

Groton Daily Independent

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GDILIVE.COM



Homecoming
Coronation
7:30 p.m.
Monday,
Sept. 21, 2020



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Homecoming theme is: ALL AROUND THE WORLD (COUNTRIES)

Monday, September 21, 2020 - Pajama Day at both schools

4 p.m.: Cross Country at Clear Lake Golf Club

Cancelled: JV Football game hosting Milbank

4 p.m.: There will be two combined JH volleyball matches at Webster, one starting at 4 p.m. and the other to follow.

7:30 p.m.: Homecoming Coronation (Will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM)

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 - Country Day at MS/HS, Jersey Day at Elementary

JH Football at Milbank (7th at 4:30 p.m. followed by the 8th grade game)

Volleyball - Warner in Groton

5 p.m.: There will be two combined JH volleyball matches, one starting at 5 p.m. and the other to follow. These matches will be played in the GHS Gym.

5 p.m.: C match in the Arena followed by the JV and then the varsity match. Varsity match broadcast on GDLIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by the Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, S & S Lumber/Hardware Hank, BK Custom T's & More and Hefty Seed. The JV match will also be broadcast, sponsored by Jerry and Kathy Bjerke)

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 - Duo Day* at MS/HS, Wacky Hair/Wacky Hat Day at Elementary

* (Examples are Salt and Pepper, or Mustard and Ketchup)

Thursday, September 24, 2020 - Class Colors Day** at MS/HS, Throwback Day at Elementary

** Seniors - black, juniors - white, sophomores - grey, freshmen - gold, 8th grade - purple, 7th grade - blue, 6th grade - red, staff/teachers - pink.

10 a.m.: Boys golf at Sisseton Golf Course

4 p.m.: Boys soccer hosting James Valley Christian. (To be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by the White House Inn)

Volleyball - Clark/Willow Lake in Groton

5 p.m.: Junior high matches will be played in the GHS Gym.

5 p.m.: C match in the Arena followed by the JV and then the varsity match. Varsity match broadcast on GDLIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by the Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, S & S Lumber/Hardware Hank, BK Custom T's & More and Hefty Seed. The JV match will also be broadcast, sponsored by Jerry and Kathy Bjerke)

Friday, September 25, 2020 - Spirit Day

1 p.m.: Homecoming Parade (Broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM)

7 p.m.: Homecoming football game with Redfield at Doney Field (To be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by Mike Nehls for Brown County Commission - Mike will also be a guest commentary. Touchdown Sponsor is Frost Construction)

Saturday, September 26, 2020

1 pm: Girls soccer to host Tea Area. (To be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM - sponsored by some of the parents)

3 p.m.: Boys soccer to host Tea Area. (To be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3FM, sponsored by the Groton Vet Clinic)

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BaseKamp Lodge showing off its Tiger spirit

Are you ready for Homecoming Week 2020? BaseKamp Lodge in downtown Groton is roarin' to go! (Courtesy photos)

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Two games into the 2020 NFL season, the Minnesota Vikings are 0-2, with neither game coming close to competitive. Against the Indianapolis Colts (1-1), the Vikings only managed three points until late in the fourth quarter, ultimately losing 28-11. After the game, head coach Mike Zimmer summed it up best when he said "We can't start winning until we stop losing, and right now we're doing things to beat ourselves with the turnovers and sacks and safeties and penalties on third downs on defense."

Just like in week one, the Vikings started off strong. The team received the opening kickoff and drove 75-yards on 13 plays before being stopped on third down at Indy's three-yard line. Dan Bailey put it through the uprights, and the Vikings had a 3-0 lead. The Colts followed that up with an impressive drive of their own, but Harrison Smith was able to break up a pass near the goal line that was intercepted by Eric Wilson.

And this, my friends, is where the game started to get out of hand.

The Vikings' next five drives of the first half ended in a punt, punt, safety, interception, and an interception. The second half wasn't much better. After the Vikings forced a Colts punt on their first drive of the half, Cousins threw another interception which led to a Colts field goal. The Vikings got the ball back and proceeded to punt, leading to a Colts touchdown. On their third drive of the half, the Vikings went three-and-out, which led to another Colts field goal. Halfway through the fourth quarter, with the score 28-3, the Vikings finally scored a touchdown (and converted the two-point conversion), but by then it was too little too late.

Stat of the game: .375

The Vikings' offense was atrocious on Sunday, and it all started on first down. If you don't count the final drive when the Colts were in a prevent defense, the Vikings averaged .375 yards on first down. That's flat out unacceptable. If you include the final drive, the team was still well below average (1.55 yards per first down). This team isn't good enough to be giving away a down every time they have the ball, and unless the team can figure out how to manufacture yards on first down, it's going to be a long year.

Looking ahead, the Vikings return home and prepare to take on the Tennessee Titans, who are undefeated after defeating the Broncos and Jaguars. Ryan Tannehill has thrown for 6 touchdowns so far this season. Derrick Henry, who led the league in rushing yards last season, has been "struggling" a bit to start this season. He's only averaging 100 yards per game and has yet to crack the endzone yet. I would expect that to change on Sunday against the Vikings. I can usually find the silver lining when it comes to the Vikings, but I'm having a hard time finding it after two poor performances.

Skol?



By Jordan Wright

Gout: An Ancient Malady

It is a classic presentation: The middle-aged man who develops a painful, swollen, great toe the morning after indulging in a steak dinner with a few beers. The savvy clinician will immediately identify this diagnosis, and I imagine much of the general public might recognize it as well. It's "The Gout."

Gout is a unique type of inflammatory arthritis in which a substance called uric acid, accumulating in too-high amounts in the bloodstream, forms crystals within a joint. The presence of those microscopic crystals causes the immune system to attack the "foreign" substance, and the result is excruciating pain. I have seen many a patient limp or be wheelchaired into the exam room when this process occurs in their toe, ankle, or knee. In the most severe cases, patients might be admitted to the hospital.

Gout has been recognized as a disease for many centuries, being described in ancient Egyptian texts in 2600 B.C. and later by the famed Greek physician Hippocrates around 400 B.C. It was once known as the "arthritis of the rich," and the "disease of kings," given its propensity to occur after consuming rich food and alcohol. Uric acid crystals were first visualized under a microscope in 1679, during the microscope's early years, by another famous historical scientist, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek. The chemical composition of what he saw, however, was not known until more than a century later.

If you have had the agony of experiencing a gout attack, know that you are in excellent company. Both Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were known to suffer from gout, and historians have speculated that their shared experience led to their strong connection at the time of the American Revolution. In fact, reports have stated that Franklin, unable to walk due to a gouty attack, was carried on a chair into the Constitutional Convention by convicts. Western history and literature are full of references to "The Gout."

Today, gouty arthritis is a fairly common disease. It tends to affect men more than women, and generally occurs in middle-aged and older adults. Treatment of the acute episode is fairly simple; often we just use anti-inflammatory medication. In patients who have recurrent problems with gout we consider daily medication that lowers the level of uric acid in the bloodstream altogether, which is typically highly effective.

"The Gout" of ancient times was a life-altering condition and as such found its way into many historical texts and literature. Today, well, it's just gout. And usually, we can treat it very effectively.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices internal medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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By Dr. Kelly Evans-Hullinger ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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#210 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Sunday numbers are, as is usual, low. The decline we've been seeing has tapered off a bit this past week. We had 37,000 new cases reported today, a 0.5% increase to 6,825,200 cases. We're now averaging 41,071 per day over the past week and 38,157 over the past two weeks; these have both increased from last week's figures.

Here is our Sunday two-week summary. The decline in rates of growth continue to gradually drop—seems to have leveled out. We are still seeing higher rates of growth in some states; so far, we are not seeing critical rates of growth, but things feel tenuous. One-week increase in total cases was 246,700 (3.9%) last week and is 287,500 (4.4%) this week; this one's going the wrong way. Two-week increase was 531,560 (8.9%) last week and is 534,200 (8.5%) this week. I find it concerning that the one-week numbers have turned upward; haven't seen that for 11 weeks until now.

I track 54 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and just two of these showed two-week rates of increase greater than 25%. Here are the states with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: North Dakota (31.73%) and South Dakota (25.35%). Guam, Hawaii, and West Virginia fell off this list this week. We still have 33 states and territories with growth rates above the US growth rate, which is still an indication how widespread the problems are.

We're all the way up to 17 states and territories with 14-day trends that are high and staying high: Idaho, Montana, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, and Puerto Rico. I have four states and territories high and declining; these are Guam, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Alabama. I have eight states low but increasing: Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey. I have 25 staying low: Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Minnesota, Louisiana, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maine, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and the US Virgin Islands.

We are seeing spikes in cases in the Southwest and Midwest. There are large increases in North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, and Wisconsin. Wisconsin has shown particularly dramatic numbers, and it comes in third in per capita new cases behind North Dakota and South Dakota. Much of the new-case activity is coming from young people, specifically those on college and university campuses. I will also note there has been an eighth death associated with that Maine wedding, another person who did not attend the event.

There is not particularly good news when we consider keeping schools open: A new study from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, published a few days ago in Health Affairs, found that between 42 and 51% of school employees in the US meet the CDC's criteria for increased risk of infection or for severe outcomes. Obesity and high blood pressure were the primary factors that figured into this risk; men are more at risk than women, and Blacks are more at risk than Whites. Low-skill staff are more likely to be at increased risk than professional staff; as usual, those with less education and lower pay scales are more at risk. There was also a finding that 63% of school employees lived in homes where at least one adult was at high risk, and 59% of school-age children lived in such a home with high-schoolers more likely than elementary-age children to live in such a home. The findings indicated that just over 35% of adults were either school employees or lived with someone connected to a school, either though an employee or a student. These data predate the pandemic and are, I think, faintly terrifying.

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Early voting has begun in several states, with others to follow. Alabama, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wyoming have already begun. In the next ten days before October 1, Delaware, Vermont, Illinois, and Michigan will begin. Thirty-five more states plus DC will permit either early voting or absentee voting starting in October. This is the likeliest way to avoid crowds and exposure when voting, but be aware that some voting centers may have lines, even this early.

If you can vote absentee, the surest way to know your ballot will arrive in time to be counted is to mail it now—even the most pessimistic predictions have a ballot mailed in September arriving well before any deadline—or to utilize a drop-box provided for voters in your jurisdiction. If you use that option, be very sure your signature on the envelope matches the one you used in applying for the absentee ballot to assure your vote is counted.

If you are voting in person, either early or on Election Day, here are some things you can do to reduce your risk.

(1) Ascertain whether masks are required and what other precautions will be in effect—six-foot spacing markers, separate entrance and exit, Plexiglass barriers between voters and poll workers and between voting booths, face masks on poll workers, sanitation procedures. You can call in advance to inquire about these things.

(2) The larger the space in use, the better; the more ventilation, the better. If there is curbside voting, go for that.

(3) Vote at less busy times of day, avoiding before/after work and lunch times. Even with many workers still working from home, off-hours have been less crowded. Voting early in the window your state opens for early voting will, generally speaking, avoid crowds as well.

(4) Wear a mask, no matter how quiet your polling place is; be sure that your nose and mouth are both covered, and vote alone—don't take the children or others with you who are not going to vote. Bring hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes; be obsessive about using them.

To continue the story on colleges and universities, a large number of institutions have decided to cancel spring breaks due to the risks of having large numbers of students going home and then coming back to campus, potentially carrying the virus with them in both directions. On the list of those making this decision are the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin Madison, Purdue University, Ohio State University, the University of Iowa, the University of Tennessee, the University of Florida, Baylor University, Texas Christian University, Kansas State University, the University of Kentucky, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, and Carnegie Mellon University. This is a sampling of a large set and comes as evidence grows that Spring Break, 2020, brought outbreaks in many locations across the country.

Michelle Lee was a resident physician at New York Presbyterian-Cornell in Manhattan during the height of the pandemic in the city. With the workload and a resident's low salary, she was accustomed to getting by on pizza and donuts during 12-hour shifts. As a result, she was pretty surprised one night to find a hot meal—spicy fish—at her desk when she took a minute to sit. She was even more surprised when the hot meals kept coming, night after night, throughout the wild times. There were curries, pad Thai, fried rice, shrimp, pork, all delicious, all from a little mom-and-pop restaurant, Thai Sliders. And they were generally accompanied by hand-written notes.

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As time went on, Lee became one of those who coordinated the donated food deliveries to the hospital, and she noted the dishes from Thai Sliders were always delivered by the actual “mom and pop” of the mom-and-pop operation, often accompanied by one or more of their three daughters. And when the worst of the crisis passed, when sanity returned to New York’s hospitals, Lee decided she wanted to track down and thank the chef who personally brought over those beautiful meals. So she went out and found 70-year-old Toon Preechathammarach, who, working seven days a week, prepared and delivered some 7000 meals to health care workers. What’s more, she met the whole family who’d been part of those deliveries during a dark time.

Turns out Preechathammarach had always worked seven days a week. When the pandemic hit in March and the restaurant closed, that worked for her for about three weeks, and then she wanted—needed—to do something. So she hit the kitchen and cooked, packing up the food and delivering it to Mount Sinai Hospital. The family fund-raised, ordered more ingredients, brought their staff back to work, and cooked like crazy. Eventually, they connected with organizations raising money for this sort of effort, so they could devote their time to preparing the meals. Gradually, they expanded their donations to several institutions, including Lee’s NY Presbyterian. And now that the worst of the crisis has passed and the hospital staffs no longer rely on donated meals, they’ve moved their work to a local soup kitchen where they continue to deliver hot meals.

Lee said, “Toon’s meals often saved the morale of our ICU staff and kept us going. It always made my day to see Toon and her family drop by in their blue minivan and deliver handwritten messages and boxed dinners. . . . It’s been rare in my experience for the chef and her family hand-deliver these meals to the frontline, and it’s been heartwarming to see [their] kindness in person whenever we receive these boxes.”

Asked what the family business had learned in the pandemic, Preechathammarach replied, “I feel that the biggest thing is there’s so much potential to gain public support for these initiatives. We had a huge response from friends and the community—many times as a surprise to us. . . . Giving back to the community is something that our family is really happy doing.” Lovely thought.

Be well. We’ll talk again.

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Area COVID-19 Cases

	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15
Minnesota	81,608	81,868	82,249	82,659	83,588	84,311	84,949
Nebraska	36,477	36,917	37,373	37,841	38,108	38,188	38,642
Montana	8,381	8,468	8,663	8,785	8,925	9,021	9,107
Colorado	59,674	59,920	60,185	60,492	60,907	61,324	61,699
Wyoming	3,483	3,520	3,559		3,635	3,679	3,723
North Dakota	13,872	14,110	14,443	14,684	15,151	15,577	15,831
South Dakota	15,403	15,571	15,834	16,117	16,437	16,638	16,801
United States	6,328,099	6,359,313	6,397,547	6,452,607	6,486,401	6,517,326	6,555,243
US Deaths	189,699	190,784	191,802	193,177	193,705	194,036	194,545
Minnesota	+383	+260	+381	+410	+929	+723	+638
Nebraska	+502	+440	+456	+468	+267	+80	+454
Montana	+65	+87	+195	+122	+140	+86	+86
Colorado	+187	+246	+265	+307	+415	+417	+375
Wyoming	+58	+37	+39		+76	+44	+44
North Dakota	+71	+238	+337	+244	+468	+431	+254
South Dakota	+105	+169	+263	+283	+320	+201	+163
United States	+28,930	+31,214	+38,234	+55,060	+33,794	+30,925	+37,917
US Deaths	+533	+1,085	+1,018	+1,375	+528	+331	+509
	Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	
Minnesota	85,351	85,813	86,722	87,807	88,721	90,017	
Nebraska	38,970	39,419	39,921	40,387	40,797	41,083	
Montana	9,244	9,431	9,647	9,871	10,163	10,299	
Colorado	62,099	62,686	63,145	63,750	64,356	64,857	
Wyoming	3,762	3,866	3,936	4,009	4,039	4,124	
North Dakota	16,066	16,333	16,723	17,230	17,607	17,958	
South Dakota	16,994	17,291	17,686	18,075	18,444	18,696	
United States	6,606,674	6,631,561	6,676,410	6,726,480	6,766,631	6,799,141	
US Deaths	195,961	196,831	197,655	198,603	199,268	199,474	
Minnesota	+402	+462	+909	+1,085	+914	1,296	
Nebraska	+328	+449	+502	+466	+410	+286	
Montana	+137	+187	+216	+224	+292	+136	
Colorado	+400	+587	+459	+605	+606	+501	
Wyoming	+39	+104	+70	+73	+30	+85	
North Dakota	+ 235	+267	+390	+507	+377	+351	
South Dakota	+195	+297	+395	+389	+369	+252	
United States	+51,431	+24,887	+44,849	+50,070	+40,151	+32,510	
US Deaths	+1,416	+870	+824	+948	+665	+206	

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September 20th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Two males, one in the 70s and one in the over 80 age group have died in South Dakota. That brings our death toll to 202. Both deaths were in Minnehaha County.

The active cases in South Dakota dropped by 103 as there were 353 recovered cases and 252 positive ones. Brown County had 10 positive cases, Codington had 24, Hughes 16, Lincoln 14, Minnehaha 46 and Pennington 24.

Locally, Brown County had a drop of seven active cases, down to 125, Day County had one positive cases resulting in 14 active cases, Edmunds County had one positive, one recovery and 22 active cases, Marshall County had two positive and three recoveries leaving nine active individuals, McPherson had one recovery leaving 10 active cases, and Spink County had four positive, two recoveries leaving 31 active cases.

Brown County:

Total Positive: +10 (1,027) Positivity Rate: 9.3%

Total Tests: 107 (9,792)

Recovered: +17 (899)

Active Cases: -7 (125)

Ever Hospitalized: +2 (38)

Deaths: 0 (3)

Percent Recovered: 87.5%

South Dakota:

Positive: +252 (18,696 total) Positivity Rates: 8.4%

Total Tests: 3,004 (244,278 total)

Hospitalized: +20 (1,288 total). 170 currently hospitalized (+17)

Deaths: +2 (202 total)

Recovered: +353 (15,651 total)

Active Cases: -103 (2,843)

Percent Recovered: 83.7%

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 7% Covid, 43% Non-Covid, 50% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 5% Covid, 66% Non-Covid, 29% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 14% Non-Covid, 82% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases: Aurora 42-42, Mellette 25-25, Miner 19-19.

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: 2 active cases

Beadle (9): +5 positive, +3 recovered (44 active cases)

Bennett (1): +1 recovered (25 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +2 recovered (17 active cases)
Brookings (2): +7 positive, +9 recovered (97 active cases)

Brown (3): +10 positive, +17 recovered (125 active cases)

Brule: +1 positive, +2 recovered (16 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +1 positive (5 active cases)

Butte (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)

Campbell: +1 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)

Charles Mix: +1 positive, +2 recovered (18 active cases)

Clark: +1 recovered (8 active cases)

Clay (5) +4 positive, +16 recovered (48 active cases)

Codington (3): +24 positive, +17 recovered (189 active cases)

Corson (1): +1 recovered (8 active cases)

Custer (2): +2 positive, +6 recovered (38 active case)

Davison (2): +4 positive, +5 recovered (36 active cases)

Day: +1 positive (14 active cases)

Deuel: 12 active cases

Dewey: +1 positive, +1 recovered (35 active cases)

Douglas: +5 positive, +4 recovered (23 active cases)

Edmunds: +1 positive, +1 recovered (22 active cases)

Fall River (3): +1 recovered (19 active cases)

Faulk (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (12 active

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cases)

Grant (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (33 active cases)

Gregory (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (49 active cases)

Haakon: +1 recovered (7 active case)

Hamlin: +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)

Hand: +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)

Hanson: 5 active cases

Harding: Fully Recovered

Hughes (4): +16 positive, +4 recovered (149 active cases)

Hutchinson (2): +2 positive (18 active cases)

Hyde: +1 recovered (9 active cases)

Jackson (1): +1 positive, +3 recovered (10 active cases)

Jerauld (1): +2 positive (18 active cases)

Jones: 2 active cases

Kingsbury: +2 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)

Lake (7): +3 positive, +6 recovered (27 active cases)

Lawrence (4): +6 positive, +11 recovered (59 active cases)

Lincoln (2): +14 positive, +21 recovered (169 active cases)

Lyman (3): +1 positive (5 active cases)

Marshall: +2 positive, +3 recovered (9 active cases)

McCook (1): +3 positive, +3 recovered (15 active cases)

McPherson: +1 recovered (10 active case)

Meade (4): +9 positive, +15 recovered (91 active cases)

Mellette: 4 active cases

Miner: Fully Recovered

Minnehaha (78): +46 positive, +91 recovered (556 active cases)

Moody: +1 positive, +1 recovered (11 active cases)

Oglala Lakota (3): +3 positive, +1 recovered (25 active cases)

Pennington (35): +24 positive, +53 recovered (308 active cases)

Perkins: +2 positive (9 active cases)

Potter: +2 positive, +2 recovered (14 active cases)

Roberts (1): +9 positive, +7 recovered (39 active cases)

Sanborn: +1 positive (2 active cases)

Spink: +4 positive, +2 recovered (31 active cases)

Stanley: 7 active cases

Sully: 1 active case

Todd (5): +1 recovered (14 active cases)

Tripp: +8 positive, +5 recovered (60 active cases)

Turner (2): +2 positive, +2 recovered (34 active cases)

Union (5): +2 positive, +4 recovered (46 active cases)

Walworth: +2 positive, +6 recovered (30 active cases)

Yankton (4): +8 positive, +11 recovered (82 active cases)

Ziebach: 16 active case

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	589	0
10-19 years	2047	0
20-29 years	4611	2
30-39 years	3262	7
40-49 years	2554	10
50-59 years	2498	20
60-69 years	1658	32
70-79 years	824	35
80+ years	653	96

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	9602	96
Male	9094	106

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report

COVID-19 Daily Report, September 20:

- 5.8% rolling 14-day positivity
- 6.1% daily positivity
- 352 new positives
- 5,743 susceptible test encounters
- 81 currently hospitalized (+3)
- 3,208 active cases (+112)

Total Deaths: +0 (192)

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	44	42	482	0	None
Beadle	701	648	2267	9	Substantial
Bennett	63	37	633	1	Substantial
Bon Homme	75	57	1098	1	Moderate
Brookings	665	566	4231	2	Substantial
Brown	1027	899	6439	3	Substantial
Brule	93	77	988	0	Moderate
Buffalo	118	110	728	3	Minimal
Butte	75	56	1174	1	Moderate
Campbell	11	5	138	0	Minimal
Charles Mix	140	122	1989	0	Moderate
Clark	32	24	503	0	Moderate
Clay	535	482	2206	5	Substantial
Codington	706	514	4406	3	Substantial
Corson	81	72	691	1	Moderate
Custer	171	131	996	2	Substantial
Davison	204	166	3192	2	Moderate
Day	60	46	885	0	Moderate
Deuel	75	63	593	0	Substantial
Dewey	116	81	2715	0	Substantial
Douglas	62	39	514	0	Substantial
Edmunds	81	59	550	0	Substantial
Fall River	87	65	1283	3	Substantial
Faulk	59	46	285	1	Moderate
Grant	90	56	1024	1	Substantial
Gregory	95	45	585	1	Substantial
Haakon	17	10	329	0	Moderate
Hamlin	80	70	913	0	Moderate
Hand	26	16	424	0	Moderate
Hanson	28	23	306	0	None
Harding	3	3	65	0	Minimal
Hughes	311	158	2556	4	Moderate
Hutchinson	73	53	1137	2	Moderate

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Hyde	15	6	195	0	Minimal
Jackson	25	14	539	1	Minimal
Jerauld	68	49	314	1	Moderate
Jones	7	5	85	0	None
Kingsbury	43	31	745	0	Moderate
Lake	172	138	1214	7	Substantial
Lawrence	327	264	3026	4	Moderate
Lincoln	1204	1033	9545	2	Substantial
Lyman	111	103	1163	3	Minimal
Marshall	35	26	612	0	Moderate
McCook	83	67	845	1	Substantial
McPherson	27	17	286	0	Moderate
Meade	453	358	2931	4	Substantial
Mellette	29	25	445	0	None
Miner	19	19	315	0	Minimal
Minnehaha	6216	5582	36822	78	Substantial
Moody	70	59	824	0	Moderate
Oglala Lakota	222	194	3446	3	Moderate
Pennington	1984	1641	14471	35	Substantial
Perkins	30	21	288	0	Minimal
Potter	37	23	443	0	Moderate
Roberts	157	117	2522	1	Substantial
Sanborn	19	17	294	0	Minimal
Spink	106	75	1403	0	Substantial
Stanley	32	25	382	0	Moderate
Sully	9	8	124	0	None
Todd	104	85	2625	5	Moderate
Tripp	96	36	784	0	Substantial
Turner	137	101	1220	2	Moderate
Union	351	299	2526	6	Substantial
Walworth	91	61	1054	0	Substantial
Yankton	353	267	4226	4	Substantial
Ziebach	60	44	487	0	Moderate
Unassigned	0	0	15131	0	

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- ✓ 30 year law enforcement veteran with city and county government experience
- ✓ Progressive thinker/
Conservative spender
- ✓ Common sense approach to solving issues



I pledge

- ✓ to put taxpayers first by no wasteful spending
- ✓ to increase transparency to taxpayers
- ✓ to maintain roads and bridges
- ✓ to the creation of a criminal justice task force addressing Meth, Opioid and other drug addictions

Your vote will be much appreciated!



