

## CEO SPEWS RACIST VITRIOL AT FRESNO BAR SERVER. SHE CAUGHT IT ON VIDEO. »

'A HOT MESS': AMERICANS FACE
TESTING DELAYS AS VIRUS SURGES »

AP EXCLUSIVE: 'STRIKE FOR BLACK LIVES' TO HIGHLIGHT RACISM »



## CEO SPEWS RACIST VITRIOL AT FRESNO BAR SERVER. SHE CAUGHT IT ON VIDEO.

#### July 8, 2020 | Nancy Price

Rebecca Hernandez has been working in customer service jobs for more than 10 years, but her shift Tuesday night at a Fig Garden Village tavern was her "No. 1 worst day ever" when she had to contend with

Hernandez, 28, said she had grown fearful of what the customer might do, especially since the bar contained no other customers, so she began recording their encounter.

an apparently intoxicated customer who assaulted her with racial slurs and profanity when she refused to keep serving him. "You're a dark-haired dumbass, sand-n—-r

motherf—-r," the customer ranted at her as she asked him to leave the premises. Hernandez, 28, said she had grown fearful of what the customer might do, especially since the bar contained no other customers, so she began recording their encounter. The man identified himself on the video as Jason Wood with Actionable Insights "and five other digital marketing firms." He wore a shirt with a logo resembling that of an online marketing company with that name headquartered in Pennsylvania with branches in Ohio and Florida. "We're a full-service digital marketing firm that uses our technical know-how to give businesses the internet traffic they need in order to grow. We're also the largest digital company in the region," the company website said. "You're going to be on the internet," Hernandez told Wood during their exchange, to which he responded, "No honey, I drive the internet."

#### Video Goes Viral

The video, which Hernandez posted to her Instagram account, was shared repeatedly across social media platforms on Wednesday. GV Wire attempted to contact Wood on Wednesday evening but was unsuccessful. The company's Twitter account has been closed and the company website was taken down after the video was shared. A cached version from August 2019 lists Jason Wood as the company's president and CEO. Wood confirmed he is the man in the

video in an interview with The Fresno Bee. Hernandez said she has been working at Out of the Barrel Taproom since January, shortly after she moved to Fresno from Salinas. She was working with another employee Tuesday night when Wood became irate after she said he was intoxicated and could no longer be served. Wood had been refusing to wear a mask all evening even though she continued to ask him to do so, saying variously that he forgot to wear one, didn't believe in COVID-19, and simply "this is stupid." Wood asked her if she was Armenian or from Iran or Saudi Arabia. "I am racially ambiguous, so a lot of people are confused by me," she said Wednesday.

#### **Employees Are Isolated Indoors**

But after he was asked to close out his tab, Wood became so belligerent that Hernandez said she feared for her safety and that of her co-worker, both petite women. So, she pulled out her smart phone to record the encounter. COVID-19 has increased risks for service employees, Hernandez said. Under current rules for

bars and restaurants, customers are required to stay outdoors, leaving fewer employees inside the establishment. "We're isolated — we're an island," she

The video, which Hernandez posted to her Instagram account, was shared repeatedly across social media platforms on Wednesday.

said. Hernandez said she did call for Fig Garden security, and officers appeared during the incident but did not not intervene immediately.

#### **Experience Was Upsetting**

After she called security, Wood said, "I'm leaving, don't worry about me. Don't worry about me, Saudi Arabia." When Hernandez asked if he was calling her Saudi Arabian, Wood said, "you're f—–g stupid like they are." Wood then returned to an outside table with other members of his party, Hernandez said. He came back inside later and, apparently in an attempt to mollify her, offered her "hundreds of dollars," which she refused...



#### July 7, 2020 | Nancy Price

Community activist Chris Milton says Clovis Unified School District is breaking state law and failing to provide true representation to residents by continuing to elect trustees at large instead of by area. A more diverse board, Milton said in a recent open letter to the district posted on Facebook, would be more responsive to people of varying income levels, races, and ethnicities, many of whom are speaking out about problems in the district in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and subsequent protests.

All the Clovis Unified board needs to do, said Milton, a local businessman who has become a vocal advocate for ending racism and improving social justice, is go to the Fresno County Register of Voters and "re-register" the district's elections. State law, however, indicates the process is more cumbersome

and would require a series of public hearings for community input. However, an executive order that Gov. Gavin Newsom issued in March has suspended such hearings.

#### Time to Make a Change?

Clovis Unified officials have been talking about how trustees are elected since last year, district spokeswoman Kelly Avants said. Superintendent Eimear O'Farrell raised at-large elections with the board after attending a workshop on the topic at last year's annual conference of the California School Boards Association, Avants said. But the district can't hold the public hearings required by state law because of Newsom's Executive Order N-34-20, she said. The process for changing how trustees are elected is spelled out in state law: Districts must hold two hearings over no more than 30 days where the public...

