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GDILIVE.COM

Also locally at
89.3 FM
GDIRADIO

Volleyball

Tues, Sept, 22, 2020

Warner at Groton

Junior Varsity

6 p.m.

Sponsored by

Jerry & Kathy Bjerke

Varsity Sponsored by

Bary Keith at Harr Motors

BK Custom T's & More

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Hefty Seed

S & S Lumber/Hardware Hank



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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High School Volleyball

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020

Warner Monarchs at Groton Area Tigers



Groton Area Tigers

VARSITY

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Gr.
1	Brooke Gengerke	5'5	S/DS	10
3	Kenzie Mcinerney	5'9	MH	12
5	Alyssa Thaler	5'5	DS/L	11
6	Stella Meier	5'9	MH/RH	11
7	Jasmine Gengerke	5'9	RH/MH	12
8	Trista Keith	5'6	DS/L	11
9	Megan Fliehs	5'8	MH	11
10	Madeline Fliehs	5'9	OH	11
11	Allyssa Locke	5'6	S	11
12	Aspen Johnson	5'8	S/RH	10
13	Grace Wambach	5'7	OH	12
14	Brooklyn Gilbert	5'8	RH/OH	12
15	Maddie Bjerke	5'7	RH/OH	11

JUNIOR VARSITY

1	Brooke Gengerke	5'5	S/DS	10
2	Emilie Thurston	5'5	DS/L	11
4	Lydia Meier	5'8	OH	9
5	Sydney Leicht	5'7	OH	9
6	Riley Leicht	5'6	OH/RH	11
8	Emma Schinkel	5'8	MH	9
9	Megan Fliehs	5'8	MH	11
10	Kelsie Frost	5'10	MH/RH	11
11	Anna Fjeldheim	5'7	OH/S	9
12	Aspen Johnson	5'8	S/RH	10
14	Elizabeth Fliehs	5'6	S	8
15	Maddie Bjerke	5'7	OH/RH	11

C TEAM

1	Carly Guthmiller		L	9
4	Karsyn Jangula		DS/OH	9
5	Karmyn Kurtz		DS/RH	9
5	Sydney Leicht		OH	9
6	Ashlyn Sperry		DS/RH	9
7	Shallyn Foertsch		OH	10
8	Abby Jensen		DS	9
9	Cadence Feist		OH	9
9	Rhiannon Mckibben			11
10	Elizabeth Fliehs		S	8
11	Anna Fjeldheim		OH/RH	9
11	Ava Wienk		MH	9
12	Marlee Tollifson		MH	10
13	Hollie Frost		MH	10

Head Coach: Chelsea Hanson

Asst. Coaches: Jenna Strom, Carla Tracy

Superintendent: Joe Schwan

Principal: Kiersten Sombke

Ath. Director: Brian Dolan

School Colors: Black/Gold ~ School Song: Fight On

Warner Monarchs

VARSITY

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Gr.
1	Courtney Bjorgaard	5'2	DS	9
2	Peyton Fisher	5'6	RH	11
3	Jennifer Aman	5'8	OH	11
4	Ava Nilsson	5'10	S	9
5	Kyra Marcuson	5'7	OH	9
6	Holli Jark	5'7	DS	12
7	Hailee Lesnar	5'4	DS	11
8	Summer Scepaniak	5'8	L	12
10	Lauren Marcuson	5'7	OH	9
12	Kendyl Anderson	5'8	MH	10
16	Kamryn Anderson	5'9	MH	10

JUNIOR VARSITY

2	Kiah Koch	5'4	DS	10
3	Nevaeh Lesnar	5'1	OH	9
4	Cassidy Hardie	4'11	DS	9
5	Kyra Marcuson	5'7	OH	9
6	Jersey Deibert	5'3	RH	9
7	Hailee Lesnar	5'4	DS	11
9	Sophia Hoeft	5'5	RH	9
11	Libby Scepaniak	5'8	S	8
12	Kendyl Anderson	5'8	OH	10
13	Morgan Haselhorst	5'6	MH	9
15	Allison Ray	5'7	MH	10
16	Kamryn Anderson	5'9	MH	10

C TEAM

1	Jordyn Jensen	5'1	DS	8
2	Haleigh Holt	4'9	DS	8
3	Nevaeh Lesnar	5'1	OH	9
4	Cassidy Hardie	4'11	DS	9
5	Kyleigh Schopp	5'8	MH	8
6	Jersey Deibert	5'3	MH	9
8	Gwen Price	5'2	RH	9
9	Sophia Hoeft	5'5	S	9
10	Allison Ray	5'7	MH	10
11	Libby Scepaniak	5'8	OH	8
13	Morgan Haselhorst	5'6	MH	9

Head Coach: Kari Jung

Asst. Coaches: Bobbie Deuter, Briana Jung,

Danielle Hoglund

Managers: Courtney Leidholt, Jaycee Jung,

Adyson Vetter, Makenna Haselhorst

Statisticians: Savannah Green, Abby Dunlavy

Superintendent/Principal: Michael Kroll

Ath. Director: Stewart Bohle

School Colors: Royal Blue/White

School Song: Notre Dame Victory March

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Homecoming theme is: ALL AROUND THE WORLD (COUNTRIES)

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 - Country Day at MS/HS, Jersey Day at Elementary
JH Football at Milbank (7th at 4:30 p.m. followed by the 8th grade game)

Volleyball - Warner in Groton

5 p.m.: There will be two combined JH volleyball matches, one starting at 5 p.m. and the other to follow. These matches will be played in the GHS Gym.

5 p.m.: C match in the Arena followed by the JV and then the varsity match. Varsity match broadcast on GDLIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by the Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, S & S Lumber/Hardware Hank, BK Custom T's & More and Hefty Seed. The JV match will also be broadcast, sponsored by Jerry and Kathy Bjerke)

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 - Duo Day* at MS/HS, Wacky Hair/Wacky Hat Day at Elementary
* (Examples are Salt and Pepper, or Mustard and Ketchup)

Thursday, September 24, 2020 - Class Colors Day** at MS/HS, Throwback Day at Elementary

** Seniors - black, juniors - white, sophomores - grey, freshmen - gold, 8th grade - purple, 7th grade - blue, 6th grade - red, staff/teachers - pink.

10 a.m.: Boys golf at Sisseton Golf Course

4 p.m.: Boys soccer hosting James Valley Christian. (To be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by the White House Inn)

Volleyball - Clark/Willow Lake in Groton

5 p.m.: Junior high matches will be played in the GHS Gym.

5 p.m.: C match in the Arena followed by the JV and then the varsity match. Varsity match broadcast on GDLIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by the Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, S & S Lumber/Hardware Hank, BK Custom T's & More and Hefty Seed. The JV match will also be broadcast, sponsored by Jerry and Kathy Bjerke)

Friday, September 25, 2020 - Spirit Day

1 p.m.: Homecoming Parade (Broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM)

7 p.m.: Homecoming football game with Redfield at Doney Field (To be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by Mike Nehls for Brown County Commission - Mike will also be a guest commentary. Touchdown Sponsor is Frost Construction)

Saturday, September 26, 2020

1 pm: Girls soccer to host Tea Area. (To be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM - sponsored by some of the parents)

3 p.m.: Boys soccer to host Tea Area. (To be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by the Groton Vet Clinic)

Smith places fifth at Deuel Cross Country Meet

Isaac Smith placed fifth at the Deuel Invitational Cross Country Meet held Monday in Clear Lake. He finished the 5000m course in 17:39.05. Jackson Garstecki placed 41st with a time of 23:03.07.

In the girls junior varsity division, Sierra Ehresmann placed 13th with a time of 15:30.10 and Rebecca Poor was 29th with a time of 18:34.28. Dragr Monson placed third in the junior varsity boy's division with a time of 11:54.41 and Jayden Schwan placed 20th with a time of 13:38.38. The junior varsity races run 3,000 meters.



GHS 2020 Royalty

The 2020 GHS Homecoming Royalty were selected Monday evening at the coronation ceremony held in the GHS Gym. They are pictured above with their parents: Chandler Larson, son of Carson and Julie Larson, and Alexis Hanten, daughter of Sarah and Cody Hanten. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

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The burning of the G was held after the homecoming coronation held Monday evening. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Tom Paepke helped the 2019 Homecoming King Anthony Schinkel with his tie. Tom and Barb Paepke are also the parade marshals this year. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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#211 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Today shows not much change from our established pattern: 40,200 new cases, a 0.6% increase to 6,865,400 cases. There were 367 deaths reported today in the US, a 0.2% increase. There have now been 199,740 deaths from Covid-19 in the US. I would expect us to top 200,000 deaths tomorrow some time. Then, we should hit seven million cases later in the week. Not the sort of week we would like to see, but there we are.

Here's some disquieting news: After weeks of decline, much of it double-digit decline, the US's 14-day new-case average showed a 1% increase today. This shows the trend over time, not just a bad day or two. This is at a time when we're still all largely able to be outdoors and the flu season is weeks off. That's bad. Very bad.

Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner of the FDA, in an interview yesterday, said we are having "an unmistakable spike in new infections" and that he expects a recent decline in hospitalizations to reverse. Citing the test positivity rate over 10% in 15 states, he also mentioned that the Re (effective transmission rate, the number of individuals to whom one case can be expected to transmit, on average) is above 1.0 in about 30 states. Re over 1.0 mean the epidemic is growing. He told his interviewer that "there's a lot of risk heading into this season" (fall and winter).

States with 25 or more new cases per 100,000 population, indicating unchecked community spread, are Utah (26/100K/day), North Dakota (45/100K/day), South Dakota (33/100K/day), Oklahoma (27/100K/day), Wisconsin 44/100K/day, Iowa (25/100K/day), and Arkansas (26/100K/day). States and territories with 10-24 new cases per 100,000, indicating escalating community spread, are Guam, Alaska, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Minnesota, Missouri, Louisiana, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, West Virginia, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico. States and territories with 1-9 new cases per 100,000, indicating potential community spread, are the Northern Marianas, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Michigan, Ohio, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. States and territories with fewer than 1 new case per 100,000, indicating close to containment, are American Samoa and Vermont.

The above deals with the current status in the various states and territories. Trends are another thing to watch, and that news isn't particularly good. As of today, 28 states had more new cases over the past week than they'd seen the previous week. Sixteen states are holding steady, and only six show declines in new cases. Those six are Hawaii, Louisiana, Michigan, Vermont, Delaware, and South Carolina. That means our trajectory is not a good one. Additionally 27 states and Puerto Rico have test positivity rates above the benchmark of 5%; and only five—Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Massachusetts—have positivity rates below 1%.

It should not be a surprise to discover that the recent wildfires in Oregon seem to have sparked a resurgence in Covid-19 cases in the state. As people spent time indoors, avenues for transmission multiplied. Evacuations also can create crowding and expose residents to risk. Firefighters themselves also are exposed to additional risk as they work sometimes closely together. Test positivity has increased, and we are thinking smoke inhalation increases the risk both that the virus can take hold in the respiratory tract and that the disease becomes severe by interfering with a healthy response to the virus. I would expect, although I have not seen direct evidence, that we will see similar effects in Colorado and California where fires have also raged in recent weeks.

A CDC study has just been published regarding air travelers. They investigated 1600 cases of people who flew while at risk of spreading the virus and identified almost 11,000 who were potentially exposed. Because of poor contact tracing and the long incubation period, no cases of transmission were confirmed, but there have certainly been likely cases. While we think this virus probably doesn't spread easily on planes—bars are likely higher-risk venues, there is long-term proximity and all of the opportunities for

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exposure in airports to consider. It is highly irresponsible to travel by air if you have been exposed to this coronavirus. When you're asked to quarantine, that precludes travel on airplanes. We should add that just yesterday a person who had a confirmed case of infection was stopped in a Maine airport and persuaded not to fly, that person's close contact was removed from a plane before takeoff. I'm wondering how many folks those two exposed in the airport even before boarding.

You may have seen news of a study showing gyms are safe places in terms of transmission risk; it indicates there is "no evidence of spread" in gyms. What you should know about this study is that it was conducted by a company that helps health clubs with their membership experience, in partnership with a major association of health clubs, and it was based on gyms self-reported data on visits and cases of infection. Given the conflict of interest in the organizations conducting the study and the flawed methodology, we have to consider this study's conclusions as dubious. Maybe gyms are safe, but this study does not establish that as a fact. I would encourage great caution.

We now have more information about that paused phase 3 clinical trial for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine candidate, most of it not from publicly-disclosed information from the company, which is worrisome. Here's what we know so far.

In July, there was a "brief pause," according to company statements, due to an illness in a participant. The statements say the participant had an "undiagnosed case of multiple sclerosis" which was unrelated to the vaccine. They did not explain how that conclusion was reached or why they waited so long (over a month) to disclose this information to the public. Now I want to be clear that, when you have tens of thousands of participants in a clinical trial, some of those people are going to turn up with various illnesses and conditions, the vast majority—or even all—of which are completely unrelated to the pharmaceutical being tested. If you randomly selected those tens of thousands of people from the population, didn't administer anything at all, and just waited several weeks to months, some percentage of them would turn up with illnesses and conditions because people get sick sometimes. Furthermore, there is no evidence that any vaccine either causes or exacerbates multiple sclerosis; so it is highly likely this truly was unrelated. The concern is around a lack of transparency on the part of the company. When there is the degree of interest and concern around the safety and efficacy of a vaccine candidate as there is in this one, it doesn't seem responsible to be less than transparent; and a lack of transparency is going to excite comment. That was not well played.

Then, the trial was halted when a UK participant, a previously healthy 37-year-old female, experienced symptoms after her second dose of the vaccine and was hospitalized on September 5. Her symptoms were that she had trouble walking and weakness and pain in her arms, among other symptoms. She received her first dose of the vaccine in early June and had no problems; she received the second dose in late August. Then on September 2, she tripped while running, which jolted her. A report the company distributed to clinical trial sites on September 10 noted that there was no obvious injury to her cervical spine. The next day, she had symptoms including difficulty walking, pain and weakness in her arms, pain and reduced sensation in her torso, a headache, and reduced ability to use her hands. She was then hospitalized on September 5. Researchers submitted a SUSAR (Suspected or Unexpected Serious Adverse Reaction) report. The report also said she was diagnosed with "confirmed" transverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord that can result from various infections or vaccinations, although the majority of cases never track down a cause. Importantly, no other similar cases have been diagnosed among any other participants.

On September 8, a report surfaced that the illness was transverse myelitis, and at that time the company characterized that report as "incorrect." A participant information sheet, the document handed out to trial volunteers, updated on September 11, referred to "unexplained neurological symptoms," not to transverse myelitis. It does then go on to say these illnesses were considered unlikely to be associated with the vaccine or there was insufficient evidence to say that they were or were not related to the vaccine.

The UK's Medicines and healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (equivalent to our FDA) gave permission for the trial to recommence in the UK. I am thinking the FDA won't be far behind; Dr. Anthony Fauci, the

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director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) told CNN he thinks it's "just a matter of time" before the trial resumes in the US too. He said this illness has to be considered a one-off at this point and that "it would be unusual to completely stop a trial on the basis of one single adverse event." Those running trials will be informed to watch for other similar events and report them. While he expresses no alarm at events thus far, he notes that, if this happens again, "it becomes an entirely different situation." I am certainly not going to disagree with him, at least not so far.

Now, I'm no vaccinologist—and I did not stay at a Holiday Inn last night, but I've been looking at what the real vaccinologists are saying. None of this is frightening. People in clinical trials get sick sometimes. Sometimes the things they get sick with are things that could conceivably result from vaccines, even though in this particular case they may not have. Additionally, there are layers of protection built around these trials which would make it most difficult for a company to step in and interfere with the safety protocols that exist, so it is quite likely the resumption of trials can be viewed without suspicion.

The real concern is that it appears this company may not have been particularly forthcoming. There is a number of reasons this is concerning, among them the fact that much of this research and development effort was funded out of the taxpayers' pockets which should create some obligation to level with those taxpayers and the fact that there is already a great deal of resistance to this vaccine which needs to be allayed by a fully transparent research process in the clinical trials. Leaving questions in the public's mind as to the safety of a vaccine candidate is not helpful in this regard.

Mackenzie-Childs is a company that sells ceramics, hand-painted furniture, and décor. One of their items which has sold for years is a brightly-painted chair, the back of which has cross rails composed of two whimsical fish. Mechanic and guitarist, Emily DeFavero had seen a tiny version of this chair in a dollhouse on display in a shop when she was a child, and it represented all of her fondest childhood memories of living in a house filled with Mackenzie-Childs designs—dinner plates, tables, lamps. Even though there were difficult times in her growing-up years when she and her mom fled that beautiful, but abusive, home, DeFavero says that design stirs up childhood memories of being cared for. "I loved the look of the chair and how it made me feel. When we would bring home new friends, my mom would serve dinner on fish plates just like the chair. So it's always represented love to me." And that probably explains why she had the image of that chair tattooed on her leg a couple of years ago. "Every time I look down at my leg, I have good memories."

She was interested one day when a Facebook group called "Weird Secondhand Finds" over the Labor Day weekend featured a picture of that chair in a vintage store in Baltimore. She posted a comment letting the group know about her tattoo. And members of the group decided to do something nice. There were comments like "Emily needs this chair," which morphed into a GoFundMe campaign to raise the \$699 purchase price to put the chair into her possession. A separate Facebook group formed, "From Baltimore to Emily D" to track the chair's progress. There were donations for the chair and fuel to transport it. Members volunteered to ferry it in seven stages from Baltimore to New York where she lives. The whole operation sort of took on a life of its own, uniting this group of strangers—the purchasers and drivers—into a delivery mechanism for kindness.

As these things often go, DeFavero is not the only beneficiary of the project. She explains, "Everyone has a uniquely tailored story about what this means to them. They're all expressing deep, personal stories to me. They've had a lot of sadness over these last months, and now the chair has brought them light and happiness. So many of the women on this journey have encountered abusive relationships, and this chair has brought people together for happiness, for good." Rande Dawn of the Today Show says, "Call them the sisterhood of the traveling chair."

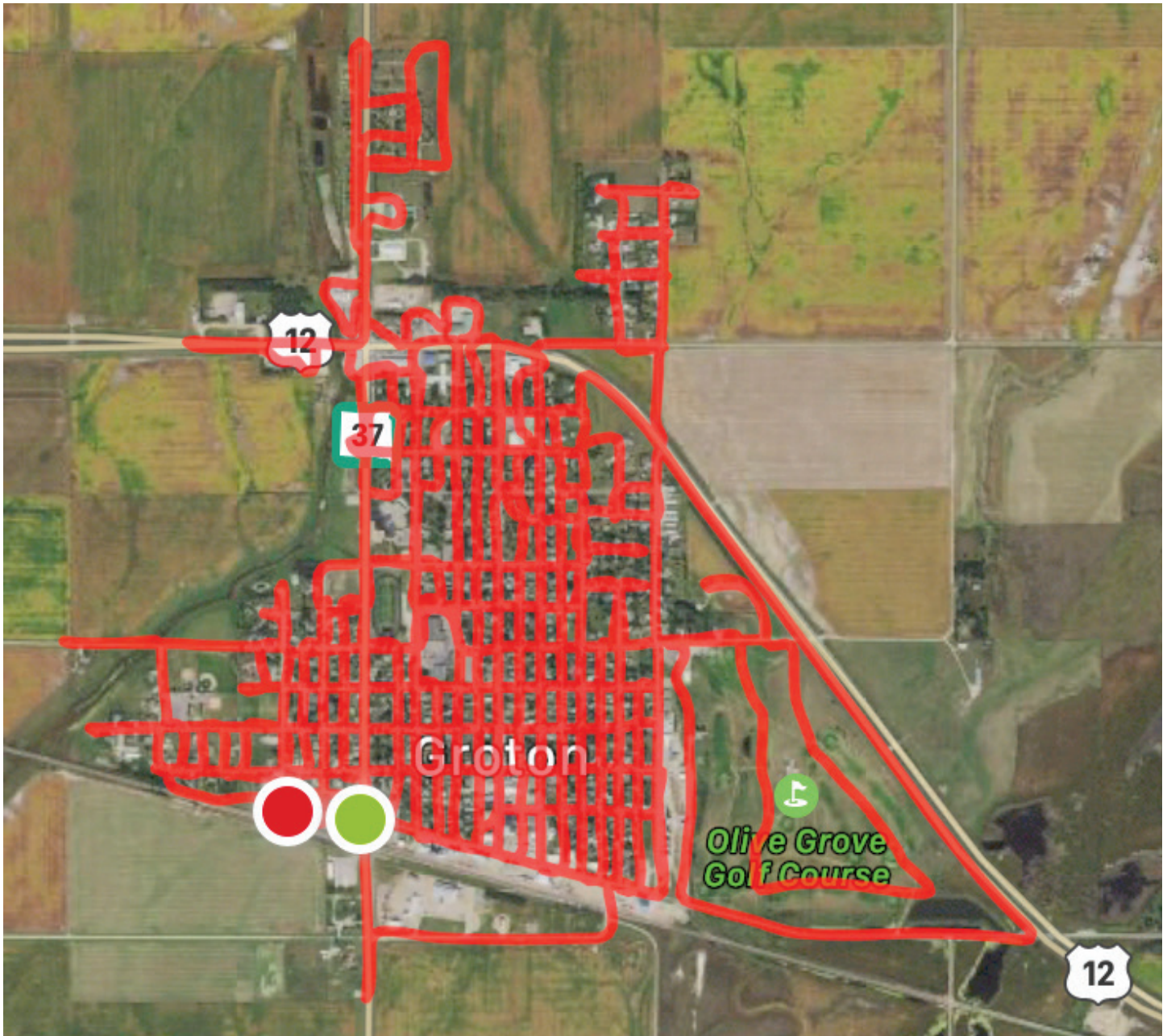
DeFavero adds a benediction to this story: "I want it to make people think of unity and connection. This brought so many people together. The chair went on a journey, just like my mom did, just like we all do. It came from a store called Second Chance—and a second chance is what it really got."

Second chances. Bringing folks together to offer kindness. That seems like a good way to end the day, every day.

Be well. We'll talk tomorrow.

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Adult mosquito control was administered last night in Groton. About 11 gallons of Evolver 4x4 was used. The temperature was in the mid 60s and there was a ESE breeze less than 5 mph.

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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	8,785	8,925	9,021	9,107
Colorado	59,674	59,920	60,185	60,492	60,907	61,324	61,699
Wyoming	3,483	3,520	3,559		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. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22
Minnesota	85,351	85,813	86,722	87,807	88,721	90,017	90,942
Nebraska	38,970	39,419	39,921	40,387	40,797	41,083	41,388
Montana	9,244	9,431	9,647	9,871	10,163	10,299	10,429
Colorado	62,099	62,686	63,145	63,750	64,356	64,857	65,399
Wyoming	3,762	3,866	3,936	4,009	4,039	4,124	4,189
North Dakota	16,066	16,333	16,723	17,230	17,607	17,958	18,244
South Dakota	16,994	17,291	17,686	18,075	18,444	18,696	18,869
United States	6,606,674	6,631,561	6,676,410	6,726,480	6,766,631	6,799,141	6,858,138
US Deaths	195,961	196,831	197,655	198,603	199,268	199,474	199,890
Minnesota	+402	+462	+909	+1,085	+914	1,296	+925
Nebraska	+328	+449	+502	+466	+410	+286	+305
Montana	+137	+187	+216	+224	+292	+136	+130
Colorado	+400	+587	+459	+605	+606	+501	+542
Wyoming	+39	+104	+70	+73	+30	+85	+65
North Dakota	+ 235	+267	+390	+507	+377	+351	+286
South Dakota	+195	+297	+395	+389	+369	+252	+173
United States	+51,431	+24,887	+44,849	+50,070	+40,151	+32,510	+58,997
US Deaths	+1,416	+870	+824	+948	+665	+206	+416

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September 21st COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Relatively quiet in today's report. There were 173 positive and 126 recovered cases today, down a lot from the previous week's rates. No deaths in South Dakota but there was one in North Dakota.

Brown County had four positive and three recovered, Day had one positive, Edmunds had three recoveries, no change in Marshall or McPherson counties, and Spink had two recoveries.

Brown County:

Total Positive: +4 (1,031) Positivity Rate: 11.8%
Total Tests: 34 (9,826)
Recovered: +3 (903)
Active Cases: +1 (126)
Ever Hospitalized: +0 (38)
Deaths: 0 (3)
Percent Recovered: 87.5%

South Dakota:

Positive: +173 (18,869 total) Positivity Rates: 15.6%
Total Tests: 1,109 (245,387 total)
Hospitalized: +9 (1,297 total). 161 currently hospitalized -9)
Deaths: +0 (202 total)
Recovered: +126 (15,777 total)
Active Cases: +47 (2,890)
Percent Recovered: 83.6%
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 7% Covid, 46% Non-Covid, 48% Available
ICU Bed Capacity: 5% Covid, 64% Non-Covid, 30% Available
Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 14% Non-Covid, 81% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases: Aurora 42-42, Mellette 25-25, Miner 19-19.

