

People & Places

Television

Quiet oceans

Virus opens window for Shark Week experts

LOS ANGELES, Aug 8, (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic forced people to stay put, but it gave sharks a travel passport and scientists a rare opportunity.

Ocean spots cleared of fishing boats and other intrusions by COVID-19 quarantines saw increased and even unusual marine life behavior — and Discovery Channel's Shark Week jumped through hoops to capitalize on the brief window.

The 32nd annual slate of all things shark, airing for eight days beginning Sunday with a record two-dozen shows, includes a pair taped earlier this year during the lull.

"It really was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study these sharks without the impacts of human activity," said Howard Swartz, Discovery's senior vice-president for production and development.

It's not just any toothy species under scrutiny by the two programs, but the one with a **Steven Spielberg** summer blockbuster on its resume.

"Sharks are the stars of Shark Week. The great whites are the stars of the sharks," Swartz said. "They're so captivating and they're so beloved and interesting and, I think, mysterious to viewers, rightly so."

"Shark Lockdown" (10 pm EDT Sunday) is set in New Zealand-area waters that are home to female great whites of such impressive length they've been dubbed "the 747s", after the famously long jetliner.

The program features Kina Scollay, a founding member of New Zealand's Great White Shark Research Project and a familiar face to Shark Week viewers, and Clarke Gayford, a broadcaster and the fiancé of New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern.

Their exploration of the Foveaux Strait, which separates New Zealand's South and Stewart Islands, brought them up against what Swartz called one of the "Holy Grail" shark mysteries: why females leave the area when their size indicates they've reached sexual maturity.

"They disappear and nobody's really sure why they're there and where they've gone," said the journalism award-winning TV science producer (formerly with PBS' "Nova").

Discovered

What Scollay and the team discovered was an unusual mix of male and female sharks, with some of the latter carrying fresh mating gashes that are on painful-looking display in the documentary.

That suggested the area was a mating ground absent human activity, a possibility that could lead to new safeguards for the great white population, Swartz said.

A similar revelation emerged in "Abandoned Waters" (8 pm EDT Monday), in which researchers were able to closely observe great whites near Australia's Neptune Islands minus the usual fishing and tourism traffic.

"Just the general decibel level of the oceans quieted down significantly" for the noise- and vibration-sensitive sharks, Swartz said.

The team recorded the arrival of about three times the average number of female great whites mixing with males off the Neptune Islands, located near the entrance to South Australia's Spencer Gulf.

Although it's premature to draw conclusions, the information could be part of ongoing research and analysis that might help protect the area for sharks, Swartz said.

Along with the scientists, local production crews scurried to take advantage of the ocean solitude before those nations gained relative control of the virus and began lifting restrictions on internal travel and business activity.

Discovery said it was unaware of anyone involved in the productions testing positive for the coronavirus. Strict protocols were in place to guard against infections, Swartz said.

Then producers had to gear up to meet the challenge of a quick turnaround in just a few months.

While Shark Week programs are usually made for the following year and have eight to 12 months to be completed, the research and production teams for the virus-related films had just three months.

A few other shows in this year's line-up, all times Eastern:

■ "Air Jaws: Ultimate Breach Off" (8 pm Sunday). The 20th anniversary of the show that uses decoys and drones to capture astounding shots of great whites breaching and collect data on hunting techniques.

■ "Extinct or Alive: Land of the Lost Sharks" (8 pm Tuesday). Wildlife biologist and conservationist Forrest Galante braves dangerous waters in the southern hemisphere in a search for three sharks unseen by scientists for as long as 100 years.

■ "Will Smith: Off the Deep End" (9 pm Tuesday). The actor takes on his fear of open waters and sharks.

■ "Wicked Sharks" (9 pm, Aug 15). Amid great white encounters off Massachusetts' Cape Cod, shark expert Greg Skomal uses technology to help learn their hunting habits to better protect the public.

Also:

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: An infamous bus appears headed to a new home at a museum in Fairbanks after being removed from Alaska's backcountry to deter people from making dangerous, sometimes deadly treks to visit the site where a young man documented his demise in 1992.

