

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 1 of 73

- [1- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [2- Volleyball Program](#)
- [3- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [4- Football Program](#)
- [5- Girls Soccer Program](#)
- [6- 2020 Statewide Festival of Books Will be Virtual](#)
- [6- Grief Share Program](#)
- [7- Preschool Screening Ad](#)
- [8- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [11- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [12- Sept. 9th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [16- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [17- Weather Pages](#)
- [21- Daily Devotional](#)
- [22- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [23- News from the Associated Press](#)

“NEVER  
APOLOGIZE FOR  
TRUSTING YOUR  
INTUITION. YOUR  
BRAIN CAN PLAY  
TRICKS, YOUR  
HEART CAN BE  
BLIND, BUT YOUR  
GUT IS ALWAYS  
RIGHT.”

-RACHEL WOLCHIN



## GDILIVE.COM

### Volleyball

Thursday, Sept, 10, 2020  
Groton at Sisseton

**Junior Varsity**

**6 p.m.**

**Sponsored by  
Dan & Marjae Schinkel**



**Varsity to Follow**

**Sponsored by**

**Patios Plus**

**Sign Gypsies**

**Doug & Wanda Hamilton**

**Hefty Seed**



**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 2 of 73

## High School Volleyball

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020

Groton Area at Sisseton



### Groton Area Tigers

#### VARSITY

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Gr.
1	Brooke Gengerke	5'5	S/DS	10
3	Kenzie Mcinerney	5'9	MH	12
5	Alyssa Thaler	5'5	DS/L	11
6	Stella Meier	5'9	MH/RH	11
7	Jasmine Gengerke	5'9	RH/MH	12
8	Trista Keith	5'6	DS/L	11
9	Megan Flihs	5'8	MH	11
10	Madeline Flihs	5'9	OH	11
11	Allyssa Locke	5'6	S	11
12	Aspen Johnson	5'8	S/RH	10
13	Grace Wambach	5'7	OH	12
14	Brooklyn Gilbert	5'8	RH/OH	12
15	Maddie Bjerke	5'7	RH/OH	11

#### JUNIOR VARSITY

1	Brooke Gengerke	5'5	S/DS	10
2	Emilie Thurston	5'5	DS/L	11
4	Lydia Meier	5'8	OH	9
6	Riley Leicht	5'6	OH/RH	11
8	Emma Schinkel	5'8	MH	9
9	Megan Flihs	5'8	MH	11
10	Kelsie Frost	5'10	MH/RH	11
11	Anna Fjeldheim		OH/RH	9
12	Aspen Johnson	5'8	S/RH	10
10	Elizabeth Flihs		S	8
14	Maddie Bjerke	5'7	OH/RH	11

#### C TEAM

1	Carly Guthmiller		L	9
2	Anna Fjeldheim		OH/RH	9
4	Karsyn Jangula		DS/OH	9
5	Camryn Kurtz		DS/RH	9
5	Sydney Leicht		OH	9
6	Ashlyn Sperry		DS/RH	9
7	Shallyn Foertsch		OH	10
8	Abby Jensen		DS	9
9	Cadence Feist		OH	9
10	Elizabeth Flihs		S	8
11	Ava Wienk		MH	9
12	Marlee Tollifson		MH	10
13	Hollie Frost		MH	10
	Rhiannon Mckibben			11

Head Coach: Chelsea Hanson  
Asst. Coaches: Jenna Strom, Carla Tracy  
Superintendent: Joe Schwan  
Principal: Kiersten Sombke  
Ath. Director: Brian Dolan  
School Colors: Black/Gold  
School Song: Fight On

### Sisseton Redmen

#### VARSITY

1	Kierra Silk	5'9	OH	12
2	Avery Despiegler	5'8	MB	11
3	Annika Estwick	5'3	DS	10
4	Emmalee Nielsen	5'8	RH	9
6	Ali Metz	5'6	RH	12
11	Georgia Hamm	5'5	OH	11
12	Hailey Nelson	5'6	RH/S	11
13	Linnea Silk	5'10	MB	10
14	Chloe Langager	5'10	MB	9
15	Alexis Metz	5'5	OH	12
17	Kelsey Heath	5'5	DS	12

#### JUNIOR VARSITY

4	Emmalee Nielsen	5'8	RS	9
7	Evelyn Fritz	5'2	S	10
9	Sonni Redday	5'5	OH	11
10	Rylie Huff	5'7	OH	9
11	Georgia Hamm	5'5	OH	11
12	Sadie Medenwald	5'5	S	10
14	Chloe Langager	5'10	MB	9
14	Brooklyn Swanson	5'6	MH	11
15	Maleena Stone	5'6	OH	12
16	Katie Karst	5'10	RH	10
17	Annika Estwick	5'3	DS	10

#### C TEAM

5	Jaline Crawford	5'3	DS	10
6	Charley Richards	5'5	OH	9
7	Ashlynn LaFromboise	5'5	MB	10
10	Rylie Huff	5'7	OH	9
13	Kennedy White	5'3	DS	9
14	Jourdes Chanku	5'5	S	9
15	Tasia Eastman	5'9	OH	9
15	Maleena Stone	5'9	MB	12

Head Coach: Jennifer Fisher  
Asst. Coaches: Jaylen Heller, Eric Heath  
Managers: Paige Huber, Cadence DuMarce  
Superintendent: Tammy Meyer  
Principal: Jim Frederick  
Ath. Director: Jack Appel  
Ath. Trainer: Dan Ziemer  
Strength/Cond.: Tyler Appel  
School Colors: Red/Black/White  
School Song: Minnesota Rouser

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 3 of 73

## GDILIVE.COM



### Football

7 p.m.

Friday, Sept, 11, 2020

Groton at Sisseton

**Sponsored by  
Kevin & Kara Pharis**

## GDILIVE.COM



### Girls Soccer

1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept, 12, 2020

SF Christian at Groton

**Sponsored by  
Neil and Melissa Gilbert ~ Tammy and Matt Locke  
Brad and Janel Penning ~ Tom and Rachael Crank  
Debbie and Travis Kurth**



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 4 of 73

Friday, Sept. 11, 2020 at Sisseton, SD USA

## FOOTBALL



### Sisseton Redmen

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Gr
1	Nate Tchida	RB/LB	5'7	140	9
2	Isaiah Harrison	RB/DL	6'0	190	12
3	Benecio Morales	WR/DB	5'11	150	12
5	Xavier Donnell	WR/DB	5'11	160	12
7	Ethan Despiegler	QB/DB	5'8	140	9
8	Parker Hanson	WR/DB	5'11	140	11
10	Tate Johnson	RB/DL	5'11	170	11
11	Landyn Steichan	RB/LB	6'1	180	9
12	Jay Chandhari	WR/DB	5'10	160	11
14	Carter Metz	QB/LB	6'0	175	10
15	Jairus Chanku	WR/DB	6'0	160	11
20	Quincy Harris	WR/DB	5'7	120	9
21	Dylan Goodhart	WR/DB	6'3	180	12
22	Ayden Just	WR/DB	5'8	150	11
23	Anthony Tchida	QB/DB	6'1	190	12
24	Andrew Kranhold	WR/DB	6'3	170	12
25	Blake Nielsen	RB/DB	5'8	160	12
27	Keandre White	WR/DB	5'7	120	9
30	Josh Long	RB/LB	5'8	150	10
32	Mason Herzog	WR/DB	5'6	120	9
34	Carter Schaunaman	RB/LB	5'8	210	12
35	Mikah Hamm	RB/LB	5'10	145	10
42	Kye Goodsell	WR/DB	5'10	150	12
50	Ty Langager	OL/DL	6'6	220	11
52	Ethan Skarnagel	OL/DL	5'10	260	10
54	Hunter Biel	OL/DL	5'8	150	9
55	Levi Greseth	OL/DL	6'1	220	12
56	Devan Appel	OL/DL	6'1	240	12
58	Mitchell Moen	OL/DL	6'0	180	11
64	Vincent Kriz	OL/DL	5'10	160	9
69	Dirk Neilan	OL/DL	5'10	240	12
70	Dean Shultz lii	OL/DL	6'0	175	10
72	Yamni Johnson	OL/DL	5'11	250	10

Head Coach: Lance Haug  
 Asst. Coaches: Tyler Appel, Brayden Tasa, Dustin Lotzer  
 Managers: Landyn Steichan  
 Statisticians: Ryan Toelle  
 Superintendent: Tammy Meyer  
 Principal: Jim Frederick  
 Ath. Director: Jack Appel  
 Ath. Trainer: Dan Ziemer  
 Strength/Cond.: Tyler Appel  
 School Colors: Red/Black/White  
 School Song: Minnesota Rouser

### Groton Area Tigers

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Gr
1	Lane Tietz	QB/DB	5'9	150	9
2	Douglas Heminger	WR/DB	5'8	120	12
4	Favian Sanchez	RB/DB	5'9	165	11
5	Pierce Kettering	RB/LB	5'10	170	11
8	Jaimen Farrell	FB/TE/LB	6'1	205	12
11	Cole Simon	WR/DB	5'10	160	10
12	Ethan Gengerke	WR/DE	6'2	180	10
15	Jacob Lewandowski	QB/WR/DB	5'9	165	10
16	Colby Dunker	RB/LB	6'0	170	9
17	Andrew Marzahn	RB/DB	6'0	170	10
18	Marcos Garcia	FB/LB	6'0	175	11
20	Kaden Kurtz	QB/LB	6'0	180	11
21	Chandler Larson	TE/DE	6'1	185	12
24	Jackson Cogley	WR/DB	6'0	175	11
25	Jordan Bjerke	WR/LB	6'0	180	11
48	River Pardick	OL/DL	5'9	200	11
50	Holden Sippel	OL/DL	5'10	185	9
51	Seth Johnson	OL/LB	5'10	180	11
52	Evin Nehls	OL/DE	6'0	190	11
53	Caleb Hanten	OL/DL	6'0	180	10
54	Paxton Bonn	OL/DE	6'2	190	12
55	Adrian Knutson	OL/DL	5'10	245	12
56	Cole Bisbee	OL/LB	5'10	175	10
57	Caleb Furney	OL/DL	5'10	210	12
58	Logan Ringgenberg	OL/DL	6'0	240	9
59	Alex Morris	OL/DL	6'0	220	12
60	Tanner Mcgannon	OL/DL	5'9	185	10
64	Kale Pharis	OL/DL	6'0	220	12
66	Tate Larson	TE/DE	6'3	185	10
68	Kaleb Antonsen	OL/DL	5'10	180	10

Head Coach: Shaun Wanner  
 Asst. Coaches: Travis Kurth, Seth Erickson, Dalton Locke, Lance Hawkins, Ryan Scepaniak  
 Managers: Trey Gengerke, Lee Iverson, Brooke Gengerke, Alexa Herr  
 Statisticians: Tom Woods, Ryland Strom  
 Cheerleaders: Chloe Daly, Tiara Dehoet, Gabby Merkel, Tanae Lipp, Tessa Erdmann, Alexis Hanten, Maddie Bjerke, Trinity Smith, Cadence Feist  
 Cheer Coach: Aubray Harry  
 Superintendent: Joe Schwan  
 Principal: Kiersten Sombke  
 Ath. Director: Brian Dolan  
 School Colors: Black/Gold  
 School Song: Fight On





## High School Girls Soccer

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020  
Groton Soccer Complex

### Groton Area Tigers

Lt.	Dk.	Name	Grade
0	0	Jaedyn Penning	7
1	1	Riley Leicht	11
2	2	Elizabeth Fliehs	8
3	3	Laila Roberts	8
4	4	Sydney Leicht	9
5	5	Gretchen Dinger	8
6	6	Ani Davidson	11
8	8	Emma Schinkel	9
9	9	Kayla Lehr	8
10	10	Trista Keith	11
11	11	Allyssa Locke	11
12	12	Brooklyn Hansen	8
16	16	Kennedy Hansen	8
18	18	Faith Traphagen	8
19	19	Mia Crank	7
20	20	Cali Tollifson	7
22	22	Madeline Fliehs	11
23	23	Brooklyn Gilbert	12
25	25	Regan Leicht	12
26	26	Kenzie McInerney	12
28	28	Carly Gilbert	7
29	29	Jerica Locke	7

Head Coach: Chris Kucker  
Asst. Coach: Carleen Johnson  
Superintendent: Joe Schwan  
Principal: Kiersten Sombke  
Ath. Director: Brian Dolan  
School Colors: Black/Gold  
School Song: Fight On

### Sioux Falls Christian Chargers

Dk.	Name	Pos.	Grade
1	Katie Vanderleest	ST	8
2	Olivia Netjes	DEF	12
3	Moriah Harrison	DEF	10
4	Emma McDonald	DEF	11
5	Ashlyn Zomermaand	MID	11
6	Hailey Scholten	ST	11
7	Adalie Pritchett	DEF/MID	12
8	Reyna Moss	MID	10
9	Olivia Chear	MID	11
10	Ava Schock	MID	9
11	Kate Schnabel	DEF/MID	12
18	Alex Mccauley	MID	10
19	Megan Aukes	MID/ST	8
20	Nataya Lawrence	ST/MID	11
21	Rachel Van Nieuwenhuyzen	ST/MID	11
22	Kate Zomermaand	ST	8
23	Joscelin Jasper	MID	11
24	Sidney Schock	MID	11
00	Sierra Scholten	GK	9
14	Jamie Young	GK	11

Head Coach: Jordan Salamido  
Asst. Coach: Amber Vander Veen  
Managers: Katy Gulbranson, Emma Witt,  
Arianna Sax  
Superintendent: Jay Woudstra  
Principal: Jeremy Van Nieuwenhuyzen  
Ath. Director: Jim Groen  
Ath. Trainer: Josh Klaassen  
School Colors: Royal Blue/Silver/White  
School Song: Illinois Loyalty

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 6 of 73

## 2020 Statewide Festival of Books Will be Virtual

BROOKINGS, S.D. – With the coronavirus pandemic continuing and the health of readers and writers in mind, the 2020 South Dakota Festival of Books will be an all-virtual experience in 2020.

The Festival, in its 18th year of bringing readers and writers together, typically includes more than 100 public presentations. In lieu of in-person events, the 60-plus authors on the 2020 roster will discuss books, teach workshops, and interact with fans via Zoom, Crowdcast and Facebook Live. The lineup includes local favorites and perennial bestsellers.

“Safety is the first priority,” said Ann Volin, director of the South Dakota Humanities Council, which hosts the annual event. “We will dearly miss our personal interactions with fans, volunteers, sponsors, authors, and everyone else who has made this event so special during the past 17 years, but we will host a robust virtual event and hope to be back in person in 2021.”

Readers in South Dakota and elsewhere have had several months to adjust to watching author presentations on their computers, as book festivals around the world have moved to virtual formats in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 South Dakota Festival of Books will kick off with a virtual welcome Thursday, Oct. 1 and continue with events throughout the weekend and into late-October.

“We’re excited by the opportunity to reach people all over the U.S. and even the world,” Volin said.

Featured at the 2020 Festival are local and regional authors as well as nationally recognized writers such as Max Brooks, Angelica Shirley Carpenter, Robert Dugoni, Karl Marlantes, Sally Roesch Wagner, and more.

Still growing after 17 years, the Festival brings together readers and writers for workshops, lectures, panel discussions and book signings. In typical years, South Dakota’s premier literary event draws thousands of attendees, including approximately 5,000 students who meet children’s/YA authors and illustrators at both the Festival itself and via school visits.

Each year, the Festival of Books features a common read for children and adults via the One Book South Dakota program: The 2020 One Book is “Unfollow: A Memoir of Loving and Leaving the Westboro Baptist Church” by Megan Phelps-Roper. Meanwhile, past Festival presenter Alison McGhee returns to the Festival of Books in 2020 with two adorable — and famous — characters in tow. The 2020 Young Readers One Book “Bink & Gollie: Three for One” stars the irrepressible and precocious Bink and Gollie, created by McGhee and Kate DiCamillo, a Newbery medalist and past Festival presenter.

For a full schedule of events and information on all of the authors, please visit [sdbookfestival.com](http://sdbookfestival.com).



## GRIEF SHARE

**Tuesdays, 6 p.m., beginning Sept. 15, 2020**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church**

**Gathering Space**

**(This is for adults who have lost a loved one.)**

Ruby Donovan from our parish has gone through the training with the Catholic Family Service for the purpose of leading a Grief Sharing Group. Although she is not a professional, she has also gone through the grieving process concerning the loss of several family members.

After viewing the professional counselor from the Catholic Family Services via a zoom conference, Ruby will be hosting a group discussion. As you listen to the professionals and Ruby, you will see you are not alone in your grieving. There is hope and you, too, can journey from grief to hope.

This program, although run by Catholics, is good for any person going through the grieving process. The cost of the program is \$15 for the workbook, but we will scholarship anyone who may need help. We also need a couple of volunteers to be part of the leadership team. If you are interested in this program as a volunteer or to join the group, please call our parish office at 605/397-2775 or email us at [seas@nvc.net](mailto:seas@nvc.net).



**Preschool Developmental  
Screening  
Groton Area Schools #06-6**

Preschool Developmental Screening is for children ages 3-5 who reside in the Groton Area School District. The child needs to be 3 years of age before the screening date/day. This screening is not required to enter Kindergarten.

The screening consists of communication skills, motor skills, and concepts.

If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

Screenings will be held on an appointment only basis. Please contact Paula Johnson at 605-397-2317 or [Paula.M.Johnson@k12.sd.us](mailto:Paula.M.Johnson@k12.sd.us) to schedule a screening time.



## #199 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

I want to inform you that today's numbers come from a slightly longer than usual reporting period. I was late collecting data tonight. This means today's numbers may be a bit higher than they would otherwise be, although the effect should be fairly small since data come in very slowly in the evening hours. This week, we're not going to overinterpret what we're seeing until any unevenness in reporting as an effect of the long holiday weekend works its way through the system, so I'll just give you what I have. We have 6,378,700 cases, 34,000 or 0.5% more than yesterday. There were 1202 deaths reported today, an 0.6% increase to 190,708.

We have a bit more information on that paused vaccine trial. The individual whose illness halted the trial was, indeed, the person in the UK with symptoms of transverse myelitis. What is now happening is that an independent board of experts will determine whether the participant's condition was linked to the vaccine or was a coincidence. They will generate a timeline of symptoms and match it up against the timing of vaccine administration, as well as looking for other potential causes. At some point, the experts will advise the company whether to resume the trial. In the meanwhile, no more doses of vaccine will be given. There apparently was an earlier halt to the trial in the UK, also over similar symptoms, so this will be investigated thoroughly. We will wait to see what transpires.

OK, so the official count of cases confirmed and traced to South Dakota's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally thus far is 290 in 12 states with one death. We have discussed the fact that the true number of cases attributable to the event will never be known because there has been no attempt to track this information. There are, however, mathematical methods for estimating these things, and on Saturday, the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies at San Diego State University made available its working paper (not yet peer-reviewed) estimating the impacts of the Rally as a superspreader event.

The research team tracked anonymized cell phone pings to measure the number of non-resident visitors, to trace those people back to their home counties, and to measure stay-at-home behavior of residents of Meade County, Sturgis's home county. From this, they found that non-resident pings increased by 92.5% during the Rally relative to the two-week period immediately prior to the Rally and that there were high inflow counties (counties supplying larger numbers of Rally attendees) in South Dakota, bordering states, and other states, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, and Washington. Their "estimates show that following the Sturgis event, counties that contributed the highest inflows of rally attendees experienced a 7.0 to 12.5 percent increase in COVID-19 cases relative to counties that did not contribute inflows." They also offer descriptive evidence which indicates this effect was muted in states with stricter mitigation policies.

They did note that "social distancing and mask-wearing were quite rare in Sturgis" during the event. They also noted that this was a situation where many of the "worst case scenarios" for superspreading occurred: a prolonged event, close crowding, large out-of-town population (orders of magnitude larger than the local population), and low compliance with precautions. Factors working to reduce spread were the outdoor venues for many activities and low population density in South Dakota.

Findings show that 90.7% of non-resident pings came from those who reside outside the state of South Dakota, 18.6% from border states and 72.1% from the rest of the country. Reductions in and patterns of stay-at-home behavior of Meade County residents indicate many local residents participated in Rally activities. Among their conclusions: The Rally increased cases in Meade County by around 6.5 cases per 1000 population, in South Dakota by between 3.6 and 3.9 cases per 1000, a 35% increase from pre-Rally data. Counties that contributed the highest inflows of attendees had case increases of 10.7% relative to counties without any attendees, and stricter local mitigation measures, where these were in place, materially blunted these impacts. Adding additional cases due to the Rally in high-inflow counties outside South Dakota to additional cases due to the Rally within the state, they estimated the total number of cases at 266,796 (19% of the 1.4 million new cases seen in the US during their analysis period of August 2 through September 2). They further estimated, based on the average cost of a nonfatal Covid-19 case at \$46,000, that the cost of these additional cases was over \$12.2 billion.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 9 of 73

I am not expert in the statistical techniques in use here, so I'm not the one to spot errors in this analysis. I am, however, conversant with statistical methods overall, and to my inexperienced eye, this looks like sound analysis carefully done, not, as has been charged, "fiction," "an attack on those who exercised their personal freedom to attend Sturgis," or "built on incredibly faulty assumptions that do not reflect the actual facts and data."

The South Dakota state epidemiologist, Josh Clayton, said, "The results do not align with what we know for the impacts of the rally;" but his statement does not acknowledge the reality that we were never going to be able to identify every case through contact tracing or address the study's goal of estimating the very cases of which Clayton is, because of that deficiency, unaware. Andrew Friedson, one of the authors, told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, "if we want a good-faith estimate using, at the moment, the accepted statistical techniques . . . this is the best number we're going to get in my opinion."

I will note this study does still need peer-review. Turn some genuine experts loose on the statistical methodology, and any flaws will turn up and get corrected. It is quite likely there may be some adjustments in the details when that happens; there generally are—almost no study is accepted as perfect upon first review. But I would be extraordinarily surprised if those experts concluded the work is "fiction" or "built on incredibly faulty assumptions;" I really would. I presume that process will get underway one day soon, and then we'll see. One of the beauties of science is that it is self-correcting.

Let's just go ahead and add 10 more cases to that outbreak caused by the superspreader wedding in Maine. The York County Jail is up to 82 cases. There are more cases among staff, inmates, and family members of staff. There do not appear to be any more new cases at this time at the nursing home or the church, but this brings the total for the wedding to 157 and counting. No new linked deaths have been reported, so that count stands at three, none of whom were guests at the wedding.

You have likely noted I am not one to send you chasing after every miracle cure and amazing discovery that someone turns up; but I am going to make a modest suggestion for something you can do which might make a difference in your ability to resist this infection and, if properly done, poses no real risk. That something is vitamin D supplementation. Here's what we know: Vitamin D decreases the risk of other viral respiratory infections (we don't know yet about Covid-19), about half the US population is deficient in vitamin D, and serious disease is a risk for the elderly (who are often deficient), those with obesity (also often deficient), and those with darker skin color (heavier skin pigment blocks the sun's UV rays which stimulate production of vitamin D in the skin). We also know Covid-19 is observed more often in those who are vitamin D-deficient. And we are aware that vitamin D strengthens immune responses, seems to decrease viral replication in general, and improves viral clearance in many infections. That means this case for vitamin D is circumstantial, but intriguing. I will note that no one thinks huge doses of the vitamin are more beneficial than just making sure you are not deficient, so I am not about to encourage you to gulp down mega-doses. In fact, this is one of a group of vitamins which are stored in the body, so they are toxic in large amounts—you can overdose, so the last thing I want is for you to go around slamming vitamin D tablets at every turn. Depending on age, anyone needs is 600-800 International Units (IU) per day, slightly more if you are deficient and catching up. The maximum safe dose is 4000 IU/day. So if you wanted to take around 1000 IU each day, I think of this as a safe, relatively inexpensive thing you could do to provide an possible buffer against this virus. It could be this is not actually beneficial after all, but there's no real downside to hedging your bets this way unless you lose your mind and take too much of it. Just a thought.

About the oncoming influenza season, we should note that Australia, whose flu season runs from April to September—they're just getting into spring at this time, had a record-low season. They went from 61,000 confirmed influenza cases in 2019 to 107 this year. It is generally believed that the mitigation measures employed to limit the spread of Covid-19—masking, distancing, staying home—also reduced the transmission of the influenza virus. It is generally thought people were more likely to get a flu immunization in the face of this pandemic too, which would also have helped a lot. We should keep in mind that this is not necessarily predictive of what will happen here. For starters, we're not particularly careful in much of

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 10 of 73

the US about those precautions, so they'll likely do us less good. We absolutely should be all over the flu shots this year though; we know those work to reduce the incidence and severity of flu.

A cautionary note about bringing fans back to sports events: A study from the University of Reading in England found that soccer matches, even with limited attendance, still led to increases in case numbers and deaths. The findings were that on average, a match led to six infection, two Covid-19 deaths, and three more excess deaths per 100,000 people in the area where the match was held. (Remember excess deaths are deaths in excess of the expected number for the time period in question. We've discussed those before: If you need a review, see my Update #79 posted May 12: <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwab-miller/posts/3587274557955591>) The researchers also noted that there are things you can do to reduce transmission. They mention adapting stadium access and egress routes and recommend pilot events as a means for studying which measures will mitigate spread before opening up unrestricted access to fans.

Ed Beckerman and Paul Gall have found a way to provide a break from isolation for residents of Brandywine Living at Princeton. Every Thursday afternoon this summer, they've been playing their guitars and leading a sing-along with the residents out on the lawn of the facility. For an hour, everyone forgets their troubles, singing and clapping to the music. The facilities coordinator says, "Even though they're socially distant, music is a universal language, so it makes everybody come together, and we feel as one. It's an amazing program. When it's finished, everybody walks away feeling good."

