80-87 have the highest COVID-19 lethality rate among all cases in Italy, at 47%.

Berlusconi spent some of his summer vacation at his seaside villa on Sardinia's Emerald Coast. Many of Italy's recent cases of COVID-19 have been linked to clusters in people who vacationed on Sardinia.

Navajo woman who survived COVID-19 finds joy in simple steps

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — An ambulance whisked Carol Todecheene from her house in late March as some of her 13 rescue dogs barked and neighbors stood in their yards wondering what was wrong.

Some thought she had died as the number of coronavirus cases rapidly rose on the vast Navajo Nation, which at one point had the highest infection rate in the U.S.

Todecheene received so many calls and messages that her family let people know on social media that she had the virus. After weeks in the hospital, followed by rehabilitation, she's among the COVID-19 survivors.

Recovery, though, doesn't mean she's OK.

It came with survivor's guilt, trouble accessing health care and fear she wouldn't regain her memory or her job overseeing transportation at the local school district, where limited in-person classes will begin this week.

Her own social media posts provide a glimpse of her journey.

March 21: "Gots to finish cleaning & sanitizing tomorrow. Remember...I'm not allowing anyone to my house. G'nite everyone #ShelterInPlace #FlattentheCurve"

By then, Todecheene had a stuffy nose, body aches and scratchy throat. One night, she was vomiting and coughing violently.

She tried to get tested for the coronavirus at a health center in the Navajo Nation town of Kayenta but was turned away twice because she didn't have a fever or respiratory problems. Her daughter Shannon insisted she go off the reservation to get checked.

It meant an hourslong trip, with Todecheene riding in the backseat, and mother and daughter wearing masks.

Todecheene thought about how they hadn't yet marked the start of the spring season with a blessing to Mother Earth for prosperity, health, protection and survival.

Before she received her test results, she was in the emergency room. She lost 85% of her lung capacity and much of her kidney function. She had to be flown to a Phoenix hospital and put on a ventilator and dialysis March 29.

April 25: "Water is sooooo good! I'm still working at getting 100% better. They keep telling me to eat & I'm trying but they want me to eat more. I told the nurse they need to put mutton on the menu then I will eat! Lol"

The last thing Todecheene remembered before being hospitalized was canceling meal deliveries to students in the Kayenta Unified School District because she feared for the bus drivers' safety.

When she woke up in the hospital, she could barely talk after nearly three weeks on a ventilator. Her throat muscles were weak from the feeding tube. She didn't know where she was and struggled to remember the year.

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A friend had been texting her about home — the wind sweeping across mesas and rock formations, the sounds of sirens and a shelter-in-place order. Pictures of her dogs made her miss them even more.

Todecheene couldn't lift her arms or steady her fingers to read the messages herself, so a nurse helped. She thought about her kids, who were calling the hospital every day, and her late husband, Harry, wishing he could hold her and tell her things would be OK.

She found joy in finally being able to drink water, but her cravings for mutton — a traditional Navajo dish — would have to wait.

She also prayed she'd be able to walk soon.

May 2: "Got to sit outside today!! I touched the grass, the sidewalk, the leaves on the trees, the water from the water fountain & little dirt. The magnolia trees will be beautiful once it fully blooms. Things that was meaningless means so much!"

Sitting in a wheelchair outside a rehabilitation center she was transferred to in Tucson, amid the flowers and trees, felt like an awakening, Todecheene said. She hadn't been outside since leaving her house in the ambulance more than a month earlier.

She got a plaque for Mother's Day that read, "Carol Todecheene is a survivor of ovarian cancer, breast cancer and COVID-19."

While she was considered recovered, she didn't feel anywhere near normal. The headaches were excruciating. She was tired and achy. Her hands were numb and tingly. She lost almost 30 pounds.

Writing things down helped her remember.

Todecheene spent her 60th birthday at the rehab center. She visited her kids on opposite sides of a window that was cracked open. She wasn't strong enough to sit up for long, so she braced herself against a wall, smiling.

She worried she'd be shunned on the Navajo Nation as the "COVID lady" and that she'd lose her independence or not be able to work.

"I don't know what the good Lord has planned," Todecheene said, jokingly. "He should just tell me and not play these death games so I can get to my goal, whatever I'm supposed to be doing."

She eventually began receiving therapy at her daughter Erin's house. Short, scenic drives were refreshing, but she didn't get out of the car much.

May 21: "Seems like it's been a long journey in the past two months of recovery. I'm making progress and starting to walk independently with a cane. A little at a time but getting there."

Most people with COVID-19 have mild or moderate symptoms. Some, like Todecheene, can become severely ill.

On the Navajo Nation, nearly 10,000 people have tested positive for the virus, and more than 500 have died.

Doctors say fatigue and weakness can linger long after people are cleared of the virus. Todecheene hasn't seen a neurologist for her memory loss, partly because it requires her to leave the reservation where specialty care is largely unavailable. She also has to navigate the Navajo Nation's curfews and lockdowns that are meant to prevent the spread of the virus.

Dr. Jonathan Iralu, an infectious disease specialist for the Indian Health Service in Gallup, New Mexico, said it's important to encourage COVID-19 patients throughout their recovery not to give up hope.

"We are still just over the big surge of the spring, and we've seen a bit of a reprieve in the number of new cases over the last month or so," he said. "But internally, we're learning about COVID."

Farther south on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Indian Health Service workers are grappling with the appropriate terminology when it comes to recovery. Dr. Ryan Close is among those tracking patients.

"I don't think we're ready to transition to a world where we're just thinking about COVID follow-up," he said. "Increasing tracing, good antibody testing, vaccine and how to reopen safely — there's all these other public health sectors that continue to take up bandwidth."

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June 14: "Going home today! ... Mixed emotions...happy to go home to my mutts, my unfinished chores, my bed & stuff but part of me is scared...to be alone to climb the stairs (am I ready?), and to be in a hotspot (PTSD from having Covid-19 & its toll of agony)"

Todecheene wasn't sure she wanted to leave Tucson, but a visit home reminded her how much she missed her dogs and the house she and her late husband built on the reservation spanning Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Her sister took care of her 13 dogs when she was away, but a sea of weeds needed pulling outside. She had to put up handrails on the stairs, and a grab bar in the shower.

Todecheene does what she can but sometimes feels overwhelmed.

"I'm just hoping I don't have long-term disability of any sort," she said. "It just aggravates me that I'm not back to normal. I'm very independent, and needing help really bothers the heck out of me."

She's also more emotional now. Instead of seeking counseling, she's connected with other COVID-19 survivors. They share advice on everything from hair loss to doctors who might be taking new patients.

Aug. 2: "I go back to work tomorrow and I'm already feeling anxiety attacks starting to hit. Is that norm for post-COVID? Or is it now PTSD?"

Todecheene had to go back to work after exhausting the time she could take off. She couldn't afford not to. Her medical bills topped \$700,000, though insurance covered most of it.

She had a bit of an emotional setback when she didn't see two co-workers who had died from the coronavirus.

"These two I knew were dedicated, hard workers," Todecheene said. "It was hard to accept that they passed on. That was the hard part, my staff. And then another hard part is you survive but the others didn't survive."

The school has been accommodating, telling her to take breaks as needed. Her throat is still scratchy and worsens when smoke from wildfires wafts through the air, and her vision isn't clear.

And her memory?

"Oh, that's bad, what was I saying?" she jokes.

The school buses start running again this week, but the number of children attending class in person will be limited to about 60. No more than two children will ride each bus, and they'll be required to wear masks and have their temperature taken, Todecheene said.

She feels ready but isn't sure how resuming the bus routes might affect the drivers emotionally. But she tells them not to let their guard down.

"Wear your mask, wash your hands all the time, don't be around each other long," Todecheene said. "That's in the back of my head — there's going to be a second wave."

This story has been corrected to show that Todecheene recovered at her daughter Erin's house, not her daughter Shannon's house.

As virus cases drop, governors may gamble on bars. Again.

By PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A guy walks into a bar, which still isn't allowed in Texas.

But Jeff Brightwell owns this bar. Two months into an indefinite shutdown, he's just checking on the place — the tables six feet apart, the "Covid 19 House Rules" sign instructing drinkers not to mingle. All the safeguards that didn't keep the doors open because Dot's Hop House & Cocktail Courtyard is a bar under Texas law. And bars, in a pandemic? "Really not good," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's infectious disease expert, told Congress in June.

But some governors are warming up to good enough. Thousands of bars forced to close after massive virus outbreaks swept across the U.S. this summer could be starting to see an end in sight as cases drop off and the political will for continuing lockdowns fades. For some states, it is a gamble worth trying, only

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a few months after a rush to reopen bars in May and June ended in disaster.

"Our governor waved the magic wand, put us out of business and offered us nothing," said Brightwell, whose Dallas bar typically employs around 50 people. He says his industry has been scapegoated.

Bars remain under full closure orders in more than a half-dozen states, including hard-hit ones like Texas but also Connecticut, which has one of the nation's lowest positivity rates. And even in states already letting bars operate, restrictions vary from one county to the next and can tighten or loosen abruptly, reflecting the unease among governors even as reopening movie theaters and amusement parks create a look of getting over the hump.

Arkansas has one of the highest infection levels in the U.S. and is letting bars operate with partial capacity. Republican Gov. Asa Hutchison's defense: No spread has been linked to bars.