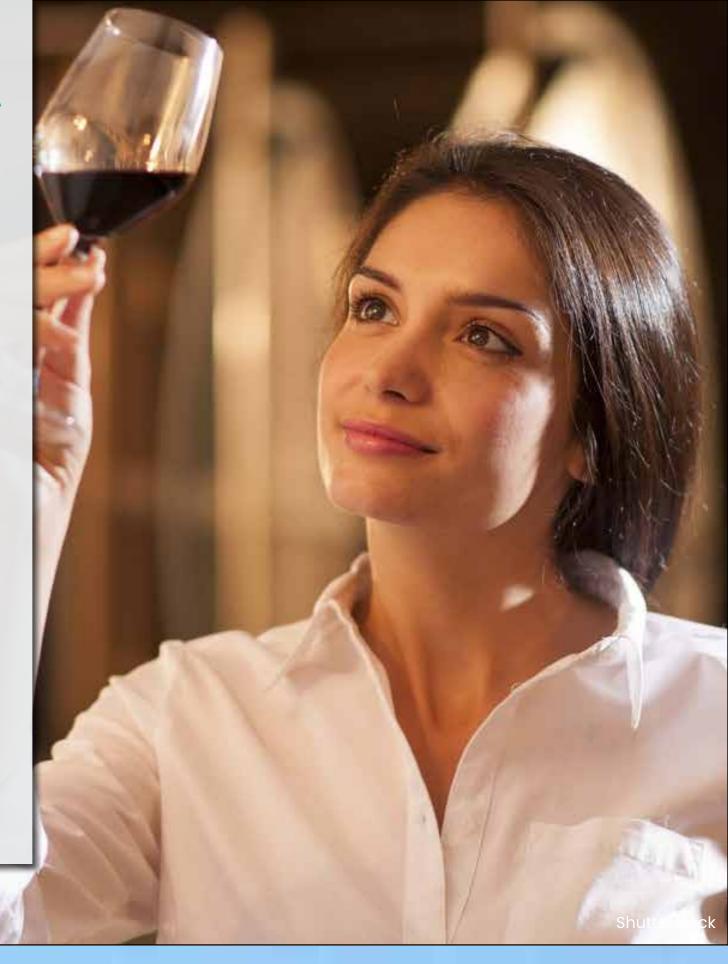
WINEMAKING AND TOURISM COME INTO FOCUS AS MADERA COLLEGE PLANS FUTURE

#### July 7, 2020 | Nancy Price

Madera Community College's blueprint for the next five years contains some proposed degree programs that would prepare students for jobs at neighboring wineries and vintners and at one of the world's most popular tourist destinations that's on its doorstep. The master plan, which was being presented at Tuesday's State Center Community College District board meeting, proposes expanding the plant science degree to include viticulture and enology, and also adding a culinary arts, tourism, and hospitality program.

The plan also proposes doubling the number of nursing students and starting an information technology program. And for those students who are drawn to college because of sports programs, Madera Community College wants to add soccer and softball fields, locker rooms, and other athletic facilities to the campus on 12th Avenue south of the city of Madera. The master plans identifies Madera as a college and not a college center, which it will continue to be until later this month when the...

