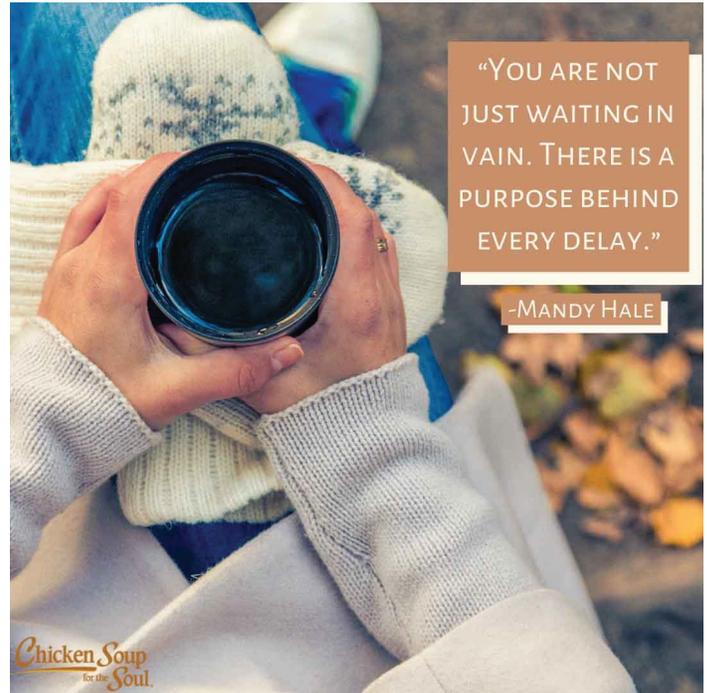


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"YOU ARE NOT JUST WAITING IN VAIN. THERE IS A PURPOSE BEHIND EVERY DELAY."

-MANDY HALE



**Mike Nehls was a guest commentator on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3 FM for the football game Friday night. Nehls, who is running for Brown County Commission, sponsored the broadcast.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

## Redfield spoils Groton Area's homecoming game



**Andrew Marzahn (17) and Jackson Cogley tackle Sean Domke.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Lane Tietz looks for an open receiver.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Redfield racked up 142 yards rushing and 189 yards passing, scoring five touchdowns as the Pheasants spoiled Groton Area's homecoming game Friday, 33-7. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3 FM, sponsored by Mike Nehls for Brown County Commission.

Redfield wasted no time scoring, taking its opening drive 65 yards with three first downs as Bradyn Robbins ended up scoring on a one yard run with 10:13 left in the first quarter. The PAT kick was no good and it was 6-0, Redfield.

Groton Area's opening drive had a touchdown recalled by a penalty and then would fumble the ball at the Redfield 25 yard line. A couple of plays later, Jordan Bjerke would intercept the ball and the Tigers would be back at the Redfield 30 yard line. The Tigers would get a first down on a Bjerke catch which would then be followed up by a one-yard run by Jaimen Farrell. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT and the Tigers took the lead, 7-6.

The Pheasants would score with one minute left in the first half on a five-yard pass from Easton Millar to Mason Fey. The PAT run was no good and Redfield took a 12-7 lead at half time.

Groton's opening drive in the second half was thwarted when Robbins intercepted the ball. While the Pheasants did not score, they held Groton without a first down. Then a bad punt handoff went rolling towards the end zone and the Pheasants made the tackle at the one-yard line. On the following play, Bradyn Robbins would score on a one-yard run. The PAT kick was no good and the Pheasants took an 18-7 lead with 4:54 left in the third quarter.

Redfield's next scoring drive started with 3:02 left in the third quarter and culminated at the 11:52 mark in the fourth quarter when Keaton Rohlf's scored on a 27-yard pass from Easton Millar. The PAT was completed on a pass from Millar to Rohlf's and it was 26-7.

Groton Area was on the move on. After three first downs, the Tigers were first and goal at the 10 yard line, but big plays by the Pheasants stopped the drive as the Tigers were fourth and 26.

Redfield would score with 4:15 left in the game when Bradyn Robbins would break free and run 44 yards. The PAT kick by Ivan Blume was good and the final score ended being 33-7.

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Both teams had 14 first downs. Groton Area carried the ball 32 times for a net gain of 26 yards. Jaimen Farrell had nine carries for 43 yards and one touchdown, Favian Sanchez had seven carries for four yards, Jacob Lewandowski had five carries for eight yards and Colby Dunker had two carries for three yards. Redfield carried the ball 27 times for 142 yards and three touchdowns. Bradyn Robbins had 10 carries for 78 yards and Dylan Whitley had 12 carries for 61 yards.

Lane Tietz completed 12 of 26 passes for 166 yards and one interception. Lewandowski attempted two passes. Receivers were Jordan Bjerke with six catches for 89 yards, Andrew Marzahn with four catches for 55 yards and Jaimen Farrell with two catches for 22 yards. Redfield's Easton Millar completed 13 of 24 passes for 189 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Receivers were Keaton Rohlfs with four catches for 90 yards and Sean Sombke with three catches for 61 yards.

Groton Area lost one fumble and Redfield had none. Both teams had five penalties for 40 yards.

Defensive leaders were Alex Morris with 14 tackles, Jaimen Farrell with 11, Caleb Furney with eight and Jordan Bjerke had an interception. Redfield was led by Dylan Whitley and Bradyn Robbins with seven tackles each.

Groton Area, now 2-4, will travel to Aberdeen on Friday to take on the Cavaliers. Redfield, now 3-2, will host Sisseton on Friday.

- Paul Kosel



**Jordan Bjerke makes this catch.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Andrew Marzahn is quickly on the move and on the go.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## #215 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

New cases are persistently high, pushing that 50,000 mark. We reported 47,800 today, a 0.7% increase to 7,050,300. The 14-day new-case average is up even more, today by 17%. Oklahoma set a one-day new-case record today. This is the wrong direction and at an accelerating rate.

Now that we've had our seven millionth case, we can survey the milestones in our past: one million cases: April 28, 98 days in; two million cases: June 11, 44 days later; three million cases: July 8, 27 days later; four million cases: July 23, 15 days later; five million cases: August 9, 17 days later; six million cases: August 31, 22 days later; and seven million cases: September 24, 24 days later. We keep adding cases even at the slowest recent rate of a million every 27 days, we'll be over ten and a half million by New Year's Day. Even allowing for the fact that not everyone gets sick—or very sick—that's still a lot of sick people. Only three other countries have as many as one million cases: India at 5.8 million, Brazil at 4.6 million, and Russia at 1.1 million. Leading the world, we are.

Additionally, we have 23 states reporting an increase of new cases over last week: Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Maine, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico. Seven are showing declines: Hawaii, Washington, Louisiana, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Delaware. So most of the trouble is west of the Great Lakes, and most of the good news is east of the Mississippi River. More on that in a bit.

We are now at 203,479 deaths. There were 807 of them reported today, a 0.4% increase. The 14-day single-day death average is up too by more than yesterday at 5%. Also the wrong direction.

The recent trend toward a younger demographic (ages 20 to 29) showing up with Covid-19 is starting to bear fruit in the larger community. We are beginning to see new waves of infection among the middle-aged among their contacts and then in older people. Repeatedly, in many different places, the pattern is clear: Within nine days of an increase in cases among those in their 20s and 30s, we see a corresponding rise in cases among those 60 and older. Sometimes, there are a couple of steps: nine days to a wave in the 40-59 group, then another couple of weeks later, a rise in 60 and overs. The fact that the young seldom show symptoms makes them better spreaders because transmission appears to be more effective before symptoms and also because people don't stay home if they're feeling fine.

This means this trend is hazardous not just to the occasional 20-year-old who gets sick, but to more vulnerable people with whom they come in contact. College campuses are a large part, although not the only part, of this phenomenon; there have been 88,000 cases reported on 1190 campuses as of September 10. Away from campuses, this same age group is more likely to have a higher risk of occupational exposure. And the under-30 group is less likely to observe mitigation practices and more likely to have a wide social circle, so they're going to be very effective at transmission. This also puts paid to the suggestion that we just let young people get sick and protect the vulnerable. Dr. Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, says the patterns of transmission we are seeing provide "yet more evidence that the concept proposed by some—cocoon the elderly, and let young people get sick because they will not have bad outcomes—will not work." We should also note that, while it is not common, young people can become severely ill and die. And we must recognize that partying is by no means the only source of infection in the young; many of them have public-facing jobs and/or live in intergenerational households. That means the moral outrage at those inconsiderate kids is probably not going to help us deal with the problem.

On the list of things that will not make controlling this pandemic easier is a story from Minnesota. The state had a testing study underway that involved public health workers going door-to-door in 180 neighborhoods offering free testing and trying to get a handle on how the virus is spreading. The study has been halted due to threats and intimidation of the teams doing the survey. Teams were greeted by racial and ethnic slurs, and in one community a team was boxed in by two cars and threatened by three men, including one brandishing a gun. A supervisor for the survey said, "Unfortunately that wasn't the

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only incident." The incidents occurred mostly in central and southern Minnesota, rural areas. Before work stopped, they'd collected about 400 samples which will be processed and analyzed, but will fall far short of providing the picture of transmission that had been hoped for. Minnesota is currently classified as an "uncontrolled spread" state, having reported almost 2000 deaths and close to 95,000 cases, including nearly 1200 today in 78 of the state's 87 counties. Looks like folks are determined to bring down on themselves the very thing they've been denying exists. I guess we'll see how that works for them.

Minnesota is not alone. The current spikes in cases are occurring in just the places where people are most determined to resist any public health measures aimed at mitigating the infection. Wisconsin is averaging more than 2000 cases per day over the last week, and hospitalizations are at record levels. Utah has seen its average daily case count more than double over three weeks. Oklahoma and Missouri have more than 1000-case days routinely. Kansas and Iowa are experiencing spikes. South Dakota and Iowa have ridiculous test positivity rates. We are also hearing unsettling reports about hospital capacity in South Dakota, although state officials are not being entirely forthcoming in responding to questions, including calling one report of a patient shipped out of state for care a "lie," even though the report came from the patient himself, currently hospitalized in Minnesota, which is, for the record, outside of South Dakota. I remain highly concerned.

A cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) study done at Ohio State University on 26 student athletes who'd recovered from Covid-19, none of whom had been hospitalized and 12 of whom reported only mild symptoms, points up some of the lingering issues that can arise. Electrocardiograms (EKGs) and ultrasound exams showed nothing abnormal within the heart; but MRIs detected myocarditis (heart muscle inflammation) in four of them, two of whom had no symptoms. Additionally, 12 athletes had tissue scarring even though they'd had no particular cardiac symptoms. These doctors conclude that MRI may be a way to evaluate athletes after recovery. It is being more and more recommended as a step to clearing recovered athletes to play.

We finally have some data from studies and the CDC on Covid-19 and pregnancy. There's still plenty we don't know, but some things are becoming clearer. First, the virus does look as though it can cross the placenta from an infected mother to her fetus, but it doesn't happen very often—by no means a sure thing. And when it does happen, there has been no observed increase in birth defects or other harms to the fetus; newborn babies of infected mothers have done very well. It is still advised that pregnant women avoid infection because we don't know everything there is to know yet, and also because there is no doubt a serious infection that endangers the mother will also endanger her fetus. There is also a general agreement pregnant women should receive priority for any vaccine that becomes available.

LaShenda Williams found a flier on her windshield one day advertising a job fair. She'd had trouble finding work because of a learning disability that makes reading and writing difficult for her and a physical disability that causes her to limp; but she chose to see the flier as a sort of sign and so made her way into the supermarket she was accustomed to visiting each morning, saying her usual hello to the employees, then gathering her courage, approaching the hiring manager, and asking, "Maybe I could work here one day. You got room for me?"

When filling out the job application, Williams said she was nervous because of her difficulty with the form. "I was filling everything out the best I could, and Ms. Vandal could see that I was having a hard time. She came over to me and said, 'Don't you worry—we're going to help you to get back on your feet.'" And she did, patiently helping her with the questions and with submitting them on her laptop. When a prompt came up telling her she'd successfully applied, Vandal said, "You're hired." She later explained Williams' persistence in filling out the application tipped the scales. "LaShenda has the right attitude, and I knew I needed to give her a shot."

What she didn't know was how short would be Williams' commute to work. You see, she'd been living in the store's parking lot in her car for over a year. When she needed a place to spend the nights, she figured she was relatively safe in the lot of a store open 24 hours a day; it's brightly lit, and there were always people going back and forth. So she would duck down, wrapped in her blanket where no one could see

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her, and go to sleep. She made a little money from occasional cooking and cleaning jobs, so she could afford food—most of the time; otherwise her expenses were fairly minimal, and she got by. She never dreamed one day she'd be working in that store: "I couldn't believe it—I hugged her and cried. It was overwhelming. Somebody gave me a chance."

The manager said she had no idea Williams had been living in her car. "I just knew she was struggling." Things worked out; Vandal says Williams was a great hire. "The customers all really like her. LaShenda is always positive and uplifting." After feeling for years that she had no one, Williams had a place to go five days a week from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm; and then in May, after five months, had saved enough money to get a place of her own. By then, she'd become something of a local celebrity. Co-workers and customers pulled together to collect household items for her apartment, and after her story was featured on the company's website, more offers of help came in. People offered everything from living room furniture to kitchen appliances. The customer who organized an effort to collect these items said, "I met her in passing while shopping . . . and she always said 'hello' and had a smile. I knew I had some things, and I figured since she'd been a delight to me, there were surely other people who felt the same as I did. We were all feeling empty from the uncertainty of the times. All we really have are each other."

There's truth in that. That is all any of us has. We need to step up and be that for someone. Be well. We'll talk again.



**The frame work for the support of the new water tower is being built. There will be a concrete wall poured between the wooden walls. Piping and then pea rock will be added to the middle area.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26
Minnesota	91,422	92,100	93,012	94,189
Nebraska	41,785	42,278	42,731	43,162
Montana	10,700	10,912	11,242	11,564
Colorado	66,053	66,669	67,217	67,926
Wyoming	4,231	4,368	4,488	4,585
North Dakota	18,508	18,981	19,451	19,885
South Dakota	19,189	19,634	20,097	20,544
United States	6,897,495	6,935,415	6,978,874	7,034,824
US Deaths	200,818	201,920	202,819	203,789

Minnesota	+480	+678	+912	+1,177
Nebraska	+397	+493	+453	+431
Montana	+271	+212	+330	+323
Colorado	+654	+616	+548	+709
Wyoming	+42	+137	+120	+97
North Dakota	+264	+473	+470	+434
South Dakota	+320	+445	+463	+457
United States	+39,357	37,920	+43,459	+55,950
US Deaths	+928	+1,102	+899	+970

	Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22
Minnesota	85,351	85,813	86,722	87,807	88,721	90,017	90,942
Nebraska	38,970	39,419	39,921	40,387	40,797	41,083	41,388
Montana	9,244	9,431	9,647	9,871	10,163	10,299	10,429
Colorado	62,099	62,686	63,145	63,750	64,356	64,857	65,399
Wyoming	3,762	3,866	3,936	4,009	4,039	4,124	4,189
North Dakota	16,066	16,333	16,723	17,230	17,607	17,958	18,244
South Dakota	16,994	17,291	17,686	18,075	18,444	18,696	18,869
United States	6,606,674	6,631,561	6,676,410	6,726,480	6,766,631	6,799,141	6,858,138
US Deaths	195,961	196,831	197,655	198,603	199,268	199,474	199,890

Minnesota	+402	+462	+909	+1,085	+914	1,296	+925
Nebraska	+328	+449	+502	+466	+410	+286	+305
Montana	+137	+187	+216	+224	+292	+136	+130
Colorado	+400	+587	+459	+605	+606	+501	+542
Wyoming	+39	+104	+70	+73	+30	+85	+65
North Dakota	+ 235	+267	+390	+507	+377	+351	+286
South Dakota	+195	+297	+395	+389	+369	+252	+173
United States	+51,431	+24,887	+44,849	+50,070	+40,151	+32,510	+58,997
US Deaths	+1,416	+870	+824	+948	+665	+206	+416

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## September 25th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

There were 14 deaths recorded in the Dakotas, eight in North Dakota and six in South Dakota. Here in South Dakota, Douglas County recorded its first death, Butte, Meade and Minnehaha county each recorded one and Gregory County recorded two deaths. There were three in the 80+ age group, one in the 70s and two in the 50s. One was female and five were males. Also, for the first time, no county in South Dakota is virus free. Miner fell from the ranks with a positive case.

South Dakota recorded 457 positive cases and North Dakota recorded 436.

Locally, Brown had 22 positive and 12 recoveries, Day had 3 positive, Edmunds had 1 positive and 2 recoveries, Marshall had 1 positive and 1 recovery, McPherson had 2 positive and 4 recoveries and Spink had 4 positive and 1 recovery.

Those with double digit increases were Beadle 20, Brookings 12, Brown 22, Buffalo 10, Codington 25, Hughes 19, Lincoln 32, Lyman 19, Minnehaha 55, Pennington 56, and Walworth 10.

#### Brown County:

Total Positive: +22 (1,124) Positivity Rate: 22.7%

Total Tests: 97 (10,234)

Recovered: +12 (950)

Active Cases: +10 (170)

Ever Hospitalized: +0 (42)

Deaths: +0 (4)

Percent Recovered: 84.5%

#### South Dakota:

Positive: +457 (20,554 total) Positivity Rates: 12.3%

Total Tests: 3,705 (256,264 total)

Hospitalized: +25 (1,400 total). 194 currently hospitalized +0)

Deaths: +6 (216 total)

Recovered: +235 (16,831 total)

Active Cases: +216 (3,507)

Percent Recovered: 81.9%

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 8% Covid, 49% Non-Covid, 43% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 11% Covid, 60% Non-Covid, 29% Available

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

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 positive, +0 recovered (5 active cases)

Beadle (9): +20 positive, +1 recovered (86 active cases)

Bennett (1): +0 positive, +2 recovered (22 active cases)

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

Brookings (2): +12 positive, +6 recovered (127 active cases)

Brown (4): +22 positive, +12 recovered (170 active cases)

Brule: +2 positive, +1 recovered (27 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +10 positive, +2 recovered (19 active cases)

Butte (3): +5 positive, +2 recovered (27 active cases)

Campbell: +2 positive, +0 recovered (16 active cases)

Charles Mix: +1 positive, +1 recovered (30 active cases)

Clark: +0 positive, +0 recovered (7 active cases)

Clay (5) +6 positive, +3 recovered (47 active cases)

Codington (3): +25 positive, +20 recovered (205 active cases)

Corson (1): -3 positive, +2 recovered (13 active cases)

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

Davison (2): +9 positive, +3 recovered (75 active cases)

Day: +3 positive, +0 recovered (18 active cases)

Deuel: +2 positive, +2 recovered (13 active cases)

Dewey: +9 positive (59 active cases)

Douglas (1): +3 positive, +0 recovered (35 active cases)

Edmunds: +1 positive, +2 recovered (20 active cases)

Fall River (3): +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)

Faulk (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)

Grant (1): +8 positive, +6 recovered (43 active cases)

Gregory (3): +6 positive, +2 recovered (59 active cases)

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cases)

