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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## U.N. climate change report sounds ‘code red for humanity’

Aug 9 (Reuters) - Global warming is dangerously close to spiralling out of control, a U.N. climate panel said in a landmark report Monday, warning the world is already certain to face further climate disruptions for decades, if not centuries, to come.

Humans are “unequivocally” to blame, the report from the scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said. Rapid action to cut greenhouse gas emissions could limit some impacts, but others are now locked in.

The deadly heat waves, gargantuan hurricanes and other weather extremes that are already happening will only become more severe.

Monday alone saw 500,000 acres of forest burning in California, while in Venice tourists waded through ankle-deep water in St. Mark’s Square.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres described the report as a “code red for humanity”.

“The alarm bells are deafening,” he said in a statement. “This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet.” read more

In an interview with Reuters, activist Greta Thunberg called on the public and media to put “massive” pressure on governments to act. read more

In three months, the U.N. COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, will try to wring much more ambitious climate action out of the nations of the world, and the money to go with it.

Drawing on more than 14,000 scientific studies, the IPCC report gives the most comprehensive and detailed picture yet of how climate change is altering the natural world - and what could still be ahead.

Unless immediate, rapid and large-scale action is taken to reduce emissions, the report says, the average global temperature is likely to reach or cross the 1.5-degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warming threshold within 20 years.

The pledges to cut emissions made so far are nowhere near enough to start reducing level of greenhouse gases - mostly carbon dioxide (CO2) from burning fossil fuels - accumulated in the atmosphere. read more

### ‘WAKE-UP CALL’

Governments and campaigners reacted to the findings with alarm. read more



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he hoped the report would be “a wake-up call for the world to take action now, before we meet in Glasgow”.

U.S. President Joe Biden tweeted Monday: “We can’t wait to tackle the climate crisis. The signs are unmistakable. The science is undeniable. And the cost of inaction keeps mounting.”

Debris in an area affected by floods caused by heavy rainfall in Schuld, Germany, July 20, 2021. REUTERS/Thilo Schmuellen// File Photo

A boy, 5, stands on the cracked ground of the Boqueirao reservoir in the Metropolitan Region of Campina Grande, Paraiba state, Brazil, February 13, 2017. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino/File Photo

An iceberg floats in a fjord near the town of Tasiilaq, Greenland, June 18, 2018. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson/File Photo

A boy, 5, stands on the cracked ground of the Boqueirao reservoir in the Metropolitan Region of Campina Grande, Paraiba state, Brazil, February 13, 2017. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino/File Photo

The report says emissions “unequivocally caused by human activities” have already pushed the average global temperature up 1.1C from its pre-industrial average - and would have raised it 0.5C further without the tempering effect of pollution in the atmosphere.

That means that, even as societies move away from fossil fuels, temperatures will be pushed up again by the loss of the airborne pollutants that come with them and currently reflect away some of the sun’s heat.

A rise of 1.5C is generally seen as the most that humanity could cope with without suffering widespread economic and social upheaval.

The 1.1C warming already recorded has been enough to unleash disastrous weather. This year, heat waves killed hundreds in the Pacific Northwest and smashed records around the world. Wildfires fuelled by heat and drought are sweeping away entire towns in the U.S. West, releasing record carbon dioxide emissions from Siberian forests, and driving Greeks to flee their homes by ferry.

Further warming could mean that in some places, people could die just from going outside.

“The more we push the climate system ... the greater the odds we cross thresholds that we can only poorly project,” said IPCC co-author Bob Kopp, a climate scientist at Rutgers University.

### IRREVERSIBLE

Some changes are already “locked in”. Greenland’s sheet of land-ice is “virtually certain” to continue melting, and raising the sea level, which will continue to rise for centuries to come as the oceans warm and expand.

“We are now committed to some aspects of climate change, some of which are irreversible for hundreds to thousands of years,” said IPCC co-author Tamsin Edwards, a climate scientist at King’s College London. “But the more we limit warming, the more we can avoid or slow down those changes.”

But even to slow climate change, the report says, the world is running out of time.