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## CALIFORNIA CONDORS SOAR AGAIN AT SEQUOIA AFTER NEARLY 50 YEARS

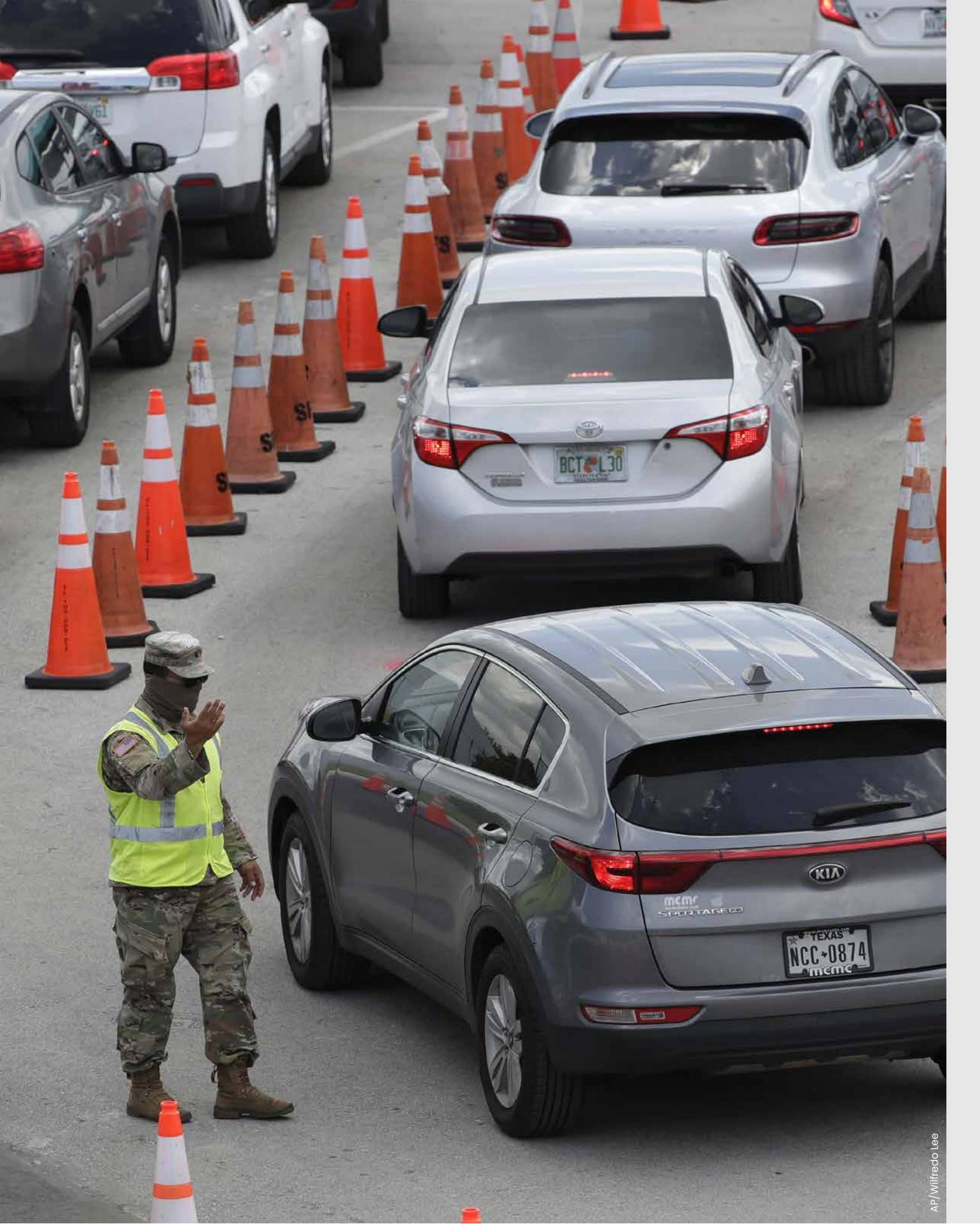
July 8, 2020 | Bill McEwen

Several iconic California condors have returned to the majestic trees and cliffs of Sequoia National Park for the first time in nearly 50 years. Some of the endangered condors, which are reclaiming their historic habitat, were spotted atop the 6,725-foot granite dome of Moro Rock in late May, the National Park Service said Tuesday. "Condors were consistently seen throughout the parks until the late 1970s.

Observations became increasingly rare throughout the latter portion of the century as the population declined," said Tyler Coleman, a wildlife biologist with Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. "Four condors were spotted flying near the Giant Forest and at least two near Moro rock." In addition, condors were tracked flying around Giant Forest, according to Dave Meyer, a California condor biologist with the Santa Barbara Zoo. "We use GPS transmitters to track the birds' movement, which can be over hundreds of miles on a single day," Meyer said. "On this particular day, we documented the...

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4 GV Wire Weekly Digest



## 'A HOT MESS': AMERICANS FACE TESTING DELAYS AS VIRUS SURGES

#### July 8, 2020 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — For two weeks, Rachael Jones has stayed home, going without a paycheck while waiting and waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test from a pharmacy near Philadelphia. "I'm just so disappointed. I just don't know how — with the resources and the people we have and the money we have — we can't get this right," she said. Four months, 3 million confirmed infections and over 130,000 deaths into the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., Americans confronted with a re-

Four months, 3 million confirmed infections and over 130,000 deaths into the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., Americans confronted with a resurgence of the scourge are facing long lines at testing sites in the summer heat or are getting turned away. Others are going a week or more without receiving a diagnosis

surgence of the scourge are facing long lines at testing sites in the summer heat or are getting turned away. Others are going a week or more without receiving a diagnosis.

Some sites are running out of kits, while labs are reporting shortages of materials and workers to process the swabs. Some frustrated Americans are left to

wonder why the U.S. can't seem to get its act together, especially after it was given fair warning as the virus wreaked havoc in China and then Italy, Spain and New York. "It's a hot mess," said 47-year-old Jennifer Hudson of Tucson, Arizona.

"The fact that we're relying on companies and we don't have a national response to this, it's ridiculous. ... It's keeping people who need tests from getting tests." It took Hudson five days to make an appointment through a CVS pharmacy near her home. She booked a drive-up test over the weekend, more than a week after her symptoms — fatigue, shortness of breath, headache and sore throat — first emerged. The clinic informed her that her results would probably be delayed.

#### More Testing Tends to Lead to More Cases Found

Testing has been ramped up nationwide, reaching about 640,000 tests per day on average, up from around 518,000 two weeks ago, according to an Associated Press analysis. Newly confirmed infections per day in the U.S. are running at over 50,000, breaking records at practically every turn. More testing tends to lead to more cases found. But in an alarming indicator, the percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus is on the rise across nearly the entire country, hitting almost 27% in Arizona, 19% in Florida and 17% in South Carolina. While the U.S. has conducted more tests than any other nation, it ranks in the middle of

the pack in testing per capita, behind Russia, Spain and Australia, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego called the situation there "desperate" as residents have sat in sunbaked cars for up to 13 hours to get drive-thru testing.