Absentee voting begins September 18th



Representation from eastern Brown County is long overdue! (35 years)

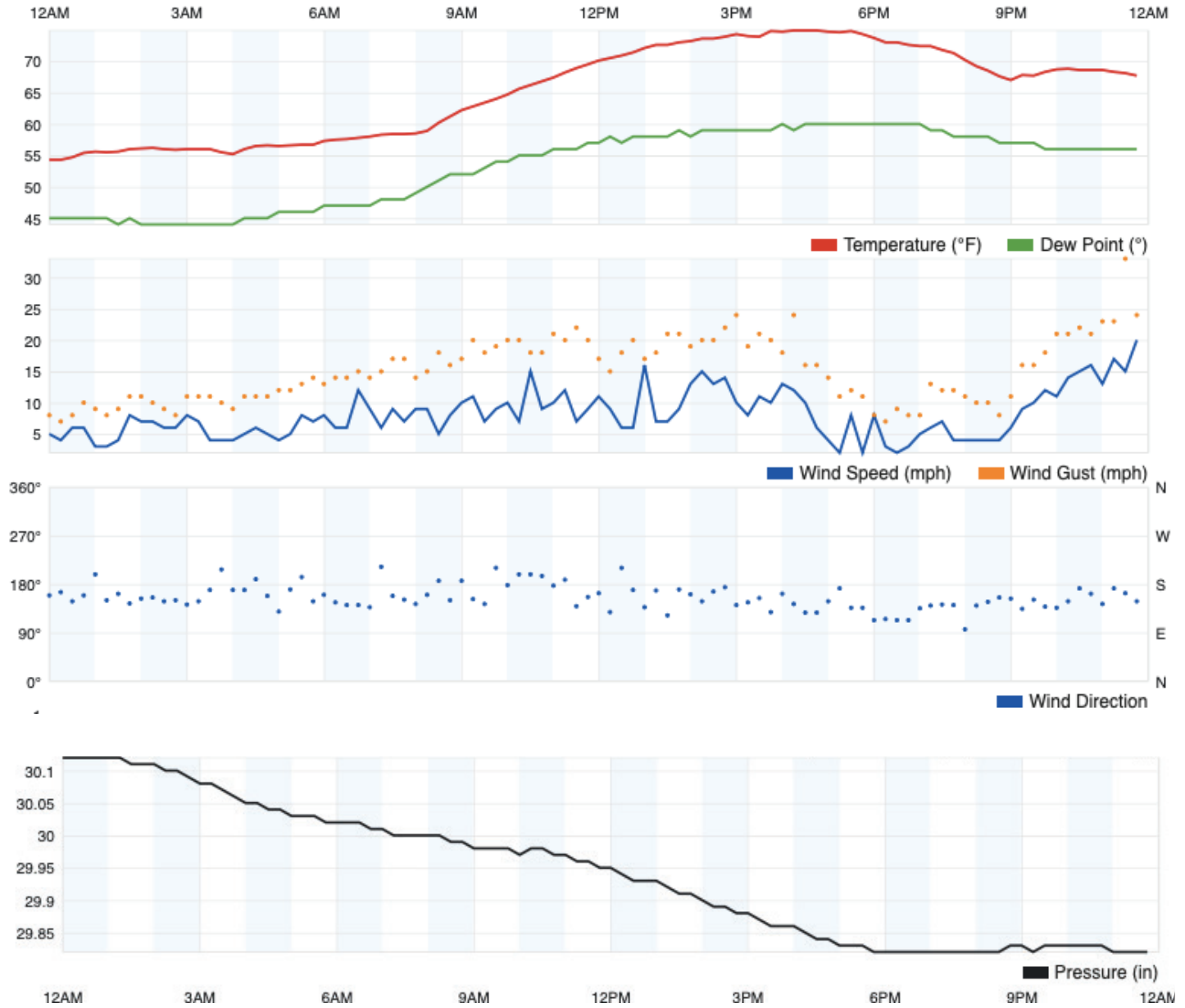
Vote for Michael Nehls for Brown County Commission (your vote **only for Mike could make a difference)**

Paid for by the committee to elect Mike Nehls to Brown County Commission

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today

Tonight

Tuesday

Tuesday
Night

Wednesday



Patchy Fog
then Sunny



Mostly Clear



Sunny



Mostly Clear



Mostly Sunny

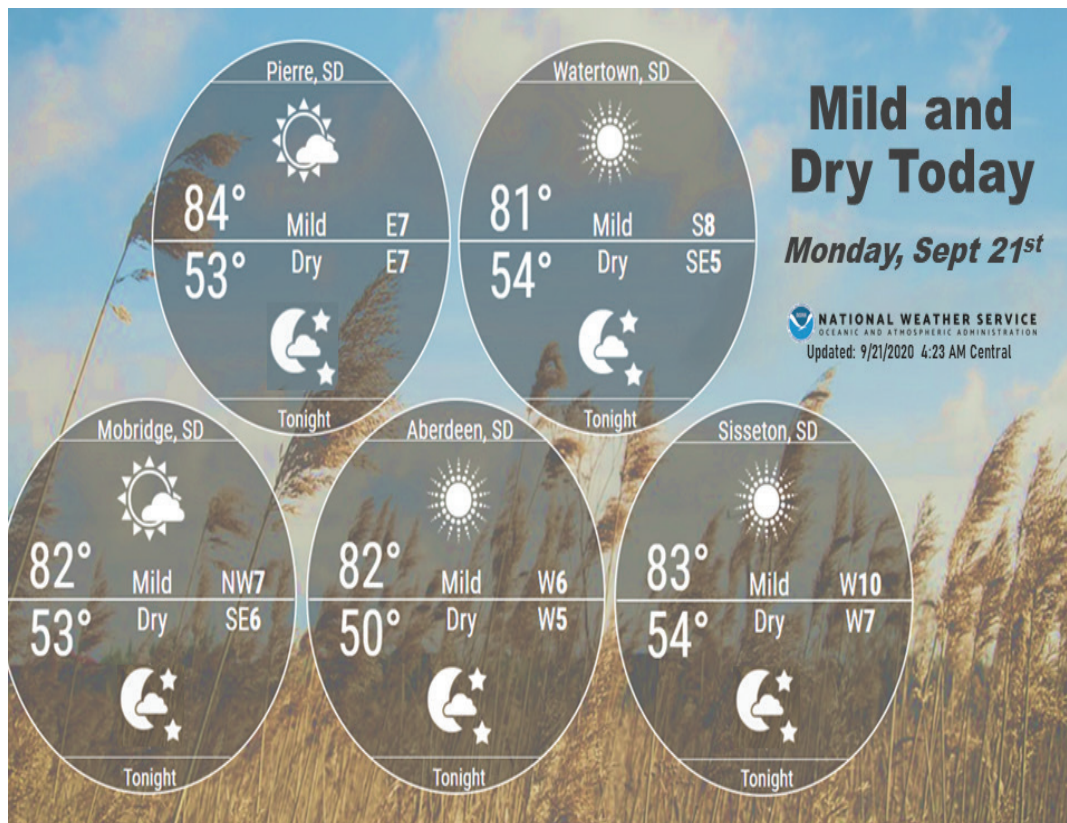
High: 82 °F

Low: 50 °F

High: 85 °F

Low: 57 °F

High: 80 °F



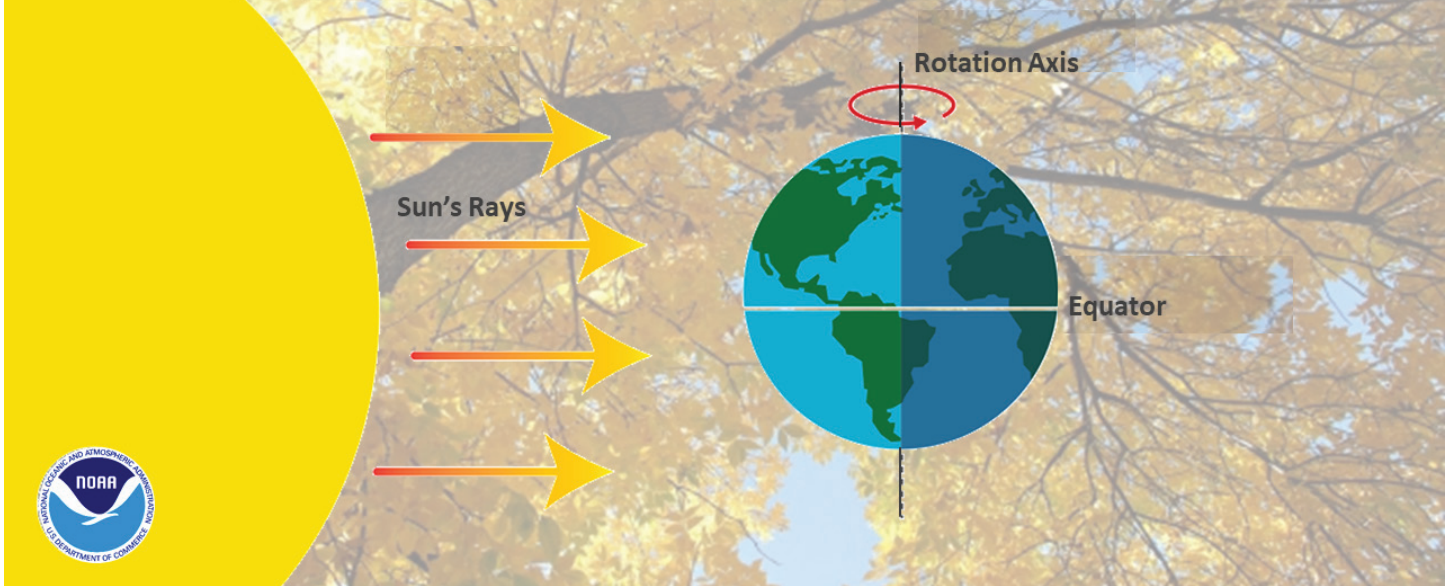
Today will feature above average temperatures and sunshine with mostly blue skies (lofted smoke has drifted further south and east today). Mild and dry weather continues through the work-week.

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Fall Equinox 2020

Tuesday Sept 22nd @ 8:31 am CDT



Tuesday is the first day of astronomical fall! Day and night will be nearly equal in length.

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Today in Weather History

September 21, 1960: In the morning hours of September 21st, lightning struck and caused structural damage to a home in Clear Lake, Deuel County. Lightning also hit a home in Clark in Clark County, and two telephone poles near Milbank in Grant County. Power was also interrupted for a short time by lightning near Britton.

1894: A late season severe weather outbreak occurred across northwest Iowa, south central Minnesota and southwestern Wisconsin during the late evening hours. Several communities were impacted by this outbreak with an estimated 55 to 65 deaths, and in additional 300 injuries. The strongest tornado was an estimated F5, which tore through the counties of Kossuth, Hancock, Winnebago in Iowa, and Faribault in Minnesota.

1894 - A heavy chicken house, sixteen by sixteen feet in area, was picked up by a tornado and wedged between two trees. The hens were found the next day sitting on their eggs in the chicken house, with no windows broken, as though nothing had happened. (The Weather Channel)

1924: A couple of tornadoes, one rated F4 and the other F5, tore paths of devastation through Eau Claire, Clark, and Taylor Counties in Wisconsin. The death toll was 18 and 50 people were injured.

1938: On this day, one of the most destructive and powerful hurricanes in recorded history struck Long Island and Southern New England. This Category 3 Hurricane was traveling at 47 mph when it made landfall near Bellport, New York. This storm caused at least 600 deaths and left approximately 63,000 homeless.

1938 - A great hurricane smashed into Long Island and bisected New England causing a massive forest blowdown and widespread flooding. Winds gusted to 186 mph at Blue Hill MA, and a storm surge of nearly thirty feet caused extensive flooding along the coast of Rhode Island. The hurricane killed 600 persons and caused 500 million dollars damage. The hurricane, which lasted twelve days, destroyed 275 million trees. Hardest hit were Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Long Island NY. The "Long Island Express" produced gargantuan waves with its 150 mph winds, waves which smashed against the New England shore with such force that earthquake-recording machines on the Pacific coast clearly showed the shock of each wave. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - The temperature at Deeth, NV, soared from a morning low of 12 degrees to a high of 87 degrees, a record daily warm-up for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Tropical Storm Emily, which formed in the Caribbean the previous afternoon, caused considerable damage to the banana industry of Saint Vincent in the Windward Islands. Unseasonably hot weather continued in Florida and the western U.S. Redding CA and Red Bluff CA, with record highs of 108 degrees, tied for honors as the hot spot in the nation. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced high winds and locally heavy rain in the southwestern U.S. One thunderstorm in west Texas produced wind gusts to 86 mph at Dell City completely destroying an airport hangar. A Cessna 150 aircraft housed within the hangar was flipped over and snapped in two. Thunderstorms produced large hail in east central Utah, while snow blanketed some of the higher elevations of the state. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Hurricane Hugo slammed into the South Carolina coast about 11 PM, making landfall near Sullivan's Island. Hurricane Hugo was directly responsible for thirteen deaths, and indirectly responsible for twenty-two others. A total of 420 persons were injured in the hurricane, and damage was estimated at eight billion dollars, including two billion dollars damage to crops. Sustained winds reached 85 mph at Folly Beach SC, with wind gusts as high as 138 mph. Wind gusts reached 98 mph at Charleston, and 109 mph at Shaw AFB. The biggest storm surge occurred in the McClellanville and Bulls Bay area of Charleston County, with a storm surge of 20.2 feet reported at Seewee Bay. Shrimp boats were found one half mile inland at McClellanville. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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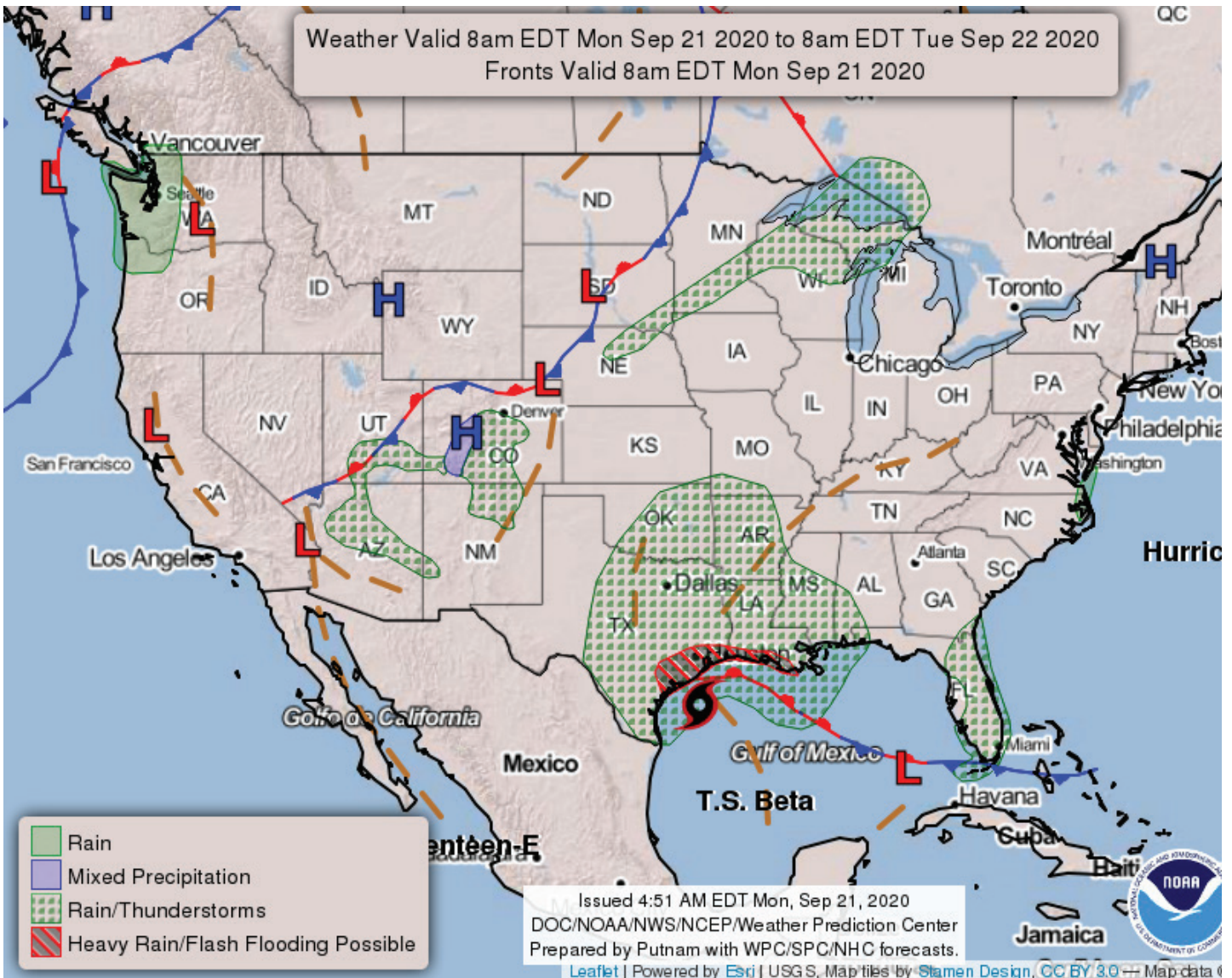
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 5:17 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 11:38 PM
Wind: 29 mph at 12:53 AM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1936, 1937
Record Low: 22° in 1893
Average High: 70°F
Average Low: 43°F
Average Precip in Sept...: 1.48
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.52
Average Precip to date: 17.77
Precip Year to Date: 14.87
Sunset Tonight: 7:32 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:21 a.m.



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CONVENIENCE OR CONVICTION

Years of struggle had finally ended for George. He completed all of his requirements to become a high school teacher. After sending out many resumes, one principal finally invited him for an interview. He looked forward to it with great excitement.

Sitting across from the principal, he was asked, "In your biology classes, would you teach biology or evolution?"

Anxious to get the job, he replied, "I would teach it any way you wanted me to teach it. It really does not matter to me."

In many of his letters, Paul addressed the importance of being Christians of conviction. Writing to the church at Corinth, he boldly declared: "Be on guard! Stand fast for what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong. And everything you do must be done with love!"

No apology here! Those words are as relevant today as they were when he wrote them. The danger to compromise our faith greets us everywhere we turn. The temptation to compromise our witness when we are called upon to speak boldly for Christ is difficult when the fear of rejection overwhelms us. And, we sometimes act unlovingly towards others when acts of kindness and deeds of thoughtfulness could be essential to bringing and winning others to Christ.

Prayer: Lord, we pray that we will become strong in our faith through You. May we rely on Your strength and power to overcome the temptation to compromise. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

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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
- **CANCELLED** 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

Man charged with homicide 8 months after woman found dead

By ARIELLE ZIONTS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Eight months after a Rapid City woman was found shot dead in a hotel room on New Years Day, her death has been ruled a homicide and a man is charged with murdering her.

"I'm overwhelmed with emotions. I feel like justice is finally being served for my sister," Paulina Ghost said about Jeanette Jumping Eagle. "At least now her soul can rest at peace," Ghost said through tears.

"It took a long eight months but she finally got her justice," said Ashley Bagola, another one of Jumping Eagle's sisters. "It's something we've all been wanting. It's not going to bring her back, but he's going to prison for a long time."

Dion Bordeaux, a 25-year-old from Rapid City, was indicted on a charge of first-degree murder for killing 22-year-old Jumping Eagle, according to a news release from the police department. If convicted, Bordeaux would be sentenced to death or life in prison without parole.

Jumping Eagle, a mother of three boys with a long-term partner, was found dead from a single gunshot wound to the head inside a room at the Microtel Inn and Suites at 3:50 a.m. on Jan. 1.

But police weren't sure whether the shooting was a suicide or homicide.

"It was originally staged to appear as a suicide but through forensic evidence we were able to prove otherwise," police spokesman Brendyn Medina told the Rapid City Journal.

When police found Jumping Eagle they learned that Bordeaux and one other man had been in the room at the time of the shooting, the news release says. Police found Bordeaux and arrested him for an existing assault warrant.

Bordeaux was convicted of an aggravated assault charge out of Lincoln County and sentenced to 10 years in prison with seven suspended, according to the Department of Corrections' website. He's currently detained at Rapid City Community Work Center, a minimum-security prison. An arrest warrant has been issued in the murder case, court records show.

"During the course of the investigation, police recovered evidence to suggest the shooting scene had been staged to appear as a suicide," the news release says. "By exploring multiple forensic avenues, it was determined that Dion Bordeaux was responsible for the shooting."

Medina said he can't comment on how the scene was staged since it may interfere with the prosecution. He said he also couldn't comment on what forensic evidence helped determine the shooting was a homicide and that Bordeaux was the suspect.

Mark Vargo, Pennington County State's Attorney, said he also can't comment on the evidence. But he said when his office received the police evidence they decided to present it to a grand jury which decided to indict Bordeaux.

He said his office will ask a judge to order Bordeaux to be transferred to the Pennington County Jail so he can attend his initial appearance.

Ghost said she always believed her sister was murdered, that she didn't kill herself. She also said her aunt told her that police said they suspected Bordeaux was the killer but needed to process evidence before bringing charges.

"I knew my sister would not do that to herself. She loved life, she loved her babies," Ghost said.

Jumping Eagle had three young boys with Brent Waters, who she had been dating since she was 14, Ghost said. Waters and his mother are now raising the children with the help of other relatives.

Ghost said Jumping Eagle and Waters broke up and Jumping Eagle met and began dating Bordeaux soon before her death. She said Jumping Eagle texted Waters and others about how she was thinking about going back to dating Waters.

Ghost said she thinks Bordeaux killed her sister after seeing those texts.

"I honestly think that he just became so jealous because there were text messages that she was telling

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Brent that she was missing him," Ghost said. "He killed her because he couldn't stand losing her."

Bagola said she also thinks Bordeaux killed Jumping Eagle because her sister told her close friends that he had been physically abusing her when she was thinking about going back to Waters.

"He seems like a jealous person," Bagola said. "She was trying to leave him before and he got really abusive with her."

Jumping Eagle had three sisters and two brothers, Ghost said. Their mother died a month before Jumping Eagle was killed.

"It still kind of feels unreal but I'm happy about it," Ghost said about Bordeaux being charged. "I'm happy for my family because this has been a very hard blow in our lives."

Jumping Eagle's killing is the 10th criminal homicide in Rapid City this year, according to the Rapid City Police Department. That's the most homicides since 2012; there were nine in 2015.

At least one more 2020 Rapid City death — the Aug. 19 shooting death of 22-year-old Brandon Wounded Arrow — is being investigated as a possible homicide. Rapid City saw six homicides last year and yearly homicides ranged from two to nine between 2012 and 2018.

Black Hills State student takes on leukemia, pandemic

By DENNIS KNUCKLES Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — For Brett Lamb, the fight against leukemia rages on.

Lamb, a football player at Black Hills State University, saw his world turned upside down in early July 2019, when he was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic (or lymphoblastic) leukemia in the bone marrow, where blood cells are made. It is more common in children than in adults. It is cancer of the body's blood-forming tissues, including the bone marrow and the lymphatic system.

Lamb was also diagnosed with Philadelphia chromosome.

This is where chromosome No. 9 and chromosome No. 22, which are both proteins, split off and create a different protein, and that protein then accelerates the spread of leukemia.

Shortly after he began treatment at the Medical City Children's Hospital in Dallas, Texas, he began to go into remission for cancer, the Black Hills Pioneer reported,

Just when things appeared to be going good for him, Lamb suffered another setback in October.

"I almost died from getting a blood infection called sepsis. The doctor said I had about two hours to live. My girlfriend (Samantha Raile) drove me to the hospital at 5 a.m. I had an infection in my bloodstream, and my heart rate dropped. She saved my life that night," Lamb said.

Lamb kept undergoing his chemo treatment, and this spring, he got some good news.

"The doctor told me I was in maintenance, and 'you can go back to Spearfish.' Three days later I left and came back to Spearfish," said Lamb.

Lamb said he still gets his chemo through the medical port that was put in his chest a week after he was diagnosed with cancer.

"It's a little tube that goes from his jugular vein, and goes all the way to his heart helping pump blood throughout his body.

"It's also where they pump in the chemo and the medicines I take instead of through an IV," said Lamb. "They do that because there are certain chemos out there can make your veins turn black, and can effect your nerves."

Lamb added that if he got the chemo he is getting right now through an IV and if the nurse didn't get a good enough stick to the vein and it leaked out, it could really mess his arm up.

This June, Lamb suffered another setback.

Lamb went to Spearfish hospital and was transferred to Rapid City.

Lamb said going to the hospital this time was scary.

"I was really scared to be in the hospital here. With respect to all the doctors and nurses and all the treatment I got in Spearfish and Rapid City, but not having doctor, who is almost like my cancer family in Texas, who have been taking care of me for over a year, it made me nervous," said Lamb. "They are

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people who know who I am, what to look for, what kind of symptoms effect me, because there are different ones for different medications and all types of chemo." During his stay in the hospital, Lamb found out one of his medications causes him to retain water and he had developed fluid on his lungs.

"It sucked. It's all caused from a pill I am on. It's the one that saved my life, but it is also the one caused me the threatening symptoms. I had 800 milliliters of fluid in both of his lungs, and at first they thought it was pneumonia, and it was the fluid that cause the pneumonia," said Lamb. "I was in Rapid City sitting on this table and they had to put two needles in my lungs to drain the fluid."

Lamb said having the fluid drained from his lungs really made him angry.

"It really pissed me off. I just beat cancer and everything should be fine. I should be able to get back too everything," he said.

The experience taught him a valuable lesson.

"I just have to be patient with everything. I just have to count my blessings, and realize that I just went through cancer, and not a lot of people do that. Some people make it out, some don't. To me it's almost like a flip of a coin. Things can change instantly," he said.

Lamb said he, periodically, had to have the fluid drained from his lungs.

As much as he wants things to return to normal, Lamb knows he has to be careful, because his immune system is still weak and vulnerable.

"I still feel super vulnerable from everything going on. My immune system in still low, but it's nice to be up here and do what I want to do. Hang out with my friends, hang out with my girlfriend, have my old life back, and the normality of everything has came back fast," Lamb said

Lamb said he has also been struggling with some things physically as well.

"I have neuropathy in both of my ankles that my specific chemo therapy, called vincristine, gives me. It causes the nerves in the middle of my ankles and my thumbs. It kind of blocks them so I move hands around a lot, and get everything firing," Lamb said.

Lamb added he has to have physical therapy on his feet.

"I can't move my ankle all the way up and down, the flexibility of it. There's just a lot of side effects from the chemo therapy I do," Lamb said. "Everything takes time, I just need to be patient. I'm still getting chemo once a month, and I'll be getting that for two years. I still have a medical port in my chest," said Lamb. "Honestly it does suck not to be able to come right back and play, but it is what it is. I just got done fighting for my life. I didn't expect all the treatments to be so hard, it was difficult."

Lamb said after being diagnosed with cancer, he lost almost 80 pounds.

"Before cancer I was weighing roughly 225 pounds. I was strong, explosive, and most importantly somebody my teammates could trust on the football field. I was leader then, and I'm still a leader now," said Lamb. "However this past year was very tough on my body, my weight dropped extremely fast, getting all the way down to 140 pounds. The way my body changed in only a few months was absolutely horrible. It made me feel very depressed, fearful for my life, and it made me question if I would ever play football again."

Lamb says he is feeling great now.

"I still get chemo and spinal taps monthly, but I'm able to eat more food, have intensity throughout my workouts, and I've gained most of my weight back. Right now I'm weighing approximately 202 pounds with more to go," he said.

Football has been a huge motivation for Lamb.

He still remembers during the 2019 season when he took the field for the first time since his diagnosis and got to flip the coin before the game.

"Football has been a huge motivation for me. Walking on the field for the coin toss was very emotional for me. I hadn't stepped on the Yellow Jacket football field for five months and all the thoughts of cancer went away briefly," said Lamb. Hearing all the fans, my teammates, and coaches all clap and cheer for me gave me that little bit of motivation to keep fighting for not only football but for my life. I'll never forget that moment," Lamb said.

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Lamb has decided to have the port removed in the spring of 2021, so he can return to playing football in the fall 2021, with two years of eligibility remaining.

Lamb said he is fully aware of the risk of having the port removed.

"After battling cancer the past year and having a medical port inside my chest everything went a lot smoother. The reason I have my medical port is to push chemotherapy directly into the port rather than a vein, eliminating getting poked by needles and having tissue damage," said Lamb. "The reason why I decided to have my port removed a year from now is to be able to play football. I'll still be receiving this chemotherapy called vincristine once every month for two years, but football is incredible important to me and (part of) who I am, and I'm not going to let a medical device get in the way of that. So once my medical port is removed I'll be receiving chemo therapy through a vein and most importantly I'll be cleared to play football."

Lamb is now taking classes on campus at Black Hills State, and he said that has been a challenge.

"Coming back to school, I was very excited. Being able to start classes again and just be a normal student was definitely a privilege. But with having an immune deficiency from all the chemotherapy this past year has made me worried about Covid and being around people during the school day," said Lamb. "I try not to think about how it would affect me but it's inevitable. All I can do is focus on keeping my distance, wear my mask daily, and be disciplined to keep myself healthy and safe on campus."

Active COVID-19 cases in South Dakota drop by more than 100

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials said Sunday that active cases of the coronavirus dropped by 102 in the last day, decreasing the total number to 2,843.

The report comes one day after the state reached 200 deaths due to complications from COVID-19. Officials confirmed two more deaths Sunday, both elderly men from Minnehaha County.

The state listed 252 new virus cases in its Sunday update, lifting the total number of positive cases to 18,696 since the pandemic began. There were 1,132 tests processed in the last day.

Minnehaha County, the state's most populous county, is now up to 6,262 cases, followed by Pennington County with 1,984, Lincoln County with 1,204 and Brown County with 1,027.

Hospitalizations went up by 17 in the last day, to 170.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

UK science advisers warn public on COVID-19 rates

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's top medical adviser says the country has, in a "very bad sense," turned a corner on COVID-19 infection rates, with figures suggesting there will be an exponential growth in the disease unless action is taken.

Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty told the public on Monday that rates are going in the "wrong direction" amid expectations the government is preparing to announce new measures to control the pandemic.