Experts say outbreaks nationwide have proven otherwise. Even in recent weeks, new outbreaks tied to college students returning to campus have resulted in bars shutting down again from Alabama to Iowa, undermining confidence that the time is right.

Still, governors are looking for a way. California began letting some bars in a few small counties reopen, though not where the vast majority of the population lives. Next might be Florida, where bars have been closed since June and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, a top ally of President Donald Trump, has mused whether bar closings even work since restaurants are serving alcohol anyway. "Everything's open except the nightclubs and the pubs, and that's something we're going to address," DeSantis said this week.

In Texas, where three in four of the state's 13,400 deaths blamed on COVID-19 have occurred since July, the infection rate has dipped below the 10% positivity rate that Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has set as one criteria for letting bars back in business. He has teased that an another announcement about next steps in reopening could come early as this week, which won't come soon enough for the right wing of his party, which for months has blasted him over the lockdowns and a statewide mask mandate.

The decision is dicey for governors who, pressure from bar owners aside, have faced less blowback from keeping bars shut than other sectors. Polls showed about half of Americans favored requiring bars and restaurants to close when cases surged, and experts say the high risks of bars are by now proven — the combination of cozy spaces, loud music forcing people to lean in close and rounds of drinks relaxing even the best intentions to social distance.

Videos of crowded clubs have made bars avatars of rowdy rule-breakers, the ones ruining a return to normal for the rest of us.

"It's way too soon. And it's going to be too soon until we have a vaccine," said Esmeralda Guajardo, the public health administrator in Cameron County on the Texas border, where hard-partying booze cruises on South Padre Island this summer drew fury from local officials.

For months, bar owners have protested outside state capitols, sued their governors and even sold alcohol in open defiance of closing orders. None have led to bars reopening any sooner. Hundreds in Texas have ramped up kitchens in order to legally operate as restaurants.

It hasn't spared thousands of bars from ruin. More than 5,400 bars nationwide were dark in July, according to Yelp, which tracks the status of businesses on their website. More than 40 percent were permanent closures.

Mark McClellan, former head of the Food and Drug Administration who has been advising Abbott on Texas' reopening, said the first reopening of bars in Texas was too soon but can see a case for waiting for a vaccine as too long.

"This is part of our economy and there are jobs at stake," he said. "It's hard to reopen dance clubs and night clubs for similar kinds of reasons. If we're going to try it, we need to learn what went wrong from the June reopening."

McClellan said more enforcement of rules at bars is one step. Last month, some Texas bars hired a lobbying group and pledged to screen the temperature of every patron at the door, a step that would go father than restaurants.

"I've been to restaurants and seen my customers," said Greg Barrineau, who runs two bars in San An-

tonio called Drink Texas. "They haven't stopped drinking."

Associated Press writer Brandon Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida, contributed to this report.

Another Marx (his daughter) gets Venice Film Fest spotlight

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VENICE (AP) — There's been a lot of talk about gender parity, feminism and equality at the Venice Film Festival this year, with nearly half the in-competition films directed by women. One of them, "Miss Marx," certainly backs that trend.

The historical drama profiles Karl Marx's youngest daughter, Eleanor, an innovative British-born social activist and women's rights campaigner who wrote the first English translation of Flaubert's "Madame Bovary."

But Italian director Susanna Nicchiarelli also sought to highlight the less-than-empowered side of Miss Marx, who for years tolerated her louse of a partner as he cheated on her, squandered her money and otherwise humiliated her.

"The focus was on the dichotomy between the public activism and her public beliefs and the inconsistency with her private relationship," said Romola Garai, who plays Eleanor in the film. "We are left to wonder why and how human beings can be so eloquent on the one hand, and that can so not enter your psyche on the other hand."

Nicchiarelli said she was drawn to this internal conflict, which she said was both touching and deeply human.

"That says so much about the way we are," she said.

To hammer home the current-day relevance of that dichotomy, the film's score includes punk rock music and Nicchiarelli spliced in archival footage of 20th-century labor protests to "whip the audience into this insistence" that the issues Marx fought for still haven't been resolved, Garai said.

"The wheel of history has turned through the 20th century, but the same conversation about the dynamic around capitalism and who benefits from it is the same," said Garai, who said she first learned about Eleanor Marx's contribution to labor and feminist causes working on the 2015 British historical drama "Suffragette."

The film "Miss Marx" is one of eight directed by women that is competing for the top Golden Lion award in the main competition at Venice, which wraps up Sept. 12. The Venice festival has long been criticized for the lack of female directors in its in-competition films, with only four films made by women in the 62 films that competed for the Golden Lion between 2017 and 2019, and only four women winning the Golden Lion in the festival's history.

This year, 44% of the in-competition films were directed by women.

"I dream of the day when it will no longer be interesting to talk about how many women there are in a festival, and we will no longer count how many they are," Nicchiarelli said. "Having said as much, Eleanor Marx really is important. She gave an enormous contribution to history, also, for her feminist ideas."

Louise Dixon contributed.

'Tenet' tallies \$20.2M as Americans step back into theaters

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a litmus test for American moviegoing in the pandemic, Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" brought in an estimated \$20.2 million through the holiday weekend in U.S. and Canadian theaters.

The result could be greeted as either the rejuvenation of U.S. cinemas — more Americans went to the movies this weekend than they have in nearly six months — or a reflection of drastically lowered standards for Hollywood's top blockbusters given the circumstances.

About 70% of U.S. movie theaters are currently open; those in the country's top markets, Los Angeles and New York, remain closed. Theaters that are operating are limiting audiences to a maximum of 50%

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capacity to distance moviegoers from one another. "Tenet" played in 2,810 North American locations, about three-fourths of what most major releases typically launch in.

Warner Bros. declined to split up U.S. and Canadian box office receipts. Theaters in Canada, where COVID-19 cases are much lower than in the U.S., began showing "Tenet" a week earlier. The film debuted stateside with nightly preview screenings Monday through Wednesday before the official opening on Thursday. Warner Bros. included all of the above in its estimated gross Sunday, along with expected returns for Monday's Labor Day.

"Tenet" opened stronger in China. It debuted there with \$30 million in ticket sales from Friday to Monday. Internationally, "Tenet" has exceeded expectations. In two weeks of release, its overseas total is \$126 million, with a global tally thus far of \$146.2 million.

Warner Bros. has emphasized that the usual opening-weekend calculus is out the window. Few onlookers felt it was possible to gauge how "Tenet" would open. The film, which cost \$200 million to make and at least \$100 million to market, will need to get close to \$500 million to break even.

In the film's favor: It currently has the big screen almost entirely to itself. Some multiplexes played "Tenet" as many as 100 times over the weekend. With little else on the horizon, Warner Bros. is counting on a long run for "Tenet."

Not in the film's favor: Audiences didn't love Nolan's latest time-bender. Moviegoers gave the thriller, starring John David Washington, Robert Pattinson and Elizabeth Debicki, a "B" CinemaScore, the lowest grade for a Nolan release since 2006's "The Prestige." Reviews (75% positive on Rotten Tomatoes) have been good but far from overwhelming.

Warner Bros. declined to make executives available to discuss the opening but said in a statement that "Tenet" had to be judged differently. "We are in unprecedented territory, so any comparisons to the pre-COVID world would be inequitable and baseless," said the studio.

Analyzing the film's performance was virtually impossible, said senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian for data firm Comscore. He acknowledged North America remains a more challenged marketplace than Europe or Asia, but called it a solid start in what will be lengthy run for "Tenet."

"It's going to take a longer time to assess this," said Dergarabedian. "The win is just to have movies open. To me, that says a lot."

Hollywood is watching closely. With the majority of the studios' top productions delayed until next year, the industry is experimenting with how to release its most expensive movies in the COVID-era. The Walt Disney Co. this weekend also debuted its \$200 million live-action "Mulan" remake, but did so as a \$30 purchase for Disney+ subscribers.

Disney on Sunday didn't share digital returns for "Mulan" — a practice that's been common among streaming companies and previous anticipated VOD releases like Universal's "Trolls World Tour" and Disney's own "Hamilton." But "Mulan" is also playing in theaters in some overseas territories. It began with \$5.9 million in Thailand, Taiwan, the Middle East, Singapore and Malaysia. Next week, it debuts theatrically in its most important market: China.

The release of "Tenet" was also hotly debated, given the health risks associated with indoor gatherings. Several prominent film critics said they wouldn't review "Tenet" over ethical concerns.

Theater chains, meanwhile, are struggling to remain solvent. Exhibitors have argued that they need new films to survive. Last weekend offered the first significant opportunity for U.S. cinemas to convince moviegoers to come back. Disney's "The New Mutants," a long delayed "X-Men" spinoff, collected about \$7 million in 2,412 locations last weekend. Dipping significantly in its second weekend, its total is now up to \$11.6 million.

Fittingly in an upside-down year, the palindromic "Tenet" — a thriller in which time is reversed — essentially began the summer movie season on the weekend it typically ends. Labor Day weekend, this year a historical one at the movies, is usually among the sleepest weekends of the year at cinemas.

Colleges combating coronavirus turn to stinky savior: sewage

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Days after he crossed the country to start college, Ryan Schmutz received a text message from Utah State University: COVID-19 had been detected at his dorm.

Within 10 minutes, he dropped the crepes he was making and was whisked away by bus to a testing site. “We didn’t even know they were testing,” said Schmutz, who is 18 and from Omaha, Nebraska. “It all really happened fast.”