"I am stunned that as

a nation, six months into this pandemic, we still can't figure out how to deliver testing to the American people when they need it," said Dr. Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute. "It is an abject failure of leadership and shows that the federal government has not prioritized testing in a way that will allow us to get through this pandemic." Testing alone without adequate contact tracing and quarantine measures won't control the spread of the scourge, according to health experts. But they say delays in testing can lead to more infections by leaving people in the dark as to whether they need to isolate themselves.

#### In Other Developments:

— While the number of confirmed cases in the U.S. hit 3 million Wednesday by Johns Hopkins' count, health officials have said that because of inadequate testing and the many mild infections that have gone unreported, the real number is about 10 times higher, or...



### **GOVERNORS' COMPANIES AMONG RECIPIENTS OF VIRUS RELIEF LOANS**

July 6, 2020 | AP News

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Governors who ordered shutdowns as their states responded to the coronavirus pandemic were among millions of beneficiaries of the loan program created to help small businesses weather COVID-19's effect on the economy, data released Monday show.

The governors of at least seven states have ties to companies that received loans through the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. Both Republicans and Democrats, their associated companies' loans ranged from \$150,000 to more than \$11 million. It is legal for businesses owned by elected officials to apply for and receive the loans.

A minor league baseball team part-owned by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine received a loan, as did an investment company led by New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu's family. A communications company in which New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy has a stake, and a winery and hospitality company founded by...

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#### July 8, 2020 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Dr. Michael Drake was chosen Tuesday to be president of the University of California, the first Black leader in the system's 150-year history. Drake, a seasoned university administrator, replaces Janet Napolitano in overseeing a sprawling, 280,000-student system dealing with issues of accessibility for Blacks and other minorities, along with slashed budgets and upended campus life because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Drake is a UC-trained physician who served as chancellor of the University of California, Irvine, and also led The Ohio State University before retiring from that job last month.

The UC Board of Regents unanimously approved Drake's appointment. "I'm excited and ready to go," Drake told the board, noting the challenging times amid the pandemic, the threat of climate change, and "the yawning wounds of social injustice that we see in so many ways that really tears at the fabric of our lives."

He noted that the UC system is "best equipped worldwide" to be "fully engaged in finding solutions." Napolitano, whose seven years as president end Aug. 1, said Drake's appointment is "one more step in our university's ongoing effort to ensure that the university reflects the rich diversity of our...

## **'LIFT EVERY VOICE AND** SING' HYMN IGNITES HOPE **ACROSS NATION**

July 6, 2020 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — The Black national anthem was born more than a century ago, but the popular hymn within the African American community called "Lift Every Voice and Sing" has resurrected a beacon of hope during nationwide protests. In recent weeks, countless rallies were held from D.C. to Seattle with arm-locked protesters of different races reciting the song's lyrics while marching against police brutality of unarmed Black people.

The demonstrations throughout the U.S. were ignited by the killing of George Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes. Some marches were peaceful, while others turned violent. anthem's long-lasting message of faithfulness, freedom and

But one common thread at protests were people chanting the equality. "I saw whites singing that song saying 'No justice, no peace' and 'Black Lives Matter.' It's something I didn't see early in my career or even 15 years ago," recalled the Rev. Al...

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8 GV Wire Weekly Digest



# AP EXCLUSIVE: 'STRIKE FOR BLACK LIVES' TO HIGHLIGHT RACISM

#### July 8, 2020 | AP News

NEW YORK — A national coalition of labor unions, along with racial and social justice organizations, will stage a mass walkout from work this month, as part of an ongoing reckoning on systemic racism and police brutality in the U.S. Dubbed the "Strike for Black Lives," tens of thousands of fast food, ride-share, nursing home and airport workers in more than 25 cities are expected to walk off the job July 20 for about eight minutes — the amount of time prosecutors say a white Minneapolis police officer held his knee on the neck of George Floyd in May — in remembrance of Black men and women who died recently at the hands of police. The national strike will also include a handful of worker-led marches through participating cities, organizers said Wednesday.

According to details shared exclusively with The Associated Press, organizers are demanding sweeping action by corporations and government to confront system-

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ic racism in an economy that chokes off economic mobility and career opportunities for many Black and Hispanic workers, who make up a disproportionate number of those earning less than a living wage. They also stress the need for guaranteed sick pay, affordable health care coverage and better safety measures for low-wage workers who never had the option of working from home during the coronavirus pandemic. "We have

to link these fights in a new and deeper way than ever before," said Mary Kay Henry, president of the Service Employees International Union, which represents over 2 million workers in the U.S. and Canada. "Our members have been on a journey ... to understanding why we cannot win economic justice without racial justice.

This strike for Black lives is a way to take our members' understanding about that into the streets," Henry told the AP. Among the strikers' specific demands are that corporations and government declare unequivocally that "Black lives matter." Elected officials at every level must use executive and legislative power to pass laws that guarantee people of all races can thrive, according to a list

The strike continues a decades-old labor rights movement tradition. Most notably, organizers have drawn inspiration from the Memphis sanitation workers' strike over low wages, benefits disparity between Black and white employees, and inhumane working conditions that contributed to the deaths of two Black workers in 1968. At the end of that twomonth strike, some 1,300 mostly Black sanitation workers bargained collectively for better wages.

of demands. Employers must also raise wages and allow workers to unionize to negotiate better health care, sick leave and child care support.