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: 2 active cases
Beadle (9): +2 positive (46 active cases)
Bennett (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (25 active cases)
Bon Homme (1): +1 positive (18 active cases)
Brookings (2): +15 positive, +6 recovered (106 active cases)
Brown (3): +4 positive, +3 recovered (126 active

cases)

Brule: +1 recovered (15 active cases)
Buffalo (3): 5 active cases
Butte (1): 18 active cases
Campbell: +1 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)
Charles Mix: +3 positive (18 active cases)
Clark: +1 recovered (7 active cases)
Clay (5) +2 positive, +1 recovered (49 active cases)
Codington (3): +13 positive, +7 recovered (195 active cases)
Corson (1): +3 positive (11 active cases)
Custer (2): +1 positive (39 active case)
Davison (2): +6 positive (42 active cases)
Day: +1 positive (15 active cases)
Deuel: +1 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)
Dewey: +1 positive (36 active cases)
Douglas: +2 positive (25 active cases)
Edmunds: +3 recovered (19 active cases)
Fall River (3): 19 active cases
Faulk (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)
Grant (1): +2 positive (35 active cases)
Gregory (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (51 active cases)
Haakon: +1 positive (8 active case)
Hamlin: +1 recovered (9 active cases)
Hand: 10 active cases
Hanson: +2 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)
Harding: Fully Recovered
Hughes (4): +9 positive, +4 recovered (154 active cases)

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Hutchinson (2): +1 positive, +2 recovered (17 active cases)
 Hyde: 9 active cases
 Jackson (1): +1 positive (11 active cases)
 Jerauld (1): 18 active cases
 Jones: 2 active cases
 Kingsbury: +3 positive (15 active cases)
 Lake (7): +1 recovered (26 active cases)
 Lawrence (4): +7 positive, +2 recovered (64 active cases)
 Lincoln (2): +8 positive, +12 recovered (165 active cases)
 Lyman (3): +1 positive (6 active cases)
 Marshall: 9 active cases
 McCook (1): 15 active cases
 McPherson: 10 active case
 Meade (4): +9 positive (100 active cases)
 Mellette: 4 active cases
 Miner: Fully Recovered
 Minnehaha (78): +15 positive, +59 recovered (512 active cases)
 Moody: +1 positive (12 active cases)

Oglala Lakota (3): +7 positive (32 active cases)
 Pennington (35): +20 positive, +6 recovered (322 active cases)
 Perkins: 9 active cases
 Potter: +2 positive, +1 recovered (15 active cases)
 Roberts (1): +6 positive, +1 recovered (44 active cases)
 Sanborn: +1 positive (3 active cases)
 Spink: +2 recovered (29 active cases)
 Stanley: 7 active cases
 Sully: 1 active case
 Todd (5): +1 positive (15 active cases)
 Tripp: +1 positive, +3 recovered (58 active cases)
 Turner (2): +4 positive, +2 recovered (36 active cases)
 Union (5): +6 positive, +1 recovered (51 active cases)
 Walworth: +1 positive, +1 recovered (30 active cases)
 Yankton (4): +4 positive, +3 recovered (83 active cases)
 Ziebach: 16 active case

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	601	0
10-19 years	2080	0
20-29 years	4637	2
30-39 years	3286	7
40-49 years	2571	10
50-59 years	2520	20
60-69 years	1675	32
70-79 years	843	35
80+ years	656	96

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, September 21:

- 5.9% rolling 14-day positivity
 - 8.8% daily positivity
 - 287 new positives
 - 3,247 susceptible test encounters
 - 87 currently hospitalized (+6)
 - 3,210 active cases (+2)
- Total Deaths: +1 (193)

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	9696	96
Male	9173	106

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	44	42	482	0	Minimal
Beadle	703	648	2299	9	Substantial
Bennett	62	38	636	1	Substantial
Bon Homme	76	57	1101	1	Moderate
Brookings	680	569	4261	2	Substantial
Brown	1031	902	6464	3	Substantial
Brule	93	78	989	0	Moderate
Buffalo	118	110	709	3	Minimal
Butte	75	56	1180	1	Moderate
Campbell	12	6	144	0	Moderate
Charles Mix	143	122	2000	0	Moderate
Clark	32	25	506	0	Moderate
Clay	537	483	2210	5	Substantial
Codington	719	521	4406	3	Substantial
Corson	84	72	715	1	Moderate
Custer	172	131	1000	2	Substantial
Davison	210	166	3198	2	Substantial
Day	61	46	887	0	Moderate
Deuel	76	64	594	0	Substantial
Dewey	117	81	2721	0	Substantial
Douglas	64	39	513	0	Substantial
Edmunds	81	62	551	0	Substantial
Fall River	87	65	1287	3	Substantial
Faulk	61	47	286	1	Moderate
Grant	92	56	1027	1	Substantial
Gregory	98	46	587	1	Substantial
Haakon	18	10	329	0	Moderate
Hamlin	80	71	917	0	Moderate
Hand	26	16	424	0	Moderate
Hanson	30	24	307	0	Minimal
Harding	3	3	65	0	Minimal
Hughes	320	162	2577	4	Substantial
Hutchinson	74	55	1146	2	Moderate

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Hyde	15	6	196	0	Moderate
Jackson	26	14	541	1	Moderate
Jerauld	68	49	320	1	Substantial
Jones	7	5	85	0	Minimal
Kingsbury	46	31	745	0	Substantial
Lake	172	139	1222	7	Substantial
Lawrence	334	266	3048	4	Substantial
Lincoln	1212	1045	9578	2	Substantial
Lyman	112	103	1162	3	Moderate
Marshall	35	26	618	0	Moderate
McCook	83	67	847	1	Substantial
McPherson	27	17	286	0	Moderate
Meade	462	358	2952	4	Substantial
Mellette	29	25	445	0	Minimal
Miner	19	19	320	0	Minimal
Minnehaha	6231	5641	36927	78	Substantial
Moody	71	59	830	0	Moderate
Oglala Lakota	229	194	3456	3	Substantial
Pennington	2004	1647	14541	35	Substantial
Perkins	30	21	290	0	Moderate
Potter	39	24	447	0	Moderate
Roberts	163	118	2517	1	Substantial
Sanborn	20	17	297	0	Minimal
Spink	106	77	1405	0	Substantial
Stanley	32	25	386	0	Moderate
Sully	9	8	125	0	Minimal
Todd	105	85	2629	5	Moderate
Tripp	97	39	789	0	Substantial
Turner	141	103	1233	2	Substantial
Union	357	300	2541	6	Substantial
Walworth	92	62	1115	0	Substantial
Yankton	357	270	4244	4	Substantial
Ziebach	60	44	488	0	Minimal
Unassigned	0	0	15011	0	

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- ✓ 30 year law enforcement veteran with city and county government experience
- ✓ Progressive thinker/ Conservative spender
- ✓ Common sense approach to solving issues



I pledge

- ✓ to put taxpayers first by no wasteful spending
- ✓ to increase transparency to taxpayers
- ✓ to maintain roads and bridges
- ✓ to the creation of a criminal justice task force addressing Meth, Opioid and other drug addictions

Your vote will be much appreciated!



Absentee voting begins September 18th



Representation from eastern Brown County is long overdue! (35 years)

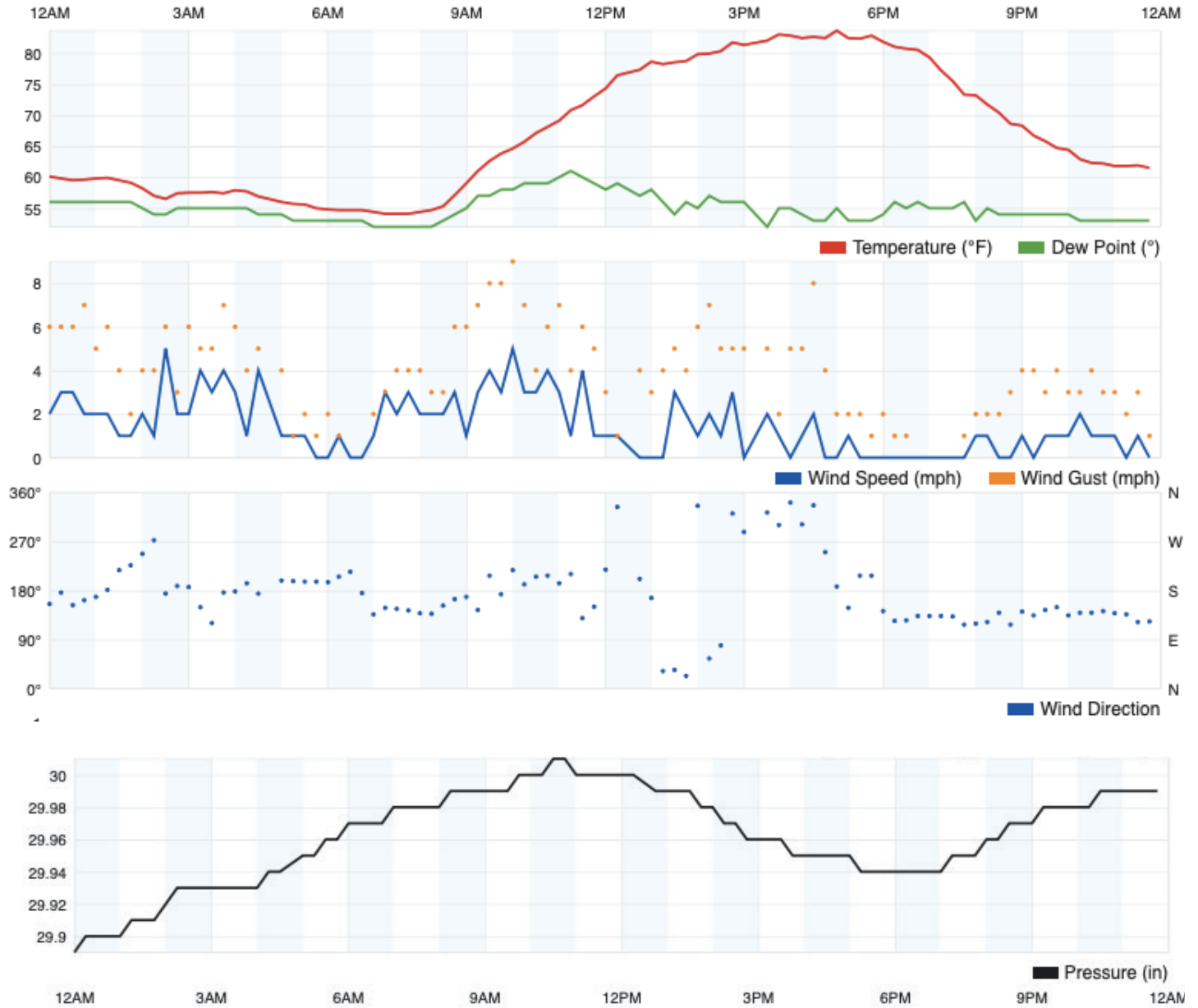
Vote for Michael Nehls for Brown County Commission (your vote **only for Mike could make a difference)**

Paid for by the committee to elect Mike Nehls to Brown County Commission

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 86 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 55 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 81 °F

Wednesday
Night



Partly Cloudy


Low: 51 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 74 °F



Continued Warm & Dry
***High Fire Danger Today & Wednesday

Today

- Mostly sunny and warm
- Highs in the 80s, to around 90

Tonight

- Mostly clear and mild
- Lows in the 50s

Wednesday

- Partly sunny, warm and hazy
- Highs in the 80s

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

ISSUED: 2:50 AM - Tuesday, September 22, 2020

A ridge of high pressure aloft will continue to support warm and mostly dry conditions across the region through mid-week. The grassland fire danger will also be elevated due to the dry conditions. #sdwx #mnwx

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Today in Weather History

September 22, 1936: Abnormally warm conditions brought record temperatures to much of central and northeast South Dakota along with west central Minnesota on this day in 1936. Temperatures rose into the upper 90s and lower 100s during the afternoon hours. Pierre and Watertown set record highs of 99 degrees. Mobridge and Sisseton warmed to record highs of 101 degrees. Finally, Kennebec and Aberdeen rose to record highs of 102 and 103 degrees, respectively.

1810: A tornado striking Fernhill Heath had a width between 0.5 to 1 mile; making it the widest path ever in Britain.

1890: A severe hailstorm struck Strawberry, Arizona. Five days after the storm hail still lay in drifts 12 to 18 inches deep.

1913 - Des Moines, IA, experienced their earliest freeze of record. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Hurricane Esther made a near complete circle south of Cape Cod. The hurricane then passed over Cape Cod and hit Maine. Its energy was largely spent over the North Atlantic Ocean, however, heavy rains over Maine resulted in widespread local flooding of cellars, low roads, and underpasses. (David Ludlum)

1983 - Forty-one cities reported record cold temperatures during the morning. Houston, TX, hit 50 degrees, and Williston ND plunged to 19 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Hurricane Emily, the first hurricane to roam the Caribbean in nearly six years, made landfall over the Dominican Republic late in the day, packing 125 mph winds. Emily killed three persons and caused thirty million dollars damage. A record high of 92 degrees at Miami FL was their fifth in a row. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - An early morning thunderstorm produced baseball size hail at Plainview, in Hale County TX. Late in the evening more thunderstorms in the Southern High Plains Region produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Plainview TX and Crosby TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Hugo quickly lost strength over South Carolina, but still was a tropical storm as it crossed into North Carolina, just west of Charlotte, at about 7 AM. Winds around Charlotte reached 69 mph, with gusts to 99 mph. Eighty percent of the power was knocked out to Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Property damage in North Carolina was 210 million dollars, and damage to crops was 97 million dollars. The strongest storm surge occurred along the southern coast shortly after midnight, reaching nine feet above sea level at ocean Isle and Sunset Beach. Hugo killed one person and injured fifteen others in North Carolina. Strong northwesterly winds ushered unseasonably cold air into the north central U.S., in time for the official start of autumn, at 8" 20 PM (CDT). Squalls produced light snow in northern Wisconsin. Winds in Wisconsin gusted to 52 mph at Rhinelander. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - For the first time in the historical record, two hurricanes reached category-5 intensity in the Gulf of Mexico in a single season as Hurricane Rita intensified before making landfall (Katrina and Rita).

2006: The tristate area of Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky was struck by the worst tornado outbreak in the recorded history during the month of September. One supercell produced a long-track F4 tornado across southeastern Missouri into southwestern Illinois. This tornado traveled 27.5 miles.

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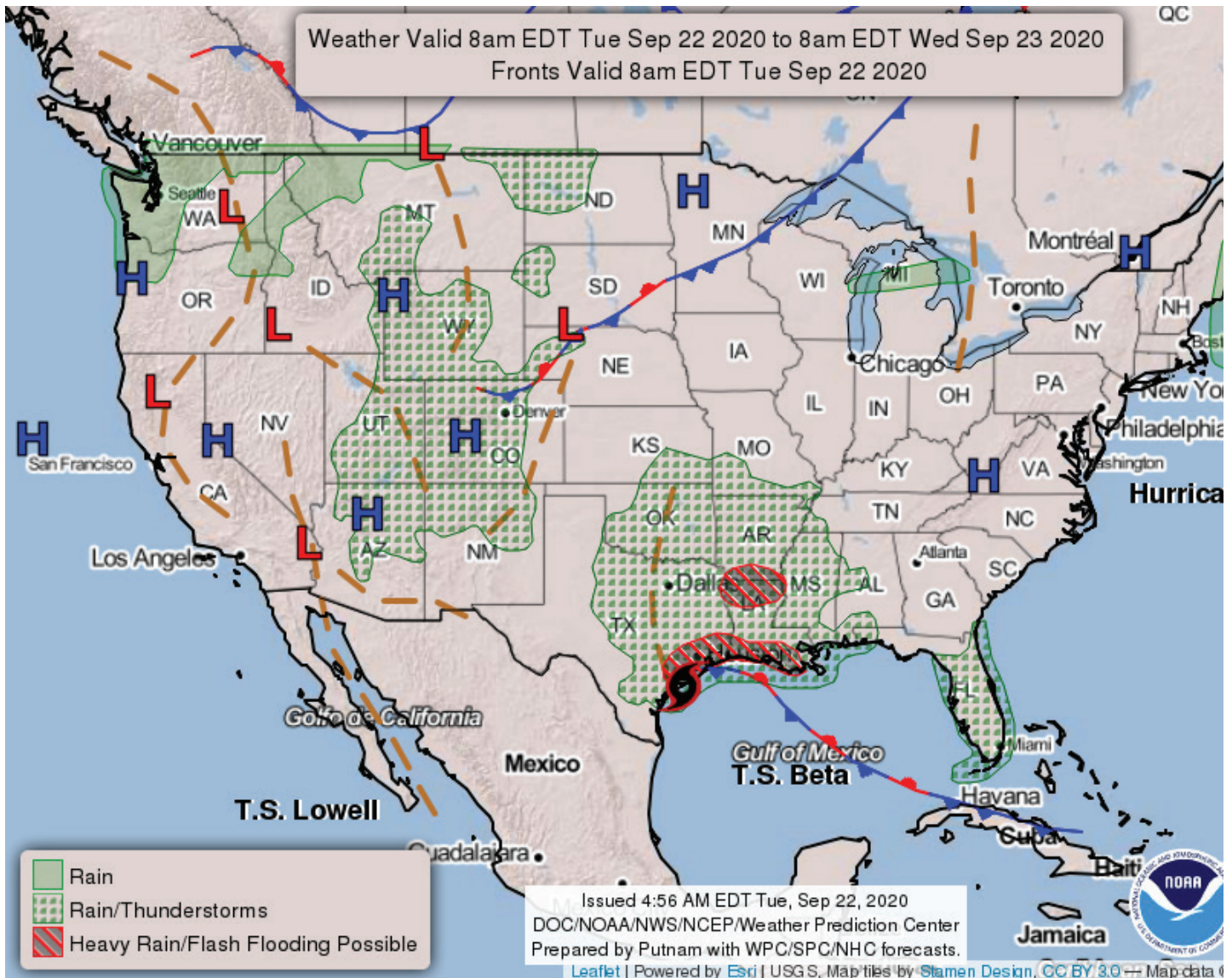
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 84 °F at 4:59 PM
Low Temp: 54 °F at 7:26 AM
Wind: 9 mph at 9:33 AM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1936
Record Low: 20° in 1995
Average High: 69°F
Average Low: 43°F
Average Precip in Sept...: 1.55
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.52
Average Precip to date: 17.84
Precip Year to Date: 14.87
Sunset Tonight: 7:30 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:23 a.m.



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RUINED BUT RECLAIMED

One of the most magnificent statues in the world is David. It is considered by many to be the masterpiece of Michelangelo. The story of its completion, however, is far different from that of its beginning.

The block of marble from which he fashioned the statue was once marred and discarded by another artist. It had been so mutilated that it was cast aside as worthless.

When Michelangelo looked at the piece of marble, he saw possibilities and promises - not something that had been rejected because someone thought it was ruined. And, from what others trashed, he brought forth a real treasure.

It is like those of us who become Christians. We "become new persons... (We) are not the same anymore for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!"

It is difficult to grasp the reality of that verse of Scripture. Perhaps it is because our size does not change, and our shape remains the same. But, the moment we are born again, the Holy Spirit gives us a new life, and we are "made new" on the inside. Then, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to think differently, see things differently, and act differently because "a new life has begun."

Once our lives were a shambles, shaped and scarred by sin. But the God of all creation recreated us. Now, all things in us and about us are new!

Prayer: Thank You, Heavenly Father, that You took us, recreated us, and gave us a new life. Your grace has transformed us into Your likeness. Thank you! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17

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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
- **CANCELLED** Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Avon def. Gregory, 25-16, 25-11, 25-22
Baltic def. Dell Rapids, 25-21, 25-22, 25-10
Bridgewater-Emery def. Menno, 25-10, 25-15, 25-15
Ethan def. Mitchell Christian, 25-19, 25-23, 25-16
Freeman def. Canton, 23-25, 25-12, 25-22, 25-17
Garretson def. Vermillion, 25-8, 25-15, 25-19
Harding County def. Carter County, Mont., 25-0, 0-25, 25-0, 25-0, 0-0
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Redfield, 22-25, 25-19, 25-11, 25-13
McCook Central/Montrose def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-17, 25-21, 25-15
Scotland def. Canistota, 18-25, 25-19, 25-20, 19-25, 17-15
Tea Area def. Parkston, 25-20, 25-13, 25-22
Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Wessington Springs, 25-10, 25-20, 25-18
Waubay/Summit def. Sisseton, 25-23, 35-33, 13-25, 24-26, 16-14
Waverly-South Shore def. Lake Preston, 25-15, 25-13, 25-22
Winner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-23, 25-13, 25-9

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. 21, 2020. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

CLASS AA

1. O'Gorman (13)	7-0	65	1
2. S.F. Washington	7-2	45	T3
3. Aberdeen Cent.	6-1	34	2
4. Huron	6-2	32	5
5. Watertown	6-2	19	T3

Receiving Votes: None.

CLASS A

1. S.F. Christian (13)	12-0	65	1
2. Dakota Valley	7-0	52	2
3. Winner	7-0	38	3
4. R.C. Christian	10-0	21	4
5. Madison	6-2	13	5

Receiving Votes: Parker (9-0) 3, Garretson (8-1) 1, Mobridge-Pollock (9-0) 1, Florence-Henry (8-0) 1.

CLASS B

1. Northwestern (13)	8-0	65	1
2. Warner	7-1	50	2
3. Faulkton Area	6-1	38	3
4. Chester Area	8-1	22	4
5. Bridgewater-Emery	10-0	16	5

Receiving Votes: Ethan (3-5) 2, Colman-Egan (6-0) 2.

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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. 21 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.

Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(22)	4-0	110	1	
2. Brandon Valley	-	3-1	86	2	
3. Harrisburg	-	4-0	68	3	
4. Lincoln	-	3-1	44	4	
5. Sioux Falls Washington	-	2-2	11	NR	

Others receiving votes: Sioux Falls O'Gorman 10, Watertown 1.

Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Yankton (19)	4-0	107	1		
2. Brookings	(3)	4-0	85	2	
3. Pierre	-	2-1	70	3	
4. Mitchell	-	3-1	46	4	
5. Huron	-	2-2	20	5	

Others receiving votes: Sturgis 1, Douglas 1.

Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Tea Area (17)	3-0	105	1		
2. Dell Rapids	(5)	4-0	93	2	
3. Madison	-	2-2	43	3	
4. Canton	-	1-2	31	5	
5. Dakota Valley	-	2-2	28	RV	

Others receiving votes: West Central 21, Milbank 5, Sioux Falls Christian 4.

Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Winner (17)	4-0	104	1		
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	(4)	5-0	92	2	
3. Sioux Valley	-	4-1	60	4	
4. McCook Central-Montrose	-	3-1	29	3	
5. St. Thomas More	-	3-1	25	5	

Receiving votes: Mobridge-Pollock (1) 19, Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 1.

Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Viborg-Hurley (22)	4-0	110	1		
2. Lemon-McIntosh	-	4-0	86	2	
3. Hamlin	-	5-0	59	3	
4. Platte-Geddes	-	4-0	48	4	
5. Hanson	-	4-0	12	RV	

Others receiving votes: Baltic 8, Deuel 7.

Class 9A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Howard (21)	4-0	109	1		
2. Canistota-Freeman	-	4-1	87	2	

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3. Warner (1)	4-0	57	3
4. De Smet -	4-1	44	4
5. Gregory -	3-1	17	5

Others receiving votes: Wall 11, Philip 2, Ipswich-Edmunds Central 2, Britton-Hecla 1.
Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Wolsey-Wessington	(1)	4-0	109	1
2. Langford Area (1)		4-1	77	4
3. Colman-Egan -		2-1	40	2
4. Dell Rapids St. Mary	-	3-2	37	T5
5. Herreid-Selby Area	-	4-1	27	RV

Others receiving votes: Kadoka Area 25, Alcester-Hudson 15. ✕

Noem calls special session to address use of stimulus funds

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Monday called for a special session of the legislature to figure out a plan to spend more than \$1 billion in federal funds the state has received to help deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

The Republican governor's administration has spent about \$114 million of the \$1.25 billion in federal funds allocated to the state. Noem earlier this month mapped out a plan to spend the bulk of the money, but some House members said lawmakers should be included in the decision.

Barring an extension, the state has until the end of December to expend the remainder of the funds. Noem said in a release that her team has already "spent many hours" talking to lawmakers and the general public about the best use of the money.

"I look forward to hearing from the entire legislature in its official capacity," she said.

Noem has proposed up to \$400 million in small business grants and up to \$100 million in grants to community-based healthcare providers.

State health officials on Monday reported 173 new positive tests for COVID-19, for a total of 18,869 cases. The state ranks second in the country for new cases per capita in the last two weeks, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

Sanford Health receives Department of Defense award

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health said Monday it's one of 15 recipients of the U.S. Department of Defense's award for supporting employees involved in the military.

There were more than 2,600 organizations nominated for this year's Employer Support Freedom Award. The honor, according to Sanford, is intended to recognize employers who "provide exceptional support" to workers in the National Guard and Reserve.

"Sanford Health is very proud to support the members of our armed services and the military veterans of this great nation," President and CEO Kelby Krabbenhoft said in a statement. "To be recognized for our efforts by the Department of Defense is a truly humbling honor. It must also be said that Sanford Health supports the military and our veterans because it is the right thing to do, not for the accolades."

The Sioux Falls-based health care system has a department of veterans and military services dedicated to improving how it handles health care for veterans and how it supports military members.

Stanley County School District moves to distance learning

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Stanley County School District is moving all classes to distance learning beginning Tuesday because of the coronavirus.

Classes Monday have been canceled and students have been directed to pick up textbooks and electronic devices, according to district officials.

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Superintendent Daniel Hoey said the reason for the change is due to "staff exposure and subsequent quarantining," KCCR reported.

Traditional classes for junior kindergarten through 12 grade are to resume Oct. 1. The district has an enrollment of about 400 students.

As of Sunday, there are seven active coronavirus cases in Stanley County, according to the state health department. By comparison, Hughes County across the Missouri River, has 153 active cases.

Pierre High School, located nearly 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) from Stanley County High, canceled classes last Friday after roughly 15 high school students tested positive for COVID-19 and at least 150 others were asked to quarantine.

Stanley County also announced Sunday that all extra-curricular activities will be suspended while the school is in distance learning.

UK's Johnson slams brakes on reopening as COVID cases surge

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has slammed the brakes on the country's return to offices, saying people should work from home if possible, to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Johnson on Tuesday announced a package of new restrictions, including a requirement for pubs, restaurants and other venues in England to close between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

He said Britain was at a "perilous turning point" and had to act now.

People will have to wear face-coverings in taxis, as well as public transport. The size of gatherings is being curtailed, with weddings limited to 15 people instead of 30. A plan to bring spectators back to sports stadiums starting in October is being put on hold.

The British government is also increasing the penalties for breaking the rules.

The announcement comes a day after the British government's top scientific and medical advisers said coronavirus infections were doubling every seven days and could rise to 49,000 a day by mid-October if nothing is done to stem the tide.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to announce new restrictions on social interactions Tuesday as the government tries to slow the spread of COVID-19 before it spirals out of control.

Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove told Sky News that pubs and restaurants across England will be ordered to close at 10 p.m. and people who can work from home will be encouraged to do so, reversing a government drive to get people back to their offices and other places of employment.

Gove said reducing "social mixing" was key to slowing the spread of the virus. He said it was impossible to say how long the restrictions would be in place.

"What we hope is we can take appropriate steps now, which mean that if we succeed in beating back the virus, then we will in the future be able to progressively relax them," Gove told the BBC. "But what I can't do is predict with absolute certainty."

The prime minister is set to release further details when he speaks to the House of Commons at around 12:30 p.m. (1130 GMT) after meeting the Cabinet and the government's COBRA emergency committee. He will later deliver a televised address to the nation.

Plans to have spectators return to sports stadiums are also likely to be put on hold as part of the new restrictions.

The news comes a day after the British government's top scientific and medical advisers said coronavirus infections were doubling every seven days and could rise to 49,000 a day by mid-October if nothing is done to stem the tide. On Monday, the government reported 4,300 new confirmed cases, the highest number since May.

The U.K. has gradually been increasing restrictions as cases rise, including barring people from meeting in large groups. But the measures are likely to be far less stringent than a nationwide lockdown imposed in March that confined most of the population and closed most businesses. The lockdown was eased

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starting in June as cases began to fall, but that trend has now been reversed.

Some lawmakers from the governing Conservative Party are uneasy about the move to tighten restrictions on business and daily life, citing the impact on an already-reeling economy and the curbing of civil liberties.

Employers and workers in hospitality businesses are also concerned.

Kate Nicholls, chief executive of trade body UKHospitality said the planned restrictions were "another crushing blow" for many businesses.

But most epidemiologists believe restrictions are again necessary and worry that what the government plans to announce may not go far enough.

Polls suggest a majority of people in Britain support lockdown measures to contain the virus. But they also show that trust in the government's handling of the pandemic has declined after troubles with testing, mixed messages on reopening and the U.K.'s high death toll.

Jennifer Cole, a biological anthropologist at Royal Holloway University, said people's behavior was "the biggest influence" on the spread of the virus.

"Most people know how to prevent spread and, most importantly, how to prevent spread around older or more vulnerable friends and relatives," she said.

"In essence, the government is saying, 'Stay sober, stay sensible and the venues can stay open.' It's a carrot to encourage responsible behavior."

The chief medical officers of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on Monday raised the U.K.'s virus alert from three to four, the second-highest level, on the advice of the Joint Biosecurity Center. They said cases of COVID-19 were rising "rapidly and probably exponentially."

In a live televised briefing, Chief Scientific Officer Patrick Vallance and Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty said after new confirmed cases increasing slowly over the summer, the number is now doubling every seven days.

In other countries, such an increase has soon led to a rise in deaths, Whitty said.

Whitty stressed that infection rates are rising among all age groups, and infections among the young and healthy will inevitably spread to friends, family and ultimately to the most vulnerable in society.

"This is not someone else's problem," he said. "This is all of our problem."

While death rates remain relatively low so far, Whitty warned that deaths are likely to rise. The U.K. reported a seven-day average of 21 deaths a day last week, compared with a peak of 942 deaths on April 10.