"We have in a very bad sense, literally turned a corner," after weeks of increasing infection rates.

Whitty said that if nothing is done, new infections will rise to 49,000 a day by mid-October. Hospitalizations are also doubling in seven to eight days — leading to more deaths.

There was also no indication that the virus had lessened in severity, he said. "We see no evidence that this is true."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson huddled with ministers over the weekend to discuss how the government will respond to the recent rise in cases, which has pushed infection rates to levels last seen in May. Later this week the government is expected to announce a slate of short-term restrictions that will act as a "circuit breaker" to slow the spread of the disease.

The government is hoping to keep that number from climbing back to the peak levels of early April, when

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more than 5,000 cases a day were being reported.

While death rates have remained relatively low so far, public health officials warn that deaths are likely to rise in coming weeks.

The U.K. reported a seven-day average of 21 deaths a day last week, compared with a peak of 942 on April 10.

The government last week imposed tighter restrictions on communities in northeastern England, where the infection rate first began to rise. Bars and restaurants in those areas must now close between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and people are prohibited from socializing with individuals from other households.

The rise in infection rates comes as lawmakers across the political spectrum criticize the government's testing program. While government ministers tout the record numbers of tests being performed, there are widespread reports of people having to travel hundreds of miles for tests and tests being voided because it is taking labs too long to process them.

An effective testing program is seen as essential to controlling the pandemic because it allows the government to track infections and inform people when they should self-isolate.

2020 Watch: Is this suddenly a new election?

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Presidential politics move fast. What we're watching heading into a new week on the 2020 campaign:

Days to general election: 43

Days to first debate: 8

THE NARRATIVE

The October surprise of 2020 came early.

The death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg injects another generational fight to an election year that already featured the deadliest public health threat in a century, the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression and the most significant civil unrest since the civil rights era. Six weeks before Election Day, the fight to replace Ginsburg is set to dominate headlines, with the prospect of reshuffling voters' priorities and campaign strategies, especially for President Donald Trump.

Still, the pandemic rages on. Millions of school children are stuck at home. The economic recovery is dragging. And more than 200,000 Americans have died.

Coming soon: one of the most highly anticipated presidential debates in the modern era is just eight days away.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

Is this suddenly a new election?

A presidential election that was shaping up to be a referendum on Trump's divisive leadership through dueling crises may suddenly be transformed into one about Trump's next lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court.

Or not.

It's clear that the most passionate partisans in Washington and elsewhere will be obsessed with the election-eve nomination fight. The stakes are huge for the future of the U.S. judiciary and several major issues, abortion rights among them. But it's less clear that the persuadable voters of Florida, Pennsylvania and Arizona are equally interested in the Supreme Court battle.

Americans For Prosperity President Tim Phillips, a conservative leader whose organization has spent months knocking on swing-state voters' doors and has a keen sense of the electorate, is skeptical that the court battle will change the direction of the election. He was out canvassing over the weekend and tells us that the Supreme Court didn't even come up. He notes that most Americans are dealing with much more imminent crises: millions of children can't go to school, grandparents remain in isolation, and Main

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Street in towns across the nation is struggling to stay open.

If anybody says they know how this nomination fight will or won't reshape the 2020 landscape, they're only guessing.

And the nominee is?

Those close to the president are encouraging him to announce his Supreme Court nominee on or before the day of the first presidential debate, which is Sept. 29.

He has promised to pick a woman, and Republicans are hopeful that a female pick could help Trump's GOP with its problem with suburban women and serve as a counterweight to Biden's historic selection of Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate. Any nominee will have a record and a background that will undergo intense scrutiny.

Democrats will be praying for unearthed baggage that might delay the process or reflect poorly on Trump, as was the case with the president's last nominee. Trump's team will do everything in its power to make sure that doesn't happen.

Under normal conditions, Supreme Court nominations are immensely important. In this case, the pick could directly or indirectly reshape all three branches of the U.S. government.

What will Trump say about 200,000 dead Americans?

The pandemic's death toll, which exceeded 200,000 on Sunday, is staggering, by far the highest in the world. For context, more Americans have now been killed by COVID-19 than were killed in all the military conflicts after World War II and the 9/11 attacks combined.

The scary part is that there are still several hundred Americans dying each day heading into flu season. Before this is over, COVID could overtake cancer and heart disease as the leading cause of death in the United States this year.

Trump, who largely left states to deal with the pandemic on their own, has been escalating his promises of a vaccine in the near future to stop the death. But the president's well-documented history of spreading false information about the pandemic and other issues has badly damaged his credibility, and as a result, roughly half of Americans report that they may not take the vaccine when it's available.

Can Trump reset expectations for the first debate?

Trump and his allies have spent much of the summer degrading Biden's mental acuity, portraying the 77-year-old Democrat as a senile old man who has lost the capacity to speak or think. Polling suggests that this line of attack has not been effective, and worse for Trump, it's dramatically lowered expectations for Biden in the first debate.

It may be too late already, but Trump's team has to shift those expectations — at least a little — before their first debate.

Biden is a far more experienced debater and has a much better command of global affairs and domestic policy than Trump. At the same time, Trump will enter the debate vulnerable on multiple fronts, having been caught on tape encouraging foreign governments to meddle in the election before presiding over the worst economic collapse and public health crises in a century.

Biden has the experience and the ammunition to do real damage. But a week before the debate, thanks to Trump's messaging, the Democrat is the perceived underdog.

THE FINAL THOUGHT

Biden's home state of Pennsylvania is increasingly looking like 2020's premier battleground state.

While it's true that both candidates have multiple paths to 270 electoral votes, their chances of winning would decrease dramatically if they fail to capture the state's 20 electoral votes. There has been little public polling in recent weeks, but each side privately tells us the race there is tightening.

Trump is scheduled to campaign in Pennsylvania twice this week. And after Florida, no state will see more spending on presidential advertising over the coming six weeks than Pennsylvania, according to the ad tracking firm Kantar/CMAG. Also, just days ago, Biden unveiled a frame for the election that's decidedly Pennsylvania-focused: This is a campaign between "Scranton and Park Avenue," Biden declared, drawing a contrast between his working-class Pennsylvania roots and Trump's privileged upbringing in New York.

Trump became the first Republican since 1988 to win Pennsylvania four years ago. But he did it by just 44,000 votes out of more than 6 million cast.

2020 Watch runs every Monday and provides a look at the week ahead in the 2020 election.

AP's Advance Voting guide brings you the facts about voting early, by mail or absentee from each state: <https://interactives.ap.org/advance-voting-2020/>

Indian couple run street-side classes for poor students

By RISHABH R. JAIN Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — On a quiet road in India's capital, tucked away on a wide, red-bricked sidewalk, kids set adrift by the country's COVID-19 lockdown are being tutored.

The children, ages 4 to 14, carry book bags more than 2 kilometers (a mile) from their thatched-roof huts on the banks of the Yamuna River to this impromptu, roadside classroom. There, they receive free lessons in math, science, English and physical education, taught by a former Indian diplomat and his wife.

It all began when Veena Gupta's maid, who lives on bank of the river, complained that with schools shut, children in her impoverished community were running amok and wasting time.

"If they stayed at home doing nothing, they'd become drifters," said Dolly Sharma, who works at Veena's high-rise apartment, which overlooks the lush riverbank.

Veena, a singer and grandmother of three, and her husband, Virendra Gupta, decided to go out to the street and teach the kids so they are not left behind when school reopens.

"They don't have access to internet, their schools are shut and they don't have any means to learn," said Veena, who bought books, pencils, notebooks and other teaching materials, and set up the small, open-air classroom under the shade of a leafy banyan tree.

India's stringent lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19 shut schools across the country in late March. Most remain closed as the number of cases has surged past 5 million, making India second worst-hit in the world after the United States.

While many private schools switched to digital learning and online classes, children in most government-run schools either don't have that option or don't have the means to purchase digital learning tools like laptops and smartphones.

"There is only one mobile phone in my family and it is usually with my father. I can't study online," said Nitin Mishra, a ninth grader in Virendra's math class. Mishra's mother works as a part-time maid and his father is unable to find employment as India's economy has been hit hard by the pandemic.

The street-side classes have grown as dozens of children showed keen interest. Now the Guptas — with help from their driver, Heera — teach three different groups three times a week, morning and evening.

After class, the children are treated to homemade lemonade and cookies prepared by Veena.

The Guptas say teaching the kids makes them feel closer to their grandchildren, who live abroad.

"My father would make me spend my summer vacation learning the next year's curriculum in advance," said Virendra, who served as Indian ambassador to several countries including South Africa.

"That really boosted my confidence and made me interested in schoolwork. And that is what I am trying to do with these children, so when their school reopens, they are slightly ahead of their class."

Veena said she hopes to recruit more volunteers to teach the street-side classes.

"It is not about the money that people can contribute and give, it is about their time," she said. "They should take out little bit of their time, an hour or so, if not every day, every alternate day, and come and help these children."

While nonstop news about the effects of the coronavirus has become commonplace, so, too, have tales of kindness. "One Good Thing" is a series of AP stories focusing on glimmers of joy and benevolence in a dark time. Read the series at <https://apnews.com/hub/one-good-thing>

The 'Pandemmys' were weird and sometimes wonderful

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

It was Regina King, winning her fourth career Emmy on Sunday, who perhaps summed up the proceedings the most succinctly — and accurately: "This is freaking weird."

Why, yes, being handed your Emmy inside your home, by a person you didn't know was coming, with fellow nominees zooming in from their own homes, while host Jimmy Kimmel played to a house of empty seats and cardboard cutouts — well, it WAS weird as heck.

But the "Pandemmys," as host Kimmel called this strangest of award shows, also worked pretty darned well at times — when Kimmel and Jennifer Aniston weren't coming close to accidentally burning down the Staples Center with an overly zealous attempt to disinfect a winner's envelope with real flames (yes, a coronavirus joke).

Some of key moments of an unforgettably unusual night:

WE'LL HAVE WHAT THEY'RE HAVING

Whatever flames were actually burning onstage, the real fire was happening up in Toronto, where the gathered cast and creators of "Schitt's Creek" were having an incredible night. The first award of the evening, best actress in a comedy, went to the gifted veteran Catherine O'Hara, and then they kept winning, the Canadian crowd becoming increasingly giddy as it became clear this little show about a wealthy family down on its luck was sweeping the comedy awards. Nobody was more thrilled than Daniel Levy, son of best actor winner Eugene Levy; the younger Levy won the award for comedy writing, shared a directing award and captured the supporting actor trophy. "The internet is about to turn on me. I'm so sorry," Levy said.

Sorry, not sorry.

A CALL TO THE BOOTH

Levy used some of his considerable mic time to urge viewers to vote in November. Noting that his show was "at its core about the transformational effects of love and acceptance," he urged people to "go out and vote because that is the only way that we are going to have love and acceptance out there." Of course, he wasn't the only one: King, when she won for HBO's "Watchmen," reminded watchers: "Have a voting plan, go to ballotpedia.com, vote up the ballot, please. Also stressing the importance of the vote: Mark Ruffalo, a winner for "I Know This Much Is True."

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

It was a solution born of necessity, having winners give their acceptance speeches (mostly) from home. But there was something gratifying about watching people in their own living rooms, surrounded by people they loved, as awkward or messy as it sometimes was. Ruffalo, for example, when he spoke of the "big, important moment ahead of us" as a country, was cheered with smiles, tears and pumped fists by his wife, Sunny, surely one of the most supportive spouses in Emmy history. At one point, we gotta say, we just stopped watching Ruffalo and focused on his wife. On Twitter, there was at least one call for her to win best supporting actress.

MOMMY!

Uzo Aduba, winning her Emmy for playing Shirley Chisholm in "Mrs. America," knew what she had to say first: "Mom, I won!" Her mother, it turns out, was downstairs, and according to Aduba, a bit confused as to how things were working. "She was not fully grasping," Aduba said later. "What do you mean the Emmys are going to be in the house? Are people coming here?" She was downstairs and so excited and so proud." The cutest part was when Aduba ended her speech, turned away from us and promptly called out: "Mommy!"

ZENDAYA MAKES HISTORY

Yet another heartwarming homemade moment came when Zendaya, at 24, became the youngest winner of best actress in a drama, for playing a troubled teen in "Euphoria." Surrounded by a large group of cheering family and friends, there was indeed unbridled euphoria in the room. "I know this seems like a really weird time to be celebrating," Zendaya said. "But I just want to say there is hope in the young

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people out there. I know our TV show doesn't always feel like a great example of that."

POINTED FASHION

There were no fashion rules on a night when some people seemed to be dressed way down and others way up (we saw you, Billy Porter). Both King and Aduba used that freedom to highlight an important moment in the struggle for social justice, wearing T-shirts referring to Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old EMT from Louisville, Kentucky, who was shot and killed by police in March. "The cops still haven't been held accountable," King said in a Zoom session with journalists. "She represents just decades, hundreds of years of violence against Black bodies. Wearing Breonna's likeness and representing her and her family and the stories that we were exploring, presenting and holding a mirror up to on 'Watchmen,' it felt appropriate to represent with Breonna Taylor." Aduba, wore a black T-shirt with Taylor's name in gold. Sterling K. Brown gave out the show's final award for best drama in a Black Lives Matter shirt.

A REFRESHING THANK-YOU

Winners usually thank their spouses, their kids, their parents, and their agents — their therapists, not so much. Which was why it was quite moving to hear Cord Jefferson, who won for writing on "Watchmen," thank his own therapist, whom he identified only as Ian. "I am a different man than I was two years ago," he said. "I love you, you have changed my life in many ways." He added: "Therapy should be free in this country."

O'HARA, EMBRACING HER AGE

We already mentioned her once here, but she's so darned good, she gets an item all her own. When O'Hara won her best actress award for "Schitt's Creek," she made a reference to how difficult it is for a woman her age — she is 66, as is her character — to get juicy roles like she did on this show. "I will forever be grateful to Eugene and Daniel Levy," she said, "for the opportunity to play a woman of a certain age, my age, who gets to fully be her ridiculous self." Her fans are thankful she had six seasons of being fully ridiculous, and look forward to future, uh, ridiculousness.

A sweep for 'Schitt's Creek,' 'Succession' tops Emmy Awards

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Schitt's Creek," the little Canadian show about a fish-out-of-water family, made history at Sunday's Emmy Awards with a comedy awards sweep, something even TV greats including "Frasier" and "Modern Family" failed to achieve.

Zendaya, 24, became the youngest lead drama actress winner for her role as a troubled teenager in "Euphoria." She's only the second Black actress to win the award, following Viola Davis' groundbreaking 2015 win for "How to Get Away With Murder."

"I know this seems like a really weird time to be celebrating," Zendaya said. "But I just want to say there is hope in the young people out there. I know our TV show doesn't always feel like a great example of that," but young people are out there "doing the work."

"Succession," a family power struggle over a media empire, was honored as best drama series, and creator Jesse Armstrong used the opportunity to offer "un-thank-yous," including to President Donald Trump for what Armstrong called his "crummy and uncoordinated" response to the pandemic.

"Succession" star Jeremy Strong won the drama actor trophy for his role as a potential heir to the throne.

The virtual ceremony, with a hard-working Jimmy Kimmel as host, went smoothly despite producers' concerns that the plan to link 100-plus nominees remotely could result in glitches.

Although the rise of streaming services including Disney+ and Apple TV+ dominates the TV landscape, it was Emmy stalwart HBO that stole the show, with winners including "Succession" and "Watchmen" making up for its now-departed awards giant "Game of Thrones." ViacomCBS-owned Pop TV and its quirky comedy also proved unbeatable.

The awards for Pop TV's "Schitt's Creek" included best comedy series and trophies for its stars, including Catherine O'Hara and father-son Eugene and Daniel Levy.

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"It is absolutely incredible. I think my dad said it best earlier this evening: it's a dream you don't want to wake up from, to be honest. What an absolutely unbelievable way to end our series," Daniel Levy said backstage.

His character's comfortable pansexuality led to story lines that Levy called personally "cathartic."

In his acceptance speech, he said the sitcom was about "the transformational effects of love and acceptance, and this is something we need more now than ever before," encouraging people to register and vote to achieve that goal.

Other winners, including "Watchmen" star Regina King, made a point that the Nov. 3 general election was near.

All the winners accepted their awards virtually in the pandemic-safe ceremony, including O'Hara, but she wasn't alone.

"Though these are the strangest of days, may you have as much joy being holed up in a room or two with your family as I had with my dear Roses," O'Hara said from Canada, surrounded in a decorated room by mask-wearing co-stars who play the Rose family members.

Levy called it "ironical that the straightest role I ever played lands me an Emmy for a comedy performance. I have to seriously question what I've been doing" for the past 50 years.

Moments later, his son won the award for comedy writing for "Schitt's Creek" episode, then shared a directing award and captured the supporting actor comedy trophy. The supporting actress trophy went to his co-star Annie Murphy.

Daniel Levy thanked his father and O'Hara for an extended "master class" in comedy. The show's sweep came for its much-acclaimed final season.

References to coronavirus were an ongoing part of the ceremony, with essential workers — including a teacher and a UPS deliveryman — presenting awards and Jason Sudeikis ostensibly getting a COVID-19 test onstage.

In a year with a record number of Black nominees, 35, there was a notable lack of diversity in the show's early going. As "Schitt's Creek" gobbled up comedy awards, that left acclaimed "Insecure" and its creator Issa Rae empty-handed.

That was also true of Ramy Youssef, creator-star of the semi-autobiographical comedy "Ramy," about a young Muslim American's love and religious life. Youssef tweeted a video of a haz-mat suit-wearing person clutching an Emmy and waving goodbye after Youssef lost the comedy actor category.

There were signs of change with the drama awards, which came in the latter part of the ceremony, and Black actors ultimately won a record nine trophies. But there was a familiar pattern, with actors of color doing exceptional work in limited series but not finding as much opportunity in ongoing shows, with Zendaya this year's exception.

"Watchmen" is a case in point. The graphic novel-adaptation, steeped in racial pain, was voted best limited series and King won lead actress for her work. She was showered by confetti as she accepted in an armchair, wearing a T-shirt that honored police shooting victim Breonna Taylor.

"This is so freaking weird," said King, who regained her composure and called on viewers to vote and, backstage, explained why she wore the message shirt.

"The cops still haven't been held accountable," she said. "She represents just decades, hundreds of years of violence against Black bodies. Wearing Breonna's likeness and representing her and her family and the stories that we were exploring, presenting and holding a mirror up to on 'Watchmen,' it felt appropriate to represent with Breonna Taylor."

Her co-star, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, won the Emmy for best supporting actor in a limited series. Uzo Aduba won the counterpart actress award for her portrayal of Shirley Chisholm in "Mrs. America."

Anthony Anderson, a nominee for "black-ish," came on stage to make his disappointment vigorously known, saying the awards should have been "Howard University homecoming Black."

"This isn't what it should have been. ... But Black stories, Black performances and Black Lives Matter," he said, urging Kimmel to shout with him.

Tyler Perry, the actor turned media mogul and influential booster of African American talent, accepted

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the Governors Award.

Supporting drama awards went to Billy Crudup for "The Morning Show" and repeat winner Julia Garner for "Ozark."

"Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" was again honored as best variety-talk series, with David Letterman announcing the award after being abandoned roadside by an annoyed ride-share driver.

Oliver joined the ranks of winners calling for Americans to vote, as did Mark Ruffalo, who won the limited series acting trophy for "I Know This Much is True."

Kimmel opened the show with a monologue that appeared to be defiantly delivered in front of a packed, cheering theater — until it was revealed clips were played from past Emmy shows.

"Of course I'm here all alone. Of course, we don't have an audience," he said. "This isn't a MAGA rally. It's the Emmys."

A minor gaffe marred Saturday's virtual creative arts Emmys for technical and other honors, when Jason Bateman's name was announced for a guest acting award that belonged to Ron Cephas Jones of "This Is Us."

In the cumulative awards handed out Sunday and at the creative arts events, HBO was the leader with 30 trophies, followed by Netflix with 21, Pop TV with 10 and Disney+ and NBC with eight each.

AP Writer Beth Harris contributed to this report.

Online: <https://www.emmys.com/>

US Space Force deploys to vast new frontier: Arabian Desert

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The newly formed U.S. Space Force is deploying troops to a vast new frontier: the Arabian Peninsula.

Space Force now has a squadron of 20 airmen stationed at Qatar's Al-Udeid Air Base in its first foreign deployment. The force, pushed by President Donald Trump, represents the sixth branch of the U.S. military and the first new military service since the creation of the Air Force in 1947.

It has provoked skepticism in Congress, satire on Netflix, and, with its uncannily similar logo, "Star Trek" jokes about intergalactic battles.

Future wars may be waged in outer space, but the Arabian Desert already saw what military experts dub the world's first "space war" — the 1991 Desert Storm operation to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Today, the U.S. faces new threats in the region from Iran's missile program and efforts to jam, hack and blind satellites.

"We're starting to see other nations that are extremely aggressive in preparing to extend conflict into space," Col. Todd Benson, director of Space Force troops at Al-Udeid, told The Associated Press. "We have to be able to compete and defend and protect all of our national interests."

In a swearing-in ceremony earlier this month at Al-Udeid, 20 Air Force troops, flanked by American flags and massive satellites, entered Space Force. Soon several more will join the unit of "core space operators" who will run satellites, track enemy maneuvers and try to avert conflicts in space.

"The missions are not new and the people are not necessarily new," Benson said.

That troubles some American lawmakers who view the branch, with its projected force of 16,000 troops and 2021 budget of \$15.4 billion, as a vanity project for Trump ahead of the November presidential election.

Concerns over the weaponization of outer space are decades old. But as space becomes increasingly contested, military experts have cited the need for a space corps devoted to defending American interests.

Threats from global competitors have grown since the Persian Gulf War in 1991, when the U.S. military first relied on GPS coordinates to tell troops where they were in the desert as they pushed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait.

Benson declined to name the "aggressive" nations his airmen will monitor and potentially combat. But

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the decision to deploy Space Force personnel at Al-Udeid follows months of escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

Hostilities between the two countries, ignited by Trump's unilateral withdrawal of the U.S. from Iran's nuclear accord, came to a head in January when U.S. forces killed a top Iranian general. Iran responded by launching ballistic missiles at American soldiers in Iraq.

This spring, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched its first satellite into space, revealing what experts describe as a secret military space program. The Trump administration has imposed sanctions on Iran's space agency, accusing it of developing ballistic missiles under the cover of a civilian program to set satellites into orbit.

World powers with more advanced space programs, like Russia and China, have made more threatening progress, U.S. officials contend. Last month, Defense Secretary Mark Esper warned that Russia and China were developing weapons that could knock out U.S. satellites, potentially scattering dangerous debris across space and paralyzing cell phones and weather forecasts, as well as American drones, fighter jets, aircraft carriers and even nuclear weapon controllers.

"The military is very reliant on satellite communications, navigation and global missile warning," said Capt. Ryan Vickers, a newly inducted Space Force member at Al-Udeid.

American troops, he added, use GPS coordinates to track ships passing through strategic Gulf passage-ways "to make sure they're not running into international waters of other nations."

The Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of the world's oil flows, has been the scene of a series of tense encounters, with Iran seizing boats it claims had entered its waters. One disrupted signal or miscalculation could touch off a confrontation.

For years, Iran has allegedly jammed satellite and radio signals to block foreign-based Farsi media outlets from broadcasting into the Islamic Republic, where radio and television stations are state-controlled.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has warned that commercial aircraft cruising over the Persian Gulf could experience interference and communications jamming from Iran. Ships in the region have also reported "spoofed" communications from unknown entities falsely claiming to be U.S. or coalition warships, according to American authorities.

"It's not that hard to do, but we've seen Iran and other countries become pretty darn efficient at doing it on a big scale," said Brian Weeden, an Air Force veteran and director of program planning at the Secure World Foundation, which promotes peaceful uses of outer space. "There's a concern Iran could interfere with military broadband communications."

Responding to questions from the AP, Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesman at Iran's mission to the United Nations, said "Iran will not tolerate interference in our affairs, and in accordance with international law, will respond to any attacks against our sovereignty." He added that Iran has faced numerous cyber attacks from the U.S. and Israel.

Failing an international agreement that bars conventional arms, like ballistic missiles, from shooting down space assets, the domain will only become more militarized, said Daryl Kimball, the executive director of the Washington-based Arms Control Association. Russia and China have already created space force units and the Revolutionary Guard's sudden interest in satellite launches has heightened U.S. concerns.

Still, American officials insist the new Space Force deployment aims to secure U.S. interests, not set off an extraterrestrial arms race.

"The U.S. military would like to see a peaceful space," Benson, the director of Space Force troops stationed in Qatar, said. "Other folks' behavior is kind of driving us to this point."

Follow Isabel DeBre on Twitter at www.twitter.com/IsabelDeBre.

For most NYC students, back to school, but not the classroom

By CAROLYN THOMPSON and JENNIFER PELTZ undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Monday's return to New York City schools won't be the return anyone planned for.

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For most, it won't be a return at all.

Only pre-kindergarten and some special education students are scheduled to end a six-month absence from school buildings after a last-minute decision to postpone, for the second time, plans to be among the first big districts to resume in-person instruction after the coronavirus forced students and staff home.

Schoolchildren in kindergarten through 12th grade are still starting the new school year Monday, but fully remotely, the same way students in Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and many of New York's other urban districts have.

After a fidgety spring of online pre-K, Jessica D'Amato's 5-year-old son has been so excited about going back to in-person school that he keeps asking: "When am I going to kindergarten?"

First the answer was Sept. 10. Then it was Monday. Now it's Sept. 29, much to the family's frustration. High school students return Oct. 1.

"I think that all the students are really, really at a disservice right now -- because of the uncertainty, because of the lack of in-person instruction," says D'Amato, 35, a public relations manager who lives in Brooklyn. She wonders why the city is still grappling with the staffing shortages cited for the latest delay after having months to plan, and how likely it is that the extra days will solve the problem.

"I can't see how they're going to fix the issue in a week, and I'll be very upset if then they push it again," she said, "because this kid needs to be in school already."

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the new timeline Thursday alongside leaders of the city's teachers union, who had sounded alarms that schools could not open safely.

De Blasio said Friday he is confident the new dates will stick.

The majority of the more than 1 million public school students will be in the classroom one to three days a week and learning remotely the rest of the time.

Before the latest delay, teacher Chloe Davis had spent last week bracing to welcome her fourth-grade class at PS 536, reassured on one level upon seeing the newly cleaned and painted building but so anxious at times she broke down crying. Chief among her worries is keeping her students from picking up the virus and bringing it home to their families.

"Four or five months ago, thousands of people were dying," said Davis, who takes the subway to her school in the Bronx, "and the pandemic is still around. The virus is still there and we're still in the midst of a pandemic."

The rate of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations plunged after an April peak and has largely flattened this summer across the state: New York's seen an average of 1% of daily tests coming up positive since June.

Still, New York City's seen a slight tick up in hospitalizations and infections this month.

An average of 223 COVID-19 patients were hospitalized in New York City over the week ending Wednesday, up from 195 in the same time period two weeks earlier.

And New York City has seen an average of 289 new COVID-19 infections over the past week, up from a 7-day average of 262 three weeks earlier.

The city reported another 4,400 positive COVID-19 tests so far this month, on top of another 9,000 in August.

Daniel Leviatin, a fourth-grade teacher and school librarian at PS 59 in the Bronx, sees no reason to push students back into buildings and believes the city squandered the chance to address technology issues and improve distance learning over the summer.

"Every single moment of the planning of this and the way it's been unrolled, is a mess," Leviatin said.

He and Davis said they know other large districts will be watching to see what happens when the students finally return.

"You know how at hospitals and things, they'll do research and they'll pay the participants?" Davis said. "I feel like I'm like part of that, but I didn't sign up for it."