## 'Their Business Model Functions by Exploiting Black Labor'

The service workers union has partnered with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the American Federation of Teachers, United Farm Workers and the Fight for \$15 and a Union, which was launched in 2012 by American fast food workers to push for a higher minimum wage. Social and racial justice groups taking part include March On, the Center for Popular Democracy, the National Domestic Workers Alliance and the Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of over 150 organizations that make up the Black Lives Matter movement. Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson, a strike organizer with the Movement for Black Lives, said corporate giants that have come out in support of the BLM movement...



#### July 9, 2020 | AP News

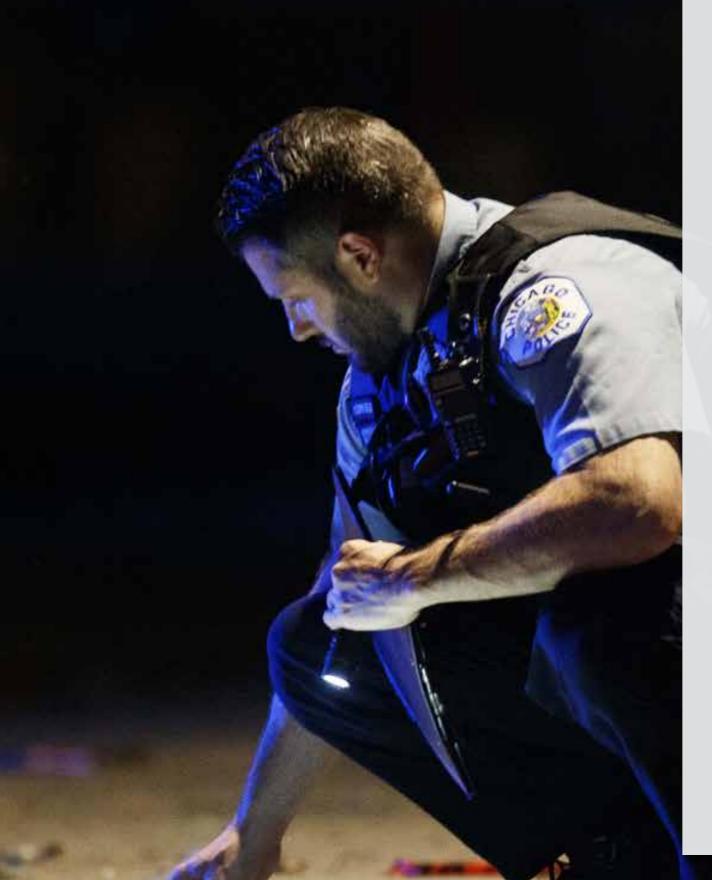
**12** GV Wire Weekly Digest

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump, who has denigrated Mexican migrants and threatened the U.S. ally with crippling tariffs, welcomed President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to the White House on Wednesday, called him a cherished partner and claimed the countries' economic and security ties were reaching new heights.

Trump's warm words were in stark contrast to the days when he called Mexicans "rapists" and railed against migrants entering the United States illegally. López Obrador had cordial words for Trump, too, saying that while they have disagreed,

it was better to find common ground and avoid slinging insults.

The meeting was billed as a celebration of economic ties and the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, but critics in Mexico worried López Obrador was being used as a political pawn to bolster the Trump campaign and his "America first," anti-illegal migration agenda. Despite the verbal backslapping in the Rose Garden, thorny issues — from immigration to investment — remain. Trump has dialed back his harsh words since López Obrador took office a year and a half...



## **EXHAUSTED CITIES FACE ANOTHER CHALLENGE: A SURGE IN VIOLENCE**

July 8, 2020 | AP News

NEW YORK — Still reeling from the coronavirus pandemic and street protests over the police killing of George Floyd, exhausted cities around the nation are facing yet another challenge: a surge in shootings that has left dozens dead, including young children.

The spike defies easy explanation, experts say, pointing to the toxic mix of issues facing America in 2020: an unemployment rate not seen in a generation, a pandemic that has killed more than 130,000 people, stay-at-home orders, rising anger over police brutality, intense stress, even the weather.

"I think it's just a perfect storm of distress in America," said Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms after a weekend of bloodshed in her city. Jerry Ratcliffe, a Temple University criminal justice professor and host of the "Reducing Crime" podcast, put it more bluntly: "Anybody who thinks they...

