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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Plummeting U.S. vaccination rates make finish line hard to reach

NEW YORK, June 7 (Xinhua) -- As U.S. vaccination rates kept falling, what officials hoped would be the “last mile” of finishing covering 70 percent of adults by the Fourth of July is turning into a marathon, reported The Washington Post on Monday.

In early May, U.S. President Joe Biden announced his goal to administer at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to 70 percent of American adults by the Independence Day.

Yet the country averages out fewer than 1 million shots per day, a decline of more than two-thirds from the peak of 3.4 million in April, according to the newspaper’s seven-day analysis, even though all adults and children over age 12 are now eligible.

The slowdown is “particularly felt across the South and Midwest,” said the report, adding that 12 states, including Utah, Oklahoma, Montana, the Dakotas and West Virginia, have seen vaccinations fall below 15 daily shots per 10,000 residents.

Thirteen mostly East and West Coast states have already vaccinated 70 percent of adult residents, and another 15 states, plus the District of Columbia, are over 60 percent and will likely reach Biden’s goal, said the report.

The slowdown, started with a steep decline in mid-April, has continued, with only 2.4 million adults getting their first shot last week, nearly two times short of the minimum necessary number per week for Biden’s goal.

Polls have found that about one-third of Americans have no immediate plans to get vaccinated, with some holdouts saying their skepticism has intensified over time and others arguing the issue is moot because the pandemic has receded in the United States, according to the report.



Schools in Japan’s Okinawa close amid surge in COVID-19 cases among youngsters



TOKYO, June 7 (Xinhua) -- Many schools in Japan’s southernmost prefecture of Okinawa began temporarily closing Monday in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19 among young people, the prefectural government said.

According to the local government in Okinawa, the closures are applicable to the majority of high schools and junior high schools as there has been a surge in COVID-19 infections among younger

people.

Japan’s southernmost prefecture is currently under a coronavirus state of emergency and the latest measure to tackle the spread of the virus involving closing schools will be effective through June 20.

According to the prefectural government, of all 183 COVID-19 cases reported Sunday, teenagers and younger people comprised around 20 percent of the total.

Okinawa confirmed 104 new daily COVID-19 cases, according to the latest figures released Monday evening, bringing the total to 18,603.

This compares to 235 new infections reported in Tokyo and 173 in its neighboring prefecture of Kanagawa, figures from the health ministry and local authorities showed.

Nationwide, Japan’s total tally of infections since the outbreak of the virus reached 763,785, with 1,278 additional cases confirmed Monday.

The death toll has now topped 13,600, Monday evening’s figures showed.

The southern subtropical island, a lure for vacationers, has seen a surge of infections of late, and has logged the highest number of new cases per capita among Japan’s 47 prefectures.

As such, Okinawa’s medical facilities have been buckling under the strain, with some patients infected by the virus unable to secure a hospital bed and forced to self-quarantine at home, according to recent local accounts.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

06/07/2021



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National Housing Shortage And Rising Prices



According to a national survey, home prices nationwide were up 22.2 % from a year ago last April. At the same time, the number of homes sold rose 38.2% and the number of home sales fell 48.3%.

When I walked into one of the country's most famous national restaurants this morning to eat breakfast, the grand pancake plate now costs \$11.88. The cost has doubled compared with last year. One of my home builder friends told me that the lumber prices have gone up three times with all other related items also skyrocketing in price. How can he

build a house for sale without making profit? We saw a lot of white collar workers having to sleep in their cars because they cannot even lease an apartment in San Diego or San Francisco. This is such a big joke for us being the world's richest country.

We are here to urge President Biden to take reasonable steps to negotiate

tariff prices with our trading partners around the world, especially with China.

I remember many years ago when Senator Phil Graham said that we should feel very happy when we all walk into a Walmart store. We can get everything we want, but we have to remember that most of these products are made overseas, especially in China. When the U.S. raises tariffs, all the consumers will suffer.

Today we might be slowly getting out of the coronavirus pandemic, but we are facing more challenges in the future.