Schmutz was one of about 300 students quarantined to their rooms last week, but not because of sickness reports or positive tests. Instead, the warning bells came from the sewage.

Colleges across the nation — from New Mexico to Tennessee, Michigan to New York — are turning tests of waste into a public health tool. The work comes as institutions hunt for ways to keep campuses open despite vulnerabilities like students’ close living arrangements and drive to socialize. The virus has already left its mark with outbreaks that have forced changes to remote learning at colleges around the country.

The tests work by detecting genetic material from the virus, which can be recovered from the stools of about half of people with COVID-19, studies indicate. The concept has also been used to look for outbreaks of the polio virus.

Sewage testing is especially valuable because it can evaluate people even if they aren’t feeling sick and can detect a few cases out of thousands of people, experts say. Another wastewater-flagged quarantine of around 300 students at the University of Arizona, for example, turned up two cases. Both were students who were asymptomatic, but they could potentially still have spread the virus.

“That’s just tremendously valuable information when we think about the setting of a college dorm, and how quickly this disease can spread through that population,” said Peter Grevatt, CEO of The Water Research Foundation, which promotes studies of water and wastewater to ensure water quality and service.

Wastewater tests also flagged the possible presence of the virus at University of Colorado residence halls.

Utah has used the method more widely, including to track an outbreak at a meatpacking plant. The British, Italian and Dutch governments have also announced similar monitoring programs, and the Massachusetts-based company Biobot tests wastewater from cities around the country.

The method remains imprecise, though. It can spot infection trends, but it can’t yet pinpoint how many people have the virus or the stage of infection. That means it’s not yet quite as useful on a larger scale in cities, which don’t always have a university’s scientific resources or ability to require people to get tested.

The technology is being closely studied, though, and it is evolving rapidly, Grevatt said, adding that it’s best used along with other methods like contact tracing.

It’s not a panacea for colleges either. Utah State, for example, can only closely monitor sewage from the relatively small portion of students who live on campus — not the thousands of other people who come and go every day. The university has an enrollment of about 28,000.

And this week, Utah State’s positive wastewater test could be narrowed only as far as four residence halls that share the same sewer system. The test came back positive late Aug. 29, and the quarantine started the next day. Students were required to stay in their rooms, eating meals delivered by a “COVID care” team and barred from walking more than a few steps outside the residence hall.

The buildings are laid out in apartment-style suites, and students were released from quarantine in small groups if every roommate in a suite tested negative. The tests had turned up four coronavirus cases as of Thursday.

Schmutz, who tested negative along with his roommates, didn’t miss much in-person class time during his four-day quarantine.

But he’s a little disconcerted that he and his family weren’t told about the sewage testing. “It felt like we were kind of out of the loop on everything. It’s definitely hard to process,” he said.

Utah State has heard from parents and students similarly frustrated, though many others are grateful, spokeswoman Emilie Wheeler said. “They see it as a noninvasive early detection system,” she said.

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The program is relatively inexpensive, too. The school takes samples daily to monitor several living areas, and the tests are run by a team of students.

"Wastewater has a story to tell about the public health status of communities," Grevatt said. "There's so many folks working on this right now. It's just remarkable to see how quickly it has moved forward."

This story has been corrected to reflect that the wastewater-flagged quarantine of around 300 students happened at the University of Arizona, not Arizona State University.

Census Bureau must temporarily halt winding down operations

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The U.S. Census Bureau for now must stop following a plan that would have it winding down operations in order to finish the 2020 census at the end of September, according to a federal judge's order.

U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California, issued a temporary restraining order late Saturday against the Census Bureau and the Commerce Department, which oversees the agency. The order stops the Census Bureau from winding down operations until a court hearing is held on Sept. 17.

The once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident helps determine how \$1.5 trillion in federal funding is distributed and how many congressional seats each state gets in a process known as apportionment.

The temporary restraining order was requested by a coalition of cities, counties and civil rights groups that had sued the Census Bureau, demanding it restore its previous plan for finishing the census at the end of October, instead of using a revised plan to end operations at the end of September. The coalition had argued the earlier deadline would cause the Census Bureau to overlook minority communities in the census, leading to an inaccurate count.

Because of the pandemic, the Census Bureau pushed back ending the count from the end of July to the end of October and asked Congress to extend the deadline for turning in the apportionment numbers from December, as required by law, into next spring. When the Republican-controlled Senate failed to take up the request, the bureau was forced to create a revised schedule that had the census ending in September, according to the statistical agency.

The lawsuit contends the Census Bureau changed the schedule to accommodate a directive from President Donald Trump to exclude people in the country illegally from the numbers used in redrawing congressional districts. The revised plan would have the Census Bureau handing in the apportionment numbers at the end of December, under the control of the Trump administration, no matter who wins the election in November.

More than a half dozen other lawsuits have been filed in tandem across the country, challenging Trump's memorandum as unconstitutional and an attempt to limit the power of Latinos and immigrants of color during apportionment.

"The court rightfully recognized the Trump administration's attempted short-circuiting of our nation's census as an imminent threat to the completion of a fair and accurate process," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, one of the groups that brought the San Jose lawsuit.

In her order, Koh wrote that previous court cases had concluded that it's in the public interest that Congress be fairly apportioned and that the federal funds be distributed using an accurate census.

"Thus, the balance of the hardships and public interest tip sharply in Plaintiffs' favor," Koh said.

Neither the White House nor the Commerce Department had immediate comment.

In a message emailed to regional offices and headquarters late Saturday, the Census Bureau said the statistical agency and the Commerce Department "are obligated to comply with the Court's Order and are taking immediate steps to do so." Further guidance would be provided later, the bureau said.

A top Census Bureau official said in court papers filed late Friday that the bureau wouldn't be able to meet its deadline to turn in apportionment numbers at the end of December if the head count were ex-

tended an extra month.

Associate director Al Fontenot said it would be difficult to bring back census takers who had been laid off if the bureau was forced to go back to the plan that has the head count ending in October, and that the current crop of census takers had been much more efficient than in past decades, allowing the count to end on the faster timetable.

As of Saturday, more than 86% of households have been counted. More than 65% of households were counted from self-reponses online, by mail or by telephone, and 21% of households were counted by census takers who went to households that hadn't yet answered the questionnaire.

Some census takers have been laid off and operations wound down as 85% of households in an area have been counted in what is known as the "closeout" phase, and starting Sept. 11, it will be up to the supervisors to wind down operations in an area even if it hasn't achieved the 85% threshold, Fontenot said.

Some steps also have been eliminated in the processing phase that will take place between when the count ends and when the apportionment numbers must be turned in, increasing the risk for errors, but the "Census Bureau is confident that it can achieve a complete and accurate census and report apportionment counts," Fontenot said in the court papers.

AP White House reporter Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

City won't waste John Oliver's donation, on 1 condition

DANBURY, Conn. (AP) — A Connecticut city won't waste an opportunity to get a sizeable donation from comedian John Oliver about a weeks-long joke pertaining to the name of a sewage plant in the area.

Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton said on WTNH-TV that he would accept Oliver's challenge to name the city's sewage plant after him following Oliver's offer to donate \$55,000 to local charities.

But Boughton said there was one stipulation to the facility's renaming. "We do have one very specific condition. You must come here to Danbury and be physically present when we cut the ribbon," he said in a Facebook video posted Sunday.

The announcement was the latest volley in a war of words between the host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" and Boughton after Oliver first bashed Danbury on an Aug. 16 during a segment on racial disparities in jury selection that was actually focused on other areas of Connecticut.

"If you're going to forget a town in Connecticut, why not forget Danbury?" Oliver said. He finished his rant with a taunt: "If you're from there, you have a standing invite to come get a thrashing from John Oliver -- children included."

Boughton followed up with an Aug. 22 Facebook post that showed the mayor in front of the city's sewage plant. "We are going to rename it the John Oliver Memorial Sewer Plant," the Republican mayor said. "Why? Because it's full of crap just like you, John."

Oliver raised the stakes on his Aug. 30 show by offering to donate \$55,000 to Danbury-area charities if officials followed through on naming the plant after him.

The comedian played a video of Boughton saying the offer was a joke and said, "Wait, so you're not doing it?" Oliver said he hadn't known that he wanted his name on the sewage plant "but now that you floated it as an option, it is all that I want."

A message seeking comment on Boughton's demand that Oliver attend the ribbon-cutting was sent to Oliver's manager.

It was unclear why Oliver first singled out Danbury, a city of about 80,000 in Fairfield County that was once a hatmaking center.

100,000 march in Minsk to demand Belarus leader resigns

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

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KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched Sunday to the outskirts of the presidential residence in the capital of Belarus, calling for the country's authoritarian leader to resign as protests against President Alexander Lukashenko entered their fifth week.

Protests also took place in major cities throughout Belarus, said Interior Ministry spokeswoman Olga Chemodanova. Crowd sizes for those protests were not immediately reported, but Ales Bialiatski, head of the Viasna human rights organization, said the demonstration in Minsk attracted more than 100,000 people.

The protests, unprecedented in Belarus for their size and duration, began after the Aug. 9 presidential vote that election officials said gave Lukashenko a sixth term in office with 80% support. Protesters say the results were rigged, and some have explained to Associated Press journalists exactly how the fraud took place in their districts.