Haakon: +1 positive, +0 recovered (9 active case)  
 Hamlin: +4 positive, 5 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Hand: -1 positive, +2 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Hanson: +2 positive, +0 recovered (7 active cases)  
 Harding: 2 active cases  
 Hughes (5): +19 positive, +6 recovered (186 active cases)  
 Hutchinson (2): +6 positive, +1 recovered (27 active cases)  
 Hyde: +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Jackson (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Jerauld (1): +5 positive, +1 recovered (24 active cases)  
 Jones: +3 positive, +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Kingsbury: +1 positive, +3 recovered (14 active cases)  
 Lake (7): +5 positive, +0 recovered (31 active cases)  
 Lawrence (4): +7 positive, +5 recovered (93 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +32 positive, +23 recovered (180 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): +19 positive, +2 recovered (36 active cases)  
 Marshall: +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +1 positive, +3 recovered (18 active cases)

McPherson: +2 positive, +4 recovery (5 active case)  
 Meade (5): +9 positive, +4 recovered (113 active cases)  
 Mellette: +0 recovery (3 active cases)  
 Miner: +1 positive (1 active case)  
 Minnehaha (81): +55 positive, +45 recovered (575 active cases)  
 Moody: +2 positive, +1 recovered (21 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (3): +9 positive, +2 recovered (47 active cases)  
 Pennington (36): +56 positive, +24 recovered (384 active cases)  
 Perkins: +1 positive, +0 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Potter: +0 positive, +2 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Roberts (1): +7 positive, +2 recovered (51 active cases)  
 Sanborn: +3 positive, +0 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Spink: +4 positive, +1 recovered (32 active cases)  
 Stanley: +4 positive, +1 recovery (11 active cases)  
 Sully: +1 positive (2 active cases)  
 Todd (5): +4 positive, +0 recovered (26 active cases)  
 Tripp: +9 positive, +8 recovered (68 active cases)  
 Turner (2): +4 positive, +5 recovered (35 active cases)  
 Union (5): +9 positive, +1 recovered (58 active cases)  
 Walworth (1): +10 positive, +0 recovered (44 active cases)  
 Yankton (4): +9 positive, +12 recovered (82 active cases)  
 Ziebach: +1 recovered (13 active case)

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, September 24:

- 6.4% rolling 14-day positivity
  - 8.0% daily positivity
  - 436 new positives
  - 5,470 susceptible test encounters
  - 89 currently hospitalized (0)
  - 3,562 active cases (+80)
- Total Deaths: +8 (219)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	646	0
10-19 years	2295	0
20-29 years	4921	2
30-39 years	3564	7
40-49 years	2801	10
50-59 years	2756	22
60-69 years	1887	32
70-79 years	960	37
80+ years	724	106

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	10589	100
Male	9965	116

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	48	43	500	0	Minimal
Beadle	758	663	2451	9	Substantial
Bennett	63	42	644	1	Substantial
Bon Homme	81	65	1135	1	Moderate
Brookings	731	602	4438	2	Substantial
Brown	1124	950	6684	4	Substantial
Brule	110	83	1040	0	Moderate
Buffalo	135	111	764	3	Minimal
Butte	91	61	1270	3	Moderate
Campbell	23	7	142	0	Moderate
Charles Mix	160	127	2096	0	Moderate
Clark	37	30	532	0	Moderate
Clay	554	502	2312	5	Substantial
Codington	805	597	4713	3	Substantial
Corson	91	77	723	1	Moderate
Custer	181	141	1042	2	Substantial
Davison	258	180	3294	2	Substantial
Day	70	52	915	0	Moderate
Deuel	82	69	612	0	Substantial
Dewey	143	84	2850	0	Substantial
Douglas	79	43	543	1	Substantial
Edmunds	91	71	580	0	Substantial
Fall River	92	71	1319	3	Substantial
Faulk	66	52	296	1	Moderate
Grant	114	70	1081	1	Substantial
Gregory	118	56	618	3	Substantial
Haakon	22	13	332	0	Moderate
Hamlin	90	77	947	0	Moderate
Hand	35	22	446	0	Moderate
Hanson	35	28	319	0	Minimal
Harding	5	3	66	0	Minimal
Hughes	384	193	2724	5	Substantial
Hutchinson	88	59	1187	2	Moderate

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Hyde	19	9	209	0	Moderate
Jackson	32	21	547	1	Moderate
Jerauld	81	54	328	1	Substantial
Jones	10	6	89	0	Minimal
Kingsbury	52	38	770	0	Substantial
Lake	188	150	1275	7	Substantial
Lawrence	380	283	3263	4	Substantial
Lincoln	1296	1114	9931	2	Substantial
Lyman	146	107	1212	3	Moderate
Marshall	38	30	631	0	Moderate
McCook	92	73	867	1	Substantial
McPherson	31	26	299	0	Moderate
Meade	509	391	3096	5	Substantial
Mellette	30	27	457	0	Minimal
Miner	20	19	334	0	Minimal
Minnehaha	6508	5852	38417	81	Substantial
Moody	85	64	848	0	Moderate
Oglala Lakota	252	202	3657	3	Substantial
Pennington	2198	1778	15121	36	Substantial
Perkins	37	27	306	0	Moderate
Potter	42	29	462	0	Moderate
Roberts	181	129	2639	1	Substantial
Sanborn	27	18	310	0	Minimal
Spink	124	92	1475	0	Substantial
Stanley	40	29	407	0	Moderate
Sully	10	8	130	0	Minimal
Todd	122	92	2673	5	Moderate
Tripp	135	67	821	0	Substantial
Turner	153	116	1298	2	Substantial
Union	384	318	2618	7	Substantial
Walworth	115	70	1125	1	Substantial
Yankton	393	301	4312	4	Substantial
Ziebach	60	47	504	0	Minimal
Unassigned	0	0	14347	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)**

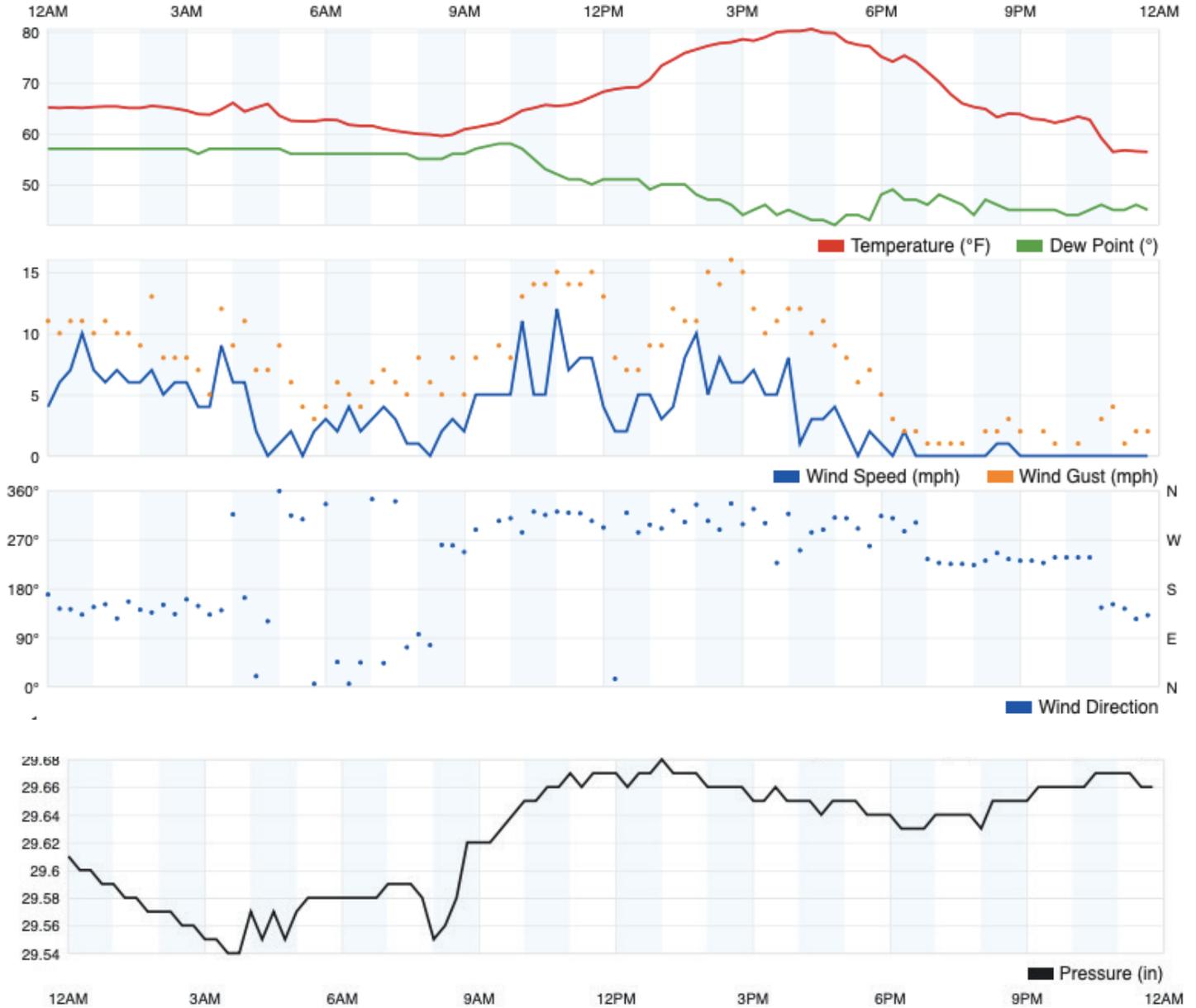
**Vote for Michael Nehls for Brown County Commission (your vote **only** for Mike could make a difference)**

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

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

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Today



Mostly Cloudy  
then Partly  
Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 76 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 48 °F

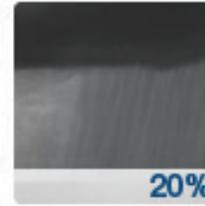
Sunday



Chance  
Showers and  
Breezy

High: 61 °F

Sunday  
Night



Slight Chance  
Showers

Low: 44 °F

Monday

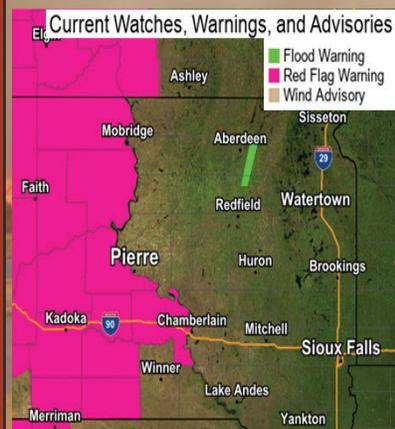


Partly Sunny  
and Breezy

High: 58 °F

## Gusty Winds & Low Humidity This Afternoon

High to Very High Fire Danger This Afternoon  
Central/Western South Dakota



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](https://weather.gov/Aberdeen) [National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NWSAberdeen) [@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen) Updated: 9/26/2020 4:24 AM Central

A front will move through the Dakotas today with winds becoming westerly. This will dry us out, and with warm temperatures and gusty winds the fire danger will be the chief concern west river into the Missouri valley. Windy conditions continue into Sunday, but we will also see cooler temperatures, a little higher humidity, and even a few showers.