Beckerman and Gall actually started their concerts back in October, indoors. The event was dubbed the Hot Rock Café, and dessert wines and gourmet coffee were served, sort of like in a club. Hot Rock Café had to pause once the pandemic came because it wasn't safe to pack so many people together indoors; but once May arrived, they were back in business on the lawn with their classic folk and rock songs.

Beckerman grew up in New York City and learned to play guitar as a young adult. The music was always a side gig, while he earned his living as a librarian. Gall was born in Italy and moved around a lot with his military father. He played and sang with bands in bars as he moved around. Neither of them had played for others since moving into the home.

That's right, Beckerman, 92, and Gall, 69, live there. They went from playing together in the halls for their own entertainment to providing the highlight of everyone's week through a long, lonely summer. Gall said, "It's a relief that we can actually play because I like to play music a lot. I've always been involved in it even since I was a little boy. I'm glad to find some guitar buddies." Beckerman adds, "I saw that some of the residents started playing, so I started playing, and it's been kind of fun."

I'll say it's kind of fun—for everyone. These guys saw the opportunity to help others while helping themselves. Win-win. We should all look for ways to do that.

Stay healthy. I'll be back tomorrow.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 11 of 73

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Sept. 9	Sept. 10					
Minnesota	81,608	81,868					
Nebraska	36,477	36,917					
Montana	8,381	8,468					
Colorado	59,674	59,920					
Wyoming	3,483	3520					
North Dakota	13,872	14,110					
South Dakota	15,403	15,571					
United States	6,328,099	6,359,313					
US Deaths	189,699	190,784					
Minnesota	+383	+260					
Nebraska	+502	+440					
Montana	+65	+87					
Colorado	+187	+246					
Wyoming	+58	+37					
North Dakota	+71	+238					
South Dakota	+105	+169					
United States	+28,930	+31,214					
US Deaths	+533	+1,085					
	Sept. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 8
Minnesota	76,355	77,085	78,123	78,966	79,880	80,587	81,225
Nebraska	34,574	34,995	35,469	35,661	35,805	35,886	35,975
Montana	7,509	7,691	7,871	8,018	8,164	8,264	8,316
Colorado	57,775	58,019	58,287	58,655	58,989	59,274	59,487
Wyoming	3,282	3,311	3,334		3,386	3,425	No Report
North Dakota	12,000	12,267	12,629	12,974	13,334	13,631	13,801
South Dakota	13,749	14,003	14,337	14,596	14,889	15,109	15,300
United States	6,073,121	6,115,098	6,151,101	6,210,699	6,246,162	6,277,902	6,299,169
US Deaths	184,644	185,752	186,606	187,874	188,540	188,942	189,166
Minnesota	+491	+730	+1,038	+843	+914	+707	+638
Nebraska	+287	+421	+474	+192	+144	+81	+89
Montana	+88	+182	+180	+147	+146	+100	+52
Colorado	+351	+244	+268	+368	+334	+285	+213
Wyoming	+18	+29	+23		+52	+39	
North Dakota	+184	+267	+362	+345	+360	+297	+170
South Dakota	+240	+254	+334	+259	+293	+220	+191
United States	+41,835	+41,977	+36,003	+59,598	+35,463	+31,740	+21,267
US Deaths	+1,042	+1,108	+854	+1,268	+666	+402	+224

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 12 of 73

## September 9th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

The recovery list took another big jump today while the new positive ones remained somewhat stable. Positive cases were 169 today while the recovered ones were 413. That brings the active cases down to 2,434, down 245 from yesterday. Those currently hospitalized edged up eight from yesterday, but the positivity rate dropped to 8.9 percent. No one died in South Dakota from COVID-19.

Here in Brown County, we had 10 positive and 22 recovered, leaving 164 active cases, The positivity rate was at 9.9 percent for today. Elsewhere locally, Day had one recovered case leave six active cases, Edmunds had two positive and one recovered leaving 15 active cases, Marshall gained a positive case to now have four active ones, no change in McPherson County, and Spink County has two positive and one recovered for 26 active cases.

And just in case any one is interested, it does take me about 45 minutes to compile the report that you read in a few seconds!

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +10 (848) Positivity Rate: 9.9%

Recovered: +22 (659)

Active Cases: -12 (164)

Total Tests: 101 (8,771)

Ever Hospitalized: +0 (30)

Deaths: 0 (3)

Percent Recovered: 80.3% (+1.5)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +169 (15,571 total) Positivity Rates: 8.9%

Total Tests: 1895 (211,404 total)

Hospitalized: +15 (1,109 total). 76 currently hospitalized (up 8 from yesterday)

Deaths: +0 (173 total)

Recovered: +413 (12,964 total)

Active Cases: -245 (2,434)

Percent Recovered: 83.4% +1.9

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 46% Non-Covid, 51% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 6% Covid, 57% Non-Covid, 36% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 14% Non-Covid, 81% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Harding, Gained Mellette): Aurora 42-42, Jackson 12-11-1, Mellette 25-25, Miner 17-17, Sully 8-8.

The following is the breakdown by all counties. The number in parenthesis right after the county name represents the number of deaths in that county.

Aurora: Fully Recovered

Beadle (9): +7 positive (25 active cases)

Bennett: +1 positive, +2 recovered (15 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +2 recovered (13 active cases)

Brookings (1): +4 positive, +42 recovered (140

active cases)

Brown (3): +10 positive, +22 recovered (164 active cases)

Brule: +2 recovered (10 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +3 recovered (2 active cases)

Butte (1): +3 positive, +4 recovered (22 active cases)

Campbell: Fully Recovered

Charles Mix: +2 positive (11 active cases)

Clark: 4 active cases

Clay (3) +15 positive, +35 recovered (115 active cases)

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 13 of 73

Codington (2): +22 positive, +19 recovered (178 active cases)  
 Corson: +1 positive, +3 recovered (7 active cases)  
 Custer (1): +1 positive, +5 recovered (51 active case)  
 Davison (2): +2 positive, +3 recovered (31 active cases)  
 Day: +1 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Deuel: +5 positive, +3 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Dewey: +2 positive (34 active cases)  
 Douglas: +2 positive, +2 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Edmunds: +2 positive, +1 recovered (15 active cases)  
 Fall River (1): +2 positive, +2 recovered (36 active cases)  
 Faulk (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)  
 Grant: +1 positive, +2 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Gregory (1): +4 positive, +2 recovered (23 active cases)  
 Haakon: 2 active cases  
 Hamlin: +2 positive, +2 recovered (17 active cases)  
 Hand: 3 active cases  
 Hanson: +1 recovered (3 active cases)  
 Harding: +1 positive (1 active case)  
 Hughes (4): +1 positive, +5 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Hutchinson (1): 15 active cases  
 Hyde: +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jerauld (1): +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Jones: 3 active cases  
 Kingsbury: +2 positive, +1 recovered (5 active cases)

Lake (6): +4 positive, +4 recovered (17 active cases)  
 Lawrence (4): +3 positive, +16 recovered (77 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +8 positive, +15 recovered (136 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): +8 recovered (3 active cases)  
 Marshall: +1 positive (4 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +1 recovered (11 active cases)  
 McPherson: 5 active case  
 Meade (1): +2 positive, +22 recovered (78 active cases)  
 Mellette: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 25-25)  
 Miner: Fully Recovered  
 Minnehaha (70): +28 positive, +85 recovered (514 active cases)  
 Moody: +1 positive, +2 recovered (17 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (2): -1 positive, +5 recovered (25 active cases)  
 Pennington (33): +24 positive, +59 recovered (335 active cases)  
 Perkins: +4 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Potter: 10 active cases  
 Roberts (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (14 active cases)  
 Sanborn: -1 positive (3 active cases)  
 Spink: +2 positive, +1 recovered (26 active cases)  
 Stanley: 1 active case  
 Sully: Fully Recovered  
 Todd (5): +3 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Tripp: +2 positive, +2 recovered (5 active cases)  
 Turner: +5 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Union (5): +1 positive, +5 recovered (36 active cases)  
 Walworth: +2 positive (20 active cases)  
 Yankton (3): -1 positive, +7 recovered (45 active cases)  
 Ziebach: 12 active cases

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, September 9:  
 • 3,167 tests (1,134)  
 • 14,110 positives (+239) (Positivity Rate: 21.1%)  
 • 11,733 recovered (+281)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	496	0
10-19 years	1587	0
20-29 years	3854	2
30-39 years	2690	7
40-49 years	2081	7
50-59 years	2034	19
60-69 years	1279	30
70-79 years	610	27
80+ years	478	81

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	7643	87
Male	7466	86



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 14 of 73

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	42	42	450	0	None
Beadle	654	620	2114	9	Moderate
Bennett	35	20	584	0	Substantial
Bon Homme	59	45	1021	1	Moderate
Brookings	538	397	3744	1	Substantial
Brown	848	681	5918	3	Substantial
Brule	76	66	910	0	Substantial
Buffalo	112	107	683	3	Minimal
Butte	61	38	891	1	Substantial
Campbell	4	4	121	0	None
Charles Mix	127	116	1807	0	Minimal
Clark	23	19	457	0	Minimal
Clay	479	361	1972	3	Substantial
Codington	490	310	3818	2	Substantial
Corson	68	61	651	0	Substantial
Custer	139	87	849	1	Substantial
Davison	164	131	2875	2	Substantial
Day	43	37	800	0	Moderate
Deuel	59	48	546	0	Substantial
Dewey	95	61	2555	0	Substantial
Douglas	34	25	473	0	Moderate
Edmunds	44	29	492	0	Moderate
Fall River	70	33	1173	1	Substantial
Faulk	44	31	250	1	Substantial
Grant	52	36	899	0	Substantial
Gregory	44	20	538	1	Substantial
Haakon	8	6	311	0	Minimal
Hamlin	72	55	846	0	Substantial
Hand	16	13	374	0	None
Hanson	25	22	270	0	Minimal
Harding	3	2	59	0	None
Hughes	150	130	2276	4	Moderate
Hutchinson	57	41	1062	1	Substantial

# Groton Daily Independent

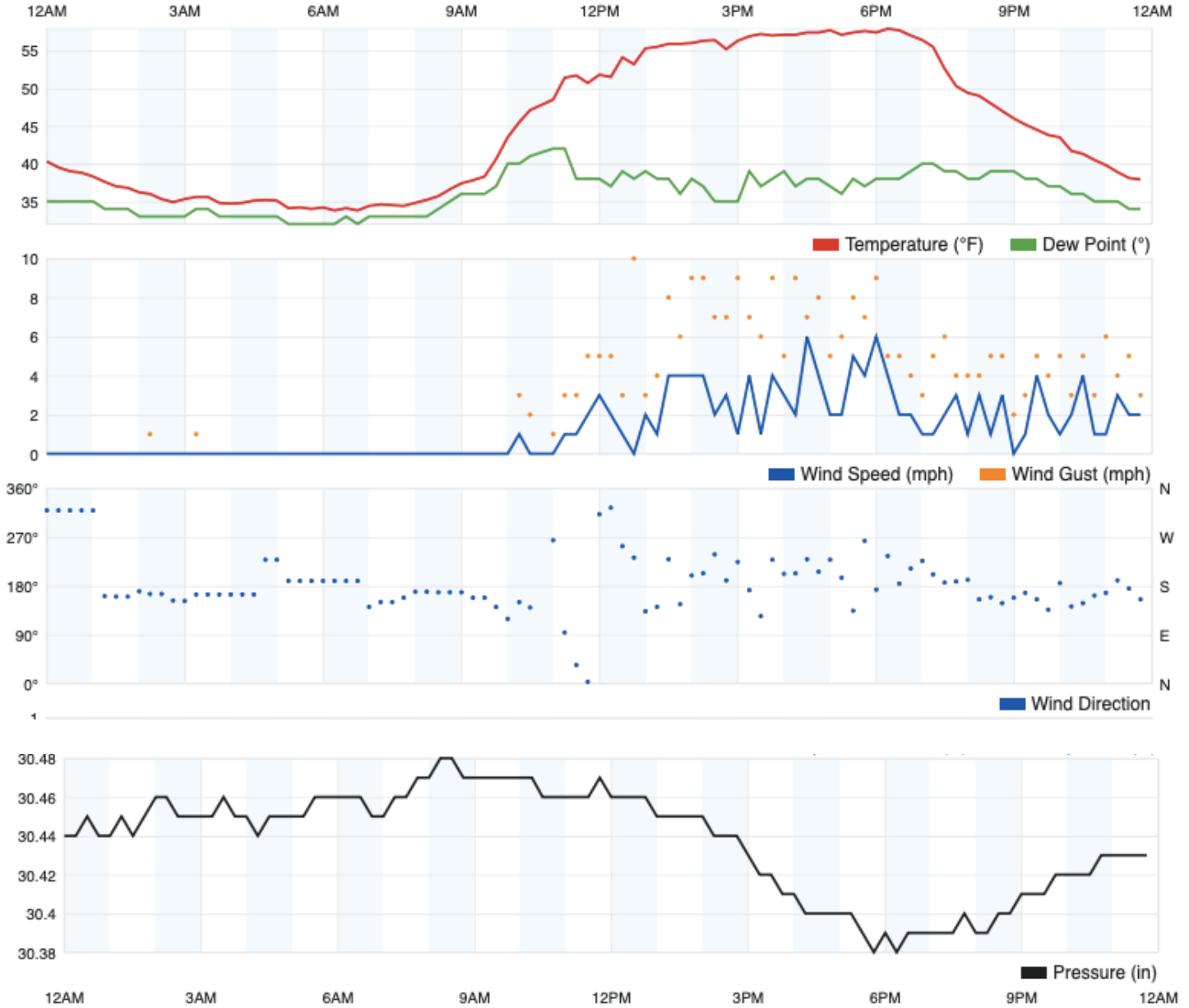
Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 15 of 73

Hyde	7	5	173	0	Minimal
Jackson	12	11	514	1	None
Jerauld	46	41	300	1	Moderate
Jones	6	3	79	0	Minimal
Kingsbury	27	22	696	0	Minimal
Lake	135	112	1123	6	Moderate
Lawrence	267	196	2378	4	Substantial
Lincoln	1015	877	8711	2	Substantial
Lyman	104	98	1119	3	None
Marshall	21	17	566	0	None
McCook	61	49	772	1	Moderate
McPherson	16	11	264	0	Minimal
Meade	348	269	2354	1	Substantial
Mellette	25	25	414	0	Minimal
Miner	17	17	297	0	Minimal
Minnehaha	5653	5068	33714	71	Substantial
Moody	57	39	761	0	Substantial
Oglala Lakota	195	168	3109	2	Substantial
Pennington	1666	1298	12964	33	Substantial
Perkins	24	16	247	0	Moderate
Potter	25	15	382	0	Moderate
Roberts	107	92	2266	1	Moderate
Sanborn	15	14	274	0	Minimal
Spink	72	46	1360	0	Substantial
Stanley	23	22	330	0	Minimal
Sully	8	8	113	0	None
Todd	87	76	2571	5	Moderate
Tripp	29	24	699	0	Moderate
Turner	97	81	1105	0	Substantial
Union	296	255	2336	5	Substantial
Walworth	58	38	943	0	Substantial
Yankton	262	214	3838	3	Substantial
Ziebach	55	43	466	0	Moderate
Unassigned	0	0	13291	0	

# Groton Daily Independent




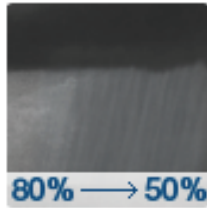

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 16 of 73

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 17 of 73

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Frost then Sunny	Clear	Sunny then Showers	Showers then Chance Showers	Chance Showers
<b>High: 65 °F</b>	<b>Low: 39 °F</b>	<b>High: 63 °F</b>	<b>Low: 49 °F</b>	<b>High: 71 °F</b>



**Dry Today**  
**Showers Return Friday**  
**Highs Today: 60s**  
**Lows Tonight: Mid 30s - Upper 40s**

 National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD Created: 9/10/2020 4:45 AM  
[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)  NWSAberdeen  @NWSAberdeen 

High pressure dominates again today with dry and mild conditions. Showers return on Friday.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 18 of 73

## Record Cold *Set*, Remains *Possible*

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

<u>Location</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Previous Record</u>
-----------------	---------------	------------------------

### *Cold High Temp Monday, Sept 7, 2020*

Sisseton	56 F	57 F (1964)
----------	------	-------------

### *Cold Low Temp Tuesday, Sept 8, 2020*

Sisseton	35 F	37 F (2008)
----------	------	-------------

Pierre	37 F	39 F (1995)
--------	------	-------------

### *Cold High Temp Tuesday, Sept 8, 2020*

Aberdeen	52 F	52 F (1911)
----------	------	-------------

Watertown	47 F	48 F (1929)
-----------	------	-------------

Pierre	47 F	55 F (1946)
--------	------	-------------

Sisseton	51 F	54 F (1946)
----------	------	-------------

Mobridge	52 F	53 F (1941)
----------	------	-------------

### *Cold Low Temp Wed, Sept 9, 2020*

Sisseton	32 F	37 F (2008)
----------	------	-------------

<u>Location</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Record</u>
-----------------	-----------------	---------------

### *Cold High Temp Wed, Sept 9, 2020*

Aberdeen	59 F	48 F (1962)
----------	------	-------------

Watertown	54 F	49 F (1929)
-----------	------	-------------

Pierre	59 F	50 F (1962)
--------	------	-------------

Sisseton	57 F	54 F (1941)
----------	------	-------------

Mobridge	61 F	46 F (1962)
----------	------	-------------

### *Minimum Temp Thursday, Sept 10, 2020*

Aberdeen	33 F	27 F (1898)
----------	------	-------------

Watertown	30 F	26 F (1898)
-----------	------	-------------

Pierre	39 F	36 F (1959)
--------	------	-------------

Sisseton	37 F	33 F (1955)
----------	------	-------------

Mobridge	37 F	33 F (1943)
----------	------	-------------

A number of daily temperature records have been set over the past couple days, and a few more are in jeopardy through tomorrow (Thursday) morning.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 19 of 73

## Today in Weather History

September 10, 1961: In Webster between 1 and 2 am, a large farm implement was destroyed by a lightning-caused fire. Many farm implements, three cars, two trucks, as well as merchandise, were lost. Nearby buildings suffered damage from fire. The torrential rains helped reduce the spread of the fire.

September 10, 1975: Large hail up to the size of 2 inches in diameter damaged many acres of corn, flax, and millet fields during the evening. The area between Volga and Brookings received the most severe damage.

September 10, 1988: Lightning started fires in Todd County southwest of Mission that burned nearly 14,000 acres of grassland and 4000 acres of timber. The damages were more than 60,000 dollars.

1811: South Carolina was hit by a hurricane. The main highlight associated with the hurricane was a tornado that damaged downtown Charleston.

1961: On September 10th, the Television Infrared Observation Satellite observed an area of thunderstorms west-southwest of the Cape Verde Islands, suggesting a possible tropical cyclone. This storm is the first large tropical cyclone to be discovered on satellite imagery and would eventually become Hurricane Esther.

1998: Tropical Storm Frances made landfall near Matagorda Bay, TX, causing the worst coastal flooding and beach erosion since Hurricane Carla in 1961. The storm's heavy rains ended a drought in East Texas but caused severe river flooding in parts of Texas and Louisiana. The highest rainfall total noted was 21.10 inches at Terrytown in southeast Louisiana. A major disaster declaration was issued for Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes in Louisiana.

2017: Hurricane Irma crossed the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm.

1919 - A hurricane struck the Florida Keys drowning more than 500 persons. (David Ludlum)

1960 - Hurricane Donna struck the Florida Keys, with winds gusting to 180 mph and a thirteen foot storm surge. The hurricane then moved north along the eastern coast of Florida and inundated Naples before moving out to sea. Hurricane Donna claimed fifty lives, injured 1800 others, and caused more than 300 million dollars damage. The Marathon/Tavernier area was almost completely destroyed, and in the Citrus Belt, most of the avocado crop was blown from the trees. Hurricane Donna wreaked havoc from Florida to Maine, with wind gusts to 100 mph along much of the coast. Hurricane Donna produced wind gusts to 121 mph at Charleston SC on the 11th, and wind gusts to 138 mph at Blue Hill Observatory MA on the 12th. The hurricane finally died over Maine two days later, producing more than five inches of rain over the state. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A late afternoon thunderstorm roared through Austin TX producing wind gusts to 81 mph, and 2.17 inches of rain in just sixty minutes. The high winds toppled six National Guard helicopters at the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, and damaged or destroyed numerous other aircraft. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cool air sweeping into the north central U.S. brought snow to some of the higher elevations of Montana. The town of Kings Hill, southeast of Great Falls, was blanketed with six inches of snow. Tropical Storm Gilbert strengthened to a hurricane over the eastern Caribbean. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Light snow fell in Montana overnight, with three inches reported at Fairfield. Billings MT reported a record low of 33 degrees. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S., with record highs of 86 degrees at Caribou ME and 90 degrees at Burlington VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



# Groton Daily Independent

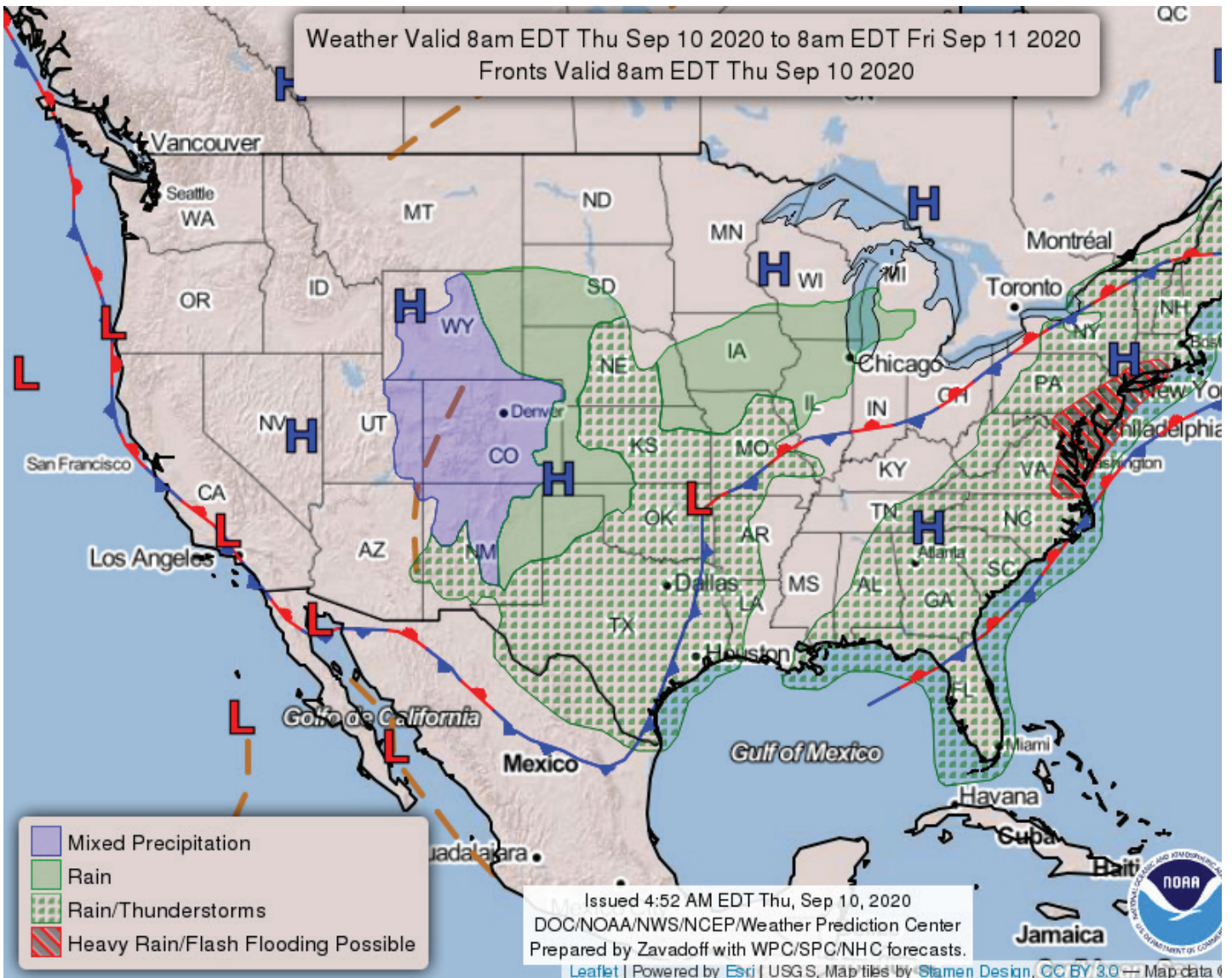
Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 20 of 73

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 58 °F at 6:14 PM**  
**Low Temp: 34 °F at 6:20 AM**  
**Wind: 10 mph at 12:38 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 107° in 1931**  
**Record Low: 27° in 1898**  
**Average High: 75°F**  
**Average Low: 48°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept...: 0.67**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 0.69**  
**Average Precip to date: 16.96**  
**Precip Year to Date: 14.04**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:53 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:08 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 21 of 73



## GIVING AND RECEIVING

Little Amy was pleased that her teacher came to visit her farm. Taking her through the barn and out into the pasture, she pointed with pride to a cow that was quietly chewing its cud.

Filled with pride, she said to her teacher, "That's my cow!"

"Oh, how wonderful, Amy," she commented. "Does she give milk?"

"Not really," replied Amy. "We have to take it from her."

Some Christians are like Amy's cow - there is something good in them, but it has to be taken from them - as milk from a cow. Could this be true because we allow the influence of the things of this world, rather than the influence of God's Word, control us?