We urge President Biden to look at the bottom of our society. They are still suffering.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Supporters of former President Donald Trump gather on a street corner near a sign saying "Miss Me Yet???" outside the North Carolina GOP convention before Trump spoke at the gathering in Greenville, North Carolina, June 5, 2021. REUTERS/Jonathan Drake



A convoy of trucks arrives at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, in support of the community after the remains of 215 children, some as young as three years old, were found at the site in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, June 5, 2021.



A group of scavengers search for recyclable items to sell at Bantar Gebang landfill in Bekasi on the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia, June 5, 2021. REUTERS/Ajeng Dinar Ulfiana



Venice residents hold a protest to demand an end to cruise ships passing through the lagoon city, as the first cruise ship of the summer season departs from the Port of Venice, Italy, June 5, 2021. REUTERS/Manuel Silvestri



A man stands on the defaced statue of Egerton Ryerson, considered an architect of Canada's residential indigenous school system, as it lies on the pavement after being toppled following a protest at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada June 6, 2021. REUTERS/Chris Helgren



Red Bull's Max Verstappen kicks the wheel of his car after crashing out of the Azerbaijan Grand Prix at Baku City Circuit in Baku, Azerbaijan, June 6, 2021. REUTERS/Anton Vaganov

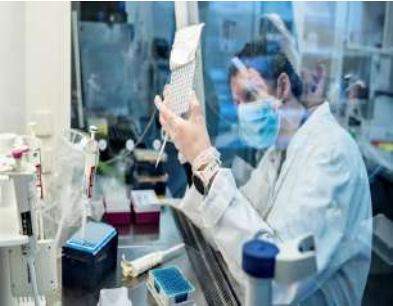
More Highly Transmissible Variant of CCP Virus Detected In 10 States: CDC



Health care workers receive a COVID-19 vaccination at Ritchie Valens Recreation Center in Pacoima, Calif., on Jan. 13, 2021. (Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP Photo)

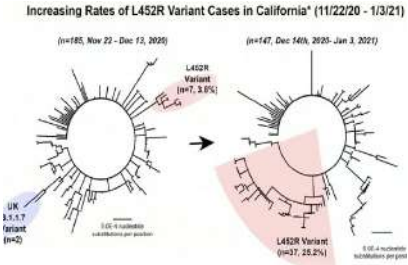
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

At least 10 state health departments in the United States have detected the highly contagious B.1.1.7 variant of COVID-19, the disease caused by the CCP virus, according to a new report. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in an update on Jan. 15, said that a “more highly transmissible variant of SARS-CoV-2, B.1.1.7, has been detected in 10 U.S. states.” SARS-CoV-2 is another name for the coronavirus that is believed to have emerged in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. Health officials warned that models have shown the B.1.1.7 strain of the virus has the potential to increase “the U.S. pandemic trajectory in the coming months” and “warrants universal and increased compliance with mitigation strategies, including distancing and masking.” Increased vaccinations may need to be achieved to fight the virus, the CDC said. This variant was first reported in the UK in mid-December, although the CDC noted that it may have emerged in September 2020. Meanwhile, B.1.1.7 has been detected in more than 30 countries, the agency said, while adding that it is easier to transmit than other CCP virus strains.



In the United States, the strain was first reported by state authorities in a rural area in Colorado, hours away from Denver. Other than Colorado, the B.1.1.7 variant was discovered in Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, California, and more, according to reports published in recent weeks. “The modeled trajectory of this variant in the U.S. exhibits rapid growth in early 2021, becoming the predominant variant in March. Increased SARS-CoV-2 transmission might threaten strained health care resources, require extended and more rigorous implementation of public health strategies, and increase the percentage of population immunity required for pandemic control,” said the CDC.

UK authorities said last year that the new variant of the virus was the reason for the increase in infection rates in London and southeastern England. But they said there’s no evidence that the variant makes people sicker. The CDC, in its update, did not appear to recommend any new mitigation strategies. “Further, strategic testing of persons without symptoms of COVID-19, but who are at increased risk for infection with SARS-CoV-2, provides another opportunity to limit ongoing spread,” according to the CDC. “Collectively, enhanced genomic surveillance combined with increased compliance with public health mitigation strategies, including vaccination, physical distancing, use of masks, hand hygiene, and isolation and quarantine, will be essential to limiting the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and protecting public health.”