The state Department of Natural Resources said Thursday that it intends to negotiate with the University of Alaska's Museum of the North to display the bus, which was popularized by the book "Into the Wild" and a movie of the same name and flown from its location near Denali National Park and Preserve last month.

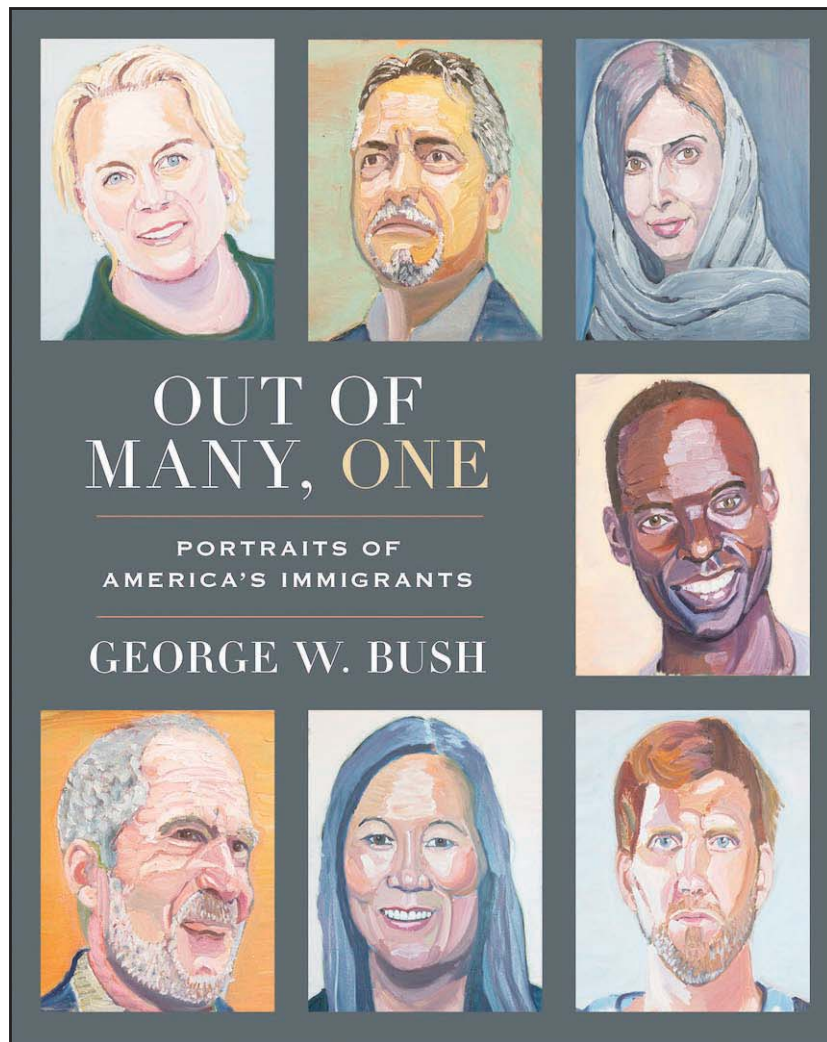
"Of the many expressions of interest in the bus, the proposal from the UA Museum of the North best met the conditions we at DNR had established to ensure this historical and cultural object will be preserved in a safe location where the public could experience it fully, yet safely and respectfully, and without the specter of profiteering," Natural Resources Commissioner Corri Feige said in a statement.

The bus became a beacon for those wishing to retrace the steps of **Christopher McCandless**, who hiked to the bus in 1992. The 24-year-old **Virginia** man died from starvation when he couldn't hike back out because of the swollen Teklanika River. He kept a journal of his ordeal, which was discovered when his body was found.

McCandless' story became famous with author **Jon Krakauer's** 1996 book "Into the Wild", followed nine years later by director **Sean Penn's** movie of the same name.

Over the years, people from around the world have traveled to the bus, located about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from the town of **Healy**, to pay homage to McCandless.

Two women have been crowned in the Teklanika River on such visits to the bus, one from **Switzerland** in 2010 and the other from **Belarus** nine years later.



