

# Groton Daily Independent

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"Life is a celebration of awakenings, of new beginnings, and wonderful surprises that enlighten the soul."

-Cielo

## GDILIVE.COM

City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020  
7 p.m.  
Groton Community Center



**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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## COVID-19 creating confusion, frustration and delays

The Groton Area Board of Education spent nearly two hours on COVID-19 issues at its meeting Monday evening. Confusion, frustration and delays seem to be coming from the state to local school districts.

Superintendent Joe Schwan said that the Dept. of Health has passed the buck to local districts. Instead of the Department of Health doing all of the back ground checks and quarantining, it is now up to the local districts to do it.

Conflicting information has also come from the state about ongoing close contact cases. Diane Kurtz and Carla Sperry were at the meeting and they talked about their experiences with the whole close contact situation. In fact, Superintendent Joe Schwan had to call the Department of Health to get information on the local case as there are delays in relaying information to parents and school officials. Middle/High School Principal Kristen Sombke said that staff members had spent five hours of research on the one case. "And that's just one case," she said. Schwan said that the seating charts that have been implemented saved 8-9 students from having to be in close contact. In addition, another 2-3 students were saved from close contact because they took advantage of leaving the building during their study hall.

There is also conflicting policies for extra curricular activities and the board, at the present time, is going with the recommendations from the SD High School Activities Association. Schwan will put together a policy for the district and present it at the next board meeting.

It was also reported that about one-fourth of the MS/HS students are wearing masks and that most of the elementary students have masks and do wear them from time to time.



**The school board has been meeting in the elementary school commons area as the high school multipurpose room is currently being used as a class room.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## #204 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

We seem to be settling into a pattern now; if tomorrow is more of the same, we'll be able to believe it. There were 36,100 new cases reported today, a 0.6% increase. That brings us up to 6,573,800 cases. We seem to be pretty reliably staying below 40,000 new cases daily; that needs to be lower, but is a start. We have now had 194,357 deaths in the US. We had 442 new deaths reported today, a 0.2% increase. This was our third consecutive day below 1000 deaths.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, our leading infectious disease expert, calls current trends in Covid-19 cases "disturbing." Seven-day new case averages are increasing by 5% or more in 11 states, Alaska, Wyoming, Nebraska, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Delaware. The Wisconsin seven-day average has spiked, setting a record yesterday. Kansas and Montana set new records for one-day deaths yesterday. Even though the overall number of new cases has been falling for some time, there have also been fewer tests performed, which could be skewing those numbers. I have not gathered test positivity data from individual states, so I don't know what those trends are. It would be interesting to know. I will add that experts are concerned about how high our new-case numbers remain going into the fall and flu season, saying they expect things to get worse; a surge that starts from a higher baseline is going to be problematic. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, says, "We never really got the cases down. Remember, we're talking about 35,000 cases a day. Today, we're likely to hit over 40,000 cases a day. Back in April . . . we had 22,000 cases a day and thought, 'My God, it can't get any worse.' And what's happening here is we're going to see this kind of up-and-down, up-and-down. But each time it goes up, it goes a little higher. Each time it comes down, it doesn't come down as far." We're facing three big challenges in upcoming weeks: flu season, cold weather prompting people to move indoors, and problems radiating outward from schools.

There's a study from Ohio State University of athletes with myocardial (heart tissue) injury following Covid-19. They have had success using cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to determine whether athletes have inflammation in this tissue and when they're ready to return to practice and competition. The study was small, only 26 athletes; but it does appear the procedure is providing the needed information. Of the 26, only 12 reported symptoms, and these were mild; none required hospitalization. Still four of them had findings consistent with myocarditis and eight more showed signs of prior myocardial injury. More work with larger samples in more places would be needed to confirm these findings, but this provides a starting place for that work.

There is a small study getting underway in the UK by the Imperial College London and Oxford University to test administration of vaccines by inhalation rather than injection. Two vaccines are being tested, the Oxford/AstraZeneca one we've been hearing about and one Imperial has developed. We know vaccines against respiratory infections can be effective when administered via that route, so there is reason to proceed with a test. Inhalable vaccines often require smaller doses, which would, if this works, have the added benefit of stretching limited supplies. The trial is very small, only 30 participants, but it's a good start. We'll see what they turn up.

We have talked about monoclonal antibodies now and then over the months. You may recall these are preparations made in the lab of just a single antibody type—all the product of a single clone of immune cells (which is why they are called monoclonal). An anti-inflammatory monoclonal antibody called baricitinib, which has already been approved to treat rheumatoid arthritis, has been tested therapeutically in conjunction with remdesivir, the only antiviral currently with an emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA for Covid-19; and the findings are that the additional drug seems to reduce hospital stays by one day over the use of remdesivir alone. The study involved 1000 participants, which is a decent number, and so the maker is considering requesting an EUA for the drug. This study has not yet been peer-reviewed, and I do not know what effect that fact might have on the likelihood of FDA approval of the EUA. Perhaps they'll wait for peer review before submitting their request, and perhaps not.

I have more information on Pfizer's request to expand their phase 3 clinical trial for their vaccine candi-

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date. The request is intended to accommodate the recruitment of a more diverse group of participants. I view this as a good thing; one of the concerns with trials has been just that question of diversity. It is a tenet of trial design that the sample of participants should reflect the population and also any disproportionate impact of the condition. They are also seeking to recruit younger people and those with existing illnesses to determine whether the vaccine works safely in those groups. This helps us to understand why they made the request.

Steve Kinney is an electrician who owns his own small company. He had a job at the home of a 72-year-old woman, Gloria Scott, to repair a light fixture, but what he found when he arrived was a house in a state of total disrepair. Scott didn't have the money to fix her place up, so as things broke or wore out, she had no choice but to let them go. As Kinney described it, "No lights, no running water. I think it was on a Friday; it stuck with me over the weekend, and I said, 'I gotta go back there.'"

He did go back. Working for free, he did some electrical repair to make her house safer and more comfortable. He also made a Facebook page called, "Nice old lady needs help," calling on other tradespeople to pitch in too and asking for donations for materials. The tradespeople responded; in fact, they descended. So did the rest of the town. Before you know it, her porch was being rebuilt, the holes in her siding where raccoons had been getting in were repaired. Scott has all new electrical and plumbing in her house. She also has some new windows, repaired walls, replaced ceilings. Her lawn is restored, her front steps are rebuilt. People who don't know a trade showed up too with shovels and rakes to fix up and clean up whatever they could. Others brought gift baskets or laid out meals for the workers. It looked like my mental image of the barn raisings I read about in social studies class back when I was a kid.

Eyes wide, Scott said, "Look at these people! I mean, I can't even comprehend the gratitude that I have."

Kinney got inspired by his success in recruiting such a great team to help Ms. Scott. He was asked whether his project ends with this one house, and he answered, "I don't want it to." He has started a group called the Glorious Gladiators in his town. Its purpose is to find and help other seniors in a similar situation. Kinney explained why: "It's what you're supposed to do."

Well, yes. Yes, it is what you're supposed to do. And if by stepping up to meet a need you can also bring others along with you to join the effort, that's what you're supposed to do too. A lesson there.

Keep yourself well. I'll be back tomorrow.



## Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

September 15, 2020 – 7:00pm  
Groton Community Center

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1  
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. August Finance Report
5. Close Main Street and portion of Railroad Avenue on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6pm for Downtown Trick or Treating
6. City employees to use Dacotah Bank credit cards and close Chase Visa
7. Water Tower Replacement – Schedule B – Maguire Iron Application for Payment Number 2 for \$100,561.50
8. First reading of Ordinance #737 Revising Cemetery Regulations
9. Second Reading of the 2021 Appropriation Ordinance #736
10. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
11. Adjournment

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15
Minnesota	81,608	81,868	82,249	82,659	83,588	84,311	84,949
Nebraska	36,477	36,917	37,373	37,841	38,108	38,188	38,642
Montana	8,381	8,468	8,663	8785	8925	9021	9,107
Colorado	59,674	59,920	60,185	60,492	60,907	61,324	61,699
Wyoming	3,483	3520	3559		3,635	3,679	3,723
North Dakota	13,872	14,110	14,443	14,684	15,151	15,577	15,831
South Dakota	15,403	15,571	15,834	16,117	16,437	16,638	16,801
United States	6,328,099	6,359,313	6,397,547	6,452,607	6,486,401	6,517,326	6,555,243
US Deaths	189,699	190,784	191,802	193,177	193,705	194,036	194,545
Minnesota	+383	+260	+381	+410	+929	+723	+638
Nebraska	+502	+440	+456	+468	+267	+80	+454
Montana	+65	+87	+195	+122	+140	+86	+86
Colorado	+187	+246	+265	+307	+415	+417	+375
Wyoming	+58	+37	+39		+76	+44	+44
North Dakota	+71	+238	+337	+244	+468	+431	+254
South Dakota	+105	+169	+263	+283	+320	+201	+163
United States	+28,930	+31,214	+38,234	+55,060	+33,794	+30,925	+37,917
US Deaths	+533	+1,085	+1,018	+1,375	+528	+331	+509
	Sept. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 8
Minnesota	76,355	77,085	78,123	78,966	79,880	80,587	81,225
Nebraska	34,574	34,995	35,469	35,661	35,805	35,886	35,975
Montana	7,509	7,691	7,871	8,018	8,164	8,264	8,316
Colorado	57,775	58,019	58,287	58,655	58,989	59,274	59,487
Wyoming	3,282	3,311	3,334		3,386	3,425	No Report
North Dakota	12,000	12,267	12,629	12,974	13,334	13,631	13,801
South Dakota	13,749	14,003	14,337	14,596	14,889	15,109	15,300
United States	6,073,121	6,115,098	6,151,101	6,210,699	6,246,162	6,277,902	6,299,169
US Deaths	184,644	185,752	186,606	187,874	188,540	188,942	189,166
Minnesota	+491	+730	+1,038	+843	+914	+707	+638
Nebraska	+287	+421	+474	+192	+144	+81	+89
Montana	+88	+182	+180	+147	+146	+100	+52
Colorado	+351	+244	+268	+368	+334	+285	+213
Wyoming	+18	+29	+23		+52	+39	
North Dakota	+184	+267	+362	+345	+360	+297	+170
South Dakota	+240	+254	+334	+259	+293	+220	+191
United States	+41,835	+41,977	+36,003	+59,598	+35,463	+31,740	+21,267
US Deaths	+1,042	+1,108	+854	+1,268	+666	+402	+224

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## September 14 COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

No deaths recorded in South Dakota. Positive cases outnumbered recovered cases today, 163-125. Daily positivity rate is 8.8 percent. No change in hospitalized numbers.

Locally, Brown had 10 positive and 14 recovered, Day had three positive cases, Edmunds had two positive and one recovered, Marshall had one positive case, McPherson had two recovered cases and Spink County had 30 active cases.

### Brown County:

Total Positive: +10 (931) Positivity Rate: 17.2%

Total Tests: 58 (9,226)

Recovered: +14 (789)

Active Cases: -4 (139)

Ever Hospitalized: +0 (31)

Deaths: 0 (3)

Percent Recovered: 84.7% (+0.6)

### South Dakota:

Positive: +163 (16,801 total) Positivity Rates: 8.8%  
Total Tests: 1,846 (223,717 total)  
Hospitalized: +6 (1,171 total). 110 currently hospitalized (No Change)

Deaths: +0 (184 total)

Recovered: +125 (14,118 total)

Active Cases: +38 (2,499)

Percent Recovered: 84.0% -0.1

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 4% Covid, 47% Non-Covid, 48% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 8% Covid, 60% Non-Covid, 33% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 15% Non-Covid, 80% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases (lost Miner):  
Aurora 42-42, Mellette 25-25, 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): +1 positive (27 active cases)

Bennett (1): +2 recovered (12 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +2 positive (17 active cases)

Brookings (1): +5 positive, +9 recovered (125 active cases)

Brown (3): +10 positive, +14 recovered (139 ac-

tive cases)

Brule: 11 active cases

Buffalo (3): +1 recovered (1 active case)

Butte (1): +1 recovered (14 active cases)

Campbell: 1 active case

Charles Mix: 12 active cases)

Clark: +1 positive (8 active cases)

Clay (4) +7 positive, +5 recovered (78 active cases)

Codington (2): +21 positive, +13 recovered (190 active cases)

Corson (1): +3 positive (11 active cases)

Custer (2): +1 positive (52 active case)

Davison (2): +1 recovered (20 active cases)

Day: +3 positive (9 active cases)

Deuel: +1 positive (11 active cases)

Dewey: +5 positive (46 active cases)

Douglas: +1 recovered (13 active cases)

Edmunds: +2 positive, +1 recovered (29 active cases)

Fall River (1): +2 recovered (20 active cases)

Faulk (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)

Grant (1): +1 positive, +4 recovered (18 active cases)

Gregory (1): 1 positive, +2 recovered (23 active cases)

Haakon: 4 active cases

Hamlin: 10 active cases

Hand: +1 positive (4 active cases)

Hanson: 1 active case

Harding: 1 active case

Hughes (4): +3 positive, +1 recovered (22 active

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cases)

Hutchinson (1): +1 recovered (11 active cases)  
Hyde: 3 active cases  
Jackson (1): +2 positive (3 active cases)  
Jerauld (1): +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
Jones: 3 active cases  
Kingsbury: 9 active cases  
Lake (6): +1 positive, +2 recovered (31 active cases)  
Lawrence (4): +4 positive, +6 recovered (60 active cases)  
Lincoln (2): +8 positive, +8 recovered (153 active cases)  
Lyman (3): +1 positive (3 active cases)  
Marshall: +1 positive (9 active cases)  
McCook (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)  
McPherson: +2 recovered (6 active case)  
Meade (3): +8 positive, +3 recovered (84 active cases)  
Mellette: Fully Recovered  
Miner: 2 active cases  
Minnehaha (74): +24 positive, +24 recovered (541 active cases)  
Moody: 13 active cases  
Oglala Lakota (3): +2 positive, +1 recovered (23 active cases)  
Pennington (33): +19 positive, +13 recovered (359 active cases)  
Perkins: 5 active cases  
Potter: +2 recovered (11 active cases)  
Roberts (1): +3 positive (28 active cases)  
Sanborn: 4 active cases  
Spink: 30 active cases  
Stanley: 5 active case  
Sully: Fully Recovered  
Todd (5): +1 positive, +1 recovered (8 active cases)  
Tripp: +1 positive (13 active cases)  
Turner: 17 active cases  
Union (5): +10 positive, +1 recovered (52 active cases)  
Walworth: +1 positive (25 active cases)  
Yankton (3): +4 positive, +1 recovered (55 active cases)  
Ziebach: +1 positive (16 active cases)

Changes in categories:

Beadle moved from moderate to substantial spread.

Brule moved from substantial to moderate.  
Butte moved from substantial to moderate  
Campbell from none to minimal  
Charles Mix from minimal to moderate  
Clark from minimal to moderate  
Corson from substantial to moderate  
Davison from substantial to moderate  
Douglas from moderate to substantial  
Edmunds from moderate to substantial  
Faulk from Substantial to moderate  
Haakon from minimal to moderate  
Hamilin from substantial to moderate  
Hand from none to moderate  
Hanson from minimal to none  
Harding from none to minimal  
Hutchinson from substantial to moderate  
Jackson from none to minimal  
Jones from minimal to none  
Kingsbury from minimal to moderate  
Lake from moderate to substantial  
Lawrence from substantial to moderate  
Lyman from none to minimal  
Marshall from none to moderate  
McPherson from minimal to moderate  
Mellette from minimal to none  
Moody from substantial to moderate  
Oglala Lakota from substantial to moderate  
Perkins from moderate to minimal  
Roberts from moderate to substantial  
Stanley from minimal to moderate  
Tripp from moderate to substantial  
Turner from substantial to moderate

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
COVID-19 Daily Report, September 14:

- 5.65% rolling 14-day positivity
- 6.44% daily positivity
- 255 new positives
- 3,959 susceptible test encounters
- 65 currently hospitalized (+3)
- 2,754 active cases (+220)



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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	42	42	466	0	None
Beadle	665	629	2198	9	Substantial
Bennett	44	31	618	1	Substantial
Bon Homme	67	49	1047	1	Moderate
Brookings	600	474	3982	1	Substantial
Brown	931	789	6171	3	Substantial
Brule	80	69	935	0	Moderate
Buffalo	113	109	692	3	Minimal
Butte	65	50	990	1	Moderate
Campbell	5	4	131	0	Minimal
Charles Mix	129	117	1878	0	Moderate
Clark	28	20	479	0	Moderate
Clay	508	426	2053	4	Substantial
Codington	591	399	4091	2	Substantial
Corson	75	63	672	1	Moderate
Custer	155	101	872	2	Substantial
Davison	171	149	3002	2	Moderate
Day	50	41	832	0	Moderate
Deuel	65	54	572	0	Substantial
Dewey	108	62	2638	0	Substantial
Douglas	43	30	492	0	Substantial
Edmunds	65	36	516	0	Substantial
Fall River	77	56	1207	1	Substantial
Faulk	51	37	263	1	Moderate
Grant	64	45	942	1	Substantial
Gregory	58	34	565	1	Substantial
Haakon	11	7	316	0	Moderate
Hamlin	76	66	881	0	Moderate
Hand	19	13	398	0	Moderate
Hanson	24	23	287	0	None
Harding	3	2	60	0	Minimal
Hughes	166	140	2395	4	Moderate
Hutchinson	64	52	1084	1	Moderate

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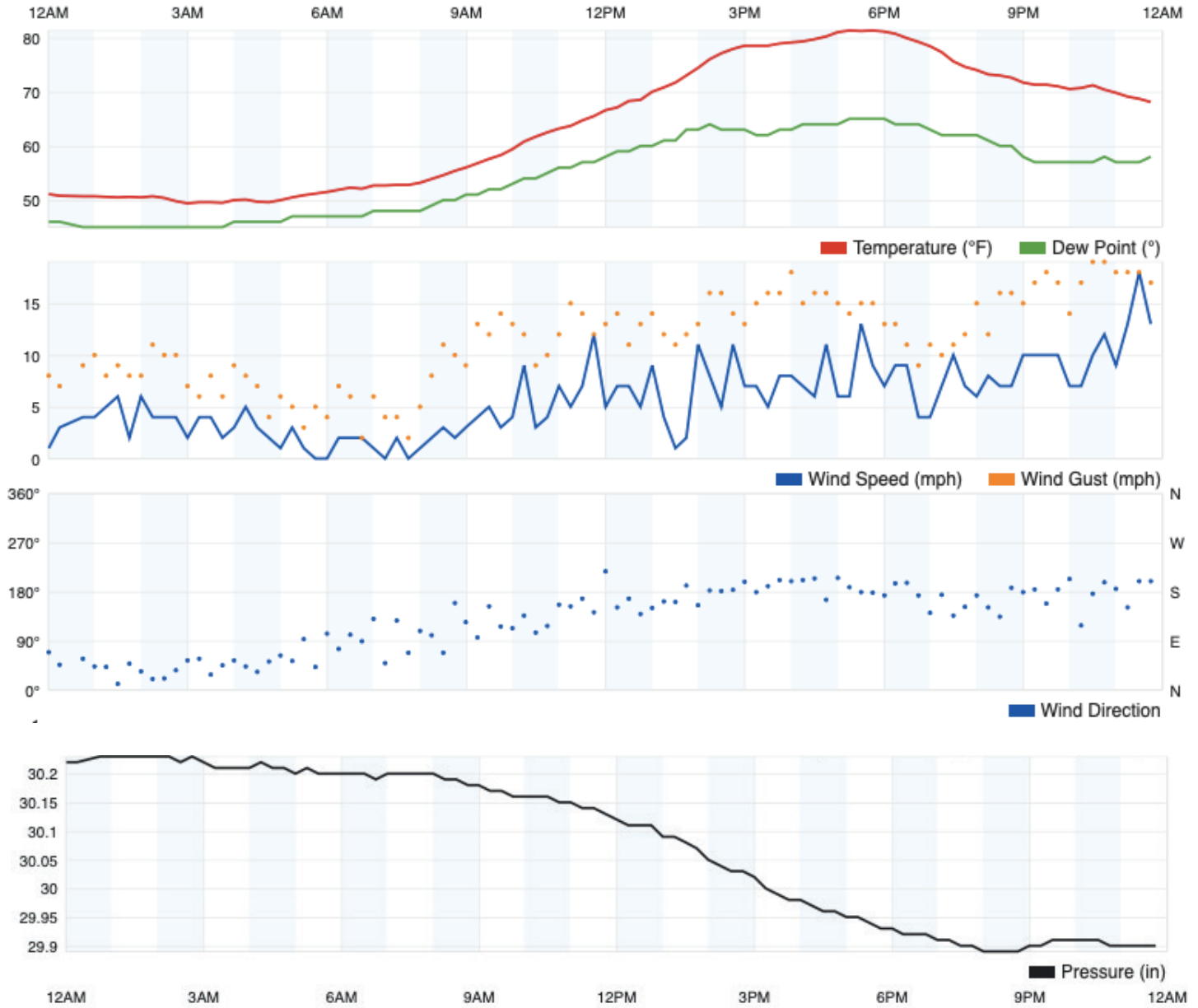
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Hyde	8	5	186	0	Minimal
Jackson	15	11	521	1	Minimal
Jerauld	50	45	306	1	Moderate
Jones	6	3	82	0	None
Kingsbury	32	23	711	0	Moderate
Lake	149	118	1154	6	Substantial
Lawrence	290	226	2495	4	Moderate
Lincoln	1087	932	9100	2	Substantial
Lyman	107	101	1142	3	Minimal
Marshall	27	18	578	0	Moderate
McCook	71	57	804	1	Substantial
McPherson	19	13	274	0	Moderate
Meade	392	305	2440	3	Substantial
Mellette	25	25	422	0	None
Miner	19	17	303	0	Minimal
Minnehaha	5898	5283	35042	74	Substantial
Moody	63	50	790	0	Moderate
Oglala Lakota	205	182	3162	3	Moderate
Pennington	1814	1455	13382	33	Substantial
Perkins	24	19	253	0	Minimal
Potter	30	19	390	0	Moderate
Roberts	126	97	2370	1	Substantial
Sanborn	17	15	284	0	Minimal
Spink	83	53	1393	0	Substantial
Stanley	27	22	348	0	Moderate
Sully	8	8	116	0	None
Todd	92	79	2608	5	Moderate
Tripp	40	27	742	0	Substantial
Turner	107	90	1147	0	Moderate
Union	329	272	2421	5	Substantial
Walworth	70	45	996	0	Substantial
Yankton	299	241	3913	3	Substantial
Ziebach	59	43	482	0	Moderate
Unassigned	0	0	14256	0	

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Haze

Tonight



Haze

Wednesday



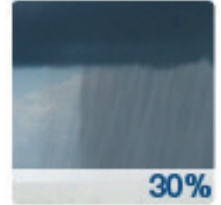
Haze

Wednesday  
Night



Increasing  
Clouds

Thursday



Chance  
Showers

High: 82 °F

Low: 53 °F

High: 66 °F

Low: 44 °F

High: 63 °F

**Today**  
**78 to 94°**  
**Above Normal Temps for mid-September**  
southwest winds turning northwest behind cold front...  
smoky skies through the day

**SMOKE**

**Wednesday**  
**63 to 74°**  
**Below Normal Temps for mid-September**  
northerly breezes usher in cooler air...  
smoky skies continue

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
Aberdeen, SD 9/15/2020 5:43 AM

Dry conditions will once again persist across the region today. A cold front will approach the area later this morning and push through this afternoon into this evening. Breezy southerly winds will turn northwesterly behind the front. Warm temperatures can be expected for most locales today with highs in the 80s. Warmest readings will be observed across south central South Dakota with afternoon temps topping out in the 90s. Hazy to smoky skies will again filter out the sunshine through the day. Cooler temperatures will push in later tonight and Wednesday.