If emissions are slashed in the next decade, average temperatures could still be up 1.5C by 2040 and possibly 1.6C by 2060 before stabilising.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY 08/09/2021

### Rest In Peace Steve Levine



Very Grateful

November is typically the month that we give thanks for all of the blessings that we have that we are reminded that not all of us are as blessed. We are reminded that there are many fellow Americans who are homeless and hungry and many more of us in other parts of the world in societies where even the basic freedoms that we enjoy are denied. Wouldn't you agree how bad we think we have it in today's economy, that there are others who would give us anything we have?

So many of our cover stories in the last eight months have shared their inspirational stories of how they had to overcome incredible challenges to achieve the life and business that they truly, "rags to riches" and "success despite the odds against them" are common themes in our stories. Our cover story this month, Wea Lee of Southern News Group.

has just such a story. Mr. Lee's, the son of two teachers did not grow up in an entrepreneurial environment. The media empire (Asian Newspapers, Asian Yellow Pages, Asian Shop, Asian Television Station) through this vision, hard work, and determination serves as an example to small business owners and start-up entrepreneurs in the Asian Community, but to everyone who knows his complete story, I am very glad that Wea Lee has allowed us to honor him in BUSINESS TODAY!

Now, I would like to reflect on all that I am grateful for not only at this time of the year but also in my life. I am grateful that I was born in a country that allows me the freedom to worship as I wish, to travel where I wish, and to create and do what I wish anywhere I wish to build it. I am grateful that I was born into a family who encouraged me to do whatever I wanted to be and made many, many sacrifices so I could have the college education that I was denied and/or discouraged from by their parents.

In my long media career history I have made many friends, but Barbara and Steve Levine are a very special couple to me.

I remember almost ten years ago when Steve and Barbara came to

my office and did an interview with me about my business. She used the title, 'Wea H. Lee: Southern News Group - From Rags To Riches Through Hard Work And Innovation.' Barbara was such a

good writer to describe our past, current and future plans to their readers.

Their magazine called, 'Small Business Today,' later became our customer. Since then, we printed the magazine for them and also became very good friends. The couple came to our parties and functions all the time.

Because of the pandemic, I didn't see them for almost eighteen months until

one day a few weeks ago I called Steve about organizing the Texas Minority Alliance. He totally agreed and came to join us at the first meeting in early July.

Just a couple days ago I received a text from Barbara saying that both Steve and his son Jerry had contracted COVID. I called her immediately and asked her if everything was OK? Barbara then told me that neither Steve or his son got vaccinated.

Just this morning I learned that Steve had passed away due to COVID. I am so sad to learn how this could have happened so fast?

Steve, our very dear friend, all of us feel we have lost such a wonderful man. Your life has been so very colorful, vibrant and always with your happy smile.

We all wish you Rest In Peace.



**Wea H. Lee**  
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Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

### Editor's Choice



Allyson Felix of the United States celebrates after winning gold during the women's 4 X 400m relay. REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson



Locals evacuate the area with their animals as a wildfire rages in the suburb of Thrakomakedones, north of Athens, Greece. REUTERS/Giorgos Moutafis



Fireworks explode as a sign that says "Thank You" is displayed at the end of the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics. REUTERS/Amr Abdallah Dalsh



Lionel Messi holds an FC Barcelona press conference at Camp Nou. REUTERS/Albert Gea



Ebtissam Zayed Ahmed of Egypt crashes her bicycle over Elisa Balsamo of Italy after a crash occurred during the women's omnium cycling race at the Tokyo Olympics. REUTERS/Matthew Childs



People stop to look at artwork believed to be created by Banksy in Great Yarmouth, Britain. REUTERS/Peter Nicholls

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Hispanics Are Dying At The Highest Rate

United States COVID-19 Deaths Now At 633,120



A portion of a mural, which displays images of people who have died of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), is seen in Joni Zavitsanos' art studio in Houston, Texas, as the country reaches 600,000 deaths. (Photo credit/REUTERS/Callaghan O'Hare.)

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

Jerry Ramos spent his final days in a California hospital, hooked to an oxygen machine with blood clots in his lungs from COVID-19, his 3-year-old daughter in his thoughts.

"I have to be here to watch my princess grow up," the Mexican American restaurant worker wrote on Facebook. "My heart feels broken into pieces."