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## **SUPREME COURT: SOME EMPLOYERS CAN REFUSE TO**

July 8, 2020 | AP News

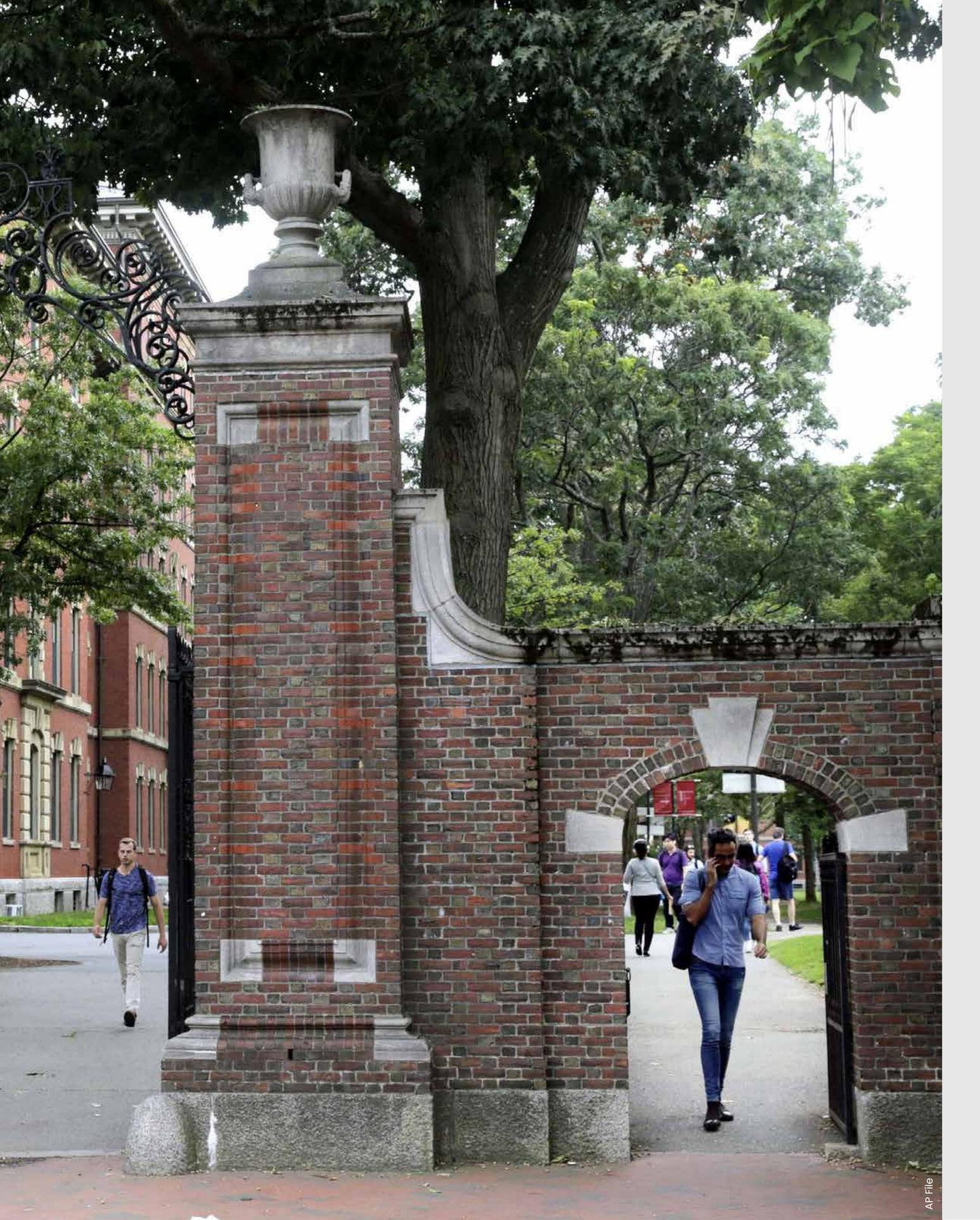
WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld Trump administration rules allowing some employers to decline to provide contraceptive coverage on religious or moral grounds, which could leave more than 70,000 women without cost-free birth control.

The high court ruled 7-2 for the administration, which made a policy change to allow some employers who cite religious or moral objections to opt out of providing no-cost birth control required by the Obama-era healthcare law. Lower courts had previously blocked the Trump administration's changes.

"We hold today that the Departments had the statutory authority to craft that exemption, as well as the contemporaneously issued moral exemption. We further hold that the rules promulgating these exemptions are free from procedural...

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# HARVARD, MIT SUE TO BLOCK ICE RULE ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

July 8, 2020 | AP News

BOSTON — Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday challenging the Trump administration's decision to bar international students from staying in the U.S. if they take classes entirely online this fall. The lawsuit, filed in Boston's federal court, seeks to prevent federal immigration authorities from enforcing the rule. The universities contend that the directive violates the Administrative Procedures Act because officials failed to

In a statement, the U.S. State Department said that while international students are welcome in the U.S., the policy "provides greater flexibility for nonimmigrant students to continue their education in the United States, while also allowing for proper social distancing on open and operating campuses across America."

offer a reasonable basis justifying the policy and because the public was not given notice to comment on it.

In a statement, the U.S.
State Department said that while international students are welcome in the U.S., the policy "provides greater flexibility for non-immigrant students to con-

allowing for proper social distancing on open and operating campuses across America." U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement notified colleges Monday that international students will be forced to leave the U.S. or transfer to another college if their schools operate entirely online this fall. New visas will not be issued to students at those schools, and others at universities offering a mix of online and in-person classes will be barred from taking all of their classes online. The guidance says international students won't be exempt even if an outbreak forces their schools online during the fall term.