All of us are encouraged to hold on to whatever we possess as tightly as possible. We are constantly advised to invest our money wisely in "things" that are safe, so when we advance in age, we will have enough to survive.

But the writer of Proverbs has a different viewpoint: "It is possible to give freely and become more wealthy." What did he mean?

God always blesses and enriches the lives of those who give freely of their time, treasures, and talents in service to others. When we give to others, we are only sharing with them what God has given us, and providing space in our lives for more of His blessings.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to believe in Your Word and trust in Your ways. Open our hearts to share the blessings You have given us with those in need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. Proverbs 11:24-25



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 22 of 73

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
- **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
- **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
- **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
- **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
- 07/24/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ferney Open Golf Tourney
- 07/25/2020 City-Wide Rummage Sales
- **CANCELLED** State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12-13/2020 Groton Fly-In/Drive-In at the Groton Airport north of Groton
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
- 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/30/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

## News from the Associated Press

### **51 bison relocated from North Rim of Grand Canyon**

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. (AP) — Dozens of bison have been relocated from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon to Native American lands in Kansas, Nebraska Oklahoma and South Dakota.

A roundup begun in late August and completed earlier this month led to the transfer of 51 bison to the InterTribal Buffalo Council, Grand Canyon National Park officials said.

The bison were then successfully transported to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, the Santee Sioux Tribe in Nebraska and the Modoc Nation in Oklahoma, park officials said.

The relocations were part of an effort to reduce the size of the herd that roams the Kaibab Plateau and follow a 2019 pilot program in which 31 bison were relocated to the Quapaw Tribe in Oklahoma.

NPS biologists estimate that the North Rim bison herd has grown from approximately 100 bison, brought to the House Rock Wildlife Area in the early 1900s, to between 400 to 600 bison.

Details of future herd reductions are still being discussed, officials said.

### **SD Lottery**

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

11-13-20-30-35

(eleven, thirteen, twenty, thirty, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$164,000

Lotto America

06-15-35-38-52, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 4

(six, fifteen, thirty-five, thirty-eight, fifty-two; Star Ball: six; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.25 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$108 million

Powerball

27-52-55-60-64, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 3

(twenty-seven, fifty-two, fifty-five, sixty, sixty-four; Powerball: twenty-one; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$75 million

### **Noem proposes \$400 million in CARES Act funds for businesses**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Wednesday laid out a proposal that would make \$400 million in federal coronavirus relief funds available to businesses in the state.

The state received \$1.25 billion in federal funding as part of the CARES Act to address the coronavirus crisis and legislators are conducting public hearings this month for people to weigh in how the funds should be used.

Under Noem's plan, South Dakota businesses can qualify for grants of up to \$100,000 if they can demonstrate a 25% budget reduction between March and May as a result of COVID-19.

"It's my hope that this proposal will help folks stay open and overcome the unprecedented times we've faced these last several months," the governor said in a statement.

Noem's move appears to set the stage for a special legislative session this fall. She had previously told lawmakers to be patient in allocating the money, pushing for the issue to be decided in next year's legislative session. Legislative leaders had expected Congress to extend the end-of-year deadline to use the money.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 24 of 73

The \$1.25 billion must be used by Dec. 30, and the state has used about \$77 million so far, according to the latest legislative report.

## South Dakota's Noem defends coronavirus strategy amid surge

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Facing the nation's second-most coronavirus cases per capita over the last two weeks, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem defended her strategy on Wednesday as a "balanced approach" that has kept the state's economy humming.

The Republican governor has disparaged restrictions to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, emphasizing personal responsibility. Over the last two weeks, South Dakota ranked second in the country for new cases per capita. The rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by 84 in that time, an increase of about 56%, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.

But in a Wednesday Fox News appearance, Noem turned attention to the pandemic's economic impacts. "There's consequences to what we've seen happen in other states — that shutting down businesses, stopping people's way of life has some devastating impacts," Noem said. "We're taking a very balanced approach."

She highlighted that the state's tax revenues have been better than expected, with 8.7% more money coming in this fiscal year than projected.

South Dakota health officials reported 168 new COVID-19 infections on Wednesday, but active infections statewide decreased as people recovered. The number of active infections decreased to 2,434, but the number of people needing hospital care increased to 76. No new deaths were reported.

## Father fatally attacked with hammer, 2 others injured

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man is accused of using a hammer to kill a father who was asleep with his young children and seriously injure two others in a Rapid City home.

Relatives said the victim, 39-year-old Rich Montanez, was letting the man, who was the friend of a friend, stay at his house because he was homeless. Allac "AJ" Dismounts Thrice, 28, is charged with first-degree murder and two counts of attempted first-degree murder in the Sept. 3 attack.

Family members say Montanez was a single father of three children, 3- and 7-year-old boys and a 6-year-old daughter. The victim's sister-in-law, Tiffany Dubray-Terzo, says the boys were sleeping with their dad when he was attacked.

Dubray-Terzo says the two women in the home, Montanez's roommate and the roommate's friend, were also attacked and are hospitalized in intensive care. One of the women managed to escape the house with the children.

A magistrate judge on Tuesday set a \$1 million cash bond for Dismounts Thrice. A public defender said he had no comment on bond because Dismounts Thrice said he didn't want his office to represent him.

State's Attorney Mark Vargo said it's too early to make a decision whether to pursue the death penalty, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Dismounts Thrice had been released from jail six days before the assault after a judge agreed to reduce his bond on charges of drug possession and receiving a stolen vehicle, court records show.

## Huge fire breaks out at Beirut port a month after explosion

By ZEINA KARAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A huge fire broke out Thursday at the Port of Beirut, triggering panic among residents traumatized by last month's massive explosion there that killed and injured thousands of people.

It was not immediately clear what caused the fire at the facility, which was decimated by the Aug. 4 explosion when nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate detonated, triggering a shock wave explosion that blasted windows, doors and walls miles away.

A column of black smoke billowed from the port at midday Thursday, with orange flames leaping from

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 25 of 73

the ground. The Lebanese army said the fire is at a warehouse where oil and tires are placed in the duty free zone at the port adding that fighting the blaze is ongoing and that army helicopters are taking part in the operation.

Panicked residents — still struggling to get over last month's catastrophic explosion — cracked open windows and called each other to warn them of the new fire. Local TV stations said the companies that have offices near the port have asked their employees to leave the area. Lebanese troops closed the major road that passes near the port referring traffic to other areas.

The Aug. 4 explosion killed more than 190 people, injured around 6,500 and damaged thousands of buildings in the Lebanese capital. The sight of another huge fire a month later created panic among residents traumatized by last month's explosion.

State-run National News Agency said the fire was at a warehouse where tires are placed. It added that firefighters are dealing with the blaze. Army helicopters were taking part in efforts to extinguish the fire.

A video circulating on social media showed workers at the port running away in fear as soon as the fire broke out, a chilling reminder of last month's blast that killed dozens of port employees and 10 fire fighters.

Beirut Gov. Marwan Abboud and authorities called on people to stay away from roads leading to the port to allow fire engines to move quickly.

Police spokesman Col. Joseph Msalam said they have no information about what is happening at the port adding that the facility is currently under control of the army.

Asked about reports that the fire was caused by burning tires and oil, he said: "I don't know. It could be containers. I really don't know what is there."

It was the second fire at the port this week. On Tuesday, a small fire erupted, also creating some panic, that was quickly extinguished.

## Little left of Greece's Moria refugee camp after 2nd fire

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Little remained of Greece's notoriously overcrowded Moria refugee camp Thursday after a second fire overnight destroyed nearly everything that had been spared in the original blaze, leaving thousands more people in need of emergency housing.

Early morning saw former residents of the country's largest camp, which had been under coronavirus lockdown, return to the area to pick through the charred remains of their belongings, salvaging what they could. Many spent the night sleeping in the fields, by the side of the road or in a small graveyard.

New, small fires also sprang up in the remains of tents set up outside the camp, fanned by strong winds Thursday morning.

Authorities said both fires in the camp on the island of Lesbos were deliberately started, with the first one Tuesday evening set by residents angered by quarantine measures imposed to contain a COVID-19 outbreak after 35 people tested positive.

That blaze had left about 3,500 of the more than 12,500 people living in and around Moria homeless, and authorities flew in tents and were providing a ferry and two navy ships as emergency temporary housing.

But new fires sprang up in the undamaged parts of the camp Wednesday evening, destroying the greater part of what was left and sending thousands more streaming out of the facility.

Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas said the second fire was also deliberately set and had now left the vast majority of the camp's residents homeless.

"Some people do not respect the country that is hosting them, and they strive to prove they are not looking for a passport to a better life," Petsas told reporters in Athens.

He said those who had set the fires "did so because they considered that if they torch Moria, they will indiscriminately leave the island. We tell them they did not understand. They will not leave because of the fire."

Petsas said the only Moria residents who would be allowed to leave Lesbos were the 406 unaccompanied children and teenagers who were flown to northern Greece overnight.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 26 of 73

Apart from the main camp, Moria also consisted of a sprawling tent city that had sprung up in olive groves outside the main perimeter fence due to overcrowding. Much of that was burned beyond repair by Thursday morning, with just the blackened frames of tents remaining among charred olive tree trunks.

Aid agencies have long warned of dire conditions at Moria, a facility built to house just over 2,750 people. The camp accommodates people fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia who arrive clandestinely on Lesbos from the nearby Turkish coast, and has become a symbol of what critics say is Europe's failure to humanely handle the migration and refugee situation.

"Greece has been left alone to deal with thousands of people coming in our country. Lately we have applied a policy of strict control of the borders, with the help of European forces, and this policy has worked," Greek European Affairs Minister Miltiadis Varvitsiotis told members of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee in Brussels Thursday.

Varvitsiotis said Europe's new migration policy should focus on giving shelter to those who need asylum, prevent unauthorized migrants from entering, and repatriate people stuck in camps back to their homes.

Europe, he said, should send a message to islands and other outlying areas that they are not doomed to live on the borders of the European Union. "They shouldn't have to tolerate behavior that is unacceptable," he said.

In Athens, the migration ministry said that when the second fire struck Wednesday, work was being carried out in Moria to ensure no families remained homeless overnight. But the new blaze forced the work to stop.

During Thursday, "all necessary actions will be taken to house initially the vulnerable and families in specially designated areas," the ministry said.

Meanwhile, a group of locals angered by the situation and the presence of the camp in their area blocked a secondary road leading to the camp in an effort to prevent access to equipment that could be used to rebuild.

Moria has long been considered a sad and embarrassing symbol of European migration policy failures.

In coming weeks, European Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas, who is responsible for migration affairs, and EU Migration Commissioner Ylva Johansson are due to unveil a new "pact on migration," aimed at ending years of dispute over which countries should be responsible for managing migrant arrivals and whether their partners should be obliged to help.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he had spoken with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday.

"There is a terrible reality with these fires. Many children, women, men are in these camps in absolutely terrible conditions. We want to show solidarity with Greece that lives up to European values," Macron said.

France was aiming to propose to take in some of the minors in the camps, he said.

"The coming hours will allow us to finalize the needs, in coordination with the Greeks, and a first, coordinated French-German response, in hopes of bringing along a maximum of other European Union countries in this solidarity," Macron said.

Since well over 1 million people entered Europe in 2015 — most of them refugees fleeing conflict in Syria and Iraq — the row over responsibility and solidarity has blown up into one of the EU's biggest ever political crises.

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Lorne Cook in Brussels and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

## Scarcity of key material squeezes medical mask manufacturing

By MARTHA MENDOZA, JULIET LINDERMAN, THOMAS PEIPERT and IRENA HWANG Associated Press FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Rachel Spray is still grieving the loss of her fellow nurse who died after being exposed to the novel coronavirus at Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center. Now, as she stands in front of the gleaming glass and concrete hospital, she says she "dreads going in there" and fears she'll be next. That's because like those in many U.S. hospitals, management is rationing supplies, she says, keeping

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 27 of 73

medical-grade masks under lock and key.

White House officials say U.S. hospitals have all the medical supplies needed to battle the deadly virus, but frontline health care workers, hospital officials and even the Food and Drug Administration say shortages persist. Critical shortfalls of medical N95 respirators — commonly referred to as N95 masks — and other protective gear started in March, when the pandemic hit New York. Pressure on the medical supply chain continues today, and in “many ways things have only gotten worse,” the American Medical Association’s president, Dr. Susan Bailey, said in a recent statement.

“N95s are still in a shortage,” said Mike Schiller, the American Hospital Association’s senior director for supply chains. “It’s certainly not anywhere near pre-COVID levels.”

Early in the pandemic the White House failed to heed stark warnings — specifically about N95s — from high-level administration officials. The Associated Press has found the administration took months to sign contracts with companies that make the crucial component inside these masks: meltblown textile. Meltblowing is the manufacturing process that turns plastic into the dense mesh that makes N95 masks effective at blocking vanishingly small particles, including viruses.

Even today, manufacturers say the Trump administration hasn’t made the long-term investments they need in order to ramp up to full capacity. Meanwhile, the administration allowed meltblown exports to slip out of the country as the pandemic, and the demand for masks, soared.

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EDITOR’S NOTE — This story is part of an ongoing investigation by The Associated Press, the PBS series “FRONTLINE” and the Global Reporting Centre that examines the deadly consequences of the fragmented worldwide medical supply chain.

Full Coverage: Deadly Shortages

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Manufacturers say they risk significant losses if they invest millions in machinery, raw materials, new employees and factory space to churn out a product projected to have a short-lived demand, without assurances that the government will continue to buy their meltblown textile after the need for N95s recedes post-pandemic.

“I’m not going to sit here and tell you that we’re going to guarantee purchases in 2021 or whatever date you pick,” said Rear Adm. John Polowczyk, who heads the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force. He denies there are shortages.

Meltblown textiles are used in everything from diapers to air conditioners. Electrostatically charging meltblown gives it the ability to capture particles too tiny to be filtered by regular masks.

A study published this summer in the medical journal *The Lancet* found that frontline workers without N95 masks who cared for COVID-19 patients have the highest risk of infection.

“The initial lack of personal protective equipment in nursing homes, and lack of infection control practices in general, contributed to a general community spread across the country,” said Harvard Medical School’s Dr. Andrew T. Chan, one of the authors.

But that personal protective equipment just wasn’t available early in the pandemic when demand for the disposable masks and gowns exploded. And it still isn’t.

Before COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, the government estimated that the U.S. would need more than 5 billion N95 respirators per year in a pandemic. In March, the Department of Health and Human Services said the demand would be about 3.5 billion.

Those estimates were based on N95 manufacturer recommendations and hospital best practices that dictated health care workers use one mask per patient visit, so a single nurse could go through perhaps a dozen a day. But due to shortages, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention instructed health care providers to reuse them.

Because of this shift in usage, it’s hard to accurately estimate the severity of the shortages of medical-grade masks and gowns.

But today, hospital administrators — some of whom are facing new state orders to stockpile supplies —

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 28 of 73

say they can't get as many masks as they want, and the FDA included N95s on its most recent medical supply shortage list.

In Fresno, nurse Rachel Spray typically gets one N95 per shift.

Kaiser spokesman Marc Brown didn't dispute this claim, but said the change in the way masks are used still allows the clinical staff to safely care for patients. The hospital is just carefully managing supplies, he said.

"We continue to prudently manage PPE supplies to ensure they are readily available to protect our health care workforce for the duration of this pandemic," he said.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro disputes reports of shortages. In an August interview, he said his office responds daily to news stories of ill-equipped medical providers, sending supplies as needed.

"We have what we need to get to people what they need," he said.

In 2019, the U.S. produced 15% of meltblown in the world while China accounted for 45%. Navarro has long advocated moving manufacturing back to the United States, and during the Republican National Convention President Donald Trump pledged to do just that with crucial medical supplies.

"We are taking our business out of China. We are bringing it home," he said.

But the meltblown example illustrates the failure of this administration to take necessary steps to fulfill this promise.

Meltblown is spun out of plastic pellets made from oil, typically polypropylene or polyethylene. The pellets are fed into a heated metal extruder, and jets of hot air force the liquefied plastic through an array of extremely small holes, producing fine plastic fibers. As the fibers cool, they overlap and stick together, forming a dense mesh.

This year, American meltblown makers have been ramping up supply. But some say they need more government support to meet the demand.

Mike Clark, a division president at Hollingsworth and Vose, a meltblown maker based in East Walpole, Massachusetts, said his company has tripled production of meltblown for masks by ramping up and exiting other markets. But he and other makers have reservations about investing significant amounts of their own money.

After the H1N1 epidemic in 2009, Hollingsworth and Vose purchased a new meltblown machine, but the demand for N95s plummeted when the virus dissipated, Clark said.

"We're now confronted with the same thing," he said. "No one will guarantee volumes past 2021. And the issue is, the lead time for one of these machines is a year, so just as we get that machine set up and installed, that demand might go away."

The company received a government contract for \$1.9 million to produce an additional 27.5 million N95 masks, but it doesn't include long-term purchase guarantees.

"It's half the problem solved," Clark said. "If the government bought you a machine that's 100% paid for, it still wouldn't make sense to waste space in your plant, just collecting dust."

Lydall Inc., headquartered in Manchester, Connecticut, began the pandemic with one manufacturing line pumping out rolls of meltblown. A second should be online by the end of this year, and a third by May.

"We have one of the most highly sought-after products the world over," Lydall CEO Sara Greenstein said.

To increase production, Greenstein said the company invested more than \$25 million, which she hopes will be offset by a \$13.5 million government contract for meltblown materials.

Dan Reese, president of Prestige Ameritech, the largest domestic maker of medical N95 respirators, said he emptied his own savings during the H1N1 flu outbreak to expand operations and boost his output, only to end up near-bankrupt and laying off workers when demand dried up.

He currently buys meltblown fabric from wherever he can get it, and estimates it would cost \$15 million and take a year to start producing his own. A machine alone costs \$5 million.

"I don't have the cash," he said. "If we continue to ramp up our production like we plan, we're going to run out of meltblown." Reese said. Meltblown shortages are "restricting our ability to do what we need to do for the country."

Under the Defense Production Act, a mechanism that allows the U.S. government to compel companies

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 29 of 73

to prioritize federal orders and help manufacturers increase production capacity, some mask and meltblown makers have gotten a boost.

Between mid-April and early May, four N95 manufacturers — O&M Halyard, Honeywell, 3M and Hollingsworth and Vose — received a total of \$134.5 million to increase production, including expanding existing operations and setting up new production lines. The federal government also approved smaller contracts this summer with NPS Corp. and Lydall to bolster meltblown production.

But the Trump administration has not specifically restricted exports of meltblown material, a power it can use under the act. And in the face of shortages, U.S. meltblown makers have continued exporting their goods overseas.

They've sent more than 40 shipping containers of meltblown material and related supplies offshore, with about 40% of it going to Pakistan, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from Panjiva, the supply-chain research unit at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

That compares with only six shipping containers during the same period in 2019.

The DPA gives the U.S. government the authority to block exports of crucial products and materials.

Shifting manufacturing overseas made the U.S. medical supply chains vulnerable.

Greenstein of Lydall says if the U.S. wants a stable supply of medical equipment, it will have to produce all of its own meltblown.

"You can't rely on this long-distance supply chain to provide the mission-critical elements that are a matter of life or death," Greenstein said. "When it's affecting everybody, the countries that have the domestic supply will prioritize their use over others."

Moving production back to the U.S. has been a central goal of Navarro, who has warned for years about U.S. dependence on China for manufacturing. This year's pandemic shortages, he said, "is the type of scenario I was worried about on steroids."

But Navarro's dream of "re-shoring" is tricky, in part because the costs of end products often rise.

U.S. health care providers are calling for significantly more government investment in domestic medical supply manufacturing, even if it raises costs.

"There's been a big push for years to lower the costs of health care, and one of the ways to do that is to lower the costs of the products, and one of the ways to do that is to manufacture them in a place where labor and materials are cheaper," said Teresa Dail, chief supply chain officer for Vanderbilt University Medical Center, which includes four hospitals and more than 200 clinics.

"I'm willing to bear the cost," she said, "to ensure that we have access to products and have our pipeline more stable than what we've seen in a global failure like this."

Pre-pandemic, five U.S. producers were making about 42 million N95 masks a month. By October, that is projected to have increased to 11 U.S. producers making 168 million a month, which could amount to 2 billion a year, according to the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry's analysis of the impact COVID-19 has had on meltblown markets.

Also pre-pandemic, 24 U.S. companies were making meltblown, with 79 machine lines in operation, according to the association's Brad Kalil. But only a fraction of that was going into medical respirators, Kalil said. By the end of 2021, he said, there will be 28 new lines in the U.S., representing a 35% increase, with almost all of the newly produced textile going into medical supplies.

The Trump administration has helped pay for seven of those lines, Kalil said. But mostly they're being built through private investment, which he says may not pay off.

"If every single country and region decides they're going to make their own to be self-sufficient, we'll have way too much meltblown probably within the end of next year," Kalil said.

Still, some U.S. companies are rolling the dice.

As Seattle became a major coronavirus hot spot this spring, the clothing and sportswear company Outdoor Research also switched gears. It had the money, two U.S. factories and highly skilled employees, so it set out to make masks, said Jason Duncan, a company vice president.

The company started with cloth masks for the general public, but soon pursued making medical-grade



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 30 of 73

masks, investing millions to convert an entire floor of its downtown headquarters into an FDA-approved facility.

Outdoor Research used its deep ties in the industry to secure meltblown material and, this summer, the FDA approved its N95 masks.

Where is it getting its meltblown?

"That's a closely guarded secret," Duncan said.

Linderman reported from Washington, Peipert from Denver and Hwang from Atlanta.

## Chiefs nix headdresses, face paint to start NFL season

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press

MISSION, Kan. (AP) — Kansas City Chiefs fans who file into Arrowhead Stadium Thursday for a masked and socially distanced start to the NFL season won't be wearing headdresses or face paint amid a nationwide push for racial justice following the police-custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The move by the reigning Super Bowl champions has pleased Native Americans as a good first step, but frustrated some of the 17,000 fans who will be in the stands as the team becomes the first to take the field in front of a crowd — albeit a smaller than normal one — during the coronavirus pandemic. Enforcing the new restrictions also comes as the team tries to require masks, which has proven challenging at some public practices.

NFL teams with Native American mascots are facing increased scrutiny after the team in Washington chose to drop Redskins as its nickname after a long and often contentious dialogue with fans and the public. The Chiefs also announced last month that the team was discussing the future of its tomahawk chop celebration amid complaints that it's racist.

Students at nearby Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, are among those who demanded changes.

"Using this mascot and having this fan base of predominantly white people wearing face paint and headdresses and doing the tomahawk chop, and it energizes them and gives them this sense of power, and then thinking there is nothing wrong with doing that is just mind boggling to me," said William Wilkinson, Haskell's former University Student Government Association president.

Wilkinson, who is Navajo, Cherokee, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara, said that eventually the team nickname also must change.

"It dehumanizes us and gives us Native Americans this picture of being this savage beast that is hungry for fighting when in real life we are nothing like that," said the 22-year-old business major from Madison, Wisconsin.

Ty Rowton, a self-described superfan who goes to games as the X-Factor, dressed with an Arrowhead on his head, beads and a cape signed by players, has made one change to his costume. Instead of face paint, he will stick Duct tape with Bible verses on his face.

He was stopped by security when he wore the getup for a training camp practice but said he has since gotten clearance for the ensemble. Still, he thinks the team's changes are an overreaction and said fans love to pose with people wearing headdresses. He also thinks the team also should keep the tomahawk chop.

"It is something that gets us riled up together and that we do as one. It has never been meant to be disrespectful at all," he said.

Gaylene Crouser, executive director of the Kansas City Indian Center, said it's wrong to use "a race of people as a mascot." Her group has demanded changes for years and she thinks the momentum may be shifting.

"It has always been swept under the rug, but because the Washington team was leaned on so hard that they made the change, now some of the other ones are starting to feel the heat," she said. "I hope this is the beginning of the end of this acceptable racism."

Calls to address racial issues have become more prevalent in the wake of Floyd's death. Floyd, a Black

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 31 of 73

man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into the handcuffed Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes during an arrest over counterfeit money. The officer and three other officers were fired and have been charged in Floyd's death.

Sixty-five-year-old fan Connie Jo Gillespie, who is a mix of East Woodland Shawnee, Plains Cree and Mississippi Chickasaw, supports banning the headdress but thinks the Chiefs name should stay. She considers herself a hardcore fan and praised efforts the team has made to work with national organizations that work closely on issues that affect Native Americans.

For example, the Chiefs celebrate American Indian Heritage Month by inviting elders to a game each year and having them do a ceremonial "Blessing of the Drum and the Four Directions of Arrowhead Stadium."

"The KC Chiefs have an opportunity to culturally educate non Indians about our heritage, culture, and traditions because of their name," she wrote. "They along with local and regional American Indian leaders and tribal members, are wisely using that opportunity to culturally educate and bring respect to American Indian culture and heritage."

## **AP Analysis: In Trump's America, truths are not self-evident**

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — We no longer hold these truths to be self-evident:

—A U.S. presidential election will be held every four years in November.

—The armed forces will not be involved in those elections.

—Nor in domestic protests.

—Medicine will be approved when science says it's safe and effective, not because a politician wants it approved before Election Day.

—The United States is an example to the world in managing a peaceful transfer of power.

—You'll get your checks, bills, letters, junk mail — and ballots — on time in your mailbox. Because: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

That unofficial post office creed is carved in granite. The other verities of American democracy and public service might as well be. But that doesn't make them eternal.

They've been thrown into doubt, some outright shattered, in President Donald Trump's America, where truths once too obvious to state now have to be.

It's a country where even the cold hard fact of more than 190,000 coronavirus deaths is viewed with suspicion by people who listen to conspiracy theories and bad science. Where common purpose is sidelined in tribal argument between the masked and unmasked. And where the president cries election foul and fraud before a vote is cast.