Previously, the CDC noted that so far, there have been a number of mutations to the virus. “Among these possibilities, the last—the ability to evade vaccine-induced immunity—would likely be the most concerning because once a large proportion of the population is vaccinated, there will be immune pressure that could favor and accelerate emergence of such variants by selecting for ‘escape mutants,’” the CDC said. “There is no evidence that this is occurring, and most experts believe escape mutants are unlikely to emerge because of the nature of the virus.” (Courtesy ntd.com via theepochtimes)

Related

Incoming CDC Director Expects Over 100,000 COVID-19 Deaths in Next Month

Over 100,000 more Americans will die

from COVID-19 in the next month or so, the next Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director said Sunday. “By the middle of February, we expect half a million deaths in this country,” said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, who President-elect Joe Biden tapped for the position. “That doesn’t speak to the tens of thousands of people who are living with a yet uncharacterized syndrome after they’ve recovered. And we still yet haven’t seen the ramifications of what happened from the holiday travel, from holiday gathering, in terms of high rates of hospitalizations and the deaths thereafter. So, yes, I think we still have some dark weeks ahead,” she added.



Rochelle Walensky, who has been nominated to serve as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, speaks after U.S. President-elect Joe Biden announced his team tasked with dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic at The Queen in Wilmington, Del., on Dec. 8, 2020. (Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images)

COVID-19 is the disease caused by the CCP virus. The virus primarily causes severe illness for the elderly and those with serious underlying health conditions. Most people who get it recover, but a small percentage of patients die. According to data collated by Johns Hopkins University, the United States has in some recent days seen over 4,000 daily deaths from COVID-19. The university has pegged the nation’s death toll at 397,600 as of Jan. 18. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts the toll slightly lower, at 394,495. Biden’s incoming chief of staff Ron Klain also said Sunday he expects the United States will hit 500,000 deaths in the month of February.



“People who are contracting the virus today will start to get sick next month and will add to the death toll in late February, even March. So, it’s going to take a while to turn this around,” he said. “The virus is the virus. What we can do is act to control it. And that means getting these vaccinations moving. It means getting help to state and local governments to help reopen schools safely, to give people the protective gear they need, and to really ramp up testing. We have laid out our plans to do this. That’s what we’re focused on.” Walensky was speaking on CBS’s “Face the Nation.” Klain was speaking on CNN’s “State of the Union.” (Courtesy ntd.com via theepochtimes)



COMMUNITY

People Got Tired Of All The Restrictions

People Got Fed Up With Flu Pandemic Measures One Hundred Years Ago – And Paid A Price



Armistice Day celebrations on Nov. 11, 1918, worried public health experts as people crowded together in cities across the U.S. (AP Photo)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Picture the United States struggling to deal with a deadly pandemic.State and local officials enact a slate of social-distancing measures, gathering bans, closure orders and mask mandates in an effort to stem the tide of cases and deaths. The public responds with widespread compliance mixed with more than a hint of grumbling, pushback and even outright defiance. As the days turn into weeks turn into months, the strictures become harder to tolerate. Theater and dance hall owners complain about their financial losses. Clergy bemoan church closures while offices, factories and in some cases even saloons are allowed to remain open. Officials argue whether children are safer in classrooms or at home. Many citizens refuse to don face masks while in public, some complaining that they’re uncomfortable and others arguing that the government has no right to infringe on their civil liberties. As familiar as it all may sound in 2021, these are real descriptions of the U.S. during the deadly 1918 influenza pandemic. In my research as a historian of medicine, I’ve seen again and again the many ways our current pandemic has mirrored the one experienced by our forebears a century ago.



No mask, no service on streetcar in 1918. (Photo/Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group via Getty Images)

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second year, many people want to know when life will go back to how it was before the coronavirus. History, of course, isn’t an exact template for what the future holds. But the way Americans emerged from the earlier pandemic could suggest what post-pandemic life will be like this time around.