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## Today in Weather History

September 15, 1977: Sioux Falls residents received a rude awakening during the morning hours as thunderstorms rolled through the city. Over two and one-half inches of rain fell in the town in an hour and 15 minutes. A large amount of rain in a short period led to street flooding in some areas. Lightning strikes from the storms also started several small fires.

1747: Some historical accounts of a hurricane caused flooding on the Rappahannock River in Virginia. A slave ship was overturned, and several fatalities were reported.

1945: A hurricane entered the south Florida coast at Homestead, curving northward right up through the center of Florida, remaining over land, and exited near Jacksonville Beach with winds gusting to 170 mph. The following is from the Homestead Air Reserve Base. "On Sept. 15, 1945, three years to the day after the founding of the Homestead Army Air Field, a massive hurricane roared ashore, sending winds of up to 145 miles per hour tearing through the Air Field's buildings. Enlisted housing facilities, the nurses' dormitory, and the Base Exchange were all destroyed. The roof was ripped from what would later become building 741, the Big Hangar. The base laundry and fire station were both declared total losses. The few remaining aircraft were tossed about like leaves."

2010: The largest hailstone in Kansas was found in southwest Wichita. It measured 7.75 inches in diameter.

2011: An EF0 Waterspout moved ashore in Ocean City, Maryland.

1752 - A great hurricane produced a tide along the South Carolina coast which nearly inundated downtown Charleston. However, just before the tide reached the city, a shift in the wind caused the water level to drop five feet in ten minutes. (David Ludlum)

1910 - Rains of .27 inch on the 14th and .73 inch on the 15th were the earliest and heaviest of record for Fresno CA, which, along with much of California, experiences a ""rainy season"" in the winter. (The Weather Channel)

1939 - The temperature at Detroit MI soared to 100 degrees to establish a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - A snowstorm over Wyoming produced 16.9 inches at Lander to establish a 24 hour record for September for that location. (13th-15th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - The first snow of the season was observed at the Winter Park ski resort in Colorado early in the day. Eight inches of snow was reported at the Summit of Mount Evans, along with wind gusts to 61 mph. Early morning thunderstorms in Texas produced up to six inches of rain in Real County. Two occupants of a car drowned, and the other six occupants were injured as it was swept into Camp Wood Creek, near the town of Leakey. Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in central and northeastern Oklahoma. Wind gusts to 70 mph and golf ball size hail were reported around Oklahoma City OK. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to parts of the central U.S. Rainfall totals of 2.87 inches at Sioux City IA and 4.59 inches at Kansas City MO were records for the date. Up to eight inches of rain deluged the Kansas City area, nearly as much rain as was received the previous eight months. Hurricane Gilbert, meanwhile, slowly churned toward the U.S./Mexican border. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain in the Central Appalachians. Virgie VA received 2.60 inches of rain during the evening hours, and Bartlett TN was deluged with 2.75 inches in just ninety minutes. Heavy rain left five cars partially submerged in high water in a parking lot at Bulls Gap TN. Thunderstorms over central North Carolina drenched the Fayetteville area with four to eight inches of rain between 8 PM and midnight. Flash flooding, and a couple of dam breaks, claimed the lives of two persons, and caused ten million dollars damage. Hugo, churning over the waters of the Carribean, strengthened to the category of a very dangerous hurricane, packing winds of 150 mph. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

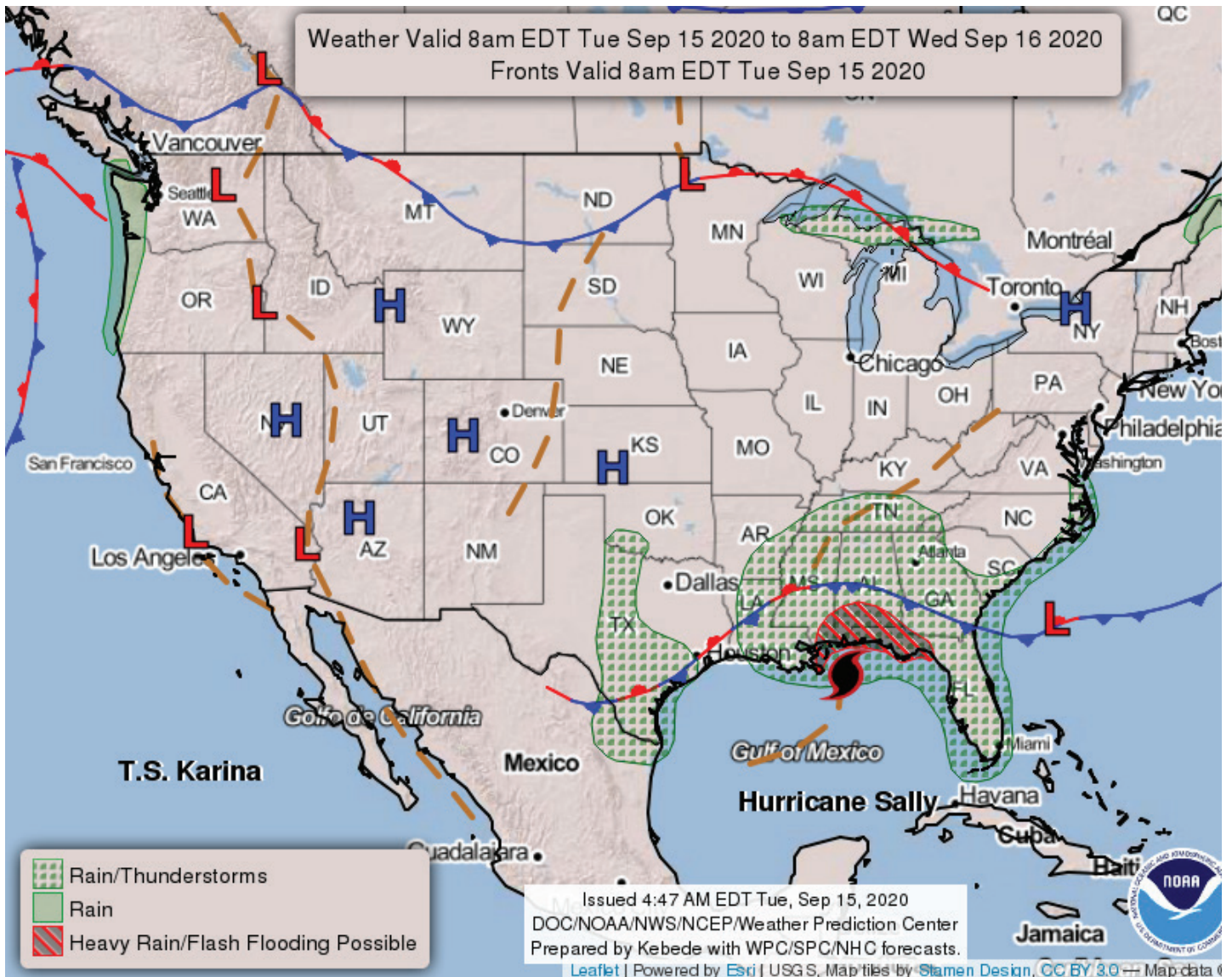
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 81 °F at 5:07 PM**  
**Low Temp: 49 °F at 3:04 AM**  
**Wind: 18 mph at 3:54 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 100° in 1948, 1955**  
**Record Low: 28° in 1916, 1964**  
**Average High: 73°F**  
**Average Low: 46°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept...: 1.05**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 1.52**  
**Average Precip to date: 17.34**  
**Precip Year to Date: 14.87**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:44 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:14 a.m.**



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## TURNING DEAF EARS

Roger was sent home from school with a note from his teacher. "Mrs. Arnold," the note read, "your son was involved in an incident in the cafeteria today. He and two other students took the food from another student's tray and would not allow him to eat. He has been assigned a week of detention starting tomorrow."

After reading the note to Roger, Mrs. Arnold said, "Son, why did you do such a thing?"

After a moment's thought, he replied, "Mom, the other guys asked me to help them, and I thought it would be fun!"

"Shame on you, Roger," said his mother. "When you are asked to do things that are wrong, you should turn a deaf ear."

"But Mom," he protested, "I can't do that. I don't have a deaf ear."

It is difficult to go through one day without being tempted by Satan to disobey God. He's always there presenting one opportunity after another to get us to turn from the Lord and accept his invitation to break God's laws and harm ourselves and others. However, being tempted is not a problem. Giving in to the temptation to disobey God's commandments is.

Perhaps we can describe temptation as Satan peeking into the keyhole of our heart, trying to find a "weak spot." He then enters without any warning or notice and will only leave when asked. We must be alert and aware of his subtle skills to lead us astray.

Prayer: Alert us, Lord, to the subtleties of Satan when he begins to tempt us to follow him and turn from You. May we fill our hearts with Your truths and stay strong. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:25-31

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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's top attorney says found body day after crash

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg said in a statement late Monday that he realized he had struck and killed a man walking along a rural stretch of highway only after returning to the scene the next day and discovering the body.

The state's top law enforcement officer said he initially thought he hit a deer while driving home from a Republican fundraiser on Saturday night. He is under investigation by the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Ravnsborg said he immediately called 911 after the crash on U.S. Highway 14 and that he didn't realize he had hit a man until he returned to the scene the next morning and found him while looking for the animal he thought he had hit.

Authorities identified the dead man as 55-year-old Joseph Boever, who had crashed his truck in that area earlier, according to relatives, and was apparently walking toward it near the road when he was hit.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem revealed Sunday that Ravnsborg had been involved in a fatal crash and asked the Department of Public Safety to investigate, but neither she nor the agency provided any details at that point.

The Department of Public Safety issued a statement earlier Monday saying only that Ravnsborg told the Hyde County Sheriff's Office he had hit a deer. Department spokesman Tony Mangan would not confirm whether Ravnsborg called 911, saying it is part of the investigation.

The North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation is also participating in the investigation. The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, which would normally be involved, is part of the attorney general's office. It is standard practice to request an outside agency to conduct an investigation when there may be a conflict of interest.

Ravnsborg said Sunday he was "shocked and filled with sorrow." He released a second statement on Monday night detailing his account of the accident, saying it was necessary to dispel rumors.

Ravnsborg said he was driving from a Republican fundraiser in Redfield to his home some 110 miles (180 kilometers) away when his vehicle hit something he believed was a large animal. Ravnsborg said he called 911 and looked around his vehicle in the dark using a cellphone flashlight. He said all he could see were pieces of his vehicle.

After Hyde County Sheriff Mike Volek arrived, the two men surveyed the damage and filled out paperwork for his car to be repaired, the attorney general said.

"At no time did either of us suspect that I had been in an accident with a person," Ravnsborg said.

With his car wrecked, Ravnsborg said he borrowed the sheriff's personal car to return to his home in Pierre. The next morning, he and chief of staff Tim Bormann drove back to return the sheriff's car.

They stopped at the spot of the accident, where Ravnsborg said he discovered Boever's body in the grass just off the shoulder of the road. He said it was apparent Boever was dead.

Ravnsborg said he drove to Volek's house and reported the dead body. They both returned to the accident scene, where Volek said he would handle the investigation and asked Ravnsborg to return to Pierre, according to Ravnsborg's statement.

Ravnsborg said he was cooperating with the investigation, including providing a blood sample, agreeing to have both of his cellphones searched, and being interviewed by law enforcement agents.

Boever's family said Monday they felt frustrated with and suspicious about the investigation, especially after investigators took nearly 22 hours to allow them to identify Boever's body.

Boever had crashed his truck into a hay bale near the road on Saturday evening, according to his cousin Victor Nemeč. Boever told his cousin that he had been reaching for some tobacco.

Nemeč had given Boever a ride home, which was about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) away, and made plans to make repairs on Sunday. He left Boever after 9 p.m. The crash that killed him happened around 10:30

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p.m. Nemec said "there was no indication whatsoever" that his cousin had been drinking.

Boever lived alone and had been separated from his wife, Nick Nemec, another cousin, said.

Victor Nemec, the last known person to see Boever, said that besides answering a few brief questions when he identified the body, investigators have not questioned him about what happened.

"A human doesn't look like a deer," he said. "The whole thing stinks to me."

When Boever's cousins couldn't find him at his home on Sunday and saw an accident being investigated near where Boever had left his truck, they grew fearful that he was involved. Nemec said he contacted the sheriff around 10 a.m. and was told to wait. As the hours ticked on, they grew more suspicious and called 911 and the Highway Patrol after 5 p.m. They were allowed to identify his body after 8 p.m. on Sunday.

"I don't know if cousin Joe was laying on the highway for 22 hours or if they had bagged him up before that," Nick Nemec said.

Ravnsborg had been at a fundraising dinner hosted by the Spink County Republicans at Rooster's Bar & Grill. The attorney general is known to be a frequent attendee of the fundraisers known as Lincoln Day Dinners, held by county GOP groups across the state.

Bormann said the attorney general drinks occasionally, but has made it a practice not to drink at the Lincoln Day events.

"I didn't see him with anything but a Coke," said state Sen. Brock Greenfield, who also attended the dinner.

Ravnsborg has received six traffic tickets for speeding in South Dakota over the last six years. He also received tickets for a seat belt violation and for driving a vehicle without a proper exhaust and muffler system.

In 2003, Bill Janklow, a former four-term governor who was a congressman at the time, killed a motorcyclist after running a stop sign at a rural intersection. Janklow was convicted of manslaughter, prompting his resignation.

The Department of Public Safety says its investigation into Ravnsborg's crash is ongoing.

## Monday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Bison def. Mott-Regent, N.D., 25-12, 25-17, 26-24

Bon Homme def. Centerville, 25-21, 25-22, 27-25

Castlewood def. Waverly-South Shore, 20-25, 24-26, 25-23, 25-14, 15-7

Colman-Egan def. DeSmet, 25-8, 25-16, 25-17

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Redfield, 25-23, 25-20, 34-32

Platte-Geddes def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-15, 25-10, 25-21

Tri-State, N.D. def. Waubay/Summit, 25-22, 25-19, 25-22

Warner def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-11, 25-7, 25-8

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota Media volleyball poll for the week of Sept. 7, 2020. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

CLASS AA

1. O'Gorman (14)	4-0	70	1
2. Aberdeen Cent.	5-0	49	3
3. Watertown	6-1	37	2
(tie) S.F. Washington	4-2	37	4
5. Huron	4-2	16	5

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Receiving Votes: Pierre (3-1) 1.

## CLASS A

1. S.F. Christian (14)	10-0	70	1
2. Dakota Valley	5-0	56	2
3. Winner	5-0	38	3
4. R.C. Christian	8-0	21	5
5. Madison	5-2	16	4

Receiving Votes: Garretson (7-0) 4; Parker (7-0) 2; Hill City (9-0) 2; Mobridge-Pollock (7-0) 1.

## CLASS B

1. Northwestern (14)	6-0	70	1
2. Warner	5-1	52	3
3. Faulkton Area	5-1	42	2
4. Chester Area	6-1	26	4
5. Bridgewater-Emery	5-0	11	RV

Receiving Votes: Faith (4-1) 5; Elkton-Lake Benton (4-0) 2; Ethan (2-2) 1; Colman-Egan (4-0) 1.

## South Dakota Prep Polls

By The Associated Press \

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

### Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(24)	3-0	120	1
2. Brandon Valley	-	2-1	91	2
3. Harrisburg	-	3-0	77	3
4. Lincoln	-	2-1	40	RV
5. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	-	1-2	30	4

Others receiving votes: Watertown 2.

### Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Yankton (22)	3-0	116	2	
2. Brookings	(1)	3-0	80	3
3. Pierre	—	2-1	79	1
4. Mitchell (1)	3-0	61	4	
5. Huron	-	2-1	23	5

Others receiving votes: Sturgis 1.

### Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Tea Area (22)	3-0	118	1	
2. Dell Rapids	(2)	3-0	98	2
3. Madison	-	2-1	61	3
4. Sioux Falls Christian	-	1-1	29	RV
5. Canton	-	0-2	26	5

Others receiving votes: West Central 23, Dakota Valley 2, Tri-Valley 2, Milbank 1.

### Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Winner (23)	4-0	119	1	
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	(1)	4-0	97	2
3. McCook Central-Montrose	-	3-0	70	3

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4. Sioux Valley - 3-1 44 4  
5. St. Thomas More - 2-1 17 5  
Receiving votes: Mobridge-Pollock 11, Elk Point-Jefferson 2.

## Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Viborg-Hurley (24)	3-0	120	1	
2. Lemon-McIntosh	-	3-0	90	2
3. Hamlin -	4-0	69	3	
4. Platte-Geddes -	3-0	53	4	
5. Baltic -	2-0	22	5	

Others receiving votes: Deuel 4, Hanson 1, Clark/Willow Lake 1.

## Class 9A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Howard (23)	3-0	119	2	
2. Canistota-Freeman	(1)	3-1	92	1
3. Warner -	4-0	64	4	
4. De Smet -	3-1	47	5	
5. Gregory -	3-1	22	3	

Others receiving votes: Wall 9, Philip 3, Ipswich-Edmunds Central 2, Timber Lake 1, Britton-Hecla 1.

## Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Wolsey-Wessington	(21)	2-0	106	1
2. Colman-Egan (2)	2-0	91	2	
3. Kadoka Area -	4-0	65	5	
4. Langford Area (1)	3-1	41	3	
5. Dell Rapids St. Mary	-	2-2	15	RV
(tie) Alcester-Hudson	-	3-1	15	4

Others receiving votes: Herreid-Selby Area 13.

## 2 die in single-engine plane crash in eastern South Dakota

GROTON, S.D. (AP) — A single-engine plane crashed in eastern South Dakota, killing two people, officials said.

The Brown County Sheriff's Office said the plane went down north of Groton on Sunday near the airport where the Groton Fly-in/Drive-in was held this weekend.

Scott Meints, Brown County Emergency Management director, said the crash was related to the air show. Groton is about 170 miles (270 kilometers) northwest of Sioux Falls.

Dave Lunzman, chief deputy with the Brown County Sheriff's Office, said two people were in the plane. Brown County Coroner Michael Carlsen said one person died at the scene and other was pronounced dead at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, the Argus Leader reported.

The National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration are investigating.

## Trump to preside over historic Arab-Israel recognition deals

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is set to preside over the signing of historic diplomatic deals between Israel and two Gulf Arab nations that could herald a dramatic shift in Middle East power dynamics and give him a boost ahead of the November election.

In a White House ceremony aimed at showcasing presidential statesmanship, Trump will host more than 700 guests Tuesday on the South Lawn to witness the sealing of the agreements between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Trump and his allies hope the occasion will burnish Trump's credentials



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as a peacemaker at the height of his reelection campaign.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Emirati and Bahraini foreign ministers are to ink the deals before the crowd, which will include representatives of supporting nations from the Washington-based diplomatic corps but few other dignitaries from overseas. Some congressional Democrats who have offered muted praise have been invited to attend.