Trump goes where other presidents have not, stomping on mores, blurring lines and — as Washington-speak has it — saying the quiet part out loud. Supporters relish that. Opponents can't abide it. No one can get away from it.

He says that a COVID-19 vaccine and treatments will help get him reelected, then claims repeatedly that such medicine is "on the way." His desire for a pre-election vaccine has his aides parroting his line that one or more vaccines could be ready to land by the end of October, even as they swear that's got nothing to do with politics.

Clearly feeling the Trump heat, the CEOs of nine global drug companies this week joined in a "historic pledge" affirming what might ordinarily be taken for granted.

They vowed to "continue to adhere to high scientific and ethical standards," continue to put the safety and well-being of vaccine recipients first and only submit prospective COVID-19 vaccines for approval or emergency authorization after clinical studies that meet federal standards.

In other words, no shortcuts for political expediency.

As for America's self-image as an exemplar of democracy, the nation may have lost bragging rights about

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 32 of 73

its election management 20 years ago when antiquated machines and a crazy-close presidential vote in Florida produced a Bush v. Gore standoff that went to the Supreme Court. But Democrat Al Gore quickly stood down when the court issued its contentious decision in favor of Republican George W. Bush, and a smooth handover ensued.

Americans now face a question their democracy has rarely had to ask — will the president accept the results if he loses a close or even not-so-close election? Trump won't commit. "I have to see," he says. "I'm not going to just say yes. I'm not going to say no."

Trump has said explicitly what others might couch — that he worries the expected pandemic-era surge in voting by mail will hurt him in the election. This, as the Trump loyalist in charge of the Postal Service struggles to assure lawmakers that the post office is up to the task of delivering mailed votes in time.

At one point Trump made the impossible demand that the outcome be known election night. He predicts comprehensive fraud without the evidence to seed such doubts — "the greatest election disaster in history" — and encourages his supporters to vote twice, contrary to the law, if they can't confirm their mail ballot was counted by Election Day.

He floated the outlier idea of holding off on the election, only to have that thought slapped down by the Senate's Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, and other Republicans who normally give him no trouble. Congress would have to change the election date and the message back to Trump was: Forget this one.

Altogether, these forebodings from a sitting president about contested results and chaos have sparked a further question foreign to the modern American experience. Might the armed forces intervene, either to support Trump or — as Democratic rival Joe Biden mused — to pry him from the Oval Office if he loses and won't go?

Summoned to Congress on this matter, Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said military personnel will not participate in conducting an election or resolving a disputed vote. That he even had to give that assurance was a sign of these times.

But it was not the first time Milley had to take a stand on behalf of what he called "an apolitical military that is so deeply rooted in the very essence of our republic."

In June, Milley publicly rued the day when Trump had him walk behind him, the general in his military fatigues, through Lafayette Square across from the White House in what turned out to be a photo op, inadvertently helping Trump look resolute in the thick of a protest over the death of George Floyd.

Trump calculates that urban unrest and violence will benefit him politically. "The more chaos and anarchy and vandalism and violence reigns, the better it is for the very clear choice on who's best on public safety and law and order," said Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway.

In that instance, she said the quiet part out loud for him.

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EDITOR'S NOTE — Calvin Woodward has covered politics and national affairs for The Associated Press for a quarter-century.

## Asia Today: India has record spike of 95K new virus cases

NEW DELHI (AP) — India reported another record spike of 95,735 new coronavirus infections in the past 24 hours as the virus spreads beyond its major cities.

According to the Health Ministry, the number of people known to be infected in India reached 4,465,863 on Thursday. It has the second-highest caseload in the world behind the United States, where more than 6.3 million people are known to be infected.

The Health Ministry also reported 1,172 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 75,062. Its death toll is third-highest in the world behind the U.S. and Brazil.

The ministry said the surge in new infections is due to ramping of daily testing that exceeds 1 million now. However, experts caution that India's outbreak is entering a more dangerous phase as the virus spreads to smaller towns and villages.

The Indian capital saw a record surge of 4,618 new cases in the past 24 hours with 19 deaths. New

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 33 of 73

Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Chennai are the worst-hit cities in the country.

With the economy contracting by a record 23.9% in the April-June quarter, leaving millions jobless, Indian authorities have said they have little choice but to continue reopening the economy.

Meanwhile, the Serum Institute of India maintained that the temporary halt to late-stage studies of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine candidate would not impact the timeline for vaccine trials in India. The studies in multiple countries were halted because of "potentially unexplained" illness in a British recipient.

Indian authorities said they would review the illness report and assess the information from the initial human clinical trials in India.

Serum, the world's largest maker of vaccines by volume, is mass-producing the vaccine for low and middle-income countries.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— South Korea's new coronavirus cases have come below 200 for an eight straight day, suggesting a viral resurgence is slowing amid stringent social distancing rules. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday it has reported 155 additional cases over the past 24 hours, taking the national tally to 21,743 with 346 deaths. New infections spiked in South Korea, mostly in the greater Seoul area, since early August. Authorities in the Seoul area subsequently ordered the shutdown of churches, night-spots and fitness centers and restricted dining at restaurants. Those enhanced rules expire on Sunday, and the government is to announce whether to extend them.

— A Singapore court has sentenced a Taiwanese woman to 11 weeks in jail for intentionally sneezing at a security guard who barred her from entering a Singapore shopping mall. The court issued the sentence Thursday after Sun Szu-Yen pleaded guilty in June to performing a rash act and an unrelated harassment charge, Singapore media reported. Sun and her son were stopped at a mall entrance on April 12 for not wearing masks amid the coronavirus pandemic, local media said. She tried to use her scarf as a mask but when the guard refused to let her in, she sneezed in the guard's direction and reportedly told the guard to "shut up." She also took her passport out of her bag and said "I am China, I am Taiwan," local media said. She was also charged with harassment for throwing several items, including a vacuum cleaner and a plastic chair, out of her condominium window in June last year, local media said. Prosecutors told the court that she is not mentally ill but has a mood disorder.

## In a year of social distancing, virus alters Sept. 11, too

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In a year when the coronavirus pandemic has reshaped countless American rituals, even the commemoration of 9/11 could not escape unchanged.

The 19th anniversary of the terror attacks will be marked by dueling ceremonies at the Sept. 11 memorial plaza and a corner near the World Trade Center, reflecting a divide over the memorial's decision to suspend a cherished tradition of relatives reading victims' names in person. Vice President Mike Pence is expected at both those remembrances in New York, while President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden plan to attend a truncated ceremony at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

In New York, the double beams of light that evoke the fallen twin towers were nearly canceled in the name of virus safety, until an uproar sparked a change of heart. The Fire Department has cited the virus in urging members to stay away from any observances of the 2001 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, among them almost 350 firefighters.

Some victims' relatives say they understand the ground zero observance had to change in a year when so much else has. Others fear the pandemic is making plain what they have feared was happening unspoken: that the commitment to "Never Forget" is fading.

"It's another smack in the face," says Jim Riches, who lost his son Jimmy, a firefighter.

The father is staying home on the anniversary for the first time this year because he doesn't want to take chances with the coronavirus after a prior illness. But he feels others should have the option of reciting the names of the dead on the memorial plaza, instead of listening to a recording.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 34 of 73

Memorial leaders said they wanted to avoid close contact among readers, who are usually paired at the podium. But to Riches, a retired fire battalion chief and frequent critic of the memorial organization, the decision sounds like an excuse for sidelining the families' role in commemorating 9/11.

"I wish they wouldn't forget, but they're trying to," he says.

But Anthoula Katsimatides sees the differences this year as an effort to ensure victims' relatives feel comfortable attending — including her mother, who hasn't left home since March because health issues make her especially worried about the virus. But she is determined to go in honor of her son John, a bond trader, her daughter said.

In a year when many events have been called off, "this wasn't canceled. It's just been changed in such a way where we still get to pay tribute to our loved ones in a respectful and safe way," said Katsimatides, who's on the memorial board. She says the change wasn't motivated by anything except a public health emergency.

"Who expected COVID-19? ... It was completely unforeseen. As was 9/11," she said.

This year's plans have been a balancing act at the sites where hijacked planes piloted by al-Qaida terrorists crashed on Sept. 11, 2001: New York, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The Flight 93 memorial near Shanksville is trimming its usual 90-minute ceremony, partly by eliminating musical interludes. Memorial spokeswoman Katherine Cordek said the names of the 40 people killed there would be read, but by one person instead of multiple family members.

The Pentagon hasn't yet detailed its plans for the anniversary.

In New York — where the nation's deadliest coronavirus spike early happened this spring but has since been fairly well contained — leaders of the National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum said their plan for a no-reading ceremony would honor both virus precautions and 9/11 families' attachment to being at ground zero on the anniversary.

But another 9/11-related organization, the Stephen Stiller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, quickly arranged its own simultaneous ceremony a few blocks away, saying victims' relatives could recite names while keeping a safe distance.

"We need to keep letting America know what happened 19 years ago. And they need to see that emotion of the day, not a recording," says chairman Frank Siller. He says he may attend both observances to honor the brother he lost, firefighter Stephen.

Meanwhile, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro told current firefighters in a memo last month that the department "strongly recommends" members not participate in 9/11 observances. The department did hold a limited-attendance ceremony Wednesday to add names to a memorial wall recognizing members who died after exposure to toxins unleashed in the wreckage.

Tensions over anniversary plans flared anew when the memorial announced last month it was nixing the Tribute in Light, twin blue beams that shine into the night sky over lower Manhattan. While there's no official gathering to view the lights, the memorial cited virus risks to the installation crew.

The cancellation outraged some victims' relatives, police and fire unions and politicians, who noted that construction sites around the city were deemed safe to reopen months ago. After the Tunnel to Towers foundation said it would organize the display on its own, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Mayor Mike Bloomberg, the memorial's billionaire chairman, stepped in to keep the memorial-sponsored lights on. (Tunnel to Towers is now stationing lights at the Flight 93 memorial and the Pentagon.)

Memorial President Alice Greenwald later said the organization "should have approached this issue differently."

Still, the memorial's moves fanned mistrust among some 9/11 victims' relatives who wonder how long the name-reading and other observances will continue.

Katsimatides, the board member, foresees the ceremony returning to normal next year.

Debra Epps has been to the ground zero ceremony every year. She said it means a lot to her to read names and add a few words in tribute to her brother Christopher, an accountant.

Still, she thinks the memorial was right to forgo the live name-reading this year. The virus has her con-

cerned enough that she's not planning to attend.

"It really is a hard decision to make, but I know that we're still in this pandemic," said Epps, who works in health care.

"I will remember my brother, no matter what," she said.

## 'Deadly stuff': Trump's own words bring focus back to virus

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Try as he might to change the subject, President Donald Trump can't escape the coronavirus.

In April, the president tried to shift the public's focus to the economy. In July, to defending the country's "heritage." In September, to enforcing "law and order." But all along the way, the death toll from the coronavirus continued to mount.

And now, Trump's own words are redirecting attention to his handling of the pandemic when he can least afford it — less than two months before Election Day.

"I wanted to always play it down," Trump said of the threat from the virus. That was in a private conversation with journalist Bob Woodward last March that became public on Wednesday with the publication of excerpts from Woodward's upcoming book "Rage."

In taped conversations released along with the excerpts, Trump insisted he didn't want to create "panic." But his comments also raised fresh questions about how he has managed the defining crisis of his presidency, one that has killed about 190,000 Americans so far, with no end in sight.

Trump's team would much rather center the November vote around the economy, cracking down on protests spawned by racial injustice, and the president's promise that he could appoint more conservative justices to the Supreme Court.

On Wednesday, Trump released a list of 20 potential nominees for the high court, part of an effort to animate conservative and evangelical voters. But his announcement was overshadowed by a cascade of unwelcome developments, including Woodward's revelations, a move by Nevada officials to cancel upcoming Trump rallies in the state because of the virus, and a whistleblower's charge that Trump aides had pressured him to cover up intelligence reports about Russian election interference on the president's behalf.

Revelations from the Woodward book emerged just as Trump's campaign was beginning to feel that the virus was receding from public view. The president himself has been thumbing his nose at public health experts' warning against the sort of large gatherings — with few people wearing masks — that his campaign has been staging around the country.

For all of that, Trump has faced devastating revelations of his own creation before and survived them. They stretch back to his 2015 comments questioning the heroism of Sen. John McCain, a decorated Vietnam prisoner of war, or the notorious "Access Hollywood" tape that emerged just before the 2016 election in which Trump described sexually assaulting women.

On Wednesday, Trump didn't deny his remarks playing down the virus, he sought to justify them.

"The fact is I'm a cheerleader for this country. I love our country and I don't want people to be frightened. I don't want to create panic," Trump told reporters. "Certainly, I'm not going to drive this country or the world into a frenzy. We want to show confidence. We want to show strength."

Yet Trump's own explanation suggested he was steering people away from the reality of the coming storm. Woodward's account details dire warnings from top Trump national security officials to the president in late January that the virus that causes COVID-19 could be as bad as the devastating influenza pandemic of 1918.

On Feb. 25, just weeks before much of the country was forced to shut down because of the pandemic, Trump declared the virus "very well under control in our country."

Democratic nominee Joe Biden pounced on the Woodward revelations, declaring that Trump "lied to the American people. He knowingly and willingly lied about the threat it posed to the country for months."

"While a deadly disease ripped through our nation, he failed to do his job — on purpose. It was a life

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 36 of 73

or death betrayal of the American people," Biden said.

By evening, Trump's own words, captured on the Woodward tapes, had popped up in a Biden campaign ad. The ad includes audio of Trump privately acknowledging to Woodward the severity of COVID-19, and ends with a narrator pronouncing: "Trump knew it all along."

In a taped Feb. 7 call with Woodward, Trump said of the virus, "You just breathe the air and that's how it's passed. And so that's a very tricky one. That's a very delicate one. It's also more deadly than even your strenuous flus," Trump said.

"This is deadly stuff," the president repeated for emphasis.

Just three days later, Trump struck a far rosier tone in public, in an interview with Fox Business: "I think the virus is going to be — it's going to be fine."

The Washington Post, where Woodward serves as associate editor, reported excerpts of the book on Wednesday, as did CNN. The book also covers race relations, diplomacy with North Korea and a range of other issues that have arisen during the past two years.

The book is based in part on 18 interviews that Woodward conducted with Trump between December and July.

"Trump never did seem willing to fully mobilize the federal government and continually seemed to push problems off on the states," Woodward writes of the pandemic. "There was no real management theory of the case or how to organize a massive enterprise to deal with one of the most complex emergencies the United States had ever faced."

## 5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. **TRUMP'S OWN WORDS BRING FOCUS BACK TO VIRUS** Saying he "wanted to always play it down," the president is redirecting attention to his handling of the pandemic less than two months before the election.
2. **US WEST RAVAGED BY WILDFIRES** A Northern California wildfire threatens thousands of homes after winds whipped it into a deadly monster while numerous wildfires burned in Oregon and Washington state, causing destruction and mass evacuations.
3. **'N95S ARE STILL IN A SHORTAGE'** White House officials say the U.S. has all the medical supplies needed to battle COVID-19, but health care workers, hospital officials and even the FDA say that's not the case.
4. **OFFICIAL CLAIMS PRESSURE TO ALTER INTEL** Brian Murphy says he was demoted at the Department of Homeland Security for refusing to modify his reports on Russian interference in the election and the extent of the threat posed by white supremacists.
5. **CHIEFS BAN NATIVE IMAGERY AT ARROWHEAD** Kansas City fans won't be wearing headdresses or face paint at the NFL's opener amid a nationwide push for racial justice following the police-custody death of George Floyd

## Book: Kim Jong Un told Trump about killing his uncle

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's comments about the threat from the novel coronavirus attracted widespread attention after excerpts from journalist Bob Woodward's book "Rage" were released. The excerpts also provide new details about the president's thoughts on North Korea's Kim Jong Un, racial unrest and a mysterious new weapon that Trump claims other world powers don't know about.

Some of the other topics covered in the book, which was based on 18 interviews that Woodward conducted with Trump between December and July and with others (excerpts from the book were reported by The Washington Post, where Woodward is an editor, and CNN):

**NORTH KOREA**

Woodward wrote that Trump said he was impressed with Kim when he first met the North Korean leader in Singapore in 2018 and that Kim was "far beyond smart." Trump also said that Kim "tells me everything"

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 37 of 73

and even gave the president a graphic account of how Kim had his own uncle killed.

As he engaged in nuclear arms talks with Kim, Trump dismissed intelligence officials' assessments that North Korea would never give up its nuclear weapons. Trump told Woodward that the CIA has "no idea" how to handle Pyongyang.

Trump also dismissed criticism about his three meetings with Kim, claiming the summits were no big deal. Critics said that by meeting Kim, Trump provided the North Korean leader with legitimacy on the world stage.

"It takes me two days. I met. I gave up nothing," said the president, who likened North Korea's attachment to its nuclear arsenal to somebody who is in love with a house and "they just can't sell it."

Kim welcomed Trump's attention, calling the president "your excellency" in a letter. Kim wrote to Trump that he believed the "deep and special friendship between us will work as a magical force."

## RACIAL UNREST

In June, after federal agents forcibly removed protesters from Washington's Lafayette Square near the White House to make way for Trump to stage a photo opportunity outside a church where he held up a bible, Trump called Woodward to boast about how he was for "law and order."

"We're going to get ready to send in the military slash National Guard to some of these poor bastards that don't know what they're doing, these poor radical lefts," Trump told Woodward, who recorded Trump.

Later that month, Woodward asked the president if, as a white man, he had a responsibility to better "understand the anger and pain" felt by Black Americans.

"No," Trump replied. "I don't feel that at all."

As Woodward pressed Trump about discrimination and inequalities suffered by Black people over the years, the president pointed to how the unemployment rate for Black Americans fell before the pandemic.

When the two spoke again about race relations on June 22, Woodward asked Trump whether he thought there was systemic racism in America.

"Well, I think there is everywhere," Trump said. "I think probably less here than most places. Or less here than many places."

Asked by Woodward whether racism "is here" in the United States in a way that affects people's lives, Trump replied: "I think it is. And it's unfortunate. But I think it is."

## MYSTERY WEAPON

In discussions with Woodward about rising tensions in 2017 between the U.S. and North Korea, Trump said: "I have built a nuclear — a weapons system that nobody's ever had in this country before. We have stuff that you haven't even seen or heard about. We have stuff that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and (Chinese President Jinping) Xi have never heard about before. There's nobody — what we have is incredible."

Woodward writes that sources, who spoke to him on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the U.S. military had a "secret new weapons system." But the sources did not provide details and told Woodward, according to the book, that they were surprised Trump had disclosed it.

Trump national security adviser Robert O'Brien told Fox News' "Special Report" on Wednesday that the president did not talk about any specific weapon system. "We're always on the cutting edge and we've always got something out there that our adversaries don't know about," O'Brien said.

## FORMER TOP OFFICIALS IN TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Woodward's book quotes Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, as saying, "The most dangerous people around the president are overconfident idiots." The book also quotes Kushner as saying that he advised people to think about "Alice in Wonderland" when trying to understand the Trump presidency. The novel is about a girl who falls through a rabbit hole and Kushner, according to Woodward, singled out the Cheshire Cat, whom he said had endurance and persistence, not direction.

Woodward's book also discusses how some top-level administration officials contemplated quitting.

Then-Defense Secretary James Mattis went to the Washington National Cathedral to pray about the nation's future under Trump as commander in chief. According to Woodward's book, Mattis once told



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 38 of 73

then-National Intelligence Director Dan Coats, "There may come a time when we have to take collective action" because Trump is "dangerous" and "unfit" to be president.

Woodward says Mattis told Coats, "The president has no moral compass."

Coats, the book says, replied: "True. To him, a lie is not a lie. It's just what he thinks. He doesn't know the difference between the truth and a lie."

Coats is a former senator from Indiana and was recruited into the administration by Vice President Mike Pence, who is also a Hoosier. "How are you stomaching" the Trump presidency, Coats' wife, Marsha, once asked Pence at a White House dinner.

"I think he (Pence) understood. And he just whispered in my ear, 'Stay the course.'"

## California fire that killed 3 threatens thousands of homes

By TERENCE CHEA and BRIAN MELLEY undefined

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A Northern California wildfire threatened thousands of homes Thursday after winds whipped it into a monster that incinerated houses in a small mountain community and killed at least three people.

Several other people have been critically burned and hundreds, if not thousands, of homes and other buildings are believed to have been damaged or destroyed by the North Complex fire northeast of San Francisco, authorities said.

Some 20,000 people were under evacuation orders or warnings in Plumas, Yuba and Butte counties.

Between Tuesday and Wednesday, the fire — which had been burning for weeks in forestland and was 50% contained — exploded to six times its size as winds gusting to 45 mph drove a path of destruction through mountainous terrain and parched foothills.

The winds subsided Wednesday but the fire was only 24% contained and the danger remained.

"Time and time again we have seen how dangerous wildfires can be. ... So I ask that you please, please be prepared, maintain situational awareness and heed the warnings," Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea pleaded.

Honea announced the three deaths but declined to provide details. California Highway Patrol Officer Ben Draper told the Bay Area News Group that one person was found in a car and apparently had been trying to escape the flames.

Many homes were incinerated in the Butte County hamlet of Berry Creek, with a population of 525 people.

John Sykes, a 50-year resident, managed to flee on Tuesday with his car and some clothes but he watched the town burn from about a mile away.

"The school is gone, the fire department's gone, the bar's gone, the laundromat's gone, the general store's gone," he told the Sacramento Bee, adding, "I'll never go back."

"I don't want to see it," he said. "That's why I'm leaving. I never want to see California again."

Four burn victims were taken to UC Davis Medical Center in critical condition, the Bee reported.

The fire also threatened Paradise, a town devastated just two years ago by the deadliest blaze in state history that prompted a deadly traffic jam as panicked residents tried to escape. Eighty-five people lost their lives and nearly 19,000 buildings were destroyed in that fire.

On Wednesday, the sky turned from black to cherry red and ash carried on strong winds rained down in a scene reminiscent from the fateful morning of Nov. 8, 2018, former Mayor Steve "Woody" Culleton said.

"It was extremely frightening and ugly," Culleton said. "Everybody has PTSD and what not, so it triggered everybody and caused terror and panic."

Even in the midst of its dry, hot, windy fire season, California has seen wildfires advancing with unprecedented speed and ferocity. Since the middle of August, fires in California have killed 11 people, destroyed more than 3,600 structures, burned old growth redwoods, charred chaparral and forced evacuations in communities near the coast, in wine country and along the Sierra Nevada.

Thick smoke choked much of the state and cast an eerie orange hue across the sky. In some areas of the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento Valley, the smoke blocked out so much sunlight that it

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 39 of 73

dropped the temperature by 20 to 30 degrees over the previous day, according to the National Weather Service.

More than two dozen major fires were burning around the state, some of them among the largest ever recorded in recent California history.

The U.S. Forest Service, which had taken the unprecedented measure of closing eight national forests in Southern California earlier in the week, ordered all 18 of its forests in the state closed Wednesday for public safety.

In Southern California, fires burned in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. People in foothill communities east of Los Angeles were warned to be ready to flee, but the region's notorious Santa Ana winds were weaker than predicted.

"We're encouraged that the wind activity appears to be dying down," Gov. Gavin Newsom said. "The rest of the week looks a little more favorable."

Melley reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers John Antczak in Los Angeles and Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this report.

## The Latest: Imperial College expert warns of virus 'uptick'

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON — The epidemiologist whose modelling heavily influenced the British government to impose a lockdown in March has warned that fresh restrictions may have to be re-imposed in coming weeks to deal with a rise in new coronavirus cases.

Neil Ferguson from Imperial College London said he was "encouraged" that the government is banning social gatherings of more than six people from Monday, noting that "one of the mistakes" in the early days of the pandemic this year was an overly "cautious" approach.

Still, he told BBC radio that "all the analysis" suggested there would be an "uptick in deaths in the coming weeks, so now is the time to respond."

The U.K. has seen Europe's deadliest virus outbreak, with around 41,600 deaths.

Ferguson added that if the transmission rates don't fall markedly so the epidemic starts shrinking again, then "we may need to clamp down in other areas."

### HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VIRUS OUTBREAK

- "Deadly stuff": Trump's own words bring focus back to virus
- India sees record spike of 95K new virus cases as infections spread outside cities
- Scarcity of raw material still squeezes N95 mask makers
- Republican senators make pessimistic predictions about new relief package

Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

### HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

PARIS — France is extending temporary virus-related unemployment benefits until next summer, amid prolonged economic fallout from lockdown.

Labor Minister Elisabeth Borne said Thursday on BFM television that the government will continue paying up to 84% of salaries for workers at struggling companies. She said the idea is "so that companies can keep jobs and skills" while they restructure or retrain people.

France's government has already spent tens of billions of euros on this temporary unemployment system since the country's strict lockdown in spring to try to avoid mass joblessness.

Most companies have resumed activity but the economy is still struggling, and the government announced a 100 billion euro (\$118 billion) stimulus plan last week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 40 of 73

France's virus infections have been rising again in recent weeks, following summer holidays and then a return to work and school en masse. The Marseille region is a new hotspot, with doctors warning that intensive care units dedicated to COVID-19 patients are filling fast.

**PRAGUE** — The Czech Republic is returning to mandatory mask wearing in interior spaces amid a steep rise in new coronavirus cases.

Starting Thursday, people across the country need to cover their face in all public places, including stores, shopping malls, post offices and others but also in private companies where employees cannot keep a distance of 2 meters (yards) from one another.

Students will have to have masks in all shared spaces of elementary and high schools.

The daily increase in cases surpassed 1,160 for the second straight day on Wednesday.