AP Reporter Marina Villeneuve contributed from Albany, New York; Thompson reported from Buffalo,

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New York.

Partial list of Primetime Emmy Award winners

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Partial list of winners at the 72nd Primetime Emmy Awards. For the complete list, visit Emmys.com:

Drama Series: "Succession"

Comedy Series: "Schitt's Creek"

Actor, Drama Series: Jeremy Strong, "Succession"

Actress, Drama Series: Zendaya, "Euphoria"

Directing, Drama Series: Andrij Parekh, "Succession"

Writing, Comedy Series: Daniel Levy, "Schitt's Creek"

Actress, Comedy Series: Catherine O'Hara, "Schitt's Creek"

Actor, Comedy Series: Eugene Levy, "Schitt's Creek"

Directing, Comedy Series: Daniel Levy, Andrew Cividino, "Schitt's Creek"

Reality-Competition Program: "RuPaul's Drag Race"

Actress, Limited Series or Movie: Regina King, "Watchmen"

Actor, Limited Series or Movie: Mark Ruffalo, "I Know This Much is True"

Supporting Actress, Limited Series or Movie: Uzo Aduba, "Mrs. America"

Supporting Actor, Limited Series or Movie: Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, "Watchmen"

Writing, Limited Series: Damon Lindelof and Cord Jefferson, "Watchmen"

Variety Talk Series: "Last Week Tonight With John Oliver"

Supporting Actor, Drama Series: Billy Crudup, "The Morning Show"

Supporting Actress, Drama Series: Julia Garner, "Ozark"

Writing, Drama Series: Jesse Armstrong, "Succession"

2020 serves another blow as Ginsburg's death ignites fight

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death drew mourners to the steps of the Supreme Court, where they sang "Amazing Grace" in the dark. Fresh off a rally stage in Minnesota, President Donald Trump learned of the loss and praised Ginsburg as an "amazing" woman.

Such grace notes didn't last long. They were overwhelmed as swiftly as the sagebrush of Western wildfires, little boats in the hurricanes and hospitals at the height of infections in this year of calamity and a book named "Rage."

With a court seat open, yet another fiery fight is lit between partisans clashing over matters of racism, policing, masks, lockdowns, how to vote and for whom to vote, as one crisis after another pummels the country, bringing no unity and no common heroes, just another flashpoint.

How many more of them can America take?

Perhaps not since Weather Underground radicals bombed buildings in a drive to "disrupt the empire" and the Nixon-era Southern Strategy seized on racism as a political tool has the country faced tension and turmoil from so many corners at once.

Inevitably, and against her last wishes, Ginsburg became a political football mere minutes after her death was disclosed Friday night. New winds of rage picked up.

Condolences from public figures across the divide came with opening salvos in the struggle over her replacement. Republicans are pressing for preelection action on a Trump nominee; Democrats for a post-election, post-inauguration nomination that they hope will come from a new president, Joe Biden. Trump says he'll name his choice this week.

Protesters are protesting. The political battle is joined. Campaign money is being leveraged from Ginsburg's death by both sides. It's the American way.

"BREAKING: The future of the Supreme Court is on the line," said a fundraising email from Republican

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Sen. Joni Ernst's Iowa campaign shortly after the justice's death was announced.

"Fill that seat," Trump supporters chanted at his North Carolina rally Saturday, when the president playfully fake-pollled the crowd about whom to choose as his nominee, seeing opportunity to turn the race around.

From the other side, a sign read: "Ditch Mitch" at a protest outside the home of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the Republican at the center of the coming power play.

"We must mobilize, organize, and remove Donald Trump from office to ensure that her service to our country and her commitment to justice and equality are never lost or forgotten," said Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

Mobilize. Organize. Fight. To the ramparts Americans are summoned again.

The supposed national trauma that ushered in 2020, a president's impeachment, is all but forgotten because it segued into so much more. All of it plays out as the novel coronavirus infects tens of thousands more people in the U.S. each day and deaths from it mount, soon to pass 200,000. And soon to be layered with the flu season.

"Today people feel the insecurity and they feel it in almost every venue," said historian Cal Jillson of Southern Methodist University. "The presidency is in the hands of a serial disrupter. Congress is polarized and often immobilized. The court is balanced on a knife's edge."

Beyond those pillars, the structure is stressed, too.

Practically every part of government and public service — the post office, the Census Bureau, the Justice Department, the Pentagon, the storied public-health institutions, the national security, intelligence and foreign affairs apparatus — is roiling from some form of Trump disruption.

About two-thirds of people polled by The Associated Press are frustrated by the campaign. Beyond Trump vs. Biden, the feeling that the U.S. is going in the wrong direction hit its highest point in Trump's presidency in the summer and remains overwhelmingly in negative territory.

Nor is the pursuit of happiness going so well. NORC polls found that since the pandemic began, Americans are less likely to call themselves very happy than in surveys conducted over nearly the last 50 years.

Trump supporter Chris Holmes, a 58-year old engineer from Fayetteville, North Carolina, who attended Trump's rally, said a preelection nomination fight is not what the country needs or what Republicans should take on in these incendiary times. He's already worried about what might happen after Nov. 3, Election Day, if the result is contested or unclear: "Violence is coming."

Jillson graduated from college in 1971 and spent two years in the Army, a student turned soldier when the country was reeling from protests, riots, the Vietnam War, racial animus and a deep sense "the whole damn thing was coming apart."

These days resemble those ones, but with crucial differences, as he sees it. "This feels like a deeply uncertain and dangerous time, as in the late '60s and early '70s," he said. "But I don't think the fear is the same because we've now undergone decades of social change."

He points to weeks of stability in the presidential race, as measured by polls, as a sign that Trump's law-and-order message doesn't have the power of Richard Nixon's and that Trump's talk of antifa radicals has not convinced people their neighborhoods will be overrun by leftists in a Biden presidency.

The election will settle that question. Meantime there are fights to be fought across the divide and there is rage to be heard. In the aftermath of the justice's death, the players are bringing it.

But not Christopher Scalia, son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, a conservative foil to the liberal Ginsburg who also happened to be a dear friend.

On Twitter, the son told the story of his father getting two dozen roses to take to Ginsburg for her birthday, not long before his death in 2016. A judge visiting Scalia's chamber saw them on the desk and asked why he would give flowers to a justice who never helped him win a 5-4 decision in a major case.

"Some things are more important than votes," Justice Scalia replied.

Associated Press writer Bryan Anderson in Fayetteville, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

AP's Advance Voting guide brings you the facts about voting early, by mail or absentee from each state: <https://interactives.ap.org/advance-voting-2020/>

Ginsburg's death puts Roe v. Wade on the ballot in November

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

It's been a throwaway line in presidential campaigns for years: Roe v. Wade is on the ballot.

This time it is very real.

The death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg so close to a presidential election and the vacancy it creates on the Supreme Court, coupled with President Donald Trump's political imperative to energize social conservatives in key states, urgently provided a new frame for Trump's case for a second term. And it has animated supporters of abortion rights at least as much.

If Trump is able to install his nominee in that seat, both sides agree there's a better chance than ever that Roe v. Wade — the 1973 decision established a nationwide right to abortion — could be overturned or gutted.

"We have been apprehensive for years, but this is more worrisome — this is a seismic shift," said Jennifer Dalven, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project.

During his 2016 campaign, Trump, who had previously expressed unqualified support for abortion rights, won over skeptical anti-abortion leaders with multiple pledges to combat abortion, including choosing Supreme Court justices open to dismantling Roe v. Wade. Now, with Trump hoping to fill a vacancy for the third time and give the nine-member court six conservative justices, that pledge has new import.

"It is at least conceivable for the first time that we have a majority that would overturn Roe, and the battle would return to the states," said Andrew Bath, executive vice president of the Thomas More Society, a conservative public interest law firm.

It remains uncertain if the Senate will hold a confirmation vote before the Nov. 3 election, and how it would respond if Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden before the vacancy is filled. But Trump has urged the Senate to move quickly, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said there will be a vote on Trump's nominee.

If a Trump nominee is confirmed and a reconfigured high court did eventually overturn Roe, the likely outcome would be a patchwork of laws in various states. Some states would protect abortion access, others would enact near-total bans, and many would struggle over what new limits they might impose.

Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, says that if Roe were dismantled, sweeping bans could be imposed in 20 states that are home to an estimated 25 million women of reproductive age.

The high court has plenty of options if it wants to reexamine Roe. Planned Parenthood's president, Alexis McGill Johnson, says there are 17 cases involving state-level abortion restrictions that are pending in federal courts "only one step away from the Supreme Court."

Julie Burkhart, who operates abortion clinics in Oklahoma City and in Wichita, Kansas, already has a sense of the consequences of a Roe v. Wade reversal, based on events this year in the early months of the coronavirus pandemic.

The governors of Texas and some other Republican-led states issued executive orders banning most abortions on grounds they were non-essential medical procedures. Before those bans were quashed, many Texas women journeyed to out-of-state abortion clinics, including Burkhart's Wichita clinic where the patient load quadrupled at one stage.

"It gave a peek into what a post-Roe world would look like, which was not a pretty sight," Burkhart said. "It was devastating and heartbreaking."

There are numerous organizations assisting women who need to travel out of state to access abortion, and such efforts are likely to expand if state abortion bans are permitted.

There's also likely to be an increase in do-it-yourself abortions, according to attorney Jill E. Adams of If/When/How, which seeks to provide accurate information about this option and discourage authorities from criminalizing it.

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Already, many abortions are induced at home with a two-drug combination, under the guidance of a health professional. Advocacy groups say home abortions using one of the drugs — misoprostol — can be done safely without professional oversight.

“If Roe is overturned or gutted, more people will need this option,” Adams said.

Last year, at least eight states passed sweeping abortion bans — most of them so-called heartbeat bills that could ban abortion as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Tennessee lawmakers approved such a measure this year.

All the new bans have been at least temporarily blocked by judges.

In June, a divided Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law regulating abortion clinics, reasserting a commitment to abortion rights over opposition from dissenting conservative justices in the first big abortion case of Trump’s presidency.

Chief Justice John Roberts and his four more liberal colleagues, including Ginsburg, ruled 5-4 that a law that requires doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals violates the rights established by Roe v. Wade.

Were Roberts to side with the three remaining liberals in future abortion cases, that bloc could be potentially outvoted by five conservatives — including the new Trump nominee.

Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, noted that most recent abortion cases reaching the Supreme Court were decided by one-vote margins.

“The fact that the court was so close — with Ruth Bader Ginsburg on it — sends shivers down my spine in terms of how critical this next appointment is,” she said.

Michael New, an abortion opponent who teaches social research at Catholic University of America, said a successful Trump nomination could further embolden anti-abortion state legislators.

“Some state-level pro-life laws have been specifically drafted in such a way to obtain the vote of John Roberts,” New said via email. “If a Trump nominee is confirmed, it is possible that some states may pursue stronger laws that offer greater protection to the unborn.”

Among the favorites of many in the anti-abortion movement is Amy Coney Barrett, a devout Roman Catholic who taught law at the University of Notre Dame before taking a seat three years ago on a federal appeals court. Trump has said he will nominate a woman and has spoken highly of Barrett.

New said Trump could benefit from making a nomination even if the Senate doesn’t act on it until after the election.

“Aggressive criticism of an otherwise qualified Supreme Court nominee may well work to the political advantage of the president and other Republican candidates,” New said.

There are two abortion-related state ballot measures up for a vote on Nov. 3 — a measure in Louisiana stipulating there is no right to abortion or abortion funding in the state Constitution, and a measure in Colorado that would ban abortion after 22 weeks of pregnancy.

The proposed Colorado ban would allow abortions after that time only if a woman’s life is endangered. It makes no exceptions for rape, incest or a severe fetal abnormality.

There is some limited consensus among the rival sides in the abortion debate: It won’t be ended by a reversal of Roe.

“The issue of abortion has divided this nation like no issue since slavery,” said Andrew Bath of the Thomas More Society. “These battles are going to rage no matter what the Supreme Court decides to do.”

AP FACT CHECK: Trump’s made-up car plants, court revisionism

By HOPE YEN, CALVIN WOODWARD and TOM KRISHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his GOP allies are playing loose with the facts when it comes to a successor for the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Seeking to justify a possible confirmation vote before the Nov. 3 election, Trump asserted over the weekend that many high court nominations were made in an election year and “in all cases, they went forward.” That’s clearly not true.

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In fact, just one hour after Justice Antonin Scalia's unexpected death in February 2016, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell publicly made clear the Senate should not confirm a successor chosen by President Barack Obama because of the coming election. That slot ultimately went unfilled until after President Donald Trump announced a nominee 11 months later.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz on Sunday also claimed a "constitutional crisis" if a replacement isn't confirmed right away, insisting Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden has stated he won't accept the election results if he loses. Biden has said he will.

The revisionist GOP history comes following a week of outright falsehoods, on subjects like auto manufacturing, voting fraud and more. Trump told a North Carolina rally that a conversation with the Japanese prime minister led to five new car companies opening in Michigan the next day. That didn't happen.

Biden laid out a broad and largely supported case that Trump has underplayed the severity of the pandemic. But the devil was in the details: No, Trump did not call the coronavirus a hoax.

A look:

GINSBURG

TRUMP, on advancing a Supreme Court nominee in a presidential election year: "This has happened numerous times. And every time, there was a nominee, as you know. There's been many occasions where, frankly, it turned out to be during a presidential year. ... But in all cases, they went forward." — remarks Saturday to reporters.

THE FACTS: A Supreme Court nomination put forth in a presidential election year in fact wasn't advanced "in all cases."

After Scalia's death, Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland in March 2016 to fill his seat. But McConnell, R-Ky., declined to act on the nomination, declaring that the next elected president should fill the vacancy.

Garland's nomination lasted 293 days, extending past the November 2016 election that Trump won and expiring in January 2017. As president, Trump subsequently nominated Neil Gorsuch, who won confirmation by the Republican-controlled Senate.

Democrats typically point to Garland's example as a case of Republican hypocrisy in seeking an immediate replacement now for Ginsburg. McConnell has said Trump's pick — expected to be announced this week — will get a Senate vote but hasn't indicated when.

TED CRUZ: "I think it is particularly important that the Senate take it up and confirm this nomination before the election. Because Joe Biden has been explicit. He has said, if he doesn't win, he's going to challenge this election. He's going to go to court. ... Given that, there is a serious risk of a constitutional crisis." — interview Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

THE FACTS: The Texas senator is incorrect.

Unlike Trump, Biden says he will accept the outcome of the Nov. 3 election.

"Sure, the full results. Count every vote," Biden said Thursday at a CNN town hall.

Biden has been assembling a team of lawyers in anticipation of court challenges to the election process and says his legal war room will work to ensure that elections are properly administered and votes correctly counted.

Trump, who frequently asserts "rigged elections" and voting fraud despite the lack of evidence, has suggested he may not accept the election outcome.

The president told "Fox News Sunday" in July when asked whether he would accept the results: "I have to see. No, I'm not going to just say yes. I'm not going to say no, and I didn't last time, either."

AUTOS

TRUMP, about former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe: "We won Michigan — first time in decades. And you know what we've done? Many, many car plants are now opening up ... I said, 'Shinzo, please do me a favor, we need more car companies. ... We want them built here, not in Japan, please.' He said, 'But we cannot do that, this is a free enterprise system.' I said, '... Please, I need some car companies.' ... I said, 'Shinzo, you have to do it.' Next day, it was the story: 'Five car companies opened up in Michigan.'"

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— North Carolina rally Saturday.

THE FACTS: Trump is making up the story.

No Japanese automaker assembly plants have been announced or built in Michigan, let alone in one day, and there are no plans to add any.

There is one manufacturing facility, a joint venture between General Motors and Honda, south of Detroit. It's the \$85 million expansion of an existing facility to make hydrogen fuel cells with about 100 new jobs, according to the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think tank in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Subaru has a new research center with about 100 new jobs, and Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi and Toyota have announced expansions of research facilities. These are not new "car plants" run by Japanese automakers.

In fact, the number of auto and parts manufacturing jobs in Michigan fell between Trump's inauguration and February of this year, before the coronavirus took hold. When Trump took office there were 174,200 jobs, and that dropped to 171,800 in February, according to Labor Department statistics. In July, the most recent figures available, there were 154,400 auto and parts manufacturing jobs in Michigan.

That's far from a car company renaissance in the state courtesy of Japan, as Trump asserts.

PANDEMIC

TRUMP: "If you look at what we've done and all of the lives that we've saved ... this was our prediction, that if we do a really good job, we'll be at about a hundred and — 100,000 to 240,000 deaths. And we're below that substantially, and we'll see what comes out. But that would be if we did the good job. If the not-so-good job was done, you'd be between 1.5 million — I remember these numbers so well — and 2.2 million." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He's glossing over grim numbers and wrongly describing the scientific projections.

First and most notably, the U.S. is not running "substantially" below projections that 100,000 to 240,000 would die from COVID-19. The death toll is about 200,000 and the pandemic is far from over. Tens of thousands of new infections are being reported each day.

The White House and federal public health authorities have often pointed to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington as a source for their pandemic projections. The institute now forecasts more than 378,000 U.S. deaths from COVID-19 by Jan. 1.

In early April, U.S. officials estimated at least 100,000 would die from the pandemic even if all conceivable steps were taken against it — a thorough and enduring lockdown, full use of masks and more. A death toll up to 240,000 assumed aggressive mitigation.

Trump has often cited a potential death toll of 2.2 million or so — a number that puts the reality of several hundred thousand deaths in a better light. He uses it to claim to have saved many lives. But such an extreme projection was merely a baseline if nothing at all were done to fight the pandemic. It was never, as he claimed, an expected death toll if "the not-so-good job was done."

At an April 1 briefing, when Trump and his officials discussed the projection of 100,000 to 240,000 deaths, the president held out hope of keeping deaths under 100,000. "I think we're doing better than that."

Now he's trying to move the goal posts and have the public consider anything under 240,000 deaths a success.

TRUMP: "We'll have manufactured at least 100 million vaccine doses before the end of the year." — news conference Friday.

TRUMP: "We expect to have enough vaccine for every American by April." — news conference Friday.

THE FACTS: Don't count on this.

Even if one or more vaccines is authorized for emergency use by the end of this year, those numbers stretch credulity.

Public authorities are so certain there will be only limited doses at first that they're developing plans to triage them for people who need it the most, such as health workers. In a distribution plan released this past week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's best-case option was that 35 million to 45

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million doses would be available by the end of December if two of the leading candidates both proved safe and effective. And those candidates require two doses, three weeks to four weeks apart.

Having enough vaccine for everyone — whenever that may be — is different from getting it into people's arms. Plans for how to accomplish that are still being worked out.

Trump is pushing hard to have a vaccine announced before the election or at least to convince people that such an outcome is possible. But federal health officials and scientists have signaled or outright stated that that is unlikely.

BIDEN VIDEO: "Trump in public: 'Hoax.' Trump in private: 'Killer.'" — video tweeted by Biden on Tuesday. BIDEN VIDEO, showing Trump saying at a Feb. 28 campaign rally in South Carolina: "The coronavirus — and this is their new hoax."

THE FACTS: The accusation is misleading. So is the selective video editing that made it appear Trump was calling the coronavirus a "new hoax."

At the rally featured in the video, Trump actually said the phrases "the coronavirus" and "this is their new hoax" at separate points. Although his meaning is difficult to discern, the broader context of his words shows he was railing against Democrats for their denunciations of his administration's coronavirus response.

"Now the Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus," he said. "You know that, right? Coronavirus. They're politicizing it." He meandered briefly to the subject of the messy Democratic primary in Iowa, then the Russia investigation before returning to the pandemic. "They tried the impeachment hoax. ... And this is their new hoax."

Asked at a news conference the next day to clarify his remarks, Trump made clear he was not referring to the coronavirus itself as a hoax.

"No, no, no," he said. "'Hoax' referring to the action that they take to try and pin this on somebody, because we've done such a good job. The hoax is on them, not -- I'm not talking about what's happening here. I'm talking what they're doing. That's the hoax."

He continued: "Certainly not referring to this. How could anybody refer to this? This is very serious stuff."

The video's reference to "Trump in private" calling the virus a "killer" comes from the president's interview in April with author and journalist Bob Woodward, whose new book "Rage" contains Trump's acknowledgment that he was playing down the virus threat in public, so as to avoid panic.

But it is incorrect for Biden to suggest, as the video does, that Trump insisted the virus was a hoax before ultimately acknowledging to the author in April that it was deadly and serious.

Trump on several occasions before that did refer publicly to the virus as a "plague" and a "killer," while also falsely dismissing it as something that would go away on its own, in hot weather or otherwise.

VOTING

TRUMP: "A giant SCAM, and the Dems know it!" — tweet Sunday.

TRUMP: "The big Unsolicited Ballot States should give it up NOW, before it is too late, and ask people to go to the Polling Booths and, like always before, VOTE. Otherwise, MAYHEM!!! Solicited Ballots (absentee) are OK." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump is overstating the potential for "mayhem" and fraud in "big unsolicited ballot states."

There is no such thing as an "unsolicited" ballot. Five states routinely send ballots to all registered voters so they can choose to vote through the mail or in person. Four other states and the District of Columbia will be adopting that system in November, as will almost every county in Montana. Election officials note that, by registering to vote, people are effectively requesting a ballot, so it makes no sense to call the materials sent to them "unsolicited."

More broadly speaking, voter fraud has proved exceedingly rare. The Brennan Center for Justice in 2017 ranked the risk of ballot fraud at 0.00004% to 0.0009%, based on studies of past elections.

In the five states that regularly send ballots to all voters who have registered, there have been no major cases of fraud or difficulty counting the votes.

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TRUMP: "Because of the new and unprecedented massive amount of unsolicited ballots which will be sent to 'voters', or wherever, this year, the Nov 3rd Election result may NEVER BE ACCURATELY DETERMINED, which is what some want." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: It's highly unlikely that any chaos in states with universal mail-in voting will cause the election result to "never be accurately determined."

The five states that already have such balloting have had time to strengthen their systems, while four new states adopting it — California, New Jersey, Nevada and Vermont — have not. Of those nine states, only Nevada is a battleground, worth six electoral votes and only likely to be pivotal in a national presidential deadlock. The others, including the District of Columbia, are overwhelmingly Democratic.

The main states that are being contested — Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — only send mail ballots to voters who request them. Trump said Thursday that such "solicited" ballots are absolutely "OK."

Trump frequently blasts mail-in voting as flawed and fraudulent while insisting that mail ballots in certain states such as Florida, a must-win state for him, are fine. But mail-in ballots are cast in the same way as what Trump refers to as "absentee" mail ballots, with the same level of scrutiny such as signature verification in many states. In court filings, the Trump campaign has acknowledged that mail-in and absentee ballots are legally interchangeable terms.

States nationwide expect a surge in mail-in voting due to the coronavirus threat.

TRUMP: "Unsolicited Ballots are uncontrollable, totally open to ELECTION INTERFERENCE by foreign countries, and will lead to massive chaos and confusion!" — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: Mail-in ballots aren't the biggest risk for foreign interference.

Trying to influence a federal election through mail-in ballots would probably mean paying thousands of U.S. citizens, carefully selected in pivotal states, who are willing to conspire with a foreign government and risk detection and prosecution.

Far easier and cheaper would be a social media campaign seeking to discourage certain groups of people from voting, which is something the FBI has warned about. Or a cyberattack on voter registration data that would eliminate certain voters from the rolls. That could cause havoc at polling places or election offices as officials attempt to count ballots from people who are "missing" from their voter databases.

Attorney General Bill Barr has raised the possibility that a "foreign country could print up tens of thousands of counterfeit ballots." He argued they would be hard to detect, but that's been disputed by election experts.

Mail-in ballots are printed on special paper and must be formatted correctly in order to be processed and counted. Ballots are specific to each precinct, often with a long list of local races, and would be identified as fraudulent if everything didn't match precisely.

TRUMP: "The Governor of Nevada worked very hard to cancel all of our venues. Despite the fact that he controls the state, he failed, but would have rather done rally outside. Can you imagine this man is in charge ... of the Ballots in Nevada!? Not fair, Rigged Election!" — tweets on Sept 14.

THE FACTS: You don't have to imagine that man being in charge of the election because he isn't.

Whatever his beef with Nevada's Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak, the governor isn't running the state's new all-mail election in November. That responsibility falls to Nevada's secretary of state, Barbara Cegavske. She is a Republican.

OBAMA'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

TRUMP: "You know, Obama came into office, they gave him the Nobel Prize, like almost immediately, right? In fact, he didn't even know why he got it. He didn't even know. He had no idea why he got it and he was right about that because nobody else does either. They still don't know." -- rally in Minden, Nevada, Sept. 12.

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TRUMP: "But it's true, Obama got it for no reason whatsoever." -- rally in Henderson, Nevada, Sept. 13. Neither of Trump's oft-stated assertions about Obama and his Nobel Peace Prize is true. The Nobel committee announced Obama as recipient of the prize on Oct. 9, 2009, nearly nine months after his inauguration -- that's not "almost immediately."

As far as the reason for awarding the prize to Obama, the committee was quite clear in its 258-word statement issued 11 years ago, which focused on "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples" and noted in particular "Obama's vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons."

"Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future," the committee said in its statement.

To be sure, the prize reflected aspirations more than accomplishments. When Obama was asked later why he got the prize, he did say: "To be honest, I don't know." He said they give those prizes "to just about anybody these days." He was making self-deprecating jokes, which Trump turned against him at his rally.

But agree or disagree with the committee's decision, it gave its reasons for honoring Obama.

Krisher reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers Nicholas Riccardi in Denver, and Kevin Freking, Lauran Neergaard, Eric Tucker and Douglass K. Daniel in Washington contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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Pressure mounts on GOP senators over filling Ginsburg seat

By LAURIE KELLMAN, LISA MASCARO and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden hammered President Donald Trump and leading Senate Republicans for trying to rush a replacement for the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, as pressure mounted on senators to support or oppose a quick vote to fill the seat.

As the Senate returned to Washington on Monday, all eyes were on Republicans Mitt Romney of Utah and Chuck Grassley of Iowa for clues to whether Trump and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will be able to confirm Ginsburg's replacement anytime soon. A day earlier, Biden had urged unnamed Republicans to join Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine in opposing a confirmation vote before the Nov. 3 election. It takes four GOP senators breaking ranks to keep Trump's nominee off the court.

"Uphold your constitutional duty, your conscience," said Biden, speaking in Philadelphia on Sunday. "Let the people speak. Cool the flames that have engulfed our country."

Jamming the nomination through, Biden said, would amount to an "abuse of power."

It was the latest round of ferocious maneuvering that has followed Ginsburg's death at 87 on Friday. Her passing upended a campaign that had, until then, focused on Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, the nation's economic collapse and racial unrest that has stoked protests across U.S. cities.

Trump has said he intends within days to name a woman to succeed the liberal icon, McConnell was moving ahead swiftly with plans for confirmation hearings and votes.

Despite Biden's urging, there was little chance of calm overtaking the historic campaign as early voting progressed and the death toll from the virus neared 200,000 Americans.

Just before Murkowski joined Collins, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi referred to the House having "options" she did not name to stall or prevent the Senate from confirming Ginsburg's successor to the lifetime job.

"We have arrows in our quiver that I'm not about to discuss right now," Pelosi said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." The House has no formal role in the confirmation of Supreme Court justices. But Pelosi would not rule out a new round of impeachment proceedings that might divert the Senate's attention.

Meanwhile, Murkowski raised by one the number of Republicans opposing a rush to confirmation.

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"For weeks, I have stated that I would not support taking up" a potential nomination as the presidential election neared. "Sadly," she said, "what was then a hypothetical is now our reality, but my position has not changed."

Republicans hold a 53-47 edge in the Senate. If there were a 50-50 tie, it could be broken by Vice President Mike Pence.

There is another potential wrinkle: Because Arizona's Senate race is a special election, that seat could be filled as early as Nov. 30. If Democrat Mark Kelly wins and is seated, that would narrow the window for McConnell.