Sick and tired, ready for pandemic’s end

Like COVID-19, the 1918 influenza pandemic hit hard and fast, going from a handful of reported cas-

es in a few cities to a nationwide outbreak within a few weeks. Many communities issued several rounds of various closure orders – corresponding to the ebbs and flows of their epidemics – in an attempt to keep the disease in check. These social-distancing orders worked to reduce cases and deaths. Just as today, however, they often proved difficult to maintain. By the late autumn, just weeks after the social-distancing orders went into effect, the pandemic seemed to be coming to an end as the number of new infections declined.



People were ready to be done with masks as soon as it looked like the flu was receding. (PhotoQuest/Archive Photos via Getty Images)

People clamored to return to their normal lives. Businesses pressed officials to be allowed to reopen. Believing the pandemic was over, state and local authorities began rescinding public health edicts. The nation turned its efforts to addressing the devastation influenza had wrought. For the friends, families and co-workers of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who had died, post-pandemic life was filled with sadness and grief. Many of those still recovering from their bouts with the malady required support and care as they recuperated. At a time when there was no federal or state safety net, charitable organizations sprang into action to provide resources for families who had lost their breadwinners, or to take in the countless children left orphaned by the disease. For the vast majority of Americans, though, life after the pandemic seemed to be a headlong rush to normalcy. Starved for weeks of their nights on the town, sporting events, religious services, classroom interactions and family gatherings, many were eager to return to their old lives. Taking their cues from officials who had – somewhat prematurely – declared an end to the pandemic, Americans overwhelmingly hurried to return to their pre-pandemic routines. They packed into movie theaters and dance halls, crowded in stores and shops, and gathered with friends and family.

How many extra deaths occurred in 1918-1920 pandemic?

Excess deaths in the state of Michigan over the course of the influenza pandemic reflect the disease surges that occurred across the nation – an initial wave in

spring 1918, a second bigger wave in fall of that year, another that extended into that winter and a final wave at the start of 1920. Excess deaths are those above the average amount public health officials expect for the time of year, based on what’s happened normally in the past.

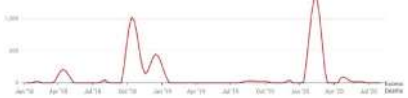


Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND Source: Siddharth Chandra, Julia Christensen, Madhur Chandra, Nigel Paneth, “Pandemic Reemergence and Four Waves of Excess Mortality Coinciding With the 1918 Influenza Pandemic in Michigan: Insights for COVID-19”, American Journal of Public Health 111, no. 3 (March 1, 2021): pp. 430-437.

Officials had warned the nation that cases and deaths likely would continue for months to come. The burden of public health, however, now rested not on policy but rather on individual responsibility. Predictably, the pandemic wore on, stretching into a third deadly wave that lasted through the spring of 1919, with a fourth wave hitting in the winter of 1920. Some officials blamed the resurgence on careless Americans. Others downplayed the new cases or turned their attention to more routine public health matters, including other diseases, restaurant inspections and sanitation. Despite the persistence of the pandemic, influenza quickly became old news. Once a regular feature of front pages, reportage rapidly dwindled to small, sporadic clippings buried in the backs of the nation’s newspapers. The nation carried on, inured to the toll the pandemic had taken and the deaths yet to come. People were largely unwilling to return to socially and economically disruptive public health measures.



No matter the era, aspects of daily life go on even during a pandemic. Chicago History Museum/Archive (Photos via Getty Images)

It’s hard to hang in there

Our predecessors might be forgiven for not staying the course longer. First, the nation was eager to celebrate the recent end of World War I, an event that perhaps loomed larger in the lives of Americans than even the pandemic.

Second, death from disease was a much larger part of life in the early 20th century, and scourges such as diphtheria, measles, tuberculosis, typhoid, whooping cough, scarlet fever and pneumonia each routinely killed tens of thousands of Americans every year. Moreover, neither the cause nor the epidemiology of influenza was well understood, and many experts remained unconvinced that social distancing measures had any measurable impact. Finally, there were no effective flu vaccines to rescue the world from the ravages of the disease. In fact, the influenza virus would not be discovered for another 15 years, and a safe and effective vaccine was not available for the general population until 1945. Given the limited information they had and the tools at their disposal, Americans perhaps endured the public health restrictions for as long as they reasonably could.