The Czech Republic has had 31,036 infected with COVID-19 since the pandemic began with 44 deaths.

**NEW DELHI** — India has recorded another one day record increase in new coronavirus infections, logging 95,735 new cases.

According to the Health Ministry, India's number of recorded infections since the pandemic began reached 4,465,863 on Thursday, while total fatalities rose to 75,062 after another 1,172 deaths in the past 24 hours.

The ministry said the surge in new infections is due to ramping of daily testing, with more than 1 million tests now being run each day. India's recovery rate from the illness is now 77.7%.

Experts caution that India's outbreak is entering a more dangerous phase as the virus spreads to smaller towns and villages.

With the economy contracting by a record 23.9% in the April-June quarter leaving millions jobless, the Indian government is continuing with relaxing lockdown restrictions that were imposed in late March.

**SEOUL**, South Korea — South Korea's new coronavirus cases have stayed below 200 for an eighth straight day, suggesting the recent viral resurgence is slowing amid stringent social distancing rules.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday it recorded 155 additional cases over the past 24 hours, taking the national tally of recorded cases to 21,743, with 346 deaths since the pandemic began.

South Korea had seen a spike in new infections since early August, mostly in the greater Seoul area. Authorities in the Seoul region have subsequently ordered the shutdown of churches, nightspots and fitness centers and restricted dining at restaurants.

The elevated social distancing rules in the Seoul area are to expire Sunday, and the government is to announce whether to extend them.

**LOS ANGELES** — Los Angeles County health officials have walked back some Halloween rules just a day after issuing orders that would have restricted trick-or-treating and other Halloween traditions because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The county Department of Health initially said Tuesday that trick-or-treating, haunted houses and Halloween parades would be banned because those activities make it difficult to maintain social distancing.

The new guidelines issued Wednesday stop short of prohibiting kids from going door to door to collect candy. Officials, however, are encouraging online parties, meals at outdoor restaurants, Halloween-themed art installations at outdoor museums and decorating homes and yards.

## Does my employer have to say if a coworker has the virus?

By The Associated Press undefined

Does my employer have to say if a coworker has the virus?

Employers are generally not required to tell workers when someone in the workplace has tested positive for the coronavirus.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 41 of 73

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that companies monitor employees for symptoms and alert those who may have been in contact with an infected person. Some states may order businesses to follow such guidance.

Employers have the right to take employees' temperature and ask about symptoms or if they have been exposed to or diagnosed with the virus. If an employee doesn't respond to those questions, they can be barred from the workplace.

Businesses are required to provide a safe working environment. They also have to keep track of infections contracted on the job and report any hospitalizations or deaths related to the disease to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Some workers are unsettled by the lack of information. Amazon, for example, alerted warehouse workers when someone tested positive for the virus, but didn't disclose a tally of how many workers tested positive. So workers began trying to keep track on their own.

There are also pending lawsuits against employers filed by workers who were exposed to or diagnosed with the coronavirus. In general, there's a high legal bar for finding an employer at fault for endangering employees and most claims are resolved via worker's compensation settlements. There has also been some debate over whether Congress should grant businesses liability protections during the pandemic.

The AP is answering your questions about the coronavirus in this series. Submit them at: [FactCheck@AP.org](mailto:FactCheck@AP.org).

More Viral Questions:

How will office life be different in a pandemic?

Is it safe to ride public transit during the pandemic?

Will temperature checks of employees make workplaces safe?

## Politics plague Israeli virus response ahead of holidays

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long cultivated a symbiotic relationship with the country's ultra-Orthodox parties, doling out generous subsidies and leaving their insular way of life unperturbed in exchange for ironclad backing that has helped crown him Israel's longest serving leader.

Now, with the coronavirus pandemic raging and the Jewish High Holidays approaching, Netanyahu finds himself caught between his ultra-Orthodox partners and the need to drive down surging infection rates. This balancing act could plunge the country into a new lockdown ahead of the holidays, which begin next week.

Netanyahu has faced a national furor over his handling of the coronavirus, but that anger is boiling over among the ultra-Orthodox, or Haredim, who have used their political muscle to fend off what they see as discriminatory restrictions.

"The entire Haredi public won't forget the injustice carried out against it," a group of mayors from ultra-Orthodox cities and towns wrote in a letter to Netanyahu this week. "The decisions you made, time after time, were made with no regard for logic or health benefits, and were clearly aimed at the Haredi public. We consider you the only culprit for these punitive measures."

Israel this week imposed new restrictions on some 40 cities and towns with worrying outbreaks, which include nighttime curfews, strict limits on public gatherings and the shuttering of schools. The restrictions mostly affect ultra-Orthodox as well as Arab communities, which have also been hit hard in recent weeks.

The government had been expected to approve a stricter lockdown on many of the localities, as called for by the country's coronavirus czar, Ronni Gamzu. But after intense pressure by ultra-Orthodox politicians and the scathing letter by the Haredi mayors, Netanyahu suggested the compromise, which some experts believe will not help bring down infection numbers.

In a video aimed at the ultra-Orthodox population, he attempted to ease frustration over the latest,



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 42 of 73

watered-down restrictions.

"You know how much I care about Torah study and prayer. These are things that are important to me just as they are important to you. And with that I say we need to take steps that prevent the spread of morbidity," he said.

Some ultra-Orthodox politicians have pushed for a broader lockdown on the entire country. Gamzu has opted instead for more pinpointed measures aimed at hard-hit towns and neighborhoods, earning him scorn from the ultra-Orthodox.

Netanyahu has said a lockdown remains an option. But imposing one on all Israelis after walking back the restrictions on the ultra-Orthodox could be viewed as political surrender.

"Netanyahu has a commendable record of folding magnificently but this time it concerned life and death," wrote Yossi Verter, a political commentator, in the Haaretz daily. "Because of petty politics Israel may experience disproportionate collective punishment."

No formal decision has been made yet about the holidays. Israelis typically hold large family gatherings and pack synagogues, especially during the important fast of Yom Kippur, settings that could send infection rates spiking.

Officials have floated the idea of a nationwide lockdown, as they did during the Passover holiday in April. This could have limited economic fallout because much commercial activity stops over the holidays. But that would anger many Israelis and health experts say a limited short-term lockdown may not be effective.

Also unresolved is the issue of an annual holiday pilgrimage to the tomb of a revered rabbi. Tens of thousands of faithful descend on the Ukrainian city of Uman around the Jewish New Year for prayer and festivities. Gamzu has tried to block travel and Ukraine closed its borders in the lead-up to the event.

But religious leaders say their communities are being unfairly targeted and Netanyahu has appointed a senior Cabinet minister to try to devise a compromise that would allow at least some people to make the pilgrimage.

Israel appeared to have contained its outbreak by swiftly closing its borders and imposing tough lockdown measures last spring. But after a hasty reopening and what's been criticized as government mismanagement, infection numbers have shot up to record levels. The country now has one of the world's worst outbreaks, adjusted for population.

Infection rates in ultra-Orthodox communities have been disproportionately high. The ultra-Orthodox tend to live in poor, crowded neighborhoods where sickness can quickly spread. Synagogues, the centerpiece of social life, bring men together to pray and socialize in small spaces. Lack of internet use also hindered public education, though officials have since turned to religious leaders and car-mounted loudspeakers to spread the word.

As the initial outbreak grew, the ultra-Orthodox were on the receiving end of some of the tightest restrictions. In April, a police-enforced lockdown was imposed on the large Haredi city of Bnei Brak in central Israel, with movement restricted and the military assisting local authorities. Prayers in synagogues have been limited countrywide to 20 people.

Israel has also imposed restrictions on secular bastions such as restaurants, cultural institutions and event spaces. But with beaches and malls packed, and weekly mass protests taking place against Netanyahu, many ultra-Orthodox feel they are being singled out.

"They see this and they say 'they are tormenting us because we are Haredim,'" said Ari Kalman, the political correspondent for the ultra-Orthodox Behadrei Haredim news outlet. "It causes them to lose trust."

Secular Israelis have a different narrative. They have watched with outrage throughout the year what they see as special treatment for the ultra-Orthodox. Families of some prominent rabbis have held large weddings with no social distancing and few masks. Stipends meant to ease the economic fallout from the virus restrictions were expanded to accommodate large ultra-Orthodox families. Thousands of Jewish seminary students were allowed in from abroad despite restrictions on entry.

Shuki Friedman, an expert on secular-religious relations at the Israel Democracy Institute, a think tank, said the coronavirus crisis has sent many ultra-Orthodox into a siege mentality and could reverse major

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 43 of 73

gains made in recent years to integrate the insular community into Israeli society, something economists warn is crucial for the country's economic future.

"If the Haredim withdraw even more than they are today, it is bad for Israeli society," he said.

## Fires without precedent rage in usually cool, wet Northwest

By ANDREW SELSKY and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — Numerous wildfires burned in Oregon's forested valleys and along the coast, destroying hundreds of homes and causing mass evacuations. Farther north, flames devoured buildings and huge tracts of land in Washington state.

Officials said the number of simultaneous fires and perhaps the damage caused was unprecedented. Several deaths were reported, including a 1-year-old boy in Washington state. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said communities have been "substantially destroyed" and warned there could be numerous fatalities.

Because of its cool, wet climate, the Pacific Northwest rarely experiences such intense fire activity. But climate change driven by human-caused greenhouse gases is expected to keep warming the region, with most models predicting drier summers, according to the College of the Environment at the University of Washington.

Brown said Oregon could see the greatest loss of life and property from wildfires in state history. The small towns of Phoenix and Talent in southern Oregon were heavily damaged. Another fire leveled most of the small farming town of Malden in eastern Washington — burning down the fire station, post office, City Hall and library.

In Washington state, a fire burned more than 480,000 acres of forest, brush and shrubland, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said Wednesday after a 30-minute tour of the fire area in Sumner, east of Tacoma.

Inslee said low humidity, high temperatures and winds combined to likely make the blaze one of "the most catastrophic fires we've had in the history of the state."

Fires erupted along Interstate 5 in Oregon, hitting towns and forcing a shutdown of the main freeway along the West Coast. U.S. Highway 101, the main coastal highway running through California, Oregon and Washington, was also impacted.

At least three people in Oregon and the small child in Washington state were reported killed. In Oregon, authorities said one of the victims from Marion County near Salem was a young boy, whose remains were found alongside those of his dog.

The extent of damage was unclear because so many of the fire zones were too dangerous to survey, said Oregon Deputy State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple.

A mandatory evacuation was ordered in the northern half of Lincoln City, a vacation town of about 10,000 people on the Oregon coast. "The fire is in the city," said county Emergency Management spokesman Casey Miller.

Some buildings had been burned, Miller said, but he had no immediate details. Traffic snarled as people tried to drive south. An evacuation center was set up at a community college in Newport.

In Talent, a mobile home park with more than 50 homes was turned into an empty lot except for one lone trailer, said Drew Cutler, who lives in nearby Ashland.

In western Oregon, fire tore through Santiam Canyon and the Cascade Range foothills east of Salem, the state capital. People with animals sought shelter from the Red Cross at the fairgrounds

Catherine Shields evacuated her home in Silverton with a menagerie of animals, assisted by neighbors and strangers. As smoke obscured the sun and ash fell from the sky, they helped load her and her partner's three horses, a donkey, two llamas, a dozen sheep, geese, ducks, turkeys and dogs onto trailers and vehicles.

As she walked one of the horses at the fairgrounds Wednesday, she marveled at how people were pulling together despite political divisiveness in the country.

"In the last 24 hours, we just felt people are doing their best," Shields said.

With an expected break in the weather Thursday, Doug Grafe, chief of fire protection at the Oregon

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 44 of 73

Department of Forestry, said firefighters are hoping to turn things around.

"Today marks the last day where we are witnessing this historic weather event," Grafe said.

Officials said winds have slowed and cooler marine winds were expected.

In Washington, a 1-year-old boy died after his family was apparently overrun by flames while trying to flee a wildfire burning in the northeastern part of the state, Okanogan County Sheriff Tony Hawley said Wednesday.

KOIN reported that police confirmed that a boy and his grandmother died in a wildfire near Lyons, Oregon. The Mail Tribune in Medford, Oregon, reported that Jackson County Sheriff Nathan Sickler confirmed at least one death and a criminal investigation at the origin point of a wildfire that started near Ashland.

Lloyd Dean Holland, a Vietnam veteran, barely escaped his home in Estacada on Tuesday night.

Holland said Oregon State Police had warned him to leave earlier in the day, but the fire seemed far away and he decided to stay. Around 10 p.m., he said, his landlord came pounding on the door screaming at him to go.

He left his rental house as flames exploded in cedar trees around him. He found his dog Gus waiting in his truck.

He said his sole remaining possessions — rifles, dentures and some clothing — were also in the truck.

"I've been through hell and high water but nothing like this. I've been shot down and shot at but this — last night, I'm still not over it," Holland said.

Selsky reported from Salem, Oregon. Associated Press writers Sara Cline in Salem; Rachel La Corte in Sumner, Washington; Nick Geranios in Spokane, Washington; and Lisa Baumann in Seattle contributed to this report.

## California wildfires growing bigger, moving faster than ever

By DON THOMPSON Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — When it comes to California wildfires, it now takes days, not decades, to produce what had been seen as a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.

Last weekend, a fire burning in California's Sierra National Forest exploded in size, trapping hundreds of Labor Day holiday campers who could only be rescued by helicopters that made a series of white-knuckle flights into the smoke. Fire officials said they'd never seen a fire move so fast in forestland — 15 miles in a day.

On Wednesday, a wildfire in Plumas National Forest northeast of San Francisco spread 25 miles in a day and devoured an estimated 400 square miles (1,036 square kilometers),

In between those events, a massive fire in Monterey County doubled in size overnight, trapping 14 firefighters who had to deploy their emergency shelters; one was critically injured.

They are only the latest examples of what a half-dozen fire experts agreed is more extreme fire behavior driven by drought and warming temperatures they attribute to climate change. Among the most concerning developments is that fast-moving wildfires leave less time for warnings or evacuations.

Recently "we have seen multiple fires expand by tens of thousands of acres in a matter of hours, and 30 years or more ago that just wasn't fire behavior that we saw," said Jacob Bendix, a professor of geography and the environment at Syracuse University who studies wildfires.

Hotter temperatures, longer fire seasons and an estimated 140 million dead trees from a five-year drought mean that "fires in California are moving faster and growing larger," said University of Utah fire expert Philip Dennison.

Mike Flannigan, who directs the Western Partnership for Wildland Fire Science at Canada's University of Alberta, remembers the first report of a fire-created thunderstorm in 1986.

"They were rare events, and now they've become commonplace," he said. "It's because these fires are higher intensity."

A prime example is the Creek Fire, which exploded through miles of drought- and beetle-killed timber,

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 45 of 73

moving so fast that it trapped hundreds of campers in Sierra National Forest south of Yosemite National Park.

"When you have a fire run 15 miles in one day, in one afternoon, there's no model that can predict that," U.S. Forest Service forester Steve Lohr said. "The fires are behaving in such a way that we've not seen."

The phenomenon isn't restricted to California. Doug Grafe, chief of Fire Protection at the Oregon Department of Forestry, said it was unprecedented in his state for fires to spread from the crest of the Cascade Mountains into the valleys below, and so quickly, "carrying tens of miles in one period of an afternoon and not slowing down in the evening — (there is) absolutely no context for that in this environment."

California already has seen a record 2.5 million acres burn and it's only now is entering what traditionally is the most dangerous time for fires. Labor Day weekend brought record-breaking temperatures across the state that exacerbated what already are drought conditions in a large swath of the state.

University of Colorado-Boulder professor Jennifer Balch said measurements of how quickly the hot, dry air is sucking moisture out of fuels are "the highest seen in at least four decades" across major parts of the West.

The abundant dry tinder produces more heat energy, which in turn super-heats the air so it becomes more buoyant and creates a strong updraft that condenses with the smoke plume, "creating its own wind to feed that thunderstorm," Flannigan said.

The cloud itself is called a pyro-cumulonimbus, which may or may not produce lightning, and strong winds that can pick up burning embers and ignite new fires far in front of the initial blaze.

An extreme example in July 2018 spun off what was then only the second documented "firenado," killing a firefighter as he helped evacuate residents from the Carr Fire in the Northern California city of Redding.

Yet just this month a fire north of Lake Tahoe spun off at least two and as many as four firenados, while the Plumas National Forest fire appears to have produced "a handful" overnight Tuesday, said Neil Lareau, a professor of atmospheric science at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The Creek Fire produced at least two firenados that appeared to touch down Saturday, he said, one straddling an access road to a popular campground at Mammoth Pool Reservoir where 214 people became trapped.

"It's really kind of a testament to the remarkable extremes that we're seeing right now," Lareau said. "It really is kind of this vicious cycle that it gets into, and that's when the fire really takes off and becomes these unstoppable infernos."

Two California National Guard helicopters called in to rescue the trapped campers Saturday night found visibility deteriorating so swiftly that the crews opted to load their aircraft "to the absolute maximum" and well beyond normal safety limits in an unprecedented mission.

On one trip, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joseph Rosamond and his three-member crew took on 102 desperate campers in a CH-47 Chinook twin-rotor helicopter designed for 30 passengers. A UH-60 Black Hawk ferried 22 evacuees in a helicopter with a normal operating capacity of 11 or 12 passengers.

The overloaded Chinook slowly climbed to 8,000 feet to clear surrounding mountains and dense smoke.

"It was an absolute emergency and people's lives were at stake," Rosamond recalled. "It was pretty dicey. The charts don't go that high."

Such harrowing escapes are only likely to become more common, the experts said.

Columbia University's Williams said California's record heat and record acreage burned already this year are part of a trend that has been accelerating for 50 years due to global warming.

"So, while the magnitudes of the current heat wave and the resultant wildfires have been shocking, they're consistent with what scientists have been predicting for decades," Williams said in an email.

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This story has been corrected to say Sierra National Forest, not Sequoia National Forest.

## Official claims pressure to alter Homeland Security intel

By BEN FOX Associated Press



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 46 of 73

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Department of Homeland Security official said in a whistleblower complaint that he was pressured by more senior officials to suppress facts in intelligence reports that President Donald Trump might find objectionable, including information about Russian interference in the election and the rising threat posed by white supremacists.

The official, Brian Murphy, alleged that senior DHS officials also pressed him to alter reports so they would reflect administration policy goals and that he was demoted for refusing to go along with the changes and for filing confidential internal complaints about the conduct.

Murphy, a former FBI agent and Marine Corps veteran, was demoted in August from his post as principal deputy under secretary in the Office of Intelligence and Analysis. He is seeking to be reinstated in a complaint filed with the DHS Office of Inspector General.

Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, on Wednesday released the complaint, which he said contained "grave and disturbing" allegations. He said Murphy has been asked to give a deposition to Congress as part of an investigation into intelligence collection by DHS related to its response to protests in Portland, Oregon, and elsewhere.

"We will get to the bottom of this, expose any and all misconduct or corruption to the American people, and put a stop to the politicization of intelligence," the California Democrat said.

A Homeland Security spokesman, Alexei Woltornist, said the department generally does not comment on referrals to the inspector general but denied Murphy's allegations. "DHS looks forward to the results of any resulting investigation and we expect it will conclude that no retaliatory action was taken against Mr. Murphy," he said.

The complaint came the same day that acting Secretary Chad Wolf, who has been nominated by Trump to lead the agency, gave a "state of the Homeland" speech in which he said DHS is working to thwart election interference from any foreign power and all threats regardless of ideology.

"DHS stands in absolute opposition to any form of violent extremism whether by white supremacist extremists or anarchist extremists," Wolf said. "We will continue our daily efforts to combat all forms of domestic terror."

Murphy said in his complaint that he was directed by Ken Cuccinelli, the acting deputy DHS secretary, to modify a section of a report to make the threat posed by white supremacists less severe. He was told to play up the threat posed by left-wing groups to echo administration talking points around civil unrest following the protests over the killing of George Floyd.

Murphy said he refused to alter the report because doing so would "constitute an abuse of authority and improper administration of an intelligence program." He was then taken off the project.

He said he made a number of reports on Russian disinformation efforts to senior DHS and administration officials between March 2018 and March 2020. The details are classified and not included in the whistleblower complaint.

Then, in July, Wolf told him to hold back any reports on Russian election interference because they "made the president look bad," according to the complaint. He also said Wolf told him to report on interference by China and Iran, instead of Russia, and those instructions came from White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien. Murphy said he objected and was excluded from future meetings on the subject.

Trump has repeatedly resisted claims of Russian interference, including doubting findings by U.S. officials and lawmakers that Russia meddled in the 2016 campaign to help him and sow chaos in the electoral process. He has dismissed reports that Russia is continuing to interfere in the 2020 race, claiming that China is the more pernicious threat, even though a statement from intelligence officials last month said Moscow was directly trying to undermine Democrat Joe Biden.

Murphy said that, after he was removed from working on a DHS intelligence report, a draft was leaked to the media in which Russia's interference was placed on an equal footing as activities by Iran and China in a way that was "misleading and inconsistent with the actual intelligence," the complaint said.

Murphy came to DHS in March 2018 from the FBI, where his career included being assigned to the New York field office on Sept. 11, 2001. In his complaint, he alleged that efforts to manipulate the intelligence he oversaw started under former Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 47 of 73

He said Nielsen and her deputies pressed him to vastly overstate the number of migrants apprehended at the southwest border who have confirmed links to any terrorist organization. That occurred as the Trump administration was rolling out tougher measures against illegal immigration. Murphy said he declined to confirm an inflated figure, saying to do so would be not only improper but illegal. The secretary nonetheless provided the incorrect figure to Congress.

Cuccinelli, he said, pressed him to change reports on conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras as the administration was seeking to halt a surge of people seeking asylum from Central America at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Mr. Cuccinelli expressed frustration with the intelligence reports, and he accused unknown 'deep state intelligence analysts' of compiling the intelligence information to undermine President Donald J. Trump's policy objectives with respect to asylum," he said in the complaint.

Murphy said that over the summer he was instructed by Wolf and Cuccinelli to alter assessments on protests to make sure "they matched up" with Trump's statements on the involvement of antifa and anarchists in the demonstrations in Portland and elsewhere. He said he told them he would only report accurate information.

Shortly thereafter, Wolf reassigned him to the management division. That followed media reports that Murphy's unit collected information on journalists covering the DHS response to the protests. Murphy said the reports were incorrect and Wolf agreed but said it would be "politically good" to move him while the acting secretary hoped to be nominated to the secretary post by Trump.

The complaint, which also asks that officials who retaliated against Murphy be given written reprimands, was filed by Mark Zaid, a prominent attorney who also represented the whistle-blower who spurred the Trump impeachment inquiry.

Zaid said in a statement that Murphy "followed proper, lawful whistleblower rules in reporting serious allegations of misconduct" and would cooperate with congressional investigations into the matter, especially in a classified setting.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

## 3 dead as wildfire explodes in Northern California

By TERENCE CHEA and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Three people died in a wind-whipped Northern California wildfire that has forced thousands of people from their homes while carving a 25-mile path of destruction through mountainous terrain and parched foothills, authorities said Wednesday.

California Highway Patrol Officer Ben Draper told the Bay Area News Group that one person was found in a car and apparently had been trying to escape the flames.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of homes and other buildings are believed to have been damaged or destroyed by the blaze northeast of San Francisco, fire officials said at an evening news conference.

The fire has also threatened Paradise, a town devastated just two years ago by the deadliest blaze in state history that prompted a traffic jam as panicked residents tried to escape.

The North Complex fire was one of more than two dozen burning in the California. including three of the five largest ever in the state. Other wildfires charred huge swaths of the West amid gusty, dry conditions. Forecasters said some weather relief was in sight and could help firefighters overwhelmed by the blazes.

In Washington, more acres burned in a single day than firefighters usually see all year. Fires also forced people to flee homes in Oregon and Idaho. A blast of polar air helped slow wildfires in Colorado and Montana.

Since the middle of August, fires in California have killed 11 people, destroyed more than 3,600 structures, burned old growth redwoods, charred chaparral and forced evacuations in communities near the coast, in wine country and along the Sierra Nevada.

Thick smoke Wednesday choked much of the state and cast an eerie orange hue across the sky as thousands of people in communities near Oroville were ordered to evacuate.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 48 of 73

Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at the University of California, Los Angeles, conservatively estimated the fire had burned about 400 square miles (1,036 square kilometers) in 24 hours.

"The unbelievable rates of spread now being observed on these fires — it is historically unprecedented," Swain tweeted.

The U.S. Forest Service, which had taken the unprecedented measure of closing eight national forests in Southern California earlier in the week, ordered all 18 of its forests in the state closed Wednesday for public safety.

The fire raging outside Oroville, 125 miles (200 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco, jumped the middle fork of the Feather River on Tuesday and, driven by 45 mph (72 km/h) winds, leapt into a canopy of pines and burned all the way to Lake Oroville — about 25 miles (40 kilometers), said Jake Cagle, one of the fire chiefs involved.

The fire had been 62 square miles (160 square kilometers) and 50% contained before it grew more than sixfold.

Firefighters were focused on saving lives and homes instead of trying to halt the fire's advance, Cagle said.

The fire tore into several hamlets along the river and near Lake Oroville, leveling countless homes and other buildings, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"We know that the fire was burning incredibly rapidly into Berry Creek and did do a lot of destruction," Berlant said.

In Paradise, where 85 people lost their lives and nearly 19,000 buildings were destroyed, the sky turned from black to cherry red and ash carried on strong winds rained down in a scene reminiscent from the fateful morning of Nov. 8, 2018, former Mayor Steve "Woody" Culleton said.

"It was extremely frightening and ugly," Culleton said. "Everybody has PTSD and what not, so it triggered everybody and caused terror and panic."