In addition to the individual bilateral agreements signed by Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, all three will sign a trilateral document, officials said. The agreements are dubbed the "Abraham Accords" after the patriarch of the world's three major monotheistic religions. Trump is expected to sign as a witness.

The agreements won't end active wars but will rather formalize the normalization of the Jewish state's already warming relations with the two countries. And, while not addressing the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they may pave the way for a broader Arab-Israeli rapprochement after decades of enmity, a pair of wars and only two previous peace deals.

Skeptics, including many longtime Mideast observers, analysts, experts and former officials, have expressed doubts about the impact of the deals and lamented that they ignore the Palestinians, who have rejected them as a stab in the back by fellow Arabs.

Yet even the harshest critics have allowed that they could usher in a seismic shift in the region should other Arab nations, particularly Saudi Arabia, follow suit, with implications for Iran, Syria and Lebanon. Other Arab countries believed to be close to recognizing Israel include Oman, Sudan and Morocco.

"These agreements are a huge accomplishment for the countries involved and have led to a tremendous sense of hope and optimism in the region," said Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, who led the negotiations. "Instead of focusing on past conflicts, people are now focused on creating a vibrant future filled with endless possibilities."

As for the Palestinians, "they have an offer on the table," Kushner told ABC's "Good Morning America." "At some point when they decide they want to live better lives, I believe they'll engage. But you know we can't want peace for them, for their people, more than they want it themselves."

Tuesday's ceremony follows months of intricate diplomacy headed by Kushner and Trump's envoy for international negotiations, Avi Berkowitz, that first bore fruit Aug. 13 when the Israel-UAE deal was announced. That was followed by the first direct commercial flight between the countries, and then the Sept. 11 announcement of the Bahrain-Israel agreement.

The specific contents of the individual documents to be signed were not known ahead of the ceremony. While officials said they would hew closely to the joint statements issued when the deals were first announced, it remained unclear if the agreements would require further action by the three governments or what binding obligations they would commit each to enforcing.

A senior White House official said Monday the UAE-Israel agreement would be longer and more detailed than the Bahrain agreement because there had been more time to finalize it. Still, the lack of clarity even a day before the ceremony has raised some suspicions about the durability of the agreements.

Even in Israel, where the accords have received widespread acclaim, there is concern that they might result in U.S. sales of sophisticated weaponry to the UAE and Bahrain, thus potentially upsetting Israel's qualitative military edge in the region. Meanwhile, a politically vulnerable Netanyahu is facing questions about appearing at such a large event just days after he announced a new nationwide lockdown to fight a surge in coronavirus cases that will impose severe restrictions on movement and gatherings. The White House is encouraging those attending Tuesday's ceremony to wear masks.

And while the UAE and Bahrain have a history of suppressing dissent and critical public opinion, there have been indications that the agreements are not nearly as popular or well-received as in Israel. For one, neither country is sending its head of state or government to sign the deals with Netanyahu.

Bahrain's largest Shiite-dominated opposition group, Al-Wefaq, which the government ordered dissolved in 2016 amid a yearslong crackdown on dissent, said there is widespread rejection in the country of normalization.

Al-Wefaq said in a statement that it joins other Bahrainis who categorically reject the agreement to

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normalize ties with the "Zionist entity," and criticized the government for crushing the public's ability to express opinions "to obscure the extent of discontent" at normalization.

In the UAE, there has been speculation that Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, widely seen as the country's day-to-day leader and architect of the Emirati push to improve relations with Israel, is steering clear of the signing ceremony.

Although Emirati protocol dictates that the foreign minister and not the crown prince of a specific emirate be dispatched to represent the country in lieu of the UAE's president, who's rarely been seen in public since suffering a stroke more than six years ago, there's speculation the crown prince is not attending the White House ceremony for political reasons.

He may not want to be seen throwing too much of his support behind Trump weeks ahead of a U.S. presidential election in which the outcome is far from certain. While the pageantry of the White House signing ceremony offers Trump and Netanyahu a political triumph, Prince Mohammed faces neither reelection pressures nor protests at home.

The Emiratis may also be wary of appearing too close to Netanyahu, who publicly stated in August his opposition to the sale of U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighter jets to the UAE.

While the UAE has said that Israel not moving ahead with plans to annex West Bank settlements is a cornerstone of the agreement, Netanyahu has insisted that annexation is only suspended and remains on the table.

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Associated Press writer Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## Navalny posts photo of himself online, says he can breathe

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV and DAVID RISING Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny posted a picture of himself from his hospital bed in Germany on Tuesday, looking gaunt but alert and saying that he was happy to be breathing on his own finally after being poisoned with a nerve agent.

The Instagram post was the first image of the 44-year-old released since he was taken to Berlin's Charite hospital two days after falling ill on a domestic flight in Russia on Aug. 20.

"Hi, this is Navalny," he wrote in the Russian-language post. "I have been missing you. I still can't do much, but yesterday I managed to breathe on my own for the entire day."

Navalny had been kept in an induced coma for more than a week as he was treated with an antidote before hospital officials said a week ago that his condition had improved enough for him to be brought out of it.

On Monday, the hospital said he had been removed from mechanical ventilation and was able to leave his bed for "short periods of time."

In the photo, Navalny is being given a hug by his wife Yulia and is flanked by his two children as he sits upright in his bed in a hospital gown, and his statement even had the ring of his well-known sarcastic humor.

"Just on my own, no extra help, I didn't even use the simplest valve in my throat," he said of being able to breathe without ventilation. "I liked it very much. It's a remarkable process that is underestimated by many. Strongly recommended."

Despite his recovery, doctors have said they cannot rule out long-term health issues associated with the poisoning.

Navalny's spokesman, Leonid Volkov, refused to give any details on Navalny's condition or possible plans after his recovery when reached by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

A German military lab has determined that Navalny was poisoned with Novichok, the same class of Soviet-era agent that Britain said was used on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury, England, in 2018. On Monday, the German government said independent tests by labs in France and Sweden backed up its findings.

The Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons also is taking steps to have

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samples from Navalny tested at its designated labs, Germany has said.

The Kremlin has bristled at calls from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders to answer questions about the poisoning, denying any official involvement.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has accused the West of using the incident as a pretext to introduce new sanctions against Moscow.

French President Emmanuel Macron's office said he had expressed "deep concern over the criminal act" that targeted Navalny directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday.

The Kremlin said Putin in the call "underlined the impropriety of unfounded accusations against the Russian side" and emphasized Russia's demand for Germany to hand over analyses and samples. Putin also called for joint work by German and Russian doctors.

Berlin has rejected suggestions from Moscow that it is dragging its heels on sharing evidence.

With Germany's findings corroborated by labs abroad, "we do not expect the bringer of the bad news — namely us — to be attacked further, but rather that they should deal with the news itself," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said on Monday of Russian authorities.

Asked why no samples from Navalny have been given to Russia, his spokeswoman noted that "Mr. Navalny was in Russian treatment in a hospital for 48 hours."

Russian doctors who treated Navalny in Omsk said no evidence of poisoning could be found.

Isachenkov reported from Moscow.

## Hurricane Sally slows, gathering a deluge for the Gulf Coast

By STACEY PLAISANCE and JEFF MARTIN Associated Press

WAVELAND, Miss. (AP) — Hurricane Sally, a plodding storm with winds of 85 mph (137 kph), crept toward the northern Gulf Coast early Tuesday as forecasters warned of potentially deadly storm surges and flash floods with up to 2 feet (.61 meters) of rain and the possibility of tornadoes.

Hurricane warnings had stretched from Grand Isle, Louisiana to Navarre, Florida, but forecasters, while stressing "significant" uncertainty, kept nudging the predicted track eastward, easing fears in New Orleans, which was once in Sally's crosshairs.

On the current track, the storm is forecast to reach land near the Alabama-Mississippi state line by late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Stacy Stewart, a senior specialist with the National Hurricane Center, said Tuesday that people should continue to take the storm seriously since "devastating" rainfall is expected in large areas. People could drown in the flooding, he said.

"This is going to be historic flooding along with the historic rainfall," Stewart said. "If people live near rivers, small streams and creeks, they need to evacuate and go somewhere else."

The storm was moving at only 2 mph (4 kph) before dawn on Tuesday, centered about 115 miles (185 kilometers) south-southeast of Biloxi, Mississippi, and 60 miles (97 kilometers) east-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Forecasters expect Sally to turn northward Tuesday afternoon, moving near the coast of southeastern Louisiana later in the day, and then travel slowly north-northeastward through Wednesday, with top winds increasing to 110 mph (177 kph), nearly Category 3, before blowing ashore.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared an emergency in the Panhandle's westernmost counties, which were being pummeled by rain from Sally's outer bands early Tuesday. The threat of heavy rain and storm surge was exacerbated by the storm's slow movement.

President Donald Trump issued emergency declarations for parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama on Monday, and tweeted that residents should listen to state and local leaders.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey sought the presidential declaration after the National Weather Service in Mobile, Alabama, warned of the increasing likelihood of "dangerous and potentially historic flooding," with waters rising as much as 9 feet (2.7 meters) above ground in parts of the Mobile metro area.

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It all seemed a distant threat Monday afternoon in Waveland, Mississippi, as a shirtless, barefooted Trevor Claunch, of nearby Bay St. Louis, got in some last-minute beach time. But there were signs of trouble coming. Claunch marveled at how the Gulf waters had already crept over swaths of sandy shore and infiltrated bike paths and parking lots.

"Without any rain, and it's already all the way up — I honestly want to stick around and see where it goes," said Claunch.

But he wasn't taking any chances.

"We're going to go inland," he said.

Sally achieved hurricane strength Monday and quickly intensified to a Category 2 storm with 100 mph (161 kph) winds. Its maximum sustained winds dwindled to a Category 1 by early Tuesday, but forecasters expect it to grow stronger again before landfall.

While the threat to Louisiana appeared to be easing, flood control authorities remained on guard, closing gates along networks of waterways that could be pushed over their banks by the possible surge from the Gulf.

The southwestern part of the state was pummeled by Hurricane Laura on Aug. 27 and an estimated 2,000 evacuees from that storm were sheltered in New Orleans, mostly in hotels.

Monday marked only the second time on record, forecasters said, that five tropical cyclones swirled simultaneously in the Atlantic basin. The last time that happened was in 1971. None of the others were expected to threaten the U.S. this week, if at all, and one was downgraded to a low pressure trough Monday evening.

The extraordinarily busy hurricane season — like the catastrophic wildfire season on the West Coast — has focused attention on the role of climate change.

Scientists say global warming is making the strongest of hurricanes, those with wind speeds of 110 mph or more, even stronger. Also, warmer air holds more moisture, making storms rainier, and rising seas from global warming make storm surges higher and more damaging.

In addition, scientists have been seeing tropical storms and hurricanes slow down once they hit the United States by about 17% since 1900, and that gives them the opportunity to unload more rain over one place, as 2017's Hurricane Harvey did in Houston.

People along the coast appeared to be taking the storm seriously even as it remained offshore. Coastal casinos shut down under orders from the Mississippi Gaming Commission. Motorists filled a convenience store parking lot in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, as they topped off gas tanks and stocked up on ice, beer and snacks.

"It's second nature to us. It would have already been done but I had to work," Zale Stratakos said as she helped her mother, Kimberly Stratakos, fill three plastic gasoline cans.

Martin reported from Marietta, Georgia. Associated Press reporters Rebecca Santana and Janet McConnaughey in New Orleans; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland; Emily Wagster Pettus and Leah Willingham, in Jackson, Mississippi; and Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama, contributed to this report.

## Asia Today: India adds over 83,000 cases, nears 5 million

NEW DELHI (AP) — India confirmed more than 83,000 new coronavirus cases on Tuesday, bringing its total caseload to nearly 5 million.

The Health Ministry also reported 1,054 new deaths, driving total fatalities up to 80,776.

With 4.93 million confirmed cases, India has the second-highest total in the world after the U.S. Infections have maintained an upward surge amid an ease in coronavirus restrictions nationwide. More than 600,000 new cases have been confirmed in the last week alone.

Maharashtra, with more than 1 million cases, remains the worst-affected state in India, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

India, however, also has the highest number of recovered patients in the world, according to Johns



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Hopkins University. The country's recovery rate stands at 77.8%, with nearly 3.8 million people recovering from the virus so far, according to the Health Ministry.

India's Parliament, which reopened Monday after being shut down for more than five months due to the coronavirus, said that more than 10 million migrant laborers had made their way back to their home states from various corners of the country during a strict nationwide lockdown. It said there was no data available for the number of migrant deaths.

A flood of migrant workers, out of money and fearing starvation, poured out of cities and headed back to villages when Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered the nationwide lockdown on March 24. The unprecedented migration was one key reason that the virus spread to the far reaches of the country.

The lockdown also caused a severe economic crisis. India's economy contracted nearly 24% in the second quarter, the worst among the world's top economies.

Elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region:

— Nearly 1.8 million Hong Kong residents took voluntary coronavirus tests as part of a massive community testing program, resulting in 42 cases being identified, the government said Tuesday. The two-week testing program, which ended Monday, was aimed at identifying silent carriers of the coronavirus to cut the transmission chain in a wave of cases that began in July. Although the total number of people tested fell short of the government's initial estimate of four to five million, officials say the program met its objectives. "The program ended smoothly, we have met the policy objective," Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said at a news conference. "We have identified confirmed cases, we've isolated them and given them treatment to cut the transmission chain." China's central government provided resources and staff for the testing program in the city, and many Hong Kong residents expressed fear that DNA might be collected despite the Hong Kong government dismissing such concerns. Since the outbreak's peak in July — blamed in part on exemptions from quarantine requirements for airline staff, truck drivers from mainland China and sailors on cargo ships — cases have steadily dwindled. Hong Kong reported no new local coronavirus infections on Tuesday for the first time in over two months. The government also said it would further relax social-distancing measures, allowing bars, amusement parks and swimming pools to re-open. Restaurants will also be allowed to serve customers until midnight. However, a ban on public gatherings of more than four people remains in place. Hong Kong has recorded 4,976 infections so far, including 101 deaths.

— China has reported eight new coronavirus cases, all from people who entered the country, including two Myanmar nationals who had crossed the land border at the Chinese city of Ruili. Myanmar has seen a surge in new coronavirus cases. On Friday, the country reimposed tough measures to control the spread of the disease. Ruili was placed under lockdown on Monday evening, with people banned from leaving the city and residents quarantined at home for a week. A government statement said all residents of the city would be tested for the virus and authorities would crack down on the area's notorious cross-border smuggling trade. The border itself was closed and additional restrictions placed on outlying villages. China has gone a month without new cases of domestic infection.

— South Korea's daily coronavirus tally has stayed in the low 100s for a third consecutive day, maintaining a downward trajectory. The 106 cases added Tuesday brought the country's total to 22,391, including 367 deaths. South Korea's daily jump has remained in triple digits for more than a month, but its caseload has recently gradually slowed down in the wake of stringent social distancing rules. The government on Monday relaxed physical distancing guidelines in the greater Seoul area, the heart of a recent viral resurgence.

## 5 things to know today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. HURRICANE SALLY'S PLODDING PATH Forecasters, stressing "significant" uncertainty, are nudging the storm's predicted track to the east, easing fears in New Orleans while raising concerns in the Florida Panhandle's westernmost counties.

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2. PROJECTING STATESMAN IN CHIEF President Trump will host a ceremony on the South Lawn sealing agreements between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain which could shift power dynamics in the Middle East.

3. SMOKE FROM WESTERN FIRES Oregon, Washington and parts of California are struggling under acrid yellowish-green smog, the worst, most unhealthy air on the planet according to some measurements.

4. BILL COSBY'S LEGAL ACTION The actor was the first celebrity to go on trial in the #MeToo era, and his appeal could resolve lingering questions about how sexual abuse cases should be tried.

5. CIVIL RIGHTS ICON'S HOUSE ON TOUR The run-down, paint-chipped Detroit two-story building where Rosa Parks took refuge after her historic bus boycott is going on display in Italy and has yet to find a permanent U.S. home.

## Rosa Parks' home displayed in Italy as US race tensions rise

By NICOLE WINFIELD and GREGORIO BORGIA Associated Press

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — The run-down, paint-chipped Detroit house where U.S. civil rights icon Rosa Parks took refuge after her historic bus boycott is going on display in Italy in a setting that couldn't be more incongruous: the imposing central courtyard of the Royal Palace in Naples.

It's the latest stop for the house in a years-long saga that began when Parks' niece saved the tiny two-story home from demolition in Detroit after the 2008 financial crisis. She donated it to an American artist who rebuilt it for public display in Germany, and now Italy, after failing to find a permanent resting place for it in the U.S.

As racial tensions seethe across the Atlantic, the exhibition of the home starting Tuesday has taken on fresh relevance. The display is being accompanied by a repeating soundtrack entitled "8:46" and lasting that long. It's the time it took for a Black man, George Floyd, to be killed by white police officers in a May slaying that has fueled the Black Lives Matter movement and protests around the nation in a reckoning with America's history of slavery and racial injustice.

Artist Ryan Mendoza has been campaigning for more than five years to draw attention to the historic value of the home, where Parks lived for a short time after her 1955 defining act of defiance: refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama.

The yearlong refusal of African Americans to ride city buses that followed is regarded as the first major U.S. demonstration against segregation.

In an interview ahead of the opening, Mendoza said he hoped the grandeur of the Naples debut of "Almost Home" would draw attention to Parks' legacy and help America "remember a house it didn't know it had forgotten."

Parks lived in the tiny house in Detroit with her brother and his family as she struggled to make a new life for herself in the northern U.S. after receiving death threats following the bus protest. The family says Parks, who died in 2005, lived there with 17 other relatives.

The house was abandoned and slated for demolition after the financial crisis in 2008 and Detroit's dramatic decline, but Parks' niece, Rhea McCauley, bought it from the city for \$500 and donated it to Mendoza. After unsuccessful efforts to persuade the city to help save the building, Mendoza in 2016 dismantled it and moved it to the German capital, rebuilding it on the lot of his studio for public display.

In 2018, Brown University announced it would feature the house as part of a planned exhibition on the civil rights movement organized by its Center for Slavery and Justice. But it backed out at the last minute, citing a legal dispute with the family.

Earlier this year, Mendoza approached the Naples-based Morra Greco Foundation, where he had worked for a year in the 1990s. The Foundation agreed to help organize the exhibit with the backing of the Italian culture ministry and Campania regional government.

For Mendoza, the house epitomizes the experience of many African Americans who migrated north in the first half of the last century, only to face redlining and other discrimination that has affected generations of black Americans.

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"This house, in a word, is a way for people to understand why people in America are so enraged," he said. He takes particular satisfaction that the house, which is "so fragile that you can almost blow it over," is being exhibited in the central courtyard of a royal palace, where it certainly would have never found welcome by the kings of the House of Bourbon.

But now, "instead of being rejected by the walls of the royal palace, it's embraced and protected by these walls," he said. "Potentially thanks to the showing of the house in this way, America will allow the house to have a home."

Winfield reported from Rome.

## 'Work like the devil': Biden visiting Florida to woo Latinos

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden is making his first trip to Florida as the Democratic presidential nominee, while his campaign is acknowledging concerns about his appeal with Latinos, a voting bloc likely to prove pivotal against President Donald Trump in one of the nation's fiercest battleground states.

On Tuesday, the former vice president will hold a roundtable with veterans in Tampa before marking Hispanic Heritage Month with an event in Kissimmee near Orlando. The visit comes as some Democrats worry that Biden's standing among Hispanics is slipping in a state where they make up one-fifth of eligible voters.

"I will talk about how I am going to work like the devil to make sure I turn every Latino and Hispanic vote," Biden said after a Monday speech on climate change in his home state of Delaware.

Biden doesn't need to win Florida to capture the White House as long as he reclaims the upper Midwestern states that Trump flipped in 2016. But Trump's path to reelection is virtually nonexistent if he loses Florida, which is why Democrats are focused on it.

A recent NBC-Marist poll found Latinos in the state about evenly divided between Biden and Trump. Democrat Hillary Clinton led Trump by a 59% to 36% margin among Latinos in the same poll in 2016 — and Trump won Florida by about 1 percentage point.

Biden, who hasn't been to Florida since last October, has struggles with Latinos that stem in part from the policies of the Obama administration. The former vice president said during the Democratic primary that he regretted the record-setting number of deportations when President Barack Obama was in the White House.

And, unlike his Democratic rival Bernie Sanders, who used strong support among Latinos to notch key primary victories in Nevada and California, Biden has refused to adopt the most liberal positions in his party — especially when it comes to calling for decriminalizing illegal crossings of the U.S.-Mexico border and halting all deportations.

As for Trump, despite many of his anti-immigration policies, some Latino voters have responded positively to the president's embrace of religious conservative positions and his warnings of protest-related violence and socialism. Trump also frequently visits his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, and the president votes absentee in the state.

Biden said Monday that overall his ratings with Latinos were "much higher" than Trump's, "but they gotta go higher."

Carlos Odio, a co-founder of the Democratic polling firm Equis Labs, said that, like Obama in 2008, Biden didn't need the Latino vote to win the primary. But the coronavirus has limited Biden's ability to get out and actively court Hispanic voters in the way that Obama could for the general election.

That means Biden is "racing against the clock" to persuade Latinos to vote for him rather than simply being an alternative to all of Trump's negatives, which isn't a strong motivator for turnout, Odio said.

Trump, meanwhile, has maintained an aggressive Hispanic outreach program for more than a year. That has succeeded in attracting the support of some Hispanics, mostly men, who have been swayed by the president's brand as a businessman — an image that has proved durable despite the economic fallout

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from the pandemic, Odio said.