The COVID-19 vaccine won’t end the pandemic right away.

A century later, and a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, it is understandable that people now are all too eager to return to their old lives. The end of this pandemic inevitably will come, as it has with every previous one humankind has experienced. If we have anything to learn from the history of the 1918 influenza pandemic, as well as our experience thus far with COVID-19, however, it is that a premature return to pre-pandemic life risks more cases and more deaths. And today’s Americans have significant advantages over those of a century ago. We have a much better understanding of virology and epidemiology. We know that social distancing and masking work to help save lives. Most critically, we have multiple safe and effective vaccines that are being deployed, with the pace of vaccinations increasingly quickly. Sticking with all these coronavirus-fighting factors or easing off on them could mean the difference between a new disease surge and a quicker end to the pandemic. COVID-19 is much more transmissible than influenza, and several troubling SARS-CoV-2 variants are already spreading around the globe. The deadly third wave of influenza in 1919 shows what can happen when people prematurely relax their guard. (Courtesy <https://theconversation.com/>)

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(本報休斯頓報導) 月出月降，人生也是如此，在人生的旅途之中，死亡是每個人終將面臨的大課題，尤其因為新冠疫情大流行，讓不少人失去至親。不管貧富貴賤，無論種族、職業，上至總統下至庶民，都有不得不面對之時。如何面對死亡、以及該怎麼準備身後之事，似乎變得更正面、也更需要趁早計畫。

以豁達的心態面對
以往，華人對於生死大事比較忌諱，然而，隨著時代演變，更多人會以豁達的心態面對，去年的疫情，更改變了許多人對生死的態度。疫情的肆虐下，



美國因為新冠疫情而死亡的人數超過 60 萬人，甚至，在疫情嚴重時期，有些地方還傳出醫院太平間不夠、或是墓地滿員的狀況，所謂的「身後事」，並不意味著應該等到年紀大了才考慮，其實現在就可以開始部署。

Dignity Memorial(尊嚴紀念館)是休士頓最具規模的殯儀館兼紀念墓園，我們請到其中的陳專員來為民衆談談，為什麼生前計畫如此重要? 可以幫我們降低哪些方面的負擔?

對生死越想得開，會越沒有壓力
陳先生表示，傳統觀念中，「身後事」對於華人來說相當重要，許多人都希望找到一個風水寶地安葬，並且庇佑後代子孫，這種觀念深植人心。以往「生死大事」對於中國人來說是個禁忌話題，但對於殯葬業而言是每天都在面對的，死亡也天天都在不同地方上演著，民衆對死亡抱持越想得開的

態度，自己會越沒有壓力，在生前就做好身後的規畫，會幫自己以及家人帶來安寧與平和。對墓地和葬禮進行預先計劃極為重要，這樣的生前預先計畫將可以幫助到家庭，以下將為大家分析說明。

生前預先計畫減輕親人的負擔
當選擇生前預先計劃時，不僅可以按照自己的想法來規畫，還可以減輕家人的情感壓力與經濟負擔。
生前預先計劃自己的葬禮，可以仔細考慮自己喜歡的選擇，確保是自己想要的方式。有些人有宗教信仰，但與子孫之間有差異，即使告訴家人自己的臨

終願望，家人也有可能不記得或不同意。要確定葬禮是自己所希望的，唯一方法是提前計劃。
一位民衆林先生表示，自己的父母多年前做生前預先計劃，購買了預付的喪葬費。經過這些年來，當父母親去世，去使用這些服務時，才知道省下許多費用，減輕很大的負擔。
父母親的生前預先計劃，使子孫在遭受喪親之痛時，幫助他們不必同時擔心喪葬費的金錢來源。一般來說，在人死後的幾天裡，他的資產可能無法使用，人壽保險可能需要六至八週的時間才能支付。如果沒有適當的預付計劃，則家人將被要求在葬儀服務之前支付所有的費用。預先計劃和預付款意味著減輕了家人的巨大負擔。