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## Today in Weather History

September 26, 1965: A hard freeze hit most of Minnesota in the early morning causing the loss of millions of bushels of corn and soybeans. Temperatures fell below 20 degrees in the northern part of the state.

September 26, 1981: A tornado touched down in the early morning hours several times east of Vermillion. Two barns received extensive damage.

1898: A school teacher saved 32 children from death in Merritton, Ontario, when she spotted an approaching tornado and led her students to a safe corner. Unfortunately, falling debris killed one of the children and injured several others.

1936: A forest fire burned several miles east of the town of Brandon, Oregon. The fire was far enough away that residents were not particularly worried. A sudden shift in the winds drove the flames westward and through town. The fire, caused by summer drought and fueled by the abundant Gorse Weed found in many of the empty spaces between buildings in Brandon, caused so much destruction that only a handful of structures were left standing when the fire finally died down.

1936: The heaviest snowfall ever recorded in September and the heaviest snowfall ever recorded so early in the season dumped a total of 16.5 inches of snow on downtown Denver and 21.3 inches at Denver Municipal Airport. The 15.0 inches of snow measured from 6:00 PM on the 27th to 6:00 PM on the 28th is the greatest 24-hour snowfall ever recorded in September. This was the first snow of the season. The snow was intermittent on the 26th, but continuous from early afternoon on the 27th to around midnight on the 28th, except for a period of rain during the afternoon of the 28th.

1955: On this date, the Atlantic reconnaissance aircraft, "Snowcloud Five" went down while investigating Hurricane Janet and was never heard from again. Lt. Comdr. Windham with a crew of 8 and two newspapermen reported that they were about to begin penetrating the central core of the hurricane. Hurricane Janet made landfall at peak intensity near Chetumal, Mexico on September 29th. Janet's landfall as a Category 5 hurricane on the Yucatán Peninsula was the first recorded instance that a storm of such intensity in the Atlantic made landfall on a continental mainland; prior to Janet, landfalls of Category 5 intensity were only known to have taken place on islands.

1971: Project Stormfury was an attempt to weaken tropical cyclones by flying aircraft into them and seeding with silver iodide. The project was run by the United States Government from 1962 to 1983. Hurricane Ginger in 1971 was the last hurricane Project Stormfury seeded.

1998: There were four hurricanes were spinning simultaneously in the Atlantic basin: Georges, Ivan, Jeanne, and Karl. That was the first time this had happened since 1893.

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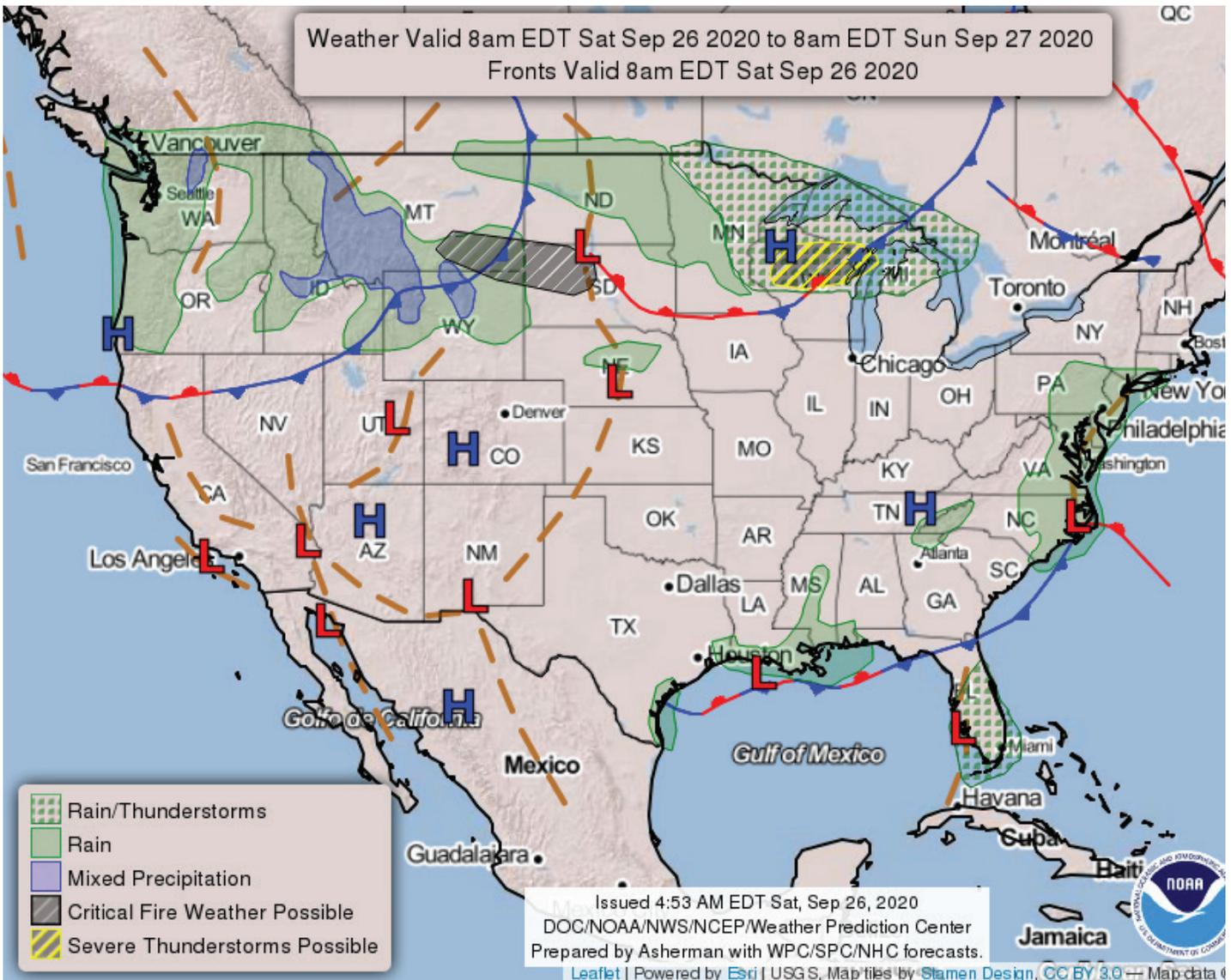
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 80 °F at 4:27 PM**  
**Low Temp: 56 °F at 11:01 PM**  
**Wind: 16 mph at 11:01 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 97° in 1974**  
**Record Low: 17° in 1939**  
**Average High: 67°F**  
**Average Low: 41°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept...: 1.83**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 1.52**  
**Average Precip to date: 18.12**  
**Precip Year to Date: 14.87**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:22 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:28 a.m.**



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## **"LUCKY LINDY"**

Everyone called him "Lucky Lindy" but not those who knew him. When he made his historic flight across the Atlantic Ocean, Charles Lindbergh left absolutely nothing to "luck." During his preparation, he was careful and cautious, thoughtful and thorough. He never "hoped" things would go right. He made sure that everything would be right. Nothing was left to chance. Everything that related to his flight was the result of a deliberate choice.

A few days before his historic solo transatlantic flight, Lindbergh and his copilot, Frank Samuels, completed a hard day's work. They spent endless hours examining every detail of what he would do, why and how he would do it, and the possibilities of something going wrong.

That night they checked into a motel. Shortly after midnight Samuels was awakened and saw Lindbergh at the window. "Why are you sitting there awake when you should be sleeping?" asked Samuels.

"I'm studying the stars," he answered, "and practicing staying awake."

Paying attention to details and leaving nothing to chance is a God-honoring character trait. It is a reflection of our dependence upon God to give insight and foresight, knowledge and wisdom to do everything that will honor Him for His gifts.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that whatever we do as Christians is a reflection of You. May whatever we do in word or deed or thoughts be done to glorify You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17

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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

### South Dakota college couple copes with positive virus tests

By MORGAN MATZEN Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Lexy Elizalde and Mark Cedar Face are two of dozens of students on a campus of more than 2,000 students at South Dakota Mines who have faced a COVID-19 diagnosis this semester since classes began Aug. 19.

The couple live off-campus together and said they're unsure how they contracted the coronavirus. They said they both wear masks everywhere they go, including on campus.

Elizalde is required to wear a mask at her job off-campus, but said some customers don't comply with the mask policy, which worries her. She said she's trying to figure out if she got COVID-19 at work.

"There's people out there who don't believe in coronavirus or just refuse to wear masks because they think they'll be fine," she said. "With me having asthma, I was really afraid of coronavirus. I was like, 'What if I get it? What if it turns bad for me?' It just sucks that other people don't think about anyone but themselves."

Cedar Face said there's no way to know for certain where they got it or where they were first exposed to it, which he said is frustrating for him.

The couple both felt a sore throat on the same day, but Cedar Face's symptoms came more rapidly and severely than Elizalde's. He got tested for COVID-19 at Oyate Health Center the next day and received his positive results half an hour later. He called Elizalde, who immediately left campus to quarantine at their apartment.