Trump also has continued to enjoy support among ardent anti-communists, especially Cuban Americans. But Felice Gorordo, a Miami entrepreneur who serves on Biden's national finance committee, argued that the president's hard-line stance toward the island has hurt its people rather than its leaders.

Gorordo also said Trump has ignored the plight of Venezuelans, whose country remains on the brink of economic collapse, and instead has openly questioned the results of the upcoming U.S. election to mask his failed leadership.

"Trump's rejection of our democratic values and processes comes right out of an authoritarian's playbook," Gorordo said on a press call Monday.

In a further effort to promote Biden, Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny and Mexican singer Alejandro Fernandez have recorded ads decrying Trump with songs in Spanish. Those are airing in Arizona, Pennsylvania and Florida, where Tampa and Orlando have large Puerto Rican communities.

Biden has repeatedly criticized Trump for the slow federal response in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated it in 2017. During Monday's speech on climate change, it was no accident that Biden repeatedly mentioned Puerto Rico, noting that it also was damaged by Tropical Storm Laura last month.

"Our fellow Americans are still putting things back together from the last big storm," he said, "as they face the next one."

AP's Advance Voting guide brings you the facts about voting early, by mail or absentee from each state: <https://interactives.ap.org/advance-voting-2020/>

## US issues sweeping new travel warning for China, Hong Kong

BEIJING (AP) — The U.S. on Tuesday issued a sweeping new advisory warning against travel to mainland China and Hong Kong, citing the risk of "arbitrary detention" and "arbitrary enforcement of local laws."

The advisory is likely to heighten tensions between the sides that have spiked since Beijing's imposition on Hong Kong of a strict new national security law in June that has already been met with a series of U.S. punitive actions.

The statement warned U.S. citizens that China imposes "arbitrary detention and exit bans" to compel cooperation with investigations, pressure family members to return to China from abroad, influence civil disputes and "gain bargaining leverage over foreign governments."

"U.S. citizens traveling or residing in China or Hong Kong, may be detained without access to U.S. consular services or information about their alleged crime. U.S. citizens may be subjected to prolonged interrogations and extended detention without due process of law," the advisory said.

In Hong Kong, China "unilaterally and arbitrarily exercises police and security power," the advisory said, adding that new legislation also covers offenses committed by non-Hong Kong residents or organizations outside of Hong Kong, possibly subjecting U.S. citizens who have publicly criticized China to a "heightened risk of arrest, detention, expulsion, or prosecution."

When in Hong Kong, U.S. citizens are "strongly cautioned to be aware of their surroundings and avoid demonstrations," the advisory said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters at a daily briefing Tuesday that the U.S. should "fully respect the facts and should not engage in unwarranted political manipulation" when issuing such advisories.

"China has always protected the safety and legal rights of foreigners in China in accordance with law. China is one of the safest countries in the world," Wang said. "Of course, foreigners in China also have an obligation to abide by Chinese laws."

Last month, the Trump administration suspended or terminated three bilateral agreements with Hong Kong covering extradition and tax exemptions, citing Beijing's violation of its pledge for Hong Kong to retain broad autonomy for 50 years after the former British colony's 1997 handover to Chinese rule.

Other Western nations have also suspended their extradition treaties with Hong Kong following the



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national security's law's passage.

The U.S. has also acted to end special trade and commercial privileges that Hong Kong had enjoyed and has imposed sanctions on Hong Kong and Chinese officials, including Hong Kong's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam, involved in enforcing the new security law.

Tensions between Beijing and Washington have hit their lowest point in decades amid simmering disputes over trade, technology, Taiwan, Tibet, the South China Sea, the coronavirus pandemic and, most recently, Hong Kong. The impact of the tensions has been felt in the tit-for-tat closures of diplomatic missions as well as visa restrictions on students and journalists.

The latest travel advisory did not offer any new warnings regarding COVID-19 in mainland China and Hong Kong, but referred travelers to earlier notices advising Americans to avoid the regions and return home from them if possible.

President Donald Trump has assigned full blame to Beijing for the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., deflecting criticism of his own handling of the pandemic that threatens his reelection.

The virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year, leading to the global pandemic. Critics have accused Beijing of an initial cover-up attempt, although Trump himself has admitted to downplaying the severity of the virus as early as February.

China appears to have contained the virus within its borders, reporting no new cases of domestic infection in a month, while Hong Kong has also radically brought down its numbers of new cases.

## Zimbabwe government abuses critics, allege rights groups

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Godfrey Kuruone, a Zimbabwean opposition official, sang a protest song at the funeral of a party member in July. For that, and other political charges, he spent 42 days in jail before the prosecution dropped one charge, and acquitted him of another charge of blocking traffic.

Hopewell Chin'ono, an investigative journalist who used his Twitter account to expose alleged government corruption, was held in the notorious Chikurubi maximum security prison for nearly six weeks before being granted bail on charges of inciting violence for tweeting his support for an anti-government protest.

Internationally acclaimed author and filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga spent a night in detention for standing by a Harare road and holding up a placard that said "We Want Better. Reform Our Institutions."

All face court cases for publicly challenging Zimbabwe's government.

From tweeting to Whatsapp texting, singing in public or marching in the streets, those who speak out against President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government are finding themselves in trouble. Some have been abducted and tortured, according to human rights groups.

Zimbabwe's deteriorating economy and reports of alleged corruption involving the procurement of COVID-19 protective equipment and drugs have stoked peoples' anger at a government that promised reform and prosperity when it took power in 2017.

It appears the government is using restrictions imposed to combat the coronavirus to suppress political criticism, say human rights defenders.

"While the government lockdown has been extended indefinitely, human rights violations have steadily increased, suggesting that the government is using COVID-19 as a cover for violating fundamental freedoms and attacking perceived opponents," said the local human rights group Zimrights in a joint statement with the International Federation for Human Rights.

Opposition officials, human rights groups and some analysts accuse Mnangagwa of abusing the rights of critics, using tactics as harsh as his predecessor, the late Robert Mugabe.

Mnangagwa and his officials deny the charges, saying they have carried out democratic reforms and they are justified in taking measures against people who are seeking to illegally overthrow the government.

Dozens of people — including lawyers, journalists, nurses, doctors, opposition members of parliament, and human rights activists — have been arrested and charged with violating COVID-19 lockdown rules, or for protesting on the streets and on social media.



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ZimRights, a local organization, says it has recorded 820 "human rights violations" such as arbitrary arrests, assaults by state agents, attacks on journalists, abductions, "gunshot assaults" and dog bites between the end of March when the lockdown was introduced and August 9.

"These cases reveal a trend of human rights violations consisting of acts aiming to morally exhaust, silence, punish, impoverish, sometimes physically injure the targeted individuals, and exposing them to the risk of contracting the virus while arbitrarily detained in prisons," said Zimrights in a joint statement with the International Federation for Human Rights.

It's not even safe to criticize the president in bars, on public transport or on social media, according to the lawyers' group, which said it has represented about 60 people charged with insulting the president since Mnangagwa took over following a coup that deposed Mugabe in 2017.

They include Milton Murairwa, a 31-year old police officer. He posted that "ED and his team must go," on a Whatsapp group for police family members. Mnangagwa is popularly known by his initials ED. Now the police officer faces up to a year in jail or a fine if convicted on charges of "undermining the authority of or insulting" the president.

"We are seeing an increasingly worrying trend where authorities are abusing the law to persecute people perceived to hold views different to those of the establishment," said Kumbirai Mafunda, spokesman for Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, which is providing lawyers to many of those arrested in the crackdown. Authorities, he said, "are using pre-trial detention as a form of punishment," pointing to cases where those arrested are denied bail for lengthy periods.

Other government critics have faced insulting verbal attacks. The ruling party spokesman Patrick Chinamasa called the U.S ambassador Brian Nichols "a thug." The country's Catholic bishops were branded "evil" by the information minister, while the president challenged them to form their own party after they issued a pastoral letter accusing the government of political and economic mismanagement.

Hopes that neighboring South Africa, the region's economic powerhouse, would help to find a resolution are vanishing after a delegation from the ruling African National Congress party came to Zimbabwe but only met ruling party officials and not the opposition and or civic organizations.

Zimbabwe's government and the ruling party are not relenting.

Mnangagwa told party officials over the weekend that there is no crisis in Zimbabwe needing intervention and that the South Africans would not meet the opposition and NGOs.

Chinamasa, the ruling party spokesman, last week warned opposition leaders that "they should not be like children playing with fire. It will be very dangerous for them." He accused the main opposition MDC Alliance party of training "renegades" overseas "to come and cause mayhem and violence."

MDC Alliance president Nelson Chamisa denied the charges.

"It's all part of tactics to wipe us out. We are being treated like a banned organization, we can't even hold meetings without risking arrest," he told The Associated Press, calling on neighboring countries to "help solve our crisis."

Some activists are pushing back. A group held a street protest wearing replicas of red and white striped prison sweaters in August. Others are wearing the sweaters and posting pictures on social media.

Chin'ono, the journalist, walked out of Chikurubi Maximum Prison wearing his prison jersey when he was released on bail early September.

"It was a symbolism that yes, I might be out of Chikurubi but the current government has created a giant prison for all of us," he told the AP. "Instead of being intimidated we are taking ownership of those symbols and making them ours."

## What are the different types of coronavirus tests?

By The Associated Press undefined

What are the different types of coronavirus tests?

There are three broad categories of coronavirus tests in the U.S. Two diagnose whether you have an active infection, and a third indicates if you previously had the virus.

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Here's how they work:

## GENETIC TESTS

Most tests look for bits of the virus' genetic material, and require a nasal swab that is taken by a health professional and then sent to a lab. This is considered the most accurate way to diagnose an infection, but it's not perfect: The swab has to get a good enough sample so any virus can be detected.

These tests usually take hours to process at the lab so you likely won't get results back for at least a day, though a handful of rapid tests take about 15 minutes on site. Other genetic tests use saliva, instead of a swab.

## ANTIGEN TESTS

A newer type of test looks for proteins found on the surface of the coronavirus, rather than the virus itself. These antigen tests are just hitting the market, and experts hope they'll help expand testing and speed up results.

Antigen tests aren't as accurate as genetic tests, but are cheaper, faster and require less specialized laboratory equipment. They still require a nasal swab by a health professional.

A recently approved test from Abbott Laboratories takes 15 minutes and can be performed at schools, offices and other locations.

## ANTIBODY TESTS

Antibody tests look for proteins that the body makes to fight off infections in a patient's blood sample. Antibodies are a sign that a person previously had COVID-19.

Scientists don't yet know if antibodies protect people from another infection, or how long that protection might last. So antibody tests are mostly useful for researchers measuring what portion of the population was infected.

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

Can I get the coronavirus twice?

Has the coronavirus mutated in any significant way?

Can I use a face shield instead of a mask?

## Choking air from Western fires just won't ease up

By SARA CLINE and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Relief from putrid, dangerous air spewing from massive wildfires across the West won't come until later in the week or beyond, scientists and forecasters say, and the hazy and gunk-filled skies might stick around for even longer.

People in Oregon, Washington and parts of California were struggling under acrid yellowish-green smog — the worst, most unhealthy air on the planet according to some measurements. It seeped into homes and businesses, sneaked into cars through air conditioning vents and caused the closure of iconic locations such as Powell's Books and the Oregon Zoo in Portland, the state's biggest city.

"I don't think that we should be outside, but at the same time, we've been cooped up in the house already for months so it's kind of hard to dictate what's good and what's bad. I mean, we shouldn't be outside period," said Issa Ubidia-Luckett, a Portland resident, who was grabbing lunch on Monday.

Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality extended an air quality alert to Thursday after it was to initially expire on Monday. The air was so thick that on Monday Alaska Airlines announced it was suspending service to Portland and Spokane, Washington, until Tuesday afternoon. Hazy, smoky skies fouled Washington state and experts said some parts of California might not see relief until next month.

Zoe Flanagan, who has lived in Portland for 12 years, has barely left the house but braved the smog to walk her two dogs on Monday. On Sunday, Flanagan and her husband, in desperation, turned on the heater, which has a better filter than their air conditioning.

"I can feel it in my chest and then I just feel hungover despite not drinking," she said. "I felt really hun-

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gover all day Saturday. I just couldn't get enough water, I had a headache."

Dylan Darling, a spokesman for the state's department of Environmental Quality, said: "I grew up in Oregon and lived here a long time, and to see this much smoke for this long and wide spreading, really stands out in the state's history."

Some areas of central California blanketed by smoke are not likely to see relief until October, said Dan Borsum, the incident meteorologist for a fire in Northern California.

"It's going to take a substantially strong weather pattern to move all the smoke," Borsum told a fire briefing Sunday night. He said smoke from dozens of wildfires in the West and throughout California is pooling in the Central Valley, which already has some of California's worst air quality even when wildfires are not burning.

Joe Smith, advocacy director for Sacramento Loaves & Fishes, which attends to homeless people, said California's capital city hasn't seen consistent blue skies in weeks. People experiencing homelessness have grappled with an unrelenting onslaught of virus, searing heat and now, polluted air they can't escape.

"Some of the toughest folks you'll ever meet are people who live outdoors, unhoused, but it is getting to them," he said. "We've got COVID-19, followed by excessive heat wave, followed by smoke. What's going to start falling out of the air next on these poor folks?"

Twana James, who lives in a tent in Sacramento, coughed several times during a brief phone interview Monday, trying to clear her throat. She said her voice is not usually so hoarse.

"We got hella ashes from the fires, everything is covered in ashes," she said. "It's hard to breathe."

In Oregon, places like the Oregon Convention Center in downtown Portland are being used as a smoke advisory shelter where people in need of healthy air quality can go.

Darling said typically during wildfires in Oregon, such as those in 2017 that carried heavy smoke to the Willamette Valley and Eugene area, people can escape to other areas of the state for clean air.

"That's what's standing out — there just isn't a place in Oregon right now to find fresh air," Darling said.

State officials say they are collecting data to see how these fires compare to those in the past and the effects, not only on people's health but also the environment.

Tyler Kranz, a meteorologist at Portland's National Weather Service office, said for the smoke to disperse Oregon will need strong enough winds blowing from the ocean towards land — but there needs to be a "perfect balance" of wind so that it disperses smoke but doesn't further ignite fires.

"We need the winds to get the smoke out of here," Kranz said. "We just don't want them to be too strong, because then they could fan those flames and all of a sudden those fires are spreading again."

As she ate lunch at a popular burger place east of Portland, one of only a few places open, Ubidia-Luckett said the smoke reminded her of stories long-time Portland residents tell about the thick ash that fell on the city when Mount St. Helen's erupted in nearby Washington state in 1980. There was so much ash that for weeks many residents wore masks and had to clear ash off their cars.

After beginning the meal outside, Ubidia-Luckett and her 6-year-old son soon moved inside because the air was too much to take. The boy was with her because his first day of kindergarten was postponed Monday for the second time due to the hazardous air conditions.

"That's the hard part for little kids. They're so cooped up so what do you do?" she asked. "Eventually, they want to go outside."

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Cline reported from Salem, Oregon. Associated Press writers Janie Har and Juliet Williams in San Francisco and Gillian Flaccus in Portland contributed to this report.

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

**Trump defies virus rules as 'peaceful protest' rallies grow**

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By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is running as the “law and order” candidate. But that hasn’t stopped him and his campaign from openly defying state emergency orders and flouting his own administration’s coronavirus guidelines as he holds ever-growing rallies in battleground states.

Democratic governors and local leaders have urged the president to reconsider the events, warning that he’s putting lives at risk. But they have largely not tried to block the gatherings of thousands of people, which Trump and his team deem “peaceful protests” protected by the First Amendment.

“If you can join tens of thousands of people protesting in the streets, gamble in a casino, or burn down small businesses in riots, you can gather peacefully under the 1st Amendment to hear from the President of the United States,” Tim Murtaugh, a Trump campaign spokesperson, said in a statement.

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## Sally's threat: 'Potentially historic' floods, fierce winds

By STACEY PLAISANCE AND JANET McCONNAUGHEY Associated Press

WAVELAND, Miss. (AP) — Hurricane Sally, one of four storms churning simultaneously in the Atlantic, moved closer to the Gulf Coast on Monday with winds of 100 mph (161 kph) and heavy rain as forecasters warned of "potentially historic" flooding and governors declared states of emergency.

Sally once appeared to have New Orleans in its sights and it was still moving toward the tip of southeast Louisiana late Monday. But forecasters continued to nudge the track eastward throughout the day, and now expect the storm to blow ashore farther west, near the Mississippi-Alabama state line.

Sally was expected to produce between 8-16 inches (20-41 centimeters) of rain from the Florida Pan-

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handle to southeastern Mississippi through mid-week, with 2 feet (.61 meters) of rain possible in isolated spots. There also was a possibility of tornadoes in the Panhandle and south Alabama late Monday and early Tuesday, the National Hurricane Center said in its public advisory.

"This is the real deal, and it deserves your attention," Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves wrote on Twitter. "Be smart. Prepare for worst. Pray for the best," he said.

Hurricane warnings stretched from Grand Isle, Louisiana, to Navarre, Florida.

President Donald Trump tweeted late Monday that he was closely monitoring "extremely dangerous Hurricane Sally." Trump urged residents to "be ready and listen to State and Local Leaders!" Earlier Monday, the president issued an emergency declaration for parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, an action that authorizes federal emergency officials to coordinate disaster relief efforts and provide emergency assistance to the affected areas.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey sought the presidential declaration after the National Weather Service in Mobile warned of the increasing likelihood of "dangerous and potentially historic flooding." The weather service forecast that waters could rise as much as 9 feet (2.7 meters) above ground in large parts of the Mobile metro area. With a population of 400,000 people, it is among the largest metro areas along the Gulf Coast between New Orleans and Tampa, Florida. Some businesses in Mobile placed sandbags at their entrances in preparation.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in the Panhandle's westernmost counties, Escambia and Santa Rosa as the hurricane's outer bands began to lash the area. All along the storm-weary Gulf Coast, residents rushed to buy bottled water and other supplies ahead of the hurricane, which powered up to a Category 2 in the afternoon. Forecasters said sustained winds could reach 110 mph (177 kph), just below Category 3 strength, by landfall.

Seawater and sand swept onto roads on one end of Dauphin Island off the coast of Alabama, washing away several cars, Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier said. He said about a dozen people had to be evacuated by Humvee.

In coastal Mississippi, water spilled onto roads, lawns and docks well before the storm's arrival. All 12 casinos were ordered to shut down Monday afternoon. Reeves urged residents of low-lying areas to prepare to evacuate.

Reeves said Sally could dump up to 20 inches (51 centimeters) of rain on the southern part of the state. Shelters opened, but officials urged people who are evacuating to stay with friends or relatives or in hotels, if possible, because of the coronavirus.

The town of Kiln, Mississippi, where many homes sit high on stilts along the Jourdan River and its tributaries, was under a mandatory evacuation order, and it appeared most residents obeyed.

"It would be dumb to stay here," said Michael "Mac" Mclaughlin, 72, a retiree who planned to ride out the storm in New Orleans with his girlfriend. He said his home was built in 2014 to withstand hurricanes, "but I just don't want to be here when the water's that deep and be stranded. That wouldn't be smart."

Jeremy Burke lifted things off the floor in case of flooding in his Bay Books bookstore in the Old Town neighborhood of Bay St. Louis, a popular weekend getaway from New Orleans, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) to the west.

"It's turning into a ghost town," he said.

Sally has lots of company during what has become one of the busiest hurricane seasons in history — so busy that forecasters have almost run through the alphabet of names with 2 1/2 months still to go.

For only the second time on record, forecasters said, five tropical cyclones swirled simultaneously in the Atlantic basin at one point Monday. The last time that happened was in 1971.

In addition to Sally were Hurricane Paulette, which passed over a well-fortified Bermuda on Monday and was expected to peel harmlessly out into the North Atlantic; and Tropical Storms Rene, Teddy and Vicky, all of them out at sea and unlikely to threaten land this week, if at all. Rene was downgraded to a trough of low pressure Monday evening.

Sally was about 130 miles (210 kilometers) south of Biloxi, Mississippi, on Monday night, moving at 3 mph

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(5 kph). The hurricane's sluggish pace could give it more time to drench the Mississippi Delta with rain and storm surge. Storm surge warnings stretched from Port Fourchon in Louisiana to the line between Okaloosa and Walton counties in Florida. Also included: lakes Pontchartrain, Maurepas and Borgne in the New Orleans area and Mobile Bay in Alabama.

On Aug. 27, Hurricane Laura blow ashore in southwestern Louisiana along the Texas line, well west of New Orleans, tearing off roofs and leaving large parts of the city of Lake Charles uninhabitable. The storm was blamed for 32 deaths in the two states, the vast majority of them in Louisiana.

More than 2,000 evacuees from Hurricane Laura remain sheltered in Louisiana, most of them in New Orleans-area hotels, Gov. John Bel Edwards said.

The extraordinarily busy hurricane season — like the catastrophic wildfire season on the West Coast — has focused attention on the role of climate change.

Scientists say global warming is making the strongest of hurricanes, those with wind speeds of 110 mph or more, even stronger. Also, warmer air holds more moisture, making storms rainier, and rising seas from global warming make storm surges higher and more damaging.