To persuade people to stay home if they test positive, the government announced it would pay low-income workers 500 pounds (\$639) if they are told to self-isolate for 14 days. It also said those breaking quarantines could face fines up to 10,000 pounds (\$12,800).

Britain has Europe's highest death toll in the pandemic, with over 41,800 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say all such figures understate the true impact of the pandemic.

The rise in U.K. infection rates comes as lawmakers across the political spectrum have criticized the Conservative government's testing program. While ministers tout the record numbers of tests being performed, there are widespread reports of people having to travel hundreds of miles for tests or tests being voided because it's taking labs too long to process them.

An app meant to bolster virus contact tracing efforts is to be released this week after months of delay.

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

The Latest: Mobile apps to trace virus get mixed reviews

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON — Mobile apps tracing coronavirus cases were touted as a key part of Europe's plan to beat the coronavirus outbreak.

Seven months into the pandemic, virus cases are surging and the apps have not been widely adopted due to privacy concerns, technical problems and lack of interest from the public.

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Britain, Portugal, and Finland this month became the latest to unveil smartphone apps that alert people if they've been near someone who turned out to be infected so they can seek treatment or isolate.

But some countries have scrapped their tracing apps already while others have found so few users that the technology is not very effective.

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

- India confirms 75,000 coronavirus cases, 1,000 deaths in one day
- Madrid may extend virus measures despite outcry
- Mobile apps for tracing coronavirus cases get mixed reviews
- England will order pubs and restaurants to close at 10 p.m. People who can work from home will be encouraged to do so.
- Virus infections and deaths in French nursing homes are on the rise again. Nearly half of the 31,000 people confirmed to have died in France with the virus were nursing home residents.
- The only thing more difficult than staging next year's Tokyo Olympics in a pandemic might be convincing sponsors to keep their billions of dollars on board. Tokyo needs to convince sponsors the Olympics will really happen.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

MADRID — The Spanish capital is poised to extend its restrictions on movement to more neighborhoods due to a surge in new cases in other districts, despite an outcry from residents over discrimination.

Police on Monday deployed to 37 working-class neighborhoods that have seen 14-day transmission rates above 1,000 per 100,000 inhabitants. People are required to justify trips out of those neighborhoods.

Locals complained that the restrictions stigmatize the poor, who often live in more cramped conditions and rely on public transport to get to their jobs.

On Tuesday, 16 more districts exceeded that transmission rate threshold, and Madrid's regional president, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, said the possibility of extending the restrictions was on the table.

Regional vice president Ignacio Aguado said officials are assessing whether health services can cope with the increased cases before deciding on restrictions. "Things aren't going well," he said.

TOKYO — The number of people testing positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 totaled 88 in Tokyo Tuesday, the second straight day that Japan's capital had fewer than 100 cases.

The Tokyo Metropolitan government said Tuesday the current cumulative number for those infected by the coronavirus is 24,394 in Tokyo, 30 of them serious cases.

The drop in cases may be partly caused by the four-day weekend including two national holidays that run through Tuesday, which has people out of town for leisure and not getting tested.

The surge in crowds at airports and shopping malls during the holidays has already raised concern about another spike in cases ahead.

Japan has had about 1,500 COVID-related deaths since the illnesses began late last year, spreading from China.

Across the country, new infections reported Monday totaled 314, including seven cases among incoming passengers at airports, the Health Ministry said Tuesday.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's prime minister has tested negative for the coronavirus after a person working at his office was confirmed to have the virus.

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun's office said Chung underwent the test on Tuesday after one of office's staff was found to have been infected with the virus earlier in the day.

Chung's office said the prime minister hadn't come in contact with the infected official since last Wednesday.

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day.

Officially, Chung is South Korea's No.2 official and he's been playing a leading role in government-led efforts to contain the coronavirus. South Korea's executive power is concentrated in a president but a prime minister leads the country if the president becomes incapacitated.

South Korea added 61 additional coronavirus cases earlier Tuesday, its lowest daily virus tally since mid-August amid a downward trend in fresh infections.

The Catalonia region of Spain is cutting its required quarantine time for people possibly exposed to someone with COVID-19 from 14 days to 10.

France has also reduced its quarantine time, from 14 days to seven, despite warnings last week by the World Health Organization that even slight reductions in the length of the quarantine could have a significant effect on the spread of the virus.

Catalan health secretary Josep Maria Argimon said Tuesday the change will take effect from next week.

He said in an interview with broadcaster TV3 that the briefer quarantine time "carries a risk, but it's a manageable risk." Some studies have indicated that only about half of people quarantined observe the full two-week period.

By Tuesday, Catalonia had officially recorded more than 155,500 cases — an increase of 938 from the previous day.

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will announce new restrictions on social interaction Tuesday as the government tries to slow the spread of the coronavirus before it spirals out of control.

Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove told Sky News that pubs and restaurants across England will be ordered to close at 10 p.m. and people who can work from home will be encouraged to do so, reversing a government drive to get people back to the office.

The prime minister will release further details of the government's plan when he speaks to the House of Commons at 12:30 p.m. BST (11:30 GMT). He will deliver a televised address to the nation at 8 p.m.

The new restrictions come a day after the government's top scientific and medical advisers said virus infections were doubling every seven days and could rise to 49,000 a day by mid-October if nothing is done to stem the tide.

ISLAMABAD — The Pakistani prime minister's health adviser says authorities have begun much-awaited final-phase testing of a Chinese-made vaccine against the coronavirus.

In Tuesday's televised comments, Faisal Sultan, who advises Prime Minister Imran Khan on health issues, said the clinical trials will continue for about 12 weeks.

The latest development comes weeks after Pakistan approved advanced clinical trials for potential vaccines at the country's main health facilities. Pakistan has said the vaccine produced by CanSinoBio, a China-based vaccine developer, and Beijing Institute of Biotechnology will be used during the clinical trials.

NEW DELHI — India on Tuesday confirmed over 75,000 new coronavirus cases and more than 1,000 deaths in the past 24 hours.

With more than 5.5 million cases, India is behind only the United States in total number of confirmed infections. India's death toll from the virus is nearly 89,000.

So far, nearly 76% of the new virus cases are concentrated in 10 states, with Maharashtra in central India accounting for almost a quarter of new infections on Monday.

Daily new infections in India have been hovering around 90,000 for the past few days, but experts point out that testing still varies from state to state. And new surges have been detected in states that had so far been left relatively unscathed by the virus.

The central state of Chhattisgarh, where nearly half the population is poor, has seen the sharpest increase in new infections. The caseload in the state, where the health system is very fragile, has increased

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from around 33,000 in beginning of the month to over 86,000 now. The state government announced a weeklong lockdown of 10 districts on Monday.

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood's unions have announced that they have reached an agreement on pandemic protocols with major studios that will allow the broad resumption of production of films and television after six months of stagnant sets and widespread unemployment.

The Directors Guild of America, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Basic Crafts unions and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists on Monday jointly announced the deal reached with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers after months of planning and negotiating.

The deal includes mandatory and comprehensive use of personal protective gear and testing of cast and crew members, and a dedicated coronavirus supervisor to oversee it all.

It requires the use of a "zone system" that strictly limits interactions between people on sets based on their job's requirements. Those who must deal with more people will be tested more frequently and have more strict protective equipment and spacing requirements. Actors will be tested especially often because their on-camera work won't allow for many protective measures.

The agreement also gives 10 days of paid COVID-19 sick leave per employee, which can be used after positive tests or when quarantine is necessary, and says that employees who use the leave must be reinstated so long as their jobs still exist.

"The protocols pave the way for creative workers, who have been hard hit by the pandemic, to resume their crafts and livelihoods in workplaces redesigned around their health," the unions said in a joint statement.

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas began relaxing some coronavirus restrictions, including allowing restaurants to let more people inside.

Gov. Greg Abbott announced the changes last week. Bars though still remain closed indefinitely and a mask mandate is still in place following a massive summer spread that became one of the deadliest outbreaks in the U.S.

Under the new orders, restaurants and retail shops that until now have only been allowed to operate at half capacity were allowed to open up to 75% starting Monday in most of the state.

The Texas Department of State Health Services on Monday reported 1,742 new coronavirus cases and 24 more deaths due to COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

Health officials say there have been 698,387 reported cases in Texas so far. The death toll is at 14,917.

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut is forming an advisory group to validate the safety of any coronavirus vaccines and how to distribute them to the public, Gov. Ned Lamont said Monday.

Lamont said the goals are to make sure the vaccines are not harmful, the public can have confidence in them and they are distributed with priority going to certain populations such as nursing homes, first responders, schools and colleges while supplies are limited at first.

Lamont cited comments by Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that a vaccine is expected to be widely available by April.

HARRISBURG, Pa. -- Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has vetoed a bill that would give school districts the sole ability to make decisions on sports, including whether and how many spectators to allow.

Lawmakers are planning to vote to try to override the Monday veto.

Legislation that cleared the House and Senate would have empower schools to make their own rules about the number of spectators permitted at games.

Wolf says his gathering limits of no more than 25 people indoors and 250 people outdoors should apply to youth sports to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

WASHINGTON — The White House is urging U.S. governors to put politics aside and help the Trump

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administration promote future coronavirus vaccines as safe and effective.

Vice President Mike Pence urged governors Monday to use their bully pulpits and reassure the public that vaccines will be safe to take after a rigorous vetting process by the Food and Drug Administration.

"What we don't want is people undermining confidence in the process," Pence said in a private call with governors, the audio of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

Trump has escalated his promise for a coronavirus vaccine before Election Day. But Democrats, independents and even some Republicans do not trust the Trump administration to produce a safe and effective vaccine on such an aggressive timeline.

Pence acknowledged the country is in the middle of a heated election season, but stressed that no corners would be cut in approving a vaccine and said his request for support was apolitical.

"I'm leaving the politics outside of the room here," Pence said.

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's president, who has long called for a reform of the United Nations, said the world body has failed in its response to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a televised address following a Cabinet meeting, Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed the UN was late in "accepting the existence" of the pandemic and had failed to "make its presence felt" for nations requiring help to fight infections.

"The UN, which has fallen flat concerning crises from Syria to Yemen, as well as developments in fragile regions of Africa and South America, has also flunked during the pandemic," he said.

His comments came as world leaders mark the 75th anniversary of UN General Assembly this week.

Tropical Storm Beta makes landfall, brings flooding to Texas

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Storm surge and rainfall combined Tuesday to bring more flooding along the Texas coast after Tropical Storm Beta made landfall, threatening areas that have already seen their share of damaging weather during a busy hurricane season.

The storm made landfall late Monday just north of Port O'Connor, Texas. Early Tuesday, Beta was 35 miles (56 kilometers) north northwest of the city with maximum winds of 40 mph (64 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The storm was moving toward the northwest near 3 mph (4 kilometers) and is expected to stall inland over Texas.

"We currently have both storm surge and rainfall going on right now," said National Weather Service meteorologist Amaryllis Cotto in Galveston, Texas.

Cotto said 6-12 inches (15-30 centimeters) of rain has fallen in the area, with isolated amounts of up to 18 inches (45 centimeters). Dangerous flash flooding is expected through Wednesday, Cotto said.

Beta was the ninth named storm that made landfall in the continental U.S. this year. That tied a record set in 1916, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach. It also was the first time a Greek letter named storm made landfall in the continental U.S. Forecasters ran out of traditional storm names on Friday, forcing the use of the Greek alphabet for only the second time since the 1950s.

Beta will move inland over southeastern Texas through Wednesday and then over Louisiana and Mississippi on Wednesday night through Friday, and the biggest unknown from Beta was how much rainfall it could produce. Beta was expected to weaken into a depression, but flash flooding was possible in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi as the system moves farther inland.

Earlier predictions of up to 20 inches (51 centimeters) in some areas were downgraded Monday to up to 15 inches (38 centimeters).

Forecasters and officials reassured residents Beta was not expected to be another Hurricane Harvey or Tropical Storm Imelda. Harvey in 2017 dumped more than 50 inches (127 centimeters) of rain on Houston, causing \$125 billion in damage in Texas. Imelda, which hit Southeast Texas last year, was one of the

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wettest cyclones on record.

Storm surge up to 4 feet (1.2 meters) was possible in the Galveston and Beaumont areas through Wednesday morning, forecasters said. In Galveston, an island city southeast of Houston, there was already some street flooding Monday from rising tides and part of a popular fishing pier collapsed due to strong waves.

Farther south on the Texas coast, Maria Serrano Culpepper along with her two daughters and dogs left their home in Magnolia Beach near Matagorda Bay on Sunday night.

Culpepper said she didn't want to be trapped in her home, three blocks from the beach, with wind, rain and possibly no electricity. She and her family evacuated to a friend's home in nearby Victoria.

Culpepper said her home should be fine as it's on stilts 13 feet (4 meters) off the ground and was built to withstand strong storms.

"I'm feeling OK now. I had two nights without sleeping because I was worried about (Beta) being a Category 1 hurricane. I calmed down when the storm lost power," said Culpepper, who works as an engineer at a nearby chemical plant.

On Monday, Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 29 Texas counties ahead of Beta's arrival.

Beta is forecast to dump heavy rain on the southwestern corner of Louisiana three weeks after the same area got pounded by Hurricane Laura. The rainfall and storm surge prompted Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards to declare a state of emergency.

In Lake Charles, Mayor Nic Hunter worried about Beta's rainfall could set back efforts in his Louisiana community to recover after Laura, which damaged about 95% of the city's 30,000 structures. Hunter said the worry of another storm was "an emotional and mental toll for a lot of our citizens."

Parts of the Alabama coast and Florida Panhandle were still reeling from Hurricane Sally, which roared ashore Wednesday, causing at least two deaths.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Teddy continued its path toward Canada, with a predicted landfall in Nova Scotia early Wednesday before moving into Newfoundland on Wednesday night, forecasters said. The large and powerful storm was causing dangerous rip currents along the U.S. East Coast, and tropical storm conditions were expected to begin in Nova Scotia by Tuesday afternoon, the National Hurricane Center said.

Teddy was about 435 miles (695 kilometers) south of Halifax, Nova Scotia, early Tuesday with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (155 kph). Teddy was expected to weaken later Tuesday and Wednesday but forecasters said it would likely be a strong, post-tropical cyclone when it moves in and over Nova Scotia.

Associated Press reporters Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland, and Janet McConnaughey and Rebecca Santana in New Orleans and Julie Walker in New York City contributed to this report.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

Who's a hypocrite? GOP, Dems debate past comments on court

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The "H" word — hypocrisy — is suddenly in vogue at the Capitol as lawmakers debate how quickly to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court following the death of liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has vowed that President Donald Trump's as-yet unnamed nominee will receive a vote on the Senate floor "this year," but has been careful not to say exactly when that will happen.

Democrats accuse the Kentucky Republican of blatant hypocrisy after McConnell refused to consider President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, eight months before the 2016 election.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer took to the Senate floor Monday to remind McConnell of his own words hours after the February 2016 death of conservative Justice Antonin Scalia. "The American people," McConnell said then, "should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court justice."

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The vacancy created by Scalia's death should not be filled until the election of a new president, he added.

"No amount of sophistry can change what McConnell said then, and it applies even more so now — so much closer we are to an election," Schumer said Monday.

But McConnell said it is Democrats who are being hypocritical. What Republicans did in 2016 — blocking a nominee of the opposing party — was "precisely what Democrats had indicated they would do themselves" when they were in the majority, McConnell said in his own floor speech Monday. He and other Republicans cited a 1992 speech by then-Sen. Joe Biden — now the Democratic nominee for president — indicating that a vacancy occurring in an election year should not be filled.

Biden, Schumer and other Democrats flip-flopped in 2016, in McConnell's telling, because they urged the Senate to act on Obama's nominee.

McCONNELL IN 2016

McConnell stunned the political world in 2016 with his declaration that the Senate would not consider a replacement for Scalia until after the presidential election nearly nine months away. While daring, McConnell said his action was justified by history.

"Remember that the Senate has not filled a vacancy arising in an election year when there was divided government since 1888, almost 130 years ago," he declared again and again that year, frequently citing what Republicans called the "Biden Rule." That "rule" — never adopted in any formal sense by the Senate — urged the Senate to delay action on a Supreme Court vacancy until after the presidential election.

"President Obama was asking Senate Republicans for an unusual favor that had last been granted nearly 130 years prior. But voters had explicitly elected our majority to check and balance the end of his presidency. So we stuck with the historical norm," McConnell said Monday as he recounted past fights over the Supreme Court.

2019 McCONNELL STATEMENT

By 2019, with Trump in office and a continued GOP Senate majority, McConnell said Senate action on a court opening close to the election would not be an issue. "Yes, we would certainly confirm a new justice if we had that opportunity," he told talk show host Hugh Hewitt in December. "And we're going to continue, obviously, to fill the circuit and district court vacancies as they occur right up until the end of next year."

The main difference? Unlike 2016, when the White House and Senate were controlled by different parties, both are now under Republican control, McConnell said.

"I'd also remind everybody what I just told you, which is the Senate is of the same party as the president of the United States," McConnell told Fox News in February of this year. "And in that situation we would confirm" a new justice.

Schumer wasn't buying it. He cited a 2016 op-ed co-written by McConnell imploring that the American people be given the opportunity to "weigh in on whom they trust to nominate the next person for a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court."

"Now these words don't apply?" Schumer asked. "It doesn't pass the smell test in any way. No wonder Leader McConnell was so defensive in his comments."

Schumer and other Democrats urged McConnell to abide by his own standard. "What's fair is fair. A senator's word must count for something," Schumer said.

But McConnell, in his speech, said that at a time when "the American people have elected a Senate majority to work closely with the sitting president, the historical record is even more overwhelming — in favor of confirmation."

Eight times in the nation's history vacancies have arisen during an election year when the White House and Senate were controlled by the same party. Seven of those times the justice was confirmed. The sole exception was in 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson tried to elevate Justice Abe Fortas to become chief justice. The nomination faced a filibuster due in part to ethics problems that later led Fortas to resign from the court.

"Apart from that one strange exception, no Senate has failed to confirm a nominee in the circumstances that face us now," McConnell said.

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"The American people reelected our majority in 2016 and strengthened it further in 2018 because we pledged to work with President Trump on the most critical issues facing our country. The federal judiciary was right at the top of that list," he said.

On that final point — the importance of the judiciary — Schumer agreed.

"That's what this (fight) is all about," he said. "All the rights enshrined in our Constitution that are supposed to be protected by the Supreme Court of the United States" are at stake.

"The right to join a union, marry who you love, freely exercise your right to vote ... (and) proper health care. If you care about these things and the kind of country we live in, this election — and this vacancy — mean everything," Schumer said.

Road to Saudi ties with Israel being paved, cautiously

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia, the most powerful Arab nation and home to Islam's holiest sites, has made its official position on the region's longest-running conflict clear: Full ties between the kingdom and Israel can only happen when peace is reached with the Palestinians.

Yet state-backed Saudi media and clerics are signaling change is already underway with Israel — something that can only happen under the directives of the country's powerful heir, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The divergent messages on the possibility of Saudi ties with Israel reflect what analysts and insiders say is a schism between how the 35-year-old prince and his 84-year-old father, King Salman, view national interests.

"It's no secret there's a generational conflict," said New York-based Rabbi Marc Schneier, who serves as an advisor to Bahrain's king and has held talks in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries to promote stronger ties with Jews and Israel.

Gulf capitals have been increasingly looking to Israel as an ally to defend against common rival Iran amid quiet concerns about the direction of U.S. foreign policy and the uncertainty around the upcoming presidential election. But it's not only countering Iran that's brought Israel and Arab states closer in recent years.

The rabbi said the former Saudi ambassador to the U.S., Prince Khalid bin Salman, told him that the top priority of his brother, the crown prince, is reforming the Saudi economy.

"He said these exact words: 'We will not be able to succeed without Israel.' So for the Saudis, it's not a question of 'if,' it's a question of 'when.' And there's no doubt that they will establish relations with Israel," Schneier said.

Prominent Saudi royal, Prince Turki al-Faisal, insists "any talk of a rift between the king and the crown prince is mere speculation."

"We've seen none of that," said the prince, who served for years as head of intelligence and briefly as ambassador to the U.S.

Analysts and observers say Saudi Arabia is unlikely to formalize ties with Israel as long as King Salman wields power. While the king has handed off day-to-day control of Saudi affairs to his son, he has stepped in on occasion to intervene and even push back with statements in support of the Palestinians.

In a phone call with President Donald Trump on Sept. 6, King Salman repeated his commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative, according to the state-run Saudi Press Agency. The initiative offers Israel normal ties with Arab states in return for Palestinian statehood on territory Israel captured in 1967 — a deal that starkly contradicts the Trump administration's Middle East peace plan.

Still, the crown prince has bucked tradition with an unprecedented assertiveness. Prince Mohammed is also eager to reset ties with the U.S. in the aftermath of the killing of Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

When the White House announced last month the United Arab Emirates and Israel agreed to establish full diplomatic ties — a move matched by Bahrain weeks later — Saudi Arabia refrained from criticizing the deal or hosting summits condemning the decision, despite Palestinian requests to do so.

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The Palestinians have slammed the agreements as a "betrayal of Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinian cause," but government-controlled Saudi media hailed them as historic and good for regional peace.

The kingdom also approved the use of Saudi airspace for Israeli flights to the UAE, a decision announced the day after Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, met with Prince Mohammed in Riyadh. Kushner has been pushing Arab states to normalize ties with Israel.

Prince Mohammed was quoted in *The Atlantic* during his most recent visit to the U.S. in April 2018 saying Israel is a big economy and "there are a lot of interests we share with Israel." He said Palestinians and Israelis have the right to their own land, before adding there has to be a peace agreement to assure stability and to have normal relations.

His comments were interpreted as support for the eventual establishment of full ties between the kingdom and Israel, which would annihilate what's left of the Arab consensus that recognition of Israel can only come after the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Most telling, however, was the Sept. 11 announcement that the tiny-island nation of Bahrain was establishing ties with Israel. Analysts say the move could not have happened without Saudi approval.

It strongly suggested Saudi Arabia is open to the idea of formal ties with Israel, said Hussein Ibish, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.

"It tells me they are willing to look at this themselves in the future, possibly," he said. "There is a sense that this might be a very good move for Saudi Arabia, but they don't want it to be an expression of Saudi weakness. They want to make sure it's an expression of or a contributor to Saudi strength."

Prince Turki says Arab states should demand a high price for normalizing ties with Israel. He said Israel remains "the stumbling block in all of these efforts."

"My view is that if you take a sounding now of Saudi positions on Palestine ... you see more than 90% of the population as supporting the official position of Saudi Arabia that there must be a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital," Prince Turki told *The Associated Press*.

Raghida Dergham, a longtime Arab columnist and co-chair with Prince Turki of the Beirut Institute Summit in Abu Dhabi, said younger generations in the Middle East want normality rather than a confiscation of ambitions and dreams.

"They want solutions not a perpetuation of rejection," said Dergham, whose Beirut Institute e-policy circles have tackled questions about the future of the region and its youth.

When the UAE-Israel deal was announced in August, the top trending hashtag on Twitter in Saudi Arabia was against normalization with Israel. Still, public criticism in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain has largely been muted, in part because these governments suppress free speech.

"It is very hard to get accurate data, even when polling people," said Yasmine Farouk, a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Farouk said public opinion on Israel in Saudi Arabia is diverse and complex, with opinions varying among different age groups and among liberals and conservatives. She said there is an effort to prepare the Saudi public for change and to shape public debate around Israel.

As Saudi Arabia prepares to mark its 90th National Day on Wednesday, clerics across the country were directed to deliver sermons about the importance of obeying the ruler to preserve unity and peace.

Earlier this month, the imam of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Sheikh Abdul Rahman al-Sudais, delivered another state-backed sermon on the importance of dialogue in international relations and kindness to non-Muslims, specifically mentioning Jews.

He concluded by saying the Palestinian cause must not be forgotten, but his words caused a stir on social media, with many seeing the remarks as further evidence of the groundwork being laid for Saudi-Israeli ties.

The English-language Saudi daily, *Arab News*, which has been featuring op-eds by rabbis, changed its social media banner on Twitter this past Friday to say "Shana Tova," the Jewish New Year greeting.

Follow Aya Batrawy on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ayaelb.

As rich nations struggle, Africa's virus response is praised

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — At a lecture to peers this month, John Nkengasong showed images that once dogged Africa, with a magazine cover declaring it “The Hopeless Continent.” Then he quoted Ghana’s first president, Kwame Nkrumah: “It is clear that we must find an African solution to our problems, and that this can only be found in African unity.”

The coronavirus pandemic has fractured global relationships. But as director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Nkengasong has helped to steer Africa’s 54 countries into an alliance praised as responding better than some richer countries, including the United States.

A former U.S. CDC official, he modeled Africa’s version after his ex-employer. Nkengasong is pained to see the U.S. agency struggle. In an interview with The Associated Press, he didn’t name U.S. President Donald Trump but cited “factors we all know.”

While the U.S. nears 200,000 COVID-19 deaths and the world approaches 1 million, Africa’s surge has been leveling off. Its 1.4 million confirmed cases are far from the horrors predicted. Antibody testing is expected to show many more infections, but most cases are asymptomatic. Just over 34,000 deaths are confirmed on the continent of 1.3 billion people.

“Africa is doing a lot of things right the rest of the world isn’t,” said Gayle Smith, a former administrator with the U.S. Agency for International Development. She’s watched in astonishment as Washington looks inward instead of leading the world. But Africa “is a great story and one that needs to be told.”

Nkengasong, whom the Gates Foundation honors Tuesday with its Global Goalkeeper Award as a “relentless proponent of global collaboration,” is the continent’s most visible narrator. The Cameroon-born virologist insists that Africa can stand up to COVID-19 if given a fighting chance.

Early modeling assumed “a large number of Africans would just die,” Nkengasong said. The Africa CDC decided not to issue projections. “When I looked at the data and the assumptions, I wasn’t convinced,” he said.

Health experts point to Africa’s youthful population as a factor in why COVID-19 hasn’t taken a larger toll, along with swift lockdowns and the later arrival of the virus.

“Be patient,” Nkengasong said. “There’s a lot we still don’t know.”

He warns against complacency, saying a single case can spark a new surge.

As Africa’s top public health official, leading an agency launched only three years ago, he plunged into the race for medical supplies and now a vaccine. At first, it was a shock.

“The collapse of global cooperation and a failure of international solidarity have shoved Africa out of the diagnostics market,” Nkengasong wrote in the journal *Nature* in April. “If Africa loses, the world loses.”

Supplies slowly improved, and African countries have conducted 13 million tests, enough to cover 1% of the continent’s population. But the ideal is 13 million tests per month, Nkengasong said.

He and other African leaders are haunted by the memories of 12 million Africans dying during the decade it took for affordable HIV drugs to reach the continent. That must not happen again, he said.

This week, more world leaders than ever are gathering online for the biggest global endeavor since COVID-19 appeared, the United Nations General Assembly. If Nkengasong could address them, he would say this: “We should be very careful that history doesn’t record us on the wrong side of it.”

African leaders are expected to say much the same. “The COVID-19 pandemic has shown we have no option but to depend on each other,” Ghana’s president, Nana Akufo-Addo, told the gathering on Monday.

Nkengasong urges African countries not to wait for help and rejects the image of the continent holding a begging bowl. The money is there, he said.

Acting on that idea, Africa’s public and private sectors created an online purchasing platform to focus their negotiating power, launched by the African Union to buy directly from manufacturers. Governments can browse and buy rapid testing kits, N95 masks and ventilators, some now manufactured in Africa in

another campaign endorsed by heads of state.