Their symptoms worsened over time. Elizalde has asthma, a pre-existing condition that the CDC says may put her at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, but she said her symptoms aren't as bad as Cedar Face's.

Cedar Face said he has no pre-existing conditions, but once had a sinus infection turn into meningitis, which he said didn't leave him with the "Lamborghini of immune systems."

"My chest is on fire," Elizalde wrote on Twitter. "My throat hurts. I have no taste or smell. I feel exhausted. I envy those who have no symptoms, this sucks."

While Elizalde reports a fever "off and on," Cedar Face has had no fever and headaches. The pair both have tightness in their chests, a loss of sense of taste and smell, and either a stuffy or runny nose.

"It just feels like a really, really nasty cold," Elizalde said. "I've had colds before, but this just feels a lot worse. I've never lost my sense of taste and smell before."

Both Cedar Face and Elizalde said they're exhausted and fatigued, which makes it difficult to focus on homework and stay motivated, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"I blew off a lot of coursework to rest and lay down in bed," Cedar Face said, noting his professors understood he couldn't complete work while sick. One even told him to worry about getting better instead of worrying about an upcoming exam, he said.

Cedar Face said he usually goes home to Pine Ridge during the school year, but because of the pandemic's risks, he hasn't visited home as much.

"I figured at some point I would most likely be exposed to it," he said. After reading about how Native American people are disproportionately hit by COVID-19, "that was in the back of my head. I was really scared about that."

In classrooms, garbage bags and tape mark off desks where students shouldn't sit in order to accommodate six feet of social distancing. Cedar Face said he's seen his peers sit on those seats anyway.

Rylee Havens, a junior at Mines who had to quarantine after COVID-19 exposure, said that in her classes students sit one seat away from each other and in some cases sit in the rows of desks that are meant to be blocked off.

South Dakota Mines President Jim Rankin said he'd heard of an incident on the first day of classes where

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a student sat on one of the trash bag seats and someone told them not to sit there, but that students know where to sit now.

Mines sits at Level 3 of the South Dakota Board of Regents (SDBOR) response, which requires masks in all indoor public areas but not outdoor areas.

Cedar Face said for the most part, students comply with the mask policy, but that he's seen students wear masks improperly, under their noses.

Havens said she's seen students bring food to class and eat while sitting next to their peers, which she said results in multiple maskless students for a "considerable amount of time." Students also sit in buildings for hours studying without a mask on, she said.

The Board of Regents policy states that if you're taking a drink, you can take your mask off and then put it back on when you're done, Rankin said.

In the situations students referenced, Rankin said it's up to the students and professors to "kindly remind" others to put their masks on. If students are still noncompliant, the complaint would go to student conduct hearings, he said.

Monetary fines or dismissal from campus would be the final straw in a student or faculty member's noncompliance with the mask policy, Rankin said, but that hasn't happened at Mines yet.

"If you ever see someone who's not wearing a mask when you think they should be, please politely ask them 'Hey, could you put your mask on?'" Mines spokesman Mike Ray said. "We're asking students to do that across the board, because sometimes it's easy to forget."

Havens also said she's seen Rankin approach students at the outdoor school organization fair without a mask and without six feet of social distancing. Rankin said he supposes that could have happened, but that he tries to make sure he's "socially distanced every time" he's near someone.

"You should wear a mask if you're not going to socially distance," he said. "I do my best to make sure I set an example that I want others to follow."

The university and South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) define a close contact as those within six feet of each other for 15 minutes or more while someone is able to transmit coronavirus.

"You could be in a small classroom for 50 minutes with someone who has tested positive, but you will not be notified unless you meet their definition of having contact with them," Havens said.

Rankin said the university will ask students who their close contacts are and follow up with those people for contact tracing, in addition to the contact tracing that the DOH does.

Six staff at South Dakota Mines, including those in the university's COVID-19 task force, work on contact tracing.

The DOH called Cedar Face for contact tracing and he gave them the names of his close contacts, but Elizalde said their friends haven't been notified yet, and that she hasn't heard from the DOH.

"We feel really guilty because the people that we feel like we put at risk were our close friends," Elizalde said, noting she and Cedar Face had met up with two of their friends shortly before their symptoms arose.

Mines was notified of Cedar Face's positive test when he emailed the dean of students; they sent both him and Elizalde messages to quarantine. They were told to sign a form saying they would comply with the full extent of their quarantine.

Cedar Face and Elizalde both received an email from a "case worker," likely a member of the university's COVID-19 task force, who offered to help for any needs those in quarantine may have, such as food, groceries and medicine. They haven't had to ask for help yet.

Elizalde said that when she initially went for testing at the student health clinic, a nurse told her the Abbott ID Now tests have a 30% chance of being a false negative.

"Even though I had a fever at the time and I was exhibiting symptoms, I got a negative test," she said. The nurse "told me this is common, that the rapid tests give off false negatives. (He said) to wait a couple days and then try to get another one."

Rankin said he hadn't heard of the false negative claim and that the most accurate results come from tests on symptomatic people.

Although she's in quarantine regardless of her negative or positive results because she still had expo-

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sure to her boyfriend, Elizalde said she needs to provide a positive test result to her employer in order to receive sick pay.

She's waiting to hear back from the university about receiving additional financial support through the emergency fund because she hasn't been able to work during her quarantine.

"I don't really know what I'm going to do. I have rent and other bills," Elizalde said. "I'm missing out on a whole paycheck right now."

## Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Alcester-Hudson 64, Colman-Egan 38

Arlington/Lake Preston 36, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 0

Bennett County 20, Hot Springs 6

Bon Homme 33, Kimball/White Lake 0

Bridgewater-Emery 50, Flandreau 7

Brookings 48, Douglas 6

Burke 46, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 6

Canton 19, Lennox 6

Corsica/Stickney 46, Colome 12

Dakota Hills 35, Waverly-South Shore 26

Dakota Valley 15, West Central 14

DeSmet 44, Castlewood 6

Dell Rapids 20, Tri-Valley 0

Deuel 26, Britton-Hecla 14

Elkton-Lake Benton 8, Deubrook 6

Estelline/Hendricks 20, Centerville 18

Hamlin 38, Clark/Willow Lake 14

Hanson 42, Baltic 0

Harding County 64, Dupree 0

Hill City 58, Newell 0

Howard 54, Irene-Wakonda 6

Ipswich/Edmunds Central 44, North Border 20

Lemmon/McIntosh 34, Timber Lake 0

Lyman 48, Jones County/White River 12

McCook Central/Montrose 42, Garretson 17

Milbank 46, Webster 14

Mobridge-Pollock 43, Sisseton 22

O Gorman 51, Rapid City Central 8

Parkston 20, Gregory 14

Pierre 79, Spearfish 28

Platte-Geddes 34, Wolsey-Wessington 24

Redfield 33, Groton Area 7

Scotland 24, Menno/Marion 18

Sioux Falls Christian 26, Vermillion 16

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 46, Harrisburg 21

Sioux Falls Washington 35, Rapid City Stevens 14

Sturgis Brown 21, Huron 19

Sully Buttes 44, Hitchcock-Tulare 22

Tea Area 34, Madison 14

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Viborg-Hurley 50, Parker 0  
Wall 16, Philip 6  
Yankton 30, Mitchell 24, OT  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton vs. Winner, ppd. to Sep 28th.  
New Underwood vs. Kadoka Area, ccd.  
Rapid City Christian vs. Edgemont, ccd.

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined  
PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:  
Mega Millions  
20-36-37-48-67, Mega Ball: 16, Megaplier: 2  
(twenty, thirty-six, thirty-seven, forty-eight, sixty-seven; Mega Ball: sixteen; Megaplier: two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$24 million  
Powerball  
Estimated jackpot: \$25 million

## Virus cases rise in US heartland, home to anti-mask feelings

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH, NICKY FORSTER and JOCELYN NOVECK Associated Press  
MISSION, Kan. (AP) — It began with devastation in the New York City area, followed by a summertime crisis in the Sun Belt. Now the coronavirus outbreak is heating up fast in smaller cities in the heartland, often in conservative corners of America where anti-mask sentiment runs high.

Elsewhere around the country, Florida's Republican governor lifted all restrictions on restaurants and other businesses Friday and all but set aside local mask ordinances in the political battleground state, in a move attacked by Democrats as hasty.

Meanwhile, confirmed cases of the virus in the U.S. hit another milestone — 7 million — according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the real number of infections is believed to be much higher.

The spike across the Midwest as well as parts of the West has set off alarms at hospitals, schools and colleges.

Wisconsin is averaging more than 2,000 new cases a day over the last week, compared with 675 three weeks earlier. Hospitalizations in the state are at their highest level since the outbreak took hold in the U.S. in March.

Utah has seen its average daily case count more than double from three weeks earlier. Oklahoma and Missouri are regularly recording 1,000 new cases a day, and Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a staunch opponent of mask rules, tested positive this week. Kansas and Iowa are also witnessing a spike in cases. And South Dakota and Idaho are seeing sky-high rates of tests coming back positive.

"What we're seeing is the newer hot spots rise over the course of the last several weeks, predominantly in the Upper Midwest," said Thomas Tsai, a professor at Harvard's Chan School of Public Health.

The U.S. is averaging more than 40,000 new confirmed cases a day. While that number is dramatically lower than the peak of nearly 70,000 over the summer, the numbers are worrisome nonetheless. The nation's death toll eclipsed 200,000 this week, the highest in the world.

In the Midwest, the virus is now landing squarely in places where there is strong resistance to masks and governors have been reluctant to require face coverings.

In Springfield, Missouri, hospitals are starting to fill up with COVID-19 patients and the city has seen a big spike in deaths over the past month.

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Amelia Montgomery, a nurse working in the COVID unit at Cox South Hospital in Springfield, describes a maddening routine where family members of sick patients call up medical staff on the phone on a daily basis and question whether their loved ones truly have the virus and the veracity of positive test results.