In addition, scientists have been seeing tropical storms and hurricanes slow down once they hit the United States by about 17% since 1900, and that gives them the opportunity to unload more rain over one place, as 2017's Hurricane Harvey did in Houston.

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Associated Press reporters Rebecca Santana in New Orleans; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland; Emily Wagster Pettus and Leah Willingham, in Jackson, Mississippi; Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama; and Jeff Martin in Marietta, Georgia, contributed to this report.

## **Biden assembles legal team ahead of divisive 2020 election**

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Joe Biden is assembling a team of top lawyers in anticipation of court challenges to the election process that could ultimately determine who wins the race for the White House.

Biden's presidential campaign says the legal war room will work to ensure that elections are properly administered and votes correctly counted. It will also seek to combat voter suppression at the polls, identify foreign interference and misinformation, and educate voters on the different methods available for casting ballots.

The effort, which the Biden campaign described as the largest election protection program in presidential campaign history, reflects the extent of the preparation underway for an already divisive presidential contest in November that could produce significant, perhaps even decisive, court cases over voter access and the legitimacy of mail ballots.

Democrats and Republicans are locked in legal fights on election rules that could help shape the outcome of the vote, and President Donald Trump's campaign has its own attorneys handling cases on a variety of issues.

Trump in recent months has sought to preemptively cast doubt on the election, warning that the expected surge in mail ballots because of the coronavirus pandemic will lead to massive fraud and could open the door to foreign countries to print their own fraudulent ballots.

"Notwithstanding Donald Trump and his Republican allies' hollow threats and constant misinformation, election officials around the country are working tirelessly to hold a free and fair and election, and we have an extraordinary national team in place to ensure that every eligible voter is able to exercise their right to vote and have their vote counted," Bob Bauer, a senior adviser to the Biden campaign and former White House counsel to President Barack Obama, said in a statement.

Bauer, who served as general counsel to the Obama campaigns of 2008 and 2012, will work with campaign general counsel Dana Remus on voter protection — an issue that thousands of Democratic lawyers around the country are also engaged in, according to the Biden campaign.

The campaign is also creating a special national litigation team involving hundreds of lawyers that will

include as leaders Walter Dellinger, a solicitor general in the Clinton administration, and Donald Verrilli, a solicitor general under Obama.

Democratic lawyer Marc Elias and a team of lawyers from his firm, Perkins Coie, will focus on protecting voter access and ensuring a fair and accurate vote count.

Former Attorney General Eric Holder will also play an outreach role on the question of voting rights, according to the campaign.

"We can and will be able to hold a free and fair election this November and we're putting in place an unprecedented voter protection effort with thousands of lawyers and volunteers around the country to ensure that voting goes smoothly," Remus said in a statement.

The Trump campaign issued a statement from deputy manager Justin Clark saying that as "Democrats continue their push to weaken reasonable rules preventing fraud — like voter ID and signature matching — President Trump and his campaign will continue to protect the integrity of the vote.

"Our team will continue to fight every day in the courtroom and on the ground to make sure that every eligible voter has the right to vote and that their vote is counted — once," Clark said.

The New York Times reported on the legal war room initiative earlier Monday.

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

## Trump defies virus rules as 'peaceful protest' rallies grow

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is running as the "law and order" candidate. But that hasn't stopped him and his campaign from openly defying state emergency orders and flouting his own administration's coronavirus guidelines as he holds ever-growing rallies in battleground states.

Democratic governors and local leaders have urged the president to reconsider the events, warning that he's putting lives at risk. But they have largely not tried to block the gatherings of thousands of people, which Trump and his team deem "peaceful protests" protected by the First Amendment.

"If you can join tens of thousands of people protesting in the streets, gamble in a casino, or burn down small businesses in riots, you can gather peacefully under the 1st Amendment to hear from the President of the United States," Tim Murtaugh, a Trump campaign spokesperson, said in a statement.

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## Trump spurns science on climate: 'Don't think science knows'

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, AAMER MADHANI, WILL WEISSERT and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — With the smell of California wildfires in the air, President Donald Trump on Monday ignored the scientific consensus that climate change is playing a central role in historic West Coast infernos and renewed his unfounded claim that failure to rake forest floors and clear dead timber is mostly to blame.

The fires are threatening to become another front in Trump's reelection bid, which is already facing hurdles because of the coronavirus pandemic, joblessness and social unrest. His Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, in his own speech Monday said the destruction and mounting death toll across California, Oregon and Washington require stronger presidential leadership and labeled Trump a "climate arsonist."

Trump traveled to Northern California to be briefed by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and other state and federal officials. At one point, state Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot urged the president to "recognize the changing climate and what it means to our forests."

"If we ignore that science and sort of put our head in the sand and think it's all about vegetation management, we're not going to succeed together protecting Californians," Crowfoot added.

Trump responded, "It will start getting cooler, just you watch."

Crowfoot politely pushed back that he wished the science agreed with the president. Trump countered, "I don't think science knows, actually."

That striking moment came on a day of dueling campaign events, with Trump and Biden dramatically contrasting their outlooks on climate change — and the impact it has had on the record-setting fires ravaging the West Coast.

Trump's suggestion that the planet is going to start to unexpectedly cool is at odds with reality, experts say.

"Maybe there is a parallel universe where a pot on the stove with the burner turned to high 'starts getting cooler.' But that is not our universe," said Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field.

Biden lashed at Trump, saying the moment requires "leadership, not scapegoating" and that "it's clear we are not safe in Donald Trump's America."

"This is another crisis, another crisis he won't take responsibility for," Biden said. He said that if voters give "a climate denier" another four years in the White House, "why would we be surprised that we have more of America ablaze?"

Trump, who was briefed during a stop near Sacramento before a campaign visit to Phoenix, had been mostly quiet as the catastrophe on the West Coast has unfolded over the past few weeks. He tweeted appreciation of firefighters and emergency responders on Friday, the first public comments he had made in weeks about the fires that have killed dozens, burned millions of acres and forced thousands from their homes.

The president arrived at Sacramento McClellan Airport to the powerful scent of smoke from the fires burning some 90 miles away.

He contended anew that Democratic state leaders are to blame for failing to rake leaves and clear dead timber from forest floors. Trump offered no evidence to support his claim, and wildfire experts and forest

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managers say raking leaves makes no sense for vast U.S. wilderness and forests. And many of the blazes have roared through coastal chaparral and grasslands, not forest.

"When you have years of leaves, dried leaves on the ground, it just sets it up," Trump said. "It's really a fuel for a fire. So they have to do something about it."

University of Colorado fire scientist Jennifer Balch called Trump's deflecting blame on forest managers "infuriating."

"It's often hard to know what Trump means," Balch added. "If by forest management he means clear-cutting, that's absolutely the wrong solution to this problem. ... There's no way we're going to log our way out of this fire problem."

Biden, who gave his climate speech in Delaware on Monday, released a \$2 trillion plan in July to boost investment in clean energy and stop all climate-damaging emissions from U.S. power plants by 2035.

But as the wildfires rage, some climate activists have expressed frustration that Biden has not been more forceful on the issue. He has not embraced, for instance, some of the most progressive elements of the Green New Deal.

To that end, Biden in his address did not wade into political and policy disagreements among Democrats, progressive activists and even some Republicans who acknowledge the climate crisis. As he has before, Biden sought to frame his energy proposals as an immediate necessity and a long-term economic boon focusing more on new jobs and a cleaner economy that would offset any initial costs.

"Donald Trump's climate denial may not have caused these fires and hurricanes," Biden said. "But if he gets a second term, these hellish events will continue to become more common and more devastating and more deadly."

Trump visited McClellan Park, a former U.S. Air Force Base about 10 miles outside Sacramento that is used by firefighters as a staging area for large aircraft used in combating blazes. Most of the largest fire-fighting aircraft have not been utilized in recent days due to heavy smoke limiting visibility.

Biden's running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, will return to her home state Tuesday to meet with emergency service personnel to be briefed on the state's wildfires.

In 2015, Trump stated bluntly: "I'm not a believer in global warming, I'm not a believer in man-made global warming." After the publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report concluded climate change would hurt the economy, Trump said he read it but didn't believe it. In September 2019, he falsely slammed the Green New Deal as an effort that would lead to "No more cows. No more planes ... no more people, right?"

Climate scientists say rising heat and worsening droughts in California consistent with climate change have expanded what had been the state's autumn wildfire season to year-round, sparking bigger, deadlier and more frequent fires.

All five of the state's largest fires in history have raged in the past three years, including the deadliest fire, a 2018 blaze that killed 85 people when it swept through the town of Paradise on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Trump during his Monday visit awarded seven members of the California National Guard the Distinguished Flying Cross for the rescue of dozens of Californians during the 2018 Paradise fires.

An analysis out in August from Stanford climate and wildfire researcher Michael Goss and others found that a nearly 2-degree (1 Celsius) rise in autumn temperatures and 30 percent drop in rainfall has more than doubled the number of autumn days with extreme fire weather over the past 40 years.

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Weissert reported from Wilmington, Del., Knickmeyer from Oklahoma City and Madhani from Chicago. Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta, Juliet Williams in San Francisco and Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland, contributed reporting.

## Rochester police chief out in fallout over Prude death

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren fired the police chief and suspended her top lawyer and communications director Monday in the continuing upheaval over the suffocation death of Daniel Prude.

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Chief Le'Ron Singletary announced his retirement last week as part of a major shakeup of the city's police leadership but said he would stay on through the end of the month.

Instead, Warren said at a news conference that she had permanently relieved him while suspending Corporation Counsel Tim Curtin and Communications Director Justin Roj without pay for 30 days following a cursory management review of the city's role in Prude's death.

"This initial look has shown what so many have suspected, that we have a pervasive problem in the Rochester Police Department," Warren said. "One that views everything through the eyes of the badge and not the citizens we serve. It shows that Mr. Prude's death was not taken as seriously as it should have been by those who reviewed the case throughout city government at every level."

Officers found Prude running naked down the street in March, handcuffed him and put a hood over his head to stop him from spitting, then held him down for about two minutes until he stopped breathing. He died a week later after he was taken off life support.

His death has sparked nearly two weeks of nightly protests and calls for Warren's resignation after his relatives released police body camera video and written reports they obtained through a public records request.

Warren said the review had produced eight recommendations, including that the city's Office of Public Integrity investigate whether she or any other employees violated city policies or ethical standards.

The review by Deputy Mayor James Smith also recommended that the U.S. Justice Department conduct a review of the Rochester Police Department, including a review of all body-worn camera footage for use-of-force arrests over the past three years.

Warren said she would move forward with those and the other recommendations, which include having outside agencies review police training manuals and Freedom of Information Law procedures.

"I have apologized to the Prude family and this community for the failures that happened along the way, including my own," Warren said. "As mayor, I own these failures."

Prude's family has filed a federal lawsuit alleging the police department sought to cover up the true nature of Prude's death, starting with what Warren said was Singletary reporting to her early on that Prude had an apparent drug overdose.

In announcing his retirement Sept. 8, the outgoing chief accused critics of trying to "destroy my character and integrity."

Roj said he accepted his suspension, but claimed he was not aware of what happened to Prude until Aug. 4. He said Singletary told him in an email of an ongoing criminal investigation and that the mayor was already informed.

"In hindsight, I agree I should have questioned the Chief further and/or taken the opportunity to discuss his email with the Mayor," Roj said in a statement posted on Twitter.

Curtin could not be reached by phone to comment on his suspension.

## Oracle and TikTok struck a deal. What it is, none will say

By MATT O'BRIEN and TALI ARBEL AP Technology Writers

The short-video app TikTok has chosen Oracle as its corporate savior to avoid a U.S. ban ordered by President Donald Trump. The U.S. government will review the prospective deal.

That much is known. Everything else is confusion, at least to outsiders. For instance:

— What does it mean that, as Oracle declared, it will become a "trusted technology provider" for TikTok? Is this a joint venture, a vendor agreement or something else? Oracle is pointedly not referring to its deal as a sale or acquisition.

— Will Trump approve such an arrangement after having threatened a ban if TikTok remains owned by its China-based parent ByteDance? Would it answer the national-security concerns around potential data siphoning, censorship and propaganda from Beijing that Trump raised?

— Will the Chinese government go along with it?

— Will TikTok get kicked out of the major app stores after Sept. 20, when Trump's threatened ban was supposed to go into effect, threatening its future in the U.S.?



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"This whole process has been a mess," said Martin Chorzempa, a research fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Microsoft, an announced TikTok suitor, said Sunday that its rejected bid would have protected U.S. national security interests by making "significant changes" to ensure security, privacy, online safety, and anti-misinformation measures. Oracle's statement Monday was more muted, emphasizing that it has a "40-year track record providing secure, highly performant technology solutions."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin appeared to support the Oracle bid on CNBC Monday morning. Oracle's proposal made "many representations for national security issues," Mnuchin said. He also noted a new commitment — by whom, he didn't say — to make TikTok's global operations a U.S.-headquartered company with 20,000 new jobs. Neither TikTok nor Oracle mentioned that pledge Monday, although TikTok said in July that it would add 10,000 U.S. jobs

TikTok said in a statement Monday that its proposal to the Treasury Department should "resolve the Administration's security concerns" and emphasized the importance of its app to the 100 million users it claims in the U.S.

TikTok, which says it has about 700 million globally, is known for its fun, goofy videos of dancing, lip-syncing, pranks and jokes. It's also home to more political material, some of which is critical of Trump.

An Aug. 6 Trump order threatened a vague ban on TikTok, creating a sense of emergency and seeding chaos into an existing national-security review of TikTok by a U.S. interagency group, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS. A subsequent Aug. 14 order demanded that ByteDance divest its U.S. business. In addition, Trump insisted that the U.S. government get a cut of any deal, something experts said was unprecedented and possibly illegal.

Matters were complicated further when the Chinese government appeared to suggest that the technology used in TikTok's algorithm could not be exported without government permission. On Sunday, ByteDance tapped Oracle as its U.S. partner, embracing a company whose co-founder Larry Ellison has raised funds for Trump. Its decision also followed criticism of Microsoft by a Trump trade adviser, Peter Navarro.

Oracle and TikTok did not answer questions about the structure of the proposal on Monday. The Treasury Department didn't return an emailed request for more information about the proposal.

"We don't know that this is the wrong outcome. But we do know that (the administration) shouldn't have politicized it this way," said Derek Scissors, who studies China at the American Enterprise Institute think tank.

The promise of 20,000 new jobs and a U.S. headquarters for TikTok "certainly smacks of crony capitalism," said Chorzempa.

Eurasia analyst Paul Triolo noted that if ByteDance retains ownership of TikTok, it won't have actually sold anything. China doesn't want to be seen approving a deal where a Chinese company is forced to a sale or stripped of its intellectual property, he said, while Trump can't easily walk back a ban without major concessions he can point to. "A face saving way out of this will be very difficult for all parties to find," he said.

Any deal must still be reviewed by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, a group chaired by the Treasury Secretary that studies mergers for national security reasons. Mnuchin said he expects the group to review the proposal this week and later make a recommendation to the president.

The president can approve or deny a transaction recommended by the panel, though Trump has already voiced support for Oracle as a "great company" that could handle the acquisition.

Oracle primarily makes database software. It competes with tech giants such as Microsoft and Amazon that provide cloud services as well as business-software specialists like Salesforce. Some analysts see Oracle's interest in a consumer business as misguided, but its shares popped 4.3% on Monday to \$59.46.

If the arrangement is approved by the U.S. government, TikTok would be allowed to continue operating.

Whether the Oracle-TikTok deal will allow the sidestepping of Chinese export restrictions depends on which entity retains control of TikTok in the U.S., said Paul Haswell, a Hong Kong-based partner at law firm Pinsent Masons.

Another loose end is Walmart, which had planned to partner with Microsoft on the acquisition. The

retailer said Sunday it "continues to have an interest in a TikTok investment" and is talking about it with ByteDance and other parties.

AP technology writer Zen Soo in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

## **Daimler AG to pay \$1.5B to settle emissions cheating probes**

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and TOM KRISHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Automaker Daimler AG and subsidiary Mercedes-Benz USA have agreed to pay \$1.5 billion to the U.S. government and California state regulators to resolve emissions cheating allegations, officials said Monday.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency and the California attorney general's office say Daimler violated environmental laws by using so-called "defeat device software" to circumvent emissions testing and sold about 250,000 cars and vans in the U.S. with diesel engines that didn't comply with state and federal laws.

The settlement, which includes civil penalties, will also require Daimler to fix the vehicles, officials said. In addition, the company will pay \$700 million to settle U.S. consumer lawsuits.

The Stuttgart, Germany-based automaker said on Aug. 13 that it had agreements with the Justice Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Customs and Border Protection, the California Air Resources Board and others over civil and environmental claims involving the diesel cars and vans.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler said Daimler did not disclose all of its software, which included "devices designed to defeat emissions controls."

In a statement, Daimler said it denies the allegations that it cheated and does not admit to any liability in the U.S. The settlements resolve civil proceedings without any determination that Mercedes and Daimler vehicles used defeat devices, the company said. Plus, Daimler said it did not receive a notice of violation of the Clean Air Act from the EPA or California regulators, which is common when defeat devices are used.

The company said it is not obligated to buy back the vehicles, as Volkswagen was, nor will it have an independent monitor to track its progress on the settlement. "By resolving these proceedings, Daimler avoids lengthy court actions with respective legal and financial risks," the company said.

Daimler also said the emissions control system in the U.S. vehicles is different than models sold in Europe because of different regulatory and legal requirements.

Daimler AG said the settlement would bring costs of about \$1.5 billion, and the civil settlement will bring a one-off charge of \$875 million. It estimated that "further expenses of a mid three-digit-million" euros would be required to fulfill conditions of the settlements.

Daimler said owners of model year 2009 through 2016 Mercedes cars and 2010 through 2016 Sprinter vans with "BlueTEC II" diesel engines will be notified of recalls to fix excessive vehicle emissions. Customers will receive letters starting late this year, and the company will set up a customer website, Daimler said in a statement.

The letters will have details of the civil lawsuit settlement including a claim form, Daimler said. Separately, the company will pay attorneys fees of around \$83 million.

Steve Berman, a Seattle lawyer involved in the class-action lawsuits against Daimler, said in a statement that current owners can get \$3,290 or more, while former owners can get \$822.50.

The recall repairs will vary by model and include software fixes, or in some cases changes to the catalytic converters, Berman said. The repairs will bring the vehicles into compliance with pollution laws, he said.

"Owners of Mercedes' dirty diesel cars will finally be able to receive the compensation they deserve and repairs to ensure their vehicles are not emitting illegal levels of harmful pollutants," Berman said.

Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen said the cost of the Daimler settlement is likely to send a message to deter other companies from engaging in similar conduct.

"We expect that this relief will also serve to deter any others who may be tempted to violate our nation's pollution laws in the future," Rosen said.

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As part of the U.S. government settlement, Daimler will pay an \$875 million civil penalty — about \$3,500 for each vehicle that was sold in the U.S. The company will also be required to fix the vehicles and will need to replace some old locomotive engines with newer, low nitrogen oxide-emitting engines that should offset the illegal emissions from its vehicles, Rosen said. A Justice Department official said the company did not have to admit guilt as part of the settlement.

In addition, officials in California will receive \$17.5 million for future environmental enforcement, as well as to support environmentally-beneficial projects in the state, officials said.

“Long term, cheating isn’t the smartest way to market your product. Daimler is finding that out today. But they’re not the first — nor likely the last — to try,” said California Attorney General Xavier Becerra.

Daimler’s pollution practices also are under investigation in Germany.

In April 2016, the Justice Department asked Daimler to conduct an internal probe into its exhaust emissions certification process. The request came as the EPA began checking all diesel engines after the Volkswagen cheating was revealed.

Volkswagen, ended up paying \$2.8 billion to settle a criminal case due to emissions cheating. Fiat Chrysler also is being investigated for allegedly cheating on emissions.

VW admitted that it turned on pollution controls when vehicles were being tested in EPA labs, and turning them off when the diesel vehicles were on real roads. The company duped the EPA for years before being discovered by a nonprofit climate group and researchers at West Virginia University. In September 2019, federal prosecutors charged a Fiat Chrysler engineer with rigging pollution tests on more than 100,000 diesel pickup trucks and SUVs sold in the U.S., the first indictment since a wave of similar cases against Volkswagen and its managers.

The alleged scheme isn’t as large as the Volkswagen emissions scandal, which involved nearly 600,000 vehicles. But the charges showed that investigators are still on the case, even after Fiat Chrysler agreed to a \$650 million civil settlement.

## Netflix’s ‘Cuties’ becomes target of politicized backlash

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

The backlash to the French independent film “Mignonnes,” or “Cuties,” started before it had even been released because of a poster that went viral for its provocative depiction of its young female actors. But the spotlight has only intensified since the film became available on Netflix last week and it has become the target of heightened politicized outrage from members of Congress, including U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, and others online calling for subscribers to #CancelNetflix.

At the heart of the backlash is the idea that “Cuties” is dangerously and irresponsibly sexualizing pre-teen girls, which, ironically, is what the movie itself is criticizing too. The campaign against the film, which includes calls for the Department of Justice to investigate it and hundreds of thousands calling for subscribers to cancel their Netflix accounts, is riddled with inaccuracies due in part to the fact that some critics have not seen the film (one claims that there is child nudity when there is not).

Netflix said in a statement that it is a, “social commentary against the sexualization of young children.”