Trump has said he is obligated to act as soon as possible and had at least two women in mind for the seat. Most Republicans concurred on the need for speed and one named a practical reason: The nine-member court, argued Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, must be full if called upon to decide the outcome of a disputed presidential election.

But Biden and other Democrats said voters should choose the next president, who should, in turn, pick Ginsburg's successor. Health care, abortion rights and religious freedom are on the line, they said.

Biden, who has run on uniting the country after Trump's divisive tenure, warned against more upheaval. "The last thing we need is a constitutional crisis that plunges us deeper into the abyss and deeper into the darkness," he said. He acknowledged that if Trump wins, his pick should be approved.

But Biden added, "If I win this election, President Trump's nominee should be withdrawn and as the new president I should be the one to nominate Justice Ginsburg's successor."

Nonetheless, the process for replacing her moved swiftly ahead. On a call with McConnell, R-Ky., late Saturday, Trump mentioned two federal appeals court judges: Amy Coney Barrett and Barbara Lagoa, according to a person familiar with the private conversation who was not authorized to publicly discuss the call and spoke on condition of anonymity.

To the chants of "Fill that seat," Trump told supporters at an event Saturday night in North Carolina that he would nominate a woman as soon as this week.

"We win an election and those are the consequences," said Trump, who then seemed to signal that he'd be willing to accept a vote on his nominee during the lame-duck period after the election. "We have a lot of time. We have plenty of time. We're talking about January 20th" — when the next president is inaugurated.

Democrats have denounced McConnell's move to push ahead as hypocritical, pointing out that he refused to call hearings for President Barack Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, 237 days before the 2016 election.

If the court were to take cases with eight justices, 4-4 ties would revert the decision to a lower court; for instance, the Affordable Care Act could then be struck down by a lower Texas court.

Jaffe reported from Philadelphia.

AP sources: Woman accused of sending ricin letter arrested

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman suspected of sending an envelope containing the poison ricin, which was addressed to White House, has been arrested at the New York-Canada border, three law enforcement officials told The Associated Press.

The letter had been intercepted earlier this week before it reached the White House. The woman was taken into custody by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Peace Bridge border crossing near Buffalo and is expected to face federal charges, the officials said Sunday. Her name was not immediately released.

The letter addressed to the White House appeared to have originated in Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have said. It was intercepted at a government facility that screens mail addressed to the White House and President Donald Trump and a preliminary investigation indicated it tested positive for ricin, according to the officials.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation publicly and spoke on condition

of anonymity.

There have been several prior instances in which U.S. officials have been targeted with ricin sent through the mail.

A Navy veteran was arrested in 2018 and confessed to sending envelopes to Trump and members of his administration that contained the substance from which ricin is derived. The letters were intercepted, and no one was hurt.

In 2014, a Mississippi man was sentenced to 25 years in prison after sending letters dusted with ricin to President Barack Obama and other officials.

The Latest: 'Succession' swipes the crown for best TV drama

By The Associated Press undefined

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Latest from the Emmy Awards (all times PDT):

8 p.m.

"Succession" has taken its turn at the top.

The HBO series won best television drama series at the Emmy Awards on Sunday night for its second season.

It was the fourth Emmy of the night for "Succession," which was the night's big winner in the drama categories. It also won the best actor trophy for Jeremy Strong along with best writing and best directing.

Like most of the night's winners, creator Jesse Armstrong accepted the award from a remote location, in his case in a stuffed chair in a living room setting. Instead of thank-yous he gave out a series of "un-thank-yous," including one to the media moguls like the one his show portrays.

The saga of a media magnate and the adult children seeking to replace him took the drama-series helm from the now defunct "Game of Thrones," which had won the award for four of the previous five years.

"Succession" beat out fellow nominees "The Crown," "Better Call Saul," "Killing Eve," "The Handmaid's Tale," "The Mandalorian," "Ozark" and "Stranger Things."

7:50 p.m.

Billy Crudup has won his first Emmy at 52. Julia Garner has her second at 26.

Crudup won best supporting actor in a drama for his role on the Apple TV+ series "The Morning Show."

Just as she did last year, Garner won best supporting actress in a drama series for her role as the teen daughter of a money-laundering financier on Netflix's "Ozark."

Both were the only Emmy wins for their shows and the streaming services that air them.

7:40 p.m.

Zendaya is euphoric at the Emmys.

She won best actress in a drama for her role on HBO's "Euphoria," scoring one of the few long shot victories in a Sunday night full of wins from favorites.

Gleeful family and friends screamed, cheered, hugged and cried behind her as a stunned Zendaya accepted the trophy in what appeared to be a hotel suite.

"This is pretty crazy!" she said, trying to hold back tears.

On "Euphoria," Zendaya plays Rue Bennett, a teenage addict struggling with her sobriety and recovery on the series that delves into sex, drugs, trauma and identity among high-schoolers.

The 24-year-old is the youngest to ever win in the category and she overcame a strong group of nominees that included Olivia Colman, Jodie Comer, Laura Linney and Sandra Oh.

7:30 p.m.

There is no question of "Succession" at the Emmys: The son has trumped the father.

Jeremy Strong beat out co-star Brian Cox to win best actor in a drama series for HBO's "Succession."

"Brian Cox, I shared this with you," Strong said as he accepted the trophy in a remote room.

On the show, Cox is a media magnate who successfully fights off the son, played by Strong, who is

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seeking to replace him.

Cox and Strong were considered favorites for the Emmy, but some thought they might split the vote and neither would win.

It's the first Emmy and first nomination in a 12-year career for the 41-year-old Bostonian actor Strong. He also beat out fellow nominees Billy Porter, Jason Bateman, Sterling K. Brown and Steve Carell.

7:20 p.m.

"RuPaul's Drag Race" just keeps strutting.

For the third straight year, the VH1 drag queen extravaganza won the Emmy Award for top reality-competition show on Sunday night.

"Don't give up on love," RuPaul said to the show's fans, accepting the trophy from a dressing room in a remote location. "Believe in love and the power of love."

"RuPaul's drag race beat out fellow nominees, "The Masked Singer," "Nailed It!" "Top Chef" and "The Voice."

Including the Creative Arts Emmy Awards given out earlier in the week, "Drag Race" won six Emmys and has won 19 overall in its 12 seasons.

7:00 p.m.

With all eyes on "Watchmen," its masked heroes and anti-heroes didn't disappoint.

The made-for-the-moment HBO show about self-appointed superheroes, police violence, domestic terrorism and racial strife in America won the Emmy Award for best limited series or TV movie on Sunday night.

It was the biggest triumph of a big night for "Watchmen," the year's most nominated show.

Star Regina King won best actress, her co-star Yahya Abdul-Mateen II won best supporting actor and the show's creator Damon Lindelof won for writing.

The HBO series rebooted and reinvented the acclaimed 1980s graphic novel by Alan Moore about superheroes and vigilantes in an alternate-history dystopia.

It beat out fellow nominees "Little Fires Everywhere," "Mrs. America," "Unbelievable" and "Unorthodox."

"History is mystery," Lindelof said as he accepted the best limited series Emmy in a remote room with many of his "Watchmen" colleagues behind them. "It is broken into a million puzzle pieces and many are missing, we know where those pieces are but we don't seek them out because we know finding them will hurt."

He dedicated the award to the Black victims of the 1921 Tulsa massacre, which has a central role on the show.

6:30 p.m.

HULK WIN EMMY!

Mark Ruffalo won the Emmy Award for best actor in a limited series or TV movie for his dual portrayal of twin brothers, one of whom has schizophrenia, in HBO's "I Know This Much Is True."

It's the first acting Emmy for the 52-year-old Ruffalo, who plays the Incredible Hulk in Marvel's "Avengers" films.

An emotional Ruffalo accepted the trophy as he sat on a couch in a remote room in upstate New York, calling for Americans to use their vote to "heal and honor and take care of each other and our most vulnerable people."

Ruffalo also won a best TV movie Emmy in 2014 as an executive producer on HBO's "The Normal Heart."

6:15 p.m.

Regina King is an Emmy superhero, and queen of the limited series.

King won best actress in a limited series or TV movie Sunday night for her role as Angela Abar, aka the masked hero Sister Night, on HBO's "Watchmen."

King was handed the trophy as she sat in a living room in the pandemic-altered Emmys.

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It's the fourth Emmy in six years for King, all of them for limited series.

She won the same award in 2018 for "Seven Seconds," and took best supporting actress in a limited series or TV movie for two different roles on "American Crime" in 2015 and 2016.

King beat out fellow nominees Cate Blanchett, Kerry Washington, Shira Haas and Octavia Spencer.

She also won an Oscar and a Golden Globe in 2019 as best supporting actor in "If Beale Street Could Talk."

6:00 p.m.

Up with "Schitt's Creek!"

The small show about a rich family left with nothing but a small town reached the Emmy big time on Sunday night, taking the coveted trophy for best comedy series.

The Canadian sitcom swept the comedy categories, winning seven Emmys for its sixth and final season.

Eugene Levy won best actor, Catherine O'Hara won best actress, Annie Murphy won best supporting actress, and Levy's son, Dan Levy, claimed three: for best supporting actor, writing and directing.

They were the first seven Emmys handed out at Sunday's unusual ceremony, and the gleeful, tearful cast was jubilant in their face masks and formalwear as they claimed Emmy after Emmy together at a Canadian pavilion.

"Our show is about the transformational effects of love and acceptance, and that is something that we need more of now than we have ever needed before," Dan Levy said as he took the seventh trophy.

Dan and Eugene Levy created the show that aired in the U.S. on Pop TV.

5:30 p.m.

Eugene Levy has ridden up "Schitt's Creek" to his first acting Emmy.

Levy won the Emmy Award for best actor in a comedy series on Sunday night for Pop TV's "Schitt's Creek," taking home the trophy for the sixth and final season of the show he co-created with his son, Dan Levy.

"It's kind of ironic that the straightest role I've ever played lands me an Emmy for a comedy performance. So now I seriously have to question what I've been doing for the past 50 years," said Levy.

With Levy's win, "Schitt's Creek" takes the first two Emmys of the evening.

He accepted the trophy in a remote, restaurant-like pavilion surrounded by his cast mates including his longtime collaborator Catherine O'Hara, who minutes earlier won best actress in a comedy series for playing his wife on the show.

5:25 p.m.

E! host Giuliana Rancic had to miss the Emmy Awards virtual pre-show after she tested positive for the coronavirus.

Rancic announced in a video from home Sunday that she tested positive for the virus along with her husband and son. The show was hosted by Brad Goreski and Nina Parker.

"Now as much as I didn't want to hear that, I'm very thankful I heard it before I traveled and possibly could have exposed other people," Rancic, the longtime E! host. "So for that, I'm thankful."

Rancic said she and her family are holding up well health wise.

"My husband Bill and our son also did test positive, but we're all doing well and taking care of each other so I'm going to get back to doing that," she said.

"But I just want to say I'm wishing you all the best and please protect yourselves and protect those around you. Take good care and I'll see you on the next red carpet."

5:20 p.m.

After 45 years of nothing-but-funny and a six-year run down "Schitt's Creek," Catherine O'Hara has an acting Emmy.

O'Hara won the Emmy Award for best actress in a TV comedy for her role as Rose family matriarch Moira on "Schitt's Creek" on Sunday night.

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Jennifer Aniston presented the award, the first handed out at Sunday night's ceremony, from Staples Center, and O'Hara accepted in a remote restaurant-like pavilion with the "Schitt's Creek" cast in face masks and formalwear around her.

A man in a black tie hazard suit handed her the trophy.

"May you have as much joy being holed up in a room or two with your dear family as I have with my dear Roses here," an emotional O'Hara said.

The win puts O'Hara in the elite company that her peers and co-stars have already held her in for decades.

Past winners of the award include Lucille Ball, Mary Tyler Moore, Candice Bergen and Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

O'Hara had one previous Emmy for writing on "SCTV" in 1982 in the earlier days of years of collaboration with her "Schitt's Creek" co-star Eugene Levy.

5:10 p.m.

It looked like any awards show as Emmys host Jimmy Kimmel took the stage at the Staples Center in a tuxedo and started cracking jokes to laughter from famous audience members.

But it was anything but typical. While Kimmel was real as he opened the 72nd Emmy Awards on Sunday night, the audience was clearly phony, inserted from past footage.

"Welcome to the pandemmies!" Kimmel said to open his monologue. "You can't have a virus without a host."

Kimmel played it straight until halfway through the opening bit, when he admitted he was nearly alone and the telecast showed the sea of empty seats.

Nominees were represented by cardboard cutouts, and by Jason Bateman of "Ozark" pretending to be one.

Kimmel then walked into a room where he was surrounded by dozens of nominees shown on video feeds from their homes, hotel rooms and other remote locations. "I feel like I'm in a Best Buy," he joked.

4:45 p.m.

It's eerily empty both outside and inside the Staples Center in Los Angeles during the run-up to an Emmy Awards unlike any other.

At a moment when the red carpet would normally be thronged with black-tie stars, media and fans, spaced-out security and staff and a handful of show contributors were among the only people outside on Sunday afternoon.

Tracee Ellis Ross, nominated for best actress in a comedy series for "black-ish," leaned out of an arriving SUV to take a coronavirus test before entering to take part in the show.

Many other nominees are expected to take part from their homes, hotels and other remote locations.

Little else has been revealed about the 72nd Emmy Awards, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. The show starts at 5 p.m. Pacific/8 Eastern on ABC.

Born to prevent war, UN at 75 faces deeply polarized world

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Born out of World War II's devastation to save succeeding generations from the scourge of conflict, the United Nations officially marks its 75th anniversary Monday at an inflection point in history, navigating a polarized world as it faces a pandemic, regional conflicts, a shrinking economy and growing inequality.

Criticized for spewing out billions of words and achieving scant results on its primary mission of ensuring global peace, the U.N. nonetheless remains the one place that its 193 member nations can meet to talk.

And as frustrating as its lack of progress often is, especially when it comes to preventing and ending crises, there is also strong support for its power to bring not only nations but people of all ages from all walks of life, ethnicities and religions together to discuss critical issues like climate change.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, looking back on the U.N.'s history in an AP interview in June, said

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its biggest accomplishment so far is the long period during which the most powerful nations didn't go to war and nuclear conflict was avoided. Its biggest failing, he said: its inability to prevent medium and small conflicts.

The United Nations marked its actual 75th anniversary — the signing of the U.N. Charter in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 by delegates from about 50 countries — on that date this year at an event scaled down because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Then, Guterres said people are continuing to lose trust in government and political establishments. He had warned about the rise of populism triggering increasing threats to multilateralism and called for multilateralism to be given "teeth." He has often denounced what he calls a "groundswell of xenophobia, racism and intolerance."

He also urged the inclusion of civil society, cities, the private sector and young people at top tables, saying they are "essential voices in shaping the world we want."

Monday's mainly virtual official commemoration will not be a celebration. It will include a declaration on the U.N.'s 75th anniversary, approved by diplomats from all U.N. member states after sometimes heated negotiations. Then, representatives from over 180 countries are expected to deliver pre-recorded speeches lasting three minutes.

The declaration recalls the U.N.'s successes and failures over more than seven decades and vows to build a post-pandemic world that is more equal, works together, and protects the planet.

"The urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfill the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater," it says, while praising the United Nations as the only global organization that "gives hope to so many people for a better world and can deliver the future we want."

Even at times of great tension, it says, the U.N. promoted decolonization, freedom, development, human rights and equality for women and men, "and worked to eradicate disease." And it "helped mitigate dozens of conflicts, saved hundreds of thousands of lives through humanitarian action and provided millions of children with the education that every child deserves."

As for disappointments, the declaration says the world "is plagued by growing inequality, poverty, hunger, armed conflicts, terrorism, insecurity, climate change and pandemics." It says the poorest and least developed countries are falling behind, decolonization is not complete, and people are forced to make dangerous journeys in search of refuge.

"It's very unfortunate that it's going to be a pretty gloomy celebration for the U.N.," said Richard Gowan, U.N. director for the Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank.

He said the declaration was weakened by U.S. opposition to strong language on climate change, and negotiations were delayed because the United Kingdom and others objected to China trying to insert language into the document, a reference to Beijing's now hallmark phrase "win-win" which was not included.

"Although it was pretty minor, that captures the real question that has emerged over the U.N. in 2020, exacerbated by COVID, which is how is this organization going to navigate an era of U.S.-China tension," Gowan said.

"There is a real sense that China has taken advantage of the Trump administration's relative disengagement from the U.N. to increase its influence here," he told a media briefing.

A year ago, Guterres warned global leaders attending the General Assembly's high-level meeting of the looming risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules "and their own zero-sum geopolitical and military strategies."

Former Trump national security adviser John Bolton, a longtime U.N. critic who previously served as an ambassador here, said the United Nations did not meet expectations at the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s "that with Cold War gridlock removed, it would once again be effective."

Bolton said President Donald Trump isn't going to tackle the U.N. reforms that he would like to see if he wins a second term. "I think he doesn't fully understand it, doesn't care about it, like much of the world of foreign policy," Bolton said.

If Democratic candidate Joe Biden wins, "they'll want to do more through the U.N., but I don't think

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they've thought it through either," Bolton said. "So I think you're at a period of uncertainty that's going to last for some time."

To mark its 75th anniversary, the United Nations launched "a global conversation" in January using surveys, polls, online and in-person gatherings to find out what all kinds of people were thinking about the future. The results, which secretary-general called "striking," were released Monday.

According to the results, over one million people from all 193 U.N. member nations took part, including 50,000 people in 50 diverse countries who were part of a scientific poll.

"People are thinking big — about transforming the global economy, accelerating the transition to zero carbon, ensuring universal health coverage, ending racial injustice and ensure that decision-making is more open and inclusive," the U.N. chief said. "And people are also expressing an intense yearning for international cooperation and global solidarity - and rejecting go-it-alone nationalist approaches and divisive populist appeals."

Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond, the secretary-general's special adviser on the 75th anniversary commemoration, said it was striking that against the backdrop of polarization, disagreement and deadlock, respondents across all regions, ages and social groups "were remarkably united in their priorities for the future."

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, he said, the immediate priority for respondents is access to affordable health care, safe water and sanitation and education, followed by greater international solidarity and increased support to those hardest-hit by the pandemic.

Over 87 % of respondents "believe global cooperation is vital to deal with today's challenges," Hochschild-Drummond said, and 74 percent said they believe the U.N. is essential in tackling the challenges the world faces.

Guterres said the 75th anniversary is an ideal time to realize these aims.

"We face our own 1945 moment," he said. "We must meet that moment. We must show unity like never before to overcome today's emergency, get the world moving and working and prospering again."

Longtime international correspondent Edith M. Lederer has been chief U.N. correspondent for The Associated Press since 1998. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EdithLedererAP>

Biden to GOP senators: Don't jam through Ginsburg nominee

By LAURIE KELLMAN, LISA MASCARO and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joe Biden on Sunday slammed President Donald Trump and leading Senate Republicans for trying to jam through a replacement for the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and urged more senators to stand with a pair of GOP colleagues who oppose the election-season rush.

The extraordinary televised plea from the Democratic presidential candidate to Republican senators reflected the ferocious maneuvering that has followed Ginsburg's death at 87 on Friday. Her passing upended a campaign that had, until then, focused on Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, the nation's economic collapse and racial unrest that has stoked protests in U.S. cities.

Trump has said he intends within days to name a woman to succeed the liberal icon, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was moving ahead swiftly with plans for confirmation hearings and votes.

Just hours before Biden spoke, a second Republican senator, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, joined Sen. Susan Collins of Maine in opposing efforts to fill Ginsburg's seat before the next president is elected.

It takes four Republicans to break ranks to keep Trump's nominee off the court. Attention quickly focused on Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, who voted to convict Trump on one count of impeachment, and Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, a former chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Biden acknowledged that those Republicans and others like them were his target audience when he warned that Trump's plan was an "abuse of power."

"Uphold your constitutional duty, your conscience," said Biden, speaking in battleground Pennsylvania. "Let the people speak. Cool the flames that have engulfed our country."

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There was little chance of calm overtaking the historic campaign as early voting progressed and the death toll from the virus reached 200,000 Americans.

Just before Murkowski joined Collins, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi referred to the House having "options" she did not name to stall or prevent the Senate from confirming Ginsburg's successor to the lifetime job.

"We have arrows in our quiver that I'm not about to discuss right now," Pelosi said on ABC's "This Week." The House has no formal role in the confirmation of Supreme Court justices. But Pelosi would not rule out a new round of impeachment proceedings that might divert the Senate's attention. That route seemed unlikely.

Meanwhile, Murkowski raised by one the number of Republicans opposing a rush to confirmation.

"For weeks, I have stated that I would not support taking up" a potential nomination as the presidential election neared. "Sadly," she said, "what was then a hypothetical is now our reality, but my position has not changed."

Collins, meanwhile, said the next president should name Ginsburg's replacement.

Republicans hold a 53-47 edge in the Senate. If there were a 50-50 tie, it could be broken by Vice President Mike Pence.

There is another potential wrinkle: Because Arizona's Senate race is a special election, that seat could be filled as early as Nov. 30. If the winner is Democrat Mark Kelly, that would narrow the window for McConnell.

Trump has said he is obligated to act as soon as possible and had at least two women in mind for the seat. Most Republicans concurred on the need for speed and one named a practical reason: The nine-member court, argued Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, must be full if called upon to decide the outcome of a disputed presidential election.

But Biden and other Democrats said voters should choose the next president, who should pick Ginsburg's successor. Health care, abortion rights and religious freedom are on the line, they said.

Biden, who has run on uniting the country after Trump's divisive tenure, warned against more upheaval. "The last thing we need is a constitutional crisis that plunges us deeper into the abyss and deeper into the darkness," he said. He acknowledged that if Trump wins, his pick should be approved.

But he added, "If I win this election, President Trump's nominee should be withdrawn and as the new president I should be the one to nominate Justice Ginsburg's successor."

Nonetheless, the process for replacing her moved swiftly ahead. On a call with McConnell, R-Ky., late Saturday, Trump mentioned two federal appeals court judges: Amy Coney Barrett and Barbara Lagoa, according to a person familiar with the private conversation who was not authorized to publicly discuss the call and spoke on condition of anonymity.

To the chants of "Fill that seat," Trump told supporters at an event Saturday night in North Carolina that he would nominate a woman as soon as this week.

"We win an election and those are the consequences," said Trump, who then seemed to signal that he'd be willing to accept a vote on his nominee during the lame-duck period after the election. "We have a lot of time. We have plenty of time. We're talking about January 20th" — when the next president is inaugurated.

Democrats have denounced McConnell's move to push ahead as hypocritical, pointing out that he refused to call hearings for President Barack Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, 237 days before the 2016 election.

If the court were to take cases with eight justices, 4-4 ties would revert the decision to a lower court; for instance, the Affordable Care Act could then be struck down by a lower Texas court.

This story has been corrected to show that McConnell was moving ahead swiftly with plans for confirmation hearings and votes, not moving toward hearings to begin this week.

AP sources: Woman accused of sending ricin letter arrested

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman suspected of sending an envelope containing the poison ricin, which

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was addressed to White House, has been arrested at the New York-Canada border, three law enforcement officials told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The letter had been intercepted earlier this week before it reached the White House. The woman was taken into custody by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Peace Bridge border crossing near Buffalo and is expected to face federal charges, the officials said. Her name was not immediately released.

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In 2014, a Mississippi man was sentenced to 25 years in prison after sending letters dusted with ricin to President Barack Obama and other officials.

Bryson DeChambeau blasts way to U.S. Open title

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

MAMARONECK, N.Y. (AP) — What was supposed to be a typical U.S. Open produced a most unconventional champion.

Bryson DeChambeau was not the least bit concerned by the narrow fairways or the ankle-deep rough that shape Winged Foot into historically the toughest of all U.S. Opens. With his extra 40 pounds of muscle and mass, he wanted to pound it into submission with his driver, even if his errant shots were buried in deep grass.

That's how he plays the game. And for skeptics who said that wouldn't work in a U.S. Open at Winged Foot, just look at that shiny silver trophy he kissed, and the record score he posted Sunday in a six-shot victory.

This victory was as much about validating his out-of-the-box approach to the royal and ancient game.

"One hundred percent, no doubt," DeChambeau said. "For me, it's about the journey of can I execute every shot more repeatable than everybody else. I was able to do that this week. That's why I won by six."

Part of this course's fame is the "Massacre of Winged Foot" in 1974 when the winning score was 7-over par.

This was a massacre, all right.

DeChambeau rolled in a 7-foot par putt and thrust those powerful arms in the air when he capped off a 3-under 67 on a course that didn't allow another round under par. Two shots behind Matthew Wolff at the start of a chilly September afternoon, he caught him in four holes, passed him in five and pulled away along the back nine.

From the fairway. From the rough. It didn't matter.

"I don't really know what to say because that's just the complete opposite of what you think a U.S. Open champion does" Rory McIlroy said. "Look, he's found a way to do it. Whether that's good or bad for the game, I don't know, but it's just not the way I saw this golf course being played or this tournament being played."

Call him a mad scientist in a tam o'shanter cap. Call him a game-changer in golf.

Any description now starts with U.S. Open champion.

Wolff, trying to become the first player since Francis Ouimet in 1913 to win the U.S. Open in his debut, closed with a 75. He made a 10-foot eagle putt on the par-5 ninth to stay within one shot. That was his

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only hole under par. Wolff finished at even-par 280, a score that would have won four of the previous five U.S. Opens at Winged Foot.

It didn't stand a chance in this one.

"You can't take Bryson out because obviously he won, but shooting even par for four rounds at Winged Foot is pretty exceptional," Wolff said.

That describes DeChambeau this week. It was a breathtaking performance, four rounds at par or better, the first player to manage that at Winged Foot.

His victory really began last October, when he closed out his 2019 season in Las Vegas and said with a mischievous grin, "I'm going to come back next year and look like a different person." He added 40 pounds through intense workout and a diet of 6,000 calories a day.

The COVID-19 pandemic shut down golf for three months, leading to the U.S. Open being postponed from June to September. It also gave DeChambeau more time to execute his plan of swinging faster and harder, stretching the limits.

His work ethic borders on insanity, and the eve of the final round was no exception. Unhappy with how he played Saturday, hitting only three fairways, DeChambeau had the lights turned on so he could stay on the range well past 8 p.m., pounding driver, searching for the right swing. Temperatures were in the 40s. He was in a short-sleeve shirt.

He didn't find fairways, but he seemed to miss in the right spots. That was key for a player who hit only six fairways on Sunday, 23 out of 56 for the week.

Skepticism turned into admiration, with a healthy dose of disbelief.

"It's a game we've never really seen before," said Harris English, who shot 73 and finished fourth.

Louis Oosthuizen birdied the 18th to finish alone in third.

"I don't think they can set it up for him, to be honest," Oosthuizen said. "I don't know what they can do really, because he's hitting it so far. He's so strong out of the rough. And he's probably one of the best putters out there, which a week that he really putts well, you're going to have a lot of trouble."

In six U.S. Opens at Winged Foot among 894 competitors, DeChambeau is only the third to finish a tournament under par. His 6-under 274 was the lowest score, and no one saw it coming this week.

Wolff, the 21-year-old Californian who can drive it past DeChambeau with a lower flight and more roll in the fairway, gave him a good run in his quest to become the youngest U.S. Open champion since Bobby Jones in 1923.

The U.S. Open was still up for grabs for a fleeting moment around the turn. DeChambeau and Wolff each got out of position on the eighth hole and made bogey. DeChambeau was at 3 under, one shot ahead of Wolff. Ahead of them, Oosthuizen and Xander Schauffele were lurking at even par.

Still to play was the back nine, where so much has gone wrong at Winged Foot over the years.

Not this time.