This combination photo shows the cover image for 'Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants' by George W. Bush (left), and a photo of former president George W. Bush. Crown announced Thursday that the book will be published on March 2. (AP)



This image released by Discovery Channel shows a scene from 'Sharks of Neptune', airing Thursday as part of Shark Week 2020 on Discovery Channel. (AP)



Lady Gaga

Ariana Grande

Variety

NEW YORK: MTV says it is ditching plans for indoor performances for its upcoming Video Music Awards, opting for outdoor shows spread throughout New York City instead.

Organizers had planned for some performances inside **Brooklyn's** Barclays Center for the Aug 30 show, but say they will follow the guidance of state and local officials to move them outside.

The shift announced Friday is in response to the coronavirus pandemic. New York City was one of the first US cities hit hard by the virus, but cases have leveled off and some restrictions are being loosened.

Gov **Andrew Cuomo's** announcement in June that the VMAs would be held at Barclays surprised many and was a signal of the city's turnaround in its fight against the virus. A statement by MTV and the Barclays Center promised the show would "pay homage to the incredible resiliency of New York with several outdoor performances around the City with limited or no audience."

The show plans to return to Barclays for its 2021 edition.

The ceremony bestows new awards focused on live performances and music videos created at home during the pandemic. **Lady Gaga** and **Ariana Grande** are the leading nominees with nine apiece.

BTS, **Doja Cat** and **J Balvin** are among the performances announced so far by MTV. (AP)

LONDON: The British issue of Vogue is devoting its September issue to activism, with a cover featuring two Black activists and produced by a predominantly Black team.

Editor-in-chief **Edward Enninful**, who is Black, said he wanted the magazine's new issue, to be published Friday, to be a "rallying cry for the future." He said 2020 is a "moment of necessary change," and told the BBC that the focus on activism was a "no-brainer" decision.

The cover features 22-year-old Manchester United soccer star **Marcus Rashford**, who in June successfully campaigned to force **Britain's** government to grant free food vouchers to poor families during the summer holidays. He posed alongside model and mental health activist **Adwoa Aboah**. They were photographed by **Misan Harriman**, the first Black photographer tasked with shooting the magazine's September issue — traditionally seen as the most important one in the Vogue calendar.

"(Enninful) knows that there are many talented people from a diverse background who have never had a fair chance, finally the door is ajar," Harriman said.

The fold-out cover features 18 other faces, including campaigners for the Black Lives Matter movement, feminists and anti-racism activists.

Enninful said last month that he was "racially profiled" by a security guard at his office, who told him to "use the loading

Books

Ex-Trump adviser plans book on future of polarized America

'Portraits' pays tribute to immigrants

NEW YORK, Aug 8, (AP) — A new book by former president George W. Bush will highlight an issue which now sets him apart from many of his fellow Republicans — immigration.

Crown announced Thursday that Bush's "Out Of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants" will be published March 2. The book includes 43 portraits by the 43rd president, four-color paintings of immigrants he has come to know over the years, along with biographical essays he wrote about each of them.

Bush, who served as president from 2001-2009, has often praised the contributions of immigrants, a notable contrast to President Donald Trump's rhetoric and policies. As president, Bush supported a bipartisan immigration reform bill that narrowly failed to pass in 2007, with opposition coming from both liberals and conservatives.

"While I recognize that immigration can be an emotional issue, I reject the premise that it is a partisan issue. It is perhaps the most American of issues, and it should be one that unites us," Bush writes in the new book's introduction, noting that he did not want it to come out during the election season. Bush has not endorsed Trump or his presumptive Democratic opponent, former vice-president Joe Biden.

"My hope is that this book will help focus our collective attention on the positive impacts that immigrants are making on our country."

