Biden honors victims of Tulsa race massacre
Visit marks first presidential remembrance

By Jonathan Lemire

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — President Joe Biden is making his first visit to Tulsa, Okla., the site of a massive 1921 race massacre that left hundreds of people dead.

The homage to the victims of the Tulsa race massacre comes amid growing interest in the nation’s history of racial injustice, especially in the wake of George Floyd’s killing by a Minneapolis police officer in May.

The massacre, known as the Tulsa Race Massacre, was part of a wave of violence across the South and Midwest in the early 20th century. It was one of the country’s most intense outbreaks of racial violence, with thousands of people killed or injured.

Biden will mark the massacre on Wednesday, the first anniversary of Floyd’s death, by attending a memorial service at the Greenwood Cultural Center, which has become a symbol of the struggle for racial justice.

The massacre, which occurred in the Greenwood District, was the result of a riot between the black and white communities. It was sparked by a racial controversy over a black-owned OKC Express newspaper.

The massacre occurred on May 31 and June 1, 1921, when a white mob entered the black district of Tulsa and burned it to the ground. The riot left hundreds of people dead, including women and children, and thousands more displaced.

Biden is scheduled to speak at a memorial service at the Greenwood Cultural Center on Wednesday, where he will honor the victims and their legacy.

The massacre is a painful chapter in American history, and it’s a topic that has continued to resurface in recent years with renewed interest in the nation’s troubled past.

Biden’s visit to Tulsa is part of his broader efforts to address racial injustice and inequality in the country. The president has made it a priority to address the legacy of slavery and its continued impact on African Americans, and he has called for a national conversation about race and its impact on the country.

Biden’s visit to Tulsa will also serve as a reminder of the importance of continued action to address the ongoing challenges of racial inequality and to promote a more just and equitable society.

The massacre was a turning point in American history, and it’s a topic that continues to resonate with people around the country.

Biden’s visit to Tulsa is a chance to honor the memory of those who lost their lives during the massacre and to honor the ongoing struggle for equality and justice.

The White House said the administration will work with Congress to address the ongoing challenges of racial inequality and to promote a more just and equitable society.

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Border counties have high vaccination rates

BY KAREN BROOKS HARPER and CARLA ASTUDILLO

What Rio Grande Valley residents believe, state numbers confirm: Ain't nobody got no time for the virus, and COVID-19 deaths were so frequent in the fall that mass burials were common in the border county.

The bodies streamed in at the hundreds, picked up by the horse-drawn hearse and sometimes by the county’s four 1940s-era embalming trucks from the local hospitals. The bodies piled up in the morgue, padded into the freezer, and found their way to the cemetery.

After a year of living in a national hot zone for the virus, county officials say, vaccination rates were once among the highest in the nation. Chapa, 59, was eager to get the shot.

"I'm at high risk, with high cholesterol," said Chapa, who has had an original COVID vaccine delta and was eager to get a booster.

"I was scared of anything," said Chapa, who is a retired border guard and describes himself as a "pandemic survivor." He belongs to the 10% in the nation’s Hispanic population who have received three vaccinations. But he said he was "too scared" to get the shot.

"I'm going to get it," he said, "now that it's over." Chapa was one of 70,000 shots given at a clinic in Laredo in December, when the Pfizer vaccine was first administered in the city.

"It's been incredible," said Dr. Thomas Geisbert, a University of Texas Medical Branch professor who is studying the spread of COVID-19 in border counties.

"The vaccination rates in border counties are so high they are almost unprecedented," he said. "We've never seen this before."
The Vatican has changed Catholic Church law to allow for the first time the punishment of priests who abuse children, even if the victim is an adult. "This is a step forward," the Holy See said in a statement. The new provision, which was approved by Pope Francis in September, expands the range of sexual offenses that can be punished and allows for the automatic introduction of sanctions against any priest who is accused of abuse, even if the victim is not a child. The Vatican's move was seen as a significant development in the fight against sexual abuse within the Catholic Church, where allegations of abuse have been rampant in recent years.

The new law, which takes effect immediately, extends the definition of sexual abuse to include acts with anyone under the age of 18, regardless of whether the victim is a child or an adult. It also expands the range of offenses that can be punished, including sexual acts with minors under the age of 18, as well as acts of indecent assault and rape.

The Vatican's move comes after a series of sexual abuse scandals within the Catholic Church, including the cases of pedophile priests like Theodore McCarrick and George Pell, who were later defrocked. The new law is expected to increase accountability and transparency within the Church, and to provide greater protection for victims of sexual abuse.

The Vatican's stance on sexual abuse is likely to be closely watched by other religious bodies and governments around the world, which have been grappling with how to address the issue of sexual abuse within their own institutions. The Vatican's move is seen as a positive step towards addressing the ongoing crisis of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church.

The Vatican's change in church law follows similar moves by other religious bodies, including the Roman Catholic Church in the United States and the Anglican Church in Australia. These changes are expected to increase accountability and transparency within these institutions, and to provide greater protection for victims of sexual abuse.
Florida governor OKs limits on transgender student athletes

By RICHARD CRAWFORD Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida’s Republican governor signed a bill Tuesday that bars transgender girls from competing against girls at public schools from running track at the high school level.

Former Florida Sen. Seth D’Antuono, who opposed the second reading of the bill, said the government is trying to force a “one-size-fits-all” approach on the state’s schools.

“Thank you for standing up for what is right and what is ethical,” he wrote in a statement.

The law takes effect July 1. And it is a transphobic attack on the state’s youth, according to the bill’s sponsor in the House, Rep. Jason ridges.

The governor’s move affects the three-inch, 100-meter sprint. In 2019, he completed the sprint with a time of 19.02 seconds.

The Olympic sprinting race is on.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Daniel Giegerich, said it will help the public understand the “true meaning of life.”

The Sunshine State is racing to host the Olympic sprinting race. In 2019, Giegerich completed the sprint with a time of 19.02 seconds.

The Olympic sprinters’ share of the prize pool will be split between the United States and the Olympic Committee. In 2019, Giegerich completed the sprint with a time of 19.02 seconds.

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