Lukashenko has ruled the country with an iron fist since 1994, regularly repressing dissent and press freedom.

Police violently cracked down on demonstrators in the first days of the protests, arresting some 7,000 people and beating hundreds. Although they have scaled back, detentions continue; Viasna reported scores of people were arrested in Minsk and in the city of Grodno on Sunday.

Police and army troops blocked off the center of Minsk on Sunday, but demonstrators marched to the outskirts of the Palace of Independence, the president's working residence 3 kilometers (2 miles) outside the city center. The palace grounds were blocked off by phalanxes of shield-bearing riot police and water cannon.

"This sea of people cannot be stopped by military equipment, water cannons, propaganda and arrests. Most Belarusians want a peaceful change of power and we will not get tired of demanding this," said Maria Kolesnikova, a leader of the Coordination Council set up by the opposition to try to arrange a dialogue with the 66-year-old Lukashenko about a transition of power.

She spoke with The Associated Press by telephone.

Lukashenko has rejected any discussion with the council and some of its top members have been jailed. One of them, Olga Kovalova, was expelled from the country over the weekend, driven to Poland by police.

Despite the stalemate between Lukashenko and the opposition, protesters say they are determined not to tire. Some of the placards they carried Sunday showed a lively sense of humor.

"Lukashenka, start building a house near Yanukovich," read one, referring to former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich who fled to Russia in 2014 after months of anti-government protests.

"The collective farm went bankrupt," said another, evoking Lukashenko's former position as a collective farm director and his retention of largely state-controlled Soviet-style economy for Belarus, an Eastern European nation of 9.5 million.

Authorities also have revoked the accreditation of many Belarusian journalists and deported some foreign journalists, including two Moscow-based Associated Press journalists. AP's Belarusian journalists were among those told their press credentials had been revoked.

Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

Follow all AP stories about the developments in Belarus at <https://apnews.com/Belarus>.

Summer of protest: Chance for change, but obstacles exposed

By COLLEEN LONG, KAT STAFFORD and R.J. RICO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Memorial Day brought the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, prompting hundreds of thousands of Americans to take to the streets in protest. President Donald Trump called Floyd's death a "disgrace" and momentum built around policing reform.

But by Labor Day, the prospects for federal legislation have evaporated. And Trump is seeking to leverage the violence that has erupted around some of the protests to scare white, suburban voters and encourage them to back his reelection campaign.

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The three-month stretch between the symbolic kickoff and close of America's summer has both galvanized broad public support for the racial justice movement and exposed the obstacles to turning that support into concrete political and policy changes. It has also clarified the choice for voters in the presidential race between Trump, who rarely mentions Floyd or other Black Americans killed by police anymore, and Democrat Joe Biden, who argues that the summer of protests can become a catalyst for tackling systemic racism.

Polls show Biden has an advantage among Americans when it comes to which candidate can manage the country better through the protests. An ABC News/Ipsos poll out Friday showed that 55% of Americans believe Trump is aggravating the situation. When it comes to reducing violence, Americans favor Biden to Trump, 59% to 39%.

"No matter what he says or what he claims, you are not safer in Donald Trump's America," Biden said Friday.

Yet Trump's campaign also sees an opportunity to appeal to some voters who may be turned off by scenes of violence cropping up around some of the protests, including in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where police shot Jacob Blake, a Black man, seven times last month. The president has openly directed his appeals at the "suburban housewives of America" — especially white housewives — casting his reelection as the only thing preventing violence in cities from spilling into their neighborhoods.

Trump traveled to Kenosha this past week, thanked law enforcement for their efforts and met with people whose businesses were destroyed in fires. He did not meet with Blake's family. Biden did, on Thursday, while on a visit to the city.

A Marquette University Law School poll that came out before the Aug. 23 shooting showed that support for the protests had slipped from 61% in June to 48% in August among voters in Wisconsin, one of the most crucial states in the November election. Among white Wisconsinites, approval of the protests dipped from 59% in June to 45% in August. Approval increased slightly for Black voters, to 78% from 77%. While approval fell among members of both parties, the dip was larger among Republicans.

"I think that there was a lot of optimism surrounding the protests this summer in the wake of George Floyd because for the first time, we were starting to see all of these white people in the United States pay a great deal of attention to police brutality and racial injustice," said Ashley Jardina, assistant professor of political science at Duke University, and author of the book "White Identity Politics."

"But white Americans have always had a low tolerance for protests and unrest around race in the U.S., and that's particularly true when they think that protests become violent or involve the destruction of property," Jardina added.

The majority of racial justice protests have been peaceful. But some, including in Kenosha and Minneapolis, saw vandalism and violence. Federal officials have arrested more than 300 people since the demonstrations began. A Trump supporter is charged with homicide in the shooting deaths of two protesters in Kenosha, and an anti-fascist shot and killed a right-wing protester in Portland, Oregon, and was later killed during his arrest by law enforcement.

Trump has also tried to link the protests to local increases in shootings, murders and other crimes in cities, including Kansas City, Missouri, Detroit, Chicago and New York, even though criminal justice experts say the spike defies easy explanation in a year with historic unemployment and a pandemic that has killed more than 180,000 people. Crime overall remains lower than it has been in years past and criminologists also caution against a focus on crime statistics over a short time frame, such as week-to-week or month-to-month.

Dan Cooper, a white 51-year-old software engineer in Portland, remains supportive of the protests and the Black Lives Matter movement but fears the vandalism is "playing into the right's hands."

"It makes Portland look bad and it makes it easy for the right to portray the city as being fundamentally lawless when in reality it's this tiny area downtown that's mostly peaceful otherwise," he said.

"A few months ago they started off in a more BLM-focused way. It does seem like they've lost their way a little bit," Cooper said of the protests.

Steve DeFeo, a white 49-year-old manager at an insurance company in Edgewater, Florida, shares that concern. He said that while he supports the protests and the Black Lives Matter movement, he worries

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that violent protesters allow others to inaccurately portray the movement as dangerous.

"That message gets amplified when you go out and spray-paint and throw rocks and light fires," he said. "When you see a burnt building, that is helping the wrong side of the narrative. It's not as effective for the BLM movement and keeping their message for what it should be."

National Black Lives Matter organizers have never asked for, encouraged or condoned looting or fighting with law enforcement or police supporters on the streets, because they are protesting the violent harm done to their communities.

Thenjiwe McHarris, a strategist with the Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of more than 150 organizations, said Trump's effort was a "desperate tactic to paint our movement a particular kind of way to stoke fear in communities across the country and to try to steal this election."

"What does it mean for the president of the United States to call the movement violent and dangerous and chaotic? It means that he's putting a target and a bull's-eye on thousands and thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people, who are courageous and bold enough to say that Black lives matter."

Leaders say the movement isn't losing steam and the coalition has only begun to move toward its next phase of advocacy and grassroots work, and the majority of people support it "because they understand that what's happening to Black people is such a grave injustice," McHarris said.

Federal police reform stalled on Capitol Hill after an initial burst of movement. Nationwide, since late May, there have been at least 450 pieces of policing reform proposals introduced in 31 states, according to a count by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Many states had finished their normal legislative session at the time of Floyd's death and are planning to address police accountability next year.

Meanwhile, some within the movement have grown frustrated with what they see as outsize attention on the violence — even those accused of endorsing that violence.

"You think people want to go out and destroy property? Absolutely not," said Hawk Newsome, a New York activist whose comments about protest violence on Fox News prompted a tweet from Trump. "This is a last resort. People just got so frustrated at a lack of progress, lack of clarity, lack of transparency, lack of truth."

Newsome said the way to keep the movement going forward is to educate people about white supremacy and systemic racism and how both are knit into the fabric of America and must be unraveled in order to progress. But that's not easy to talk about in a sound bite, and Newsome blames both Democrats and Republicans for a lack of nuance and accountability.

Breanna Wright, 24, of Louisville, Kentucky, participated in more than 20 demonstrations in her hometown, where Breonna Taylor, a Black woman, was killed by police in March. Wright says she remains focused on turning the protests into action.

"Everyone is putting Black Lives Matter on the street, Black Lives Matter in their windows," she said. "That changes nothing for me because next week they'll murder me on your Black Lives Matter decorated street."

"I mean, it's cute, you've tried -- thank you! It's touching that you've done that! -- but the system has to change."

Stafford reported from Detroit and Rico from Atlanta. Associated Press writer Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

Harris warns suppression, interference could alter election

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris says foreign interference, doubt cast about the election by President Donald Trump and voter suppression could potentially cost her and Joe Biden the White House in November.

"I am a realist about it. Joe is a realist about it," the California senator said during an interview with CNN's "State of the Union" that aired Sunday.

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The 2020 election will be held under challenging circumstances.

It will be the first U.S. election in over a century to be conducted during a pandemic, which is expected to lead to a massive surge in mail voting. Trump has repeatedly railed against mail balloting, which he says without offering proof will lead to widespread voter fraud. And for the first time in decades, both parties will be able to closely scrutinize who casts ballots due to a recent court ruling that wiped out tighter restrictions on poll monitoring.

Meanwhile, U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded Russia is once again attempting to interfere in the election by amplifying discord in the country.

That all adds up to a volatile environment that Harris says could alter the outcome.

"We have classic voter suppression, we have what happened in 2016, which is foreign interference. We have a president who is trying to convince the American people not to believe in the integrity of our election system and compromise their belief that their vote might actually count," Harris said. "These things are all at play."