Impressed, Caribbean countries have signed on.

"It's the only part of the world I'm aware of that actually built a supply chain," said Smith, the former USAID chief.

When the pandemic began, just two African countries could test for the coronavirus. Now all can. Nkengasong was struck by how much information "doesn't get translated" to member states, so the Africa CDC holds online training on everything from safely handling bodies to genomic surveillance.

"I look at Africa and I look at the U.S., and I'm more optimistic about Africa, to be honest, because of the leadership there and doing their best despite limited resources," said Sema Sgaier, director of the Surgo Foundation, which produced a COVID-19 vulnerability index for each region. She spoke even as Africa's cases were surging weeks ago.

With COVID-19 vaccines the next urgent issue, African countries held a conference to insist on equitable access and explore manufacturing to end their almost complete reliance on the outside world. They began securing the late-stage clinical trials that long have been held outside the continent, aiming to land 10 as soon as possible.

Nkengasong said Africa needs at least 1.5 billion vaccine doses, enough to cover 60% of the population for "herd immunity" with the two likely required doses. That will cost about \$10 billion.

The World Health Organization says Africa should receive at least 220 million doses through an international effort to develop and distribute a vaccine known as COVAX.

That's welcome but not enough, Nkengasong said.

His next hurdle is how to deliver doses throughout the vast continent with the world's worst infrastructure. Less than half of Africa's countries have access to modern health care facilities, he said.

COVID-19's effects are "devastating" for Africa, from education to economies to the fight against other diseases. Nkengasong plans a major conference next year to press countries to significantly increase health spending ahead of the next pandemic.

"If we do not," he said, "something is terribly wrong with us."

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

Trump interviews Barrett while weighing a high court nominee

By LISA MASCARO, ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump met with Judge Amy Coney Barrett at the White House as the conservative jurist emerged as a favorite to replace the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court, the start of a monumental Senate confirmation fight over objections from Democrats it's too close to the November election.

Trump said Monday he expects to announce his choice by week's end, before the burial next week of Ginsburg, the court's liberal icon, at Arlington National Cemetery. Democrats but few Republicans argue that her replacement should be decided by the winner on Nov. 3.

The president told reporters he would interview other candidates and might meet with Judge Barbara Lagoa when he travels to Florida later this week. Conversations in the White House and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office have been increasingly focused on Barrett and Lagoa, according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private deliberations.

Barrett has long been favored by conservatives, and those familiar with the process said interest inside the White House seemed to be waning for Lagoa amid concerns by some that she did not have a proven record as a conservative jurist. Lagoa has been pushed by some aides who tout her political advantages of being Hispanic and hailing from the key political battleground state of Florida.

Barrett, 48, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, was a strong contender for the seat that eventually went to Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. At the time, Trump told confidants he was "saving"

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Barrett for Ginsburg's seat.

Before joining the 7th Circuit, she had made her mark in law primarily as an academic at the University of Notre Dame, where she received a law degree and later began teaching at age 30. She clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, clerked at the Supreme Court for Justice Antonin Scalia, worked at the Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin law firm in Washington, D.C., then returned to Notre Dame.

Barrett has long expressed sympathy with a mode of interpreting the Constitution, called originalism, in which justices try to decipher original meanings of texts in deciding cases. Many liberals say that approach doesn't allow the Constitution to change with the times.

Trump has said he would choose a woman, and he admitted that politics may play a role. He gave a nod to another election battleground state, Michigan, and White House officials confirmed he was referring to Joan Larsen, a federal appeals court judge there.

The president also indicated that Allison Jones Rushing, a 38-year-old appellate judge from North Carolina, is on his short list. His team is also actively considering Kate Todd, the White House deputy counsel who has never been a judge but was a clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas.

Democrats, led by presidential nominee Joe Biden, are protesting the Republicans' rush to replace Ginsburg, saying voters should speak first, on Election Day, and the winner of the White House should fill the vacancy.

Trump dismissed those arguments, telling TV's "Fox & Friends" on Monday, "I think that would be good for the Republican Party, and I think it would be good for everybody to get it over with."

The mounting clash over the vacant seat — when to fill it and with whom — injects new turbulence in the presidential campaign with the nation still reeling from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed nearly 200,000 Americans, left millions unemployed and heightened partisan tensions and anger.

Up until now, the race has been largely a referendum on how Trump has managed or mismanaged the COVID-19 pandemic.

Democrats point to hypocrisy in Republicans trying to rush through a pick so close to the election after McConnell led the GOP in refusing to vote on a nominee of President Barack Obama in February 2016, long before that year's election. Biden is appealing to GOP senators to "uphold your constitutional duty, your conscience" and wait until after the election.

Ginsburg, 87, died Friday of metastatic pancreatic cancer. She will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol this week, the first woman ever accorded that honor. First, her casket is to be on view midweek on the steps of the high court.

Trump said he is planning to name his pick by Friday or Saturday, ahead of the first presidential election debate. With just over a month before the election, McConnell said the Senate has "more than sufficient time."

No nominee has won confirmation so quickly since Sandra Day O'Connor — with no opposition from either party — became the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court in 1981.

Both sides are mobilizing for a wrenching confirmation fight punctuated by crucial issues before the court — healthcare, abortion access and even the potential outcome of the coming presidential election. Some protesters showed up early Monday morning outside the homes of key GOP senators.

At a Trump rally later Monday in Ohio, people chanted, "Fill the seat!"

As the Senate returned to Washington on Monday, several key GOP senators, including Mitt Romney of Utah, declined to say whether they would agree to a swift vote.

Four Republicans could halt a quick confirmation and Trump criticized Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska for opposing a vote before elections. The president warned they would be "very badly hurt" by voters.

Others, including GOP Sens. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Cory Gardner of Colorado, declined to join in opposing the president's plan.

Trump went so far as to disparage reports that Ginsburg had told her granddaughter it was her wish

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that a replacement justice not be confirmed until the inauguration of a new president. With no evidence — just “it sounds to me like” — he suggested the wish came from his political foes including Rep. Adam Schiff, the House Intelligence Committee chairman.

Schiff said Trump sank to a new “low” with that comment. He said he had nothing to do with Ginsburg’s dying wish but would “fight like hell to make it come true.”

A day earlier, Biden appealed to Republicans to join Murkowski and Collins in opposing a confirmation vote before the Nov. 3 election. He said, “Let the people speak. Cool the flames that have engulfed our country.”

On Monday, Biden focused on joblessness and the pandemic rather than the court vacancy as he campaigned in Wisconsin, aligning himself with the country’s workers, especially those who voted for Trump in 2016 after having backed Obama and himself four years earlier.

He said of the COVID-19 deaths, which many Democrats say Trump has done too little to stop, “I worry we’re risking becoming numb to the toll that it has taken on us and our country and communities like this.”

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer objected to what he called McConnell’s “utterly craven” pursuit of Supreme Court confirmation under current circumstances, warning it would shatter Senate norms. “It’s enough to make your head explode,” he said.

Biden and his team are working closely with Democratic leaders in Congress, and he has spoken with Schumer.

Jaffe reported from Philadelphia. Lemire reported from New York. Laurie Kellman, Mark Sherman, Kevin Freking and Mike Balsamo in Washington, Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

Campus outbreak brings uncertainty to San Diego’s reopening

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The start of the semester at San Diego State University was, as always, a time for students to make and renew friendships on and off its urban campus and enjoy the beach and the city’s unmatched August weather.

The coronavirus meant far fewer people returned to campus this year but the parties, cookouts and other festivities that mark the start of the fall semester went on as usual for a week or two, then abruptly stopped as infections quickly mounted.

James Floyd, a freshman from Davis, California, noticed a mood change when classmates began getting tested. “Once a friend got it, they got scared,” he said.

There have been larger outbreaks at U.S. colleges but none may be more impactful than the one at San Diego State.

California has seen remarkable recent success with the virus — the infection rate of 2.8% for the last week is the lowest since the pandemic began, and hospitalizations dropped to a level not seen since the first week of April. But the campus outbreak may put San Diego County over a state threshold for cases that mandates many businesses close or restrict indoor operations.

For some, it would mark the third closure since California instituted the nation’s first statewide shutdown order in March.

It is a dizzying and discouraging turn of events for the county of 3.3 million residents that less than a month ago was the only one in Southern California with virus case numbers low enough to advance to a second level in the state’s four-tiered system for reopening.

The county argued that San Diego State cases — which have topped 800 among students — should be excluded from state tallies, like prisons are. Gov. Gavin Newsom rejected the proposal before it was even formally delivered.

“You can’t isolate as if it’s on an island, a campus community that is part of a larger community, so the answer is no,” Newsom said last week.

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Jon and Angie Weber said they won't comply with orders to stop serving patrons inside their restaurant. They closed their Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop in downtown San Diego on March 17 for three months, laying off all but one of 55 employees. A June reopening lasted 19 days until cases began spiking again in California and Newsom ordered another round of closures.

When San Diego businesses got permission last month to open more indoor operations with restrictions — 25% indoor capacity for restaurants — the Webers waited two weeks to train staff on sanitation measures and revamp its seasonal menu. When they opened Sept. 15, they learned the same day they would likely have to pull back again in a week unless there was a dramatic turnaround in San Diego.

California uses two metrics for its 58 counties: percentage of positive tests and per capita new cases. Each of the four tiers for reopening include ranges for those categories and a county must meet both for two consecutive weeks before advancing to a higher tier. If they fail on one or both counts for two weeks, they are bumped to a more restrictive tier.

San Diego's infection rate is low enough to advance to another tier but its per capita cases of 7.9 for every 100,000 people in weekly figures announced Sept. 15 is above the rate of 7 needed to stay put. Without San Diego State, the rate would have dropped to 6, according to county officials.

If San Diego's case rate registers above 7 again when weekly figures are announced Tuesday, restaurants could still seat outdoors and do takeout in a lower tier.

Cowboy Star doesn't have room for sidewalk service. "It's demoralizing to open and close, open and close, hire and fire, hire and fire," Jon Weber said.

The Webers say they have exhausted savings and can't survive another closure. Without the restaurant they opened in 2008, they are unable to pay home loans.

"This is our life," Jon Weber said. "To walk away from it would be nearly impossible. It would be like walking away from your child."

The Webers, whose restaurant is 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the San Diego State campus, are upset with the governor, not the university.

It's difficult to overstate the school's stature in San Diego with its 300-acre (741-hectare) campus atop Montezuma Mesa and alumni that permeate every fabric of the city, including two recent mayors, baseball Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn and countless political and business figures.

San Diego State began classes Aug 24 with about 8,000 of more than 35,000 students living on campus or taking at least one in-person class. About 2,400 students also lived on campus, roughly one-third the usual level.

When new cases topped 80 for four straight days, the school suspended in-person classes for four weeks starting Sept. 3. Dorms were locked down.

"The idea here was to really ratchet back the amount of housing available to students," said Adela de la Torre, San Diego State president. "We also wanted to be very, very clear that our classes would be virtual at a moment's notice if we saw a spike at all. That's exactly what we did."

San Diego is one of only two schools in the 23-campus California State system that had to pull back on in-person classes after they began. De la Torre says that's because its students tend to live on or near campus, in contrast to the system's many commuter schools.

About 75% of San Diego State cases originated in off-campus housing, where rents are high and it's not unusual for three or four people to share a bathroom, she said.

De la Torre said state authorities might consider hospitalization rates as a measurement for reopening, noting only one San Diego State student was hospitalized — briefly.

The Daily Aztec student newspaper credited administrators for a "measured" approach that included free testing and mandated masks on campus. Fraternity leaders banned in-person events before the semester began. The newspaper said a "smart reopening" once appeared possible.

"The start of the semester has made it abundantly clear that besides bringing 2,600 socially-starved 18 to 20-year-olds back to campus, the administration's biggest failure was assuming students could handle that much responsibility," the newspaper editorialized Sept. 1. "In real-time, we see the consequences of this miscalculation playing out: large groups of students partying, not wearing masks and cases on the rise."

Miles Crawford, a junior, stayed in his campus apartment when classes resumed last month and is growing frustrated by the lockdown. The music major plans a year off if in-person learning doesn't fully resume by next fall.

"Patience is growing thin," said Crawford, 22. "We're just trying to have the regular college experience."

UN diplomacy goes impersonal, but what's lost along the way?

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

Each year, for nearly seven decades, the spectacle has unfolded in grand and scripted fashion: Leader after world leader striding to the podium inside the colossal U.N. General Assembly chamber to uncork carefully calibrated speeches, posture publicly and speak the language of statecraft.

And each year, in the hallways of the United Nations and the hotels that surround it, intensive doses of more intimate, more genuine diplomacy take place in quiet conversations, in small bilateral meetings, in one-on-one huddles that gestate subtle understanding and, sometimes, even prevent wars.

This year, the spectacle part is still happening — remotely this time, on video, in prerecorded fashion, far from the madding diplomatic crowd. But because of the coronavirus pandemic, that other, more personal part of U.N. diplomacy is silently, deafeningly absent.

With it disappears something intangible but vital to the art of nations getting along: the in-person human touch. This is a time when it would really help the world to be able to talk to itself. And this week, on the socially distanced grounds of the United Nations, it can't.

"When you think about the U.N., that's the essence of it. In order for the game to work, you have to have empathy. You have to treat each other diplomatically. What does that look like when you remove the actual humanity from it?" wonders David Sax, author of "The Revenge of Analog: Real Things and Why They Matter."

At the General Assembly's yearly high-level "meeting" of leaders this week, the U.N.'s halls will be mostly empty. On the chamber's floor, delegations will be limited to one person for each of the U.N.'s 193 member nations. The giant screens will be full — of far-off leaders who took no planes to convene but, instead, recorded messages in the safety and isolation of their home countries and their offices.

"I expect not very much, to be honest," says Richard Gowan, U.N. director for Crisis Group. "The idea that prime ministers and presidents are going to be sitting at home with a bucket of popcorn watching each other's televised speeches is a bit silly."

Pandemic-era diplomatic gatherings might be safer, less expensive, less logistically challenging. They might even be more efficient; we'll get a glimpse of that by week's end.

What they are not, however, is intimate and nuanced and filled with serendipitous opportunities for breakthroughs.

"There's subtlety that's lost, and you also lose the potential to explore ways of resolving issues," says Jeff Rathke, who was director of the U.S. State Department press office in 2014-15 and, before that, deputy chief of staff to the NATO secretary-general in Brussels.

"We're stuck with the mannered set pieces, and we're deprived of all the lubrication or cushioning that goes on around all those things," says Rathke, now president of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies. "It makes the system in some ways more brittle, because you don't have that cushioning that diplomacy usually provides."

This week at the United Nations — or, more accurately, NOT at the United Nations — is both a dramatic expression of, and a microcosm of, what many people have been dealing with in the months since COVID-19 began shutting down or restricting great swaths of civilization.

As many retreated into homes, and those fortunate enough to keep their jobs started doing them in the same spaces where they live their personal lives, human contact in the workplace became a thing of the past for the moment. The question was batted around endlessly: Can we effectively get along with, collaborate with, achieve the same results with our colleagues without the subtleties and cues of in-person contact?

Imagine if instead of the COVID-fueled virtual distance causing inefficiency on the job, it provoked armed conflict or scuttled a trade deal. Imagine if a lost conversation by the coffee machine affected the well-being of millions. That's melodramatic, sure, but it's sort of what we're talking about here.

"We will miss that contact, that personal contact that I believe is very important for diplomacy to be effective," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last week. And Turkish diplomat and politician Volkan Bozkir agreed that talks over coffee, at lunch and in the U.N. corridors are essential "because nothing can replace this kind of communications."

"It helps people to understand what others think and also gives the possibility to find if there is a possibility for a compromise," said Bozkir, who took over the one-year presidency of the General Assembly last week.

In the meantime, it's not as if there are no other methods of communication. Diplomats diplomatted remotely well before coronavirus descended. And when the General Assembly is over, there are cables and encrypted emails and phone calls and Zoom calls and shuttle diplomacy to be had.

There will be no memorable in-real-life moments like Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's fabled shoe-brandishing at the General Assembly in 1960, it's true. But there will also be no moments like the one George W. Bush had with Vladimir Putin in 2001, in which he "looked the man in the eye" and "was able to get a sense of his soul." As many would attest, it's hard to do that even with Zoom, much less prerecorded video.

"In a way, I don't see what the point of it all is going to be. The speeches will be made for domestic consumption, or to impress allies or possibly enemies, but there won't be any give and take," says Margaret MacMillan, a diplomatic historian and author of the new book, "War: How Conflict Shaped Us."

"Face-to-face meetings don't always solve everything," says MacMillan, who teaches international relations at the University of Toronto. "But at least contact will give you some sense of the others that you're dealing with. And some sense is better than none."

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, has written about international affairs since 1995. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/anthonyted>

Ginsburg's style was more than a subtle courtroom statement

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The day after Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton to win the 2016 presidential election, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg took the bench wearing a black necklace with crystals. It was a piece she typically wore to express her displeasure while reading a dissent from the bench. But Ginsburg, who had called Trump a faker ahead of the election and then apologized, had no dissents to read.

Ginsburg's collars were more than a subtle statement every time she entered the courtroom. Along with her glasses, lace gloves and fabric hair ties known as scrunchies, they were part of the signature style of the justice, who died last week at age 87.

Ginsburg's casket is to be on view beginning Wednesday at the Supreme Court, outside at the top of the court's iconic steps, and later privately at the Capitol. She is to be buried next week in a private service at Arlington National Cemetery.

More than any other member of the court, Ginsburg had a look all her own. And clothing became a way she connected with the public and even other members of the court.

Ginsburg explained the origins of her decorative neckwear in a 2009 interview. She said she and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the Supreme Court's first female justice, thought the basic black robe judges wear could use some sprucing up.

"The standard robe is made for a man because it has a place for the shirt to show and the tie, so Sandra Day O'Connor and I thought it would be appropriate if we included as part of our robe something typical of a woman," Ginsburg said.

When Justice Sonia Sotomayor joined the Supreme Court, becoming its third woman, Ginsburg gave

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her the collar that she wore at her investiture ceremony. But neither Sotomayor nor Justice Elena Kagan, who followed her, have taken to wearing collars regularly on the bench.

Ginsburg, for her part, had a seemingly endless array of options. There were lace ones and beaded ones, white ones and multicolored ones, handmade ones and ones any member of the public could purchase. And they came from all over the world.

Ginsburg got her first collar as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit more than 25 years ago. It was a gift from Claire L'Heureux-Dubé, who served on the Supreme Court of Canada. Her collection grew from there.

In 2014, Ginsburg took journalist Katie Couric on a tour of the collection hanging in a closet in her office at the Supreme Court. Ginsburg's favorite was a white, beaded one from South Africa, she said, but the most well-known were a gold, crochet number that was a gift from her clerks and the black one with crystals. The gold one she would wear when announcing a majority opinion, the black one for biting dissents.

"It looks fitting for dissents," she said of the collar, which was actually a necklace sold by Banana Republic in 2012.

Just over 1,100 of them were produced. Original price: about \$80. Ginsburg got hers as a gift in a bag when Glamour magazine honored her with a lifetime achievement award. The clothing chain reissued the necklace in 2019, donating part of the proceeds to the American Civil Liberties Union Women's Rights Project, which Ginsburg founded in 1972. It sold out in hours.

As Ginsburg's status grew in recent years, the public responded by filling her mailbox with new neckwear. And the senders received handwritten thank-you notes.

"Nowadays I get a collar at least once a week, from all over the world. I get two things. I get collars and I get scrunchies," she said at an event at Georgetown University earlier this year.

Ginsburg wore scrunchies for so long that the 1980s accessory went out of fashion and then came back in style.

"I have been wearing scrunchies for years," Ginsburg told The Wall Street Journal in 2018 for an article about the hair tie's resurgence. "My best scrunchies come from Zurich. Next best, London, and third best, Rome."

She told the paper that her scrunchie collection "is not as large as my collar and glove collections, but scrunchies are catching up."

As for those gloves, Ginsburg started wearing them at O'Connor's urging in 1999, after she was treated for colon cancer. O'Connor told her, "You are vulnerable now, and you're going to receptions and shaking hands with lots of people, so you should at least wear gloves."

She told The Washington Post in 2015, "So, I wore gloves and liked them so much, I decided to keep wearing them."

World powers set to take the stage, virtually, at UN debate

By JENNIFER PELTZ and EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N.'s first virtual meeting of world leaders was set to start Tuesday with pre-recorded speeches from some of the planet's biggest powers, kept at home by the coronavirus pandemic that will likely be a dominant theme at their video gathering this year.

Among those expected to speak Tuesday are U.S. President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, whose countries have reported the highest and second-highest coronavirus death tolls, respectively. Also on deck are President Xi Jinping of China, where the virus originated, and President Vladimir Putin of Russia, which has raised international eyebrows with its rapid vaccine development.

After Monday's introductory session marking the U.N.'s 75th anniversary, the meeting's central event — speeches from each of its 193 member nations — start Tuesday. They traditionally serve as a platform for countries to tout accomplishments, seek support, stoke rivalries and express views on global priorities.

This year, the platform is online, and there is a pressing new priority in the pandemic that has killed over 960,000 people worldwide.

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"When we met in New York a year ago, no one could have imagined that 2020 would arrange such a powerful crash test for our world," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy remarked in his video speech for Monday's anniversary commemoration.

By custom, Brazil speaks first and the U.S. second as the host country in the annual meeting's "general debate," which is generally less a dialogue than a series of declarations.

The coronavirus has inflicted heavy tolls on both countries, close to 200,000 people in the U.S. and over 136,000 in Brazil, according to statistics collected by Johns Hopkins University.

Both Bolsonaro and Trump have been at odds, at least at times, with governors and health experts over the pandemic and have emphasized the economic consequences of shutdowns.

Both also are contending with plenty of other issues that command world attention, including Bolsonaro's plans to develop the Amazon and Trump's 2018 decision to pull the U.S. out of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers. Washington took a further step this weekend with a unilateral, and disputed, declaration that all U.N. penalties eased under the 2015 nuclear deal had been restored, setting up a likely showdown at the assembly — where Iran's speech is also scheduled Tuesday.

So is Turkey's, a day after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the U.N. has "flunked during the pandemic."

The virus was first detected in Wuhan, China, late last year. After building field hospitals and imposing a draconian 76-day lockdown to battle the virus there, China has said of late that it is seeing relatively few cases, mostly among people arriving from other countries. China, the world's most populous nation, has reported over 4,700 deaths.

Russia, where the death toll is over 19,000, last month became the first country to approve a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus. Russian President Vladimir Putin trumpeted the development, saying one of his adult daughters had already been inoculated. But international health experts have expressed caution about the vaccine's effectiveness and safety because of the small study sample and other limitations.

A record number of heads of states and governments are due to speak at the virtual meeting, rather than sending ministers or diplomats. That's a good thing, "but the idea that prime ministers and presidents are going to be sitting at home with a bucket of popcorn watching each other's televised speeches is a bit silly," said Richard Gowan, who oversees U.N. issues for Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank.

Still, German U.N. Ambassador Christoph Heusgen sees the assembly as a chance for a global meeting of minds when it's needed more than ever.

"Even in a digital format, UNGA-75 is an opportunity — especially in the face of international conflicts and dramatic challenges such as climate change or COVID-19," he said.

Enormous California wildfire threatens desert homes near LA

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An enormous wildfire that churned through mountains northeast of Los Angeles and into the Mojave Desert was still threatening homes on Monday and was one of more than two dozen major fires burning across California.

Five of the largest wildfires in state history are currently burning and more than 5,600 square miles (14,500 square kilometers) have been charred, an area larger than the state of Connecticut, Gov. Gavin Newsom said.

At 165 square miles (427 square kilometers), the Bobcat Fire is one of the largest ever in Los Angeles County after burning for more than two weeks. It was only about 15% contained.

Evacuation orders and warnings are in place for thousands of residents in foothill and desert areas, where semi-rural homes and a popular nature sanctuary have burned. Statewide, at least 23,000 people remain evacuated, Newsom said.

No injuries have been reported for the fire about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

However, 18 homes and other buildings have been destroyed and 11 damaged, some in the Juniper Hills area, with the toll rising to perhaps 85 when damage assessment teams can complete their work this

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week, fire officials said Monday evening.

Erratic winds that drove flames into the community of Juniper Hills over the weekend had died down, said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Larry Smith.

"It's slightly cooler too, so hopefully that will be a help to firefighters," Smith said.

However, evacuation warnings — meaning residents should be prepared to flee if ordered — remained in effect for Pasadena, home of the Rose Bowl and the annual Rose Parade, and Wrightwood, a mountain community near several ski resorts.

Numerous studies in recent years have linked bigger U.S. wildfires to global warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas, especially because climate change has made California much drier. A drier California means plants are more flammable.

Officials said it could be days before teams determine the scope of the destruction in the area burned by the Bobcat Fire

Early estimates are that 6,400 buildings have been destroyed across the state, but Newsom said "by no stretch of the imagination do we think this tells the entire story." Damage assessments are ongoing, he said.

The Bobcat Fire started Sept. 6 and has doubled in size over the last week as it ripped through forested areas that hadn't burned in decades. The cause is under investigation.

Firefighters battled back against another flareup near Mount Wilson, which overlooks greater Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains and has a historic observatory founded more than a century ago and numerous broadcast antennas serving Southern California.

Flames destroyed the nature center at Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area, a geological attraction that sees some 130,000 visitors per year. A wildlife sanctuary on the property was undamaged, and staff and animals had been evacuated days earlier.

Nearly 19,000 firefighters in California are currently battling 27 major blazes, Newsom said. At least 7,900 wildfires have erupted in the state this year, many during a mid-August barrage of dry lightning ignited parched vegetation.

Twenty-six people have been killed. Officials were investigating the death of a firefighter at another Southern California wildfire that erupted earlier this month from a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device used by a couple to reveal their baby's gender.

The death occurred Sept. 17 in San Bernardino National Forest as crews battled the El Dorado Fire about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, the U.S. Forest Service said in a statement. That blaze is 59% contained.

The firefighter was identified Monday night as Charles Morton, 39, who was a squad boss with the Big Bear Interagency Hotshot Crew of the San Bernardino National Forest. He had worked with the U.S. Forest Service for 14 years.

"Charlie was a well-respected leader who was always there for his squad and his crew at the toughest times," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen.

"Charlie is survived by his wife and daughter, his parents, two brothers, cousins, and friends. He's loved and will be missed. May he rest easy in heaven with his baby boy," Morton's family said in a statement.

In Wyoming, officials warned that gusty winds on Monday could cause more growth of a wildfire burning toward cabins and an important water supply reservoir that's a major source of water for the state's capital city, Cheyenne. The fire in the Medicine Bow National Forest is burning in heavily forested, rugged terrain which would usually be busy now with hunters at the start of elk hunting season.

And in Colorado, more evacuations were ordered on Sunday as winds caused the state's largest wildfire to grow. Firefighters had to temporarily retreat from the massive Cameron Peak Fire near Red Feather Lakes. Flames later spread into flatter ground which gave crews a better chance to battle the blaze, fire managers said.

More than 9,000 firefighters continue to battle 27 large wildfires across Oregon and Washington, where thousands of residences have been destroyed, the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service said.

Biggest unknown with Beta is how much rain it will bring

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — As Tropical Storm Beta neared the Texas coast Monday, the biggest unknown was how much rainfall it could produce in areas that have already seen their share of damaging weather during a busy hurricane season.

Beta's winds were weakening as it got closer to making landfall sometime Monday night and the storm was not expected to strengthen into a hurricane. But its path along the Texas coast over the next couple of days once it gets inland could produce bands of showers with heavy rainfall, forecasters said. Rain from Beta was already coming down Monday in the Houston area.