## Guidelines Have Provoked Backlash From Universities Across U.S.

The guidance was released the same day Harvard announced it would be keeping its classes online this fall.

Harvard says the directive would prevent many of Harvard's 5,000 international students from remaining the U.S. Harvard President Lawrence Bacow said the order came without notice and that its "cruelty" was surpassed only by its "recklessness." "It appears that it was designed purposefully to place pressure on colleges and universities to open their on-campus classrooms for in-person instruction this fall, without regard to concerns for the health and safety of students, instructors, and other," Bacow said in a statement Wednesday. "This comes at a time when the United States has been setting daily records for the number of new infections, with more than 300,000 new cases reported since July

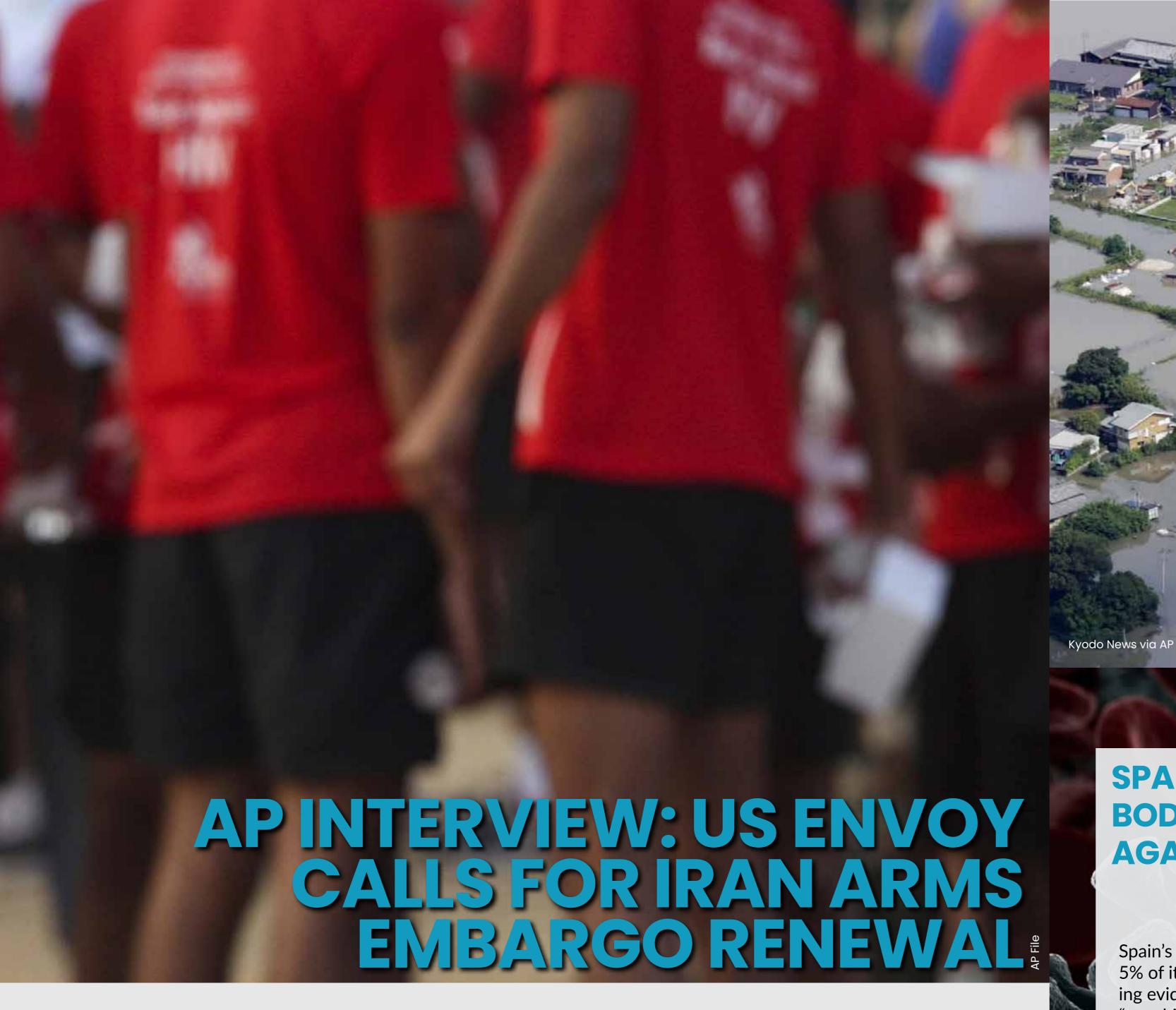
The guidelines have provoked backlash from universities across the U.S. who say international students have an important place in their communities. Many

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schools have also come to depend on tuition revenue from international students, who typically pay higher tuition rates. It creates an urgent dilemma for thousands of international students who became stranded in the U.S. last spring after the coronavirus forced their schools to move online.

Those attending schools that are staying online must "depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to a school with in-person instruction," according to the guidance.

Dozens of colleges have said they plan to offer at least some classes in person this fall, but some say it's too risky. The University of Southern California last week reversed course on a plan to bring students to campus, saying classes will be hosted primarily or exclusively...