When asked directly if foreign interference could cost her and Biden, the Democratic presidential nominee, the White House, she said: "Theoretically, of course, yes."

"I do believe that there will be foreign interference in the 2020 election and that Russia will be at the front of the line," she said.

Harris also singled out a 2013 Supreme Court ruling that invalidated parts of the Voting Rights Act. She said that's led some states to pass laws that are intended to limit access to the ballot for racial minorities.

She said if she and Biden win, they will make it a priority to try and restore those provisions.

"There will be many obstacles that people are intentionally placing in front of Americans' ability to vote," Harris said.

Harris was also asked about whether it was a mistake to call for charges in the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man who was shot in the back seven times by a white police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, which led to days of protest and property destruction.

Harris initially called for the officer to be charged, while making clear she wasn't aware of all the facts in the case.

In the interview that aired Sunday, she reiterated her call for charges against the officer. But Harris, a former San Francisco district attorney and California attorney general, also softened her remarks and emphasized that the decision was up to the local prosecutor.

"Everyone is entitled to due process, everyone, including police officers. And I encourage that. I support that," Harris said. "I'm clearly not the prosecutor in the case. And the prosecutor in the case must make a decision based on all of the evidence and all of the laws that include giving everyone, and in particular those who might be charged, due process in the process."

Another issue Harris touched on was Trump's handling of the coronavirus and whether she would trust a vaccine that Trump hopes will soon be available, even though medical experts have cautioned that more testing is needed.

"I would not trust his word," Harris said. "I would trust the word of public health experts and scientists, but not Donald Trump."

Germany raises pressure on Russia in Navalny poisoning probe

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany on Sunday increased the pressure on Russia over the poisoning of Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, warning that a lack of support by Moscow in the investigation could "force" Germany to rethink the fate of a German-Russian gas pipeline project.

"I hope the Russians won't force us to change our position regarding the Nord Stream 2" pipeline being built under the Baltic Sea, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told the Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

Maas also said "if there won't be an contributions from the Russian side regarding the investigation in the coming days, we will have to consult with our partners."

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He did not exclude possible sanctions against Russia, telling the newspaper that such measures should be "pinpointed effectively." However, Maas also admitted that halting the building of the nearly completed gas pipeline would harm German and European companies as well as Russia.

"Whoever demands this has to be aware of the consequences," he said. "More than 100 companies from 12 European countries are involved (in the construction), about half of them from Germany."

The German government has come under growing pressure to use the joint German-Russian pipeline project as leverage in getting Russia to provide answers on Navalny. The Nord Stream 2 project would deliver Russian gas directly to Germany under the Baltic Sea when completed, bypassing Ukraine.

Navalny, a Kremlin critic 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. He has been in an induced coma in a Berlin hospital since he was flown to Germany for treatment on Aug. 22.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called Navalny's poisoning an attempted murder that aimed to silence one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics and called for a full investigation.

German authorities say tests showed that he had been poisoned with a chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group. British authorities previously identified the nerve agent, developed during the Soviet era, as the poison used to target former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018.

"We have high expectations from the Russians to bring light into this severe crime," Maas said. "If they have nothing to do with this attack, then it's in their own interest to put the facts on the table."

France also added pressure on Sunday, suggesting the possibility of sanctions if Moscow fails to quickly respond to European demands for answers about Navalny's poisoning.

"It's a serious situation. It's serious firstly because it's the poisoning of another opposition figure. And it's serious because the substance that was used, Novichok, is banned," said French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, speaking on France Inter radio.

"(The Russians) must now tell us the truth so that we can act accordingly ... When we say quickly, it's quickly, that's to say a week, now. It's a traumatizing event for everyone," he said.

Putin's spokesman has brushed off allegations that the Kremlin was involved in poisoning Navalny and said last week that Germany hadn't provided Moscow with any evidence about the politician's condition.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova reiterated Moscow's claim Sunday that Germany hadn't provided any evidence since Russia requested it in late August.

"Dear Mr. Maas, if the government of the Federal Republic of Germany is sincere in its statements, then it should itself be interested in preparing a response to the request of the Prosecutor General's Office of Russia as soon as possible," Zakharova wrote in a Facebook posting.

Maas rejected that accusation later Sunday, saying Germany had long agreed to Russia's request and had told the country's ambassador to Berlin so last week.

"There is no reason why we shouldn't agree to this request and therefore this is another one of their smoke grenades — we have seen several of those during the last days and I'm afraid there will be more in coming days," Maas told ARD public Television.

Merkel personally offered the country's assistance in treating Navalny. He's now in stable condition at Berlin's Charite hospital, but doctors expect a long recovery and haven't ruled out that the 44-year-old could face long-term effects to his health from the poisoning.

Merkel has previously rejected the idea that the Navalny case be linked to the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

The U.S. has long opposed the project, which has been increasingly a source of friction between Berlin and Washington. In August, three Republican senators threatened sanctions against an operator of a Baltic Sea port located in Merkel's parliamentary constituency over its part in Nord Stream 2. The Mukran port is a key staging post for ships involved in its construction.

The U.S. argues the project will endanger European security by making Germany overly dependent on Russian gas. It's also opposed by Ukraine and Poland, which will be bypassed by the pipeline under the Baltic, as well as some other European nations.

In addition to the security concerns, the U.S. also wants to sell more of its own liquefied natural gas, or LNG, to Europe.

John Leicester contributed reporting from Paris, Jim Heintz from Moscow.

Rwanda's president says 'Hotel Rwanda' hero must stand trial

By IGNATIUS SSUUNA Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Rwanda's president says that the man portrayed as a hero in the film "Hotel Rwanda" will stand trial for allegedly supporting rebel violence.

President Paul Kagame, appearing on national television Sunday, did not explain how Paul Rusesabagina was brought to Rwanda where he has been held in custody for more than a week.

Rusesabagina is credited with saving 1,200 lives during Rwanda's 1994 genocide by letting people shelter in the hotel he was managing during the mass killings. Now he is accused of supporting rebel violence in Rwanda and his family and supporters complain that they have not been able to speak to him and that he has not had access to a lawyer.

"Rusesabagina heads a group of terrorists that have killed Rwandans. He will have to pay for these crimes," said Kagame on a broadcast in which he was asked questions by some local and foreign journalists and viewers. "Rusesabagina has the blood of Rwandans on his hands."

He said Rusesabagina's trial will be held openly and conducted fairly.

"We are obligated to do this," said Kagame. "We want to do things in a right way."

Kagame did not explain how Rusesabagina, who had lived outside Rwanda since 1996 and is a citizen of Belgium and has a U.S. permanent residence permit, turned up in Rwanda last week but suggested that he came of his own accord.

"What if someone told you that he brought himself — even if he may not have intended it? You will be surprised how he got here. He was not kidnapped or hoodwinked. His coming to Rwanda has more to do with himself than anybody else," said Kagame.

Kagame suggested that Rusesabagina was told a story that fit into his expectations and ended up in Rwanda. "There was no kidnap in the process of bringing Rusesabagina here. It was actually flawless!" said Kagame. "When the time comes he will tell the story himself but he led himself here."

Kagame said others were Rusesabagina's accomplices in alleged violent activities and have already been arrested and are facing trial in Kigali, Rwanda's capital.

Rusesabagina's family and supporters, however, say Rwandan authorities have denied him access to a lawyer nearly a week after the outspoken government critic was paraded in handcuffs and accused of terrorism.

The Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation said Rusesabagina has had no consular visits, and it rejected the Rwandan government's claim that it had talked to his sons about a potential visit as "not true."

"Paul's wife has called the jail and has not been allowed to talk to him," it said on Saturday.

The family has said they believe he was "kidnapped" during a visit to Dubai and that he would never knowingly have boarded a plane for Rwanda's capital, Kigali.

Rusesabagina was awarded the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 for helping to save lives during Rwanda's genocide in which some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

Rwandan authorities have not publicly shared any international arrest warrant. They have referred to "international cooperation" but given no details.

Rwandan authorities granted what they called an "exclusive" interview with Rusesabagina to a Kenyan newspaper, The East African, in which he said he had been treated with "kindness" while in custody in Rwanda but did not discuss the accusations against him or how he was apprehended.

It is not clear when Rusesabagina will appear in court. Rwandan law says a suspect can be in provisional detention for 15 days, renewable for up to 90 days.

The Rwandan government has said it issued an arrest warrant for Rusesabagina to answer charges of serious crimes including terrorism, arson, kidnap, and murder perpetrated against unarmed civilians. Police called him the suspected "founder, leader, sponsor and member of violent, armed, extremist terror outfits including the Rwanda Movement for Democratic Change."

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Rwanda points to a video posted online in 2018 in which Rusesabagina says "it is imperative that in 2019 we speed up the liberation struggle of the Rwandan people ... the time has come for us to use any means possible to bring about change in Rwanda, as all political means have been tried and failed."

The MRCD has an armed wing, the National Liberation Front, that has been accused of attacks inside Rwanda in 2018 and 2019. Rwanda arrested NLF spokesman Callixte Nsabimana last year.

Rusesabagina in the past has denied the charges that he financially supports Rwandan rebels, saying he is being targeted for criticizing the Kagame government over human rights abuses.

Rusesabagina's detention has prompted concern among human rights activists that this was the latest example of the Rwandan government targeting critics beyond its borders.