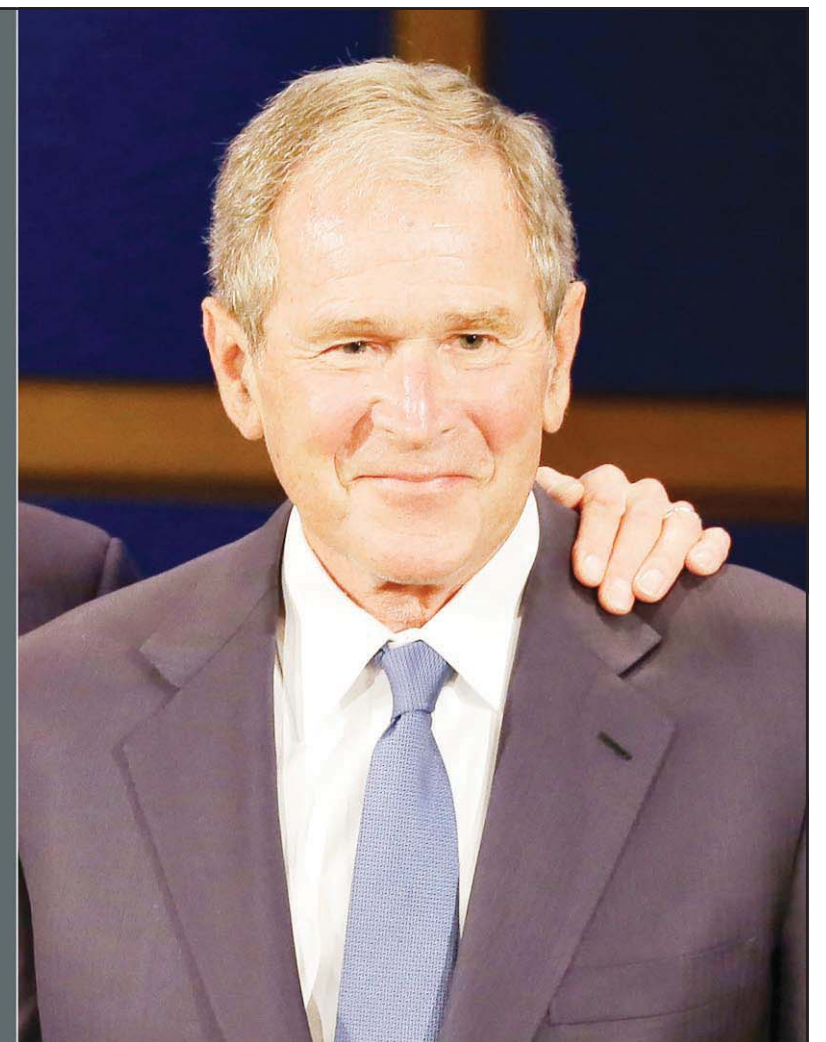
The book will serve as a companion to an upcoming exhibition at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas.

Both "Out of Many, One" and the exhibition of the same name will include bold, principle-based solutions that comprehensively address the current debate on immigration," according to Crown. "At the heart of the recommendations is the belief that every year that passes without reforming the nation's broken system means missed opportunities to ensure the future prosperity, vitality, and security of our country."

Bush has become a dedicated portrait painter and best-selling author since leaving the White House. His memoir "Decision Points" has sold more than 3 million copies, and his other books include "41," about his father, former president George H.W. Bush; and a collection of paintings of military veterans,

as he arrived for work. He said that the incident highlighted how despite his achievements, "the first thing that some people will judge you on is the color of your skin."

Last year, the September issue of British Vogue was guest-edited by **Meghan**, the



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"Portraits of Courage."

He will donate a portion of his "Out Of Many, One" proceeds to organizations that help immigrants resettle. Financial terms were otherwise not disclosed. Bush was represented by Robert Barnett, the Washington attorney whose other clients have included former president Barack Obama and former president Bill Clinton.

The book will be released as a standard trade hardcover and in an autographed deluxe edition, listed for \$250, that will be clothbound and contained within a slipcover.

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Fiona Hill, a key witness in President **Donald Trump's** impeachment inquiry, is going to be sharing her views about the future of a polarized America.

The New York-based Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books & Media announced on Wednesday that it has acquired a book by Hill, former deputy assistant to the president and senior director for European and Russian affairs on the National Security Council at the White House.

Hill's testimony last year on Capitol Hill reinforced the central complaint of the impeachment inquiry — that Trump used his leverage over Ukraine, a young Eastern European democracy facing Russian aggression, to pursue political gain. Senior editor **Alex Littlefield** acquired North American rights to the book from Andrew Numberg Associates, based in London. Hill's book, titled "There Is Nothing for You Here: Opportunity in an Age of Decline," is to be released in the fall of 2021.