Ramos didn't live to see it. He died Feb. 15 at age 32, becoming not just one of the nearly 600,000 Americans who have now perished in the coronavirus outbreak but another example of the outbreak's strikingly uneven and ever-shifting toll on the nation's racial and ethnic groups.

The approaching 600,000 mark, as tracked by Johns Hopkins University, is greater than the population of Baltimore or Milwaukee. It is about equal to the number of Americans who died of cancer in 2019. And as bad as that is, the true toll is believed to be significantly higher. Last summer, during a second surge, Hispanics were hit the hardest, suffering an outside share of deaths, driven by infections in Texas and Florida. By winter, during the third and most lethal stage, the virus had gripped the entire nation, and racial gaps in weekly death rates had

narrowed so much that whites were the worst off, followed closely by Hispanics.

Whites were the worst off, followed closely by Hispanics.



FILE - In this July 11, 2020, file photo, mourners carry out the remains of loved ones following the blessing of the ashes of Mexicans who died from COVID-19 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Government health officials say Native Americans, Latinos and Black people are two to three times more likely than whites to die of COVID-19. (AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez, File)

President Joe Biden acknowledged the milestone Monday during his visit to Europe, saying that while

new cases and deaths are dropping dramatically in the U.S., "there's still too many lives being lost," and "now is not the time to let our guard down."

On the way to the latest round-number milestone, the virus has proved adept at exploiting inequalities in the U.S., according to an Associated Press data analysis.

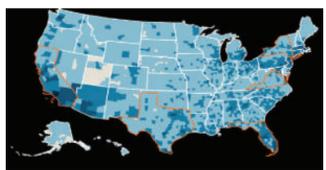
In the first wave of fatalities, in April 2020, Black people were slammed, dying at rates higher than those of other ethnic or racial groups as the virus rampaged through the urban Northeast and heavily African American cities like Detroit and New Orleans.

Now, even as the outbreak ebbs and more people get vaccinated, a racial gap appears to be emerging again, with Black Americans dying at higher rates than other groups.

Overall, Black and Hispanic Americans have less access to medical care and are in poorer health, with higher rates of conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. They are also more likely to have jobs deemed essential, less able to work from home and more likely to live in crowded, multigenerational households, where working family members are apt to expose others to the virus.

Milestones Crossed In U.S. COVID-19 Deaths

Cumulative deaths in the U.S. through the week ending: June 13, 2021 100,000,200,000,300,000,400,000,500,000



NOTE: Weekly counts end on Sunday. The count for the most recent week will not be complete until Sunday. In Utah only the larger-population counties are reporting confirmed deaths; smaller counties are banded together into county groups; Those counties are not shown in this map. Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE (AP Photo Credit: NICKY FORSTER AND PHIL HOLM) Black people account for 15% of all COVID-19 deaths where race is known, while Hispanics represent 19%, whites 61% and Asian Americans 4%. Those figures are close to the groups' share of the U.S. population — Black people at 12%, Hispanics 18%, whites 60% and Asians 6% — but adjusting for age yields a clearer picture of the unequal burden.

Because Blacks and Hispanics are younger on average than whites, it would stand to reason that they would be less likely to die from a disease that has been brutal to the elderly.



In this April 22, 2020, file photo, pallbearers, who were among only 10 allowed mourners, walk the casket for interment at the funeral for Larry Hammond, who died from the coronavirus, at Mount Olivet Cemetery in New Orleans. Government health officials say Native Americans, Latinos and Black people are two to three times more likely than whites to die of COVID-19. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

But that's not what is happening. Instead, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adjusting for population age differences, estimates that Native Americans, Latinos and Blacks are two to three times more likely than white people to die of COVID-19. Also, the AP analysis found that Latinos are dying at much younger ages than other groups. Thirty-seven percent of Hispanic deaths were of those under 65, versus 12% for white Americans and 30% for Black people. Hispanic people between 30 and 39 — like Ramos — have died at five times the rate of white people in the same age group. Public health experts see these disparities as a loud message that the nation needs to address deep-rooted inequities.

"If we want to respect the dear price that 600,000 people have paid, don't return to normal. Return to something that is better than what was," said Dr. Clyde Yancy, vice dean for diversity and inclusion at Northwestern University's medical school in Chicago.