生前計畫鎖定現今的價格並省錢
生前預先計劃葬禮的一個實際好處之一是省錢，隨著生活成本的上升，喪葬費的成本也不斷上升。當您計劃並提前付款時，實際上就是鎖定了價格保證。例如，如果今天計劃並選擇一個價格為 2,000 美元的棺材，即使未來價格上漲了許多，也不必為再多付錢。以當前價格購買商品，可以保護您和子孫免受通貨膨脹的影響。
休斯頓的劉女士表示，“我的父母在多年購買了預付的喪葬計畫，到使用時已經有很大的差額，這為我們節省大筆金錢。”
若是突然遭逢意外，子女往往會面臨很多意想不到的抉擇，例如像:爸爸會想要手工雕刻的堅固紅木棺材嗎? 媽媽會希望她教會的朋友都參加葬禮嗎? 如果事先沒有準備好計劃，親人會有很多



猜測，擔心會不會弄錯了。通過生前預先計劃，使家人免於產生疑問和焦慮。
家人不必面對倉促的決定
在需要時，葬禮安排通常在幾天之內進行。即使在遺囑中表達自己的意願，您的孩子也有可能會爭執不休，因為葬禮通常是在遺囑確定或宣讀之前舉行的。為了保護您的親人在困難的時期內避免匆忙做出決定，提前計劃自己的葬禮，以書面形式寫下詳細內容，不僅可以確保自己的意願得到遵守，而且可以使家人不必代你做出判斷。
親人可以專注於回憶和康復
親人死亡後的一段日子中，家人會經歷情感上的困難階段。生前預先計劃自己的葬禮，無論是土葬或是火葬，葬禮應如何安排，都能記錄您的意願，並

支付安排費用，這可為您的親人提供他們所需要的情感與精神恢復時間，而不用做出一個又一個的葬禮細節決定。家人們可把時間用在與親友間共度中，回憶過世親人的點點滴滴，並逐漸恢復難受的心情。
隆重推出優惠折扣，僅至月底為止
Memorial Oaks隆重宣布，本月有優惠折扣計畫，僅至月底為止。
這個優惠包括高達 15% Off 生前計劃墓產優惠折扣，60 個月 0%利率，無需信用評估。身前契約高達 10% Off。許多家庭給予 Memorial Oaks 很高評價，為最受華裔人士裡歡的墓園，是既有墓地、又有殯儀館的複合型服務，能包辦追悼會到葬禮一條龍式服務。
洽詢電話：832-913-5888。Memorial Oaks 地址: 13001 Katy Freeway | Houston。



26歲的女子在錫安國家公園“峽谷探險”墜崖身亡

【美南新聞記者泉深報道】美國猶他州斯普林代爾 (SPRINGDALE) 的官方消息稱，一名 26 歲的女子在猶他州錫安國家公園 (Zion National Park) 的峽谷探險中墜落身亡。國家公園管理局在新聞稿中說，週日晚上，該女子的屍體在錫安國家公園的神秘峽谷 (Mystery Canyon) 中被發現。

據旁觀者稱，這名女子獨自一人在峽谷中探險，週六下午從 50 到 80 英尺高度的懸崖跌落，救援小組展開了搜救行動，關閉了公園的各個區域。
公園管理局在新聞稿中說，一架直升機被派去營救這名女子，但“由於峽谷壁陡峭、狹窄”，無法將她拉出來。醫務人員花了很長時間到達她的受傷現場進行營救，但傷勢嚴重，不久後去世。

公園官員說，這名女子的傷勢與高處墜落相符，她的名字沒有立即公佈。
據說這名女子一直在這裏進行“峽谷探險”——一種通過步行、遊泳、漂流、攀爬、繩索下降或其它類似方式在峽谷中跟隨峽谷流水方向訓練或運動。
國家公園管理局和華盛頓縣 (Washington County) 警長辦公室正在調查這起死亡事件。