DeChambeau and Wolff blasted drives down the fairway on the par-5 ninth. DeChambeau rolled in a 40-foot eagle putt with perfect pace. Wolff, who had pitching wedge for his second shot, matched his eagle with a 10-foot putt.

Just like that it was a two-man race.

And then it was a one-man show.

Wolff's tee shot on the par-3 10th rolled left into the thick collar of the bunker, a spot so precarious he had to stand in the deep bunker and grip halfway down the steel shaft of his sand wedge. He chipped 10 feet by the hole for a bogey to fall two shots behind.

From the fairway on the 11th, however, Wolff hit wedge that was chunky and went into the right rough, and he had to scramble for par instead of setting up a reasonable birdie chance. DeChambeau from the right rough came up short, but he used putter from off the green for birdie from 15 feet away.

With a three-shot lead, DeChambeau kept blasting away as if he were chasing, not leading, just like he said he would. He saved par from the left rough on the 14th and a perfect pitch from deep grass behind the green. He downed another protein shake walking down the 15th, marching along to a major title that

affirms his position in the game as a pioneer.

Imagine the USGA, which has been studying the impact on distance, getting together for a debriefing after this performance. What would they say?

"He's hitting it forever," DeChambeau said with a laugh.

The last laugh.

Ginsburg's impact on women spanned age groups, backgrounds

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sure, there were the RBG bobbleheads, the Halloween getups, the lace collars, the workout videos. The "I dissent" T-shirts, the refrigerator magnets, the onesies for babies or costumes for cats. And yes, the face masks, with slogans like: "You can't spell TRUTH without RUTH."

But the pop culture status that Ruth Bader Ginsburg found — or rather, that found her — in recent years was just a side show, albeit one that amused her, to the unique and profound impact she had on women's lives. First as a litigator who fought tenaciously for the courts to recognize equal rights for women, one case at a time, and later as the second woman to sit on the hallowed bench of the Supreme Court, Ginsburg left a legacy of achievement in gender equality that had women of varied ages and backgrounds grasping for words this weekend to describe what she meant to them.

"She was my teacher in so many ways," said Gloria Steinem, the nation's most visible feminist leader, in an interview. But even if she hadn't known her personally, Steinem said, it was due to Ginsburg, who died Friday at 87 of complications of cancer, that "for the first time I felt the Constitution was written for me."

"Now, it wasn't written for me — it left out most folks, actually, when it was written," Steinem added. But, she said, by forcing the courts to address issues like workplace discrimination, sexual assault and a host of others, Ginsburg "literally made me feel as if I had access to the law, because Ruth was there."

But the extent of Ginsburg's influence was felt not only by older women like Steinem, 86, who understood from experience the obstacles Ginsburg faced, such as not being able to find a job at a New York law firm despite graduating at the top of her class at Columbia Law School.

Younger women and girls also say they were inspired by the justice's achievements, her intellect and her fierce determination as she pursued her career. Hawa Sall, 20, a first-generation college student in New York, said it was Ginsburg who inspired her to attend Columbia, where she's now an undergraduate studying human rights and planning on law school.

"Her resilience, her tenacity, her graciousness through it all — she's always been one of my biggest inspirations in life," said Sall, who lives in Brooklyn where Ginsburg was born, and whose family comes from Mali and Senegal. "She's what I've always wanted to be, and still want to be."

Sall says she was fascinated by what she learned about Ginsburg when she attended an event at the Lower Eastside Girl's Club in Manhattan for the 2015 book, "Notorious RBG," by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik (the title played on the name of Brooklyn rapper The Notorious B.I.G.) That book was part of a wave of rock-star like fame that enveloped Ginsburg in her later years on the bench, making her a hero to a younger generation: There was also a famed impression by Kate McKinnon on "Saturday Night Live," a feature film, starring Felicity Jones as Ginsburg, and the hit documentary "RBG," both in 2018.

Julie Cohen and Betsy West, who co-directed "RBG," saw firsthand how women of all ages quickly identified with Ginsburg.

"We'd go to screenings ... and afterward older women who had been through the kind of discrimination she faced as a young woman would be sobbing ... because they knew what she was up against, and what she did to help them and their daughters and granddaughters," West said.

But also, Cohen added: "She became a huge symbolic figure for young women and even girls in a way that we hadn't anticipated. So many children came to the movie, often little girls dressed in little robes. ... Girls seemed to find her just mesmerizing."

West theorizes the fascination might have come from Ginsburg's small stature. Her legacy, though, was nothing less than enormous, she said: "She changed the world for American women."

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It wasn't just Democratic-leaning women who praised Ginsburg. Stacey Feeback, a 33-year-old Fayetteville, North Carolina, voter at a weekend rally for President Donald Trump, said the justice was "an inspirational woman."

"She meant a lot to the (women's) movement," Feeback said. "She's been an inspiration. She's brought America and women forward in a generation."

Ginsburg first gained fame as a litigator for the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, which she directed in the '70s. The project marked "a real turning point for situating women's rights not just as a gender issue, but as a civil rights issue that affected all of us," said Ria Tabacco Mar, its current head.

At the time, the Supreme Court had never applied the Constitution's guarantee of "equal protection of the laws" to strike down a law because of gender discrimination. That changed in 1971 with a case in which Ginsburg helped persuade the high court to invalidate an Idaho law that called for choosing men over women to administer the estates of the dead.

Two years later, she again prevailed — making her first oral argument before the high court she would later join — in the case of a female Air Force officer whose husband was denied spousal benefits that male officers' wives automatically received.

"For every gender injustice that we see today, Ruth Bader Ginsburg saw it first, and she fought it first," said Tabacco Mar.

Devi Rao, one of Ginsburg's law clerks in 2013, said the justice had taught her that "law isn't just about the law — it's about the people whose lives are impacted by those laws."

Rao, who now works on appellate cases for a civil rights firm, said Ginsburg "distinguished herself in a man's world and on a man's court without looking like them or sounding like them, but simply because they couldn't deny the power of her ideas. She teaches women and girls not to count themselves out even though they don't look like those in power."

It's that lesson that mothers like Brienne Burger hope their daughters will understand. Earlier this year, Burger posted a photo of her daughter Adi, 5, on Facebook, outfitted as RBG in black robe and glasses for a school dress-up day in Washington, D.C. The girl came home delighted, her mother said, that so many people recognized her costume.

"She still talks about that day," said Burger.

Asked what Adi understands about Ginsburg, the mother replied: "She knows that RBG made girls equal to boys."

Associated Press writers Jennifer Peltz in New York, Jessica Gresko in Washington and Bryan Anderson in Fayetteville, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

Douglas statue comes down, but Lincoln had racist views, too

By JOHN O'CONNOR AP Political Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — With the nation racing to come to grips with centuries of racial sins, officials plan to remove the Capitol lawn statue of Stephen A. Douglas, whose forceful 19th century politics helped forge modern-day Illinois but who also profited from slavery.

Just inside the Statehouse hangs another revered depiction of an Illinois legend — and longtime Douglas rival — who expressed white supremacist views: Abraham Lincoln. The immense painting in the governor's second-floor office depicts a Sept. 18, 1858, debate between the two men that opened with these words from Lincoln, who was vying for Douglas' Senate seat and was still two years away from running for president:

"I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and Black races. ... There is a physical difference between the white and Black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."

When the Douglas statue is put in storage this fall, it will become the latest in a line of monuments,

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from Confederate generals to Christopher Columbus, to come down during the global reckoning on race sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody. There has been no discussion, though, about removing likenesses of Lincoln, the president whose Civil War victory freed the slaves, despite his earlier views on race.

"At a certain point, where do you cut it off? Jefferson, he wrote the Declaration of Independence. You separate that from him being a slave owner," St. Louis tourist Eric Zuelke said during a recent visit to the Douglas statue, referring to Thomas Jefferson.

Lincoln believed that slavery was morally wrong and, like Douglas, he opposed it, although the two differed on how to end it. While his thinking evolved in the White House, Lincoln's advocacy for Black people in 1858 stopped at recognizing their natural rights under the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal," though his was still a radical position for the time.

Douglas' contributions to the modern-day Illinois economy and transportation network cannot be overstated. But he retained a 20% share of a family-owned 200-slave Mississippi plantation, a little-known fact that led Illinois' House speaker in July to recommend removing Douglas' likenesses from the Statehouse.

On the day in the eastern Illinois city of Charleston depicted in Robert Root's 1918 painting — the fourth of seven celebrated debates around the state that helped make Lincoln a national figure — Lincoln felt pressured to respond to Douglas' repeated taunts of Lincoln as a "Black Republican" who stood for "Negro equality."

Teresa Haley, who heads the Springfield branch of the nation's oldest civil rights group, the NAACP, said she thinks the Douglas statue should be removed to show intolerance for racism and white supremacy. Although Lincoln also had racist views, he was a president and the one who freed the slaves, she said.

"There's something about erasing things from history that we still need to be aware of," Haley said. "But there's also something about glorifying that negative part of history as well. And this is the part that hurts all people."

Lincoln isn't blameless on race off the debate stage.

Allen Guelzo, a Princeton University scholar and three-time Lincoln Prize winner, noted that in 1847, Lincoln unsuccessfully represented slave owner Robert Matson in court to retrieve fugitive slaves in a free state from among those Matson rotated between his land in Kentucky and eastern Illinois to skirt Illinois' anti-slavery law.

Guelzo, who co-created a five-step decision-making analysis for the removal of newly scrutinized memorials, believes that if Illinois uproots Douglas, Lincoln should follow, disqualified by the Matson case and his stance during the Charleston debate.

If an offensive racial opinion "is the only yardstick that we use to measure people today, they will have to pull down monuments to everybody from before 1950," Guelzo said.

Complicating matters is the idea that without Douglas, there might never have been a Great Emancipator. Douglas' position that territorial voters in an expanding country should decide whether to allow slavery incensed Lincoln, luring the former congressman out of political retirement to challenge Douglas. Each of the 1858 debate sites, from Freeport to Jonesboro, memorializes the men — most with full-size statues.

"Dismantling those or taking down just Douglas would sort of erase one of the most important political discussions ever held in the country," said Harold Holzer, another Lincoln Prize winner and Civil War expert at Hunter College in New York. Holzer said Mary Lincoln, who prodded her husband to greatness, and Douglas "are the two best things that happened to Lincoln."

Jim Edgar, who requisitioned Root's painting for his office when he was Illinois secretary of state and had it moved to its current location for his 1991-1999 tenure as governor, said that like most politicians seeking to remain viable, Lincoln felt the need to "play to the crowd" in Charleston.

"When I was campaigning, you never wanted to say something you didn't believe, or say something that later you're going to deny, but at the same time, you understand that you've got to get elected to get something done," said Edgar, a Republican from Charleston.

He pointed out that despite the ugly stance Lincoln took that day, he clung to the notion that Black

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people were among those who were "created equal" according to the Declaration of Independence. It was a radical view for the time that continued to evolve until, by war's end, Lincoln embraced citizenship for Black people.

As for Douglas, after he lost the presidency to Lincoln in 1860, he emerged a staunch Unionist and Lincoln ally, said Guelzo, adding that his dying words to his sons in 1861 were, "Tell them to obey the laws and the Constitution."

Those words are inscribed on the base of the Statehouse statue.

The story has been corrected to show that Douglas' political contributions cannot be overstated, not understated.

Follow Political Writer John O'Connor: <https://twitter.com/apoconnor>

California wildfire likely to grow from wind, low humidity

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The destruction wrought by a wind-driven wildfire in the mountains northeast of Los Angeles approached 156 square miles (404 square kilometers) Sunday, burning structures, homes and a nature center in a famed Southern California wildlife sanctuary in foothill desert communities.

The blaze, known as the Bobcat Fire, is expected to grow through Sunday and Monday as critical fire weather conditions continued due to gusty wind and low humidity. Additional evacuation warnings were issued Sunday afternoon.

Firefighters were, however, able to defend Mount Wilson this weekend, which overlooks greater Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains and has a historic observatory founded more than a century ago and numerous broadcast antennas serving Southern California.

The Bobcat Fire started Sept. 6 and has already doubled in size over the last week — becoming one of Los Angeles County's largest wildfires in history, according to the Los Angeles Times. No injuries have been reported.

The blaze is 15% contained as teams attempt to determine the scope of the destruction in the area about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of downtown LA. Thousands of residents in the foothill communities of the Antelope Valley were ordered to evacuate Saturday as winds pushed the flames into Juniper Hills.

Roland Pagan watched his Juniper Hills house burn through binoculars as he stood on a nearby hill, according to the Los Angeles Times .

"The ferocity of this fire was shocking," Pagan, 80, told the newspaper. "It burned my house alive in just 20 minutes."

Resident Perry Chamberlain evacuated initially but returned to extinguish a fire inside his storage container, according to the Southern California News Group, and ended up helping others put out a small fire in their horse stall.

Chamberlain said Juniper Hills had been like a majestic "sylvan forest" but the fire burned the Juniper and sage brush and a variety of trees.

"It used to be Juniper Hills," he said. "Now it's just Hills."

The wildfire also destroyed the nature center at Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area, a geological wonder that attracts some 130,000 visitors per year.

Though the Bobcat Fire neared the high desert community of Valyermo, a Benedictine monastery there appeared to have escaped major damage, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Statewide, nearly 19,000 firefighters continue to fight more than two dozen major wildfires. More than 7,900 wildfires have burned more than 5,468 square miles (14,164 square kilometers) in California this year, including many since a mid-August barrage of dry lightning ignited parched vegetation.

Meanwhile, officials were investigating the death of a firefighter on the lines of another Southern California wildfire that erupted earlier this month from a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device used by a couple

to reveal their baby's gender.

The death occurred Thursday in San Bernardino National Forest as crews battled the El Dorado Fire about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, the U.S. Forest Service said in a statement.

The name of the firefighter killed has not yet been released. A statement from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, said it was the 26th death involving wildfires besieging the state.

Authorities also have not released the identities of the couple, who could face criminal charges and be held liable for the cost of fighting the fire.

In Wyoming, a rapidly growing wildfire in the southeastern part of the state was closing in on a reservoir that's a major source of water for the capital city, Cheyenne.

The water system remained safe and able to filter out ash and other burned material that flows through streams and reservoirs after wildfires, said Clint Bassett, water treatment manager for the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities.

Associated Press Writer Mead Gruver in Fort Collins, Colorado, contributed to this report.

AP Explains: What's next with the Supreme Court vacancy?

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican efforts to fill Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seat after her death are likely to move swiftly this week, with President Donald Trump possibly nominating a replacement within days and GOP senators hoping to jump-start the confirmation process.

Ginsburg's death in late September of an election year puts the Senate in uncharted political terrain. Trump has urged the Republican-run Senate to consider the nomination "without delay" but has not said whether he would push for a confirmation vote before Election Day.

There's significant risk and uncertainty ahead for both parties. Early voting is underway in some states in the races for the White House and control of Congress.

A look at the confirmation process and what we know and don't know about what's to come:

WHAT'S NEXT?

Trump has said he will announce a female nominee to replace Ginsburg as soon as this week. As the Senate meets in the coming days, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will be assessing his next steps, talking to his GOP colleagues and figuring out if he has enough votes to confirm a nominee before the election.

McConnell, R-Ky., has vowed that Trump's nominee "will receive a vote on the floor of the United States Senate" but has been careful about not saying when that will happen.

Democrats say the Republicans' vow to move forward is "hypocrisy" after McConnell refused to consider President Barack Obama's nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, several months before the 2016 election. They have vowed to fight Trump and McConnell to keep the seat open but have not made clear how they will do so.

DOES McCONNELL HAVE THE VOTES TO FILL THE SEAT BEFORE THE ELECTION?

That's not yet clear. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, and so far Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski have both said they won't support a confirmation vote before Election Day.

That means McConnell can only afford to lose one more senator in his caucus. If the vote were 50-50, Vice President Mike Pence could break the tie on a confirmation vote.

WHO ARE THE SENATORS TO WATCH?

All eyes are on Mitt Romney of Utah, who has been critical of Trump and protective of the institution of the Senate. Another senator to watch is Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He said this summer that if he still chaired the committee and a vacancy occurred, "I would not have a hearing on it because that's what I promised the people in 2016."

Those facing close reelection contests in their states, including Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado, will surely face pressure not to vote ahead of the election or in its immediate aftermath, especially if they were to lose their seats. Several other key GOP senators up for reelection — including Martha McSally in Arizona,

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Kelly Loeffler in Georgia and Thom Tillis in North Carolina — have already linked themselves to Trump, calling for swift voting. Collins is also in a competitive race.

WHAT DOES THE WHITE HOUSE SAY?

Marc Short, the chief of staff to Pence, said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that a vote before Nov. 3 is "certainly possible" because Ginsburg was confirmed within 43 days and the election is 44 days away. But Short said the White House is leaving the confirmation timetable up to McConnell.

Asked whether Trump considered Ginsburg's dying wish for her replacement to be named by the winner of the November presidential election, Short said the White House and nation mourn her loss "but the decision of when to nominate does not lie with her."

CAN THE SENATE REALISTICALLY FILL THE SEAT BEFORE THE ELECTION?

Yes, but it would require a breakneck pace. Supreme Court nominations have taken around 70 days to move through the Senate, and the last, for Brett Kavanaugh, took longer. Some nominations, like Ginsburg's, have moved more quickly.

There are no set rules for how long the process should take once Trump announces his pick.

COULD THE SENATE FILL THE VACANCY AFTER THE ELECTION?

Yes. Republicans could vote on Trump's nominee in what's known as the lame-duck session that takes place after the November election and before the next Congress takes office on Jan. 3. No matter what happens in this year's election, Republicans are still expected to be in charge of the Senate during that period.

The Senate would have until Jan. 20, the date of the presidential inauguration, to act on Trump's nominee. If Trump were reelected and his pick had not been confirmed by the inauguration, he could renominate his pick as soon as his second term began.

WHAT DO DEMOCRATS SAY?

Democrats made a moral argument to their Republican colleagues to resist replacing Ginsburg until the next president is inaugurated, arguing that senators should follow the precedent they set in 2016.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said Sunday that the Senate shouldn't act until there is a new president. "If Donald Trump wins the election, then the Senate should move on his selection and weigh the nominee he chooses fairly," Biden said. "But if I win this election, President Trump's nominee should be withdrawn. And as the new president I should be the one who nominates Justice Ginsburg's successor."

Senate Democrats under Senate procedure will have tools to slow down the nomination, but cannot block it on their own.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO CONFIRM A NOMINEE?

Only a majority. Republicans control the Senate by a 53-47 margin, meaning they could lose up to three votes and still confirm a justice with the vice president breaking a tie.

Supreme Court nominations used to need 60 votes for confirmation if any senator objected, but McConnell changed Senate rules in 2017 to allow the confirmation of justices with 51 votes. He did so as Democrats threatened to filibuster Trump's first nominee, Neil Gorsuch.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

It is up to the Senate Judiciary Committee to vet the nominee and hold confirmation hearings. Once the committee approves the nomination, it goes to the Senate floor for a final vote. This process passes through several time-consuming steps, including meetings with individual senators.

The committee chairman, GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who faces his own tough re-election contest, has said he will support Trump "in any effort to move forward." His committee could begin working on the nomination immediately after it is announced and even hold confirmation hearings in October, regardless of when the final vote happens.

DIDN'T MCCONNELL SAY IN 2016 THAT THE SENATE SHOULDN'T HOLD SUPREME COURT VOTES IN A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR?

He did. McConnell stunned Washington in the hours after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016 when he announced the Senate would not vote on Obama's potential nominee because the voters should have their say by electing the next president.

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McConnell's strategy paid off, royally, for his party. Obama nominated Garland to fill the seat, but he never received a hearing or a vote. Soon after his inauguration, Trump nominated Gorsuch to fill Scalia's seat.

Four years later, McConnell says the Senate will vote on Trump's nominee, even though it's weeks, not months, before an election.

SO WHAT CHANGED SINCE 2016?

McConnell says it's different because the Senate and the presidency are held by the same party, which was not the case when a vacancy opened under Obama in 2016. Democrats say this reasoning is laughable and say the vacancy should be kept open until after the inauguration.

Democrats and advocacy groups wasted no time unearthing past statements from other GOP senators in 2016 saying the Senate must wait to confirm until after the election.

The Latest: DeChambeau bombs away, pulls away to win US Open

MAMARONECK, N.Y. (AP) — The Latest from the final round of the U.S. Open, golf's second major of the year (all times EDT):

Bryson DeChambeau has won the U.S. Open — the first major championship for golf's long-hitting mad scientist.

He is the third person in history to win an NCAA title, a U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Open. The others: Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.

DeChambeau was the only player under par in the final round, laughing off Winged Foot's narrow fairways and thick rough with his booming drives that averaged 325 yards. He shot 67 on Sunday to finish at 6 under — just the third person to in six U.S. Opens at Winged Foot -- a total of 750 players —to shoot below par.

Twenty-one-year-old Matthew Wolff was trying to become the youngest U.S. Open champion since Bobby Jones in 1923, and the youngest to win any major since Woods won his first Masters at 21 in 1997. He led DeChambeau by two strokes entering the final round.

But DeChambeau pulled away on the back nine. Both golfers eagled the ninth hole, but Wolff bogeyed No. 10 and DeChambeau birdied the 11th to take a three-stroke lead.

Wolff shot 75 to finish second, six strokes back. Louis Oosthuizen was third with a final-round 73.

Bryson DeChambeau and Matthew Wolff matched eagles on the ninth hole in the U.S. Open to separate themselves from the rest of the field as they made the turn.

DeChambeau rolled in a 40-footer on the 556-yard par 5 to drop to 5 under for the tournament. But Wolff kept pace minutes later with a 10-foot eagle putt. The overnight leader is 1 over for the day and 4 under overall, one stroke behind DeChambeau, who is the only player under par in the final round.

Harris English and Zander Schauffele are both even for the day and even for the tournament, tied for third.

3:05 p.m.

Bryson DeChambeau has moved into the lead at the U.S. Open.

DeChambeau birdied the fourth hole and is one of only two players under par for the day as the winds picked up at Winged Foot. Overnight leader Matthew Wolff was 2 over, picking up his second bogey on No. 5 to drop into second place at 3 under.

Louis Oosthuizen is even for the day and remains third at 1 under.

Justin Thomas is the only other golfer in the red, at 1 under.

The leaders are through six holes.

1:35 p.m.

It was an ugly start to the final round for Rory McIlroy and Harris English.

McIlroy needed four putts from just off the front of the first green en route to a double bogey.

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English hit an errant tee shot and, even with the help of marshals surrounding the fairway, could not find his ball in the three-minute limit. He had to go back to the tee box and re-tee, and from there, he also made double.

McIlroy is now at 3 over and English is at 2 over. Leader Matthew Wolff is at 5 under and started his round with a drive that hit the fairway. He hit only two all day Saturday over a round of 65.

12:40 p.m.

While the leaders are warming up at Winged Foot, the U.S. Open's lone remaining amateur is done with his round.

John Pak, a senior at Florida State who grew up not far from Winged Foot, shot 4-over 74 to finish the tournament at 18-over 298.

Matthew Wolff has an afternoon tee time and will start at 5-under par, with a two-shot lead over Bryson DeChambeau on a brisk, breezy day at Winged Foot.

The 21-year-old Wolff is trying to become the youngest U.S. Open winner since Bobby Jones in 1923. DeChambeau is hoping to add the U.S. Open title to his U.S. Amateur title in 2015. The only other player to begin the day under par was 2010 British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen. He's at 1 under.

Also in the mix are Xander Schauffele, Harris English and Hideki Matsuyama, who all begin the day at even par.

The lowest score of the early starters belongs to Shane Lowry, who shot 2 over.

Vive le Tour! With young winner, thrilling race defies virus

By JOHN LEICESTER AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — In a first, the Tour de France winner wore a face mask on the podium Sunday, bright yellow to match the color of the iconic jersey so snug on his young shoulders.

But at least there was a winner.

Three weeks ago, when 21-year-old Tadej Pogacar set off with 175 other competitors that he ended up beating, not even race organizers were sure they would make it through the storm of France's worsening coronavirus epidemic and reach Paris.

"Really, I was scared we wouldn't get to the end," race director Christian Prudhomme conceded at the finish.

And so it was that Pogacar, up there on that podium, backlit by the pink hues of a Paris dusk, not only became the Tour's youngest champion in 116 years but also a symbol of resilience, of can-do, of learning to live with — but not surrendering to — the virus still causing so much pain.

Sure, it all felt weird, as so many things do these days. Example: Pogacar's mask puffed in and out, like an octopus glued to his face, as he sang the anthem of his native Slovenia, played in his honor.

But so liberating and invigorating, too, in this most horrid of years.

The rumble of the riders' wheels hammering over the cobblestones of Paris' Champs-Elysees. Alive, like heartbeats, on the famous boulevard that during lockdown just months ago was deserted.

The applause from the roadside crowds that, when they were all confined indoors, cheered only for doctors and nurses, coming out on their balconies each night to yell "Bravo!"

In towns and villages across France, that word has been heard again, over and over, these past weeks — this time for the Tour's riders as they zoomed past in a kaleidoscope of colored jerseys, the yellow one most prized of all.

And against the virus that doesn't care how old or young its victims are, how hopeful it seemed that the Tour's winner should come from the same generation asking itself: What is life going to be like for us?

"It's super. I adore that," said Lea Tilhac, a 23-year-old student who got to the Champs-Elysees hours early to be sure of being among the 5,000 people allowed to line its length, the socially-distanced limit this year. "It shows there's a future."

For Pogacar, the future now looks brighter than ever. The victory on the eve of his 22nd birthday and

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the way he went about it during 3,482 kilometers (2,164 miles) of racing — with an intoxicating mix of youthful insouciance and steely grit — transformed him from prodigy into cycling superstar, a Tour rookie so talented he KO'd the race on his first attempt.

He is Slovenia's first winner and the Tour's second-youngest behind Henri Cornet, who was just shy of 20 when he was crowned in 1904.

Pogacar sealed the win in a high-drama time trial on Saturday, the last real day of racing for the title. In an astounding reversal, he dethroned race leader Primož Roglič, his countryman who had held the yellow jersey for 11 days. Pogacar held it for just one day, the last and most important, on the processional ride to the finishing line in Paris, with yellow bike to match.

On the podium, Pogacar's mask hid his smiles, but the creases around his eyes gave them away.

"This is just the top of the top," he said. "It's been an amazing three-week adventure."

With jets trailing plumes of red, white and blue smoke above Paris as the riders raced, organizers could finally breathe free. None of the 176 starters, or 146 finishers, tested positive for the virus in multiple batteries of tests, validating the hermetic bubble of measures that shielded them from infection and the decision to postpone the race from July to September, but not to cancel it.

The only COVID-19 positives touched a handful of team employees and Prudhomme, the director, even as infection numbers soared across the country.

Prudhomme was back after a week of self-isolation. Wearing a mask, he signaled the start of Sunday's stage at Mantes-La-Jolie west of Paris with a wave of his flag through the sunroof of his car.

One of the pandemic-defying Tour's most enthusiastic backers was also its most powerful: French President Emmanuel Macron. With his government trying to revive France's COVID-battered economy, Macron praised the race as "the pride of the country" and an example of how it must learn to live with the virus and the restrictions it imposes.

"Even in September, the Tour de France is magic!" Macron tweeted Saturday after Pogacar's demolition of Roglič in the time trial.

Largely deprived of racing as the epidemic tore across the globe, and with those in lockdown only able to keep fit on home trainers, riders arrived at the Tour somewhat race-rusty but with pent-up energy, their disrupted seasons reconfigured to make them peak physically on cycling's biggest stage.

After a slow-burn start, with multiple crashes, the racing became increasingly furious. Roglič, the winner of last year's Spanish Vuelta and a pre-Tour favorite, was backed by a powerful Jumbo-Visma team of star riders devoted to putting him in yellow — achieved on Stage 9 — and then keeping the jersey until Paris.