A power shutoff to prevent electric lines from sparking wildfires — the cause of the Paradise fire — prevented people from getting up-to-date information by internet, TV or their home phones, Culleton said. Many of the residents decided to leave and created a traffic jam leading out of town, another scary reminder of the bottleneck where several residents died two years ago.

On Tuesday, flames overtook 14 firefighters who had to deploy last-resort emergency shelters trying to protect a mountaintop fire station above Big Sur on California's central coast. Three suffered burns and smoke inhalation. However, one firefighter who was in critical condition was upgraded to stable condition and the other two were treated and released from a Fresno hospital, the U.S. Forest Service said.

That fire, which had doubled overnight Tuesday and burned terrain that hadn't seen fire in 40 years, destroyed an office, two fire engines, barracks and all the firefighters' personal belongings inside.

In Southern California, fires burned in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. People in foothill communities east of Los Angeles were warned to be ready to flee, but the region's notorious Santa Ana winds were weaker than predicted.

"We're encouraged that the wind activity appears to be dying down," Gov. Gavin Newsom said. "The rest of the week looks a little more favorable."

California has set a record with nearly 2.5 million acres (1 million hectares) burned already this year, and historically the worst of the wildfire season doesn't begin until fall.

Pacific Gas & Electric deployed more than 3,000 employees Wednesday to inspect power lines before restoring energy to about 167,000 customers whose electricity was turned off to prevent fires from being started by wind-damaged wires. The utility had restored power to about 85 percent of those customers by evening.

Only a very small number of customers had power turned off in Southern California.

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Melley reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers John Antczak in Los Angeles and Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this report.

## **Book: Trump said of virus, 'I wanted to always play it down'**

By KEVIN FREKING and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump talked in private about the “deadly” coronavirus last February, even as he was declaring to America it was no worse than the flu and insisting it was under control, according to a new book by journalist Bob Woodward. Trump said Wednesday he was just being a “cheerleader” for the nation and trying to keep everyone calm.

His public rhetoric, Trump told Woodward in March, was part of a strategy to deliberately minimize the danger. “I wanted to always play it down,” the president said. “I still like playing it down because I don’t want to create a panic.”

Trump, according to the book, acknowledged being alarmed by the virus, even as he was telling the nation that it would swiftly disappear.

Coming less than eight weeks before Election Day, the revelations in the book — accompanied by recordings Woodward made of his interviews with Trump — provide an unwelcome return of public attention to the president’s handling of the pandemic that has so far killed about 190,000 Americans. He is currently pushing hard for a resumption of normal activity and trying to project strength and control to bolster his political position in his campaign against Democrat Joe Biden.

In a Feb. 7 call with Woodward, Trump said of the virus: “You just breathe the air and that’s how it’s passed. And so that’s a very tricky one. That’s a very delicate one. It’s also more deadly than even your strenuous flus.”

“This is deadly stuff,” the president repeated for emphasis.

Just three days later, Trump struck a far rosier tone in an interview with Fox Business: “I think the virus is going to be — it’s going to be fine.”

Biden said Wednesday the book shows Trump “lied to the American people. He knowingly and willingly lied about the threat it posed to the country for months.”

“While a deadly disease ripped through our nation, he failed to do his job — on purpose. It was a life or death betrayal of the American people,” Biden said at a campaign event in Michigan.

Biden’s campaign pounced, releasing an ad late Wednesday featuring the audiotapes of Trump’s remarks. “And Trump knew all along,” the ad’s narrator says.

Speaking Wednesday at the White House, Trump acknowledged he downplayed the virus, insisting he was trying to buck up the nation and suggesting he was trying to avoid “gouging” on prices of needed supplies.

“The fact is I’m a cheerleader for this country. I love our country and I don’t want people to be frightened. I don’t want to create panic, as you say,” Trump told reporters. “Certainly, I’m not going to drive this country or the world into a frenzy. We want to show confidence. We want to show strength.”

Yet Trump’s public comments suggested he was steering people to ignore the reality of the coming storm. Woodward’s account details dire warnings from top Trump national security officials to the president in late January that the virus that causes COVID-19 could be as bad as the devastating influenza pandemic of 1918.

On Feb. 25, just weeks before much of the country was forced to shut down because of the pandemic, Trump declared the virus “very well under control in our country.”

Though he restricted travel from China in January, Trump did not begin to devote extensive federal resources to procuring vital personal protective equipment, including face masks, or expand the production of ventilators until March. In fact, U.S. officials recommended against widespread mask wearing until April in part because of a shortage of protective masks required by front-line medical workers.

Trump aides and allies said at the time that he was aiming to prop up the economy with his rosy take on the virus throughout February, even as his administration took few concrete steps to prepare for the coming pandemic.

The Washington Post, where Woodward serves as associate editor, reported excerpts of the book, “Rage”



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 50 of 73

on Wednesday, as did CNN. The book also covers race relations, diplomacy with North Korea and a range of other issues that have arisen during the past two years.

The book is based in part on 18 interviews that Woodward conducted with Trump between December and July.

"Trump never did seem willing to fully mobilize the federal government and continually seemed to push problems off on the states," Woodward writes of the pandemic. "There was no real management theory of the case or how to organize a massive enterprise to deal with one of the most complex emergencies the United States had ever faced."

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Wednesday: "The president has never lied to the American public on COVID. The president was expressing calm, and his actions reflect that."

She said Trump's actions show that he took COVID-19 seriously. She noted that the president put in place travel restrictions with China on Jan. 31 and said that some Democrats had criticized the move.

In an interview with Fox News on Wednesday, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said Trump never "distorted" what Fauci had told the president.

"Often he would want to, you know, make sure that the country doesn't get down and out about things, but I don't recall anything that was any gross distortion in things that I spoke to him about," Fauci said.

McEnany insisted "the president never downplayed the virus," though Trump himself told Woodward he was "playing it down because I don't want to create a panic."

"There is damning truth that President Trump lied and people died," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York. Schumer said that when he thinks about how many people in his state died, "It just makes me angry." He added, "How many people would be alive today if he just told Americans the truth?"

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the president's comments to Woodward showed weakness and a disdain for science.

"What he was actually saying is, 'I don't want anybody to think anything like this happened on my watch so I'm not going to call any more attention to it,'" Pelosi said on MSNBC.

Woodward's book is his second on the Trump White House. The first, published in 2018, portrayed Trump in an unflattering light, and the president fumed at staff that he was not interviewed for it, according to former White House officials and Republicans close to the White House. They were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations and discussed the matter on condition of anonymity.

Trump was convinced that if he had talked to Woodward, it could have led to a more favorable depiction in the book, according to the officials. Trump had always held Woodward in high regard — he considered the journalist as the biggest star in the field — and told aides he must be interviewed if Woodward were to write again, the officials said.

Several Republican senators at the Capitol declined to comment on the new book, telling reporters they hadn't yet read it, even when informed of key passages about the virus. "I just can't, can't comment on it," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

"Could we all have done things differently? Yes, including Congress. We were all a little slow to recognize the severity," Portman said.

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Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire in New York, Alexandra Jaffe in Warren, Michigan, and Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed to this report.

## Justice Dept. push into Trump case could prompt dismissal

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr on Wednesday defended the Justice Department's move to intervene in a defamation lawsuit against President Donald Trump, even as experts were skeptical of the federal government's effort to protect the president in a seemingly private dispute.

The Justice Department's action is "a normal application of the law. The law is clear. It is done frequently," Barr said at an unrelated news conference in Chicago.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 51 of 73

He added, "The little tempest that is going on is largely because of the bizarre political environment in which we live."

But experts said it's far from clear that the conduct at issue — whether Trump defamed E. Jean Carroll, a writer who accused him of raping her at a New York luxury department store in the 1990s — has anything to do with the scope of his White House duties. The department's move is likely to have an ancillary benefit for Trump in delaying the case, but administration lawyers have a tough task at hand trying to argue that the president was acting in his official capacity when he denied Carroll's allegations last year, experts say.

"I wouldn't make such an argument, and if a president approached me to do it, I would say, 'Don't,'" said Stuart Gerson, who led the Justice Department's Civil Division in President George H.W. Bush's administration when Barr was attorney general for the first time.

"The president gets sued all the time and is defended by the government," Gerson added, "but those are for lawsuits that have to do with actions in his official capacity as the president. This isn't anything like that."

The Justice Department's action is consistent with the expansive view of executive authority it has taken under Barr and with its practice of taking legal positions benefiting the president's personal interests, including asking the Supreme Court just last month to allow him to block critics from his Twitter account. It is likely to deepen concerns from critics that the department is functioning as a private law firm for the president, with the attorney general as his personal lawyer, which Barr has adamantly denied.

In the Carroll case, the stakes are especially significant since a move to transfer the lawsuit from state to federal court could not only delay it but also lead to its dismissal since federal courts have not historically permitted defamation claims against federal employees for actions taken in their official capacity.

On Wednesday, Barr described the intervention as "somewhat routine" and said the normal process was followed in this case. He told NBC News in an interview broadcast Wednesday that he had been told the Justice Department's Civil Division was going to become involved and that he thought it was "fine" but did not have to personally sign off on it.

He cited the Westfall Act, which enables the Justice Department to be substituted as a defendant when federal employees are sued in state court for actions within the scope of their official duties, and for the case to be transferred to federal court, where recovery of damages may be more difficult.

For instance: The defense of a lawsuit against a postal worker who clips a car on a daily delivery route could be taken over by the federal government since the collision involved the mailman's official duties.

He pointed to the Justice Department's involvement more than a decade ago in the case of Rep. Cass Ballenger, R-N.C., who was sued for defamation by an American Muslim civil rights group. A judge in 2005 dismissed the case, ruling that Ballenger made the comments in his official capacity.

Legal experts say it's certainly not unusual for the federal government to seek to take over a state lawsuit against a federal employee, as the department is trying to do here.

But that doesn't resolve the question of whether the president was acting in the scope of his official duties when he is alleged to have defamed Carroll, nor is it clear that the same lawsuit protections covering federal employees under the Westfall Act also extend to the president, said Stephen Vladeck, a University of Texas law professor.

"If it's so clear and obvious and normal a case, why did DOJ wait so long" to get involved, he said. "If it was as routine as the attorney general wants us to believe, they would have filed the certification (to take over the case in federal court) the day after the lawsuit was filed."

Despite the "suspicious" timing, Vladeck said, the actual arguments the department is advancing are not frivolous and are "not open and shut in either direction." The department contends Trump was acting in his official capacity when he denied Carroll's allegations because he was "speaking to or responding to inquiries from the press, much as the elected officials in the cases cited above were speaking to the press or making other public statements at the time of their challenged actions."

James Pfander, a Northwestern University professor, said Trump might consider it a win just getting the case moved from state to federal court, "where things might slow down and a judge more sympathetic

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 52 of 73

to the president's claims might be presiding."

Vladeck agreed, saying "Trump wins even if he loses." The Justice Department's abrupt intervention two months before the election slows the case down just as Trump was about "to be required to produce documents, provide a DNA sample, and sit for a deposition," according to a statement from Carroll's attorney, Roberta Kaplan, who called the government's argument "shocking."

For Trump, "the best case scenario is this move leads to the dismissal of the lawsuit," Vladeck said. "The worst case scenario is Trump is no worse off six months from now than he is today."

Associated Press writer Sophia Tareen in Chicago contributed to this report.

## Think 2020's disasters are wild? Experts see worse in future

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

A record amount of California is burning, spurred by a nearly 20-year mega-drought. To the north, parts of Oregon that don't usually catch fire are in flames.

Meanwhile, the Atlantic's 16th and 17th named tropical storms are swirling, a record number for this time of year. Powerful Typhoon Haishen lashed Japan and the Korean Peninsula this week. Last month it hit 130 degrees in Death Valley, the hottest Earth has been in nearly a century.

Phoenix keeps setting triple-digit heat records, while Colorado went through a weather whiplash of 90-degree heat to snow this week. Siberia, famous for its icy climate, hit 100 degrees earlier this year, accompanied by wildfires. Before that Australia and the Amazon were in flames.

Amid all that, Iowa's derecho — bizarre straight-line winds that got as powerful as a major hurricane, causing billions of dollars in damages — barely went noticed.

Freak natural disasters — most with what scientists say likely have a climate change connection — seem to be everywhere in the crazy year 2020. But experts say we'll probably look back and say those were the good old days, when disasters weren't so wild.

"It's going to get A LOT worse," Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb said Wednesday. "I say that with emphasis because it does challenge the imagination. And that's the scary thing to know as a climate scientist in 2020."

Colorado University environmental sciences chief Waleed Abdalati, NASA's former chief scientist, said the trajectory of worsening disasters and climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas is clear, and basic physics.

"I strongly believe we're going to look back in 10 years, certainly 20 and definitely 50 and say, 'Wow, 2020 was a crazy year, but I miss it,'" Abdalati said.

That's because what's happening now is just the type of crazy climate scientists anticipated 10 or 20 years ago.

"It seems like this is what we always were talking about a decade ago," said North Carolina State climatologist Kathie Dello.

Even so, Cobb said the sheer magnitude of what's happening now was hard to fathom back then. Just as the future of climate disasters is hard to fathom now.

"A year like 2020 could have been the subject of a marvelous science fiction film in 2000," Cobb said. "Now we have to watch and digest real-time disaster after disaster after disaster, on top of a pandemic. The outlook could not be any more grim. It's just a horrifying prospect."

"The 2030s are going to be noticeably worse than the 2020s," she said.

University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck, a climate scientist, said that in 30 years because of the climate change already baked into the atmosphere "we're pretty much guaranteed that we'll have double what we have now."

Expect stronger winds, more drought, more heavy downpours and floods, Abdalati said.

"The kind of things we're seeing are no surprise to the (scientific) community that understands the rules and the laws of physics," Abdalati said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 53 of 73

"A lot of people want to blame it on 2020, but 2020 didn't do this," Dello said. "We know the behavior that caused climate change."

Consider the world's environment like an engine: "We have injected more energy into the system because we have trapped more heat into the atmosphere," said World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

That means more energy for tropical storms as well as changes to rainfall patterns that bring drought to some places and heavy rainfall to others, Taalas said.

In California, where more than 2.3 million acres have burned, the fires are spurred by climate change drying plants and trees that then go up in flames, said University of Colorado fire scientist Jennifer Balch. California is in the midst of a nearly 20-year mega-drought, the first of its kind in the United States since Europeans arrived, Overpeck said.

Scientists also make direct connections between heat waves and climate change.

Some disasters at the moment can't be directly linked to man-made warming, such as the derecho, Overpeck said. But looking at the big picture over time shows the problem, and it's one that comes down to the basic physics of trapped heat energy.

"I am not an alarmist. I don't want to scare people," Abdalati said. "It's a problem with tremendous consequences and it's too important not to get right."

And so even though the climate will likely get worse, Overpeck is also optimistic about what future generations will think when they look back at the wild and dangerous weather of 2020.

"I think we'll look back and we'll see a whole bunch of increasingly crazy years," Overpeck said. "And that this year, in 2020, I hope we look back and say it got crazy enough that it motivated us to act on climate change in the United States."

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Associated Press writer Gillian Flaccus contributed from Portland, Oregon.

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Follow AP's climate coverage here. Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears

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## Luxury goods giant LVMH cancels \$14.5B deal for Tiffany

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Luxury goods giant LVMH is ending its takeover deal of jewelry retailer Tiffany & Co., saying the French government had requested a delay to assess the threat of proposed U.S. tariffs.

Wednesday's announcement came after the deal's value had been eroded by wider industry troubles caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Paris-based conglomerate said that both the French government and Tiffany had requested that the closing of the deal be postponed by a few months. The French government, it said, wanted to assess the impact of the possible U.S. tariffs on French goods.

As a result, LVMH said, the \$14.5 billion deal — which would have been biggest ever in the luxury market and was scheduled to close Nov. 24 — will be canceled.

Tiffany replied that it's suing to enforce the merger agreement, which was signed in November 2019. The New York company said LVMH's argument has no basis in French law. Tiffany also said that LVMH hasn't even attempted to seek the required antitrust approval from three jurisdictions.

"We believe that LVMH will seek to use any available means in an attempt to avoid closing the transaction on the agreed terms," said Roger Farah, chairman of Tiffany, in a statement.

Shares in Tiffany slid \$7.85, or 6.4%, to close Wednesday at \$113.96. Those in LVMH, which owns 75 brands including Christian Dior, Fendi, Givenchy and Tag Heuer, were stable.

The deal's value came under strain during the pandemic, which has caused retail sales to plunge around



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 54 of 73

the world. Tiffany's share price has been trading around \$125 a share for weeks — below the \$135 per share price that LVMH had agreed to pay last fall, before the pandemic.

Back then, industry experts had said the deal made sense. Tiffany, known for its delicate jewelry, distinctive blue boxes and an Audrey Hepburn movie, had been trying to transform its brand to appeal to younger and more digital shoppers, and could have used an owner with deep pockets to help expand.

LVMH, led by billionaire Bernard Arnault, had thought the deal would strengthen its position in high-end jewelry and in the U.S. market. LVMH was also making a bet on China's economy, where Tiffany had been expanding its presence.

The pandemic threw all those assumptions and plans in doubt, and the threat of new tariffs between the U.S. and Europe was cited as a further complicating issue.

Before COVID, the global market for personal luxury goods was solid, reaching a record high of \$307.1 billion (260 billion euros) in 2018 — a 6% increase from the year before, according to consulting firm Bain & Co. That sector slipped by 2.1% to \$331.9 (281 billion euros) last year, according to Bain estimates.

But given COVID's financial fallout and the shutdown of tourism worldwide, those sales could drop by 20% to 35% in 2020, Bain estimates. Bain expects that personal luxury sales won't recover to pre-COVID levels until 2022 and 2023.

Tiffany's global sales declined 29% during the fiscal second quarter ended July 31, following a 45% drop in the fiscal first quarter.

Last year, France sought to impose a tax on global tech giants including Google, Amazon and Facebook. The French tech tax is aimed at "establishing tax justice." France wants digital companies to pay their fair share of taxes in countries where they make money instead of using tax havens, and is pushing for an international agreement on the issue.

In response to the tech tax, the U.S. threatened to slap 100% tariffs on \$2.4 billion of French products.

The two sides are at a tense truce as France has said it would delay collection of the digital tax until December, parking the issue until after the next U.S. presidential election where Trump hopes to secure another four-year term.

In a news conference on Wednesday, French government spokesman Gabriel Attal confirmed that a letter was sent by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian to LVMH and referred to international talks about U.S. tariffs as a "very important issue."

"The (French) government is neither naive nor passive. We have objectives that we want to reach," he said. He wouldn't further elaborate and said that Le Drian is expected to express his views on the issue in the coming hours.

CFO Jean Jacques Guiony of the LVMH insisted in a phone interview with reporters that the letter received Sept. 1 from the French government was legal and valid and left the group no choice.

"I don't think their objective is to please or not to please LVMH. They don't give a damn ...," he said. "The letter is legally valid, is legal. When you get such a legally binding and legally valid letter, you just apply it .... We will apply it."

Asked about lowering the price to keep the deal alive, he said that had not even been considered as there is no article in the contract that would allow that.

"The deal cannot take place ... we are prohibited from closing this transaction ... we have no choice."

As for the threatened lawsuit, the CFO said that he doesn't "see a way in between" the arguments the two sides could put forth — we don't do the deal on Nov. 24 and they saying that you have to do it anyway, he said.

"We'll see what happens."

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AP Writers Sylvie Corbet and Elaine Ganley in Paris contributed to this report.

## Vaccine by Nov. 3? Halted study explains just how unlikely

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 55 of 73

WASHINGTON (AP) — The suspension of a huge COVID-19 vaccine study over an illness in a single participant shows there will be “no compromises” on safety in the race to develop the shot, the chief of the National Institutes of Health told Congress on Wednesday.

AstraZeneca has put on hold studies of its vaccine candidate in the U.S. and other countries while it investigates whether a British volunteer’s illness is a side effect or a coincidence.

“This ought to be reassuring,” NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins said before a Senate committee. “When we say we are going to focus first on safety and make no compromises, here is Exhibit A of how that is happening in practice.”

Scientists have been scrambling to develop a vaccine against the coronavirus since the outbreak began, and the U.S. has launched the world’s largest studies — final-stage testing of three leading candidates, with three more trials set to come soon that will each recruit 30,000 test subjects.

Public health experts are worried that President Donald Trump will pressure the Food and Drug Administration to approve a vaccine before it is proven to be safe and effective, a concern senator after senator echoed on Wednesday.

“When it comes to a COVID-19 vaccine, we can’t allow President Trump to repeat his alarming pattern of putting politics ahead of science and public health,” said Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the committee’s ranking Democrat.

The U.S. has invested billions of dollars in efforts to quickly develop multiple vaccines against COVID-19. But public fears that a vaccine is unsafe or ineffective could be disastrous, derailing the effort to vaccinate millions of Americans.

Collins said the public needs to understand the process behind telling when any vaccine candidate is ready for widespread use — one that by design is keeping both manufacturers and politicians in the dark until the evidence gels.

About 150 COVID-19 infections in a study of 30,000 people should be enough to tell if that candidate really is working — and an independent group of experts, not the FDA, gets to do the counting.

## WHO MONITORS THE STUDIES?

Every vaccine trial is overseen by a “data and safety monitoring board,” or DSMB. These boards include scientists and statisticians who are experts in their fields but have no ties to either the government or the vaccine makers.

The top priority: watching for safety concerns, like the one that sparked a DSMB in Britain to pause AstraZeneca’s vaccinations and alert its U.S. counterpart.

But this is the group that also will decide when each vaccine is ready to be evaluated by regulators.

In each 30,000-person study, about half the participants are given the real vaccine and half get dummy shots, and neither they nor their doctors know which is which. Only the DSMB has the power to unlock the code of who got which shot and peek at how the volunteers are faring before a study is finished.

The FDA can’t even begin to consider approving a vaccine until the DSMB says the data is good enough for that debate, Collins stressed. Once that happens, the FDA has pledged to bring each candidate before a public vaccine advisory committee.

## DOING THE MATH

The FDA already has told manufacturers it won’t consider any vaccine that’s less than 50% effective.

Say one vaccine trial records that 150 volunteers have gotten sick. The DSMB finds that 100 had received dummy shots and 50 had received the real vaccine. The expert group might decide that’s a promising enough vaccine to stop the study early so that the FDA can debate its merits, even before getting final outcomes from all 30,000 volunteers, said Dr. Larry Corey of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute, who is overseeing the U.S. government’s vaccine studies.

On the other hand, if equal numbers from the vaccine and placebo groups got infected, the DSMB might declare a vaccine futile, he told The Associated Press. These panels also can calculate infections even before that 150 threshold is met, at set time points in each study.

“If your vaccine is at least 50% effective, you’re going to know it because you’re going to see a big

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 56 of 73

skewing" of infections, NIH's Collins told the Senate's health, education, labor and pensions committee. "You count those events and you know whether it worked or not."

## ANSWERS UNLIKELY BEFORE THE U.S. ELECTION

Getting the right math before November, as Trump has promised, is "incredibly unlikely," Corey said.

Collins expressed "cautious optimism" that one of the vaccines being tested will pan out by the end of the year but warned: "Certainly to try to predict whether it happens on a particular week before or after a particular date in early November is well beyond anything that any scientist right now could tell you."

And even if a study has a spate of infections large enough to prove the effectiveness question, the DSMB also must be comfortable that there's enough evidence of safety before opening the books to the FDA. Generally, the FDA is requiring safety data from at least 3,000 people, Surgeon General Jerome Adams told the Senate panel.

This process isn't new — Phase 3 studies of vaccines and therapies are always done this way, though rarely in so bright a spotlight.

## SUSPENDING A STUDY NOT THAT RARE

It's not uncommon for pauses in research to investigate whether an unexpected health complaint is really related to a vaccine or not, Collins told senators worried about what the AstraZeneca suspension means for the nation's year-end goal.

"The reason we're investing not in one but six different vaccines is because of the expectation that they won't all work," Collins said.

AstraZeneca gave no details on the illness, but Collins said it involved a "spinal cord problem." Earlier-stage studies hadn't revealed any serious side effects, but that's a key reason for doing ever-larger phases of research — to widen the search for any reactions.

Final testing of two other vaccines is continuing, one created by the NIH and manufactured by Moderna Inc., the other made by Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech. Those two vaccines work differently than AstraZeneca's, which was developed by Oxford University, and the studies already have recruited about two-thirds of the needed volunteers.

Several vaccine candidates made by Chinese companies are in late stages of testing in various countries, but with smaller numbers of volunteers. Most health authorities are skeptical about a claim of vaccine success by Russia, which has test results from just a few dozen people.

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## Big drop reported in vaping by US teenagers

By MIKE STOBBE and MATTHEW PERRONE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Vaping by U.S. teenagers fell dramatically this year, especially among middle schoolers, according to a federal report released Wednesday.

Experts think last year's outbreak of vaping related illnesses and deaths may have scared off some kids, but they believe other factors contributed to the drop, including higher age limits and flavor bans.

In a national survey, just under 20% of high school students and 5% of middle school students said they were recent users of electronic cigarettes and other vaping products. That marks a big decline from a similar survey last year that found about 28% of high school students and 11% of middle school students recently vaped.

The survey suggests that the number of school kids who vape fell by 1.8 million in a year, from 5.4 million to 3.6 million, officials said.

But even as teen use declined, the report shows a big bump in use of disposable e-cigarettes. The Food and Drug Administration earlier this year barred flavors from small vaping devices like Juul and others that are mainly used by minors. The policy did not apply to disposable e-cigarettes, which can still contain sweet, candylike flavors.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 57 of 73

"As long as any flavored e-cigarettes are left on the market, kids will get their hands on them and we will not solve this crisis," Matt Myers of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids said in a statement.