The U.S. government has said it expects the Rwandan government to provide "humane treatment, adhere to the rule of law and provide a fair and transparent legal process" for Rusesabagina.

Actor Don Cheadle, who played Rusesabagina in the film, told the AP "it is my sincere hope that Paul is being treated humanely and fairly, and that a transparent and just legal process designed to reveal the veracity of these charges is advanced in a timely manner."

Veterans are divided about reports Trump disparaged military

By JEFFREY COLLINS and DAVID CRARY Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — In this soldier's city and across the country, veterans and military families are divided about reports that President Donald Trump made disparaging comments toward the military, with some service members bristling at the remarks and others questioning whether they happened.

Thomas Richardson, a retired member of the Army's 82nd Airborne, did not like what he heard.

Richardson was trained to respect the office of commander in chief, but he was rankled by allegations in *The Atlantic*, many of them independently confirmed by *The Associated Press*, that Trump had referred to fallen and captured U.S. service members as "losers" and "suckers."

"Usually, you don't choose those kinds of missions. You agree to serve and you agree to go where your assignment is," said Richardson, who did not vote for Trump in 2016.

Fayetteville, home to more than 200,000 people, is bordered by Fort Bragg on its northern limits. It was named in 1783 for the Marquis de Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution.

Katie Constandse, 37, is married to a soldier stationed at Fort Bragg. She is skeptical about the reports of Trump's remarks and is prepared to stick by him even if they are true.

"If you twist his words or just take one thing out of context, you'll always find a way to hate him," Constandse said. "He's a human being. He takes a lot of stuff. I don't see how he has survived for almost four years — the constant barrage of anger toward him."

Overall, Constandse said Trump's presidency has been good for service members and their families.

"We don't need someone who is warm and cuddly," she said.

At North Carolina Veterans Park, Ben Henderson — a soldier stationed at Fort Bragg — was showing his father around the gardens and memorials on Saturday.

Henderson voted for Trump in 2016 and plans to do it again in November, partly in appreciation for a recent military pay raise. As for the reports about Trump, Henderson said he had given them little thought.

"I don't get involved with all that politics stuff. I'm concentrating on my job," he said.

Trump and his allies have dismissed the *Atlantic* report as false and depicted the president — who did not serve in the military — as a staunch supporter of service members and veterans.

Military families were broadly supportive of Trump in the 2016 election, and a Pew Research Center survey of veterans conducted in June 2019 found overall that veterans were more supportive of Trump than the general public.

Among that group is retired Green Beret Joe Kent.

At his home near Portland, Oregon, Kent clicked on the *Atlantic* article as soon as he scrolled across the explosive story on his Twitter feed Thursday evening. He does not overlook headlines regarding fallen service members because his wife was one of them.

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Shannon Kent, a 36-year-old senior chief petty officer with the Navy, was killed in January 2019 in a suicide bombing in Syria.

Her husband, now working for an information technology company, does not believe Trump made the disparaging remarks attributed to him.

"I have a really hard time believing anonymous sources," Kent said. "The new accusations just seem so sensational to me."

Kent, 40, speaks from his own personal experiences with the president. When his family gathered at Dover Air Force Base last January to receive his wife's remains, Trump was there.

"I didn't get any kind of disrespect," said Kent, who is now on the advisory board of Military Families for Trump. "He seemed to me to be a leader who was deeply conflicted about sending people off to die."

John Doolittle of St. Petersburg, Florida — who retired from the Navy SEALs three years ago — is another Trump admirer unswayed by the reports.

Trump "has gone out of his way to make sure veterans get a fair share," said Doolittle, 50, who now works for a firm offering fitness and rehabilitation programs. "I think morale in the services and the veteran community is very positive."

Other veterans, however, have been disenchanted with Trump for much of his presidency. He mocked Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who died in 2018, for being captured by the enemy while serving in the Vietnam War.

"I understand what The Atlantic reported is probably painful for the president to hear," said retired Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton. "But it's not a surprise to anyone in uniform after watching how he behaved toward Sen. McCain."

Eaton, who now lives on Fox Island in Washington state's Puget Sound, retired from the Army in 2006 after stints as a commander in Iraq and elsewhere. For several years, he's been an advisor to VoteVets, which describes itself as the largest progressive veterans' organization in the U.S.

Eaton's father was an Air Force pilot who was shot down over Laos in 1969 and his remains recovered many years later. His wife is a former Army captain and daughter of a Marine Corps colonel.

"I'm not surprised that the president cannot grasp the nature and quality of selfless service," Eaton said. "It's all transactional for him ... it's beyond comprehension that we would have to tolerate a commander in chief who behaves the way this president does."

Crary reported from New York. Associated Press Writer Sarah Morgan Blake in Charlotte, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

States plan for cuts as Congress deadlocks on more virus aid

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

Spending cuts to schools, childhood vaccinations and job-training programs. New taxes on millionaires, cigarettes and legalized marijuana. Borrowing, drawing from rainy day funds and reducing government workers' pay.

These are some actions states are considering to shore up their finances amid a sharp drop in tax revenue caused by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With Congress deadlocked for months on a new coronavirus relief package, many states haven't had the luxury of waiting to see whether more money is on the way. Some that have delayed budget decisions are growing frustrated by the uncertainty.

As the U.S. Senate returns to session Tuesday, some governors and state lawmakers are again urging action on proposals that could provide hundreds of billions of additional dollars to states and local governments.

"There is a lot at stake in the next federal stimulus package and, if it's done wrong, I think it could be catastrophic for California," said Assemblyman Phil Ting, a Democrat from San Francisco and chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee.

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The budget that Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed in June includes \$11.1 billion in automatic spending cuts and deferrals that will kick in Oct. 15, unless Congress sends the state \$14 billion in additional aid. California's public schools, colleges, universities and state workers' salaries all stand to be hit.

In Michigan, schools are grappling with uncertainty as they begin classes because the state lacks a budget for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

Ryan McLeod, superintendent of the Eastpointe school district near Detroit, said it is trying to reopen with in-person instruction, "but the costs are tremendous" to provide a safe environment for students.

"The only answer, really, is to have federal assistance," McLeod said.

Congress approved \$150 billion for states and local governments in March. That money was targeted to cover coronavirus-related costs, not to offset declining revenue resulting from the recession.

Some state officials, such as Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb of Indiana, are pushing for greater flexibility in spending the money they already received. Others, such as Republican Gov. Mike DeWine of Ohio, say more federal aid is needed, especially to help small businesses and emergency responders working for municipalities with strained budgets.

In mid-May, the Democratic-led U.S. House voted to provide nearly \$1 trillion of additional aid to states and local governments as part of a broad relief bill. But the legislation has stalled amid disagreements among President Donald Trump's administration, Republican Senate leaders and Democrats over the size, scope and necessity of another relief package. In general, Republicans want a smaller, less costly version.

The prospects for a pre-election COVID-19 relief measure appear to be dimming, with aid to states and local governments one of the key areas of conflict.

The bipartisan National Governors Association and Moody's Analytics have cited a need for about \$500 billion in additional aid to states and local governments to avoid major damage to the economy. At least three-quarters of states have lowered their 2021 revenue projections, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

While Congress has been at loggerheads, many states have pressed forward with budget cuts.

Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon, a Republican, recently announced \$250 million of "agonizing" cuts that he described as "just the tip of the iceberg" in addressing a \$1 billion budget shortfall caused by the coronavirus and declining revenue from coal and other natural resources. The cuts will reduce funding for childhood vaccinations and eliminate a program to help adults learn new job skills, among other things.

"It is not likely that these trends are going to turn around rapidly or as significantly as we would like," Gordon said.

In August, Rhode Island Management and Budget Director Jonathan Womer sent a memo to state agencies instructing them to plan for a 15% cut in the fiscal year that starts next July.

In some states, however, the financial outlook is not as dire as some had feared earlier this year.

Previous federal legislation pumped money into the economy through business subsidies, larger unemployment benefits and \$1,200 direct payments to individuals. The resulting consumer spending led to a rebound in sales tax revenue in some states. Many states also delayed their individual income tax deadlines from April to July, which led to a larger than usual influx of summer revenue from taxpayers' 2019 earnings.

In Vermont, where lawmakers are expected to work on a budget next week, a deficit that some had feared could reach \$400 million now is pegged around \$55 million. A predicted \$518 million shortfall in Arizona for the current fiscal year has been revised to just \$62 million.

Local governments in New Mexico said revenue has been propped up by surprisingly strong sales taxes. But "that sugar high from the federal stimulus will fall off, and our communities will be affected," said A.J. Forte, executive director of the New Mexico Municipal League.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat, is urging the Legislature to legalize and tax recreational marijuana as a way to shore up state revenue. Democratic Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf also wants the Legislature to legalize marijuana, with the tax revenue going toward grants for small businesses and criminal justice reforms.

State tax revenue often lags economic trends because individuals' income losses aren't reflected on tax

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returns until months later. As a result, experts warn that states might experience the lagging effects of the recession well into their 2021 and 2022 budget years.

"The worst is still yet to come," said Brian Sgritz, director of state fiscal studies at the National Association of State Budget Officers.

The 2021 fiscal year began July 1 in most states. But seven states have yet to enact a full-year budget, in some cases because they have been waiting for congressional action on another relief bill.