He added: "It will be an epic fail if we simply go back to whatever we call normal."



Yolanda Ogbolu, a nurse researcher at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, who advocated for two relatives during their COVID-19 hospital stays, looks out a window at the university's nursing school on Friday, June 11, 2021, in Baltimore. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

Yolanda Ogbolu, who is Black, made herself an advocate for two relatives during their COVID-19 hospital

stays: her 50-year-old police officer brother — she persuaded his doctors to treat him with the drug remdesivir — and her 59-year-old repairman uncle. She called the hospital daily during his 100-day stay. Both survived. But Ogbolu wonders whether they would have lived if they hadn't had a nurse in the family.

"What happens when people don't have that person to push for them? What happens when you don't even speak the language?" Ogbolu said. "What happens when they don't know how to navigate the health system or what questions to ask?"

Ramos had asthma and diabetes and had quit his job as a chef at Red Lobster before the pandemic because of diabetes-related trouble with his feet.

He died during the devastating winter surge that hit Latinos hard, and the rest of his household of seven in Watsonville, an agricultural city of around 54,000 people about 90 miles south of San Francisco, also got sick.



Laura Ramos holds a photo of her brother Jerry Ramos at her home in Watsonville, Calif., Sunday, June 6, 2021. He died Feb. 15 at age 32, becoming not just one of the roughly 600,000 Americans who have now perished in the outbreak but another example of the virus's strikingly uneven and ever-shifting toll on the nation's racial and ethnic groups. (AP Photo/Nic Coury)

That included his toddler daughter; the family matriarch, 70-year-old Mercedes Ramos; and his girlfriend, who was the only one in the household working and the first to get infected, bringing home the virus from her job managing a marijuana dispensary, according to family members. Mother and son were admitted to the same hospital, their rooms nearby. They would video chat or call each other every day.

"He would tell me he loved me very much and that he wanted me to get better and that he was doing fine, but he was telling me that so I wouldn't worry," Mercedes Ramos said in Spanish, her voice breaking. She has since returned to her job picking strawberries.

Gaps in vaccination rates in the U.S. also persist, with Blacks and Hispanics lagging behind, said Samantha Artiga of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan health-policy research organization.

(Continued On Page C7-2)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

Hispanics Are Dying At The Highest Rate

United States COVID-19 Deaths Now At 633,120



A memorial for Jerry Ramos sits at his home in Watsonville, Calif., Sunday, June 6, 2021. (AP Photo/Nic Coury)

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

Experts say several factors could be at work, including deep distrust of the medical establishment among Black Americans because of a history of discriminatory treatment, and fears of deportation among Latinos, as well as a language barrier in many cases.

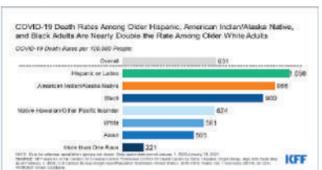
The U.S. was averaging about 870,000 injections per day in early June, down sharply from a high of about 3.3 million a day on average in mid-April, according to the CDC.

Initial vaccine eligibility policies, set by states, favored older Americans, a group more likely to be white. Now, everyone over 12 is eligible, but obstacles remain, such as concerns about missing work because of side effects from the shot.

"Eligibility certainly does not equal access," Artiga said. "Losing a day or two of wages can have real consequences for your family. People are facing tough decisions like that."

The AP's analysis of the outbreak's racial and ethnic patterns was based on National Center for Health Statistics data on COVID-19 deaths and 2019 Census Bu-

reau population estimates.



It's less clear who is dying now, but the still-incomplete data suggests a gap has emerged again. In Michigan, Black people are 14% of the population but accounted for 25% of the 1,064 deaths reported in the past four weeks, according to the most recent available state data. Similar gaps were seen in Florida and Pennsylvania.

"For people of color like myself, we've had deep personal experiences during the pandemic" of caring for loved ones and sometimes losing them, said Yolanda Ogbolu, a nurse researcher at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. (Courtesy <https://apnews.com/>)

Related 600,000 Painful U.S. COVID-19 deaths Leave a Swath Of Misery

Across The Country

The United States has now lost over 600,000 mothers, fathers, children, siblings and friends to COVID-19, a painful reminder that death, sickness and grief continue even as the country begins to return to something resembling pre-pandemic normal.