The national survey is conducted at schools each year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and usually involves about 20,000 middle and high school students. It asks students if they had used any vaping or traditional tobacco products in the previous month. The survey was cut short this year as schools closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Federal health officials believe measures like public health media campaigns, price increase and sales restrictions deserve credit for the vaping decline. The age limit for sales is now 21.

But they also acknowledge the outbreak probably played a part. The CDC's Brian King said sales started falling in August — when national media coverage of the outbreak intensified.

"It's possible that some of the heightened awareness could have influenced decline in use," said King.

By the time the outbreak was winding down early this year, more than 2,800 illnesses and 68 deaths had been reported. Most of those who got sick said they vaped solutions containing THC, the ingredient that produces a high in marijuana. CDC officials gradually focused their investigation on black market THC cartridges, and on a chemical compound called vitamin E acetate that had been added to illicit THC vaping liquids.

Kenneth Warner, a professor emeritus at the University of Michigan's school of public health, said the teen vaping drop was larger than expected.

"This does look like a very substantial decrease in a single year and it's very encouraging," said Warner, a tobacco control expert.

Among the likely factors, Warner noted the general negative publicity surrounding vaping. Additionally, Juul preemptively pulled all its vaping flavors except menthol and tobacco last fall ahead of federal action.

Warner and other researchers have tracked a recent decline in teen smoking to all-time lows — about 6% — even as vaping has increased. He said it will be critical to watch whether teen smoking begins rising again as fewer teens vape.

The new figures were disclosed on the same day that all U.S. vaping manufacturers faced a long-delayed deadline to submit their products for FDA review. Generally, that means the vaping companies must show that their products help smokers reduce or quit their use of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

E-cigarettes first appeared in the U.S. more than a decade ago and have grown in popularity with minimal federal regulation.

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Perrone contributed from Washington.

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## Teacher deaths raise alarms as new school year begins

By JIM SALTER and LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. (AP) — Teachers in at least three states have died after bouts with the coronavirus since the dawn of the new school year, and a teachers' union leader worries that the return to in-person classes will have a deadly impact across the U.S. if proper precautions aren't taken.

AshLee DeMarinis was just 34 when she died Sunday after three weeks in the hospital. She taught social skills and special education at John Evans Middle School in Potosi, Missouri, about 70 miles (115 kilometers) southwest of St. Louis.

A third-grade teacher died Monday in South Carolina, and two other educators died recently in Mississippi. It's unclear how many teachers in the U.S. have become ill with COVID-19 since the new school year began, but Mississippi alone has reported 604 cases among school teachers and staff.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, said schools need guidelines such as mandatory face coverings and strict social distancing rules to reopen safely.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 58 of 73

"If community spread is too high as it is in Missouri and Mississippi, if you don't have the infrastructure of testing, and if you don't have the safeguards that prevent the spread of viruses in the school, we believe that you cannot reopen in person," Weingarten said.

Johnny Dunlap, a 39-year-old drama and forensics teacher at Dodge City High School in Kansas, said he considered quitting before the district made masks mandatory for teachers and students. Still, his history of bladder cancer and high blood pressure have left him with some angst about being around so many people. Existing health conditions can put people at higher risk for severe illness and death from the virus.

"I'm at a high school with close to 2,000 students so it kind of runs against the advice we have been given for half a year now," Dunlap said.

The early phase of the pandemic claimed the lives of dozens of teachers. The New York City Department of Education alone lost 31 teachers among 75 employees whose deaths were blamed on the coronavirus.

Across the U.S., the American Federation of Teachers lists 210 union members who have died. The list includes support staff and retirees as well as teachers.

The start of the new school year brought with it new fatalities.

In Oxford, Mississippi, 42-year-old Nacoma James taught at a middle school and helped coach high school football. He died Aug. 6 during the first week of classes, but was self-quarantining when teachers and students returned to the classroom, said Lafayette County School District Superintendent Adam Pugh.

Pugh recalled that James was a seventh-grade student when he began teaching 30 years ago.

"It was a hard punch to my stomach, when I heard," Pugh said.

James worked with football players during summer workouts, but an investigation found no new cases linked to him, Pugh said.

Another Mississippi teacher died Sunday. History teacher Tom Slade recently posted on Facebook about his battle with pneumonia caused by the coronavirus.

Slade was teaching in-person when the academic year started on Aug. 6, Principal Raina Holmes said, but began quarantining after he had contact with someone who was positive at a church meeting. His last day of teaching was Aug. 21.

Slade was known for jokingly using a judge's gavel to quiet noisy students.

"He always brought humor into his classroom and his students loved that part about him," said Holmes.

In South Carolina, Demetria "Demi" Bannister, 28, died three days after being diagnosed with COVID-19, her school district said in a news release Wednesday. Bannister taught third grade in Columbia.

The district said Bannister was at Windsor Elementary School on Aug. 28 for a teacher work day, before classes resumed.

In Potosi, in-person classes started Aug. 24. DeMarinis was already hospitalized by then but had been in the school preparing for the year a couple of weeks earlier, her sister, Jennifer Heissenbuttel said.

Superintendent Alex McCaul said contact tracing determined she had no close contact with any teachers, students or staff.

DeMarinis grew up near New York but developed a passion for her rural school and Potosi, a town of 2,600 residents, Heissenbuttel said.

DeMarinis had wanted to teach special education since she was a child, when a special education teacher helped her overcome mild dyslexia.

"She had the patience of a saint. She was really meant for it," Heissenbuttel said. "The kids loved her. She touched so many lives."

DeMarinis had asthma, which can put someone more at risk from severe illness from COVID-19. She began feeling poorly around mid-August, Heissenbuttel said. After developing fever and shortness of breath, she was tested for the coronavirus and was soon hospitalized.

It's unclear where DeMarinis picked up the virus.

Heissenbuttel is a nurse who works in a New York area hospital's intensive care unit. Somehow, she managed to avoid the illness that her sister couldn't.

"I thought it would be me, not her," Heissenbuttel said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 59 of 73

Willingham reported from Jackson, Mississippi. AP reporters Roxana Hegeman in Belle Plaine, Kansas, and Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, S.C., and AP researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

## Oscars diversity criteria 'not about exclusion' say leaders

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Any change to the Oscars is going to get people talking, so the leaders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences were not exactly surprised that the new best picture inclusion standards became a trending topic on social media as soon as they were announced Tuesday night.

"Change doesn't come without some variation of views," said Paramount Pictures CEO Jim Gianopulos, who co-headed the task force behind the criteria with film producer DeVon Franklin. "Nothing is absolutely perfect, but this is a very progressive effort to make change."

Starting with the 96th Academy Awards in 2024, best picture nominees will have to meet specific requirements addressing gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity and disability in front of and behind the camera in order to qualify. Films must comply with two of four broad representation categories: On screen; among the crew; at the studio; and in opportunities for training and advancement.

Some said they went too far and accused the new rules of inhibiting art and artists with quotas. Others, like Stacy L. Smith, director of the University of Southern California's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, said they didn't go far enough.

Smith said she could find few Oscar nominees from the past 20 years that didn't already meet the new standards.

"I want to commend them for trying and for putting together a criteria because we know criteria is a way to counter bias," said Smith. "But we're not seeing anything that will push conversation forward. They're not aspirational in any way."

The Academy leadership team believes the reforms will inspire change, though.

"This is about broadening the definition of excellence. This is about inclusion," Franklin said. "This is not about exclusion."

The Oscars, and the films and people that get nominated, have been long used as an indication of the lack of diversity in Hollywood. Five years ago, the film academy endeavored to significantly diversify its own membership. It is now embarking on a new five-year plan, Aperture 2025, to address deeper inequities in the business. The best picture adjustment is just one of the effort. Others include implementing a set 10 best picture nominees starting at the 94th Oscars and mandatory unconscious bias training for academy members.

The best picture standards were specifically designed to be flexible and "give latitude" to filmmakers.

"We feel like they give filmmakers and studios an opportunity to make the movie they want to make and have flexibility in how these standards ultimately get applied," Franklin said.

Academy President David Rubin added that the academy's board of governors, which includes Whoopi Goldberg, filmmaker Ava DuVernay, producer Lynette Howell Taylor and executive David Linde, "understands that creative freedom for filmmakers is essential."

Gianopulos said that they were also mindful of films like Sam Mendes' World War I film "1917," which by the nature of its story focused mostly on white men and thus wouldn't meet the first criteria that addresses diversity in front of the camera.

"That's why there are four criteria," he said. "If a particular film doesn't lend itself to people in front of the camera in terms of representation, then there are three other categories in which progress can be made."

One of those categories is at the studio level, which requires "multiple in-house senior executives in marketing, publicity and/or distribution" to be from an underrepresented group. This was directly inspired by an experience Gianopulos had with one of his films.

"We made a film with a very prominent African American filmmaker that was made for the African American audience and he came to the marketing meeting and stared at a bunch of white faces," he said. "That tells you everything you need to know."

The academy's diversity and inclusion standards were inspired by similar efforts by the British Film In-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 60 of 73

stitute, which have been a requirement for most public funding in the U.K. since 2014. But a recent report said that even that has not yet improved racial inequality.

The film academy plans to gather and analyze data over the next few years from confidential surveys to ensure that the standards are defined properly.

"It isn't just about meeting the minimum requirements. It's how do we change the intentions in the industry and in filmmaking," said academy CEO Dawn Hudson. "We want success across the industry."

AP Film Writer Jake Coyle contributed from New York.

## Trump raises \$210 million, robust but well short of Biden

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump and his Republican Party jointly raised \$210 million in August, a robust sum but one dwarfed by the record \$364.5 million raised by Democrats and their nominee, Joe Biden.

Trump's campaign released its figure Wednesday, several days later than usual and nearly a week after the Biden campaign unveiled its total, the highest for any one month during a presidential campaign. The president's reelection team said it brought in more money during its party's convention than the Democrats did in theirs, and officials insisted they "will have all the resources we need" ahead of November.

"Both campaigns are raising massive amounts of money but have very different priorities about how to spend it," said Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien.

"In addition to advertising, President Trump's campaign has invested heavily in a muscular field operation and ground game that will turn out our voters, while the Biden campaign is waging almost exclusively an air war. We like our strategy better."

But the noticeable fundraising gap between the two candidates was certain to further rattle Republicans already nervous about Biden's advantage over Trump in some battleground states that could decide the election. And whispers about a financial disadvantage led Trump himself this week to suggest he may put some of his own fortune into the race.

Biden's August total spoke to the enthusiasm among Democrats to oust Trump from office. The flood of new contributions came from grass-roots supporters as well as deep-pocketed donors, and should alleviate any lingering concern over whether Democrats will be able to inundate the airwaves in key states.

The Trump campaign, however, faces questions about how it has managed to lose a massive financial advantage. Announcing for reelection the day of his inauguration in 2017, which allowed him to begin raising money right away, Trump built an enormous war chest early on that advisers believed put him at a big advantage over the eventual Democratic nominee.

Trump's reelection effort, including the Republican National Committee, has spent more than \$800 million so far, while Biden and the Democrats have spent about \$414 million through July, according to campaign spending reports. But Trump's team has also gone dark on the airwaves for stretches as the general election has heated up, raising questions as to whether it was short on cash.

Trump campaign officials have kicked off a review of expenditures, including those authorized by former campaign manager Brad Parscale, who was demoted this summer. Some of his decisions have raised eyebrows, including a \$100 million blitz earlier this year before voters were largely paying attention, though that plan was defended by Trump in a tweet Tuesday.

Parscale also had a car and driver, unusual perks for a campaign manager, and his spending was the subject of an ad campaign by the Lincoln Project, a group of current and former Republicans looking to defeat Trump. The ad imagined a glitzy Parscale lifestyle full of luxury cars and a tony condo in Florida.

The ad infuriated Trump, who has long been sensitive to the perception that others are enriching themselves on his name. And many in the campaign, who largely liked Parscale, grumbled that he rarely showed in the suburban Virginia campaign headquarters, instead frequently calling in from his home in Ft. Lauderdale.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 61 of 73

Some of the campaign's expenditures clearly were designed with the president in mind, including a series of cable buys solely in Washington, a Democratic stronghold yet a TV market personally viewed by Trump, a voracious consumer of television news.

Moreover, the campaign dropped millions on a swaggering World Series ad as well as two on Super Bowl game day intended to match former Democratic candidate Michael Bloomberg's \$10 million spending that day that totaled more than Trump's combined advertising in Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota.

Parscale had been a favorite of Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law perceived to be the de facto campaign manager. But Kushner soured on Parscale since the debacle of Trump's intended comeback rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this summer and the president has complained to advisers that the campaign squandered its massive fundraising advantage, according to two campaign officials not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

But even Parscale's internal critics give him credit for helping the Trump campaign construct an unparalleled Republican operation to attract small donors online. Parscale, who did not respond to a request for comment, directed a major investment in digital ads and list-building that appears to have largely paid for itself.

Stepien, who replaced Parscale as campaign manager in July, says he is "carefully managing the budget." He also says the team's advertising will be "nimble," and include a TV spree in early voting states as well as an urban radio campaign in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida that will contrast Trump's record for Black voters with Biden's. That campaign will be aimed just as much at suburban white listeners.

"We have much more money than we had last time going into the last two months. But if we needed any more, I'd put it up," Trump said Tuesday, vowing to open his wallet. "If I have to, I would."

Campaign officials, however, privately acknowledge that it is unlikely Trump will spend much of his own money, something he resisted doing during the general election four years ago.

Perhaps in an effort to bury disappointing news, the campaign released its numbers Wednesday just a short time after the release of explosive excerpts from Bob Woodward's book in which Trump acknowledges knowingly downplaying the severity of the coronavirus pandemic to the American public.

In August, as the president's campaign held a busy calendar of events, he upped his fundraising haul from \$72 million in July. Biden's campaign raised \$49 million in July, and Democratic officials attributed the eye-popping amount raised in August to antipathy toward Trump, the selection of California Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate and a convention that showcased the nominee's empathy.

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## What slowdown? Amazon seeks to hire 33,000 people

By JOSEPH PISANI AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is on a hiring spree.

In the latest sign of how it's prospering while others are faltering during the pandemic, Amazon said Wednesday it is seeking to bring aboard 33,000 people for corporate and tech roles in the next few months.

It's the largest number of job openings it's had at one time, and the Seattle-based online behemoth said the hiring is not related to the jobs it typically offers ahead of the busy holiday shopping season.

Amazon can afford to grow its workforce: It is one of the few companies that has thrived during the coronavirus outbreak. People have turned to it to order groceries, supplies and other items online, helping the company bring in record revenue and profits between April and June. That came even though it had to spend \$4 billion on cleaning supplies and to pay workers overtime and bonuses.

Demand has been so high, Amazon has struggled to deliver items as fast as it normally does and had to hire 175,000 more people to help pack and ship orders in its warehouses. Walmart and Target have also seen sales soar during the pandemic.

But other retailers have had a rougher time. J.C. Penney, J.Crew and Brooks Brothers have all gone



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 62 of 73

bankrupt. And Lord & Taylor, which has been in business for nearly 200 years, recently said it will be closing its stores for good. Companies across other industries have announced buyouts or layoffs, including Coca-Cola and American Airlines.

In August, the U.S. unemployment rate fell to 8.4% from 10.2% the month before, but hiring growth slowed, with the country adding 1.4 million jobs last month compared to 1.7 million in July.

Others are hiring, too. UPS said Wednesday that it plans to bring in 100,000 people to help it deliver packages during the busy holiday season, which is about the same amount of people it hired last year.

Amazon said its corporate and tech jobs, whose average pay is \$150,000 a year, will be centered around Amazon's offices across the country, including Denver, New York, Phoenix and its hometown of Seattle. The new hires will work from home at first, but the company said it does want employees to return to the office eventually.

Ardine Williams, Amazon's vice president of workforce development, said plans to build a second headquarters near Washington, D.C., are going as planned, despite the pandemic, with 1,000 workers already hired.

To fill the 33,000 jobs, Amazon said will hold an online career fair Sept. 16 to collect resumes and give people a chance talk to a recruiter. Those not interested in a job at Amazon can also get resume help, the company said.

Jane Oates, president of the nonprofit WorkingNation and a former assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor, said that Amazon is different from other companies in that it's thinking about its future workforce. For example, it announced a program last year to retrain 100,000 of its workers for tech jobs by 2025.

"They're not only looking for the jobs that need to be done today, they're also looking at what's next," she said.

At an in-person Amazon career fair last year, about 17,000 people showed up and the company said it received more than 200,000 applications for 30,000 jobs.

In July, the company said its workforce topped 1 million worldwide for the first time, making it the second-biggest U.S.-based private employer behind Walmart Inc.

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Follow Joseph Pisani at <http://twitter.com/josephpisani>

## Norwegian lawmaker nominates Trump for Nobel Peace Prize

By JAN M. OLSEN Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — An anti-immigrant Norwegian lawmaker said Wednesday that he has nominated U.S. President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in the Middle East.

Christian Tybring-Gjedde, a member of the Norwegian parliament for the populist Progress Party, said Trump should be considered because of his work "for a peace agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Israel which opens up for possible peace in the Middle East."

Israel and the United Arab Emirates agreed last month to a historic deal normalizing relations and are scheduled to sign it at the White House on Sept. 15.

"No matter how Trump acts at home and what he says at press conferences, he has absolutely a chance at getting the Nobel Peace Prize," Tybring-Gjedde, told The Associated Press.

He said he nominated Trump on Wednesday for the 2021 prize, adding that "Donald Trump meets the criteria."

Nominations must be sent to the Norwegian Nobel Committee by Feb. 1, meaning the deadline to nominate people for this year's peace prize has passed.

Nominations can be made by a select group of people and organizations, including national lawmakers, heads of state and certain international institutions. In 2020, the committee received 318 nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize, of which 211 are individuals and 107 are organizations.

Tybring-Gjedde was one of two Norwegian lawmakers who nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 63 of 73

in 2018 for efforts to bring reconciliation between North and South Korea. Any lawmaker serving in a national legislature can nominate someone for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Former U.S. President Barack Obama was awarded the prize in 2009 only months into his first term, a move many felt was premature. The Norwegian committee said it honored Obama for his commitment to "seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."

Last year, Trump predicted he would win the Nobel Prize "for a lot of things if they gave it out fairly, which they don't."

The Norwegian Nobel Committee doesn't publicly comment on nominees. Under its rules, the information is required to be kept secret for 50 years.

Tybring-Gjedde has been a member of the Storting, the Norwegian parliament, since 2005. He is known for being pro-Israel and for opposing immigration policies that he thinks have been too welcoming.

The lawmaker has often demanded that immigrants adjust to Norwegian society. He called Muslim headscarves an "Islamic uniform" and compared them to robes worn by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 2006, he nominated Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Dutch-American activist, writer and politician critical of Islam, for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The process of considering candidates and awarding the Nobel Peace Prize is done in Norway, in contrast to the other Nobel Prizes, which are awarded in neighboring Sweden.

## **UN report: Increased warming closing in on agreed upon limit**

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

The world is getting closer to passing a temperature limit set by global leaders five years ago and may exceed it in the next decade or so, according to a new United Nations report.

In the next five years, the world has nearly a 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a year that's hot enough to put the global temperature at 2.7 degrees (1.5 degrees Celsius) above pre-industrial times, according to a new science update released Wednesday by the U.N., World Meteorological Organization and other global science groups.

That 1.5 degrees Celsius is the more stringent of two limits set in 2015 by world leaders in the Paris climate change agreement. A 2018 U.N. science report said a world hotter than that still survives, but chances of dangerous problems increase tremendously.

The report comes on the heels of a weekend of weather gone wild around the U.S.: Scorching heat, record California wildfires and two more Atlantic storms that set records for earliest 16th and 17th named storms.

Earlier this year, Death Valley hit 130 degrees (54.4 degrees Celsius) and Siberia hit 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius).

The warming that has already occurred has "increased the odds of extreme events that are unprecedented in our historical experience," Stanford University climate scientist Noah Diffenbaugh said.

For example, historical global warming has increased the odds of record-setting hot extremes at more than 80% of the globe, and has "doubled or even tripled the odds over the region of California and the western U.S. that has experienced record-setting heat in recent weeks," Diffenbaugh added.

The world already has warmed nearly 2 degrees (1.1 degrees Celsius) since the late 1800s, and the last five years are hotter than the previous five years, the report said. The speed-up could be temporary, or it might not be. There's both man-made warming and natural warming from a strong El Nino weather pattern in the past five years, said World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

"The probability of 1.5 degrees (Celsius) is growing year by year," Taalas told The Associated Press. "It's very likely to happen in the next decade if we don't change our behavior."

That's potentially faster than what a 2018 U.N. report found: that the world was likely to hit 1.5 degrees sometime between 2030 and 2052.

Breakthrough Institute climate scientist Zeke Hausfather, who wasn't part of the new report, said the document was a good update of what scientists already know. It is "abundantly clear that rapid climate change is continuing and the world is far from on track" toward meeting the Paris climate goals, he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 64 of 73

Some countries, including the U.S. and many in Europe, are reducing emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide, but Taalas said the world is on a path that will be 5.4 degrees (3 degrees Celsius) warmer compared with the late 19th century. That would be above the Paris accord's less stringent 2-degree Celsius target.

The latest report was the U.N.'s annual update on "climate disruption" caused by the burning of coal, oil and gas. It highlighted more than just increasing temperatures and rising sea levels.

"Record heat, ice loss, wildfires, floods and droughts continue to worsen, affecting communities, nations and economies around the world," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres wrote in a foreword.

Guterres said big polluting countries, like China, the United States and India, need to become carbon neutral, adding no heat-trapping gas to the atmosphere, by 2050.

If they don't, "all the effort will not be enough," Guterres said at a press conference Wednesday.

The report spotlights unprecedented wildfires in the Amazon, the Arctic and Australia. California is fighting record wildfires as the report was issued.

"Drought and heat waves substantially increased the risk of wildfires," the report said. "The three largest economic losses on record from wildfires have all occurred in the last four years."

Taalas said these type of climate disasters will continue at least through the 2060s because of the heat-trapping gases already in the air.

Carbon dioxide emissions will be down 4% to 7% this year because of reduced travel and industrial activities during the coronavirus pandemic, but the heat-trapping gas stays in the air for a century so the levels in the atmosphere continue to go up, Taalas said. And, he said, so will the warming.

So far, this year is the second hottest on record and has a 37% chance of surpassing the global record set in 2016, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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AP journalist Edith Lederer contributed to this report.

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Follow AP's climate coverage here. Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears \_\_\_\_

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## Lives Lost: Beloved aunt would ask: 'Where's the party at?'

By PETER PRENGAMAN Associated Press

For family and friends, Lydia Nunez always had jokes, hugs and lots of love.

She was the "glue" that brought people together, the one who remembered birthdays, spoiled her nieces and nephews and brought a spark to any room she entered. "Where's the party at?" was one of her favorite phrases.

So when she died at 34 from the coronavirus, her devastated older sister, Erika Banks, went shopping, just as they used to. For Nunez to wear in her white casket, Banks bought a red dress at Macy's; a wig, so Nunez's hair would be long, as it had been before she cut it; and a favorite lipstick, Ruby Woo.

Getting everything perfect for her baby sister gave Banks one last chance to take care of somebody who had always lifted the spirits of others despite battling her own health problems.

"I wanted her to be the standout, to be the pop of color" at the funeral, said Banks, 41. "I wanted her to look amazing, to look her age, to look as fabulous as she was."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of an ongoing series of stories remembering people who have died from the coronavirus around the world.

Banks had always wanted a younger sibling. Despite a 6-year age gap, she and Nunez grew up very close. They took turns sharing the television, as they liked different shows, and hung out with other children in their Los Angeles neighborhood.

At age 8, Nunez was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. While managing it meant she had to do things differently from her friends - such as frequently pricking herself to check her blood sugar - she didn't let it define her. One of her biggest worries in elementary school was making sure other kids knew they

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 65 of 73

couldn't "get" diabetes from her.

Perhaps it was that self-awareness that helped her see others.

Nunez's mother, Lorraine Nunez, remembers how her daughter, while in high school, once asked for extra money to throw a surprise birthday party for a classmate who wasn't going to have a celebration because his parents were divorced.

"Everybody loved Lydia," said Lorraine Nunez.

When Banks married and had her first child at 22, Nunez, then 16, embraced being an aunt. After school, she would come home, do her homework and then take care of the baby boy, Jesse, so that Banks, then in nursing school, could study.

When some years later Banks and her husband moved to their own place, Nunez would come over and spend the weekends. As Banks had more children and they grew up — today there are four between ages 12 and 18 — "auntie," as they called Nunez, helped raise them and enjoyed spoiling them.

Sometimes that would come in the form of funny gifts, like a Disney bikini for a niece when she was only three months old, and other times, as the kids got older, she would periodically slip them cash, an auntie "allowance" of sorts.

More than anything material, she was always there for her two nieces and two nephews, whose names she tattooed on her left arm (her sister and some cousins were tattooed on her right).

Eris Banks, 12, recalled how her aunt would come over on New Year's Eve, the day before Eris' Jan. 1 birthday, and play board games because Eris didn't like to go out and see fireworks.

"She would listen to you, whatever you had to say," said Eris Banks. "I would tell her about my mom, and she was always on my mom's side, would always say mom was right."

Nunez loved to dance and cook and was always ready to help get celebrations going. A quick wit often had people laughing.

"Stop telling all my business, woman!" was something she would tell her mother at family gatherings.

After finishing high school, Nunez wanted to become a social worker and began classes at a community college. She also slimmed down, getting into Zumba classes and closely managing her diet. But in her early 20s, she was diagnosed with gastroparesis, a condition in which the stomach doesn't properly process foods.