One such state is New Jersey, which shifted the start of its budget year from July to October because of the coronavirus pandemic. Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy recently proposed a budget that would slash about \$1 billion in spending, take on \$4 billion in debt and raise taxes on millionaires, businesses, yachts, cigarettes and health insurance plans.

Murphy has said the initial federal aid didn't provide enough "to deal with the variety of tsunamis that we're facing."

In New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration estimates the state will receive about \$8 billion less in tax revenue than once expected this fiscal year. Cuomo, who recently became chairman of the National Governors Association, wants Congress to provide an additional \$30 billion to New York to plug budget holes that he warns will compound in coming years.

"There is no combination of savings, efficiencies, tax increases that could ever come near covering the deficit," Cuomo said, "and we need the federal government to assist in doing that. Period."

Associated Press writers Adam Beam in Sacramento, California; Mike Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey; Bob Christie in Phoenix; Tom Davies in Indianapolis; David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan; Mead Gruver in Cheyenne, Wyoming; Morgan Lee in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Wilson Ring in Stowe, Vermont; Andrew Taylor in Washington; Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio; and Marina Villeneuve in Albany, New York, contributed to this report.

Pandemic turns summer into European tourism's leanest season

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUGES, Belgium (AP) — Bruges mayor Dirk De fauw first realized something was desperately wrong with European tourism when on a brisk March morning he crossed the Burg square in front of the Gothic city hall and there was nothing but silence.

"There are always people. Always," De fauw said. That morning?

"Nothing. Nobody is on that large square" at the heart of one of Europe's most picturesque cities, he said.

Six months later, as Europe's leanest tourist summer season in recent history is starting to draw to a close, COVID-19 is yet to loosen its suffocating grip on the continent.

If anything the pandemic might tighten it over the coming months, with losses piling up in the tens of billions of euros across the 27-nation European Union, and the continent's vaunted government support and social security system under increasing strain to prop up the sector.

The upheaval so far, the bloc's executive European Commission said, shows that "revenue losses during the first half of 2020 for hotels, restaurants, tour operators, long distance train operators and airlines were roughly 85-90%." No country has been exempt in an area spanning from Greece's beaches to the trattorias in Rome and the museums of Paris.

And even now, the European Commission told The Associated Press, "bookings for September and October remain abnormally low," as dire as 10% of capacity in Bruges. It dents hopes that a brief uptick in business in July would be a harbinger of something more permanent.

Over the summer, though, came fresh spikes in COVID-19 contamination, especially in Spain and France, new restrictive measures and regional color codes that spelled disaster for local tourism when they turn red.

It left the European tourism industry relying on hope more than anything else. That was evident on a late summer's day in Bruges, when usually throngs of American, Asian and European tourists stroll along the cobblestone streets below the city's gabled houses, bringing annual visits to over 8 million in the city

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of 110,000.

"The swans have it all to themselves," muttered Michiel Michielsens as he slowed his boat behind a bank of swans on a city canal. On a normal day — not like the one when he had 114 customers instead of 1,200 — tourists instead of birds would rule the waters. Now a boat could be seen showing a single couple around instead of its normal load of 40 people.

For tourists who can live with wearing masks for hours, there are some advantages. In Bruges, it extends to the city's famed museums, where the medieval Flemish Primitives take center stage. Instead of craning over other tourists flashing smartphones, any visitor could now be alone for minutes on end to study in detail one of Jan Van Eyck's most famous pictures "Our Lady with the Child Jesus, St. George, St. Donaas and canon van der Paele."

All this is bittersweet to museum officials though. Across Europe, just about all have had to close for months early this year, and the outlook is bleak.

Attendance has now slumped to a quarter of what it was in 2019 at Bruges museums. But during the uptick in July "we had 50%."

"So it's declining gradually. Every month we see the numbers declining," said Jonathan Nowakowski, the business director of Bruges Museums. "I can tell you that we're looking at losses of 3.4 to 4 million euros this year," despite expectations being high in a Van Eyck memorial year with special exhibits.

"We had we thought we would have had huge numbers of visitors," he said.

It all quickly trickles down to hotels, restaurants, shops and the survival of families. For those who own the building it is more manageable than for those who rent a building. With reservations down for the next months, some hotels will just close down, knowing the costs will never match the puny revenue. Others are using the low winter rates in summer.

A great many put staff on temporary unemployment, and they acknowledge government aid has been a help. But they fear that will whittle down soon, despite the 750-billion-euro (\$888 billion) recovery fund that EU recently agreed to.

"In the next few months, we will see a lot of places that will go bankrupt. A lot of people will be unemployed," said Luc Broes, co-owner of the hotel-restaurant Duc de Bourgogne, which overlooks a canal.

Social protection, he said, only goes so far.

"We also have to pay our rent for the building. We also have to pay all the staff. We have to pay the insurances. We have to — we are not protected. In the moment we can't pay anymore, we will go bankrupt as well," Broes said.

Despite the 19th-century novel "Bruges-La-Morte" ("Bruges, the Dead City") that turned the city into a metaphor of melancholy and decay, there is a steadfast conviction that people can turn this around — that tourism will survive.

A special EU summit in October will examine how to reinvigorate and reform tourism.

Unsure how long the pandemic will last, Bruges has decided to forego any blockbuster exhibits. Instead, it will center on local artists, including a photographer tasked with showing the solitude that COVID-19 has brought to the city.

The question of whether there will be more lockdowns, nationwide restrictions or limits on international travel still haunts everyone. The European Union has seen nearly 141,000 confirmed virus-related deaths in the pandemic, and Europe as a whole, including Britain and Russia, has seen over 212,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Renowned chocolatier Dominique Persoone was lucky to survive on a big local fan base so he could do without the big cruise ship crowds that come and buy his chocolates from his shop by the cathedral.

"The hardest thing is that you don't know what the future will bring. We don't know how it's gonna be in September, October, when the real chocolate season starts. Then it's Halloween, Santa Claus, Christmas."

Now, winter and more uncertainty beckons.

"We thought we were safe and we had a wonderful life. And, now, this is happening," Persoone said.

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

QAnon conspiracy emerges in some state legislative races

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Candidates engaging with the QAnon conspiracy theory are running for seats in state legislatures this year, breathing more oxygen into a once-obscure conspiracy movement that has grown in prominence since adherents won Republican congressional primaries this year.

Some of the legislative candidates have repeatedly shared QAnon memes and interacted extensively with social media accounts promoting the conspiracy — which is centered on the baseless belief that President Donald Trump is waging a secret campaign against enemies in the “deep state” and a child sex trafficking ring. Others have acted in ways that leave it unclear whether they believe in the theory or may be merely flirting with the ideas to garner attention.

They make up a tiny share of the thousands of state legislative candidates on the ballot in November and many are longshots, but several, including in Arizona, Minnesota and Wisconsin, are running in competitive districts.

Among those who have engaged with QAnon postings on social media is Dave Armstrong, a Republican candidate for the Wisconsin Assembly. He was asked to run for the seat by the incumbent, a fellow Republican.

While he does not describe himself as a QAnon adherent, he has liked and forwarded videos made by QAnon backers. Armstrong told The Associated Press that he finds core aspects of the conspiracy credible, but not all of it.

“I don't know if we'll ever know the answer to that, nor can we prove it,” he said. “That's the biggest thing with QAnon is you can't prove any of it.”

John Ellenson, Armstrong's Democratic opponent for the seat, said it would be “dangerous” to elect Armstrong because he “plays in conspiracies and not the truth.”

The conspiracy theory has been creeping into the mainstream political arena. It gained wider attention after Marjorie Taylor Greene won the Republican primary for a U.S. House seat in a heavily GOP Georgia district last month. Greene was invited to the White House for Trump's acceptance speech during the Republican National Convention.

Trump has said he knows little about the movement but has spoken favorably of its followers. Vice President Mike Pence has dismissed it.

While races for congressional seats often generate more publicity, state legislative positions serve as springboards to higher office, and their holders wield significant power to affect everyday life — determining state policies on education, policing, health care, criminal justice and other issues.

As with many conspiracy theories, it's not always clear how much of it the candidates believe. Through the AP's statehouse reporters, the nonprofit research group Media Matters for America and Democratic groups involved in state legislative races, the news cooperative identified about two dozen candidates in more than a dozen states who have expressed some level of support or interest in QAnon. That number is only the roughest of estimates.

Some who had shared messages referencing the conspiracy sought to put distance between themselves and the movement when contacted by the AP. Many simply did not return requests for comment — perhaps not surprising given that the movement proclaims the mainstream media is in on the conspiracy.

Among those was Suzanne Sharer, a Republican legislative candidate in the Phoenix area who has posted QAnon videos and messages more than a dozen times in recent months. She is running in a suburban district that once was solidly Republican but has been trending Democratic.

In April, she wrote: “Q has been quiet. Is this 10 days of darkness?”

Julie Buria, a Republican running in a northern Minnesota legislative district that Trump carried by nearly 3 percentage points in 2016, retweeted at least four posts in April and May that seemed to support QAnon.

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In one she wrote: "Link to new Q drop" with a link to a QAnon site. The tweet also used several hashtags common to the conspiracy's followers. But in an interview, Buria insisted she was not very familiar with QAnon.

"Have I looked at it? Yes. Do I believe all of it? No. I'm not really sure what to think about all that," she said.

Whether or not candidates believe in QAnon, they are lending the ideas legitimacy by sharing them, said Jenny Guzman, legislative communications coordinator for Progress Arizona, a liberal group that has worked to draw attention to candidates sharing conspiracy theories.