"We know what COVID looks like now after six months of dealing with it," Montgomery said. "It is like beating your head against a brick wall when you are constantly having patients, family members of these patients and the community argue so intensely that it is not real or we are treating it in the wrong way."

The skepticism about the virus coincides with deep frustration over mask requirements in the Midwestern cities that actually have them.

Mike Cooper, a 59-year-old and sign shop owner from the Branson, Missouri, area, is among those who have grown weary of virus restrictions that he sees as out-of-control government overreach. He has no doubts about the seriousness of the virus, but says the financial toll of business and school shutdowns creates its own set of health problems, such as alcoholism, suicide and depression. "Financial ruin kills people too," he said.

"To me, flatten the curve means extend the plague. Flatten the curve means you are just going to kill the same number of people over a longer period of time, so they are going to extend the plague," Cooper said.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis, a major ally of President Donald Trump, gave businesses the OK to re-open, declaring, "We're not closing anything going forward."

The governor, who has resisted making mask-wearing mandatory statewide, also said he will stop cities and counties from collecting fines from people who don't cover their faces, virtually nullifying local mask ordinances.

Florida was a major hot spot over the summer, and the death toll there stands at nearly 14,000. Deaths are running at over 100 a day, and newly confirmed infections at about 2,700 a day.

Like Trump, DeSantis has questioned the effectiveness of closing down businesses, arguing that states that more aggressively shut down, including California, have fared no better.

"The state of Florida is probably the most open big state in the country," he boasted Friday.

Florida Democrats have bemoaned the governor's push to reopen.

"No one is advocating for a full-scale lockdown in Florida. But we have been and continue to ask for common-sense prevention measures such as face masks, which are essential to preventing further spread," state Sen. Audrey Gibson said Thursday.

In other developments:

— Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced he and his wife have tested positive, though he said he has no symptoms. Northam, a Democrat who is also a doctor and usually wears a mask in public, has been criticized by Republicans who say his restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the virus are too stringent.

— Two former administrators of a Massachusetts veterans home where nearly 80 people died were charged with neglect over their handling of the outbreak. They could go to prison if convicted. It is believed to be the nation's first criminal case brought against nursing home officials for actions during the crisis.

— In New York City, which beat back the virus after a disastrous spring, four Orthodox Jewish schools were closed for violating social-distancing rules. Health officials said if virus cases in these neighborhoods continue to build, the city might roll back the reopening in some places and require businesses to close back down.

Mask and social distancing rules are starting to cause fatigue in some areas of the Midwest and West.

In Joplin, Missouri, a mask ordinance was allowed to expire in mid-August as virus fatigue grew. Since then, the number of positive cases there and in surrounding Jasper County — a deeply conservative county that Trump won by more than 50 percentage points over Hillary Clinton in 2016 — has risen about 80%.

"I am getting sick and tired of telling people to wear their masks, and I know they are sick and tired of me saying it," said Tony Moehr, chief of the Jasper County Health Department. "And it just seems like people have heard it so many times, I'm not sure if they really even hear it anymore when we say it."

At the home of the University of Oklahoma, the Norman City Council voted 5-3 this week to require that masks be worn indoors at house parties if more than 25 people are present. The ordinance passed over

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objections from members of the public.

"You can make any law that you want to. You come into my house telling me that I got to wear this stupid thing and you're going to have a firefight on your hands," said Josh Danforth, holding a mask, who identified himself as an Iraq war veteran.

Forster and Noveck contributed from New York.

## South Dakota women's prison reports more coronavirus cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The coronavirus is infecting more women in South Dakota's prison system in Pierre, despite efforts to control an outbreak, with the Department of Corrections reporting Friday that mass testing had detected 51 additional women with the virus.

The infections have spread into two housing units at the main women's prison after a nearby minimum-security prison called the Pierre Community Work Center saw 102 cases last week. The Department of Corrections had tried to contain the outbreak to that prison by moving women with the virus there, but the latest report from the prison system showed four prison units with active cases.

In total, 172 inmates in Pierre have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, 93 of whom have recovered, according to the Department of Corrections.

"The health and safety of our staff and inmates is our number one priority," said Mike Leidholt, Secretary of Corrections in a statement that detailed the precautions his department is taking, including screening inmates' temperatures and requiring inmates and staff to wear masks.

Several state lawmakers on the Legislature's State-Tribal Relations Committee want to hear from Leidholt on the precautions being taken in the prison system, KELO-TV reported. Members of several Native American tribes in the state expressed concern about the conditions in the prison and whether the prison was doing enough to prevent the virus' spread.

Despite representing 9% of the state's population, Native Americans make up over half of the women's prison population. Native Americans in South Dakota also have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, accounting for 19% of deaths related to the virus in the state.

The outbreak at the prison comes amid a wave of infections statewide, with the state reporting the second-highest number of new cases per capita in the country over the last two weeks. There were 483 new cases per 100,000 people, and the rolling average number of daily new cases increased by 61% in that time.

The Department of Health on Friday reported 457 new infections and six deaths. Active infections reached an all-time high for the third consecutive day, with 3,507 people who have active infections.

In another troubling trend, the positivity rate of coronavirus testing has remained among the nation's highest. The seven-day positivity average climbed to nearly 24%, which is an indicator that many more people have infections than testing is revealing. Friday's positivity rate was about 20%.

Over the course of the pandemic, the state has seen 20,554 people test positive for the coronavirus. About 82% of them have recovered, but 216 people have died.

September has been the deadliest month of the pandemic in South Dakota, with 49 deaths reported.

## South Dakota's congressional delegation to honor election

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Members of South Dakota's congressional delegation say they are committed to a peaceful transition of power if President Donald Trump were to lose the November election.

Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses on Nov. 3.

But South Dakota Republican Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds, and Rep. Dusty Johnson reiterated their commitment to the system on Thursday and rebuked any thought of not following the will of the people, the Rapid City Journal reported.

All three say they believe Trump will win the general election over Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

## US colleges struggle to salvage semester amid outbreaks

By TODD RICHMOND and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Colleges across the country are struggling to salvage the fall semester amid skyrocketing coronavirus cases, entire dorm complexes and frat houses under quarantine, and flaring tensions with local community leaders over the spread of the disease.

Many major universities are determined to forge ahead despite warning signs, as evidenced by the expanding slate of college football games occurring Saturday. The football-obsessed SEC begins its season with fans in stadiums. Several teams in other leagues have had to postpone games because of outbreaks among players and staff.

Institutions across the nation saw spikes of thousands of cases days after opening their doors in the last month, driven by students socializing with little or no social distancing. School and community leaders have tried to rein in the virus by closing bars, suspending students, adding mask requirements, and toggling between in-person and online instruction as case numbers rise and fall.

Tension over the outbreaks is starting to boil over in college towns.

Faculty members from at least two universities have held no-confidence votes in recent weeks against their top leaders, in part over reopening decisions. Government leaders want the University of Wisconsin-Madison to send its students home. Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, alarmed by what he sees as draconian rules on college campuses, said he is drawing up a "bill of rights" for college students.

In Rhode Island, Gov. Gina Raimondo, a Democrat, this week blamed outbreaks at two colleges for a surge of virus cases that boosted the state's infection rate high enough to put it on the list of places whose residents are required to quarantine when traveling to New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison had seen more than 2,800 confirmed cases in students as of Friday. The school shut down in-person instruction for two weeks, locked down two of its largest dorms, and imposed quarantines on more than a dozen sorority and fraternity houses. The school lifted the dorm lockdown just this week.

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi has demanded the university sent all its students home for the rest of the academic year.

"(The virus) was under control until the university came back," Parisi said.

Chancellor Rebecca Blank has fired back, saying tens of thousands of students with off-campus housing would still come to the city. She accused Parisi of failing to enforce capacity restrictions in bars and off-campus parties.

"You can't simply wish (students) away, nor should you," Blank said in a statement directed at Parisi.

Amid the fighting, thousands of students around the country have been quarantined in dorm rooms.

At Kansas State University, more than 2,200 students have been placed in quarantine or isolation since class began. Student Emily Howard was isolated in what students have dubbed "COVID jail" after she and her dorm roommate tested positive for the virus on Sept. 4, just three weeks after arriving on campus.

"Now you walk around campus (and) pretty much everyone says they've had it," Howard said. "Now we don't really care as much because we know we had the antibodies."

Bryan Fisher, a UW-Madison freshman quarantined in the dorms, said students were allowed to leave only to get food from the dining hall, and they were given only 30 minutes to make each trip. He said he spent his time studying and watching movies.

"We were pretty much stuck in here," Fisher said. "It's been pretty hard to meet new people. Everyone's expectations of college aren't what they were."

The University of Connecticut on Friday placed a third dormitory under medical quarantine. More than 150 students have tested positive.

The University of Missouri has had more than 1,500 confirmed cases among students since classes began. The school plans to limit the crowd at Saturday's home football opener against Alabama to no more than 11,700 fans, leaving the stands about 80% empty.

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Florida State on Friday decided to require that students test negative for the virus a week before a football game before being allowed to attend and must wear masks in the stands. Seminoles coach Mike Norvell tested positive for the virus last week.

Despite the attempts at mitigation, student cases have sent local county infection numbers soaring. Schools' decisions to push on with the semester have frustrated some faculty and local community leaders.

Faculty members at Appalachian State in August approved a no-confidence vote against Chancellor Sheri Everts over university finances, morale and reopening plans. Everts has said she has received support from the school's Board of Trustees.

The University of Michigan faculty took a no-confidence vote against President Mark Schlissel earlier this month. Faculty felt Schlissel's administration hasn't been transparent about reopening decisions and hasn't released any modeling gauging the health risks. Graduate students went on strike Sept. 8 to protest reopening. Schlissel has acknowledged that trust in his leadership had slipped, but the university's governing board expressed support him this week.