A bride forced by the pandemic to have a Zoom wedding is planning a lavish in-person anniversary celebration this summer, but all of the guests must attest they are vaccinated.

A Houston artist, still deep in grief, is working on a collage of images of people who died in her community. Others crowd theaters and bars, saying it is time to move on.

"There will be no tears - not even happy tears," said Ali Whitman, who will celebrate her first wedding anniversary in August by donning her gown and partying with 240 vaccinated friends and family members in New Hampshire.

COVID-19 nearly killed her mother. She spent her wedding day last year with 13 people in person while an aunt conducted the ceremony via Zoom.

"I would be remiss not to address how awful and how terrible the past year has been, but also the gratitude that I can be in a singular place with all the people in my life who mean so much to me," said Whitman, 30.

The United States passed 600,000 COVID-19 deaths on Monday, about 15% of the world's total coronavirus fatalities of around 4 million, a Reuters tally shows.

@reuters As death rate slows, U.S. exceeds 600,000 COVID-19 fatalities <http://reut.rs/2TqZMHE>



The rate of severe illness and death has dropped dramatically as more Americans have become vaccinated, creating something of a psychological whiplash that

plagues the millions whose lives have been touched by the disease. Many are eager to emerge from more than a year of sickness and lockdown, yet they still suffer - from grief, lingering symptoms, economic trauma or the isolation of lockdown.

"We've all lived through this awful time, and all of us have been affected one way or another," said Erika Stein, who has suffered from migraines, fatigue and cognitive issues since contracting COVID-19 last fall. "My world flipped upside down in the last year and a half - and that's been hard."

Stein, 34, was active and fit, working as a marketing executive and fitness instructor in Virginia outside Washington, D.C., before the initial illness and related syndrome known as long-COVID ravaged her life.

Like many, she has mixed feelings about how quickly cities and states have moved to lift pandemic restrictions and re-open.



'FOR MY FAMILY, THERE IS NO NORMAL'

In New York, social worker Shyvonne Noboa still cries talking about the disease that ravaged her family, infecting 14 out of 17 relatives and killing her beloved grandfather.

She breaks down when she goes to Target and sees the well-stocked aisles, recalling the pandemic's depths, when she could not find hand sanitizer to protect her family.

"New York City is going back to quote-unquote 'normal' and opening up, but I can assure you that for my family there is no normal," said Noboa, who lives in Queens, an early epicenter of the U.S. outbreak. She is vaccinated but still wears a mask when she is out, and plans to continue doing so in the near future.

In Houston, artist Joni Zavitsanos started looking up obituaries of people in Southeast Texas who had died in the pandem-

ic's early days, reading their stories and creating mixed-media memorials displaying their names and photographs. Around each person she painted a halo using gold leaf, an homage to the Byzantine art of the Greek Orthodox church she attends.

Zavitsanos has now created about 575 images, and plans to keep going, making as many as she can, each portrait on an eight-by-eight-inch piece of wood to be mounted together to form an installation. Her brother and three adult children contracted COVID-19 and recovered. A very close friend nearly died and is still struggling with rehabilitation.



Chris Kocher, who founded the support and advocacy group COVID Survivors for Change, urged sympathy and support for people who are still grieving.

"We're being given this false choice where you can open up and celebrate, or you need to be locked down in grief," he said. "Let's be thankful that people are getting vaccinated, but let's also acknowledge that going back to normal is not an option for millions of Americans." One way to acknowledge the toll that COVID-19 has taken is to incorporate the color yellow into celebrations and gatherings, or display a yellow heart, which for some has become a symbol of those lost to the disease, he said.

The bittersweet mix of grief at the pandemic's toll with relief brought by its ebb was clear at Chicago's O'Hare airport on Thursday, where Stephanie Aviles and her family waited for a cousin to arrive from Puerto Rico.

Aviles, 23, lost two close friends to the virus, and her father nearly died. And yet, here she was, greeting family she had not been able to see for 15 months as the pandemic raged.

"I'm grateful, but it's a lot," she said. "It's a strange feeling to be normal again." (Courtesy <https://www.reuters.com/world>)