#### July 6, 2020 | AP News

New numbers on the global AIDS epidemic show some big successes, such as fewer deaths and new infections. But there are also some tragic failures: Only half the children with HIV, the virus that causes the disease, are getting treatment.

"We are making great progress against the HIV epidemic ... but the bad, bad news is that kids are lagging behind," said Dr. Shannon Hader, deputy executive director of UNAIDS. The United Nations agency reported last year's numbers Monday at the start of an international AIDS conference. Progress against HIV also is being hurt by another infectious

Nations set goals for limiting HIV infections and improving treatment by the end of 2020, and all will be missed because the coronavirus pandemic is hurting access to care, the report concludes.

"We were already off track for the 2020 targets, but COVID-19 is threatening to blow us completely of course," said UNAIDS' executive director, Winnie Byanyima. A World Health Organization survey found that 73 countries are at risk of running out of HIV medicines and 24 have critically

disease — the new coronavirus. Four years ago, the United low stocks. "Access to HIV medicines has been... **READ MORE »** 



TOKYO — Pounding rain that already caused deadly floods in southern Japan was moving northeast Wednesday, battering large areas of Japan's main island, swelling more rivers, triggering mudslides, and destroying houses and roads. At least 58 people died in several days of flooding. Parts of Nagano and Gifu, including areas known for scenic mountain trails and hot springs, were flooded by massive downpours.

Public broadcaster NHK showed a swollen river gouging into its embankment and destroying a highway. In the city of Gero, the rising river was flowing just below a bridge. Flooding and mudslides blocked parts of a main road connecting Kamikochi and Matsumoto, two major tourist destinations in Nagano, stranding hundreds of residents and visitors, though they were believed to have safely evacuated. In neighboring Gifu, hundreds were isolated in the hot spring towns of Gero and Ontake. In the scenic mountainous town of Takayama, several houses were hit by a mudslide, but their residents...

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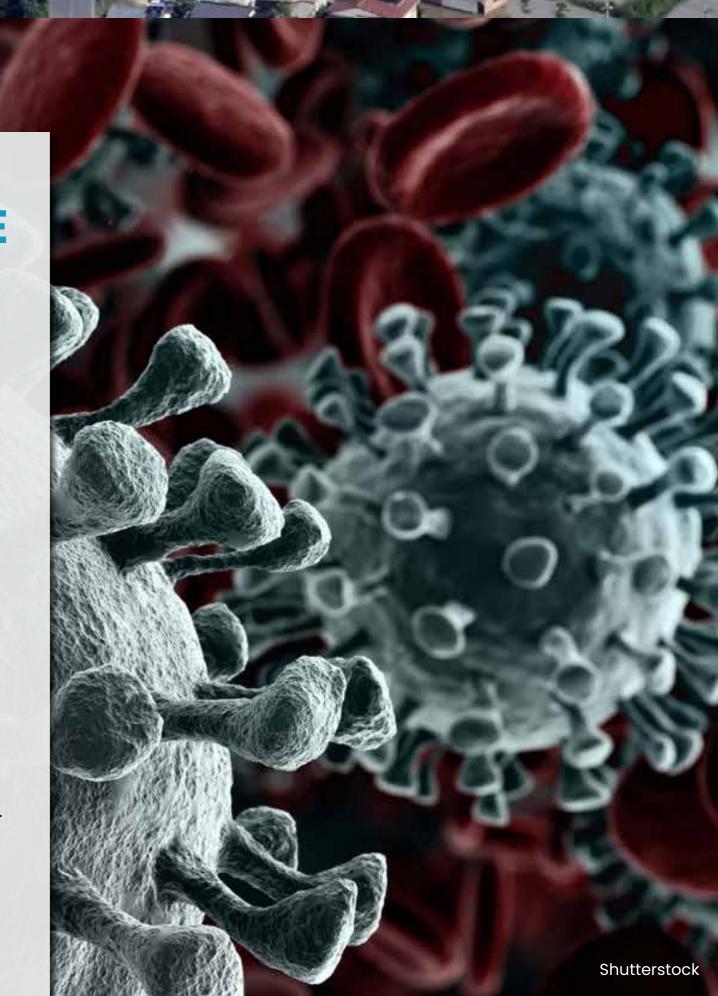
## SPAIN'S CORONAVIRUS ANTI-**BODIES STUDY ADDS EVIDENCE AGAINST HERD IMMUNITY**

July 8, 2020 | CNN

Spain's large-scale study on the coronavirus indicates just 5% of its population has developed antibodies, strengthening evidence that a so-called herd immunity to Covid-19 is "unachievable," the medical journal the Lancet reported on Monday. The findings show that 95% of Spain's population remains susceptible to the virus. Herd immunity is achieved when enough of a population has become infected with a virus or bacteria — or vaccinated against it — to stop its circulation.

The European Center for Disease Control told CNN that Spain's research, on a nationwide representative sample of more than 61,000 participants, appears to be the largest study to date among a dozen serological studies on the coronavirus undertaken by European nations. It adds to the findings of an antibody study involving 2,766 participants in Geneva, Switzerland, published in the Lancet on June 11...

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