"Colleges and universities are ... under immense pressure to remain open," said Chris Mariscano, director of the College Crisis Initiative, a research project at Davidson College tracking the effects of the virus on higher education. "When the president of the United States starts tweeting (about staying open), you understand just how much politics is playing a role here and institutional survival is playing a role here."

University officials across the country say they hope to bolster testing and contact tracing as the semester continues. But Mariscano said universities should expect college students to act like college students.

At Kansas State, Howard was not especially concerned about the virus and didn't mind the "COVID Jail," where students got free laundry service and their own bedrooms.

"I personally am not too worried about it, and everyone I have talked to is not that worried about it," she said. "I think it is more like, you are going to get it. It's just a matter of when."

Hollingsworth reported from Mission, Kansas. Associated Press writer Mike Melia contributed from Hartford, Connecticut.

## Thousands protest COVID-19 restrictions in central London

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Police moved into London's Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon to break up a protest against restrictions imposed to slow the spread of COVID-19 after demonstrators ignored warnings to observe social distancing rules.

Thousands of people, most of whom weren't wearing masks, crowded into the iconic square to hear speakers who criticized government-imposed restrictions as an overreaction to the pandemic that needlessly restricted the public's human rights and freedom of expression.

The Metropolitan Police Service had said before the event that officers would first encourage protesters to follow social distancing rules, but that they would take enforcement action if demonstrators failed to comply. As the event began, officers were visible around the perimeter of the square, but they didn't move into the crowd for about three hours.

"Crowds in Trafalgar Square have not complied with the conditions of their risk assessment and are putting people in danger of transmitting the virus," police said in a statement, adding that, "We are now asking those in Trafalgar Square to leave."

The demonstration comes as Parliament prepares to review COVID-19 legislation and the government imposes new restrictions to control the disease. Some lawmakers have criticized the government for implementing the rules without parliamentary approval.

Speakers at the rally denied they were conspiracy theorists, arguing they were standing up for freedom of expression and human rights.

Dan Astin-Gregory, a leadership trainer, acknowledged the deaths and suffering caused by the pandemic, but said the response to COVID-19 has been out of proportion to the threat caused by the disease.

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"We are tired of the fear mongering and the misrepresentation of the facts," he told the crowd. "We are tired of the restrictions to our freedoms."

The government earlier this week ordered a 10 p.m. curfew on bars and restaurants nationwide, along with tougher facemask requirements and increased fines for non-compliance. It has also banned most social gatherings of more than six people, but there is an exemption for protests as long as organizers submit a risk assessment and comply with social distancing.

The demonstration comes a week after a similar event during which thousands of people crowded into the iconic square. Police say several officers were hurt during that event when a "small minority" of protesters became violent.

Britain has Europe's worst death toll from the pandemic, with nearly 42,000 confirmed deaths tied to COVID-19. New infections, hospitalizations and deaths have all risen sharply in recent weeks.

In addition to the nationwide COVID-19 rules, several jurisdictions have imposed tighter restrictions to control local spikes in the disease. By Monday, one-quarter of the U.K.'s 65 million people will be living under these heightened restrictions.

London, home to almost 9 million people, on Friday was added to the British government's COVID-19 watchlist as an "area of concern." That means the U.K. capital could face new restrictions as well, if infections continue to rise in the city.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's wrongs on court, virus; Biden errs

By HOPE YEN, JOSH BOAK and MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a momentous week, President Donald Trump painted a fantastical portrait of a coronavirus that affects "virtually nobody" among the young as he faced a grim U.S. milestone of 200,000 deaths and he asserted a constitutional basis that doesn't exist for rushing a replacement for the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg over her dying wishes.

As Americans absorbed news of a grand jury decision not to prosecute Kentucky police officers for killing Breonna Taylor, Trump's campaign pointed to purported economic progress for Blacks under his administration that didn't tell the full story.

And with their first debate days away, Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden botched details about the pivotal Supreme Court vacancy and exaggerated his early statements on COVID-19, saying he declared it a pandemic in January when he didn't.

A sampling of the misstatements on these topics and more:

### 200,000 DEATHS

TRUMP, speaking hours before the U.S. hit a milestone of 200,000 virus deaths: "It affects elderly people, elderly people with heart problems, and other problems. If they have other problems, that's what it really affects. ... In some states thousands of people — nobody young — below the age of 18, like nobody — they have a strong immune system — who knows? ... It affects virtually nobody." — rally Monday in Ohio.

THE FACTS: No, it's affected quite a few.

In all, the U.S. death toll from the coronavirus topped 200,000 Tuesday, by far the highest in the world, hitting the once-unimaginable threshold six weeks before an election that is certain to be a referendum on his handling of the crisis. The number of dead is equivalent to a 9/11 attack every day for 67 days. It is roughly equal to the population of Salt Lake City or Huntsville, Alabama.

Kids certainly aren't immune and Trump ignores racial disparities among those who get infected. He is also brazenly contradicting what he privately told journalist Bob Woodward.

"Now it's turning out it's not just old people, Bob," he told Woodward in March. "It's plenty of young people."

Although it's true that children are less likely than adults to develop COVID-19, the CDC has nevertheless counted more than 419,000 infections in Americans younger than 18, or about 8.5% of all cases. Racial disparities in the U.S. outbreak also extend to children, with Hispanic and Black children with COVID-19

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more likely to be hospitalized than white kids.

"It isn't just the elderly," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious diseases expert, told CNN on Tuesday. He noted that a person of any age with underlying health conditions is at significantly higher risk of serious effects if they get COVID-19.

The total number of kids who have been infected but not confirmed is almost certainly far higher than the CDC figures, experts say, because those with mild or no symptoms are less likely to get tested. Kids also can spread disease without showing symptoms themselves.

The CDC in May also warned doctors to be on the lookout for a rare but life-threatening inflammatory reaction in some children who've had the coronavirus. The condition had been reported in more than 100 children in New York, and in some kids in several other states and in Europe, with some deaths.

TRUMP: "We're rounding the corner — with or without a vaccine." — interview Monday on "Fox & Friends."

TRUMP, asked if the virus will "go away" if there isn't a vaccine immediately available: "Sure, with time it goes away. And you'll develop — you'll develop herd-like, a herd mentality. It's going to be — it's going to be herd-developed, and that's going to happen." — ABC News town hall on Sept. 15.

THE FACTS: Trump appeared to promote a "herd immunity" approach to the virus if a vaccine isn't immediately available that would require millions more people to get infected and significantly higher deaths.

Public health officials say that to reach herd immunity, which is when the virus can no longer spread easily, at least 70% of the population, or 200 million people, would need to develop antibodies. The U.S. currently has 7 million COVID-19 cases.

"Developing herd immunity doesn't just take time, it works by infecting over a hundred million and killing hundreds of thousands," University of Michigan professor Justin Wolfers tweeted. "He's describing a massacre."

Fauci last month called a herd immunity approach "totally unacceptable" because "a lot of people are going to die."

He also disagrees the virus is "rounding the corner," saying Americans should not "underestimate" the pandemic and they will "need to hunker down and get through this fall and winter because it's not going to be easy." Fauci and other health experts such as Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have warned of a potentially bad fall because of dual threats of the coronavirus and the flu season.

## GINSBURG

TRUMP, on Ginsburg's request that her replacement be chosen by the next president: "I don't know that she said that, or if that was written out by Adam Schiff, and Schumer and Pelosi. That came out of the wind. It sounds so beautiful, but that sounds like a Schumer deal, or maybe Pelosi or Shifty Schiff." — interview Monday with "Fox & Friends."

THE FACTS: He's making a baseless assertion that congressional Democrats invented Ginsburg's request, which Trump is ignoring by announcing a new nominee Saturday.

In the days before her death on Sept. 18, Ginsburg told her granddaughter Clara Spera that "my most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed," according to NPR's Nina Totenberg, a longtime veteran Supreme Court reporter.

Totenberg, who is close to the Ginsburg family, reaffirmed her reporting this week. She told MSNBC on Monday that others in the room at the time also heard Ginsburg make the statement, including her doctor. "I checked because I'm a reporter," Totenberg said.

There is certainly no evidence that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Adam Schiff or Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer manufactured Ginsburg's request, as Trump asserts. "Mr. President, this is low. Even for you," Schiff tweeted Monday.

## COURT NOMINATION

TRUMP, on why he's moving forward with a nomination so close to the Nov. 3 election: "I have a con-

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stitutional obligation to put in nine judges — justices.” — remarks Tuesday to reporters.

THE FACTS: To be clear, there is no constitutional requirement to have nine justices on the Supreme Court.

The Constitution, in fact, specifies no size for the Supreme Court, and Congress has the power to change its size.

Over its history, the high court has varied in size from five to 10 justices, depending on the number of judicial circuits in the U.S., according to Russell Wheeler, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and former deputy director of the Federal Judicial Center. He explained that a major duty of the justices until the late 19th century was to try cases in the old circuit courts. Congress decided on nine circuits in the late 1860s.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushed to expand the high court in the 1930s in a bid to gain broader judicial support for his New Deal policies, but that effort failed.

BIDEN, arguing that a Supreme Court nomination should be decided by the next president so voters can “have their voice heard in who serves on the court”: “There’s no court session between now and the end of this election.” — remarks Sept. 20 in Philadelphia.

THE FACTS: He’s wrong on the scheduling. A new Supreme Court session begins Oct. 5, nearly one month before the election on Nov. 3. The justices are set to hear oral arguments in several cases during that time.

TRUMP: “We need nine justices. You need that. With the unsolicited millions of ballots that they’re sending, it’s a scam; it’s a hoax. Everybody knows that. And the Democrats know it better than anybody else. ... So doing it before the election would be a very good thing because you’re going to probably see it.” — remarks Tuesday to reporters.

THE FACTS: There’s nothing fraudulent about mail-in ballots, and Trump’s repeated false assertions certainly don’t provide a valid justification to speed up a judicial nomination.

First of all, 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.

Of the four states adopting the system of universal mail balloting this year, only Nevada is a battleground, worth six electoral votes and likely to be pivotal only in a national presidential deadlock.