Written and directed by Maïmouna Doucouré, “Cuties” is about an 11-year-old Senegalese immigrant named Amy (Fathia Youssouf) who is living in an impoverished Paris suburb with her observant Muslim family. She becomes fascinated with a clique of rebellious girls at her middle school who choreograph dance routines and wear crop tops and heels. They talk about Kim Kardashian and diets, practice “twerking” and giggle about boys and sex-related things that they don’t yet understand.

Netflix acquired “Cuties” out of the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year where it was favorably reviewed and won an award for its direction. It is the kind of film (foreign-language and with no stars from a first-time director) that would otherwise have gone under the radar. But because Netflix’s promotional materials caught the attention of the internet and even led to an apology from the streaming giant and the removal of the posters, “Cuties” was thrust onto the national stage.

Late last week, Republicans Cruz and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas called on the Department of

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Justice to investigate the film's production and distribution. Cruz in his letter to Attorney General William Barr asked that they, "determine whether Netflix, its executives, or the individuals involved in the filming and production of 'Cuties' violated any federal laws against the production and distribution of child pornography."

On Sunday in an interview on the Fox News Channel, Cruz elaborated that Netflix is "making money by selling the sexual exploitation of young kids." Cruz and others have made it a sticking point that Netflix has a production deal with former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama, although neither have any association with "Cuties."

Congressman Ken Buck of Colorado tweeted that he and Rep. Andy Biggs of Arizona also want DOJ to investigate.

Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, a Republican, also sent a letter to Netflix CEO Reed Hastings asking for the film to be removed from the platform while he awaits answers about how the film was made and marketed.

The criticism is not just from Republicans. Democratic Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, in a Twitter post called "Cuties" "child porn" and included a photo of the recalled poster and wrote that it will "certainly whet the appetite of pedophiles & help fuel the child sex trafficking trade."

"Netflix, you are now complicit," Gabbard continued.

Melissa Henson, program director for the Parents Television Council, said that it "normalizes the sexualization of little girls," and over 640,000 accounts have signed a Change.org petition calling on users to cancel their Netflix accounts over the film.

But this time Netflix is not apologizing.

"It's an award-winning film and a powerful story about the pressure young girls face on social media and from society more generally growing up — and we'd encourage anyone who cares about these important issues to watch the movie," a Netflix spokesperson said in a statement.

Some film critics have also weighed in on the controversy and highlighted the merits of the film.

"It would have been easy for Doucouré to use a broad brush to paint the different extremes of Amy's experience ('stifling tradition bad, dancing good'), but she's not exactly making 'Footloose' here," New York Magazine film critic Bilge Ebiri wrote. "'Cuties' is not a blunt screed or a finger-wagging cautionary tale in either direction — which is one reason why anyone watching the film looking for clear messages about right and wrong is bound to be disappointed, maybe even outraged."

Doucouré was inspired to make the film partly because she observed some 11-year-old girls dancing "like we're used to seeing in video clips" at a gathering in Paris and wanted to investigate why such young girls were mimicking such adult behavior.

"Our girls see that the more a woman is overly sexualized on social media, the more she is successful. Children just imitate what they see, trying to achieve the same result without understanding the meaning," Doucouré said. "It is dangerous."

Her protagonist, Amy, is at the crossroads of conflicting messaging from her family, French Western culture and the "hyper-real fiction of social media," she said.

Doucouré encouraged audiences to watch the film "without judging this child."

According to Lauren Aronson, a representative for Cruz who said he has not seen the film, the intent of the filmmaker is not the point.

"There should be absolutely no place for the filming and distribution of these scenes," Aronson wrote.

But Doucouré believes that her film is a worthy call to action. And her messaging seems to have the same goal as those bemoaning its existence.

"We must all come together to figure out what is best for our children. As a director, as an artist, I am doing my part with this film," she said. "Politicians, the education system, parents and children must come together to fix what's gone wrong."

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Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/lbahr](https://www.twitter.com/lbahr)



## Wildfires during pandemic intensify economic pain in West

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

The fires consuming the forests of California and Oregon and darkening the skies over San Francisco and Portland are also damaging a regional economy already singed by the coronavirus outbreak.

Wildfires are destroying property, running up huge losses for property insurers and putting a strain on economic activity along the West Coast that could linger for a year or more.

The credit rating agency A.M. Best estimates that insured losses from the blazes in California could top the unprecedented \$13 billion recorded in 2017 when the state was hit by three of the five costliest fires in U.S. history.

"We know that the damage is widespread, but we don't really know how many homes, how many structures have been destroyed," said Adam Kamins, an economist who tracks natural disasters for Moody's Analytics. "I imagine the number is going to be an unbearably high one."

The fires are unlikely to make much of a dent in the overall \$20 trillion U.S. economy. The financial fallout will be measured in the low billions of dollars, not in hundreds of billions or trillions. To make a nationwide impact, Kamins said, it would take something like Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which disrupted oil supplies.

But the economic pain will be intense in areas decimated by fire, especially poor towns in rural Oregon and California, piling on at a time when many businesses have already succumbed to the pandemic-induced recession. U.S. economic activity collapsed at a record 31.7% annual pace from April through June. The virus and the steps meant to contain it have thrown millions of Americans out of work.

Fire wiped out much of the small community of Phoenix, in southern Oregon, including downtown businesses like La Tapatia, a Mexican restaurant opened in 1992.

"Good places like our own La Tapatia, but so many other family run businesses, (were) destroyed by the massive fire," its owners informed patrons in a Facebook post, adding there was "lots to do" but they hoped to some day reopen.

Five hours away in coastal Lincoln City, Oregon, the Autobahn 101 survived, but the couple who own the German-style pub lost their home, their chickens and nearly all of their personal belongings to fire. They sleep in a back room of the roadside business.

The pub had already scaled back hours because of the pandemic, but co-owner Roy Baker was optimistic about its future and still has dreams of opening a small brewery inside a shipping container out back.

"We're getting back on our feet," said Baker, who temporarily reopened Sunday after rewiring the pub's electricity and discarding food that spoiled after days without power. "Everybody's coming together and helping each other."

The Bakers were among thousands of Oregonians who evacuated; dozens are missing and feared dead.

In California, nearly 17,000 firefighters are battling 29 major wildfires. Since mid-August the blazes have destroyed 4,100 buildings and killed 24 people in the state. Fires have engulfed 3.3 million acres of land in California this year -- desolation greater in size than Connecticut.

"This is like living through an apocalypse," said Sarah Trubnick from San Francisco, where smoke from the fires has blotted out the sun.

Trubnick had to temporarily close her restaurant and wine bar, the Barrel Room, in the city's financial district two weeks ago because of the pandemic. Even her restaurateur friends who managed to stay open are now struggling with smoke that makes outdoor seating impossible. "It's like every day is something new," she said.

Wildfires once did little economic damage because they occurred in remote forests. But Americans increasingly have moved into what was once wilderness, leaving themselves, and their homes and businesses more vulnerable.

In 2014, Max Nielsen-Pincus, chair of the environmental science and management department at Portland State University, and researchers from the University of Oregon and the U.S. Forest Service studied the economic impact of wildfires. They found the fires actually generated short-term economic gains in small communities as firefighters checked into local hotels and ate at local restaurants. Local laborers cleared

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roads and helped rebuild.

But such economic bumps are usually short-lived. By spring, affected economies typically lost momentum and fell into a period of slower growth that could last up to 18 months. Tourism could suffer because "visitors may not want to return fearing a blackened landscape," according to the paper published in the journal *Forest Policy and Economics*. And economic activity such as logging can be wiped out.

Rebuilding can kick start a local economy, but a lack of resources to see those plans through can lead to "a period of limbo."

"Urban areas like the suburbs of Portland -- they'll probably recover pretty quickly," Nielsen-Pincus said in an interview. "But these rural communities that are impacted by nearby fires -- this could be a drag on their economy that lasts months or years."

He said poor rural communities, like those in Oregon's hard-hit Santiam Canyon east of Salem, will need federal and state aid.

The number of wildfires declared disasters by the Federal Emergency Management Agency has grown in recent years. FEMA, for instance, declared 43 California wildfires disasters from 1980 to 1999 — but 300 from 2000 to 2019. Oregon had no such wildfires from 1980 to 1999 but 63 over the past 20 years, according to FEMA data analyzed by the insurance website QuoteWizard. Only a fraction of wildfires are designated disasters by FEMA.

All five of the costliest fires in U.S. history, measured by insured losses, have occurred in the last three years, all in California, according to the Insurance Information Institute. That includes the November 2018 Camp Fire that destroyed Paradise, California, and left more than 80 people dead and up to \$10.7 billion in insured losses.

AP Business Writer Matt O'Brien contributed to this report.

## Vision 2020: Electoral College vs popular vote in America

By The Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Election Question: Why is it that one candidate can win the popular vote but another wins the electoral vote and thus the presidency?

Answer: That's how the framers of the Constitution set it up.

This unique system of electing presidents is a big reason why Donald Trump won the presidency in 2016. Four candidates in history have won a majority of the popular vote only to be denied the presidency by the Electoral College.

The Electoral College was devised at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. It was a compromise between those who wanted direct popular elections for president and those who preferred to have Congress decide. At a time of little national identity and competition among the states, there were concerns that people would favor their regional candidates and that big states with denser populations would dominate the vote.

The Electoral College has 538 members, with the number allocated to each state based on how many representatives it has in the House plus its two senators. (The District of Columbia gets three, despite the fact that the home to Congress has no vote in Congress.)

To be elected president, the winner must get at least half plus one — or 270 electoral votes.

This hybrid system means that more weight is given to a single vote in a small state than the vote of someone in a large state, leading to outcomes at times that have been at odds with the popular vote.

In fact, part of a presidential candidate's campaign strategy is drawing a map of states the candidate can and must win to gather 270 electoral votes.

In 2016, for instance, Democrat Hillary Clinton received nearly 2.9 million more votes than Trump in the presidential election, after racking up more lopsided wins in big states like New York and California. But she lost the presidency due to Trump's winning margin in the Electoral College, which came after he pulled out narrow victories in less populated Midwestern states like Michigan and Wisconsin.

It would take a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College — an unlikely move because

of how difficult it is to pass and ratify constitutional changes. But there's a separate movement that calls for a compact of states to allocate all their electoral votes to the national popular vote winner, regardless of how those individual states opted in an election. That still faces an uphill climb, though.

Vision 2020 is a new series from the AP dedicated to answering commonly asked questions from our audience about the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

## South Carolina's lieutenant governor contracts COVID-19

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Friday and is recovering in isolation with her family at home, officials said.

Evette had a sore throat and headache Thursday and was tested for the virus. She has stayed at her family's home near Greenville since noting the symptoms, said Brian Symmes, the spokesman for Gov. Henry McMaster.

"She is feeling better now," said Symmes, adding Evette plans to stay out of the public for two weeks.

Evette's positive test prompted McMaster and his wife to get COVID-19 tests, which both came back negative Sunday. It was the fifth negative test since the pandemic began for the governor and the third for his wife, Symmes said.

Two members of Evette's staff and some of her security detail are also isolating but have not tested positive for COVID-19, Symmes said.

Health officials traced Evette's contacts for two days, including an appearance to thank workers at a suicide prevention hotline in Greenville on Sept. 8.

Evette, 53, and the 73-year-old governor were last together on Sept. 6, as they watched a NASCAR race at Darlington Speedway, Symmes said.

But where the lieutenant governor was infected with the virus will likely never be known, said Brannon Traxler, interim public health director for South Carolina.

"It's almost impossible in these situations to determine where someone was exposed," Traxler said.

South Carolina's rate of COVID-19 infection has dropped significantly since it nearly led the country in July. The state is currently seeing an average of about 870 cases a day, down from the seven-day average peak of nearly 1,950 cases in mid-July.

But since students have returned to schools and colleges, the state has seen the decline in cases stop and begin rising again.

Evette joins a rising number of state officials across the U.S. to get COVID-19. Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt announced his positive test in July. Hawaii Lt. Gov. Josh Green said Saturday he had COVID-19. Mississippi Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and House Speaker Philip Gunn tested positive in July along with a number of other lawmakers after a legislative session.

Evette released a statement Monday saying her infection shows how easily the virus is spread and asking people to keep wearing masks, social distancing and getting tested if they have any reason to think they might have COVID-19.

"I'm fortunate to have had only mild symptoms and I'm already feeling much better. David has taken GREAT care of me!" Evette wrote on social media, thanking her husband for his help.

Follow Jeffrey Collins on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/JSCollinsAP>.

Follow AP coverage of the pandemic at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>.

## A family struggle as pandemic worsens food insecurity

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO and JESSIE WARDARSKI Associated Press

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NEW YORK (AP) — At the peak of the coronavirus pandemic this spring, Sharawn Vinson often woke up crying. A recurring thought was making the unemployed single mother desperate: That her kids could go hungry.

There was also fear of contracting the virus, which has disproportionately hit low-income Black families like hers. Meanwhile some of the largest protests against racial injustice in decades were transpiring right outside their window, after the family had experienced its own terrifying encounter with police earlier in the year. There were unpaid bills, and feelings of shame from having to go to a soup kitchen in search of a meal.

So Vinson made the painful decision to send 11-year-old twins Mason and Maddison to live with their father, six states to the south, knowing that way they'd at least be fed.

"I needed them to breathe," Vinson said, wiping away tears in her living room of peeling gray walls in a Brooklyn housing development.

Vinson was not alone in struggling to put food on the table in this historically tumultuous year. In New York City alone, an estimated 2 million residents are facing food insecurity, a number that the city's mayor estimates nearly doubled in the pandemic amid the biggest surge in unemployment since the Great Depression. The scope of the problem outstrips previous crises such as the Great Recession, according to those who are working to combat it, and it's not going away anytime soon.

"It's never been this tragic for such a sustained period of time. Since COVID hit, the numbers of people in line at food pantries and soup kitchens skyrocketed, and it's not going down," said Rosanna Robbins, director of food access and capacity at City Harvest, the city's biggest food rescue organization. "And so I think for us it's just adjusting to the fact that we expect there to be a real need for free food for a very long time to come."

When New York schools closed in March, Vinson's children lost overnight the free breakfasts and lunches they relied on in normal times. Grocery store shelves were poorly stocked, and her pantry was almost bare. She began skipping meals to make sure they ate, and having them wake up later to try to trick hunger by giving them two meals a day instead of three.

"You never realize how important schools are until you don't have them," Vinson said.

"I'd open the refrigerator and I'd see struggle," she added, "and also sacrifice."

Oldest daughter Jasmin, 25, and 5-year-old grandson Hunter were living at a homeless shelter but came to visit her at the Lafayette Gardens public housing complex, where the family would share whatever they could scrape together for lunch.

"It got to the point where the kids would unconsciously save a chicken wing for Hunter," Vinson said.

The family was cooped up for weeks during lockdown, living on just \$1,800 a month in worker's compensation from an on-the-job injury Vinson suffered last year when she fell and tore her meniscus.

From the dusty kitchen window of their 16th-floor apartment, they could see the deserted basketball court, slides and monkey bars at the Classon Playground, closed due to the pandemic.

As she tried to stretch meals of spaghetti and frozen burgers, the kids would argue over everything from who got to control the TV remote to who got the last snack. "Everybody was depressed, angry," Vinson said.

Vinson was no stranger to hunger, having been raised in poverty by her mom, also a single mother. Vinson had the first of her six children at age 18 and recalls struggling to pay for diapers and food. But from her mother she learned values that have helped sustain her in difficult times, such as grit and generosity.

She took comfort in prayer and gospel music. One song in particular spoke to her: Melvin Crispel III's "Not the End of Your Story."

"I know that this is just not it," she said of getting through the pandemic. "There's more, there's something, it's not the end."

Across the city, lines at pantries stretched for blocks. Social distancing was complicating food distribution efforts, and many pantries lost older volunteers who stayed home due to high risk of severe effects of COVID-19. A network of churches, volunteers, city government offices, restaurants and immigrant centers stepped in to fill the void.



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Vinson then saw a Facebook post seeking volunteers for a pantry that is run by Kiana Muschett-Owes, the owner of Katie O's restaurant, and nonprofit Rethink Food NYC, which helps fund meals for her initiative, Soul Food for the People. The pantry has provided hundreds of meals to people in need along with notes bearing inspirational prayers or good wishes such as "What doesn't kill you will build you."

"I said, you know what? That's something that's up my alley," said Vinson, whose job before injury and the pandemic was at a shelter for people with mental illnesses and chemical addictions.

Vinson also felt she could set an example for her children. She began bringing Jasmin and the twins to help distribute the food as fellow volunteers, helping teach them values she got from her own mother. It was also a way to make sure her kids got at least one meal a day, from the pantry.

Things seemed to be looking up, but protests and clashes sparked by the police killing of George Floyd raised haunting memories of the incident from earlier in the year when police stormed the apartment building searching for a shooting suspect and pointed their guns at Mason as he was cleaning the litter for his cat, Shadow.

It traumatized the boy and made him angry at police, she said. One day this summer, as she sat outside watching the latest protest, a neighbor called out her name. Across the street, Mason was jumping up and down on top of a patrol car. Vinson ran over.

"And when I grabbed him and I went to chastise him, I was at a loss for words, because how do I tell you not to be angry when four of their brothers in blue had guns to your head?" she said. "How do I tell you not to retaliate?"

Soon after, she called her ex-partner in North Carolina, and on June 4 the twins headed south.

Living without them was hard, she said, but it bought her time to stabilize her ability to provide for them. She saved up food stamps and some money, and found a job working for the 2020 U.S. Census.

One day she asked the restaurant owner who ran the pantry if she could bring back some trays for her housing complex. That effort has since grown to dozens of meals plus groceries and protective face masks that she and other volunteers distribute each Saturday.

The twins finally came home in August, in time for Maddison to celebrate her remote graduation from middle school along with friends and family and for Mason to take part in the first practice of the Brooklyn United Youth Football season.

The police department apologized for the incident involving Mason and hosted him and a group of other kids and their families to discuss their concerns over pizza and chicken wings with high-ranking officers.

"These kids have been enduring a lot in the last couple of months, from the COVID wave to the Black Lives Matter, to the protesters, to the police brutality," Vinson said. "And not too many times people stop and ask, How do they feel?"

The coronavirus outbreak has slowed significantly in New York compared with earlier this year. But times remain tough: Their rent is four months overdue, and the cable is about to be cut off. On a recent day the bathroom flooded, sending water running through the halls.

Still, Vinson feels fortunate.

"There's so many people who are out here who are hungry," she said. "I got my grandson, I got my kids and I got my life. What do I got to complain about?"

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Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## Dismay as huge chunk of Greenland's ice cap breaks off

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — An enormous chunk of Greenland's ice cap has broken off in the far northeastern Arctic, a development that scientists say is evidence of rapid climate change.

The glacier section that broke off is 110 square kilometers (42.3 square miles). It came off of the fjord called Nioghalvfjærdsfjorden, which is roughly 80 kilometers (50 miles) long and 20 kilometers (12 miles) wide, the National Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland said Monday.

The glacier is at the end of the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream, where it flows off the land and into the ocean.

Annual end-of-melt-season changes for the Arctic's largest ice shelf in Northeast Greenland are measured by optical satellite imagery, the survey known as GEUS said. It shows that the area's ice losses for the past two years each exceeded 50 square kilometers (19 square miles).

The ice shelf has lost 160 square kilometers (62 square miles), an area nearly twice that of Manhattan in New York, since 1999.

"We should be very concerned about what appears to be progressive disintegration at the Arctic's largest remaining ice shelf," said GEUS professor Jason Box.

"Another massive chunk of vital sea ice has fallen into the ocean," said Greenpeace spokeswoman Laura Meller who is aboard the organization's ship Arctic Sunrise at the edge of the sea ice. "This is yet another alarm bell being rung by the climate crisis in a rapidly heating Arctic."

Last week, Ruth Mottram, an ice scientist at the Danish Meteorological Institute in Copenhagen, said, "again this year, the ice sheet has lost more ice than has been added in the form of snow."

"What is thought-provoking is that if we ... had seen this meltdown 30 years ago, we would have called it extreme. So in recent years, we have become accustomed to a high meltdown."

In August, a study showed that Greenland lost a record amount of ice during an extra-warm 2019, with the melt massive enough to cover California in more than 1.25 meters (4 feet) of water.

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://apnews.com/Climate>

## **Astronomers see possible hints of life in Venus's clouds**

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Astronomers have found a potential sign of life high in the atmosphere of neighboring Venus: hints there may be bizarre microbes living in the sulfuric acid-laden clouds of the hothouse planet.

Two telescopes in Hawaii and Chile spotted in the thick Venusian clouds the chemical signature of phosphine, a noxious gas that on Earth is only associated with life, according to a study in Monday's journal *Nature Astronomy*.

Several outside experts — and the study authors themselves — agreed this is tantalizing but said it is far from the first proof of life on another planet. They said it doesn't satisfy the "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence" standard established by the late Carl Sagan, who speculated about the possibility of life in the clouds of Venus in 1967.

"It's not a smoking gun," said study co-author David Clements, an Imperial College of London astrophysicist. "It's not even gunshot residue on the hands of your prime suspect, but there is a distinct whiff of cordite in the air which may be suggesting something."

As astronomers plan for searches for life on planets outside our solar system, a major method is to look for chemical signatures that can only be made by biological processes, called biosignatures. After three astronomers met in a bar in Hawaii, they decided to look that way at the closest planet to Earth: Venus. They searched for phosphine, which is three hydrogen atoms and a phosphorous atom.