Over the next 10 years, she would suffer a constant cycle of stomach pains, medicines, surgeries and hospitalizations. Things would improve and then something would trigger another wave. Once, after Nunez vomited all over the couch and living room floor in the middle of the night, she woke her mother up. Writhing with stomach pain, she lamented that she had become a "burden."

"God gave you to us. I'll never get tired," Nunez' mom recalled telling her daughter. "I know sometimes you wake us up in the middle of the night. It's OK. I want you to come to me and dad first. You are a part of both of us."

Early this year, before the coronavirus took hold in the U.S., Nunez was enjoying a long spell of good health. Things were going so well that she went on a vacation to Oregon with her mother, her sister and Jesse. When they returned from the trip in mid-February, cases of coronavirus were beginning to emerge in the U.S. The family took every precaution, knowing that Nunez was fragile.

On May 23, the fear the family carried for months about Nunez came true: she got sick again, this time rupturing an intestine that required a major surgery. There was no way to keep her at home, no way to keep her from hospitals where people were being treated for coronavirus.

After surgery, she steadily recovered, until late June, when she was diagnosed with the virus. She died July 5. The family wonders if they could have done something differently, but mostly they just miss Nunez.

"I don't even know how to tell people that I only have one child now," said Lorraine Nunez, who spends some time sitting in her daughter's room, holding a favorite headscarf to feel closer. "At some point in the day, I have to cry."



## **GOP proposes 'targeted' virus aid, but Dems say not enough**

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate prepared to vote this week on a trimmed-down Republican coronavirus relief package, though it only has a slim chance of passage in the face of Democrats' insistence for more sweeping aid.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell released the approximately \$500 billion measure on Tuesday as senators returned to Washington for an abbreviated pre-election session, but hopes were dimming for another coronavirus relief bill — or much else.

Republicans struggling to retain their Senate majority this fall have been divided, with some GOP senators in close races anxious to respond further to the pandemic, even as conservatives are tiring of all the spending and passing legislation in concert with liberal House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

McConnell called the package "a targeted proposal that focuses on several of the most urgent aspects of this crisis, the issues where bipartisanship should be especially possible." They included school aid, new money for vaccines and testing, and a second round of the popular Paycheck Protection Program for smaller businesses.

Democrats demanded a far larger bill, including hundreds of billions of dollars for state and local governments, more generous jobless benefits, and help for renters and homeowners, along with other provisions in the House Democrats' \$3.5 trillion relief bill that passed in May.

"Get real, Mitch McConnell," Pelosi said during a Bloomberg interview. "It's only a 'check the box' so that some of his endangered Republican senators can go home and say, 'Well, see, I tried.' But it isn't trying. It is not even an attempt to do the right thing."

Republican senators such as Susan Collins of Maine are eager to show constituents they are continuing to work to ease the pandemic's disastrous impact on jobs, businesses and health. But many Senate Republicans are resisting more spending, and the scaled-back bill is roughly half the size of a measure McConnell unveiled earlier this summer.

McConnell's move Tuesday would clear the way for a Thursday test vote in which Democrats were sure to block the legislation. Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a statement that the bill "doesn't come close to addressing the problems and is headed nowhere."

McConnell's bill would provide \$105 billion to help schools reopen, enact a shield against lawsuits for businesses and others that are powering ahead to reopen, create a scaled-back \$300-per-week supplemental jobless benefit, and write off \$10 billion in earlier debt at the U.S. Postal Service. There's \$31 billion for a coronavirus vaccine, \$16 billion for virus testing and \$15 billion to help child care providers reopen. There is additionally \$20 billion for farmers.

The package will also include a school choice initiative sought by Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz and others that would provide a tax break, for two years, for people who donate to nonprofit organizations offering private school scholarships.

It would also provide for a \$258 billion second round of paycheck protection subsidies.

But it won't contain another round of \$1,200 direct payments going out under President Donald Trump's name and the new \$300 weekly jobless benefit would expire just after Christmas, on Dec. 27. The GOP bill also lacks funding for election security that lawmakers from both parties have supported.

At least one Republican, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, said Tuesday he would oppose the bill, refusing new spending that piles on debt. It's a sign of the troubles McConnell has faced in crafting a bill his own party would support.

Pelosi, D-Calif., continues to demand a package totaling \$2.2 trillion, and while Trump's negotiators have signaled a willingness to inch further in her direction, a significant gap remains.

Talks between top Democrats and the Trump administration broke off last month and remain off track, with the bipartisan unity that drove almost \$3 trillion in COVID-19 rescue legislation into law this spring replaced by toxic partisanship and a return to Washington dysfunction.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 67 of 73

Expectations in July and August that a fifth bipartisan pandemic response bill would eventually be birthed despite increased obstacles has been replaced by genuine pessimism. Recent COVID-related conversations among key players have led to nothing.

Democrats seem secure in their political position, with Trump and several Senate GOP incumbents lagging in the polls. Trump is seeking to sideline the pandemic as a campaign issue, and Republicans aren't interested in a deal on Democratic terms — even as needs like school aid enjoy widespread support.

Poisonous relationships among key leaders like Pelosi and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows give little reason for confidence about overcoming obstacles on the cost, scope and details of a potential relief bill. Pelosi recently referred to Meadows as "whatever his name is," while the Meadows-run White House during a press briefing ran a video loop of Pelosi's controversial visit to a San Francisco hair salon.

The relationship between Pelosi and her preferred negotiating partner, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, is civil but isn't generating much in the way of results, other than a promise to avoid a government shutdown at the end of the month by keeping a government-wide temporary spending bill free of controversy. That measure is likely to keep the government running into December. It's likely to contain a bunch of lower-profile steps, such as an extension of the federal flood insurance program and a temporary reauthorization of spending from the highway trust fund.

But if talks continue to falter, there's little to keep lawmakers in Washington long, particularly with the election fast approaching.

One Republican in leadership, Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, said he was "disappointed" they had not reached agreement sooner. "On all of this money, the longer we wait the less effective it is, whether it's money for elections — which particularly have one day that's the target — or money for back to school," said Blunt.

The Senate returned Tuesday to resume its diet of judicial and administration nominations. The House doesn't come back until Sept. 14 for a schedule laden with lower-profile measures such as clean-energy legislation and a bill to decriminalize marijuana. Some Democrats are expected to continue to take advantage of remote voting and may not return to Washington at all.

This story has been corrected to show the May virus legislation total was \$3.5 trillion, not billion.

## **Jimmie Johnson teams with Ganassi on 2-year IndyCar program**

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Jimmie Johnson will transition from NASCAR to IndyCar with Chip Ganassi Racing in a partnership that could pair two of the most dominant drivers of this generation on one team.

The seven-time NASCAR champion will work with the Ganassi organization to finalize sponsorship on a two-year program for Johnson to run the road and street course races on IndyCar's schedule. If funding is secured, Johnson would be teammates with five-time IndyCar champion Scott Dixon.

The partnership announced Wednesday would also leave room for Johnson to compete in select NASCAR events because Ganassi fields only two cars in the Cup Series. Johnson has spent his entire 20-year Cup career driving for Hendrick Motorsports, which is currently at the four-car maximum and would not have room for Johnson after he retires from full-time NASCAR competition in November.

Johnson, who turns 45 next week, tested an Indy car at Indianapolis Motor Speedway with Ganassi in July.

"Ganassi was highly motivated to give me a chance to drive a car to see what I thought and the experience was all that I hoped for and more," Johnson told The Associated Press. "I left a good impression with them where there's definitely interest on their side and now it's time to formalize things and get the ball rolling."

Landing sponsorship is critical to the deal and Johnson said his personal team has had productive conversations with potential partners as his interest in IndyCar has increased. He's had only two primary sponsors — Lowe's from 2001 through 2018 and Ally the last two seasons — and prefers consistent branding.

Now Johnson will attempt to fill his 2021 schedule with approximately 15 events. IndyCar's original 2020 schedule consisted of 12 road and street course events before the pandemic forced cancellations.

"We have some options that are interested in taking those primary rights for all 12 races, but there could

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 68 of 73

be a scenario where you break it off into three-to-four race blocs for sponsors in areas that are most important for them," Johnson said. "But our goal is definitely to sell the primary spot to one and have that consistent look that I've had throughout my career. I personally would love to continue that."

## SEVEN-TIME AND THE ICEMAN

Johnson and Dixon are the winningest drivers of their generations in their respective formulas. Johnson's 83 wins are tied for sixth all-time in NASCAR and the seven titles are a record he shares with Hall of Famers Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt.

Dixon last month earned his 50th career victory, third all-time behind A.J. Foyt (67) and Mario Andretti (52). His five titles trail only Foyt's seven, and he's got a 96-point lead in the current championship chase. Dixon is the most tenured driver in Ganassi's 30-year history at 19 years.

Johnson has developed an off-track friendship with both Dixon and former Ganassi driver Dario Franchitti, who is now a driver coach for the organization. Both were instrumental in piquing Johnson's interest in IndyCar and Dixon assisted Johnson at the July test.

"The pairing is such a cool opportunity," Johnson said.

## WHY GANASSI

Johnson said he had discussions with several interested IndyCar organizations, including Arrow McLaren SP. His first test had originally been scheduled with the McLaren team in April but was canceled because of the pandemic.

Ganassi put together an initial test for early July that Johnson had to cancel when he tested positive for COVID-19 but the organization got him on the track three weeks later. Once convinced he wanted to race in 2021 there were several interested organizations but the Ganassi partnership was the one Johnson pursued.

"To pair Jimmie with the likes of Scott Dixon is quite an opportunity. They are truly in rarified air and I think everyone knows by now that I like winners," Ganassi said. "The goal right now is for us to run Jimmie in an Indy car for at least the next couple of seasons, and we want to show people we're serious about the program. We felt it was important to get the partnership done and start putting the financial building blocks in place to make this a reality."

Ganassi has taken risks before; he brought Juan Pablo Montoya back from Formula One to NASCAR in 2006, and Franchitti tried NASCAR in 2008 during a one-season break from IndyCar.

## WHAT ABOUT NASCAR

Johnson is open to adding both marquee NASCAR races and sports car events to his schedule as he aims for 15 events a year. He said the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway could be an easy sell because of the sponsorship opportunities on the throwback paint scheme weekend, as well as road course races and superspeedways.

"There's a lot of hurdles to clear, but I'm open," Johnson said.

## BYE-BYE BOWTIE

Ganassi is backed by Honda in IndyCar so it will bring a temporary end to Johnson's long relationship with Chevrolet.

Johnson has been supported by Chevrolet nearly his entire career and has never competed on the national level for another manufacturer. Chevrolet and Honda are direct competitors in IndyCar; Honda does not participate in NASCAR.

"I did have to make that call to my friends at Chevrolet and they completely get it," Johnson said. "Chip runs a Chevy NASCAR program and has won a championship for them in IndyCar, and you know, it's not ideal but they understand the opportunity and hopefully there's ways we can still race together."

## 'It's going horribly': College towns fret about census count

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Betsy Landin was listed by her parents on the 2020 census as living at her family's home in Phoenix when she really should have been counted in the college town of Tempe, where she

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 69 of 73

studies finance at Arizona State University.

Also missing from Tempe's tally was Arizona State political science major Betzabel Ayala, whose mother counted her on the family's census form in Phoenix because she was living at home after coronavirus lockdowns led to a nationwide exodus from college towns last spring.

In yet another example of the widespread disruption caused by the global outbreak, hundreds of thousands of U.S. college students who normally live off campus in non-university housing are being counted for the 2020 census at their parents' homes or other locations when they were supposed to be counted where they go to school.

The confusion has enormous implications for college towns, which may face severe shortfalls in federal dollars and a dilution of political power.

"We really didn't have any instruction or guidance at school about how to fill out the census," Landin said.

No easy solution has presented itself. The Census Bureau sought the help of college administrators in getting rosters for off-campus students who left town, but only half of the schools cooperated. Many universities were reluctant to participate because of privacy concerns and because off-campus students at many schools are not obligated to provide information about where they live.

And a significant chunk of the information provided by the schools is missing important information, such as birthdates, according to a report last month by the bureau's watchdog agency.

From Tempe to places like Bloomington, Indiana, and Gainesville, Florida, the looming undercount could harm college towns across the country. In some places with major universities, students make up as much as three-quarters of the population.

"The potential undercount of students during this pandemic will have negative financial impacts for the city for years," said Ken Jones, Tempe's deputy city manager and chief financial officer.

The timing for counting off-campus students couldn't have been worse: Not long after the 2020 census began for most people in March, much of the U.S. went into lockdown to stop the spread of the coronavirus, and many schools switched to online classes, leading to an exodus from college towns.

The Census Bureau says college students should be counted where they would have been on April 1 — at school — if not for the outbreak.

The undercount problem involves only students living off campus in non-university housing; the Census Bureau relies on records supplied by colleges to count students living in dorms or university apartments.

Still, off-campus students make up about 4 million of the 19 million college students in the U.S., according to Dudley Poston, a demographer at Texas A&M University.

"College students overwhelm the demography of places with large universities," Poston said. "This could be a costly setback for university towns."

In State College, Pennsylvania, home to Penn State University, the percentage of students who answered the 2020 census either online, by mail or by phone in a downtown neighborhood populated with apartments for thousands of off-campus students was 25%, compared with 60% during the 2010 census, said Douglas Shontz, a city spokesman.

"It's going horribly," Shontz said.

With less than a month left until the census ends, the city has placed signs and banners all over downtown State College, encouraging students to answer the questionnaire that helps determine the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending and how many congressional seats each state gets.

The city also spent \$5,000 mailing out postcard reminders about the census to students who returned for the fall semester to off-campus apartments or fraternity and sorority houses.

"We are kind of begging at this point for students to do the right thing," Shontz said.

In Athens, Ohio, home to Ohio University, the mayor estimates each student missed accounts for at least \$1,400 a year in lost funding for the community. If last spring's graduating class of 3,500 students isn't counted, that could translate into \$49 million in lost federal funding over the decade, said Mayor Steve Patterson.

The question of where to count off-campus college students in any once-a-decade census can be confusing enough, with parents often incorrectly thinking their college-age children should be tallied with them



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 70 of 73

when they should be counted where the students do most of their sleeping.

After college students began moving back home because of the outbreak, the Census Bureau had to shelve plans to send door-knockers to neighborhoods around campuses starting in April.

Now that the disruption has extended into the fall, hopes of finding and counting students before the census is completed have dwindled further. Some college towns are considering drastic measures, like asking for another count of their communities, but the cities would have to foot the bill for a "special census," which could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Ames, Iowa, home to Iowa State University, has 67,000 residents. Officials are worried that if the 2020 census misses the more than 15,000 students who live off-campus, it could put the city's population count below 50,000.

Dipping below that threshold would cost Ames millions of dollars in federal funding annually for low-to-middle-income housing and transportation projects, making a special census more appealing, said Gloria Betcher, a professor who sits on the city council.

"From our perspective, this is like watching an accident in the long term," Betcher said. "We are watching these cars approaching each other and seeing that they're going to crash. It's not surprising to us, but it is surprising that nothing is being done to stop the accident."

Mike Schneider reported from Orlando, Fla., and Anita Snow reported from Phoenix

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP> and Anita Snow at <https://twitter.com/asnowreports>.

## Disney criticized for filming 'Mulan' in China's Xinjiang

By JUWON PARK AP Entertainment Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Disney is under fire for filming part of its live-action reboot "Mulan" in Xinjiang, the region in China where the government has been accused of human rights abuses against Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities.

The final credits in the film, which was released on Disney Plus last week and is being rolled out in several countries this month, thank propaganda departments in Xinjiang and the public security bureau of Turpan, a Uighur-majority city in the region.

Human rights activists and some China experts have taken to social media to condemn Disney for turning a blind eye to alleged abuses in Xinjiang. They accuse the American enterprise of kowtowing to China for access to its lucrative movie market, the second-largest in the world.

Amnesty International tweeted a link to a media report on the controversy and asked Disney, "Can you show us your human rights due diligence report?" A Washington Post opinion contributor called the movie a scandal, and one widely shared tweet suggested the Mulan crew would have seen "reeducation camps" for Uighurs en route to filming locations.

Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities in the remote Xinjiang region have been locked up in camps as part of a government assimilation campaign launched in response to decades of sometimes violent struggle against Chinese rule. Some have been subjected to forced sterilization and abortion, and in recent months, ordered to drink traditional Chinese medicines to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

Chinese authorities defend the camps as job training centers, though former detainees describe them as prison-like facilities where they were humiliated, beaten and deprived of food.

"There is no so-called reeducation camp in Xinjiang," foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said when asked about the Mulan controversy on Tuesday. "The establishment of the vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang is a positive attempt and active exploration of preventive counterterrorism and deradicalization. ... There have been no violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang for more than three years."

In addition to Xinjiang, the Mulan team has scouted and filmed in multiple locations in China including the cities of Xi'an and Dunhuang, according to director Niki Caro's Instagram posts. The movie has been

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 71 of 73

partially filmed in New Zealand as well.

Disney did not reply to a request for comment.

The film, which is a remake of the popular 1998 animation, is based on the ancient Chinese tale of Hua Mulan, a young woman who takes her father's place in the army by dressing as a man.

The remake was no stranger to controversies even before its release.

Last year, a boycott movement was sparked when the lead actor, Liu Yifei, a Chinese-American originally from Wuhan, publicly supported Hong Kong police when they were accused of using excessive force against Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters.

Donnie Yen, a renowned Hong Kong star who plays Mulan's regiment leader Commander Tung, also drew ire from Hong Kong protesters for his pro-China stance.

Alan Horn, co-chairman and chief creative officer of The Walt Disney Studios, said in February that the company doesn't want to be dragged into a political discussion.

"I can't speak for what Yifei says in China, we didn't know about it, what she was going to say, and that's up to them," he said during a roundtable session with other entertainment executives including from Netflix and Warner Brothers.

He did note the importance of the Chinese market, where Mulan opens Friday. "If 'Mulan' doesn't work in China, we have a problem," he said with a laugh.

It's a crucial time for Disney. In August, the American entertainment conglomerate said its net income fell dramatically after having to close theme parks temporarily and cancel theatrical releases because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Disney has high hopes for the Mulan remake, one of its most expensive productions ever. It is pushing limited theatrical releases in some countries and putting the movie on its Disney+ streaming service for \$29.99, on top of the monthly subscription.

However, the film's explicit credits to Xinjiang authorities have reignited the boycott movement.

"I'm a huge fan of Disney movies and especially with a 4-year-old daughter, 'Mulan' should be a must watch for my family," Uighur American activist Ferkat Jawdat said. He said he won't be watching this Disney remake.

"The hypocrisy is just too amazing to fathom," he said of filming in the same region as the camps and where the Uighur population is oppressed.

The controversy has revived calls for a boycott in Hong Kong, where the film will be released next week.

"Even before this became known, Hong Kongers have already been protesting for a year about Liu Yifei's support of police brutality," Jeffrey Ngo, a Hong Kong activist, said.

Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong tweeted, "Now, when you watch #Mulan, not only are you turning a blind eye to police brutality and racial injustice ... you're also potentially complicit in the mass incarceration of Muslim Uyghurs."

## Boy's shooting raises questions about police crisis training

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and SOPHIA EPPOLITO Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A police shooting that wounded a 13-year-old autistic boy in Salt Lake City is revealing shortfalls in the way officers respond to a mental health crisis, an advocacy group said Wednesday, a part of policing that's facing renewed scrutiny during nationwide protests over brutality by law enforcement.

Similar questions are being raised in Rochester, New York, following the death of a Black man whose brother called police about his unusual behavior shortly after a mental health evaluation. It comes as demonstrators have urged cities to "defund the police" and shift money to social services instead.

In Utah, the boy survived with serious injuries. He appears to be white based on a photo posted online by his mother, Golda Barton, although police have not provided his race. Barton says she called 911 on Friday night because he was having a breakdown and she needed help from a crisis-intervention officer.

The Salt Lake City officers who came were not specialists in crisis intervention but had some mental

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 72 of 73

health training, and they ended up shooting the boy as he ran away because they believed he made threats involving a weapon, authorities said. There was no indications he had a weapon.

An officer trained in crisis response would have handled the situation differently, focusing on deescalation and avoiding shouting or using sirens, which can be disorienting, said Sherri Wittwer, board president of CIT Utah, a nonprofit that provides crisis intervention training for law enforcement.

"Someone who's in a mental health crisis ... may have different behaviors," Wittwer said. "And that's why we need to have officers who understand the different ways that can look."

Some police departments even undergo training specifically on communicating with people with autism, a developmental disorder that can involve varying degrees of language and social impairment.

The Salt Lake Police Department has about three officers who are crisis-intervention specialists, but they don't respond to every call involving mental health issues, said Detective Michael Ruff, a department spokesman. He stood by the department's model, which includes giving every new recruit 40 hours of crisis-intervention training at its police academy.

"We're very comfortable with the program we used and with the individuals who are teaching it," he said. "There's more than one way to be CIT trained."

Ruff declined to say what tactics the officers used to deescalate the situation before shooting the boy. The department says it will cooperate with multiple investigations.

But for Wittwer, the case is an example of why the state needs a unified, consistent program. In 2016, Salt Lake City police opted out of the training her group provides.

"When people call for an officer, they're in their most vulnerable state, and they need to have trust in who will be coming to their door," she said.

The officers' names, body-camera video and 911 call records have not been released.

The boy's mother, meanwhile, told Salt Lake City's KUTV that she informed police her son has autism, was unarmed and did not know how to regulate his behavior.

Barton hoped they would help deescalate the situation and calm him down. Instead, two officers who entered her home told her son to "get down on the ground" and shot him.

"He's a small child," Barton told the TV station. "Why didn't you just tackle him? He's a baby. He has mental issues."

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Eppolito is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 10, the 254th day of 2020. There are 112 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 10, 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a Black student.

On this date:

In 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. (Afterward, Perry sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours.")

In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.

In 1919, New York City welcomed home Gen. John J. Pershing and 25,000 soldiers who'd served in the U.S. First Division during World War I.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long died in Baton Rouge two days after being shot in the Louisiana state Capitol, allegedly by Dr. Carl Weiss.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 069 ~ 73 of 73

In 1960, Hurricane Donna, a dangerous Category 4 storm eventually blamed for 364 deaths, struck the Florida Keys.

In 1963, 20 Black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.

In 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2005, Cadaver dogs and boatloads of forensic workers fanned out across New Orleans to collect the corpses left behind by Hurricane Katrina; cleanup crews towed away abandoned cars and even began readying a hotel for reopening.

In 2006, Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts defeated Eli Manning and the New York Giants 26-21 in the first NFL game to feature two brothers starting at quarterback.

In 2016, John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981, was released from a Washington mental hospital for good.

In 2018, Florence exploded into a potentially catastrophic Category 4 hurricane as it closed in on North and South Carolina with winds up to 140 mph. The Trump administration ordered the closure of the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Washington, citing the refusal of Palestinian leaders to enter into peace talks with Israel.

Ten years ago: During a White House press conference, President Barack Obama blamed Republicans and election-year politics for thwarting his efforts to do more to spur a listless national economy. Juan Mari Bras, 82, an elder statesman of Puerto Rico's independence movement, died in Rio Piedras.

Five years ago: Senate Democrats voted to uphold the hard-fought nuclear accord with Iran, overcoming ferocious Republican opposition. New York State approved gradually raising the minimum wage for fast-food workers to \$15 an hour — the first time any state had set the minimum that high.

One year ago: President Donald Trump abruptly forced out his national security adviser, John Bolton, with whom he had strong disagreements on Iran, Afghanistan and other global challenges. Conservative Republican Dan Bishop won a special election for an open House seat in North Carolina by a little more than two percentage points, averting a Democratic capture of a district held by the GOP for nearly six decades. Apple announced the launch of its own streaming television service, while also unveiling three new iPhones boasting an additional camera for taking pictures from extra-wide angles.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Philip Baker Hall is 89. Actor Greg Mullavey is 87. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 80. Actor Tom Ligon is 80. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 78. Singer Jose Feliciano is 75. Actor Judy Geeson is 72. Former Canadian first lady Margaret Trudeau is 72. Political commentator Bill O'Reilly is 71. Rock musician Joe Perry (Aerosmith) is 70. Country singer Rosie Flores is 70. Actor Amy Irving is 67. Actor-director Clark Johnson is 66. Actor Kate Burton is 63. Movie director Chris Columbus is 62. Actor Colin Firth is 60. Rock singer-musician David Lowery (Cracker) is 60. Actor Sean O'Bryan is 57. Baseball Hall of Famer Randy Johnson is 57. Actor Raymond Cruz is 56. Rock musician Robin Goodridge (Bush) is 55. Rock musician Stevie D. (Buckcherry) is 54. Rock singer-musician Miles Zuniga (Fastball) is 54. Actor Nina Repeta (NY'-nuh ruh-PEHT'-ah) is 53. Rapper Big Daddy Kane is 52. Movie director Guy Ritchie is 52. Actor Johnathan Schaech (shehk) is 51. Contemporary Christian singer Sara Groves is 48. Actor Ryan Phillippe (FIHL'-ih-pee) is 46. Actor Kyle Bornheimer is 45. Actor Jacob Young is 41. Rock musician Mikey Way (My Chemical Romance) is 40. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Timothy Goebel (GAY'-bul) is 40. Ballerina Misty Copeland is 38. MLB All-Star first-baseman Joey Votto (VAH'-toh) is 37. Rock musician Matthew Followill (Kings of Leon) is 36. Singer Ashley Monroe (Pistol Annies) is 34. MLB All-Star first-baseman Paul Goldschmidt is 33. Singer Sanjaya Malakar (san-JY'-uh MA'-luh-kar) ("American Idol") is 31. Actor Chandler Massey is 30. Actor Hannah Hodson is 29. Actor Gabriel Bateman is 16.