"I think that Republicans very clearly know what they're doing when they're engaging and spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories," Guzman said. "But when they get caught, they're trying to play ignorant because they just don't want to face accountability for their actions."

Most of the legislative candidates identified by the AP as having some history of posting about QAnon are Republicans, though some are independent or third-party candidates.

Some are not shy about their interest in the movement.

On her Twitter account, Melissa Moore has included a picture of Earth inside the letter Q with the slogan, "The World is About to Change," that is common among the movement's followers. She has also used several Q-associated hashtags in her tweets. A delegate to the Republican National Convention, she is running in a Democratic-leaning district in suburban Minneapolis.

"I like following it," Moore said. "It's an exciting movement that opens up our minds to different possibilities of what's going on, of what's really happening in our world today."

In Nevada, independent state Assembly candidate John Cardiff Gerhardt also openly embraces the movement.

He said he suspected government officials, the mainstream media and the criminal justice system were conspiring to cover up human trafficking even before he became familiar with QAnon.

"Hiding behind the curtain where everything seems to be fine and dandy, there's actually executives, CEOs, pop stars and the top politicians, including the past few presidents before Donald Trump," said Gerhardt, who is running in a heavily Democratic district of eastern Las Vegas.

Gerhardt said his main focus is to replace the state constitution. A draft proposal integrates elements of the conspiracy, including an official recognition that a "Cabal" is attempting to "control & corrupt the State of Nevada."

Karnowski reported from Minneapolis. Associated Press writers Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, Sam Metz in Carson City, Nevada, and Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, contributed.

As pandemic raged, roadways became speedways

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Some drivers took advantage of roads and highways emptied by the coronavirus pandemic by pushing well past the speed limit, a trend that continues even as states try to get back to normal.

The Iowa State Patrol recorded a 101% increase from January through August over the four-year average in tickets for speeds exceeding 100 mph, along with a 75% increase in tickets for speeds of 25 mph or more over the posted speed limit.

California Highway Patrol officers issued more than 15,000 tickets from mid-March through Aug. 19 for speeds exceeding 100 mph, more than a 100% increase over the same time period a year ago. That includes a continuing spike from May on.

The most likely explanation is drivers taking advantage of more open roads because of the pandemic, said Officer Ian Hoey, a spokesman for the California agency.

The patrol planned a heavy presence over the Labor Day weekend, he said.

"Let's just slow down a bit and enjoy the day!" the agency's Santa Rosa division tweeted June 21, along with a photo of a laser speed device recording a car going 127 mph.

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In Ohio, state troopers have issued 2,200 tickets since April for driving more than 100 mph, a 61% increase over the same time period a year ago. The highest ticketed speed was 147 mph in the Cincinnati area.

While traffic has decreased 15% from February through July, the number of people driving more than 80 mph on Ohio roads jumped by 30%, according to sensor data analyzed by the state Department of Transportation.

Columbus resident Karen Poltor experienced the trend firsthand last month when three cars raced past her on state Route 315, an expressway through the city.

"They were flying in the left lane and weaving around cars," said Poltor, who estimated their speed at between 90 and 100 mph. "It was terrifying to watch."

Ohio authorities are especially troubled that speeds not only picked up in the early days of the pandemic when roads were emptier, but they've also continued even as the state reopened and roads became more congested.

"We've seen people continue to go those speeds even though there now is more traffic, which makes it even more dangerous," said Lt. Craig Cvetan, an Ohio patrol spokesman.

July was Ohio's deadliest traffic month since 2007, with 154 fatalities.

A temporary reduction in traffic enforcement in the early days of the pandemic may have contributed to a sense of invulnerability by some drivers. Some Ohio police agencies — though not the patrol — eased up on pulling drivers over for minor traffic violations to avoid spreading the coronavirus.

In addition, Ohio troopers were spread thin for several weeks as they were called on to help distribute food and later provide security as protests over police brutality and racism erupted following the death in May of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"When people see less troopers on the roadway or they see less law enforcement out working, there is that tendency for them to start committing traffic violations," Cvetan said.

Vermont law enforcement officials believe an increase in the number of traffic fatalities recorded to date this year could be linked to fewer police on the road because of the pandemic. So far there have been 43 traffic fatality deaths, up from 21 at the same point last year.

Utah state police saw a 23% jump in tickets issued for going 20 mph or more over the speed limit from March through August compared with the same time period last year. In Pennsylvania, patrol tickets for drivers exceeding 100 mph climbed in March but then stayed high from June through August, jumping 25% during that three-month period.

The government warned drivers to slow down in a mid-July message aimed at pandemic speeding.

"Less traffic has coincided with a rise in speeding in some areas of the country, and that's a problem because speeding increases the risk of crashes, and can increase crash severity as well," said James Owens, deputy administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in a public service announcement.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Ryan Foley in Iowa City; Don Thompson in Sacramento, California; Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont; and Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 7, the 251st day of 2020. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 7, 1940, Nazi Germany began its eight-month blitz of Britain during World War II with the first air attack on London.

On this date:

In 1892, James J. Corbett knocked out John L. Sullivan to win the world heavyweight crown in New Orleans in a fight conducted under the Marquess of Queensberry rules.

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In 1907, the British liner RMS Lusitania set out from Liverpool, England, on its maiden voyage, arriving six days later in New York.

In 1963, the National Professional Football Hall of Fame was dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

In 1972, the International Olympic Committee banned Vince Matthews and Wayne Collett of the U.S. from further competition for talking to each other on the victory stand in Munich during the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" after winning the gold and silver medals in the 400-meter run.

In 1977, the Panama Canal treaties, calling for the U.S. to eventually turn over control of the waterway to Panama, were signed in Washington by President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos (toh-REE'-hohs).

In 1979, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) made its cable TV debut.

In 1986, Desmond Tutu was installed as the first Black clergyman to lead the Anglican Church in southern Africa.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

In 2005, police and soldiers went house to house in New Orleans to try to coax the last stubborn holdouts into leaving the city shattered by Hurricane Katrina. President George W. Bush led the nation in a final tribute to William H. Rehnquist, remembering the late chief justice as the Supreme Court's steady leader and a man of lifetime integrity.

In 2007, Osama bin Laden appeared in a video for the first time in three years, telling Americans they should convert to Islam if they wanted the war in Iraq to end.

In 2008, troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed in government conservatorship.

In 2014, Serena Williams won her third consecutive U.S. Open championship and 18th major title overall, taking 75 minutes to beat good friend Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 6-3.

Ten years ago: A Chinese fishing trawler and two Japanese patrol boats collided near disputed islands in the East China Sea, further straining relations between Beijing and Tokyo. Lucius Walker, 80, who'd led an annual pilgrimage of aid volunteers to Cuba in defiance of the nearly half century U.S. trade embargo, died in New York.

Five years ago: Hillary Clinton, interviewed by The Associated Press during a campaign swing through Iowa, said she did not need to apologize for using a private email account and server while at the State Department because "what I did was allowed." Courting unions on Labor Day, President Barack Obama denounced Republicans for a "constant attack on working Americans," telling a rally in Boston that he was using his executive power to force federal contractors to give paid sick leave to their employees. Former child star Dickie Moore, 89, died in Connecticut.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he had canceled a secret weekend meeting at Camp David with Taliban and Afghan leaders, just days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, after a bombing in the past week in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier. India's lunar lander crashed on the surface of the moon, where it was supposed to deploy a rover to search for signs of water; a successful landing would have made India just the fourth country to land a vessel on the lunar surface. Nineteen-year-old Bianca Andreescu won her first Grand Slam title, beating Serena Williams 6-3, 7-5 in the final of the U.S. Open. After being released by the Oakland Raiders without playing a regular season game, wide receiver Antonio Brown was signed by the New England Patriots. (The Patriots would release Brown two weeks later after a second woman accused him of sexual misconduct.)

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Sonny Rollins is 90. Singer Gloria Gaynor is 77. Singer Alfa Anderson (Chic) is 74. Actor Susan Blakely is 72. Rock musician Dennis Thompson (MC5) is 72. Actor Julie Kavner is 70. Rock singer Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) is 69. Rock musician Benmont Tench (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 67. Actor Corbin Bernsen is 66. Actor Michael Emerson is 66. Pianist Michael Feinstein is 64. Singer/songwriter Diane Warren is 64. Singer Margot Chapman is 63. Actor J. Smith-Cameron is 63. Actor W. Earl Brown is 57. Actor Toby Jones is 54. Actor-comedian Leslie Jones (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 53. Model-actor Angie Everhart is 51. Actor Diane Farr is 51. Country singer Butter (Trailer Choir)

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is 50. Actor Monique Gabriela Curnen is 50. Actor Tom Everett Scott is 50. Rock musician Chad Sexton (311) is 50. Actor Shannon Elizabeth is 47. Actor Oliver Hudson is 44. Actor Devon Sawa (SAH'-wuh) is 42. Actor JD Pardo is 41. Actor Benjamin Hollingsworth (TV: "Code Black") is 36. Actor Alyssa Diaz (TV: "Ray Donovan"; "Zoo") is 35. Singer-musician Wes Willis (Rush of Fools) is 34. Actor Evan Rachel Wood is 33. Actor Ian Chen (TV: "Fresh Off the Boat") is 14.