On Earth, there are only two ways phosphine can be formed, study authors said. One is in an industrial process. (The gas was produced for use as chemical warfare agent in World War I.) The other way is as part of some kind of poorly understood function in animals and microbes. Some scientists consider it a waste product, others don't.

Phosphine is found in "ooze at the bottom of ponds, the guts of some creatures like badgers and perhaps most unpleasantly associated with piles of penguin guano," Clements said.

Study co-author Sara Seager, an MIT planetary scientist, said researchers "exhaustively went through every possibility and ruled all of them out: volcanoes, lightning strikes, small meteorites falling into the atmosphere. ... Not a single process we looked at could produce phosphine in high enough quantities to explain our team's findings."

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That leaves life.

The astronomers hypothesize a scenario for how life could exist on the inhospitable planet where temperatures on the surface are around 800 degrees (425 degrees Celsius) with no water.

"Venus is hell. Venus is kind of Earth's evil twin," Clements said. "Clearly something has gone wrong, very wrong, with Venus. It's the victim of a runaway greenhouse effect."

But that's on the surface.

Seager said all the action may be 30 miles (50 kilometers) above ground in the thick carbon-dioxide layer cloud deck, where it's about room temperature or slightly warmer. It contains droplets with tiny amounts of water but mostly sulfuric acid that is a billion times more acidic than what's found on Earth.

The phosphine could be coming from some kind of microbes, probably single-cell ones, inside those sulfuric acid droplets, living their entire lives in the 10-mile-deep (16-kilometer-deep) clouds, Seager and Clements said. When the droplets fall, the potential life probably dries out and could then get picked up in another drop and reanimate, they said.

Life is definitely a possibility, but more proof is needed, several outside scientists said.

Cornell University astronomer Lisa Kaltenegger said the idea of this being the signature of biology at work is exciting, but she said we don't know enough about Venus to say life is the only explanation for the phosphine.

"I'm not skeptical, I'm hesitant," said Justin Filiberto, a planetary geochemist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston who specializes in Venus and Mars and isn't part of the study team.

Filiberto said the levels of phosphine found might be explained away by volcanoes. He said recent studies that were not taken into account in this latest research suggest that Venus may have far more active volcanoes than originally thought. But Clements said that explanation would make sense only if Venus were at least 200 times as volcanically active as Earth.

David Grinspoon, a Washington-based astrobiologist at the Planetary Science Institute who wrote a 1997 book suggesting Venus could harbor life, said the finding "almost seems too good to be true."

"I'm excited, but I'm also cautious," Grinspoon said. "We found an encouraging sign that demands we follow up."

NASA hasn't sent anything to Venus since 1989, though Russia, Europe and Japan have dispatched probes. The U.S. space agency is considering two possible Venus missions. One of them, called DAVINCI+, would go into the Venusian atmosphere as early as 2026.

Clements said his head tells him "it's probably a 10% chance that it's life," but his heart "obviously wants it to be much bigger because it would be so exciting."

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Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears

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

## **AP: Feds probing in-custody death of Black man in Louisiana**

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

Federal authorities are investigating the death of a Black man during what Louisiana State Police described as a struggle to take him into custody following a rural police chase last year, officials told The Associated Press.

The death of 49-year-old Ronald Greene remains shrouded in secrecy because State Police have declined to release body-camera footage related to the May 2019 chase north of Monroe, Louisiana. Troopers say it began when Greene failed to stop for an unspecified traffic violation.

Greene's death drew new attention after his family filed a wrongful death lawsuit this year alleging state troopers "brutalized" Greene and "left him beaten, bloodied and in cardiac arrest" before covering up his actual cause of death.

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Greene's family said authorities initially claimed Greene died after crashing into a tree but omitted what State Police now acknowledge was the "struggle" preceding his death. The lawsuit, drawing on witness accounts, alleges officers pinned Greene to the ground and used a stun gun on him even after he apologized for leading them on a chase.

Greene's mother, Mona Hardin, said her family has not been able to grieve because so many questions remain unresolved. She said her son had been a well-liked barber who lived in West Monroe and had a "giving spirit."

"This has gutted our family," Hardin told AP. "How do people live with themselves after doing something like this?"

The investigation comes amid heightened racial tensions within Louisiana State Police, an agency that has been plagued by misconduct cases in recent years. Earlier this month, Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, said it was "unacceptable" that State Police had failed to discipline a trooper recorded using a racial slur on duty.

The handling of Greene's death has eroded the agency's credibility even further, said Eugene W. Collins, president of the Baton Rouge branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The public has a right to know what happened to Mr. Greene that day," he said, "and the concealing of this information by the Louisiana State Police is not only disgusting but immoral."

State Police spokesman Capt. Chavez Cammon said the agency is "cooperating with federal officials" even as it conducts its own internal investigation.

Two law enforcement officials familiar with the case said State Police are investigating whether one of the responding troopers improperly turned off his body camera during Greene's arrest. They spoke to AP on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Edwards "is aware of the investigation and expects that there will be a comprehensive and fair evaluation of the facts," spokeswoman Shauna Sanford wrote in an email. "He has not seen the video."

Greene's death was ruled accidental and attributed to cardiac arrest, said Renee Smith, the Union Parish coroner who was not in office when that determination was made. Smith said her office's file on Greene attributed his death to a car crash and makes no mention of a struggle with State Police.

"The physical evidence we've been able to review is inconsistent with the manner of death that they've described," said Lee Merritt, a prominent civil rights lawyer representing Greene's family.

Local prosecutors did not bring charges against the responding troopers but referred Greene's death to the U.S. Justice Department for a civil rights investigation, said Laurie James, first assistant district attorney in Union Parish.

Asked for his reaction to footage of Greene's death, John Belton, the Union Parish district attorney, said it would be "inappropriate for me to comment because of the ongoing federal investigation."

The FBI declined to comment. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Shreveport confirmed the federal investigation into Greene's death but declined further comment.

State Police have released few details about Greene's death. A crash report says troopers attempted to pull him over for an unspecified traffic violation shortly after midnight May 10, 2019, about 30 miles south of the Arkansas state line. Greene "refused to stop," the report says, and "a pursuit ensued."

A single-page police report released by State Police says the chase ended when Greene crashed his vehicle.

"Greene was taken into custody after resisting arrest and a struggle with Troopers," the report says, adding that he "became unresponsive" and died on the way to a local hospital. The report doesn't describe any use of force by troopers.

Greene's family contends the crash was not serious enough to account for his fatal injuries. Their lawsuit says his vehicle "did not make impact with a tree and his airbag did not deploy."

Greene "was not injured and could walk, speak and otherwise function in a healthy manner after the crash," the lawsuit says, adding an autopsy found cuts and "blunt-force injuries" to Greene's head and face.

"Obviously the body cam footage is critical," said Mark Maguire, a Philadelphia attorney also representing Greene's family.



## Perfectly preserved Ice Age cave bear found in Arctic Russia

Reindeer herders in a Russian Arctic archipelago have found an immaculately preserved carcass of an Ice Age cave bear, researchers said Monday.

The find, revealed by the melting permafrost, was discovered on the Lyakhovsky Islands with its teeth and even its nose intact. Previously scientists only had been able to discover the bones of cave bears that became extinct 15,000 years ago.

Scientists of the North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk, the premier center for research into woolly mammoths and other prehistoric species, hailed the find as groundbreaking.

In a statement issued by the university, researcher Lena Grigorieva emphasized that "this is the first and only find of its kind — a whole bear carcass with soft tissues."

"It is completely preserved, with all internal organs in place, including even its nose," Grigorieva said. "This find is of great importance for the whole world."

A preliminary analysis indicated that the adult bear lived 22,000 to 39,500 years ago.

"It is necessary to carry out radiocarbon analysis to determine the precise age of the bear," the university quoted researcher Maxim Cheprasov as saying.

The bear carcass was found by reindeer herders on Bolshoy Lyakhovsky Island. It is the largest of the Lyakhovsky Islands, which are part of the New Siberian Islands archipelago that lies between the Laptev Sea and the East Siberian Sea.

At about the same time, a well-preserved carcass of a cave bear cub has also been found in another area in Yakutia's mainland, the university said. It didn't describe its condition in detail but noted that scientists are hopeful of obtaining its DNA.

Recent years have seen major discoveries of mammoths, woolly rhinos, Ice Age foal, several puppies and cave lion cubs as the permafrost melts across vast areas in Russia's region of Siberia.

## Q&A: What does a deal between TikTok and Oracle mean?

By ZEN SOO AP Technology Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — ByteDance, the Chinese company that owns the popular video-sharing app TikTok, has chosen Oracle over Microsoft as a new American technology partner to help keep the app operating in the U.S. TikTok confirmed the decision Monday, echoing earlier statements from Oracle and the U.S. treasury secretary.

ByteDance faces a Sept. 20 deadline to sell TikTok to an American company or risk being banned in the U.S. over national security concerns. But a lot remains unclear, including how the social media company would fit inside a business software company like Oracle and whether whatever arrangement the companies reach will be acceptable to the U.S. officials who will need to approve it.

Here are some questions and answers about the deal.

Q. WHAT IS TIKTOK?

A. The app is a home for fun, goofy videos that are easy to make and to watch. That's made it immensely popular, particularly with young people, and U.S. tech giants like Facebook and Snapchat see it as a competitive threat. TikTok says it has 100 million U.S. users and hundreds of millions globally. It has its own influencer culture, enabling people to make a living from posting videos on the service, and hosts ads from major U.S. companies.

ByteDance Ltd., a Chinese company, launched TikTok in 2017, then bought Musical.ly, a video service popular with teens in the U.S. and Europe, and combined the two. A twin service, Douyin, is available for Chinese users.

Q. WHAT CONCERNS U.S. OFFICIALS ABOUT THE APP?

A. TikTok, like most other social networks, collects user data and moderates what's posted. It grabs people's locations and messages they send one another, for example, and tracks what people watch to discern what kinds of videos they like and how best to target ads to them.

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Similar concerns apply to American social networks, but Chinese ownership adds an extra wrinkle because the Chinese government could order companies to help it gather intelligence. In TikTok's case, that's a hypothetical threat, Samm Sacks, a researcher at Yale Law School's Paul Tsai China Center has said.

TikTok says it does not store U.S. user data in China and that it would not give user data to the government. But experts say if the Chinese government wants information, it will get it.

There are also concerns about TikTok censoring videos critical of China, which TikTok denies, or pushing propaganda. Some critics say the company is violating children's privacy laws.

The U.S. has given parent company ByteDance a Sept. 20 deadline to complete a sale of TikTok's U.S. assets to an American company, or risk being banned in the country.

**Q: IS ORACLE BUYING TIKTOK, AND WHAT ASSETS ARE INVOLVED?**

Oracle was among the pool of bidders, including Microsoft and Walmart, to buy TikTok's American operations. Microsoft on Sunday said that ByteDance will not be selling TikTok's U.S. operations to the company. Oracle, in confirming it was the winning bidder Monday, didn't refer to the deal as a sale or acquisition, instead saying it was chosen as TikTok's "trusted technology provider."

It's unclear at this point what assets, if any, Oracle would actually acquire.

TikTok has found popularity around the world thanks in part to its content-recommendation algorithm, which suggests videos to users based on their viewing history. But the Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post reported Sunday, citing an unnamed person, that ByteDance will not sell the algorithm. China has tightened its controls and requires companies to get permission to export such technologies.

"The Chinese government has implied it may block export of TikTok's AI systems, so that might complicate a direct sale," said Tiffany Li, a visiting professor at the Boston University School of Law. "One of TikTok's competitive advantages is its AI-backed video recommendation system."

**Q: WHAT IS ORACLE'S RELATIONSHIP TO TIKTOK LIKELY TO BE?**

Oracle is known for providing enterprise software including cloud computing services. So it could provide cloud services such as storing TikTok's data in the U.S., or computing services for the app.

"Oracle could be a technology partner, but a sale or divestiture of the US operations for TikTok remains the focus," Wedbush Securities analysts said in an analyst note.

**Q: WILL THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION GO FOR THE ARRANGEMENT?**

A: A TikTok-Oracle deal must be approved by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which vets deals that may have national security implications. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNBC on Monday that the group will review the proposal this week and later make a recommendation to President Donald Trump.

CFIUS earlier greenlighted Chinese PC maker Lenovo's purchase of IBM's computer server business in 2014, after concluding the deal did not pose significant security risks. It also cleared SoftBank's acquisition of Sprint in 2013, but only after SoftBank agreed not to use Huawei Technologies and ZTE equipment in the U.S.

If Oracle and TikTok can show they can safeguard user data in the U.S., CFIUS and the Trump administration might accept the arrangement.

TikTok said in a Monday statement that its proposal aims to "resolve the Administration's security concerns" and emphasized the importance of its app to the 100 million users it claims in the U.S.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official said Monday that it had no comment on Oracle, but described the situation as a "typical government-coerced transaction."

**Q: HOW MUCH DOES ORACLE'S CLOSENESS TO THE ADMINISTRATION MATTER?**

A: Trump hasn't said if he preferred Oracle or Microsoft but in August described Oracle as "a great company" that could handle the sale.

Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison is unusual among tech executives for his public support of President Donald Trump.

"Oracle's connections with the Trump administration are interesting. It's possible they may be able to negotiate an outcome that allows TikTok to continue operating in the U.S. without a full sale, with Byte-

Dance still retaining something," said Boston University's Li.

Mnuchin said Monday that "we have a lot of confidence in both Microsoft and Oracle," but noted that ByteDance has chosen Oracle.

**Q: WHAT MIGHT THIS DEAL MEAN FOR USERS?**

If it is finalized and approved by CFIUS, TikTok would be allowed to continue operating in the U.S.

"Trump's executive order that effectively banned TikTok's U.S. business would likely no longer apply, as TikTok would no longer be owned by Bytedance," said Li.

"Executive orders can be revoked or modified at any time," she said.

However, Oracle's plans remain unclear.

"I doubt we'll see the creativity and consumer-friendliness that we might expect with a different owner," Li said.

Paul Haswell, partner at law firm Pinsent Masons, expects Oracle to strive to keep TikTok's users.

"If the app changes or the user experience changes then the users might abandon the platform which completely undermines the value of TikTok and Oracle's acquisition," he said.

## **Russian opposition leader Navalny able to leave hospital bed**

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny is able to breathe on his own and briefly leave his hospital bed, his doctors said Monday, while Germany announced that French and Swedish labs have confirmed its findings that he was poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok.

Navalny, 44, was flown to Berlin for treatment at the Charite hospital two days after falling ill on a domestic flight in Russia on Aug. 20. Germany has demanded that Russia investigate the case, while Moscow has accused the West of trying to smear Russia.

Navalny has "successfully been removed from mechanical ventilation" and is able to leave his bed "for short periods of time," the hospital said.

Although noting the improvement in Navalny's health, the statement didn't address the long-term outlook for the anti-corruption campaigner and most prominent opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Doctors previously cautioned that even though Navalny is recovering, long-term health problems from the poisoning cannot be ruled out.

The Kremlin has bristled at calls from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders to answer questions about the poisoning, denying any official involvement.

The news about Navalny's condition came as his associates made some gains in regional elections held across Russia on Sunday.

In Novosibirsk, which Navalny visited before falling ill, the head of his regional headquarters, Sergei Boiko, won a seat on the city council. United Russia, the main Kremlin party that Navalny has dubbed a "party of crooks and thieves," lost its majority on the council, according to preliminary returns. Another Navalny representative, Ksenia Fadeyeva, won a city council seat in Tomsk, the city he left on the flight on which he fell ill.

The German government said tests by labs in France and Sweden backed up findings by a German military lab that Navalny was poisoned with Novichok, the same class of Soviet-era agent that Britain said was used on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury, England, in 2018.

The Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons also is taking steps to have samples from Navalny tested at its designated labs, German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said.

He said Germany had asked France and Sweden for an independent examination of the findings. German officials said labs in both countries, as well as the OPCW, took new samples from Navalny.

"In efforts separate from the OPCW examinations, which are still ongoing, three laboratories have meanwhile independently of one another presented proof that Mr. Navalny's poisoning was caused by a nerve agent from the Novichok group," Seibert said.

"We once again call on Russia to make a statement on the incident," he added. "We are closely consult-

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ing with our European partners regarding possible next steps.”

Seibert wouldn't identify the French and Swedish labs. But the head of the Swedish Defence Research Agency, Asa Scott, told Swedish news agency TT: "We can confirm that we see the same results as the German laboratory, that is, that there is no doubt that it is about these substances."

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed "deep concern over the criminal act" that targeted Navalny during a phone call Monday with Putin, Macron's office said.

He confirmed France reached the same conclusions as its European partners on the poisoning, the statement said.

The Kremlin said Putin in the call "underlined the impropriety of unfounded accusations against the Russian side" and emphasized Russia's demand for Germany to hand over analyses and samples. Putin also called for joint work by German and Russian doctors.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused the West of using the incident as a pretext to introduce new sanctions against Moscow. He said Navalny's life was saved by the pilots of the plane who quickly landed in the Siberian city of Omsk when he collapsed on board and by the rapid action of doctors there.

"The perfect action of pilots, ambulance crew and doctors is being presented as a 'happy coincidence,'" in the West, he told RTVI television in an interview broadcast Monday.

"They dare to question the professionalism of our doctors, our investigators," he said. "Arrogance and a sense of one's own infallibility have been seen in Europe before, and the consequences were very sad."

Lavrov, who has canceled a scheduled trip Tuesday to Berlin, said Russian authorities have conducted a preliminary inquiry and documented the meetings Navalny had before falling ill, but he emphasized they need to see the evidence of his poisoning to launch a full criminal investigation.

"We have our own laws, whereby we cannot believe someone's say-so to open a criminal case," he said, adding that "for now, we have no legal grounds" for such a probe.

Berlin has rejected suggestions from Moscow that it is dragging its heels on sharing evidence.

With Germany's findings corroborated by labs abroad, "we do not expect the bringer of the bad news -- namely us -- to be attacked further, but rather that they should deal with the news itself," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said of Russian authorities.

Asked why no samples from Navalny have been given to Russia, German Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Adebahr replied that "Mr. Navalny was in Russian treatment in a hospital for 48 hours."

Russian doctors who treated Navalny in Omsk said no evidence of poisoning could be found, adding he was too unstable to be transferred. A German charity sent a medical evacuation plane to bring him to Berlin, which it did after German doctors said he was stable enough to be moved.

"There are samples from Mr. Navalny on the Russian side," Adebahr said. "The Russian side is called on, even after three independent labs have established the result, to explain itself, and Russia has ... all the information and all the samples it needs for an analysis."

Navalny was kept in an induced coma for more than a week as he was treated with an antidote before hospital officials said a week ago that his condition had improved enough for him to be brought out of it.

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Associated Press writers Frank Jordans in Berlin, Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow, Sylvie Corbet in Paris and Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark, contributed.

## Anti-inflammatory drug may shorten COVID-19 recovery time

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

A drug company says that adding an anti-inflammatory medicine to a drug already widely used for hospitalized COVID-19 patients shortens their time to recovery by an additional day.

Eli Lilly announced the results Monday from a 1,000-person study sponsored by the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The result have not yet been published or reviewed by independent scientists, but the government confirmed that Lilly's statement was accurate.

The study tested baricitinib, a pill that Indianapolis-based Lilly already sells as Olumiant to treat rheumatoid



arthritis, the less common form of arthritis that occurs when a mistaken or overreacting immune system attacks joints, causing inflammation. An overactive immune system also can lead to serious problems in coronavirus patients.

All study participants received remdesivir, a Gilead Sciences drug previously shown to reduce the time to recovery, defined as being well enough to leave the hospital, by four days on average. Those who also were given baricitinib recovered one day sooner than those given remdesivir alone, Lilly said.

Lilly said it planned to discuss with regulators the possible emergency use of baricitinib for hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

If that's approved, Lilly will propose that the drug be sold through usual commercial means. Based on current pricing, the government would pay \$105 per patient per day, and for people with private insurance, hospitals would pay about \$150 per day, Lilly said. What a patient ends up paying out of pocket depends on many factors.

It would be important to know how many study participants also received steroid drugs, which have been shown in other research to lower the risk of death for severely ill, hospitalized COVID-19 patients, said Dr. Jesse Goodman, former U.S. Food and Drug Administration chief scientist now at Georgetown University who had no role in the study.

Figuring out how to best use the various drugs shown to help "is something we're going to have to work at," he said.

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

## 'Hotel Rwanda' hero charged with terrorism in Rwanda court

By IGNATIUS SSUUNA Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — A Rwandan court on Monday charged Paul Rusesabagina, whose story inspired the film "Hotel Rwanda," with terrorism, complicity in murder, and forming an armed rebel group.

Rusesabagina declined to respond to all 13 charges, saying some did not qualify as criminal offenses and saying that he denied the accusations when he was questioned by Rwandan investigators.

Rusesabagina, 66, asked to be released on bail, citing poor health that has caused him to be taken to hospital three times in the time that he has been held in Rwanda.

"I request that I am given bail and I assure the court that I will not flee from justice," Rusesabagina said. The court said it will rule on his bail application on Thursday.

Rusesabagina, credited with saving more than 1,000 lives during Rwanda's 1994 genocide, appeared in handcuffs in Kagame Court in the capital for a pre-trial hearing, in which the prosecution requested court permission to continue detaining him until investigations are completed.

Rusesabagina was represented by Rwandan lawyers David Rugaza and Ameline Nyembo, who have been discounted as state-imposed representation by his family outside Rwanda.