But Pogacar, riding for UAE Team Emirates, hadn't read their script.

And, as for the virus, well, it only got a bit-part, as a gatecrasher. Unwanted and troublesome, yes, but not able to force the party's cancellation.

As the French say: Vive le Tour!

More Tour de France coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/TourdeFrance> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Biden to focus on health care in Supreme Court debate

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joe Biden on Sunday used the sudden Supreme Court vacancy to reinforce his argument that the upcoming election should be a referendum on President Donald Trump's handling of health care and the coronavirus.

The death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg jolted the presidential campaign just six weeks before the election and as several states are already voting. Trump has seized on the opportunity to nominate a new justice to motivate his most loyal voters. Biden kept the focus on health care, which has proven to be a winning issue for Democrats during previous elections and could be even more resonant amid the pandemic.

The Supreme Court will hear a Republican-led case seeking to throw out the Affordable Care Act, which the Trump administration supports, the week after the Nov. 3 election. Biden charged that Trump is seek-

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ing to undermine the protections for people with pre-existing conditions under the ACA, as well as its provisions covering preventative care for women.

"Millions of Americans are voting because they know their health care hangs in the balance," Biden said during remarks at Constitution Center in Philadelphia. "In the middle of the worst global health crisis in living memory, Donald Trump is before the Supreme Court, trying to strip health care coverage away from tens of millions of families."

The Supreme Court could also hear cases on a few more particularly salient issues in the next few months: voting rights, and potentially who wins the November election.

Biden is expected to focus in the weeks ahead on the Democratic fight to prevent a nominee from being confirmed to the court, with a particular emphasis on the effect the court could have on health care and climate change. Biden aides stopped short of ruling out the possibility the campaign would advertise around the court fight, though that decision hadn't been finalized.

Trump is promising to put forth a nominee this coming week and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has vowed to call a vote.

"In a raw political move, this president and the Republican leader have decided to jam a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court through the United States Senate," Biden said. "That's the last thing we need at this moment."

Biden is still not, however, planning to release a list of potential Supreme Court nominees, because putting out a full list, the aide said, would further politicize the court and the nomination process, aides said. Biden's aides said those interested in his thinking on a justice can look to his long history as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee for guidance.

Their refusal to put names to Biden's potential court pick underscores the political peril that the Supreme Court debate holds for Biden. Conservatives are still energized by the issue, and putting out names could offer Trump and his allies a list of conservative boogymen to use against Biden to rev up his base.

Trump himself, at a rally Saturday night, basked in chants of "fill that seat" from the audience, and has pledged to move quickly on a nominee, whom he says will be a woman.

Indeed, the Supreme Court has traditionally been seen as a major motivator for conservative voters, for its significance to hot-button social issues like gay rights and abortion. But in recent years, following the contentious confirmation fight over Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh and a number of high-profile rulings on the Affordable Care Act, polls suggest the issue is becoming more salient for Democrats.

A Pew Research Center poll conducted in August suggested a comparable number of Biden and Trump voters view the appointment of Supreme Court justices as "very important" to their vote.

While Biden's aides acknowledge that the issue is still significant for conservatives, they believe it could be a winning one for their campaign, potentially driving support among undecided moderates, young voters and women, who may be energized in particular by the continued legal attacks on abortion rights.

They point to the massive fundraising numbers seen for Democrats online — \$91.4 million processed through Democratic fundraising engine ActBlue from Friday night through Saturday — as further evidence of the base enthusiasm around the issue.

"So, I think in that sense, the vacancy will really sharpen the focus on the stakes in this election when it comes to life and death and the health of Americans," Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat who was Hillary Clinton's running mate in 2016, said Sunday.

Family, work and opera filled Ginsburg's final summer

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — She was seeing family. She was exercising. She was listening to opera. She was doing the work of the court. She even officiated at a wedding.

That's how Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent the weeks before her death Friday at 87. Those who had been in touch with Ginsburg or her staff recently said she seemed to be coping with treatment for cancer and also making plans for events months away. So the announcement of her death came as something

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of a surprise, even to some close friends.

Mary Hartnett, one of her two authorized biographers, visited Ginsburg in mid-August at her longtime home in the Watergate apartment complex next to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. She said Ginsburg was "plowing ahead" despite a cancer recurrence.

"She was trying very hard to treat this, and essentially her body just gave out," Hartnett said.

Hartnett, who wore a mask and tested negative for the coronavirus before visiting, said the justice was continuing to do court work. She also exercised, working out on a treadmill or using a tape made by her longtime trainer, Bryant Johnson. In the evenings, she'd watch "Live at the Met" operas, Hartnett said.

Hartnett said she'd asked the justice whether there were any silver linings to her illness and to the coronavirus pandemic.

"She immediately lit up and said 'Yes, I've had so much time with my family, and they have been wonderful,'" Hartnett said.

Ginsburg announced in mid-July that she was receiving chemotherapy treatments, the fifth time she had dealt with cancer since 1999.

"I have often said I would remain a member of the Court as long as I can do the job full steam. I remain fully able to do that," Ginsburg said at the time.

But it was hard for the public to gauge how sick Ginsburg was. She started receiving chemotherapy in May, four months before she revealed it publicly and at a time of year when the justices typically take the bench at least once a week to announce decisions. But because of the coronavirus, the justices were hearing arguments by telephone and out of the public's eye.

In late August, however, one photo of her became public. It was a joyous image, Ginsburg wearing a black-and-white embroidered collar and black judicial robes as she presided over an outdoor wedding in the Washington area.

The picture from Aug. 30, which was posted on bride Barb Solish's Twitter account, suggested that Ginsburg was soldiering on. Solish didn't respond to emails from The Associated Press requesting comment.

Also this summer Ginsburg would have been engaged in the work of the court. The justices handle some emergency matters over the summer, and Ginsburg would also have been preparing for an extended private conference the justices hold at the end of September and before the start of the term in October.

Betsy West and Julie Cohen, who co-directed the 2018 documentary "RBG" about Ginsburg's life, said they got an email from her in mid-August signed in her typical fashion: RBG.

But on Friday, longtime friend Nina Appel got a call from Ginsburg's son James. He told her that his mother had died just before sundown. He didn't want her to hear the news first on television, she said, adding that she was grateful for the call. The court said she died surrounded by family at her home in Washington.

Appel, the former dean of Loyola University Chicago's law school who was friends with Ginsburg for over 60 years, said the news was a "terrible shock" and caught her off guard.

She said she would remember her friend not only as a brilliant jurist but also as someone who connected with young people. "She was always herself. She didn't pretend to be anything other than who she was," she said.

Ann Claire Williams, a former federal appeals court judge and Ginsburg's friend, said she'd been in touch with Ginsburg's office over the summer to reschedule a public talk they'd planned for the fall and then pushed off to 2021.

"As recently as, say, two months ago she was looking ahead to next year, so even though we knew she was ill we didn't expect it to come to an end at this point," Williams said.

A day before she died, Ginsburg was honored by the National Constitution Center with its Liberty Medal. The center's president, Jeffrey Rosen, said in the opening to the video ceremony that Ginsburg was "watching at home." The nearly hour-long video included some of Ginsburg's favorite opera singers and celebrity friends who addressed her directly. Ginsburg sent a note the center made public.

It closed by sending "bravissimos" to the "participants in this event, and all in attendance for lifting my

spirits sky high.”

Associated Press reporter Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

GOP hopeful Supreme Court battle will help shift election

By STEVE PEOPLES and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four years ago, the allure of conservative Supreme Court appointments helped persuade skeptical Republicans to support Donald Trump for president. Two years ago, a contentious clash over Trump’s choice of Brett Kavanaugh for the court was credited with bolstering GOP gains in the Senate in an otherwise bad midterm election.

And now, just 44 days before Trump’s reelection will be decided, Republicans are again looking to a Supreme Court nomination fight to unite a deeply fractured party as it faces the very real possibility of losing the White House and control of the Senate this fall.

GOP leaders are optimistic they can pull it off. In the turbulent Trump era, nothing has motivated the Republican Party’s disparate factions to come home quite like the prospect of a lifetime appointment to the nation’s highest court.

“This can be an important galvanizing force for President Trump,” said Leonard Leo, co-chairman of the conservative Federalist Society who has advised the Trump administration on its first two confirmations — for Neil Gorsuch and Kavanaugh.

The emerging nomination debate that follows the death Friday of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg threatens to reshuffle voter priorities in the closing weeks of an election that had been squarely focused on another set of generational issues: the pandemic, economic devastation and deep civil unrest.

Trump, backed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, is pledging to replace the liberal Ginsburg with a conservative jurist, promising on Saturday evening that he will announce his nominee “very soon.”

Plans are in motion for a swift nomination and confirmation. Lest there be any questions about the political implications, Trump is expected to make his choice in a matter of days. Those close to the president are encouraging him to announce his pick before the first presidential debate against Democratic challenger Joe Biden on Sept. 29.

Biden said the winner of the Nov. 3 election should choose the next justice. Biden’s team is skeptical that the Supreme Court clash will fundamentally change the contours of a race Trump was trailing so close to Election Day. Indeed, five states are already voting.

In fact, Democrats say it could motivate voters to fight harder against Trump and Republicans as the Senate breaks the norms with an unprecedented confirmation at a time when Americans are deciding crucial elections.

“Everything Americans value is at stake,” Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told fellow Democratic senators on a conference call Saturday, according to a person who was not authorized to publicly discuss the private call and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Biden is not planning to release a full list of potential court nominees, according to a top aide, because it would further politicize the process. The aide was not authorized to publicly discuss private deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Biden’s team suggests that the court fight will heighten the focus on issues that were already at stake in the election: health care, environmental protections, gender equity and abortion.

Health care, in particular, has been a top voter concern this pandemic-year election, Democrats say. They will argue that protections for Americans with preexisting conditions are essentially on the ballot as the Supreme Court will hear the administration’s argument to strike down President Barack Obama’s health law shortly after the election. The Affordable Care Act includes such protections and the court is expected to render a verdict next year.

“Make it real,” said Hillary Clinton, urging Democrats to take the fight to the polls, in an interview on MSNBC.

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Republicans say voters, particularly those the party needs to win back, are motivated by the chance to name a conservative judge — so much so that it could take some states off the map for Democrats. The focus on the nomination fight could help unify such voters around a common issue in an election season with so many distractions, said Leo of the Federalist Society.

“Going as far back as 2000, poll after poll shows that the Supreme Court is an issue that resonates strongly with Republican and conservative voters, and importantly even with low-propensity voters from those groups,” he said.

Republicans were especially optimistic that the court battle would boost their chances of holding the Senate, particularly in Republican-leaning states such as Montana, Iowa, Kansas, Georgia and South Carolina where GOP candidates are at risk. Democrats need to pick up three seats to claim the Senate majority if Biden wins and four if he doesn't.

Key GOP senators who face tough reelection contests in such states where Trump is popular quickly linked themselves to his push for a swift vote, embracing the prospect of another conservative on the bench. Among them: Martha McSally in Arizona, Thom Tillis in North Carolina and Lindsey Graham in South Carolina.

Yet other Republicans in more contested battleground states, including Sen. Cory Gardner in Colorado, held back, heeding McConnell's advice to keep their “powder dry.” Two Republicans, Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, spoke out after Ginsburg's death to object to the speedy pace, saying the Senate should not vote before the election so the candidate elected on Nov. 3 can decide.

As he left the White House for Saturday evening's rally in North Carolina, Trump signaled his displeasure with Collins — and a potential warning to other wayward Republicans: “I totally disagree with her,” he said.

Democratic challengers and outside allies seized on what they called “hypocrisy” of Republicans refusing to consider Obama's nominee before the 2016 election, unearthing past statements from many of the same senators now pushing ahead for Trump.

The Democrats raised more than \$71 million in the hours after Ginsburg's death.

Many Republicans are hopeful the Supreme Court fight will supersede many conservative voters' concerns about Trump's inconsistent leadership and divisive rhetoric. But voters in key states are already dealing with unprecedented hardships that will not simply disappear in the coming weeks.

Conservative activist Tim Phillips, president of the group Americans for Prosperity, is doubtful that the court fight will change many votes. He spent much of Saturday canvassing suburban neighborhoods around Kansas City as part of his organization's massive push to boost down-ballot Republicans in November.

When conservative activists gathered in the morning, the Supreme Court was a prime topic of conversation that “strengthened their resolve to get out and work,” Phillips said. But once they started knocking on voters' doors, “it didn't even come up.”

“I just think given the magnitude of the crises — plural — facing swing voters, this is just not going to be a crucial factor in their final decision,” Phillips said.

At the Cambria County Republican Party headquarters in western Pennsylvania, the vacancy wasn't a major topic of conversation as people swung by on Saturday to pick up yard signs and campaign swag.

Lisa Holgash, a 49-year-old Trump supporter, said she would “love it” if Trump were able to appoint another Supreme Court Justice. But she said she was concerned about the idea of Republicans pushing through a nominee so quickly ahead of the election, especially after Republicans denied Obama a final pick in his last year.

“It's not that far now to the election,” she said. “I don't think it should be rushed.”

___ Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe in Wilmington, Delaware, Jill Colvin in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Georgia's Fulton County works to avoid another vote debacle

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Twice delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic, Georgia's primary election earlier this year was marred by dysfunction: Hours-long wait times at polling places. Absentee ballots that never

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arrived. Votes cast after midnight.

The problems were most acute in Fulton County, which includes most of Atlanta and is a Democratic stronghold in a traditionally red state. State leaders launched investigations while election officials in the most populous county said they did the best they could in unprecedented circumstances.

Now, election officials say they're making changes to avoid a repeat in November, as Georgia emerges as a potential presidential battleground, turnout is expected to set records and the coronavirus continues to rage.

With nearly 790,000 active voters, Fulton County accounts for about 11% of the state's electorate. Voting problems in and around Atlanta in recent elections have become a national flashpoint because they disproportionately affect Black residents, who comprise just over half the city's population.

The day after the primary, the front page of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution blared, "COMPLETE MELTDOWN" across a photograph of voters, many wearing masks, in a long line outside an Atlanta polling place.

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a Republican, said the election went well overall but promised investigations into the election's handling in Fulton and neighboring DeKalb County. The Republican speaker of the Georgia House said Fulton was particularly troubling as he called for an investigation of the primary process.

Voting rights activists and academics noted that predominantly Black communities saw some of the longest lines, which they said is especially worrisome given the history of Georgia and other Southern states suppressing Black votes.

"I'm not necessarily accusing folks of intentionally trying to disenfranchise Black voters. But if the outcome is that Blacks are bearing the disproportionate brunt of the decisions, then it is racial and it has to be adjusted," Emory University political science professor Andra Gillespie said.

LaTosha Brown, co-founder of Black Voters Matter Fund, said she waited with voters who finally cast their ballots at 12:37 a.m. the next day.

"I think it is a combination of the failure of leadership, systemic and structural racism, and voter suppression that is alive and rampant in this state," she said, adding that long lines and other problems can lead to voter apathy.

The night of the primary, Fulton County elections director Rick Barron spoke frankly with reporters about challenges his staff faced.

He said the pandemic was the root of many of the problems. It caused poll workers to drop out, complicated poll worker training on a new election system and led to a significant number of polling places having to be changed or consolidated.

To limit potential exposure to the virus, the secretary of state encouraged people to vote by mail and sent absentee ballot applications to active voters.

But then the head of Fulton County's absentee ballot section tested positive for COVID-19 in early April and another staffer died from the disease, causing the office to close for several days just as absentee ballot applications began to pour in. Technical glitches slowed the processing of applications received by email. The county struggled to catch up, but some voters never received requested ballots and ended up voting in person.

A report released last week by a legislative panel found that most of the problems stemmed from the coronavirus, first-time statewide use of new voting equipment and the increase in absentee voting. Investigations by the secretary of state's office found that Fulton County failed to process some absentee ballot applications and that poll workers were inadequately trained, among other problems.

Amanda Clark Palmer, an attorney for the county, acknowledged the problems but said the county's election officials and workers demonstrated "heroic" efforts.

"They do not deserve to be vilified, and yet that is how they feel right now being the only county that has been called to account before this board for the June 9 election," she told the state election board earlier this month.

To be sure, problems during the primary were not limited to Fulton County. Judges ordered polling sites in 20 of Georgia's 159 counties to stay open past the 7 p.m. deadline because of late openings or other

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issues.

But Fulton seemed less able to handle problems than other counties, said Chris Harvey, the secretary of state's elections director.

"We weren't trying to vilify anybody, but we also aren't going to spare people's feelings because the election in November is just too important," he said.

Harvey is predicting record turnout this fall, with a projected 1.5 million absentee voters, 2 million early in-person voters and 2 million to 3 million in-person voters on Election Day.

Barron, Fulton County's elections director, has vowed to learn from problems during the primary and improve.

Because of the coronavirus, the county had just eight early voting locations during the primary. It plans to have 30 during the entire three weeks of early voting before the general election, as well as two mobile voting precincts that will move around the county.

Unlike Election Day, when voters must use assigned polling places, Fulton County voters can cast ballots at any early voting location, including State Farm Arena, home of the Atlanta Hawks. It was the first NBA arena to be approved as a voting site, an effort supported by Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James and his organization More Than a Vote, which aims to boost Black turnout.

About 100 people will staff three call centers to answer questions from voters or poll workers, who sometimes had trouble reaching the county during the primary. Every polling place will have a technician to troubleshoot equipment problems.

The county plans to hire about 2,900 poll workers, including hundreds who will be on standby in case some back out.

An important change is a big increase in places to vote or drop off a ballot. Fulton County will add 91 polling locations, bringing the total from 164 in June to 255 in November. The number of absentee ballot drop boxes will double to about 40, so that roughly 93% of county residents will live within 3 miles of one.

A new online portal to request absentee ballots set up by the secretary of state is making that process more efficient. It's just one step state election officials are taking to help make the November election run smoothly in Fulton County and elsewhere, Harvey said.

"It's about making sure that on Nov. 4 the only thing people are talking about are the results," he said.

Sen. Graham's challenge: Fill a court seat and save his own

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Few members of the Republican Party have taken a political journey as long as Lindsey Graham's, from ridiculing Donald Trump as a "race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot" to becoming one of the president's fiercest defenders in Congress, as well as a regular golf partner.

Graham has long been known to have flexible politics, and that has served him well in South Carolina for decades. But this November may be his toughest test yet as he seeks reelection and explains to voters how, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he will push for Trump's Supreme Court nominee on the president's aggressive timetable, when the senator was so clearly — even defiantly — opposed to that approach as recently as two years ago, even demanding that he be called out for hypocrisy if he switched. He switched.

"The rules have changed as far as I'm concerned," Graham said Saturday.

It falls to Graham, as committee chairman, to vet Trump's pick to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and manage the spectacle of televised hearings on the nomination. It's one of the most volatile tasks in all of politics, more so now with a pandemic raging, a country on edge, and the ideological tilt of the high court in the balance, perhaps for a generation.

And, Graham has Jaime Harrison to worry about.

The Democratic Senate candidate is running close to Graham, according to one recent poll, despite the conservative tilt of South Carolina, and is matching the three-term incumbent in fundraising that has yielded a total of more than \$30 million apiece.

Harrison hopes to use the shifting Supreme Court stance against Graham, as does a pro-Harrison politi-

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cal action committee which, along with The Lincoln Project, is up with a \$1 million ad buy aiming to use Graham's own 2018 pledge to oppose future election-year confirmations to the court. The Lincoln Project is a group of current and former Republican officials looking to defeat Trump.

"If an opening comes in the last year of President Trump's term, and the primary process has started, we'll wait to the next election," Graham said at an event hosted by The Atlantic magazine. Reminded that he was speaking on the record, Graham doubled down: "Yeah. Hold the tape."

On Saturday, Harrison also posted video from a Senate Judiciary Committee meeting in 2016, where Graham declared, "If there's a Republican president (elected) in 2016 and a vacancy occurs in the last year of the first term, you can say Lindsey Graham said, 'Let's let the next president, whoever it might be, make that nomination.'"

"My grandpa always said that a man is only as good as his word," Harrison added on Twitter. "Senator Graham, you have proven your word is worthless."

The allegation that he's a flip-flopper isn't new for Graham.

Over the years he has taken on and handily defeated primary challengers from the right who didn't see him as conservative enough for South Carolina. Republicans control both legislative chambers in the state, and hold all statewide offices and most of the congressional seats. Graham was too conciliatory, critics argued, too ready to work out deals with Democrats on issues such as immigration alongside his longtime ally and friend, the late Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Graham explained some of that bipartisanship, including his votes in favor of Obama-era Supreme Court picks Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, by pointing to the consequences of election results.

A similar framework was invoked by Trump, who on Saturday in North Carolina signaled that he'd be willing to accept waiting for a vote on his nominee until the postelection congressional session: "We win an election, and those are the consequences."

Part of Graham's justification for pressing ahead is Democrats' changing of the Senate rules to confirm more appeals court judges during President Barack Obama's tenure. But what looms largest is the confirmation battle for the last Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh. Graham says Democrats "conspired to destroy" Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh, who denied allegations of sexual assault that were raised against him, was narrowly confirmed in 2018 after a blistering, partisan fight. Graham played a pivotal role, delivering a fiery, confirmation hearing defense of Kavanaugh that went viral. "What you want to do is destroy this guy's life, hold this seat open and hope you win in 2020," Graham said, his voice shaking.

That moment transformed Graham's political arc, drawing praise from Trump, plaudits from conservatives and scorn from liberals now donating in droves to stop his reelection bid.

"It was just a complete low point in my career in the Senate, and I spoke up," Graham said, describing Democrats' scorn. "As I speak about it right now, the more I think about it, the more pissed I get," he said this month during an event with Federalist Society members in South Carolina.

Trump has promised to put forward a female nominee for the Supreme Court seat this week, starting the process for Graham in the Senate. It may end up being Graham's only chance to shepherd a nominee to the high court. When he became chairman in 2019, he said he would hand the reins back to Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley in the next Congress, a deal Grassley confirmed that year.

As he seeks a fourth Senate term, it's clear that the consequences the Supreme Court battle could have on his own election are not far from Graham's mind. In a tweet thread announcing his support for Trump's nominating process Saturday, Graham cast Harrison, an associate Democratic National Committee chairman, as "a loyal foot soldier in the cause of the radical liberals to destroy America as we know it."

Later, he tweeted that he was "dead set" on confirming Trump's pick. At the end was a link to a fund-raising page for Graham's reelection bid.

Meg Kinnard can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>.

Amazon land grabbers assail ecotourism paradise in Brazil

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

ALTER DO CHAO, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's Alter do Chao, a sleepy village that blends rainforest and beaches, bet on tourism and scored big. Visitors flocked here to eat Amazonian river fish while gazing out over the water, and to take day trips offering the chance to meet Indigenous people and see pink dolphins.

But this once pristine place is discovering that the perils of becoming a can't-miss destination extend beyond hordes of weekend warriors sapping its unspoiled charm. Problems rife throughout the Amazon region — land grabbing, illegal deforestation and unsanctioned construction — are plaguing this ecotourism hot spot.

By 2018, land grabbing had grown so pervasive that one of Brazil's environmental protection agencies said Alter do Chao needed "urgent interventions against the rise of invaders" so it could preserve 67% of its protected areas.

One month later, President Jair Bolsonaro, who has pledged to promote development of the Amazon, was inaugurated.

Alter do Chao's struggle with land grabbers has only worsened since, residents and activists say, with lawbreakers more brazen about occupying land, then slashing and burning forest to make way for houses and fields. Meanwhile, dozens of projects in this riverside village known as the "Amazon Caribbean" have advanced despite being built within protected areas or lacking proper permits.

Most newcomers say they want to buy land legally and cheaply, said Ederson Santos, a motorboat driver. Failing that, however, many are happy to fence off any unoccupied area and claim it as their own.

Santos brought The Associated Press to a recent development near the so-called Enchanted Forest, where a massive pier now links to an expansive home beside a stream. Land grabbers like this have seized many of the 17 nearby waterways, he said.

"The family that lives there never asked permission for any of this. The house, the construction, nothing. Everyone knows," said Santos, 47. "Now they are putting wooden stakes in the water. Soon there will be a net so no one else can come here."

The residents weren't home the day the AP visited, and Santos said he doesn't know the owner's name.

Land grabbing consists of invading public areas and getting documents, forged or not, to certify their possession. Brazil doesn't have a registry consolidating all municipal, state and federal records for landowners, making it easier for criminals.

Historically, Brazil has done little to stop land grabbing in the vast Amazon. But Alter do Chao should be easier to monitor; it has a total protected area of only 66 square miles (170 square kilometers) and has several non-profit organizations dedicated to its defense.

City Hall in the municipality of Santarem, which runs the village, said in a statement that its agents are constantly conducting preemptive raids to stop land grabbing, but provided no details. Residents said local environment enforcement agents are hardworking, but too few.

Rilson Maduro, owner of a restaurant dishing up Amazon cuisine like the tucunare fish, says development is also erasing the area's origins. Ceramics and bones from his ancestors, of the Borari Indigenous group, have been found there over the years.

"Some land grabbers went there because they like the view, others because it is good for agriculture," he said. "We want to keep it intact because of our history."

A seven-story tower under construction near the waterfront will be Alter's tallest building when it is completed; projects like it will house a growing population of tourists and residents.

The village of some 7,000 people attracts about 100,000 tourists during high season. A picture-perfect spit of sand jutting across the water in front of its central plaza — known as Love Island — is the biggest draw for selfie-snapping visitors. And it's easily accessible, located only 20 miles from Santarem's airport.

These days Alter do Chao more closely resembles the idyll of the pre-tourist boom era, when it still felt untapped. The coronavirus has dried up much of its tourism, though its central square still features stalls serving regional dishes like tacaca, a shrimp soup. It's easy to socially distance while sipping caipirinhas made from Amazonian fruit.

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João Romano moved here in 2017 from Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest metropolis, in search of a slower-paced life. He and his wife watched monkeys swing past their wooden home, and their daughters pick fruit dangling from trees. He became a volunteer firefighter for an environmental group, and believed he'd found peace.

But fighting fires put him in developers' cross-hairs. His world was turned upside down late last year when local police accused him and three fellow firefighters of setting a protected forest area ablaze. Intense media coverage followed: They were jailed for three days and, upon release, threatened by those who accused them of being radical environmentalists who set the fire to sully Bolsonaro's reputation and undermine his plans to develop the Amazon.

"There is a big pressure here for what they believe development is. They don't see potential for sustainable growth," said Romano, 28.

Bolsonaro trumpeted the police allegations, claiming that scheming non-profits — not farmers, loggers or land grabbers — were responsible for deploying arsonist firefighters, funded by actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Non-profits working to protect the Amazon are a "cancer," he asserted in a recent Facebook live broadcast.

But a recording of Santarem Mayor Nelio Aguiar revealed that he told Para state Gov. Helder Barbalho that in fact local police were behind the fire.

"This is about people setting fires so they can later split the land, sell it," the mayor said in the recording. Local police denied the allegation and continue to blame the firefighters for the fire.

The area that was devastated now features several houses visible from the water, with even more hidden from view.

Last month, Federal Police exonerated the firefighters of any possible involvement. The findings of their investigation were sent to the Para state prosecutors' office, which has yet to announce whether it will drop the case.

The federal prosecutors' office confirmed to the AP that the fire was started in an area where a major land grabber has previously operated. Silas da Silva Soares was sentenced to six years and 10 months in prison in 2018 for seizing land in protected areas, but remains at large.

Caetano Scannavino, coordinator of the non-profit Health and Happiness, where the firefighters worked, said the episode has only emboldened the region's land grabbers.

"The economic pressure is growing, and if nothing is done now ... it might be too late for Alter to keep its natural beauty. It is that beauty that brings people here," Scannavino said. "Economically there will be short-term benefits, but a lot of the value will be lost in the long run."