"This still is probably the most uncertain part of the forecast," Dan Reilly, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in the Houston-Galveston office, said about rainfall from Beta.

Earlier predictions of up to 20 inches (51 centimeters) in some areas were downgraded Monday to up to 15 inches (38 centimeters). Texas coastal counties were most likely to see 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 centimeters) with 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimeters) farther inland, Reilly said.

Forecasters and officials reassured residents Beta was not expected to be another Hurricane Harvey or Tropical Storm Imelda. Harvey in 2017 dumped more than 50 inches (127 centimeters) of rain on Houston, causing \$125 billion in damage in Texas. Imelda, which hit Southeast Texas last year, was one of the wettest cyclones on record.

Beta's maximum sustained winds were 45 mph (72 kph) as of Monday night. The storm was moving northwest at 3 mph (5 kph) at about 10 p.m., forecasters said. It was about 5 miles (8 kilometers) east of Port O'Connor, Texas.

Storm surge up to 4 feet (1.2 meters) was forecast from Port Aransas to Sabine Pass in Texas.

After Beta makes landfall, it is expected to move northeast along the coast and head into Louisiana sometime mid-week, forecasters said. Flash flooding was possible in Arkansas and Mississippi as the system moves farther inland.

In Galveston, an island city southeast of Houston, there was already some street flooding from rising tides and part of a popular fishing pier collapsed due to strong waves. Streets were also flooded in Rockport, located northeast of Corpus Christi.

Farther south on the Texas coast, Maria Serrano Culpepper along with her two daughters and dogs left their home in Magnolia Beach on Sunday night as Beta was predicted to make landfall in nearby Matagorda Bay.

Culpepper said she didn't want to be trapped in her home, three blocks from the beach, with wind, rain and possibly no electricity. She and her family evacuated to a friend's home in nearby Victoria.

Culpepper said her home should be fine as it's on stilts 13 feet (4 meters) off the ground and was built to withstand strong storms.

"I'm feeling OK now. I had two nights without sleeping because I was worried about (Beta) being a Category 1 hurricane. I calmed down when the storm lost power," said Culpepper, who works as an engineer at a nearby chemical plant.

On Monday, Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 29 Texas counties ahead of Beta's arrival.

Forecasters ran out of traditional storm names on Friday, forcing the use of the Greek alphabet for only the second time since the 1950s.

Beta is forecast to dump heavy rain on the southwestern corner of Louisiana three weeks after the same area got pounded by Hurricane Laura. The rainfall and storm surge prompted Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards to declare a state of emergency.

In Lake Charles, Mayor Nic Hunter worried that Beta's rainfall could set back efforts in his community to recover after Laura, which damaged about 95% of the city's 30,000 structures. Hunter said the worry of another storm was "an emotional and mental toll for a lot of our citizens."

Beta would be the ninth named storm to make landfall in the continental U.S. this year. That would tie a record set in 1916, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

Parts of the Alabama coast and Florida Panhandle were still reeling from Hurricane Sally, which roared

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ashore Wednesday, causing at least two deaths. Two Boston-based disaster modeling firms figured Sally caused about \$2 billion in privately insured losses from wind and storm surge. Karen Clark & Company estimated losses at \$2 billion, while AIR Worldwide said they were between \$1 and \$3 billion. The estimates don't include uninsured losses, the National Flood Insurance Program claims or damage to offshore property, like oil rigs.

Hurricane Teddy was about 295 miles (475 kilometers) northeast of Bermuda Monday night as it heads toward Nova Scotia. It had maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph) and was moving north at 25 mph (40 kph) and away from the wealthy British territory, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. It was expected to weaken and become a strong post-tropical cyclone before reaching Nova Scotia on Wednesday.

The Bermuda government closed all air and sea ports, schools and government offices for the second time in a week. Hurricane Paulette made landfall in Bermuda on Sept. 14, knocking down trees and leaving thousands without power.

Associated Press reporters Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland, and Janet McConnaughey and Rebecca Santana in New Orleans contributed to this report.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

China uproots ethnic minority villages in anti-poverty fight

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

CHENGBEI GAN'EN, China (AP) — Under a portrait of President Xi Jinping, Ashibusha sits in her freshly painted living room cradling her infant daughter beside a chair labeled a "gift from the government."

The mother of three is among 6,600 members of the Yi ethnic minority who were moved out of 38 mountain villages in China's southwest and into a newly built town in an anti-poverty initiative.

Farmers who tended mountainside plots were assigned jobs at an apple plantation. Children who until then spoke only their own tongue, Nuosu, attend kindergarten in Mandarin, China's official language.

"Everyone is together," said Ashibusha, 26.

While other nations invest in developing poor areas, Beijing doesn't hesitate to operate on a more ambitious scale by moving communities wholesale and building new towns in its effort to modernize China. The ruling Communist Party has announced an official target of ending extreme poverty by the end of the year, ahead of the 100th anniversary of its founding in 2021.

The party says such initiatives have helped to lift millions of people out of poverty. But they can require drastic changes, sometimes uprooting whole communities. They fuel complaints the party is trying to erase cultures as it prods minorities to embrace the language and lifestyle of the Han, who make up more than 90% of China's population.

At a time when the party faces protests by students in China's northern region of Inner Mongolia over plans to reduce the use of the Mongolian language in schools, officials want to show they are sensitive to minority cultures.

They invited reporters to visit Chengbei Gan'en and four other villages — Xujiashan, Qingshui, Daganyi and Xiaoshan — that are part of what authorities see as a successful development project for the Yi in Sichuan province's Liangshan prefecture.

The initiative is one of hundreds launched over the past four decades to spread prosperity from China's thriving east to the countryside and west.

Mass relocations still are carried out because some mountainous and other areas are too isolated, said Wang Sangui, president of the China Poverty Alleviation Research Institute of Renmin University in Beijing.

"It is impossible to solve the problem of absolute poverty without relocation," he said.

In Sichuan, which includes some of China's poorest areas, 80 billion yuan (\$12 billion) has been spent to date to relocate 1.4 million people, according to Peng Qinghua, the provincial party secretary. He said that included building 370,000 new homes and over 110,000 kilometers (68,000 miles) of rural roads.

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In Chengbei Gan'en, 420 million yuan (\$60 million) was spent to build 1,440 apartments in 25 identical white buildings, a clinic, a kindergarten and a center for the elderly.

Craftspeople sell silver jewelry, painted cow skulls and traditional clothing that are popular with Han tourists. Yi women can study to become nannies, a profession in demand in urban China, in classes taught with pink plastic dolls.

Roadside signs call on people to speak the official language. "Mandarin, please, after you enter kindergarten." "Speak Mandarin well, it's convenient for everyone." "Everyone speaks Mandarin, flower of civilization blooms everywhere."

Murals on buildings depict the Yi with members of the Han majority in amicable scenes. One shows a baby holding a heart emblazoned with the ruling party's hammer-and-sickle symbol.

In one village, Xujiashan, annual household income has risen from 1,750 yuan (\$260) in 2014 to 11,000 yuan (\$1,600), according to its deputy secretary, Zhang Lixin.

Development initiatives can lead to political tension because many have strategic goals such as strengthening control over minority areas by encouraging nomads to settle or diluting the local populace with outsiders.

In Inner Mongolia, students boycotted classes this month over plans to replace Mongolian-language textbooks with Chinese ones.

The party faces similar complaints that it is suppressing local languages in Tibet and the Muslim region of Xinjiang in the northwest. Xinjiang's Han party secretary said in 2002 the language of the Uighurs, its most populous ethnic group, was "out of step with the 21st century" and should be abandoned in favor of Mandarin.

The party boss for Liangshan prefecture acknowledged its initiative isn't purely economic.

Authorities want to eliminate "outdated habits," said the official, Lin Shucheng. He listed complaints about extravagant dowries, too many animals butchered for funerals and poor hygiene.

"We are fighting against traditional forces of habit," he said.

At the same time, ruling party officials say they are preserving Nuosu, a Yi language, through bilingual education in schools and government support for a Nuosu newspaper and TV show.

"We protect and promote the learning, use and development of the Yi language," the provincial party secretary, Peng, told reporters.

The party might be willing to promote Nuosu because, unlike in Tibet or Xinjiang, the Yi demand no political change, said Stevan Harrell, a University of Washington anthropologist who has spent more than three decades visiting and studying the region.

"There is no 'splittism' in Liangshan," Harrell said, using the party's term for activists who want more autonomy for Tibet and Xinjiang.

"So it is kind of safe to have the Yi language as a medium of education," said Harrell. "And it scores points for the government against those people who rightly point out that Uighur and Tibetan languages are being severely suppressed."

The region, like the rest of China, reeled from the coronavirus outbreak, said Lin, the Liangshan party boss. But he said anti-poverty work was back on track and authorities were confident they could meet official deadlines.

Older villagers welcome the jump in living standards.

"You can eat whatever you like now," said Wang Deying, an 83-year-old grandmother of five. "Now even the pigs eat rice."

AP researchers Yu Bing in Beijing and Chen Si in Shanghai contributed to this report.

Born to prevent war, UN at 75 faces a deeply polarized world

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations marked its 75th anniversary Monday with its chief urging

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leaders of an increasingly polarized, go-it-alone world to work together and preserve the organization's most important success since its founding: avoiding a military confrontation between the major global powers.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' appeal for a revival of multilateralism — the foundation of the United Nations — was echoed by leaders of countries large and small, rich and poor.

But despite largely positive speeches, it was clear that challenges lie ahead in collaborating to beat back the coronavirus pandemic, end numerous smaller conflicts from the Middle East to Africa, and achieve U.N. goals to eradicate extreme poverty and preserve the environment by a 2030 target.

"Today, we have a surplus of multilateral challenges and a deficit of multilateral solutions," the U.N. chief said, stressing that COVID-19 has "laid bare the world's fragilities," which can only be addressed together.

"Climate calamity looms, biodiversity is collapsing, poverty is rising, hatred is spreading, geopolitical tensions are escalating, nuclear weapons remain on hair-trigger alert," Guterres said.

Appealing for a new multilateralism that draws on civil society, cities, businesses, local authorities and young people, Guterres said "no one wants a world government — but we must work together to improve world governance."

The United Nations marked its actual 75th anniversary — the charter's signing in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 — at a scaled-down event.

Monday's mainly virtual official commemoration was a sobering assessment of the state of the world, the impact of the 193-member world body over seven decades and the struggles ahead. Some leaders appeared in native dress and in unusual settings, adding some color to prerecorded speeches.

The commemoration was suspended with 58 countries waiting to speak, primarily because many leaders spoke far longer than the three minutes they were allotted. No date was set to hear the remaining speakers.

As a sign of the commemoration's importance, heads of government like Chinese President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron spoke. U.S. President Donald Trump was first on the list of 182 speakers, but he didn't offer remarks.

In a snub to the United Nations, the United States instead was represented by its acting deputy U.N. ambassador, Cherith Norman Chalet. The White House had no immediate comment.

"In many ways, the United Nations has proven to be a successful experiment," Chalet said. But for too long, she added, it has resisted "meaningful reform," lacked transparency and been "too vulnerable to the agenda of autocratic regimes and dictatorships."

China's Xi urged U.N. members to recommit to multilateralism and "work to promote a community with a shared future for mankind."

"Unilateralism is a dead end," he said. "No country has the right to dominate global affairs, control the destiny of others or keep advantages in development all to itself. Even less should one be allowed to do whatever it likes and be the hegemon, bully or boss of the world."

Macron said the United Nations has remained true to its promises made three-quarters of a century ago: "To save future generations from the scourge of war, to assert human rights and the equality of nations, and to promote social progress in greater freedom."

But he warned that "our common home is in disarray, just like our world."

"Faced with the health emergency, faced with the climate challenge, faced with the decline in rights," Macron said, "it is here and now that we have to act, with those who want to and with those who can, by exploiting all possible spaces for cooperation."

Guterres and many others said the founding of the United Nations in 1945 and the commitment to cooperation after two world wars and the Holocaust produced results.

"Never in modern history have we gone so many years without a military confrontation between the major powers," the secretary-general said. "This is a major achievement of which member states can be proud — and which we must all strive to preserve."

Guterres cited other major U.N. victories over 75 years: peace treaties, decolonization, setting human rights standards, the end of apartheid in South Africa, eradication of diseases, a reduction in hunger, development of international law and landmark pacts to protect the environment.

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But 25 years after world leaders adopted a platform to achieve equality for women, he said "gender inequality remains the greatest single challenge to human rights around the world."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed that "the United Nations can be only as effective as its members are united" and urged new efforts "to do everything in our power" to find common responses and end "the most intractable security issues," including conflicts in Libya and Syria.

Guyana's President Irfaan Mohamed Ali, the head of what's called the Group of 77 and China — the main U.N. bloc of developing countries that now has 134 member states — said the commemoration "must send a strong and positive signal to the peoples of the world of our commitment to multilateralism and our resolve to strive for peace, justice and development."

Echoing broader global concerns, the president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang, said, "There is no justification for the huge economic gap between rich and poor countries today."

Similarly, Seychelles President Danny Faure warned that issues like climate change know no borders.

"I assure you that the smallest, poorest and weakest of nations can contribute ideas as innovative ... as the biggest, wealthiest and most powerful countries," Faure said.

Diplomats from the U.N. member nations managed to agree after sometimes difficult negotiations on a declaration to mark the U.N.'s anniversary, which was adopted Monday. It recalls the body's successes and failures and vows to build a post-pandemic world that is more equal, works together and protects the planet.

Richard Gowan, U.N. director for the Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank, said the declaration was weakened by the U.S. opposing strong language on climate change and Britain and others objecting to China trying to insert language including its hallmark phrase, "win-win."

President Xi used it Monday in speaking about "Cold War mentality," declaring "what we need to do is to replace conflict with dialogue, coercion with consultation and zero-sum with win-win."

Gowan said the dispute over the declaration was minor but "captures the real question that has emerged over the U.N. in 2020, exacerbated by COVID, which is: How is this organization going to navigate an era of U.S.-China tension?"

Amid those questions, the U.N. released results of "a global conversation" it launched in January, using surveys, polls and gatherings to determine what all kinds of people thought about the future.

Guterres said the U.N.'s 75th anniversary is an ideal time to realize goals that were expressed, including speeding up the transition to zero carbon emissions, ensuring universal health coverage and ending racial injustice.

"We face our own 1945 moment," he said. "We must meet that moment. We must show unity like never before to overcome today's emergency, get the world moving and working and prospering again."

Cara Anna contributed to this report from Johannesburg and Angela Charlton from Paris.

Longtime international correspondent Edith M. Lederer has been chief U.N. correspondent for The Associated Press since 1998. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EdithLedererAP>

Former Wisconsin police chief to review Jacob Blake shooting

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin's attorney general announced Monday that he has selected a former Madison police chief to serve as an independent consultant for prosecutors weighing whether to file charges against the officer who shot Jacob Blake, a Black man who was left paralyzed from the waist down.

The shooting of Blake on Aug. 23 by a white Kenosha police officer made Wisconsin the epicenter of the nation's ongoing debate over police violence and racial injustice. It came three months after the death of George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police.

Noble Wray, the expert who will review the file, is Black. Following his retirement as Madison's chief in 2013, Wray has become a national leader in working on police reform, fighting racism and educating

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about implicit bias. Wray was chief for nine years and worked 30 years as a police officer, experience that Attorney General Josh Kaul and Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Gravely said would be crucial when reviewing the file.

Gravely said he requested the consultant but that he asked the Department of Justice to choose.

Kaul said his department's investigation of the shooting is in its final stages. When it's done, he will turn it over to Wray for review and an analysis. It will then be up to Gravely about whether to file charges. Gravely said Monday that he had not made any decision about filing charges yet.

Gravely said Wray would bring "diverse" and "abundant" perspectives to the case.

Wray said he will provide insight and perspective to the case but not prejudice it. Wray said he will complete his review as quickly as possible, but he has not been given a timeline once he receives the investigative file.

"I have not prejudged the case," Wray said.

Blake was shot in the back seven times after walking away from the officer and two others who were trying to arrest him. The officer, Rusten Sheskey, shot Blake after Blake opened an SUV's driver-side door and leaned into the vehicle. Three of Blake's children were in the back seat. The shooting was captured on video and circulated quickly online, fueling protests hours later.

The state Justice Department has said a knife was recovered from Blake's vehicle, but it has not said whether he was holding it when officers tried to arrest him.

Blake's attorney, Ben Crump, has said that Blake was only trying to break up a domestic dispute and did nothing to provoke police. Crump has called for the arrest of Sheskey, the officer who shot Blake, and for the two other officers involved in the shooting to be fired.

Sheskey and the other officers who were at the scene — Vincent Arenas and Brittany Meronek — were placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. None of them have been charged.

The Kenosha police union has said that officers were dispatched on Aug. 23 because of a complaint that Blake was attempting to steal the caller's keys and vehicle. Union attorney Brendan Matthews said officers were aware that Blake had an open warrant for felony sexual assault before they arrived.

Blake pleaded not guilty on Sept. 4 to charges accusing him of sexually assaulting a woman in May. A trial date was set for Nov. 9.

Kenosha is a city of about 100,000 people on the shores of Lake Michigan midway between Milwaukee and Chicago.

Barrett emerges as court favorite; Trump to pick by weekend

By LISA MASCARO, ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump met Monday with Judge Amy Coney Barrett at the White House as the conservative jurist emerged as a favorite to replace the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court, the start of a monumental Senate confirmation fight over objections from Democrats it's too close to the November election.

Trump said he expects to announce his pick by week's end, before the burial of Ginsburg, the court's liberal icon, at Arlington National Cemetery.

The president told reporters he was still going to be interviewing other candidates and might meet with Judge Barbara Lagoa when he travels to Florida later this week. But Barrett has long been favored by conservatives, and those familiar with the process said interest inside the White House seemed to be waning for Lagoa amid concerns by some that she did not have a proven record as a conservative jurist.

Democrats, led by presidential nominee Joe Biden, are protesting the Republicans' rush to replace Ginsburg, saying voters should speak first, on Election Day, Nov. 3, and the winner of the White House should fill the vacancy.

Trump dismissed those arguments, telling "Fox & Friends," "I think that would be good for the Republican Party, and I think it would be good for everybody to get it over with."

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The mounting clash over the vacant seat — when to fill it and with whom — injects new turbulence in the presidential campaign with the nation still reeling from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed nearly 200,000 Americans, left millions unemployed and heightened partisan tensions and anger.

Up until now, the race has been largely a referendum on how Trump has managed or mismanaged the COVID-19 pandemic.

Democrats point to hypocrisy in Republicans trying to rush through a pick so close to the election after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell led the GOP in refusing to vote on a nominee of President Barack Obama in February 2016, long before that year's election. Biden is appealing to GOP senators to "uphold your constitutional duty, your conscience" and wait until after the election.

Ginsburg, 87, died Friday of metastatic pancreatic cancer. She will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol this week, the first woman ever accorded that honor. First, her casket is to be on view mid-week on the steps of the high court. She is to be buried next week in a private service at Arlington National Cemetery.

Conversations in the White House and McConnell's office have been increasingly focused on Barrett and Lagoa, according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private deliberations.

A judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, Barrett, 48, was a strong contender for the seat that eventually went to Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. At the time, Trump told confidants he was "saving" Barrett for Ginsburg's seat.

Lagoa has been pushed by some aides who tout her political advantages of being Hispanic and hailing from the key political battleground state of Florida.

Trump said he is planning to name his pick by Friday or Saturday, ahead of the first presidential election debate. With just over a month before the election, McConnell said the Senate has "more than sufficient time."

No nominee has won confirmation so quickly since Sandra Day O'Connor — with no opposition from either party — became the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court in 1981.

Both sides are mobilizing for a wrenching confirmation fight punctuated by crucial issues before the court — healthcare, abortion access and even the potential outcome of the coming presidential election. Some protesters showed up early Monday morning outside the homes of key GOP senators.

At a Trump rally later Monday in Ohio, people chanted, "Fill the seat!"

Trump has said he would choose a woman, and he admitted that politics may play a role. He gave a nod to another election battleground state, Michigan, and White House officials confirmed he was referring to Joan Larsen, a federal appeals court judge there.

The president also indicated that Allison Jones Rushing, a 38-year-old appellate judge from North Carolina, is on his short list. His team is also actively considering Kate Todd, the White House deputy counsel who has never been a judge but was a clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas.

As the Senate returned to Washington on Monday, several key GOP senators, including Mitt Romney of Utah, declined to say whether they would agree to a swift vote.

Four Republicans could halt a quick confirmation and Trump criticized Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska for opposing a vote before elections. The president warned they would be "very badly hurt" by voters.

Others, including GOP Sens. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Cory Gardner of Colorado, declined to join in opposing the president's plan.

Trump went so far as to disparage reports that Ginsburg had told her granddaughter it was her wish that a replacement justice not be confirmed until the inauguration of a new president. With no evidence — just "it sounds to me like" — he suggested the wish came from his political foes including Rep. Adam Schiff, the House Intelligence Committee chairman.

Schiff said Trump sank to a new "low" with that comment. He said he had nothing to do with Ginsburg's dying wish but would "fight like hell to make it come true."

A day earlier, Biden appealed to Republicans to join Murkowski and Collins in opposing a confirmation vote before the Nov. 3 election. He said, "Let the people speak. Cool the flames that have engulfed our

country.”

On Monday, Biden focused on joblessness and the pandemic rather than the court vacancy as he campaigned in Wisconsin, aligning himself with the country’s workers, especially those who voted for Trump in 2016 after having backed Obama and himself four years earlier.

He noted that COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. are surging past 200,000 and said of the count, which many Democrats say Trump has done too little to stop, “I worry we’re risking becoming numb to the toll that it has taken on us and our country and communities like this.”

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer objected to what he called McConnell’s “utterly craven” pursuit of Supreme Court confirmation under current circumstances, warning it would shatter Senate norms. “It’s enough to make your head explode,” he said.

Biden and his team are working closely with Democratic leaders in Congress, and he has spoken with Schumer.

The sudden vacancy seems certain to electrify both parties: Democrats were breaking fundraising records while a packed Trump crowd in North Carolina Saturday loudly chanted “Fill that seat.” But it remains unclear if the high bench vacancy will persuade disenchanted Republicans to return to Trump or fire up women or suburban voters to break for Biden.

Republicans hold a 53-47 edge in the Senate. If there were a 50-50 tie, it could be broken by Vice President Mike Pence.

Jaffe reported from Philadelphia. Lemire reported from New York. Laurie Kellman, Mark Sherman, Kevin Freking and Mike Balsamo in Washington, Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

The Latest: Trump boasts about how many court picks he’s had

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the Supreme Court vacancy created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (all times local):

8:45 p.m.

President Donald Trump is boasting on the campaign trail about his reshaping of the federal judiciary days after the death of liberal Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Trump was holding rallies in Vandalia and Swanton, Ohio, on Monday. He said the nation was mourning the death of the 87-year-old Ginsburg and he pointed out that more than 200 judges have been appointed to the federal bench during his term.

“Some presidents never get any — they last a long time,” Trump said of Supreme Court appointments. “We’ve had three. It’s blowing their minds.”

Trump says he’s considering five women for the lifetime appointment to the nation’s highest court. He said he plans to announce his decision Friday or Saturday.

Trump appointed Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Trump got to appoint Gorsuch in 2017 after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused in 2016 to hold a hearing on President Barack Obama’s nominee to replace Antonin Scalia, saying it was an election year.

Scalia died 237 days before the 2016 election. Ginsburg died 46 days before the 2020 election.

HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

— President Donald Trump says he expects to announce his pick for the Supreme Court on Friday or Saturday.

— Potential nominees include federal appellate judges Amy Coney Barrett and Barbara Lagoa.

— Kamala Harris is poised to become a leading figure in the Democratic opposition to Trump’s Supreme Court pick.

— The body of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will lie in repose at the Supreme Court this week.

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Follow AP's Supreme Court coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/ruth-bader-ginsburg>

7:40 p.m.

A Republican senator in a tough reelection race will consider President Donald Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court.

Colorado Sen. Cory Gardner joined other Republicans on Monday in pledging to consider Trump's nominee to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Gardner says he will vote to confirm Trump's pick if the person "will protect our Constitution, not legislate from the bench, and uphold the law."

Gardner was silent on whether the vote should take place before or after the November election.

In 2016, Gardner opposed considering President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland, in part because the Senate and White House were controlled by different parties. "Our next election is too soon and the stakes are too high," he said then.

Antoni Scalia, the justice whom Garland was set to replace, died 237 days before the 2016 election. Ginsburg died 46 days before the 2020 election.

Gardner is facing former Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper in November.

7 p.m.

Sen. Chuck Grassley will support the Republican push to replace the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg this year despite his stand in 2016 that a new justice shouldn't be confirmed in a presidential election year.

Grassley says in a statement that "the Constitution gives the Senate that authority, and the American people's voices in the most recent election couldn't be clearer."

As the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2016, Grassley and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to hold a hearing for President Barack Obama's nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, after the February death of Justice Antonin Scalia. They said the new president should decide on Scalia's replacement.

Since then, Grassley has said that if he were the chairman in 2020, he would not take up a new nomination. But he said if there were a new chairman, that person would have to make that call. Current Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and McConnell have said the situation is different this year because Republicans hold both the Senate and the presidency.

Grassley is backing them up, saying, "While there was ambiguity about the American people's will for the direction of the Supreme Court in 2016 under a divided government, there is no such ambiguity in 2020."

6:15 p.m.

President Donald Trump has met with Amy Coney Barrett at the White House as he evaluates prospective nominees to succeed the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court.

A person familiar with the vetting process but not authorized to discuss it confirmed the Monday meeting to The Associated Press.

Later, Trump told reporters at the White House that he has been speaking with potential nominees over the last two days and held out the possibility of also meeting with Barbara Lagoa when he travels to Florida this week.

Some aides have touted the political advantages of Lagoa being Hispanic and hailing from Florida.

Barrett, a devout Roman Catholic, is hailed by religious conservatives and others on the right as an ideological heir to conservative Antonin Scalia, the late Supreme Court justice for whom she clerked.

Trump says five women are under consideration.

Barrett is emerging as an early favorite. Interest in Lagoa inside the White House seemed to be waning Monday amid some conservatives' concerns that she did not have a proven record as a conservative jurist, according to the person familiar with the vetting process.

— Associated Press writer Zeke Miller

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5 p.m.

President Donald Trump says five women are being carefully vetted to become his nominee for the Supreme Court to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Trump spoke to reporters on the South Lawn on Monday before traveling to Ohio. Trump says he'll make a selection decision probably on Friday or Saturday.

Trump says he believes that senators have plenty of time to evaluate the nominee and hold a vote before the Nov. 3 election. He says that it would send a message of "solidarity" and that "I have an obligation to do this."

Democrats have said that GOP lawmakers should follow the precedent they set in 2016 when Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to act on President Barack Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to succeed the late Justice Antonin Scalia, saying it was an election year.

The 2020 election is 43 days away.

But Trump says voters put the Republican senators in their position "because of a certain ideology" and it would be bad for them politically to wait in taking the vote.

4:20 p.m.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, the only Democrat who voted to confirm Justice Brett Kavanaugh, says he's siding with lawmakers in his own party who say the Senate shouldn't vote on a Supreme Court nominee before the Nov. 3 election.

Manchin says the process shouldn't be rushed, "and it is simply irresponsible to rush the adequate and proper vetting required of any new candidate for the bench."

He is not saying whether he thinks the next president should make the pick, as most of his Democratic colleagues have said. In 2016, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to hold a hearing or a vote on Merrick Garland, then-President Barack Obama's pick for the court, saying the Senate shouldn't vote so close to a presidential election.