Neither his lawyers nor the prosecution explained the circumstances under which Rusesabagina arrived in Kigali at the end of August from Dubai. He had traveled from the U.S. to Dubai and then mysteriously appeared in Rwanda. The Rwandan court said the suspect was arrested at Kigali International Airport, contradicting the earlier police version that he was arrested through "international cooperation."

When Rwandan President Paul Kagame spoke on national broadcasting about the case, he indicated that Rusesabagina may have been tricked into boarding a private plane in Dubai that took him to Rwanda.

Amnesty International on Monday urged Rwandan authorities to guarantee Rusesabagina his right to a fair trial.

"The lack of transparency around the arrest of Paul Rusesabagina and reports that he has been denied access to the lawyer hired by his family are red flags that cannot be ignored as the authorities prepare for his trial," said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International's Director for East and Southern Africa.

Rusesabagina's daughter Carine Kanimba told The Associated Press that the family was not even aware

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he was to appear in court Monday as the state-appointed lawyers didn't inform them. She said they learned of the court hearing through the media.

"This is a travesty of justice," Kanimba said of the hearing. Speaking on the phone from Belgium, she said her father was the victim of an abduction, disappearance, and extraordinary rendition from Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates to Kigali, Rwanda.

The international group Human Rights Watch last week said that Rusesabagina had been "forcibly disappeared."

"The fact that Rwanda did not pursue Rusesabagina through lawful extradition proceedings suggests the authorities do not believe their evidence or fair trial guarantees would stand up to scrutiny before an independent tribunal, and so opted to circumvent the rule of law," said Human Rights Watch's Central Africa director, Lewis Mudge.

Rusesabagina became famous for protecting more than 1,000 people as a hotel manager during Rwanda's 1994 genocide in which some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. For his efforts he was awarded the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005.

But Rwandan authorities accuse him of supporting the armed wing of his opposition political platform, which has claimed responsibility for deadly attacks inside Rwanda. Rusesabagina in the past has denied funding rebel groups and said he was being targeted over his criticism of Kagame's government and alleged rights abuses.

Rusesabagina has not lived in Rwanda since 1996. He holds Belgian citizenship and is a permanent resident of the U.S., living in San Antonio, Texas.

Rusesabagina's family has appointed a team of international lawyers to represent him. Those lawyers are planning to fly to Rwanda later this week, said one.

"We hope that the Rwanda government will accept that we have visas in order for us to defend Mr. Rusesabagina," said Belgian lawyer Vincent Lurquin, in an interview with AP in Brussels. "But I have to tell you that the talks between the Belgian and the Rwandan authorities on that front have not progressed much."

Lurquin said that neither Rusesabagina's lawyers nor his family has been able to speak to him privately.

"If we are alone together, he will be able to explain maybe how he ended up in Rwanda flying from Dubai," said Lurquin. "It is not the first (time) that something like this happens with Belgian citizens, there are precedents. Every time Belgium said this was not something they could allow and those people were sent back."

Lurquin said that the international community must press Rwanda's government to respect international law regarding legal extradition proceedings.

"It is a judiciary problem, and obviously a political problem. So it is now time for states such as Belgium, as he has Belgian citizenship, but also the European Union and the United States, to wake up and tell President Kagame that this cannot be tolerated," said Lurquin. "Where would we go if some states could just abduct nationals from other states?"

Of the upcoming trial, Lurquin said, "It is good that there is a trial, there is no problem there. He is not afraid of a trial, as we can prove that he is innocent. The only thing he is guilty of is to be an opponent to President Kagame and to be famous for saving so many Tutsis during the genocide. But this is not something legally punishable."

AP journalist Bishr Eltouni in Brussels contributed to this report

## US lawyer says Assange faces decades in prison if convicted

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — An American lawyer told an extradition hearing in Britain for Julian Assange on Monday that the WikiLeaks founder faces decades in prison if he is convicted on spying charges in the United States.

U.S. prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 17 espionage charges, and one of computer misuse, over WikiLeaks' publication of secret U.S. military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a

maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

Attorney Eric Lewis, appearing as a defense witness, said the scope of the indictment pointed to "a very aggressive approach to sentencing on the part of the government."

"All signs point to a very long sentence, measured in many decades," said Lewis, a senior partner at Lewis Baach Kaufmann Middlemiss in Washington, DC.

"We are looking at a sentence somewhere between 20 years, if everything goes brilliantly, to 175 years, which the government could easily ask for," he said.

Assange's lawyers say the prosecution is politically motivated and that he will not receive a fair trial in the United States. They also argue that the conditions he would face in prison would breach his human rights.

Assange's legal woes began a decade ago, when WikiLeaks published classified U.K. military documents about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been in a British prison since he was ejected from his refuge at the Ecuadorian embassy in London in April 2019.

The extradition hearing began a week ago at London's Central Criminal Court and is due to last until early October.

On Monday, District Judge Vanessa Baraitser denied a request by Assange's lawyers that everyone in the court wear masks to reduce the risk of transmitting coronavirus.

The hearing was briefly suspended last week while one lawyer for the U.S. government was tested for COVID-19. The test came back negative.

Baraitser said masks were required in communal areas of the court building, and that anyone who wanted to wear one in the courtroom could do so.

## Djokovic says he learned a 'big lesson' from US Open default

By ANDREW DAMPF AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Novak Djokovic learned "a big lesson" after being disqualified from the U.S. Open for unintentionally hitting a line judge in the throat with a ball.

The incident eight days ago marked a stunning end to Djokovic's 29-match winning streak and his bid for an 18th Grand Slam title.

"I'm working mentally and emotionally as hard as I am working physically," Djokovic said Monday at the Italian Open. "I'm trying to be the best version of myself on the court and off the court and I understand that I have outbursts and this is kind of the personality and the player that I have always been.

"I'm going to take this in as profound as possible for me as a big lesson. I've been thinking about it. I've been comprehending. I've been talking to my team. It's just one of these things that is just unfortunate and happens. You have to move on."

The disqualification came during Djokovic's fourth-round match against Pablo Carreño Busta.

As he walked to the Arthur Ashe Stadium sideline for a changeover, trailing 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.

"It was totally unexpected and very unintended as well," Djokovic said. "When you hit a ball like that you have a chance to hit somebody that is on the court. The rules are clear. So I accepted it. I had to move on and that's what I did.

"Of course I did not forget about it," Djokovic added. "I don't think I'll ever forget about it, because it's one of those things that stays in your memory for the rest of your life. But I don't think I'll have any major issues coming back to the tour and being able to perform well and hit the tennis ball."

Djokovic said he checked with the lineswoman after the incident and was told she was not seriously injured.

"I felt really sorry to cause the shock and drama to her, because she didn't deserve that in any way," Djokovic said. "She obviously is volunteering and doing her work. She loves tennis, and she's been there, as I understood, for quite a few years."

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Djokovic 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.

Federer (injury) and Nadal (concerns about travel amid the coronavirus pandemic) both did not play at the U.S. Open.

"Sorry for him. He had an opportunity there," Nadal said. "But in some way you should not be doing this. ... It is important to have the right self-control on the court."

Djokovic has an opening-round bye in Rome. His first match this week will come against either Italian wild-card entry Salvatore Caruso or a qualifier.

The tournament at the Foro Italico was rescheduled from May because of the pandemic and will be played without fans in attendance.

Nadal, who has a record nine titles in Rome, is on the opposite side of the draw from Djokovic. The Spaniard is returning to tennis for the first time since February.

"I am similar to always — maybe a little bit worse because I didn't compete for the last six months," Nadal said. "To feel that you're 100% you need matches."

Nadal opens against Carreño Busta.

"He's playing great," Nadal said. "Going to be a good test."

Like at the U.S. Open, players are being kept in a protective "bubble" and being tested frequently for the coronavirus. But as opposed to the situation in New York, players are not required to wear masks when they enter and leave the court.

"All of the players have been tested, so that makes total sense," sixth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas said. "And they don't have people running around telling you what to do and what protocol you have to follow every single minute that you're in the bubble."

"Plus," Tsitsipas added, "the accommodation is another level."

Men's players are staying at the five-star Rome Cavalieri, which overlooks the city center from a hilltop.

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Andrew Dampf on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/AndrewDampf](http://www.twitter.com/AndrewDampf)

## In defiance of Nevada governor, Trump holds indoor rally

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and KEN RITTER Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — In open defiance of state regulations and his own administration's pandemic health guidelines, President Donald Trump hosted his first indoor rally since June, telling a packed, nearly maskless Nevada crowd that the nation was "making the last turn" in defeating the virus.

Eager to project a sense of normalcy in imagery, Trump soaked up the raucous cheers inside a warehouse Sunday night. Relatively few in the crowd wore masks, with a clear exception: Those in the stands directly behind Trump, whose images would end up on TV, were mandated to wear face coverings.

Not since a rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that was blamed for a surge of coronavirus infections has he gathered supporters indoors.

"We are not shutting the country again. A shutdown would destroy the lives and dreams of millions of Americans," said Trump, before using his inflammatory moniker for the coronavirus. "We will very easily defeat the China virus."

He didn't mention the pandemic's death toll — it's killed nearly 200,000 Americans and still claiming about 1,000 lives a day.

The rally in Tulsa, which was his first in three months after the coronavirus reached American shores, was a disaster for the campaign, a debacle that featured a sea of empty seats and a rise in COVID-19 cases, including on his own staff. One prominent Trump supporter at the rally, businessman and former presidential candidate Herman Cain, died of COVID-19 weeks later, though it was not clear if he contracted the virus in Tulsa.

Recognizing that many supporters were uncomfortable to gather in a large group indoors, where the



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virus spreads more easily, the Trump campaign shifted to holding smaller, outdoor rallies, usually at airplane hangers. But those rallies have grown in size in recent weeks, with little social distancing and few masks.

And on Sunday, they returned indoors, in part as a nod to the Las Vegas-area heat. Temperature checks were given to all upon entrance at the industrial site in Henderson and while masks were encouraged, few wore them.

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak, a Democrat, has limited in-person gatherings indoors and outdoors to 50 people since May, a recommendation based on White House reopening guidelines. In a statement released just before the rally began, Sisolak said Trump was "taking reckless and selfish actions that are putting countless lives in danger here in Nevada."

"To put it bluntly: he didn't have the guts to make tough choices," Sisolak said of Trump's handling of the virus. "He left that to governors and the states. Now he's decided he doesn't have to respect our State's laws. As usual, he doesn't believe the rules apply to him."

The city of Henderson informed Xtreme Manufacturing on Sunday that the event as planned was in direct violation of the governor's COVID-19 emergency directives and that penalties would follow. The Trump campaign pushed back against the restrictions with the president saying he would support those in attendance "if the governor came after you."

"If you can join tens of thousands of people protesting in the streets, gamble in a casino, or burn down small businesses in riots, you can gather peacefully under the 1st Amendment to hear from the President of the United States," campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh said.

To this point, the campaign has not been played out as a choice election between Trump and his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, but rather a referendum on the president's handling of the coronavirus. By wide margins, Americans have disapproved of Trump's leadership, as the United States has suffered more deaths than any other nation.

Therefore, the president's campaign believes it needs to change the subject and project the sense, despite evidence otherwise, that the pandemic was winding down and that a vaccine was on the horizon. Part of the plan: create images of normalcy, like the packed White House lawn for Trump's convention speech, though it was unclear if viewers were reassured or frightened.

In a rambling, hourlong speech, Trump mused on mandatory prison sentences for flag burning, praised various UFC fighters in attendance and appeared to endorse extrajudicial killings for those who target police officers. And Trump unleashed a series of attacks on Biden, labeling him a tired career politician and declaring him "unfit to be president."

But, Trump ruminated, while complaining about the media's coverage: "Maybe he'll win because they don't like me, they don't like my personality."

The crowd answered with a deafening "We love you" chant.

The rally came the night before Trump was to travel to California to receive a briefing on the devastating wildfires racing through the region. He has largely been silent on the blazes that have claimed dozens of lives in Oregon and California.

Earlier Sunday, Trump aimed for further inroads with Latinos who could prove vital in closely contested states that could determine the White House race, promoting economic gains they made before the coronavirus pandemic.

Though Trump has made scores of inflammatory and derogatory comments about Latinos, his campaign is growing confident that he has won some support that could help in Florida, Arizona and Nevada, his target this weekend,

Winning support from Latinos has been an uphill climb for Trump, whose hard-line immigration policies and sometimes virulent depiction of immigrants have alienated many Hispanics.

In the first moments of his 2016 campaign, he declared that many Mexican immigrants were "rapists." He has drawn criticism for his tepid response to a hurricane that ravaged Puerto Rico, his policies to separate children from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border and his efforts to dismantle an Obama-era program that allows young immigrants living in the country illegally who were brought here as children to remain in the U.S.

Trump tailored his pitch to Latinos on Sunday, noting their low unemployment rate before COVID-19 reached American shores and affirming his anti-abortion stance. He again hammered home his recent push on law and order, saying that recent violence in American cities endangered Latinos. He was set to hold a similar event in Arizona on Monday.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

AP's Advance Voting guide brings you the facts about voting early, by mail or absentee from each state: <https://interactives.ap.org/advance-voting-2020/>

## **Pandemic vs. pandemic: COVID-19 hampers fight against HIV**

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

As COVID-19 swept through the South, Mel Prince watched with alarm as some of the HIV positive patients she helps in the rural Black Belt stopped showing up for lab tests and doctor's visits.

Some fell back into drug and alcohol abuse. Others feared the AIDS virus made them more vulnerable to the coronavirus and refused to leave their homes.

Around the same time, Prince's HIV organization in Selma, Alabama, stopped sending staff to health fairs and other sites to test people for HIV.

"The virus has made it very challenging for us," said Prince, executive director of Selma AIR. "We just continue to let people know we're here, and we're trying our best to take care of their needs."

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the delivery of all types of health care services in the U.S. Doctors have put off surgeries to conserve hospital beds and medical supplies for COVID-19 patients and turned to telemedicine for routine consultations to avoid potentially exposing patients to the virus.

The fight against HIV has not been spared. Clinics have stopped or limited testing for the disease, and public health officials overwhelmed by demands to control COVID-19 have shifted staff away from tracking HIV patients.

Progress against the virus had already stalled in recent years. Now, health experts and advocates worry the country is at risk of backsliding, with a spike in new HIV infections because people don't know they have the disease, aren't aware if their treatment is working or aren't getting a drug that can prevent them from getting HIV in the first place.

"We're losing people who are doing HIV testing and focusing on HIV to the COVID-19 response," said Ace Robinson, with the national nonprofit HIV eradication group, NMAC. "And that means that we're not able to support people to maintain the care that they deserve."

The issue is of particular concern in the South, which accounted for more than half of the country's roughly 37,000 HIV infections in 2018 and has been a focus of the Trump administration's goal of eradicating the disease by 2030. Fewer people in the South are aware that they have HIV compared with other regions in the U.S, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Parts of the Black Belt — a poor agricultural region stretching from Louisiana to Virginia that was first known for the color of its soil and then for its mostly Black population — have particularly high rates of new HIV infections.

HIV workers contacted by The Associated Press in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas all reported a drop in HIV testing since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mildred Harper, who is HIV positive, was too afraid to go to a Jackson, Mississippi, hospital in April for a blood test to check on her HIV treatment. Harper is on medication that can give people with the AIDS virus a near-normal life expectancy and make it effectively impossible for them to infect other people. Elsewhere in the world, the coronavirus has disrupted the supply of those drugs.

But people on the medication need periodic lab work to make sure the drugs are keeping the amount of virus in their bodies low. If their treatment is effective, they are not believed to face any additional risk for COVID-19, according to the CDC.

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Harper, 56, said the coronavirus had sent her into a depression, and she was "paranoid" about contracting it at the hospital.

"It kind of felt like I was diagnosed with HIV again because it isolated me from everybody," Harper said.

Lee Storrow sought an HIV test in North Carolina in June, but staff at the clinic he contacted said they were focused on testing for COVID-19. Local health officials had stopped testing for sexually transmitted infections, or STIs, and a Planned Parenthood clinic could not see him for weeks, he said.

Storrow, an HIV policy advocate and educator, said he was eventually able to get a home test kit online from a company called NURX. The CDC has encouraged HIV health providers to mail testing kits to people's homes.

"It took me four different steps to figure out how to get my own STI test, and I'm someone who thinks about STI testing on a daily basis," he said. "It does make me concerned and wonder about folks who are so much more on the margins."

Testing at the HIV clinic at Augusta University in Georgia stopped completely for two weeks early on, said Raven Wells, the clinic's community outreach coordinator. Tests are now conducted by appointment "instead of just driving around trying to contact as many people as you can," Wells said.

At sites run by the Birmingham, Alabama-based social services organization AIDS Alabama, testing is down roughly 75%, from about 30 tests a week before the pandemic to 30 tests a month now amid a drop in walk-in clients, said Tony Christon-Walker, the organization's director of prevention and community partnerships.

Meanwhile, scores of state social workers in Alabama who were trained to track down and reengage people who dropped out of HIV treatment have instead been put to work investigating COVID-19 cases, said Sharon Jordan, director of the HIV Prevention and Care Office at the Alabama Department of Public Health.

"I feel like the HIV community, those who are infected, probably feel as if nobody is thinking about us anymore," she said.

Annual HIV infections in the United States have dropped by more than two-thirds since the height of the AIDS epidemic in the mid-1980s, but the number of new infections has leveled off in recent years, according to the CDC. An estimated 1.2 million people in the U.S. have HIV, but more than 40% either do not know they are infected or don't have the virus under control.

President Donald Trump's administration announced an ambitious plan last year to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. by focusing on hot spots for the infection and getting people on drugs. Federal health officials say that remains a priority, though they acknowledge challenges posed by COVID-19.

"We don't have the luxury of pulling back," said Rev. A.J. Johnson, CEO of an HIV testing organization in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "This is a war against HIV-AIDS, not a battle."

Follow AP coverage of the pandemic at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 15, the 259th day of 2020. There are 107 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 15, 1963, four Black girls were killed when a bomb went off during Sunday services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. (Three Ku Klux Klansmen were eventually convicted for their roles in the blast.)

On this date:

In 1776, British forces occupied New York City during the American Revolution.

In 1890, English mystery writer Agatha Christie was born in Torquay.

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In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of their citizenship.

In 1940, during the World War II Battle of Britain, the tide turned as the Royal Air Force inflicted heavy losses upon the Luftwaffe.

In 1942, during World War II, the aircraft carrier USS Wasp was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; the U.S. Navy ended up sinking the badly damaged vessel.

In 1959, Nikita Khrushchev became the first Soviet head of state to visit the United States as he arrived at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington.

In 1972, a federal grand jury in Washington indicted seven men in connection with the Watergate break-in.

In 1981, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to approve the Supreme Court nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor.

In 1982, the first edition of USA Today was published.

In 1985, Nike began selling its "Air Jordan 1" sneaker.

In 2001, President George W. Bush ordered U.S. troops to get ready for war and braced Americans for a long, difficult assault against terrorists to avenge the Sept. 11 attack. Beleaguered Afghans streamed out of Kabul, fearing a U.S. military strike against Taliban rulers harboring Osama bin Laden.

In 2008, on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 504.48, or 4.42 percent, to 10,917.51 while oil closed below \$100 a barrel for the first time in six months amid upheaval in the financial industry as Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection and Merrill Lynch & Co. was sold to Bank of America.

Ten years ago: A mortar attack by Palestinian militants and airstrikes by Israel provided a grim backdrop as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas ended their latest round of peace talks still divided on major issues.

Five years ago: Hungary sealed off its border with Serbia with massive coils of barbed wire and began detaining migrants trying to use the country as a gateway to Western Europe, harsh new measures that left thousands of frustrated asylum-seekers piled up on the Serbian side of the border. Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in as the new prime minister of Australia after his conservative Liberal Party colleagues voted for him to replace Tony Abbott as the nation's leader.

One year ago: Purdue Pharma, the company that made billions selling the prescription painkiller OxyContin, filed for bankruptcy in White Plains, New York, days after reaching a tentative settlement with many of the state and local governments that had sued the company over the toll of opioids. Ric Ocasek, the 75-year-old frontman for the rock band The Cars, died in New York of heart disease worsened by emphysema. Veteran Broadway actress Phyllis Newman, who was the first woman to host "The Tonight Show," died in New York at the age of 86.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Norm Crosby is 93. Actor Henry Darrow is 87. Baseball Hall of Famer Gaylord Perry is 82. Actor Carmen Maura is 75. Writer-director Ron Shelton is 75. Actor Tommy Lee Jones is 74. Movie director Oliver Stone is 74. Rock musician Kelly Keagy (KAY'-gee) (Night Ranger) is 68. Actor Barry Shabaka Henley is 66. Director Pawel Pawlikowski is 63. Rock musician Mitch Dorge (Crash Test Dummies) is 60. Football Hall of Famer Dan Marino is 59. Actor Danny Nucci is 52. Rap DJ Kay Gee is 51. Actor Josh Charles is 49. Singer Ivette (EE'-veht) Sosa (Eden's Crush) is 44. Actor Tom Hardy is 43. Actor Marisa Ramirez is 43. Pop-rock musician Zach Filkins (OneRepublic) is 42. Actor Dave Annable is 41. Actor Amy Davidson is 41. Britain's Prince Harry is 36. TV personality Heidi Montag is 34. Actor Kate Mansi is 33.