In June, federal prosecutors sent a recommendation to Santarem City Hall urging that it not grant permits for any construction in protected areas. They highlighted at least 40 "irregular" projects under way, among them the seven-story tower near the waterfront.

"The Alter I once knew is changed and I don't like many of those changes," said 71-year-old fisherman Alfredo José Branco, as he slowly moved from a hammock to a plastic armchair in his tiny backyard. His family is among the last of a group that has lived for decades near the beach.

"I will stay, but I wonder if my children and grandchildren will be able to," he said. "Everywhere I go has invaders now."

Wildfires and hurricanes disrupt final weeks of 2020 census

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Already burdened by the coronavirus pandemic and a tightened deadline, the Census Bureau must now contend with several natural disasters as wildfires and hurricanes disrupt the final weeks of the nation's once-a-decade headcount.

The fires on the West Coast forced tens of thousands of people to flee homes in California and Oregon before they could be counted, and tens of thousands of others were uncounted in Louisiana communities hit hard last month by Hurricane Laura. Nearly a quarter million more households were uncounted in areas affected this week by Hurricane Sally.

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The disasters add to the already laborious task of counting of every U.S. resident and increase the risk that the effort will miss people in some parts of the country.

"I can't project if Mother Nature is going to let us finish, but we are going to do the best we can," said Al Fontenot, associate director of the Census Bureau, who has repeatedly said the bureau is on target to complete the count at the end of the month.

The disasters make it challenging or impossible for census takers to visit households that have not yet answered questionnaires. And time is running out, with just two weeks left until the census is scheduled to end on Sept. 30.

In major cities in California and Oregon, smoke from nearby wildfires poses a health threat for census takers as they knock on doors.

"It's really smoky, and no one wants to open their doors because of the hazardous air. I gave up yesterday and do not plan to go out today unless it improves," said a San Francisco census taker, who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear that she could lose her job.

Officials in San Jose, California, are encouraging residents to respond to census questions online or by phone or mail.

"Frankly, it's not safe to be outside for more than a little bit," San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said. "So, yes, it will affect us. We are going to hustle every other way we possibly can."

If there is an undercount, states affected by the disasters could be shortchanged when some \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is distributed annually to pay for roads, schools, health care and other programs. Since the census also determines how many congressional seats each state gets, states such as California that are on the verge of losing a seat because of declining population could see their political power diluted.

Rep. Jimmy Gomez, a Democrat from Los Angeles, said the recent disasters are another reason the deadline for ending the 2020 census should be extended by a month.

Because of the pandemic, the Census Bureau pushed back the deadline for finishing the count from the end of July to the end of October. Then the agency announced last month that the deadline would be changed to the end of September after the Republican-controlled Senate failed to pass a Census Bureau request for more time to turn in numbers used for redrawing congressional districts.

Some Democrats and activists believe the expedited schedule is politically motivated. A coalition of cities and civil rights groups are suing in federal court in San Jose, seeking an extra month.

"We know the shorter the time frame is, the more risk there is to an accurate count, and the more problems can arise," Gomez said. "This is not usually the time of the year that the Census Bureau is doing the counting."

The San Jose lawsuit contends that the sped-up timetable will cause Latinos, Asian Americans and immigrants to be overlooked. Government attorneys say the Census Bureau will not have enough time to process the data to meet an end-of-the-year deadline if the count does not finish in September.

"If you had a longer period, you would expect some people to return home, and you could concentrate on those geographies," said Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which is seeking extra time in another lawsuit in Maryland.

Census takers headed to evacuation centers to complete the count, and residents will be counted according to where they were on April 1, said Guillermo Gonzalez, a congressional liaison for the Census Bureau.

In areas where there is extreme danger, such as parts of Oregon, census field offices had to close offices for several days and home visits were suspended. In some places where census takers cannot go out, they are trying to reach households by phone, according to Census Bureau officials.

Fontenot said in court papers in the Maryland case that the natural disasters and other disruptions pose "significant risks" to finishing the count in all states by the deadline.

The Census Bureau estimated there were 248,000 uncounted households affected by Hurricane Sally in Alabama and Florida; 34,000 uncounted households affected by Hurricane Laura in Louisiana; close to 80,000 uncounted households in California affected by wildfires; and 17,500 Oregon households also threatened by the flames.

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The disasters worry the federal judge in the San Jose lawsuit, who is considering whether to extend the count by a month. During a recent hearing, Judge Lucy Koh said some workers at her courthouse had been evacuated and their neighborhoods were destroyed.

"Here we've been told not to go outside for 28 days because of unsafe air. How are you doing six visits to households when people can't go outside?" Koh asked government attorneys. "How are we going to count in this reality for us?"

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

A rapper, an elevator and an elephant: stories Ginsburg told

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In recent years Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was surprised to find herself so popular that "everyone wants to take a picture with me." The justice, who died Friday at 87, had become a feminist icon, with books, movies, clothing and even coloring books devoted to her.

People wanted to give her awards. They wanted to hear her talk. Ginsburg was invited to speak so often that inevitably she was asked the same questions and delivered the same punch lines, always, it seemed, to a delighted new audience.

Some of the things Ginsburg liked to tell groups:

WHAT SHE HAD IN COMMON WITH A RAPPER

Ginsburg came to be known as "The Notorious RBG," a play on the name of the rapper "The Notorious B.I.G." Ginsburg liked to note they had one important thing in common. Both were born and bred in Brooklyn, New York.

WHEN ASKED FOR HER ADVICE

Ginsburg often dispensed a piece of wisdom her mother-in-law gave her on her wedding day. The secret to a happy marriage is this: "Sometimes it helps to be a little deaf." Ginsburg said it was excellent advice in dealing with her colleagues on the court, too.

ON EQUAL PARENTING

Ginsburg's son James was what she called a "lively child," and she would often get calls from his New York City school about his latest caper. Ginsburg finally told the school: "This child has two parents. Please alternate calls." It was Ginsburg's husband's turn, she said.

So Ginsburg's husband went to the school and was told James had "stolen the elevator," taking a group of kindergartners for a ride.

But "after the elevator incident, the calls came barely once a semester," Ginsburg noted, and not because James was any better behaved. "They were much more reluctant to take a man away from his work than a woman," Ginsburg liked to explain.

ON FACING DISCRIMINATION

Ginsburg often noted that she had "three strikes" against her in trying to get a job when she graduated from Columbia's law school in 1959, despite graduating at the top of her class. She was Jewish. She was a wife. And she was a mother.

"Getting the first job was hard for women of my vintage," she'd say. "But once you got the first job you did it at least as well as the men and so the next step was not as hard."

Ginsburg also liked to note something Justice Sandra Day O'Connor would say: "Sandra said, 'Where would the two of us be if there had been no discrimination?' Well, today we'd be retired partners from a large law firm."

ON HER FRIENDSHIP WITH ANTONIN SCALIA

The genuine friendship between the liberal Ginsburg and conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016, puzzled many audiences. Ginsburg explained: "The number one reason why I loved Justice Scalia so is he made me laugh."

The two shared a love of opera. And they were close enough that their families spent New Year's to-

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gether. Scalia would sometimes call to point out grammar errors in Ginsburg's opinion drafts. Ginsburg, for her part, would sometimes tell him: "This opinion is so overheated, you'd be more persuasive if you tone it down." She liked to say: "He never listened to that."

Ginsburg often described a famous picture of the two of them riding an elephant together in India, the heavysset Scalia in front and diminutive Ginsburg in the rear. Ginsburg's feminist friends were horrified. Why was she in the back? Weight distribution, she explained.

ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS

Ginsburg's mother, Celia Bader, who died the day before Ginsburg graduated high school, never attended college but worked as a bookkeeper. Ginsburg would sometimes ask audiences: "What's the difference between a bookkeeper in New York's Garment District and a U.S. Supreme Court justice?" Her answer: "One generation."

ON CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

When asked how she might change the Constitution if given the opportunity, Ginsburg liked to point to the effort in the 1970s to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, which fell three states short of ratification. Ginsburg said passing it was still a good idea.

"I have three granddaughters," Ginsburg liked to say. "And I'd like to be able to take out my pocket Constitution and say that the equal citizenship stature of men and women is a fundamental tenet of our society."

ON THE SUPREME COURT'S WOMEN

Ginsburg, the second female justice, was sometimes asked when there would be enough women on the Supreme Court. Her response: "When there are nine." She'd explain: "Some people are taken aback until they remember that for most of our country's history there were only men on the high court bench."

Des Moines says no to governor's demand for classroom return

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Students in Iowa's largest school system are facing the possibility that this most unusual school year could stretch into next summer, and the district could be hit with crippling bills because of a dispute with the governor over the safety of returning to classrooms during the coronavirus pandemic.

Des Moines school officials have repeatedly refused to abide by Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds' order requiring the state's 327 school districts to hold at least half their classes in-person rather than online. For Des Moines, it's a question of trying to keep its more than 33,000 students and 5,000 staffers from contracting the disease. But after the school board last week again voted to violate Reynolds' order, the governor called the action "unacceptable" and began the process for punishing the district.

Reynolds has dismissed Des Moines' officials' concerns, noting that nearly all other Iowa districts have reopened their classrooms despite some virus outbreaks and the occasional need to quarantine students, saying, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

School districts across the country have struggled with the decision of whether to return to classrooms despite the risk of coronavirus infections or shift to online learning, and the choice is especially stark for Iowa's capital city. Des Moines has had one of the nation's highest rates of people testing positive for COVID-19, and school board members ask how it would be possible to enforce social distancing rules in their crowded classrooms and packed school buses.

The school board delayed the start of school by a week as the district sought a court injunction to block the governor's order, arguing that she had overstepped her authority. A judge initially sided with the governor, but the district proceeded with its plan to distribute thousands of laptops to students and launched a completely online course offering on Sept. 8.

District officials have said they're deeply troubled to be out of compliance with state standards, but they believe the governor has put them in a no-win situation by ordering students to spend at least half their time in classroom. Reynolds' order does allow waivers allowing online-only instruction, but only for

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districts where more than 15% of people test positive for the virus, which is triple the 5% positivity rate that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health experts say would be appropriate for resuming in-person classes.

The district notes that 31% of its staff members have health concerns that put them at higher risk from COVID-19 and 10% are older than 60. If forced to resume classes, officials contend that many teachers and bus drivers would quit rather than risk being infected by the virus.

The positivity rate in Polk County, where most of Des Moines is located, reached 12% earlier in September but recently dropped to about 7%.

"Except for our state Department of Public Health, every other health expert we talk to doesn't understand why we're even having to have this fight because they recognize it isn't safe for us to reopen our schools," said Des Moines Superintendent Tom Ahart. "It feels like operating in an alternate reality."

If they find the district is out of compliance, state officials could take a variety of actions, including requiring the district to keep students in classes until the end of June — nearly a month later than usual. A district official said each additional day would cost about \$1.5 million, draining the district's reserves within days.

District officials have assured students that they will get credit for the online classes they're taking, but parent Jason Hahn told school board members at a recent online meeting that he was worried they could be wrong, since the district lost the first round in its lawsuit. The longer the district continues with only online learning, the deeper the financial risk, he said.

"The end result of continuing to operate without an approved plan will likely be a district that loses accreditation and that is bankrupt," Hahn said. "This scenario would be catastrophic for the community, the district and the students."

Reynolds is the only Midwest governor to issue a statewide order requiring in-person instruction, with all other states in the region leaving decisions to local school districts. Reynolds, a strong supporter of President Donald Trump who has demanded on Twitter that "SCHOOLS MUST OPEN IN THE FALL," also has refused to issue a statewide mask requirement and told at least 10 cities that they can't enforce local mandates because they would exceed her actions.

Although Des Moines' lawsuit hasn't been resolved, a judge ruled that the state has power over school districts, even if its rationale is based on flawed coronavirus benchmarks. In a separate lawsuit, another judge sided with the state and against Iowa City schools and a teachers union, saying the governor has broad emergency powers that local school boards don't have.

The union, the Iowa State Education Association, opposed the governor's action, but a teacher walkout is unlikely because state law prohibits public employees from striking.

The state first issued its requirements to school districts in July, and at a news conference Wednesday, the governor expressed exasperation at what she called Des Moines' "slow walk to compliance."

Asked how the state would respond, Education Department Director Ann Lebo wouldn't be specific but said the agency would begin a process to punish the district for not complying.

"We were very hopeful to work with the district to find a solution," Lebo said. "At this point it seems they are well into a plan that is out of compliance and will continue to do so, so we will have to initiate that process on our end."

The school board will discuss the issue again Monday night and will consider a plan still being developed that would include a part-time return to classrooms.

Middle school Spanish teacher Trisha Peckosh, who has children in the district, said it's hard to see how the district and state will resolve the dispute. It's true that students would learn better if they were in classroom, but Des Moines is right to worry about the safety of students and staff, she said.

"Everybody is in such a hard position," she said. "Every time you come up with a solution that could work, there's a roadblock."

Analysis: US to hit 200K dead; Trump sees no need for regret

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the coronavirus pandemic began bearing down on the United States in March, President Donald Trump set out his expectations.

If the U.S. could keep the death toll between 100,000 to 200,000 people, Trump said, it would indicate that his administration had “done a very good job.”

In the coming days, the number of U.S. deaths is set to clear the outer band of the president’s projections: 200,000, according to the official tally, though the real number is certainly higher. The virus continues to spread and there is currently no approved vaccine. Some public health experts fear infections could spike this fall and winter, perhaps even doubling the death count by the end of the year.

Yet the grim milestone and the prospect of more American deaths to come have prompted no rethinking from the president about his handling of the pandemic and no outward expressions of regrets. Instead, Trump has sought to reshape the significance of the death tally, trying to turn the loss of 200,000 Americans into a success story by contending the numbers could have been even higher without the actions of his administration.

“If we didn’t do our job, it would be three and a half, two and a half, maybe 3 million people,” Trump said Friday, leaning on extreme projections of what could have happened if nothing at all were done to fight the pandemic. “We have done a phenomenal job with respect to COVID-19.”

Trump’s reelection prospects will hinge in part on whether enough voters agree with that assessment. The challenge he faces in making his case, with just over six weeks before the Nov. 3 election and voting already underway in some states, is clear.

Just 39% of Americans approve of the president’s handling of the pandemic, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Roughly one-quarter of Republicans say they don’t approve of Trump’s stewardship of the public health crisis, though his overall backing among GOP voters sits at a comfortable 84%.

There’s also little doubt that the death toll in the U.S. has soared past where Trump repeatedly assured the public it would be. In February, when the first coronavirus cases were detected in the U.S., the president said the numbers would be “down to close to zero” within days. In early April, when U.S. officials estimated at least 100,000 people would die from the pandemic even if all conceivable steps were taken against it, Trump suggested the numbers would be lower, saying: “I think we’re doing better than that.”

He’s shifted again in recent days, saying that the U.S. remains a success story because some models showed the nation could have 240,000 deaths — a threshold that appears likely to be eclipsed by the end of the year.

Well aware of his sluggish standing with voters on the pandemic, Trump has spent recent weeks trying to refocus his race against Democrat Joe Biden on other issues, including promising white suburban voters that he would keep crime in liberal cities from encroaching on their neighborhoods.

Trump will now campaign in particular on the courts, given Friday’s death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, seeking to lure back Republican voters who may have turned on him during the pandemic, with the promise of more conservatives on the high court.

Though the Supreme Court vacancy does significantly jolt the White House race, Biden still wants to keep much of the focus on the coronavirus. He strengthened his standing through the summer by hammering what he calls the Trump administration’s failures to take the virus threat seriously and to provide consistent guidance to the public, including around the effectiveness of wearing face masks.

After revelations in a new book from journalist Bob Woodward that Trump intentionally played down the seriousness of the virus earlier this year, Biden said of a president’s responsibilities: “You’ve got to level with the American people — shoot from the shoulder,” adding, “There’s not been a time they’ve not been able to step up.”

Trump has insisted he wasn’t downplaying the severity of virus when he compared it with the seasonal flu and undercut public health officials who pushed for more stringent mitigation efforts. Yet he’s repeat-

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edly flouted his own administration's safety guidelines, rarely wearing a mask himself and holding large campaign events with little evidence of social distancing among his crowds.

With the death toll continuing to climb, Trump has also repeatedly passed up opportunities to serve as a unifying force for communities and families grieving the loss of loved ones. Instead, he's effectively discounted the deaths of Americans who live in Democratic-leaning states, suggesting he has little responsibility for the well-being of those who don't support him politically.

"If you take the blue states out, we're at a level that I don't think anybody in the world would be at," Trump said this past week about the death toll. "Some of the states, they were blue states and blue state-managed."

It was a jarring statement from an American president, yet one in keeping with Trump's handling of the pandemic and his presidency. He's long taken a transactional approach to his office, and he spent the opening weeks of the pandemic feuding with Democratic governors in hard-hit states, challenging them to lift restrictions that he deemed harmful to the strong economy he'd hoped to ride to a second term.

"He sees everything, including the implications of this terrible virus, in terms of his own political and personal success — 'How does it affect me and my electability and my popularity,'" said Margaret Susan Thompson, a professor of history and political science at Syracuse University.

The question looming over his presidency now, as Americans mourn 200,000 lives lost, is what the effects of his handling of the pandemic will be on his political future. The answer will come soon enough from his fellow Americans.

EDITOR'S NOTE — AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for the AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Efforts afoot to save South's disappearing grasslands

By TRAVIS LOLLER Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — In the early 2000s, a harvest of pine trees on Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau led to a remarkable discovery. Once sunlight hit the ground, the seeds and rootstock of native grasses and wildflowers that had lain dormant for decades began to spring to life.

The area was originally part of vast patchwork of Southern grasslands that today hang on only in tiny remnants, many times in rights-of-way next to roads or under power lines. They have often been an afterthought in conservation, if they were even thought of at all. But that is starting to change.

In Tennessee, where the pine trees were cleared, wildlife officials now maintain about 4,000 acres of grassland in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area with controlled low-temperature burns. Along with the native plants, grassland loving animals have returned, including ground-nesting birds and rabbits.

Meanwhile, the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative is working to restore thousands of acres of other grasslands while also developing a seed bank, discovering new species and leading volunteers to search for remnants.

Across much of the South, at least 90% of the native grasslands have been lost, the initiative estimates. Despite their diminished range, Southern grasslands are still home to an incredible diversity of plants and animals -- greater than the surrounding forests, which are often a top priority for conservation. One researcher documented over 90 species of bees on a single 50-acre remnant (20 hectares) preserved under power lines in Mississippi's Black Belt. Taken as a whole, the remaining Black Belt prairie is home to more than 1,000 species of moths.

Part of the reason grasslands are so easily lost is because many people don't recognize them as anything special, said Theo Witsell, an ecologist who cofounded the conservation initiative in 2018.

"You can have an ancient grassland, thousands of years old, preserved in some little hay meadow that was never planted," he said. "They're isolated and unrecognized unless you know plants."

Grasslands come in various forms — wetland bogs, rocky barrens, lush prairies, even woodlands — anywhere the tree cover is sparse enough to allow grasses, flowers and other small plants to flourish.

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That's why the longleaf pine savanna that once stretched more than 140,000 square miles (364,000 square kilometers) from Virginia to Texas can properly be considered a grassland although its dominant visual feature is a tree.

Famed naturalist E.O. Wilson has written that the southern grassland biome is "probably the richest terrestrial biome in all of North America." It is also one of the most highly endangered. With habitat loss, many animals have all but disappeared from the landscape, including the monarch butterfly, Eastern meadowlark and Bobwhite quail. And the loss is ongoing.

Tracking down remnants to preserve native grasslands sometimes requires as much detective work as botanical knowledge. Tools the initiative's scientists employ include old maps with clues in place names like Prairie Creek. There are also old land surveys with boundaries marked by rock piles where no large trees were available as landmarks. And they have a team of volunteers scouring more than 4,000 miles of old roadsides in search of native plants.

Initiative co-founder Dwayne Estes is a botany and ecology professor at Austin Peay State University, where it's based. He recently paid a visit to 900 acres (364 hectares) of former farmland in Nashville he's surveying for the city's parks department with the goal of restoring about a third to native grasslands.

Asked what type of grassland it was, Estes said there's no name because it was never formally described in scientific literature. Like many Southern grasslands, it was lost before it could be recorded.

"Nearly every single thing around us has changed," he said. But he pointed to a few sun-loving native plants such as MacGregor's wild rye and a gnarled chinkapin oak, saying they offer clues about the land hundreds of years ago.

Much of the land the initiative hopes to restore lies in private hands. And Estes said knowing the cultural as well as botanical history helps him when talking to farmers about conservation. He can tell them a story about what once grew there, and relate that to what people lived there and where they chose to build homes, hunt and farm.

Among the private landowners wooed are former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a Tennessee Republican, and his wife Tracy, who own a 900-acre (364 hectares) farm in New Castle, Virginia. Tracy Frist raises grass-fed cattle on the abundant native grasses. A Virginia Tech graduate student is studying the grasses' nutritional value and its effect on the cattle and the meat they yield. Tracy Frist said. And Estes is helping the Frists understand how to best manage their land through grazing and controlled fire.

Already, they are maintaining a butterfly corridor with milkweed for migrating monarchs and a wetland with a large beaver pond.

"I didn't know the diversity and history of the grasses or appreciate how important they are to migration and also biodiversity," Tracy Frist said.

Even for scientists, native grasslands still hold surprises.

"In the last six years I've described 25 new species of grasshopper," said JoVonn Hill, interim director of the Mississippi Entomological Museum and professor at Mississippi State University .

The first new grasshopper he discovered was in a Tennessee cedar glade near the city of Lebanon. "That's an area that's been well studied by botanists since the 1800s," Hill said. "But literally my first step, I stepped out of the car, and I saw a grasshopper jump up that looked like one I'd never seen before.

"Right here in the Southeast we have species we haven't found yet."

Follow Travis Loller on Twitter: @travisloller

Thai protesters install plaque symbolizing democracy

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Anti-government demonstrators occupying a historic field in the Thai capital on Sunday installed a plaque symbolizing the country's transition to democracy to replace the original one that was mysteriously ripped out and stolen three years ago, as they vowed to press on with calls for new elections and reform of the monarchy.

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The mass student-led rally that began Saturday was the largest in a series of protests this year, with thousands camping overnight at Sanam Luang field near the Grand Palace in Bangkok.

A group of activists drilled a hole in front of a makeshift stage and, after Buddhist rituals, laid down a round brass plaque in cement to commemorate the 1932 revolution that changed Thailand from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy.

"At the dawn of Sept. 20, here is where the people proclaim that this country belongs to the people," read part of the inscription on the plaque. In April 2017, the original plaque vanished from Bangkok's Royal Plaza and was replaced by one praising the monarchy.

"The nation does not belong to only one person, but belongs to us all," student leader Parit "Penguin" Chirawak told the crowd. "Therefore, I would like to ask holy spirits to stay with us and bless the people's victory."

Another activist, Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul, said their demands do not propose getting rid of the monarchy. "They are proposals with good intentions to make the institution of the monarchy remain graciously above the people under democratic rule," Panusaya said.

Still, such calls took the nation by surprise. Protesters' demands seek to limit the king's powers, establish tighter controls on palace finances and allow open discussion of the monarchy. Their boldness was unprecedented, as the monarchy is considered sacrosanct in Thailand, with a harsh law that mandates a three- to 15-year prison term for defaming it.

The protesters later attempted to march toward the Grand Palace to hand over a petition seeking royal reforms to the head of the Privy Council, the king's advisers, but were blocked by police barricades. One of them, Panusaya, was allowed to deliver the petition, which was addressed to the king. It was received by a police official, who promised to forward it to the council.

Just before the rally ended, Parit called for a general strike on Oct. 14, the anniversary of a popular student uprising in 1973 that ended a military dictatorship after dozens were killed by police. He also urged people to withdraw their funds and close their accounts at Siam Commercial Bank, in which the king is the biggest shareholder. Calls for comment to the bank, also known as SCB, and several of its corporate communications executives went unanswered or did not connect.

Parit also called for another protest Thursday outside parliament to follow up on the protesters' demands. Organizers had predicted that as many as 50,000 people would take part in the weekend protest, but Associated Press reporters estimated that around 20,000 were present by Saturday evening.

Tyrell Haberkorn, a Thai studies scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said that by holding their protest at Sanam Luang, a longtime "site of recreation and protest for the people, taken over in recent years by the monarchy," the protesters "have won a significant victory."

"Their resounding message is that Sanam Luang, and the country, belong to the people," he said in an email.

The crowd were a disparate batch. They included an LGBTQ contingent waving iconic rainbow banners while red flags sprouted across the area, representing Thailand's Red Shirt political movement, which battled the country's military in Bangkok's streets 10 years ago.

There were skits and music, and speakers gave fiery speeches late Saturday accusing the government of incompetence, corruption in the military and failing to protect women's rights. At least 8,000 police officers were reportedly deployed for the event.

"The people who came here today came here peacefully and are really calling for democracy," said Panupong Jadnok, one of the protest leaders.

Their core demands were the dissolution of parliament with fresh elections, a new constitution and an end to intimidation of political activists.

They believe that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who as army commander led a 2014 coup toppling an elected government, was returned to power unfairly in last year's general election because the laws had been changed to favor a pro-military party. Protesters say a constitution promulgated under military rule is undemocratic.

The students are too young to have been caught up in the sometimes violent partisan battles that roiled

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Thailand a decade ago, said Kevin Hewison, a University of North Carolina professor emeritus and a veteran Thai studies scholar.

"What the regime and its supporters see is relatively well-off kids turned against them and this confounds them," he said.

The appearance of the Red Shirts, while boosting the protest numbers, links the new movement to mostly poor rural Thais, supporters of former populist billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup. Thaksin was opposed by the country's traditional royalist establishment.

The sometimes violent struggle between Thaksin's supporters and the conservative foes left Thai society polarized. Thaksin, who now lives in exile, noted on Twitter on Saturday that it was the anniversary of his fall from power and posed the rhetorical question of how the nation had fared since then.

"If we had a good government, a democratic government, our politics, our education and our healthcare system would be better than this," said protester Amorn Panurang. "This is our dream. And we hope that our dream will come true."

Arrests for earlier actions on charges including sedition have failed to faze the young activists. They had been denied permission to enter the Thammasat University campus and Sanam Luang on Saturday, but when they pushed, the authorities retreated, even though police warned them that they were breaking the law.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 21, the 265th day of 2020. There are 101 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 21, 1981, the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1792, the French National Convention voted to abolish the monarchy.

In 1937, "The Hobbit," by J.R.R. Tolkien, was first published by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. of London.

In 1938, a hurricane struck parts of New York and New England, causing widespread damage and claiming some 700 lives.

In 1970, "NFL Monday Night Football" made its debut on ABC-TV as the Cleveland Browns defeated the visiting New York Jets, 31-21.

In 1976, Orlando Letelier (leh-tel-YEHR'), onetime foreign minister to Chilean President Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day), was killed when a bomb exploded in his car in Washington D.C. (The bombing, which also killed Letelier's assistant, Ronni Moffitt, was blamed on Chile's secret police.)

In 1982, Amin Gemayel, brother of Lebanon's assassinated president-elect, Bashir Gemayel, was himself elected president. National Football League players began a 57-day strike, their first regular-season walkout ever.

In 1985, in North Korea and South Korea, family members who had been separated for decades were allowed to visit each other as both countries opened their borders in an unprecedented family-reunion program.

In 1987, NFL players called a strike, mainly over the issue of free agency. (The 24-day walkout prompted football owners to hire replacement players.)

In 1989, Hurricane Hugo crashed into Charleston, South Carolina (the storm was blamed for 56 deaths in the Caribbean and 29 in the United States). Twenty-one students in Alton, Texas, died when their school bus, hit by a soft-drink delivery truck, careened into a water-filled pit.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act denying federal recognition of same-sex marriages, a day after saying the law should not be used as an excuse for discrimination, violence or intimidation against gays and lesbians. (Although never formally repealed, DoMA was effectively overturned