"For Mitch McConnell and my Republican colleagues to rush through this process after refusing to even meet with Judge Merrick Garland in 2016 is hypocrisy in its highest form," Manchin said.

4 p.m.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer says the GOP effort to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg by the end of the year is a "craven" move that flips the Republicans' own logic on its head.

Schumer spoke Monday just after Majority Leader Mitch McConnell promised that the Senate would vote "this year" on Ginsburg's replacement to the high court.

The New York Democrat noted that in 2016, Senate Republicans blocked President Barack Obama's nominee to the high court on the grounds that it was too close to Election Day.

But now, President Donald Trump and McConnell are thundering toward confirming Ginsburg's replacement. McConnell says it's because in 2016, there was a divided government. Now, Republicans control the presidency and the Senate.

Ginsburg died Friday at age 87.

3:40 p.m.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says the Senate will vote "this year" to confirm President Donald Trump's nominee to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, but he is not saying whether there will be a vote before or after Election Day.

McConnell says there is "overwhelming precedent" for the Senate to act quickly on a nomination. The average time to confirm a nominee in recent years is more than two months, but some nominees, including Ginsburg, were confirmed much faster than that.

"The Senate has more than sufficient time to process a nomination," McConnell says. "History and prec-

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edent make that perfectly clear.”

Democrats have called on the GOP-led Senate to let the next president decide, as McConnell delayed a vote on an open Supreme Court seat until after the election in 2016.

Ginsburg, 87, died Friday of metastatic pancreatic cancer.

2:40 p.m.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham says he believes his role in the confirmation process for a new Supreme Court justice will likely bolster his reelection bid.

At an event for a congressional candidate Monday, Graham said in North Charleston, South Carolina, that he feels his defense of Brett Kavanaugh during a contentious 2018 Supreme Court confirmation hearing has given him conservative bona fides that will help boost him to reelection in a tight race with Democrat Jaime Harrison.

“I don’t know what it is about me and moments and lightning, but lightning has struck again,” Graham said of the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the pivotal role that he will play in the process to replace her.

As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Graham will shepherd the confirmation process.

In 2016, when Antonin Scalia died, Graham supported a move by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to refuse a confirmation hearing for President Barack Obama’s nominee. They said then that it wouldn’t be right to confirm a justice during an election year. Scalia died 237 days before the 2016 election.

Ginsburg died 46 days before the 2020 election.

12:20 p.m.

House Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff says President Donald Trump has reached a “new low” for suggesting Democrats were behind a report that the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said she did not want to be replaced until a new president is inaugurated.

NPR reported Friday that Ginsburg dictated a statement in her final days that said: “My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed.”

Ginsburg dictated the statement to Clara Spera, her granddaughter, according to NPR’s Nina Totenberg, who has covered the Supreme Court for decades but is also a longtime personal friend of the late justice.

On “Fox & Friends” on Monday, Trump claimed without evidence: “I don’t know that she said that, or was that written out by Adam Schiff and Schumer and Pelosi,” referring also to Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Schiff later tweeted: “No, I didn’t write Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s dying wish to a nation she served so well, and spent her whole life making a more perfect union. But I am going to fight like hell to make it come true. No confirmation before inauguration.”

Ginsburg, 87, died Friday from metastatic pancreatic cancer.

11:45 a.m.

The body of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will lie in repose at the Supreme Court this week, with arrangements to allow for public viewing despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Ginsburg’s casket will be on public view Wednesday and Thursday under the portico at the top of the iconic steps in front of the building. A private ceremony will take place at the court on Wednesday morning.

House Speaker Nancy Pelsosi announced that Ginsburg will lie in state in the Capitol’s Statuary Hall on Friday. That ceremony will be open only to invited guests, Pelosi said.

Ginsburg will be buried next week at Arlington National Cemetery in a private service, the court said.

The justice died Friday at age 87.

Congress made similar arrangements for a public viewing outside the Capitol after Rep. John Lewis’ death in July.

8:55 a.m.

President Donald Trump says he’s narrowed his list of candidates to fill the Supreme Court vacancy cre-

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ated by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to four or five candidates.

In a Monday interview with "Fox & Friends," the president confirmed that among the top contenders are Indiana's Amy Coney Barrett and Florida's Barbara Lagoa, both appellate court judges he appointed. Trump also indicated that Allison Jones Rushing, a 38-year-old appellate judge from North Carolina, is also on the short-list.

Trump has promised to nominate a woman for the high court, adding that his preference is for someone younger who could hold sway on the nation's jurisprudence for potentially four or five decades. Trump says he'll aim to announce his pick on Friday or Saturday, after funeral services for Ginsburg conclude.

Trump adds: "I think that would be good for the Republican Party and I think it would be good for everybody to get it over with."

Ginsburg, 87, died Friday of metastatic pancreatic cancer.

8:35 a.m.

President Donald Trump says he expects to announce his pick for the Supreme Court on Friday or Saturday, after funeral services for Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

He told "Fox & Friends" on Monday that he had a list of five finalists, "probably four," and that he is pushing for a confirmation vote before Election Day.

Trump disparaged reports that Ginsburg had told her granddaughter it was her wish that a replacement justice not be confirmed until the inauguration of a new president. Trump said he thought his Democratic political foes were behind the report, including Rep. Adam Schiff, who led the House impeachment probe, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer.

"I don't know that she said that, or was that written out by Adam Schiff and Schumer and Pelosi," Trump said. "I would be more inclined to the second ... But that sounds like a Schumer deal or maybe a Pelosi or Shifty Schiff." his nickname for the California congressman. Trump frequently disparages Schiff, without evidence as being behind a conspiracy against him.

Ginsburg, 87, died Friday of metastatic pancreatic cancer.

CDC changes, then retracts, web posting on how virus spreads

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The top U.S. public health agency stirred confusion by posting — and then taking down — an apparent change in its position on how easily the coronavirus can spread from person to person through the air.

But officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say their position has not really changed and that the post last week on the agency's website was an error that has been taken down.

It was "an honest mistake" that happened when a draft update was posted before going through a full editing and approval process, said Dr. Jay Butler, the CDC's deputy director for infectious diseases.

The post suggested that the agency believes the virus can hang in the air and spread over an extended distance. But the agency continues to believe larger and heavier droplets that come from coughing or sneezing are the primary means of transmission, Butler said.

Most CDC guidance about social distancing is built around that idea, saying that about 6 feet is a safe buffer between people who are not wearing masks.

In interviews, CDC officials have acknowledged growing evidence that the virus can sometimes be transmitted on even smaller, aerosolized particles or droplets that spread over a wider area. Certain case clusters have been tied to events in which the virus appeared to have spread through the air in, for example, a choir practice. But such incidents did not appear to be common.

Public health experts urge people to wear masks, which can stop or reduce contact with both larger droplets and aerosolized particles.

But for months, agency officials said little about aerosolized particles. So when the CDC quietly posted an update Friday that discussed the particles in more detail, the agency's position appeared to have changed.

The post said the virus can remain suspended in the air and drift more than 6 feet. It also emphasized the importance of indoor ventilation and seemed to describe the coronavirus as the kind of germ that can spread widely through the air.

The post caused widespread discussion in public health circles because of its implications. It could mean, for example, that hospitals might have to place infected people in rooms that are specially designed to prevent air from flowing to other parts of the hospital.

But the CDC is not advising any changes in how far people stay away from each other, how they are housed at hospitals or other measures, Butler said.

The CDC has come under attack for past revisions of guidance during the pandemic, some of which were driven by political pressure by the Trump administration.

Butler said there was no external political pressure behind the change in this instance. "This was an internal issue,. And we're working hard to address it and make sure it doesn't happen again," he said.

In a statement released Monday, the CDC said the revisions to the "How COVID-19 Spreads" page happened "without appropriate in-house technical review."

"We are reviewing our process and tightening criteria for review of all guidance and updates before they are posted to the CDC website," the statement said.

At least one expert said the episode could further chip away at public confidence in the CDC.

"The consistent inconsistency in this administration's guidance on COVID-19 has severely compromised the nation's trust in our public health agencies," said Dr. Howard Koh, a Harvard University public health professor who was a high-ranking official in the Department of Health and Human Services during the Obama administration.

"To rectify the latest challenge, the CDC must acknowledge that growing scientific evidence indicates the importance of airborne transmission through aerosols, making mask wearing even more critical as we head into the difficult fall and winter season," Koh said in a statement.

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Trooper wounded in crash faced firing in Black man's death

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

A Louisiana state trooper was critically injured early Monday in a single-vehicle highway crash that came hours after learning he would be fired for his role last year in the in-custody death of a Black man.

Master Trooper Chris Hollingsworth received word Sunday that State Police intended to terminate him following an internal investigation into the May 2019 death of Ronald Greene, a case that has drawn mounting scrutiny and become the subject of a federal civil rights investigation.

Authorities initially said Greene died after crashing his vehicle into a tree following a high-speed chase in rural northern Louisiana, but Greene's family alleges troopers used excessive force and "brutalized" him while taking him into custody.

State Police, despite growing pressure, have repeatedly declined to release body-camera footage and other records related to Greene's arrest, citing the ongoing investigations.

The crash Monday that critically wounded Hollingsworth happened along Interstate 20 in Monroe shortly before 3 a.m., just hours after the trooper received a letter Sunday of "intent for discipline," said Capt. Chavez Cammon, a State Police spokesman.

"The intent was to separate him from service and terminate him," Cammon said.

Cammon declined to say what, exactly, prompted the proposed termination, and it was not clear which policies Hollingsworth was accused of violating. Hollingsworth would have the opportunity to appeal any discipline. His attorney has declined to comment on the case.

Hollingsworth had been placed on paid leave Sept. 9 — the same day The Associated Press filed a records request for body camera footage of Greene's arrest.

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The controversy deepened last week when Greene's family released graphic photographs showing deep bruises and cuts to his face that raised questions about whether Greene received those injuries in a car crash — as authorities initially told his family — or when troopers arrested him following the police pursuit.

Greene's family has filed a federal wrongful-death lawsuit alleging troopers "brutalized" Greene, used a stun gun on him three times and "left him beaten, bloodied and in cardiac arrest" before covering up his actual cause of death.

State Police have said only that the 49-year-old Greene died "after resisting arrest and a struggle with troopers" who took him into custody. The agency opened an internal investigation into the case last month.

Greene's death also remains the subject of a civil rights investigation by the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department.

A crash report obtained by the AP says Greene failed to stop for an unspecified traffic violation and later drove off the road and into a ditch, striking a mailbox, a culvert and a "shrub/tree." The report does not mention any use of force by troopers.

"This case just doesn't pass the smell test," said Rafael Goyeneche, a former prosecutor who is president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, a New Orleans-based watchdog group. He called for an investigation of "everybody up the chain of command" who had been aware of the agency's response to Greene's death.

Col. Kevin Reeves, the State Police superintendent, asked rank-and-file troopers to pray for Hollingsworth, who was listed in critical condition at Ochsner LSU Health in Shreveport.

Reeves wrote a note to troopers Monday, obtained by AP, saying Hollingsworth "was involved in a serious injury crash while off-duty in his personal vehicle."

State Police brass had convened with the agency's general counsel in Baton Rouge on Friday to discuss whether Hollingsworth had violated the agency's use-of-force policy, according to law enforcement officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Campus outbreak threatens San Diego's economic recovery

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The start of the semester at San Diego State University was, as always, a time for students to make and renew friendships on and off its urban campus and enjoy the beach and the city's unmatched August weather.

The coronavirus meant far fewer people returned to campus this year but the parties, cookouts and other festivities that mark the start of the fall semester went on as usual for a week or two, then abruptly stopped as infections quickly mounted.

James Floyd, a freshman from Davis, California, noticed a mood change when classmates began getting tested. "Once a friend got it, they got scared," he said.

There have been larger outbreaks at U.S. colleges but none may be more impactful than the one at San Diego State.

California has seen remarkable recent success with the virus — the infection rate of 2.8% for the last week is the lowest since the pandemic began, and hospitalizations dropped to a level not seen since the first week of April. But the campus outbreak is large enough to put San Diego County over a state threshold for cases that mandates many businesses close or restrict indoor operations.

For some, it will mark the third closure since California instituted the nation's first statewide shutdown order in March.

It is a dizzying and discouraging turn of events for the county of 3.3 million residents that less than a month ago was the only one in Southern California with virus case numbers low enough to advance to a second level in the state's four-tiered system for reopening.

The county argued that San Diego State cases — which have topped 800 among students — should be excluded from state tallies, like prisons are. Gov. Gavin Newsom rejected the proposal before it was even formally delivered.

"You can't isolate as if it's on an island, a campus community that is part of a larger community, so the answer is no," Newsom said last week.

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The county Board of Supervisors dismissed a proposal to disregard state rules but met in a closed-door, emergency session last week to consider litigation.

Jon and Angie Weber said they won't comply with orders to stop serving patrons inside their restaurant.

They closed their Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop in downtown San Diego on March 17 for three months, laying off all but one of 55 employees. A June reopening lasted 19 days until cases began spiking again in California and Newsom ordered another round of closures.

When San Diego businesses got permission last month to open more indoor operations with restrictions — 25% indoor capacity for restaurants — the Webers waited two weeks to train staff on sanitation measures and revamp its seasonal menu. When they opened Sept. 15, they learned the same day they would likely have to pull back again in a week unless there was a dramatic turnaround in San Diego.

California uses two metrics for its 58 counties: percentage of positive tests and per capita new cases. Each of the four tiers for reopening include ranges for those categories and a county must meet both for two consecutive weeks before advancing to a higher tier. If they fail on one or both counts for two weeks, they are bumped to a more restrictive tier.

San Diego's infection rate is low enough to advance to another tier but its per capita cases of 7.9 for every 100,000 people in weekly figures announced Sept. 15 is above the rate of 7 needed to stay put. Without San Diego State, the rate would have dropped to 6, according to county officials.

If San Diego's case rate registers above 7 again when weekly figures are announced Tuesday, restaurants could still seat outdoors and do takeout in a lower tier.

Cowboy Star doesn't have room for sidewalk service. "It's demoralizing to open and close, open and close, hire and fire, hire and fire," Jon Weber said.

The Webers say they have exhausted savings and can't survive another closure. Without the restaurant they opened in 2008, they are unable to pay home loans.

"This is our life," Jon Weber said. "To walk away from it would be nearly impossible. It would be like walking away from your child."

The Webers, whose restaurant is 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the San Diego State campus, are upset with the governor, not the university.

It's difficult to overstate the school's stature in San Diego with its 300-acre (741-hectare) campus atop Montezuma Mesa and alumni that permeate every fabric of the city, including two recent mayors, baseball Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn and countless political and business figures.

San Diego State began classes Aug 24 with about 8,000 of more than 35,000 students living on campus or taking at least one in-person class. About 2,400 students also lived on campus, roughly one-third the usual level.

When new cases topped 80 for four straight days, the school suspended in-person classes for four weeks starting Sept. 3. Dorms were locked down.

"The idea here was to really ratchet back the amount of housing available to students," said Adela de la Torre, San Diego State president. "We also wanted to be very, very clear that our classes would be virtual at a moment's notice if we saw a spike at all. That's exactly what we did."

San Diego is one of only two schools in the 23-campus California State system that had to pull back on in-person classes after they began. De la Torre says that's because its students tend to live on or near campus, in contrast to the system's many commuter schools.

About 75% of San Diego State cases originated in off-campus housing, where rents are high and it's not unusual for three or four people to share a bathroom, she said.

De la Torre said state authorities might consider hospitalization rates as a measurement for reopening, noting only one San Diego State student was hospitalized — briefly.

The Daily Aztec student newspaper credited administrators for a "measured" approach that included free testing and mandated masks on campus. Fraternity leaders banned in-person events before the semester began. The newspaper said a "smart reopening" once appeared possible.

"The start of the semester has made it abundantly clear that besides bringing 2,600 socially-starved 18 to

20-year-olds back to campus, the administration's biggest failure was assuming students could handle that much responsibility," the newspaper editorialized Sept. 1. "In real-time, we see the consequences of this miscalculation playing out: large groups of students partying, not wearing masks and cases on the rise."

Miles Crawford, a junior, stayed in his campus apartment when classes resumed last month and is growing frustrated by the lockdown. The music major plans a year off if in-person learning doesn't fully resume by next fall.

"Patience is growing thin," said Crawford, 22. "We're just trying to have the regular college experience."

Closing time: UK pubs must shut early as COVID cases surge

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British pubs will have to close early and people who fail to obey quarantine rules will face stiff fines under new lockdown restrictions to curb a surging wave of new coronavirus infections.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is to announce the new measures Tuesday, a day after the U.K.'s chief medical officers raised the nation's COVID-19 alert level, saying the virus is in general circulation and spreading fast. Other top medical experts said Britain's number of daily new infections — which stood Monday at 4,300 — could rise as high as 50,000 a day in October if immediate action is not taken.

The prime minister's office said starting Thursday, pubs, bars and other hospitality venues will be restricted to table service only and will have to close at 10 p.m.

Johnson is due to update Parliament on the coronavirus situation Tuesday after meetings of his Cabinet and the government's crisis committee, COBRA. He will also make a televised address to the nation about efforts to combat the virus.

The U.K. has gradually been increasing restrictions as cases rise, with people barred from meeting in large groups. But the measures are far less stringent than a nationwide lockdown imposed in March that saw restrictions on movement and most businesses closed. It was eased starting in June as cases began to fall, but that trend has now been reversed.

On Monday, the chief medical officers of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland raised the virus alert from three to four, the second-highest level, on the advice of the Joint Biosecurity Center. They said cases of COVID-19 were rising "rapidly and probably exponentially."

In a live televised briefing, Chief Scientific Officer Patrick Vallance and Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty said after a slow rise in new infections over the summer, the number of new COVID-19 cases is now doubling every seven days. They said new infections could increase tenfold to almost 50,000 a day next month if nothing is done now.

In other countries, such an increase has soon led to a rise in deaths, Whitty said, adding "we have, in a very bad sense, literally turned a corner" after weeks of rising infections.

Whitty stressed that infection rates are rising among all age groups and infections among the young and healthy will inevitably spread to friends, family and ultimately to the most vulnerable in society.

"This is not someone else's problem," he said. "This is all of our problem."

To persuade people to stay home if they test positive, the government announced it would pay low-income workers 500 pounds (\$639) if they are told to self-isolate for 14 days. It also said those breaking quarantines could face fines up to 10,000 pounds (\$12,800).

Britain has Europe's highest death toll in the pandemic, with over 41,800 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say all such figures understate the true impact of the pandemic.

The 4,300 new infections reported Monday hit a level not seen since early May. Britain's highest daily number of new infections peaked at 6,199 cases on April 5.

While death rates remain relatively low so far, Whitty warned that deaths are likely to rise. The U.K. reported a seven-day average of 21 deaths a day last week, compared with a peak of 942 deaths on April 10.

These numbers include only deaths that are directly related to COVID-19. The real toll could be much higher if emergency services are overwhelmed by coronavirus cases and the National Health Service has to divert resources from treating other diseases, Whitty said.

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But Whitty said new restrictions have to be balanced against the impact on the economy and society, because increased deprivation and mental illness will also lead to deaths.

"If we do too little, this virus will go out of control and you will get significant numbers of increased direct and indirect deaths," he said "But if we go too far the other way, then we can cause damage to the economy, which can feed through to unemployment, to poverty, to deprivation."

Vallance said efforts to find a vaccine are continuing and while it is still not clear they will work, the research is pointing in the right direction. He said some vaccine could be available by the end of the year "in small amounts for certain groups."

Lockdown fears hit stocks on Monday as shares in companies in aviation, hospitality and travel took a beating. Shares in IAG, the parent company of British Airways, fell 11.3%, while pub company Mitchells & Butlers fell 11% and Intercontinental Hotels Group fell 4%.

Dr Michael Head, a global health expert at the University of Southampton, noted that Monday's warning highlighted the worst possible situation and did not take into account local lockdowns that could stem the spread of the virus.

"It is important to note that the chief medical (officer) did say the potential for 50,000 cases a day is a 'worst-case scenario,'" he said, but added "it's a timely reminder that the pandemic is accelerating, both globally and also here in the U.K."

The rise in U.K. infection rates comes as lawmakers across the political spectrum have criticized the Conservative government's testing program. While ministers tout the record numbers of tests being performed, there are widespread reports of people having to travel hundreds of miles for tests or tests being voided because it's taking labs too long to process them.

An app meant to bolster virus contact tracing efforts is to be released this week after months of delay.

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

Ginsburg's death exposes fragility of health law protection

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With COVID-19 the newest preexisting condition, the Obama-era health law that protects Americans from insurance discrimination is more fragile following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

A week after the presidential election, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments on an effort backed by President Donald Trump to strike down the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, in its entirety. Former President Barack Obama's landmark law bars insurers from turning away people with health problems, or charging them more.

With Ginsburg on the court, there seemed to be little chance the lawsuit championed by conservative-led states could succeed, given that she and four other justices had twice previously voted to uphold important parts of the health law. But that 5-4 majority is gone following Ginsburg's death last Friday from complications of metastatic cancer of the pancreas.

Yet it is not at all clear what the court will do. A narrow ruling might leave most of the law intact, sparing protections for people with preexisting conditions, Medicaid expansion, health insurance subsidies and other core elements. In that case Ginsburg's death might not turn out to be a crucial difference in the court's consideration.

Nonetheless, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has accused Trump of wanting to rush a conservative replacement for Ginsburg through Senate confirmation partly so he can accomplish his unfilled vow to repeal "Obamacare." A new justice could be seated in time for the Nov. 10 arguments.

"There's many, many people in our country — and millions more now because of coronavirus — who have preexisting medical conditions," she said Sunday on ABC. "The president has not been truthful in what he has said about that. He is in court to crush the preexisting condition as he crushes the Affordable

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Care Act, instead of crushing the virus.”

Said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., “If you don’t trust Republicans with your health care, you shouldn’t trust them with the Supreme Court seat.” Preserving safeguards for people with preexisting conditions is a top argument for Democrats trying to mobilize public opinion in states where incumbent Republican senators face tight reelection challenges. It’s one of the few avenues Democrats have to try to block a Supreme Court nominee in the GOP-controlled chamber.

The White House says Democrats are trying to scare voters. “Despite the refusal by the biased media to acknowledge it, President Trump has repeatedly said he will protect those with preexisting conditions,” spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement.

Back in 2017, failed Republican bills that sought to replace the Obama law would have weakened the health law’s protections for people with medical problems, said analyst Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. That GOP legislation had White House backing.

“It’s become like motherhood and apple pie to protect people with preexisting conditions, but there is a big gap in the campaign slogans and what (Republicans) are willing to support,” said Levitt. “President Trump has promised to protect people with preexisting conditions, but has yet to put out a plan to do so.”

The ACA provides coverage to more than 20 million people through a combination of expanded Medicaid and subsidized private insurance. Coverage has grown as people have lost job-based coverage in the coronavirus pandemic.

Although Obamacare is more than 10 years old, it remains politically divisive. In recent Kaiser polling, 49% of Americans viewed the health law favorably, while 42% did not. Yet by 53% to 38%, Americans did not want the Supreme Court to overturn the ACA.

The latest case to threaten the health law rests on arcane arguments.

The lawsuit followed congressional approval of a major tax cut in 2017, which included the reduction of an Obamacare tax on the uninsured to zero. Brought by Texas and other states, the suit argued that without the tax, the health law’s requirement that most Americans carry health insurance was unconstitutional. Therefore, the entire statute must fall.

A federal district court judge in Texas agreed with the Obamacare foes. But an appeals court in New Orleans hesitated to go that far. It struck down the ACA requirement to carry insurance, but sidestepped a decision on the constitutionality of the overall law. The appeals court sent the case back to the district judge to sift through what parts of the law should go or stay. ACA supporters appealed to the Supreme Court.

In written arguments this summer, the Trump administration said that if the health insurance requirement is invalidated, “then it necessarily follows that the rest of the ACA must also fall.” The administration’s brief to the Supreme Court did not mention the coronavirus.

If the high court first hears the case with eight justices and they deadlock 4-4, the court can schedule a new round of arguments when a new justice joins.

But whether Trump is reelected or former Vice President Joe Biden wins in November, the road to lasting health care changes that would improve options for Americans ultimately leads back to Congress.

If Democrat Biden wins the presidency, he’d expand the basic framework of Obama’s law and add a new public health plan. If Trump wins, he’d have another chance to make good on his pre-inauguration promise of “insurance for everybody” that would be “much less expensive and much better.”

Associated Press writer Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

Report: Order to shorten count wasn’t made by Census Bureau

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The decision to shorten by a month the 2020 head count of every U.S. resident was not made by the U.S. Census Bureau, and some agency officials suspect it was made by the White House or the Department of Commerce, according to a report from the bureau’s watchdog agency.

The report by the Office of Inspector General did not identify who made the decision to shorten the

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2020 census from the end of October to the end of September, but it said bureau officials confirm it was not made by them.

The accelerated schedule "increases the risks to the accuracy of the 2020 Census," the Inspector General report said. "This was the consensus view of the senior Bureau officials we interviewed."

Because of the pandemic, the Census Bureau got support last spring from the Department of Commerce, which oversees the agency, to push back its deadline from winding down the head count from the end of July to the end of October. The extra time was contingent on Congress extending the deadline for the Census Bureau turning in figures used to determine how many congressional seats each state gets from Dec. 31 to the end of next April, according to the report.

"This shift would allow the Bureau to follow the planned operations it had spent a decade developing," the Inspector General's report said.

At some point in July, though, support for the extensions from the Trump administration and Congress were called into doubt. There was pressure from the Commerce Department to speed up operations, legislation in Congress to extend the deadlines stalled and President Donald Trump issued a directive trying to exclude people in the country illegally from the numbers used in redrawing congressional districts, according to the Inspector General.

At least two Census Bureau officials interviewed by the Office of Inspector General believe the president's order changed the administration's support for extending the deadlines, the report said.

A three-judge panel in New York blocked Trump's directive earlier this month, saying it was unlawful. The Trump administration is planning an appeal to the Supreme Court.

On July 29, a senior Department of Commerce official told bureau officials to put together options for meeting the Dec. 31 deadline, and officials at the statistical agency concluded that it would have to end the head count at the end of September in order to have enough time to process the apportionment data.

Federal judges on opposite coasts this week are hearing arguments in two lawsuits seeking to extend the 2020 census into October. The lawsuits filed by civil rights groups, cities, counties and citizens say minority communities, including Latinos, Asian Americans, and non-U.S. citizens, stand to be undercounted if the census ends a month early.

A hearing in Maryland was held Monday, and a hearing in San Jose, California, will take place Tuesday.

During a 2 1/2-hour virtual hearing, a three-judge panel in Maryland focused their questions to attorneys on what would be considered an inaccurate count. They didn't say when they would rule on a request from the plaintiffs for either a temporary restraining order or an injunction that would stop the count from finishing at the end of the month.

The judge in the San Jose case earlier this month issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting the Census Bureau from winding down 2020 census operations for the time being. Plaintiffs in the San Jose case allege the decision to shorten the schedule was made to accommodate Trump's directive.

Government attorneys have argued that the census must finish by the end of September to meet the Dec. 31 deadline for turning over apportionment numbers.

So far, more than 95% of households had been counted. The Census Bureau has a goal of reaching 99% of households.

The bureau doesn't have a plan if it doesn't reach that 99% goal, the Inspector General report said, and the sped-up data processing plan after field operations end "poses a myriad of risks to accuracy and completeness."

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

Microsoft will buy video game maker ZeniMax for \$7.5 billion

REDMOND, Wash. (AP) — Microsoft is buying the company behind popular video games The Elder Scrolls, Doom and Fallout.