"The book will draw on Dr. Hill's deep expertise in the United States and Europe, as well as her personal experience on both continents, to explain how our current, polarized moment is the result of long historical trends — from imperial overreach to postindustrial decline — that have long afflicted Russia and the United Kingdom, and which now are beginning to affect the United States," the publisher said in a statement. "Hill will describe the origins and growth of deep, geographically concentrated opportunity gaps, and show how they have fueled the rise of populism at home and abroad."

Hill, a British-born coal miner's daughter who became a US citizen in 2002, worked for Republican and Democratic administrations. She said she

joined the Trump White House because she shared the Republican president's belief that relations with Russia needed to improve. Still, she was adamant that Russia was gearing up to intervene again in the 2020 US election, declaring, "We are running out of time to stop them."

Trump was impeached by the Democratic-led US House of Representatives over charges he abused the power of his office by enlisting a foreign government to investigate a political rival ahead of the 2020 election and obstructed Congress in its investigation. He was acquitted by the Republican-led Senate.

Also:

NEW YORK: If not for the coronavirus, **Oprah Winfrey** says, she would be out in the streets and marching with the Black Lives Matter protesters.

She has instead found other ways to add her voice.

She is working with Lionsgate on a multimedia adaptation of The New York Times' "1619 Project" on the legacy of slavery. She interviewed **Stacey Abrams** and **Ava DuVernay** among others during a two-night special on her OWN network about racism and how to address it. The current issue of O: The Oprah Magazine features a cover photo of **Breonna Taylor**, the 26-year-old Black emergency room technician killed by police in her home in **Louisville, Kentucky**. It's the first time in the publication's 20-year history that Winfrey herself has not appeared on the front.

And on Tuesday, Winfrey announced she had chosen **Isabel Wilkerson's** exploration of race and hierarchy in the US, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," as her latest book club pick.

Wilkerson's book, Winfrey said in a telephone interview, "could change the way we see each other, how we see our humanity and the structure of our world."

The 59-year-old Wilkerson is an author and journalist who won the National Book Critics Circle award in 2011 for her previous book, "The Warmth of Other Suns," about the Black migration from the South in the early 20th century. In "Caste," she looks at American history and the treatment of Blacks and finds what she calls an enduring, unseen and unmentioned caste system — not unlike those in **India** or **Nazi Germany** — that has yet to be fully confronted.

Duchess of Sussex. (AP)

PALMYRA, NJ: Super Bowl champion **Eli Manning**, Grammy Award-winning singer **Cissy Houston** and "Good Times" actor **John Amos** are among this year's inductees into the New Jersey Hall of Fame.



In this image released by HBO, Mayor Michael Tubbs speaks to high school students in Stockton, Calif., in a scene from the documentary 'Stockton on My Mind'. (AP) — Story on Page 15

The winners for the Hall's 12th class were announced last Wednesday.

Others known as the state's best and brightest include Oscar-winner **Anne Hathaway**, author **Fran Lebowitz** and **Fairleigh Dickinson**, benefactor of the university named after him. Poet and journalist **Joyce Kilmer**, who has had a New Jersey Turnpike rest stop plaza named after him for years, will also be inducted into the new class. He lived in **New Brunswick**.

"These Garden State heroes perfectly represent what makes our state great," says Jon Hanson, chairman of the Hall of Fame. In the category of arts and entertainment, inductees also include film star **Danny Aiello**, who appears in "Do The Right Thing", "The Godfather Part II" and "The Last Don". He lived in **Ramsey** and **Saddle River**.

Others are singer-songwriter **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, of **Princeton**; actor **Ed Harris**, of **Tenafly**; comedian **Ernie Kovacs**, of **Trenton**; TV stars **Ozzie, Harriet** and **Ricky Nelson**, of **Jersey City**; and comedian **Flip Wilson**, of **Jersey City**.

Houston and Amos are from **Newark**, and Hathaway is from **Millburn**.

In addition to Manning, who lives in **Summit**, sports inductees include: NBA star **Rick Barry**, of **Roselle Park**; boxer **Gerry Cooney**, of **Fanwood**; former Rutgers athletic director **Robert Mulcahy III**, of **Mendham**; and head Rutgers women's basketball coach **Vivian Stringer**, of **Piscataway**. (AP)