The software giant said Monday that it is paying \$7.5 billion for ZeniMax Media, the parent company of

video game publisher Bethesda Softworks.

Microsoft said it is buying Bethesda in part to beef up its Xbox Game Pass game subscription service, which it says has over 15 million subscribers.

Bethesda games, such as Starfield, which is currently in development, will launch on Xbox Game Pass the same day they launch on Xbox or computers, Microsoft said.

Microsoft has new consoles debuting on Nov. 10, the Xbox Series X and stripped down Series S version. It will be competing against Sony's new PlayStation 5 console.

R.W. Baird analyst Colin Sebastian said the deal is part of a wider industry trend of consolidation. Microsoft already owns studios that make popular games including Minecraft and the Halo franchise.

"We believe the deal checks a lot of boxes for Microsoft, such as strengthening the Xbox/Games division product portfolio as competition increases, boosting the profile of Xbox subscription services, and providing more content for the company's cloud gaming initiatives," he wrote in an investor note.

Microsoft Corp., which is based in Redmond, Washington, expects the deal to close in the second half of fiscal 2021.

Cuban-American judge from Florida on Trump high court list

By CURT ANDERSON and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A daughter of Cuban exiles who has had a swift rise as a lawyer and judge is on President Donald Trump's short list to replace Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court.

The president said Monday that he does not personally know Barbara Lagoa, but praised her as "terrific." Barely veiled was the fact that, as a Cuban-American from South Florida's city of Hialeah, her selection could benefit Trump in the Nov. 3 election, when Florida could be the ultimate kingmaker. Lagoa grew up in a heavily Hispanic suburb of Miami.

"She's excellent. She's Hispanic. She's a terrific woman from everything I know. I don't know her. Florida. We love Florida. So she's got a lot of things — very smart," Trump said in a call-in interview with "Fox and Friends."

Asked whether politics would play a role in the decision, Trump responded: "I try not to say so. I think probably automatically it is. Even if you're not wanting to do that it becomes a little automatic."

Speaking to reporters at the White House later Monday, Trump said he might meet Lagoa when he travels to Florida on Thursday for a campaign rally in Jacksonville. "She has a lot of support," said Trump, who added he held calls on Sunday and Monday with some of the candidates he's considering. "I don't know her but I hear she is outstanding."

After the death Friday of 87-year-old Ginsburg, a liberal icon, Trump said he would name a woman as a replacement — possibly by Saturday. Trump said Monday he has about five top prospects.

At 52, Lagoa would become the youngest member of the U.S. Supreme Court if nominated and confirmed.

Lagoa, an only child, once joked that after graduating from Florida International University leaving her close-knit Cuban-American family for New York to obtain her law degree from Columbia University "was not a popular decision in my house."

When she was picked for the Florida Supreme Court, Lagoa said her father gave up his dream of becoming a lawyer and that both her parents worked long hours while she rode her bike and roller skated down the streets of Hialeah where she was cared for by her grandmother.

"My parents sacrificed to send me to Catholic school further instilling in me an abiding faith in God that has grounded me and sustained me through the highs and lows of life," she said.

Lagoa is currently a judge on the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Trump appointed her to that post in 2019 and the Senate confirmed her on an 80-15 vote.

Before that, for less than a year she was a justice on the Florida Supreme Court after more than a decade on a Miami-based state appeals court where she wrote some 360 opinions. She was the first woman of Hispanic heritage on the state Supreme Court.

She's been in private practice, including work for Florida family members on the 2000 saga of the cus-

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tody of Cuban rafter child Elian Gonzalez, which remains a hot-button issue in Miami to this day. Lagoa was also a federal prosecutor in Miami for a time.

A Lagoa nomination may impact voters in the suburb of Hialeah, a popular site for campaigns seeking to persuade undecided voters.

Last weekend, groups for Biden and Trump rallied Cuban-Americans with drive-by events waving flags in this bastion of working-class voters where precinct-level analysis suggest Trump was not as dominant among Cubans in 2016.

"It is extremely exciting to have a fellow first-generation Cuban-American from Hialeah," said Annette Collazo, also a daughter of exiles who is running as a Democrat for state representative in a district that includes Hialeah. "I temper that excitement with the reality. While diversity in background and views are extremely important, we also need diversity in judicial approach."

The process remains fluid, but as of Monday afternoon, conversations in the White House and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office were increasingly focused on two finalists: Amy Coney Barrett and Lagoa.

Coney Barrett emerged as the clear preference of a growing number of senators, largely because she is the much better-known of the two, having been through a grueling Senate confirmation process already and been embraced by the conservative base. Predictability is considered a crucial factor for the president and vulnerable senators so close to the election. Lagoa remains in the running, however, and those who know her well expect Trump to warm to her if and when they meet in person.

In her short tenure on the 11th Circuit, one controversial ruling in which she was among five Trump appointees in the majority was a 6-4 decision earlier this month that Florida felons had to not only complete their prison time but also pay any fines, fees and restitution.

There were calls from supporters of the original felon voting amendment for Lagoa and a fellow 11th Circuit Judge, Robert Luck, to recuse themselves from the case because they participated in a state Supreme Court case on the issue but neither did.

The decision upheld a state law passed by the Republican-led Legislature that critics say violates the spirit of a constitutional amendment overwhelming approved by Florida voters in 2018 that potentially would enfranchise tens of thousands of former felons without the monetary considerations.

Desmond Meade, who led the effort to pass the measure known as Amendment 4, called the decision "a blow to democracy and to the hundreds of thousands of returning citizens across Florida."

When she was appointed to the state Supreme Court by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican Trump ally, Lagoa had this to say about the role of the courts:

"I am particularly mindful of the fact that under our constitutional system it is for the Legislature and not the courts to make the law. It is the role of judges to apply, not to alter, the work of the peoples' representatives. And it is the role of judges to interpret our Constitution and statutes as they are written."

DeSantis said her credentials were "impeccable" and said Lagoa's background as the daughter of exiles who fled communist Cuba gave her a unique perspective on U.S. law. Lagoa was born in Miami in 1967 after her parents left Cuba.

"My parents, like many others, came to this country from Cuba to start rebuilding their lives in a land that offered them opportunity, but more importantly, freedom," she has said.

Lagoa is also a member of the Federalist Society, a legal organization popular with conservatives. She is married to Miami lawyer Paul Huck Jr., whose father, Paul Huck Sr., is a senior judge on the Miami-based federal court. They have three daughters.

Anderson reported from St. Petersburg, Fla. Associated Press writers Steve Peoples in Montclair, N.J. and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this story.

Virtual UN meeting saps NYC of yearly hubbub, cash infusion

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

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NEW YORK (AP) — In a normal September, leaders of nations big and small would converge on New York this week, giving the United States' largest city a chance to show itself off as a crossroads of the world.

But this year, the usual lineup of presidents, premiers, monarchs and other dignitaries won't be sweeping into the city for the U.N. General Assembly's annual top-level meeting and the conferences, high-stakes sit-downs and hobnobbing that surround it. The assembly has moved online because of the coronavirus, compounding the pandemic's blows to the city's economy and worldly esprit.

"We are a cosmopolitan city. You know, we are the melting pot of the world, And to not have the world come to us this way is chipping away at this beautiful city that we had pre-COVID," says restaurateur Philippe Massoud.

Ordinarily, he would be looking forward to one of the best weeks of the year at ilili, his Lebanese-Mediterranean restaurant. It's about a mile (1.6 km) from the U.N. and has drawn a number of prominent figures, particularly during the annual assembly summits, he says.

"We're a great place for diplomatic first dates," Massoud explains. The eatery's mezze — small dishes meant for sharing — serve as icebreakers, he says: "Mezze and diplomacy go hand-in-hand." Those tete-a-tetes aren't on the menu during this assembly, which comes as ilili and other New York restaurants are already straining from a monthslong ban this spring on dining out, continuing limitations on table service, and worries about the city's overall path to recovery.

As the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak this spring, New York City has lost more than 23,000 residents to confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19. That's more than the nationwide death tolls reported in most countries.

New York wrangled the virus down to fairly low, stable levels in late spring but remains wary. On top of U.S. restrictions on certain international travelers, New York requires visitors from most U.S. states to quarantine themselves on arrival, and big gatherings and even indoor restaurant dining are still banned.

The city says it appreciates that the U.N., which donated 250,000 much-needed surgical masks in late March, took the initiative to hold its signature big meeting by video for the first time in its 75 years.

"From a city perspective, we have been very grateful for that," said Penny Abeywardena, New York City's international affairs commissioner. "Unfortunately, the economic impact is going to be significant."

Even in a city that has boasted of drawing 65 million visitors a year, the U.N. gathering is one of the most notable, and noticeable, annual events.

About 25,000 people entered the U.N. headquarters just on the first day of last year's roughly weeklong meeting, according to the organization. The city's hotels — currently making only about 20% of their normal revenue — usually reap about \$20 million from assembly attendees' room rentals alone, said Vijay Dandapani, the CEO of the Hotel Association of New York City, a trade group.

Police and federal authorities have mobilized massive efforts to protect General Assembly meetings, setting up such extensive roadblocks that the city declares "gridlock alert days." Even pedestrians get screened at checkpoints blocks away from the UN complex. Police wouldn't discuss this year's security plan.

As the U.N.'s big week began Monday morning with a session marking the world body's 75th anniversary, curbside police barricades lined the avenue outside but traffic flowed normally, with no police-escorted motorcades whizzing by. A smattering of news cameras stood in a usually jam-packed space outside the gate. In a nearby area often crowded with multiple groups of protesters, about a dozen demonstrators opposing Belarus' authoritarian president had the place to themselves.

Local residents could go about their business as usual, though for many, security, blockades and protests are "features that we just accept as part of living near the U.N.," said Roland Peracca of Tudor City, an enclave overlooking the headquarters. "I wish them well in their efforts to achieve world peace."

There was little of the usual hubbub at the Millennium Hilton across from the U.N., a favorite of leaders, including Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. The hotel has been more oriented of late toward medical professionals, providing them a total of over 17,500 free nights earlier this year, the company said.

Two blocks away, Patsy's, a pizza-and-pasta place, is usually packed with diplomats this week, Gus Manassis said.

"We have people that we know them for years — every General Assembly, they come here. And this

year, we're going to miss 'em," he said. "It's killing our business."

Beyond the diplomats and dignitaries, the assembly also brings aides, civil society activists and everyday citizens to New York, showcasing the city to the world, the hotel association's Dandapani said.

"Just think about it — how many of those people, from 193 countries, get a chance to come here" and report back on the city's diverse vibrancy, he mused.

"There is no city like New York," he said, and "there is no better message than the cultural message that is sent over by the kind of polyglot, polyethnic city that we are."

Associated Press writer Michael R. Sisak and video journalist David R. Martin contributed. Follow Jennifer Peltz on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jennpeltz>

Soaring wealth during pandemic highlights rising inequality

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' household wealth rebounded last quarter to a record high as the stock market quickly recovered from a pandemic-induced plunge in March. Yet the gains flowed mainly to the most affluent households even as tens of millions of people endured job losses and shrunken incomes.

The Federal Reserve said Monday that American households' net worth jumped nearly 7% in the April-June quarter to \$119 trillion. That figure had sunk to \$111.3 trillion in the first quarter, when the coronavirus battered the economy and sent stock prices tumbling.

Since then, the S&P 500 stock index has regained its record high before losing some ground this month. It was up 2.8% for this year as of Friday. The tech-heavy Nasdaq has soared more than 20% this year.

The full recovery of wealth even while the economy has regained only about half the jobs lost to the pandemic recession underscores what many economists see as America's widening economic inequality. Data compiled by Opportunity Insights, a research group, show that the highest-paying one-third of jobs have almost fully recovered from the recession, while the lowest-paying one-third of jobs remain 16% below pre-pandemic levels.

The wealth data "highlights the inequalities in the recovery in the sense that high-income workers not only have jobs that for the most part have come back; they also have savings that have continued to grow," said John Friedman, an economist at Brown University who is co-director of Opportunity Insights.

The richest one-tenth of Americans owned more than two-thirds of the nation's wealth, according to Fed data through the end of March, the latest period for which figures are available. The top 1% owned 31%.

The small financial cushion for most households could force many consumers to cut back on spending in the coming months, now that government financial aid such as enhanced unemployment benefits has expired. Any significant such cutback in spending would, in turn, weaken the economy.

Household wealth reflects the value of Americans' homes, plus bank accounts, stocks, bonds and other assets minus mortgage debt, auto loans, credit card debt and other borrowing. (The figures are not adjusted for inflation.)

During the April-June quarter, the value of households' stock portfolios rose \$5.7 trillion, the Fed said. Home values grew \$500 billion.

Americans also sharply increased their savings last quarter, likely reflecting a cutback in spending by wealthier consumers nervous about the virus's threat to the economy. The federal government's financial assistance in the form of \$1,200 checks and \$600 in weekly unemployment benefits also likely allowed some lower-income households to save more. That government assistance has since expired.

The amount of money in checking accounts jumped 33% to \$1.8 trillion. Savings accounts rose 6.1% to \$11.2 trillion.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has repeatedly expressed concern about widespread inequality in the U.S. economy and last week said it is likely inhibiting growth.

"Those are things that hold back our economy," Powell said at a news conference. "If we want to have the highest potential output and the best output for our economy, we need that prosperity to be very

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broadly spread.”

Yet many analysts say the Fed’s policies have inadvertently contributed to inequality by disproportionately benefiting stockholders. The central bank has cut its benchmark short-term interest rate to nearly zero and is buying about \$80 billion in Treasuries a month. Both moves have kept rates on government bonds ultra-low, thereby encouraging investors to plow money into stocks and boosting share prices.

The Fed has also bought about \$12 billion in corporate bonds and exchange-traded funds made up of corporate debt. Those purchases are intended to ensure that the corporate bond market functions smoothly and that large corporations can borrow by issuing debt.

Its purchases have been relatively small relative to the size of the overall market. But the Fed’s actions have restored confidence in the bond market and enabled large U.S. companies to embark on a borrowing binge.

The Fed’s report Monday showed that business debt jumped 14% in the second quarter, after an even bigger rise of 18.4% in the first quarter.

Amanda Fischer, policy director at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, a progressive think tank, said that the Fed could have required those companies whose bonds it bought to keep all their workers. Instead, for example, the Fed has purchased bonds issued by ExxonMobil, yet that company has said it is considering layoffs.

“The Fed did have the opportunity to attach conditions to the lending, and they chose not to,” Fischer said.

Powell and many economists have said that another financial rescue package from Congress would boost the economy and help narrow inequality, because Congress can provide additional direct payments and more jobless aid. Yet there is no signs of a deal in Congress.

The data the Fed issued Monday pointed to huge gaps in wealth along racial lines. White households owned nearly 85% of total wealth at the end of March. Black households owned just 4.4%, Hispanics 3.2%.

Much smaller financial resources mean that many nonwhite households are forced to sharply cut spending after a job loss or reduced incomes. Research by economists Peter Ganong and Damon Jones at the University of Chicago found that Black Americans cut spending 50% more than whites when faced with the same income losses. Hispanics reduced theirs by 20% more.

Even with household wealth at a record high, millions of people face the threat of eviction or going hungry. A Fed report released Friday found that nearly one-quarter of adults said their family had received some form of economic help since the pandemic began, whether from unemployment benefits, food stamps or donations of groceries from charitable groups.

Nearly 23 million adults live in households in which there wasn’t enough to eat at some point in the past seven days, according to the Census Bureau’s Household Pulse survey.

The rebound in wealth “is not enough to say that the economy is back,” Jones said. “People have lost their jobs, they’re working less because it’s dangerous and risky and their hours have been cut.”

Feds threaten funds to NYC, Seattle and Portland over unrest

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department identified New York City, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle as three cities that could have federal funding slashed under a memorandum by President Donald Trump that sought to identify localities that permit “anarchy, violence and destruction in American cities.”

The designation, which could open the door for the federal government to cut off some funding to the cities, drew immediate criticism from local elected officials. It comes as Trump throughout the summer has cast American cities run by Democratic mayors as under siege by violence and lawlessness, despite the fact that most of the demonstrations against racial injustice have been largely peaceful.

An attempt to cut off federal funding to the cities would likely be met with immediate legal challenges and several federal judges ruled in favor of municipalities over similar attempts to withhold funding tied to immigration policies.

The Justice Department said the three cities were designated because they meet four main criteria, including “whether a jurisdiction forbids the police force from intervening to restore order amid widespread

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or sustained violence or destruction" and whether the city "disempowers or defunds police departments."

In Seattle, officials pointed to the "occupied" protest zone, also known as the "Capitol Hill Occupied Protest" zone, or CHOP, which emerged during nationwide protests over the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, though Seattle police officers wearing helmets and wielding batons and rifles, cleared the area by force on July 1. In Portland, they pointed to 100 consecutive nights of protests "marred by vandalism, chaos, and even killing" and in New York City, the Justice Department pointed to a skyrocketing number of shootings throughout the five boroughs.

It is not the first time the Justice Department has attempted to take action against city officials for the violent demonstrations.

The department also explored whether it could pursue either criminal or civil rights charges against city officials in Portland after clashes erupted there night after night between law enforcement and demonstrators. For weeks, hundreds of demonstrators gathered outside the federal courthouse in Portland, some throwing bricks, rocks and other projectiles at officers, leading officers to fire volleys of tear gas and pepper balls at the crowd.

"When state and local leaders impede their own law enforcement officers and agencies from doing their jobs, it endangers innocent citizens who deserve to be protected, including those who are trying to peacefully assemble and protest," Attorney General William Barr said in a statement. "We cannot allow federal tax dollars to be wasted when the safety of the citizenry hangs in the balance."

Barr said he hoped the designation would convince the cities to "reverse course and become serious about performing the basic function of government and start protecting their own citizens."

The attorney general's statement drew immediate condemnation from New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo, both Democrats, who accused the Trump administration of politicization of law enforcement.

"This is just another one of President Trump's games," de Blasio said.

Trump has heaped blame for the unrest on Democrats, who are leading the cities where violence has occurred, and tried to focus squarely on pockets of protest-related violence instead of the larger point of the racial injustice movement.

In a joint statement, de Blasio, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan decried the designation as "thoroughly political and unconstitutional."

"The President is playing cheap political games with Congressionally directed funds. Our cities are bringing communities together; our cities are pushing forward after fighting back a pandemic and facing the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, all despite recklessness and partisanship from the White House," the statement said.

In a separate statement, Durkan said the threats to defund the cities were "are a gross misuse of federal power and blatantly unlawful."

"Trump, the Department of Justice, and Barr's obsession with Seattle and me is irrational and most importantly, a huge distraction," she said.

A number of cities, including New York, sued the U.S. government after the Justice Department announced in 2017 that it would withhold grant money from cities and states until they gave federal immigration authorities access to jails and provide advance notice when someone in the country illegally is about to be released. Federal appeals courts in Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco have ruled against the federal government by upholding lower-court injunctions placed on the enforcement of some or all of the challenged conditions, though in February the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan overturned a lower court's decision ordering the administration to release funding to New York City and seven states

"Just like with sanctuary cities when he did that a couple of years ago and lost, if he actually does this, we will sue and he will lose once again," Cuomo said.

Associated Press writers Karen Matthews in New York and Eugene Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

Meghan's lawyers deny she cooperated with royal book authors

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Lawyers for a British newspaper publisher that's being sued for invasion of privacy by the Duchess of Sussex argued Monday that she made personal information public by cooperating with the authors of a book about her relationship with Prince Harry. Her lawyers deny the claim.

The former Meghan Markle is suing the publisher of the Mail on Sunday and the MailOnline website over five February 2019 articles that published portions of a handwritten letter she wrote to her estranged father, Thomas Markle, after her marriage to Harry in 2018.

Meghan, 39, is seeking damages from publisher Associated Newspapers Ltd. for alleged misuse of private information, copyright infringement and data protection breaches.

The publisher is contesting the claim. It argues that Meghan must have known the letter to her father would likely become public.

Alexandra Marzec, a lawyer for Associated Newspapers, said Monday that Meghan had a media strategy that involved "using her friends as, effectively, PR agents" to "influence the media" in the months before she sent the letter to her father.

At a hearing Monday at the High Court in London, the publisher sought to amend its defense in light of a book about Meghan and Harry that was published last month.

It said the book — "Finding Freedom" — "contains a great deal of detailed information about (Meghan's) personal life, including a number of passages referring to her relationship and communications with her father, and a section referring to the letter which is at the heart of this case."

Antony White, the senior lawyer for Associated Newspapers, said in written submissions that the book appeared to have been written with Meghan and Harry's "extensive cooperation."

But Meghan's lawyers denied that she cooperated with the authors of the book, Carolyn Durand and Omid Scobie.

"The claimant and her husband did not collaborate with the authors on the book, nor were they interviewed for it, nor did they provide photographs to the authors for the book," Meghan's lawyer Justin Rushbrooke said in a written submission.

Scobie said in a written witness statement that "any suggestion that the Duke and Duchess collaborated on the book is false."

American actress Meghan Markle, star of TV legal drama "Suits," married Harry, one of the grandsons of Queen Elizabeth II, in a lavish ceremony at Windsor Castle in May 2018. Their son, Archie, was born the following year.

Early this year the couple announced they were quitting royal duties and moving to North America, citing what they said was the unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media. They recently bought a house in Santa Barbara, California.

Judge Francesca Kays said she would rule on the publisher's attempt to amend its defense at a later date.

Monday's court session was the latest preliminary hearing in the high-profile case. A full trial is scheduled to begin in January.

Following an earlier hearing in May, a judge dismissed parts of Meghan's claim, including allegations that Associated Newspapers acted "dishonestly" by leaving out certain parts of her letter to her father. The judge also struck out allegations that the publisher deliberately stirred up issues between Meghan and her father and that it had an agenda in publishing intrusive articles about her.

Last month a judge ruled that the duchess can keep secret the names of five close friends who defended her anonymously in People magazine against alleged U.K. media bullying.

High Court judge Mark Warby agreed, "for the time being at least," to grant Meghan's request to protect the anonymity of friends who spoke to the magazine in order to spare them a "frenzy of publicity" before the case comes to a full trial.

This story corrects the name of Meghan's lawyer to Justin Rushbrooke.

Follow all AP stories about Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at <https://apnews.com/PrinceHarry>.

'I miss mommy': Families shattered by COVID forge new paths

By MATT SEDENSKY, KELLI KENNEDY and DAVID CRARY Associated Press

Just four months had passed since Ramon Ramirez buried his wife and now, here he was, hospitalized himself with COVID-19. The prognosis was dire, and the fate of his younger children consumed him. Before ending his final video call with his oldest, a 29-year-old single mother of two, he had one final request: "Take care of your brothers."

Before long, he was added to the rolls of the pandemic's dead, and his daughter, Marlene Torres, was handed the crushing task of making good on her promise. Overnight, her home ballooned, with her four siblings, ages 11 to 19, joining her own two children, 2 and 8.

The emotional and financial demands are so overwhelming that Torres finds herself pleading to the heavens. "Please help me," she begs her parents. "Guide me."

As the U.S. approaches the milestone of 200,000 pandemic deaths, the pain repeats: An Ohio boy, too young for words of his own, who plants a kiss on a photo of his dead mother. A New Jersey toddler, months ago the center of a joyous, balloon-filled birthday, now in therapy over the loss of her father. Three siblings who lost both mom and dad, thrusting the oldest child, a 21 year old, into the role of parent to his sisters.

With eight in 10 American virus victims age 65 and older, it's easy to view the young as having been spared its wrath. But among the dead are an untold number of parents who've left behind children that constitute another kind of victim.

Micah Terry, 11, of Clinton Township, Michigan, misses seeing his dad at his karate classes, stopping by his father's workplace, and sneaking in chicken nuggets with him at the movies. At his saddest points, he talks about him all day. But his brother, 16-year-old Joshua, grows quiet when the grief hits, channeling his feelings through the piano, which he learned to play from his father.

"My dad was my best friend," Joshua says about Marshall Terry III, who died in April. "My goal is to make him proud while he watches from heaven."

In Waldwick, New Jersey, Pamela Addison's 10-month-old son Graeme is bubbly and doesn't seem to notice his father is missing, but it's different for her daughter, Elsie. Addison sees the tot's last truly happy day as her birthday in March, when Papa bought balloons and the virus seemed a distant threat.

Martin Addison was dead a month later at 44; today, Elsie, at the tender age of 2, is in grief counseling to handle it all.

"She's having a difficult time adjusting to the fact he's not coming home," Addison says.

Four-year-old Zavion and 2-year-old Jazzmyn have been taken in by siblings after the death of their mother, 50-year-old Lunisol Guzman of Newark, New Jersey, who had adopted them when she was in her 40s. The oldest of her other three children, Katherine and Jennifer Guzman, swiftly decided to seek guardianship.

"These kids are our family," Katherine said. "For us, it was a no-brainer."

She says that Zavion and Jazzmyn are mostly resilient, but occasionally utter the same simple, heart-breaking sentence: "I miss mommy."

No authoritative count of parents of minors lost to the coronavirus has been tallied, but it appears certain to run into the thousands in the U.S. Some children are now landing in the homes of grandparents like Anadelia Diaz, whose 29-year-old daughter, a single mother of three, died of COVID-19.

"I don't call it a burden," says Diaz, of Lake Worth, Florida. "It's unconditional love."

Her 15-year-old grandson has long lived with her, but Diaz feels like a new mother again, aching from racing after two little ones – one 18 months old, another a year older – in a yard now dotted with a swing set and a kiddie pool.

She and her husband once dreamed of a vacation in Alaska; now she's had to stop working as a housekeeper and even a trip to the grocery store is an ordeal. The toddlers were used to sharing one room with their mother and, striving not to disrupt their routine even more, Diaz now sleeps in her den with them, where they wake each morning to a big picture of their mother on the wall.

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Losing a daughter felt like losing part of herself. Her daughter's memory is what keeps Diaz going. She turned 56 the day she buried Samantha, and she prayed she could survive to see the children through to adulthood.

"All I ask God is for our health and for strength, nothing else," she says.

Stepping in for those who've died can be uncertain terrain.

After Ramath Mzpeh Warith and Sierra Warith married and had their first child, Ramath Jr., they settled on a division of labor: Mom would focus on classes to become an ophthalmologic assistant and handle most childcare responsibilities. Dad would work late as a Cleveland bus driver to support them.

As they awaited their second baby, though, both parents tested positive for the coronavirus and, while Ramath was mostly asymptomatic, Sierra grew sicker. After she was hospitalized, a baby boy named Zephaniah was born by C-section on May 14.

Sierra never would be well enough to hold him. She died a day before she would have turned 24.

Suddenly, he was mourning the love of his life and learning to take on all the things he relied on her to do. He took parenting classes at the hospital and his mother moved in upstairs so she could help. His 20-month-old, Junior, plants kisses on a picture of his mother and cries that he's no longer nursed to sleep or cuddling beside her in bed.

Warith, 38, knows he will one day have to sit his boys down and tell them about their mother. But for now, he's taking it day by day, trying to be the best father he can be in a forever-altered life.

"They still need a parent," he says. "They still need to be hugged and kissed and loved."

It's impossible not to think of how things were before the losses the pandemic wrought.

For Nashwan Ayram of Sterling Heights, Michigan, it was a life of staying up late and sleeping until noon, and afternoons enjoying his mother's cakes. He was used to being spoiled by his parents, used to carefree plans like a summer backpacking trip in Europe, used to a life with few responsibilities.

"I used to wake up having a full tank of gas in my Camaro," he says, "worrying about nothing."

Now, both of the 21-year-old's parents are dead of the virus, and he's left watching over two sisters he never felt particularly close to before. He's teaching 18-year-old Nadeen to drive and helping 13-year-old Nanssy with school, all while attending to daily chores like grocery shopping and weeding through a mountain of paperwork to handle his parents' affairs and become a legal guardian.

He feels anger at his parents for dying and robbing him of his carefree life. He also calls them heroes for being so brave to leave their native Iraq and build a new life in the U.S. In a weird way, he says, losing them both at once may have been easier than only losing one: Now, he knows, life can never get worse.

Ayram wishes he could return to a carefree life of partying and freedom, but knows what he must do to make his parents proud.

"It's the only thing I can do," he says. "Honestly, it's just me living for my sisters."

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2020 Watch: Is this suddenly a new election?

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Presidential politics move fast. What we're watching heading into a new week on the 2020 campaign:

Days to general election: 43

Days to first debate: 8

THE NARRATIVE

The October surprise of 2020 came early.

The death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg injects another generational fight to an election year that already featured the deadliest public health threat in a century, the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression and the most significant civil unrest since the civil rights era. Six weeks before Election Day, the

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fight to replace Ginsburg is set to dominate headlines, with the prospect of reshuffling voters' priorities and campaign strategies, especially for President Donald Trump.

Still, the pandemic rages on. Millions of school children are stuck at home. The economic recovery is dragging. And nearly 200,000 Americans have died.

Coming soon: one of the most highly anticipated presidential debates in the modern era is just eight days away.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

Is this suddenly a new election?

A presidential election that was shaping up to be a referendum on Trump's divisive leadership through dueling crises may suddenly be transformed into one about Trump's next lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court.

Or not.

It's clear that the most passionate partisans in Washington and elsewhere will be obsessed with the election-eve nomination fight. The stakes are huge for the future of the U.S. judiciary and several major issues, abortion rights among them. But it's less clear that the persuadable voters of Florida, Pennsylvania and Arizona are equally interested in the Supreme Court battle.

Americans For Prosperity President Tim Phillips, a conservative leader whose organization has spent months knocking on swing-state voters' doors and has a keen sense of the electorate, is skeptical that the court battle will change the direction of the election. He was out canvassing over the weekend and tells us that the Supreme Court didn't even come up. He notes that most Americans are dealing with much more imminent crises: millions of children can't go to school, grandparents remain in isolation, and Main Street in towns across the nation is struggling to stay open.

If anybody says they know how this nomination fight will or won't reshape the 2020 landscape, they're only guessing.

And the nominee is?

Those close to the president are encouraging him to announce his Supreme Court nominee on or before the day of the first presidential debate, which is Sept. 29.

He has promised to pick a woman, and Republicans are hopeful that a female pick could help Trump's GOP with its problem with suburban women and serve as a counterweight to Biden's historic selection of Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate. Any nominee will have a record and a background that will undergo intense scrutiny.

Democrats will be praying for unearthed baggage that might delay the process or reflect poorly on Trump, as was the case with the president's last nominee. Trump's team will do everything in its power to make sure that doesn't happen.

Under normal conditions, Supreme Court nominations are immensely important. In this case, the pick could directly or indirectly reshape all three branches of the U.S. government.

What will Trump say about 200,000 dead Americans?

The pandemic's death toll, which is approaching 200,000 people, is staggering, by far the highest in the world. For context, more Americans have now been killed by COVID-19 than were killed in all the military conflicts after World War II and the 9/11 attacks combined.

The scary part is that there are still several hundred Americans dying each day heading into flu season. Before this is over, COVID could overtake cancer and heart disease as the leading cause of death in the United States this year.

Trump, who largely left states to deal with the pandemic on their own, has been escalating his promises of a vaccine in the near future to stop the death. But the president's well-documented history of spreading false information about the pandemic and other issues has badly damaged his credibility, and as a result, roughly half of Americans report that they may not take the vaccine when it's available.

Can Trump reset expectations for the first debate?

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Trump and his allies have spent much of the summer degrading Biden's mental acuity, portraying the 77-year-old Democrat as a senile old man who has lost the capacity to speak or think. Polling suggests that this line of attack has not been effective, and worse for Trump, it's dramatically lowered expectations for Biden in the first debate.

It may be too late already, but Trump's team has to shift those expectations — at least a little — before their first debate.

Biden is a far more experienced debater and has a much better command of global affairs and domestic policy than Trump. At the same time, Trump will enter the debate vulnerable on multiple fronts, having been caught on tape encouraging foreign governments to meddle in the election before presiding over the worst economic collapse and public health crises in a century.

Biden has the experience and the ammunition to do real damage. But a week before the debate, thanks to Trump's messaging, the Democrat is the perceived underdog.

THE FINAL THOUGHT

Biden's home state of Pennsylvania is increasingly looking like 2020's premier battleground state.

While it's true that both candidates have multiple paths to 270 electoral votes, their chances of winning would decrease dramatically if they fail to capture the state's 20 electoral votes. There has been little public polling in recent weeks, but each side privately tells us the race there is tightening.

Trump is scheduled to campaign in Pennsylvania twice this week. And after Florida, no state will see more spending on presidential advertising over the coming six weeks than Pennsylvania, according to the ad tracking firm Kantar/CMAG. Also, just days ago, Biden unveiled a frame for the election that's decidedly Pennsylvania-focused: This is a campaign between "Scranton and Park Avenue," Biden declared, drawing a contrast between his working-class Pennsylvania roots and Trump's privileged upbringing in New York.

Trump became the first Republican since 1988 to win Pennsylvania four years ago. But he did it by just 44,000 votes out of more than 6 million cast.

2020 Watch runs every Monday and provides a look at the week ahead in the 2020 election.

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/>

This story has been updated to correct the coronavirus death toll as nearly 200,000 not more than 200,000.

Navalny says nerve agent was found 'in and on' his body

By DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny demanded Monday that Russia return the clothes he was wearing on the day he fell into a coma in Siberia, calling it "a crucial piece of evidence" in the nerve agent poisoning he is being treated for at a German hospital.

In a blog post Monday, Navalny said the Novichok nerve agent was found "in and on" his body, and said the clothes taken off him when he was hospitalized in Siberia a month ago after collapsing on a Russian flight are "very important material evidence."

"I demand that my clothes be carefully packed in a plastic bag and returned to me," the 44-year-old politician and corruption investigator wrote.

Navalny, Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critic, fell ill on a domestic flight to Moscow on Aug. 20, was brought to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk and was transferred to Germany for treatment two days later. A German military lab later determined that the Russian politician was poisoned with Novichok, the same class of Soviet-era nerve agent that Britain said was used in 2018 on a former Russian spy and his daughter in England.

Navalny was kept in an induced coma for more than a week while being treated with an antidote. Last

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week the hospital in Berlin reported taking him off the ventilator as his condition improved. Navalny has since posted several photos of himself in the hospital, saying he is recovering his verbal, mental and physical abilities.

In a statement Monday, Navalny blasted Russian authorities for not launching a criminal probe into what happened to him.

"There is no criminal case in Russia, there is a 'preliminary inquiry regarding the fact of hospitalization.' It looks as if I didn't fall into a coma on a plane, but rather tripped in a supermarket and broke my leg," Navalny wrote.

Russian police said they started a preliminary probe — an inquiry to determine whether a criminal investigation should be launched — after Navalny was hospitalized.

Navalny and his allies on Monday argued that, according to existing regulations, the inquiry should have been completed in 30 days; those 30 days ran out on Saturday, and now the politician wants his clothes back.

Since the inquiry hasn't resulted in a criminal case, "it can now be argued that the Russian state has officially decided to ignore the poisoning of Navalny," the politician's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said in a video statement on Monday.

Police said Monday the inquiry was still ongoing.

The Kremlin has repeatedly said they see no grounds for a criminal case, as Russian labs and the hospital in Omsk found no indications of poisoning. Other European labs have backed Germany's stance that Navalny was poisoned with independent tests of their own.

Germany's conclusion that Navalny was poisoned has fueled tensions between Russia and the West. German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Navalny's poisoning an attempted murder, meant to silence Putin's most prominent foe.

Moscow has demanded that Germany provide its evidence and bristled at the urging of Merkel and other Western leaders to answer questions about what happened to Navalny.

"There is too much absurdity in this case to take anyone at their word," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday.

Earlier this month, Merkel's office indicated that she might be willing to rethink the fate of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that will bring Russian gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea — a sign of Berlin's growing frustration over Moscow's stonewalling about the Navalny case.

Other Western countries joined Germany in calling for a full investigation, with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling the use of a chemical weapon "outrageous." White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany has called the poisoning "completely reprehensible," adding that the U.S. was "working with our allies and the international community to hold those in Russia accountable."

Biden would push for less US reliance on nukes for defense

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Joe Biden leaves little doubt that if elected he would try to scale back President Donald Trump's buildup in nuclear weapons spending. And although the former vice president has not fully detailed his nuclear priorities, he says he would make the U.S. less reliant on the world's deadliest weapons.

The two candidates' views on nuclear weapons policy and strategy carry unusual significance in this election because the United States is at a turning point in deciding the future of its weapons arsenal and because of growing debate about the threat posed by Chinese and Russian nuclear advances.

China, whose relatively small nuclear force is growing in sophistication, is cited by the Pentagon's top nuclear commander as a leading reason why the United States should go all out on nuclear modernization.

"We are going into a very different world," Adm. Charles Richard, the head of U.S. Strategic Command, said Sept. 14. "We are on a trajectory, for the first time in our nation's history, to face two peer nuclear-capable competitors." He was referring to Russia, which has long been a nuclear peer, and China, whose

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leaders Richard says have put a strategic nuclear buildup “next on their to-do list.”

Days later, Richard said China could become a peer “by the end of the decade, if not sooner.” But other estimates suggest a slower pace. The Pentagon recently said Beijing may double its nuclear stockpile over the next 10 years, which would still leave it far behind the U.S.

Trump entered the White House in 2017 with little to say on the subject of nuclear weapons, but his administration produced a policy document a year later that the Pentagon portrayed as largely tracking the path of the Obama administration. Trump did, however, add two weapon types and beef up the budget for a years-long overhaul of the nuclear arsenal — an overhaul that Biden sees as excessive.

“Our nuclear now is in the best shape it’s been in decades,” the president said this month, although the military says the arsenal’s main components are so old they are long past due for replacement. He has boasted in broad, sometimes cryptic, terms of U.S. nuclear advances, telling journalist Bob Woodward in 2019 that he had built a secret nuclear weapon that neither Russian nor China knew about.

If reelected, Trump would be expected to stay on his path of modernizing the nuclear arsenal, which has bipartisan support in Congress despite growing budget pressures. Less clear is how Trump would approach nuclear arms control, including the problem of North Korea’s unconstrained arsenal. His administration has walked away from one arms control deal with Russia and balked at extending an Obama-era strategic nuclear treaty with Russia that Biden says he would keep in place.

Just days before Trump entered the White House, then-Vice President Biden cautioned against abandoning Obama’s approach.

“If future budgets reverse the choices we’ve made, and pour additional money into a nuclear buildup, it hearkens back to the Cold War and will do nothing to increase the day-to-day security of the United States or our allies,” Biden said in a Jan. 11, 2017, speech at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

James Acton, a nuclear expert at the Carnegie Endowment, says Biden’s instincts on nuclear weapons are more liberal than those of much of the Democratic Party’s defense establishment. But that doesn’t necessarily mean he would fundamentally change U.S. nuclear policy.

“In practice, there are often pressures to continue the status quo,” Acton said in an interview.

Biden embraces the notion that nuclear weapons should play a smaller role in defense strategy and that the ultimate goal should be a nuclear-free world. He has not spelled out how he would pursue this, but he has dropped clues.

He has said, for example, that he opposes the Trump administration’s decision to develop and deploy two types of missiles armed with less-powerful “low-yield” nuclear warheads. One is a sea-launched cruise missile that is some years from being fielded; the other is a long-range ballistic missile that the Navy began deploying aboard submarines nearly a year ago.

“Bad idea,” Biden said in July 2019. Having these makes the U.S. “more inclined to use them,” he added.

During the campaign, Biden also has embraced what nuclear strategists call a “no first use” policy. In simplest terms, that means not initiating a nuclear war — not being the first to pull the trigger, so that in a nuclear crisis, the U.S. president might opt to unleash a retaliatory strike but not a preemptive one. Long-standing U.S. policy has been to reserve the option of striking first, arguing that this makes war less likely.

Obama considered but rejected a shift to “no first use.”

The Biden campaign has made few pronouncements on U.S. nuclear weapons policy or strategy and it declined to make an adviser available for an interview. The campaign website says Biden believes “the sole purpose of the U.S. nuclear arsenal should be deterring — and if necessary, retaliating against — a nuclear attack. As president, he will work to put that belief into practice, in consultation with our allies and military.”

In a questionnaire last year by the Council for a Livable World in which Biden and other candidates were asked whether the U.S. should review its policy reserving the option of using nuclear weapons first, Biden said yes but did not elaborate. He also agreed that modernizing the U.S. arsenal could be done for less than the currently projected \$1.2 trillion.

Some have speculated that Biden would consider dropping the plan to build a new nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile force, replacing the Minuteman 3 fleet fielded in 1970. That project is expected to

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cost at least \$85 billion.

Loren Thompson, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute, believes Biden would stick to the missile program.

"This outcome will result partly from the fact that Joe Biden is a common-sense centrist who respects the views of experts," Thompson wrote recently. "He will find few if any experts in the nation's nuclear establishment who think phasing out ICBMs would make us safer."

This story corrects group name to Council for a Livable World, not Council for a Living World.

The 'Pandemmys' were weird and sometimes wonderful

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

It was Regina King, winning her fourth career Emmy on Sunday, who perhaps summed up the proceedings the most succinctly — and accurately: "This is freaking weird."

Why, yes, being handed your Emmy inside your home, by a person you didn't know was coming, with fellow nominees zooming in from their own homes, while host Jimmy Kimmel played to a house of empty seats and cardboard cutouts — well, it WAS weird as heck.

But the "Pandemmys," as host Kimmel called this strangest of award shows, also worked pretty darned well at times — when Kimmel and Jennifer Aniston weren't coming close to accidentally burning down the Staples Center with an overly zealous attempt to disinfect a winner's envelope with real flames (yes, a coronavirus joke).

Some key moments of an unforgettably unusual night:

WE'LL HAVE WHAT THEY'RE HAVING

Whatever flames were actually burning onstage, the real fire was happening up in Toronto, where the gathered cast and creators of "Schitt's Creek" were having an incredible night. The first award of the evening, best actress in a comedy, went to the gifted veteran Catherine O'Hara, and then they kept winning, the Canadian crowd becoming increasingly giddy as it became clear this little show about a wealthy family down on its luck was sweeping the comedy awards. Nobody was more thrilled than Daniel Levy, son of best actor winner Eugene Levy; the younger Levy won the award for comedy writing, shared a directing award and captured the supporting actor trophy. "The internet is about to turn on me. I'm so sorry," Levy said.

Sorry, not sorry.

A CALL TO THE BOOTH

Levy used some of his considerable mic time to urge viewers to vote in November. Noting that his show was "at its core about the transformational effects of love and acceptance," he urged people to "go out and vote because that is the only way that we are going to have love and acceptance out there." Of course, he wasn't the only one: King, when she won for HBO's "Watchmen," reminded watchers: "Have a voting plan, go to ballotpedia.com, vote up the ballot, please. Also stressing the importance of the vote: Mark Ruffalo, a winner for "I Know This Much Is True."

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

It was a solution born of necessity, having winners give their acceptance speeches (mostly) from home. But there was something gratifying about watching people in their own living rooms, surrounded by people they loved, as awkward or messy as it sometimes was. Ruffalo, for example, when he spoke of the "big, important moment ahead of us" as a country, was cheered with smiles, tears and pumped fists by his wife, Sunny, surely one of the most supportive spouses in Emmy history. At one point, we gotta say, we just stopped watching Ruffalo and focused on his wife. On Twitter, there was at least one call for her to win best supporting actress.

MOMMY!

Uzo Aduba, winning her Emmy for playing Shirley Chisholm in "Mrs. America," knew what she had to say first: "Mom, I won!" Her mother, it turns out, was downstairs, and according to Aduba, a bit confused as to how things were working. "She was not fully grasping," Aduba said later. "What do you mean the

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Emmys are going to be in the house? Are people coming here? She was downstairs and so excited and so proud." The cutest part was when Aduba ended her speech, turned away from us and promptly called out: "Mommy!"

ZENDAYA MAKES HISTORY

Yet another heartwarming homemade moment came when Zendaya, at 24, became the youngest winner of best actress in a drama, for playing a troubled teen in "Euphoria." Surrounded by a large group of cheering family and friends, there was indeed unbridled euphoria in the room. "I know this seems like a really weird time to be celebrating," Zendaya said. "But I just want to say there is hope in the young people out there. I know our TV show doesn't always feel like a great example of that."

POINTED FASHION

There were no fashion rules on a night when some people seemed to be dressed way down and others way up (we saw you, Billy Porter). Both King and Aduba used that freedom to highlight an important moment in the struggle for social justice, wearing T-shirts referring to Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old EMT from Louisville, Kentucky, who was shot and killed by police in March. "The cops still haven't been held accountable," King said in a Zoom session with journalists. "She represents just decades, hundreds of years of violence against Black bodies. Wearing Breonna's likeness and representing her and her family and the stories that we were exploring, presenting and holding a mirror up to on 'Watchmen,' it felt appropriate to represent with Breonna Taylor." Aduba wore a black T-shirt with Taylor's name in gold. Sterling K. Brown gave out the show's final award, best drama, in a Black Lives Matter shirt.

A REFRESHING THANK-YOU

Winners usually thank their spouses, their kids, their parents, and their agents — their therapists, not so much. Which was why it was quite moving to hear Cord Jefferson, who won for writing on "Watchmen," thank his own therapist, whom he identified only as Ian. "I am a different man than I was two years ago," he said. "I love you, you have changed my life in many ways." He added: "Therapy should be free in this country."

O'HARA, EMBRACING HER AGE

We already mentioned her once here, but she's so darned good, she gets an item all her own. When O'Hara won her best actress award for "Schitt's Creek," she made a reference to how difficult it is for a woman her age — she is 66, as is her character — to get juicy roles like she did on this show. "I will forever be grateful to Eugene and Daniel Levy," she said, "for the opportunity to play a woman of a certain age, my age, who gets to fully be her ridiculous self." Her fans are thankful she had six seasons of being fully ridiculous, and look forward to future, uh, ridiculousness.

Alabama Archives faces its legacy as Confederate 'attic'

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Hundreds of memorials glorifying the Confederacy had been erected by the time Marie Bankhead Owen built what may have been the grandest: The Alabama Department of Archives and History, which cataloged a version of the past that was favored by many Southern whites and all but excluded Black people.

Owen used taxpayer money to turn the department into an overstuffed Confederate attic promoting the idea that the South's role in the Civil War was noble rather than a fight to maintain slavery.

Now, amid a national reckoning over racial injustice, the agency is confronting that legacy in the state where the civil rights movement was born. In June, leaders formally acknowledged the department's past role in perpetuating racism and so-called lost cause ideals.

"If history is to serve the present, it must offer an honest assessment of the past," Director Steve Murray and trustees said in a "statement of recommitment."

Confederate relics have come under renewed scrutiny since the police killing of George Floyd in May sparked outrage about the history of racism in the U.S. The wave of protests that followed toppled some monuments and cities removed others as schools decided to part ways with their Confederate names.

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Murray said the department wanted to offer more educational resources after Floyd's killing in Minneapolis and issued the statement after realizing it had to acknowledge "that our agency was responsible in many ways for some of the intellectual underpinnings of the development of systemic racism in Alabama."

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," said Murray. Aside from acknowledging its racist past, the agency recommitted itself to recruiting additional minority staff and telling a more complete history is the state in the future.

Self-taught genealogist True Lewis, who is Black and was born in Pennsylvania, was apprehensive when she first visited the agency about two decades ago to search plantation records for information about her ancestors, who were enslaved in southeast Alabama. Workers were helpful, she said, but the only other people in the building who looked like her were on the janitorial staff.

"You always had that feeling of, 'You aren't supposed to be in this space,'" Lewis said.

The agency's recommitment was meaningful to her because it acknowledged sins of the past.

"It was like they heard my whisper when they said that," she said.

Founded in 1901, the year Alabama adopted a white supremacist constitution that's still in effect, Archives and History opened with Owen's husband, Thomas Owen, as its first director. Located in the state Capitol, where Southern delegates formed the Confederacy in 1861, the department focused on gathering Confederate records and artifacts.

With the country's first publicly funded, independent archive, Alabama soon became a national model for collecting public records, according to retired Auburn University historian Robert J. Jakeman, who wrote about Marie Owen. Other states of the old Confederacy followed suit.

"What Owen did definitely started a chain reaction across the Southern states," said Daniel Cone, who teaches at Auburn and wrote about Tom Owen.

Marie Owen took over the department in 1920 after her husband's death. The agency already had amassed far more items than it could safely store or catalog, and the problem got worse under "Miss Marie."

In a more spacious, white-columned building dedicated in 1940, Owen led the agency even more in the direction of becoming a storehouse of cultural items and Confederate relics that excluded the history of the Black people enslaved on Southern plantations, following her pattern of extolling the Confederacy and disregarding minorities.

The Ivy League-educated historian John Hope Franklin, an African American, wrote of meeting Owen during his first research visit to Montgomery in the mid-1940s in his autobiography "Mirror to America," published in 2005. Owen used a racial slur in asking whether he'd seen a Black man from Harvard who was supposed to be in the building.

"Before I could recover myself sufficiently for a reply, a voice reached us from the outer room. It was the secretary, who could hear everything, since the door was open. 'That's him, Mrs. Owen, that's him,'" Franklin wrote.

The agency, which includes a museum, began changing after Owen retired in 1955. But generations of schoolchildren remember it in large part for its Civil War displays, which included old weapons, flags and uniforms.

Edwin Bridges took over as director in 1982 and began shifting the department's focus away from the "lost cause." Today, its museum displays tell more a complete history that includes Native Americans, the horrors of slavery, the Civil War and the modern civil rights movement, which began with the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 and '56.

Some have questioned whether the department would jettison its Confederate holdings, considered among the most extensive in the nation, but Murray said that won't happen.

"We see the process as being one of broadening the scope of our effort and our work, telling a full story of Alabama's history," he said.

A bust of Marie Owen is located prominently in the Archives and History building, and Bridges said she and her husband deserve credit for what they built, even with its flaws.

"They were driven to focus on Southern history, Confederate history, because that is what white leadership, the white voters of Alabama, cared about from the 1920s through the 1970s," Bridges said.

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Historians are watching to see whether the department further breaks with the legacy of Owen and pro-Confederate narratives or falls back toward the long-accepted path in a mostly white, Republican-controlled state.

Frazine K. Taylor, a former employee of the department and the first Black president of the Alabama Historical Association, said making the statement "took courage," but Archives and History still needs a more diverse staff and additional collections to tell the "complete story" of Alabama.

"In the next year, we'll look back and see if some of that has been accomplished or it was just something that was said at the time, at the heat of the moment," Taylor said.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 22, the 266th day of 2020. There are 100 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in rebel states should be free as of January 1, 1863.

On this date:

In 1761, Britain's King George III and his wife, Charlotte, were crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Capt. Nathan Hale, 21, was hanged as a spy by the British in New York.

In 1949, the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb.

In 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued rules prohibiting racial discrimination on interstate buses.

In 1964, the musical "Fiddler on the Roof," starring Zero Mostel, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 3,242 performances. The secret agent series "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.," starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum, premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1975, Sara Jane Moore attempted to shoot President Gerald R. Ford outside a San Francisco hotel, but missed.

In 1980, the Persian Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq erupted into full-scale war.

In 1989, the Irish Republican Army bombed the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal, Kent, England, killing 11 band members. Songwriter Irving Berlin died in New York City at age 101.

In 1993, 47 people were killed when an Amtrak passenger train fell off a bridge and crashed into Big Bayou Canot near Mobile, Alabama. (A tugboat pilot lost in fog pushed a barge into the railroad bridge, knocking the tracks 38 inches out of line just minutes before the train arrived.)

In 1995, an AWACS plane carrying U.S. and Canadian military personnel crashed on takeoff from Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage, Alaska, killing all 24 people aboard.

In 1999, actor George C. Scott died in Westlake Village, Calif., at age 71.

In 2014, the United States and five Arab nations launched airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Syria, sending waves of planes and Tomahawk cruise missiles against an array of targets.

Ten years ago: Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River after an intimate gay encounter in his dormitory room was captured by a webcam and streamed online by his roommate without his knowledge. (Dharun Ravi (dah-ROON' RAH'-vee) was convicted of invasion of privacy, bias intimidation and other counts and served less than a month in jail.) South African Ernie Els was elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame; Doug Ford and two-time major winner Jock Hutchison from Scotland were elected through the Veteran's Category. "American Idol" announced that Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler would join Randy Jackson as judges the next season. Pop singer Eddie Fisher, 82, died in Berkeley, California.

Five years ago: Pope Francis arrived from Cuba on the first visit of his life to the United States; President Barack Obama, his wife and daughters personally welcomed the pontiff at Andrews Air Force Base

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outside Washington. Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Seattle for a three-day visit before heading to Washington. Volkswagen AG acknowledged putting emissions-cheating software in millions of vehicles worldwide. Baseball Hall of Famer Yogi Berra, 90, died in West Caldwell, New Jersey.

One year ago: "Game of Thrones" won the best drama series Emmy Award for its final season, tying its record of 12 years in a single year for the third time, while Phoebe Waller-Bridge's "Fleabag" was comedy's big winner, winning best comedy series and best actress for its star and creator. The big-screen encore of the TV series "Downton Abbey" pulled off a box-office upset in its opening weekend, taking in \$31 million to top Brad Pitt's "Ad Astra" and Sylvester Stallone's "Rambo: Last Blood." On his first NFL Sunday without a team, Antonio Brown went on a Twitter rant, announcing that he was done for good with the league that had exiled him following allegations of sexual misconduct.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda is 93. Dancer/choreographer/singer Toni Basil is 77. Actor Paul Le Mat is 75. Musician King Sunny Adé (ah-DAY') is 74. Capt. Mark Phillips is 72. Rock singer David Coverdale (Deep Purple, Whitesnake) is 69. Actor Shari Belafonte is 66. Singer Debby Boone is 64. Country singer June Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 64. Singer Nick Cave is 63. Rock singer Johnette Napolitano is 63. Actor Lynn Herring is 63. Classical crossover singer Andrea Bocelli (an-DRAY'-ah boh-CHEL'-ee) is 62. Singer-musician Joan Jett is 62. Actor Scott Baio is 60. Actor Catherine Oxenberg is 59. Actor Bonnie Hunt is 59. Actor Rob Stone is 58. Actor Dan Bucatinsky (TV: "24: Legacy") is 55. Musician Matt Sharp is 51. Rock musician Dave Hernandez is 50. Rapper Mystikal is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Big Rube (Society of Soul) is 49. Actor James Hillier (TV: "The Crown") is 47. Actor Mireille Enos is 45. Actor Daniella Alonso is 42. Actor Michael Graziadei (GRAHT'-zee-uh-day-ee) is 41. Actor Ashley Drane (Eckstein) is 39. Actor Katie Lowes is 38. Rock musician Will Farquarson (Bastille) is 37. Actor Tatiana Maslany is 35. Actor Ukweli Roach (TV: "Blindspot") is 34. Actor Tom Felton is 33. Actor Teyonah Parris is 33. Actor Juliette Goglia is 25. Actor Dalya Knapp is ten.