It’s true that many states are expecting a surge in mail-in voting because of the coronavirus pandemic, which may lead to longer times in vote counting. But there is no evidence to indicate that massive fraud from “unsolicited” balloting is afoot.

BIDEN: “We can’t keep rewriting history, scrambling norms, ignoring our cherished system of checks and balances. That includes this whole business of releasing a list of potential nominees that I would put forward. They’re now saying, after Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away, they said, ‘Biden should release his list.’ It’s no wonder the Trump campaign asked that I release the list only after she passed away.” — remarks Sept. 20 in Philadelphia.

THE FACTS: It’s not true that the Trump campaign waited until Ginsburg’s death last week to call for Biden’s list of potential Supreme Court nominees. Trump was calling for it last month.

On Sept. 9, Trump released a list of 20 additional people he would consider nominating to the high court

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if there were vacancies. He released a similar list in 2016.

In a press release that same day, Trump's 2020 campaign manager, Bill Stepien, said "Voters deserve transparency and a clear view of what direction candidates for president would take our federal courts. We now forcefully demand that Joe Biden do the same."

Trump called for a list from Biden even earlier, during the Republican National Convention on Aug. 24. "Remember this, I'm saying that — I'm demanding actually, a list. Let Biden put up a list of the judges he's going to appoint," Trump said.

Biden has pledged to appoint the first Black woman to the Supreme Court but hasn't offered additional details.

## HEALTH CARE

TRUMP: "The historic action I'm taking today includes the first-ever executive order to affirm it is the official policy of the United States government to protect patients with preexisting conditions. So we're making that official." — remarks Thursday in North Carolina.

THE FACTS: It's already been the official federal policy to protect people with preexisting medical conditions because "Obamacare" already does that, and it's the law of the land. Trump is currently trying to dismantle that law. If he persuades the Supreme Court to overturn the Affordable Care Act as unconstitutional, it's unclear what degree of actual protection the executive order would offer in place of the law.

President Barack Obama's health law states that "a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage may not impose any preexisting condition exclusion with respect to such plan or coverage."

Other sections of the law act to bar insurers from charging more to people because of past medical problems and from canceling coverage, except in cases of fraud. In the past, there were horror stories of insurers canceling coverage because a patient had a recurrence of cancer.

It's dubious that any president could enact such protections through an executive order, or Obama would never have needed to go to Congress to get his health law passed. Likewise, President Bill Clinton could have simply used a presidential decree to enact his health plan, or major parts of it, after it failed to get through Congress.

TRUMP, on Republicans: "Democrats like to constantly talk about it, and yet preexisting conditions are much safer with us than they are with them." — North Carolina remarks.

THE FACTS: That's highly questionable.

Republicans were unable to muscle their replacement for "Obamacare" through Congress when they controlled the House and Senate in 2017 during Trump's first year. Various GOP bills would have offered a degree of protection for people with preexisting conditions, but the proposed safeguards were seen as less than what the law already provided. The general approach in the Republican legislation would have required people to maintain continuous coverage to avoid being turned down because of a preexisting condition.

Trump has frequently claimed he will always protect preexisting conditions despite evidence to the contrary and has even asserted falsely that he was the one who "saved" such protections.

One of Trump's alternatives to Obama's law — short-term health insurance, already in place — doesn't have to cover preexisting conditions. Another alternative: association health plans, which are oriented to small businesses and sole proprietors and do cover preexisting conditions. Neither of the two alternatives appears to have made much difference in the market.

Democratic attacks on Republican efforts to repeal the health law and weaken preexisting condition protections proved successful in the 2018 midterms, when Democrats won back control of the House.

## RACIAL PROGRESS

TRUMP CAMPAIGN: "Black Americans don't have to imagine what the economy would be like under

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Joe Biden because they've already lived through it. He oversaw the slowest recovery since the Great Depression, with stagnant wage growth and anemic job creation." — statement Wednesday from Katrina Pierson, the campaign's senior adviser.

**THE FACTS:** That's not fully accurate. The economy was healthy when Trump arrived at the White House. Even if the recovery from the 2008 financial crisis was agonizingly slow, Trump took office with unemployment at a low 4.7%, steady job growth and a falling federal budget deficit. The longest expansion in U.S. history began in the middle of 2009 and continued until the start of the year, spanning both the Obama and Trump presidencies.

The U.S. economy did benefit from Trump's 2017 tax cuts with a jump in growth in 2018, but the budget deficit began to climb as a result of the tax breaks that favored companies and the wealthy in hopes of permanently expanding the economy. Annual growth during Obama's second term averaged about 2.3%. Trump notched a slightly better 2.5% during his first three years, but the country swung into recession this year because of the coronavirus and will probably leave Trump with an inferior track record to his predecessor over four years.

**TRUMP CAMPAIGN:** "President Trump, on the other hand, has a real record of accomplishments for the Black community, including achieving record-low unemployment prior to the global pandemic. ...President Trump is a far better choice for Black Americans and it isn't even a close call." — Pierson's statement.

**THE FACTS:** The campaign is skirting key facts. Republicans can talk successfully about the decline in unemployment rates for Black and Hispanic workers. But that's just one gauge — and plenty of troubles and inequalities abound for minorities. Minority groups still lagged behind white people with regard to incomes, wealth and home ownership before the pandemic. And when the coronavirus struck, it became clear that the economy did not work well for everybody as the job losses and infections disproportionately hit minorities.

Black unemployment now stands at 13%. Hispanic unemployment is 10.5%. The white unemployment rate is 7.3%. For every dollar of total wealth held by white households, Blacks have just 5 cents, according to the Federal Reserve. It's 4 cents for Hispanics.

**BIDEN,** criticizing Trump for posing for pictures while holding a Bible in front of a church near the White House after protesters in a park were forcibly removed: The protesters were removed so Trump could "walk across to a Protestant church and hold a Bible upside down — I don't know if he ever opened it — upside down, and then go back to a bunker in the White House." — CNN town hall on Sept. 17.

**THE FACTS:** To be clear, Trump was not holding a Bible upside down. His administration did fire off chemical irritants and smoke bombs in June to clear demonstrators who had gathered in Lafayette Park to speak out against the killing of George Floyd, a Black man who died after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee onto his neck. Trump then walked across the park to hold up a Bible at St. John's Church for the cameras. Associated Press photos and other videos show the Bible was right side up. St. John's is an Episcopal church.

Trump also took shelter in a White House bunker in the days before his visit to St. John's, not after, as Biden asserts.

## MORE ON THE VIRUS

**BIDEN,** contrasting his approach to the coronavirus vs. Trump's: "Imagine had he at the State of the Union stood up and said, when back in January, I wrote an article for USA Today saying, 'We've got a pandemic. We've got a real problem.' Imagine if he had said something. How many more people would be alive?" — CNN town hall on Sept. 17.

**THE FACTS:** Biden is incorrect that Trump didn't mention the coronavirus in his State of the Union address. The former vice president also exaggerates what he himself said about it in a Jan. 27 op-ed in USA Today.

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Trump made brief mention of COVID-19 in his Feb. 4 address, which came five weeks before it was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. He said:

"Protecting Americans' health also means fighting infectious diseases. We are coordinating with the Chinese government and working closely together on the coronavirus outbreak in China. My administration will take all necessary steps to safeguard our citizens from this threat."

A few days later on Feb. 7, Trump privately described the coronavirus to Woodward as "more deadly than even your strenuous flus." It's unclear if Trump knew or believed that at the time of his State of the Union address, although he later acknowledged in Woodward's book "Rage" that he often played down the virus threat in public, so as to avoid panic.

Biden's op-ed makes clear his own view that the coronavirus in the U.S. "will get worse before it gets better," but Biden does not declare it a pandemic. He wrote: "The possibility of a pandemic is a challenge Donald Trump is unqualified to handle as president."

TRUMP, calling Biden's handling of the swine flu during the Obama administration a "disaster": "Joe Biden's incompetent ... They had no clue." — interview Tuesday with Detroit's WJBK Fox 2 TV station.

THE FACTS: Trump frequently distorts what happened in the pandemic of 2009, which killed far fewer people in the United States than the coronavirus is killing now. For starters, Biden as vice president wasn't running the federal response. And that response was faster out of the gate than when COVID-19 came to the U.S.

Then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's flu surveillance network sounded the alarm after two children in California became the first people diagnosed with the new flu strain in this country.

About two weeks later, the Obama administration declared a public health emergency against H1N1, also known as the swine flu, and the CDC began releasing anti-flu drugs from the national stockpile to help hospitals get ready. In contrast, Trump declared a state of emergency in early March, seven weeks after the first U.S. case of COVID-19 was announced, and the country's health system struggled for months with shortages of critical supplies and testing.

More than 200,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S. The CDC puts the U.S. death toll from the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic at about 12,500.

Associated Press writers Carla K. Johnson in Seattle, Jessica Gresko, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Jill Colvin, Kevin Freking and Darlene Superville in Washington, Nicholas Riccardi in Denver and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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

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## Tiny airborne particles may pose a big coronavirus problem

By MALCOLM RITTER AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At a University of Maryland lab, people infected with the new coronavirus take turns sitting in a chair and putting their faces into the big end of a large cone. They recite the alphabet and sing or just sit quietly for a half hour. Sometimes they cough.

The cone sucks up everything that comes out of their mouths and noses. It's part of a device called "Gesundheit II" that is helping scientists study a big question: Just how does the virus that causes COVID-19 spread from one person to another?

It clearly hitchhikes on small liquid particles sprayed out by an infected person. People expel particles while coughing, sneezing, singing, shouting, talking and even breathing. But the drops come in a wide range of sizes, and scientists are trying to pin down how risky the various kinds are.

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The answer affects what we should all be doing to avoid getting sick. That's why it was thrust into headlines a few days ago when a U.S. health agency appeared to have shifted its position on the issue, but later said it had published new language in error.

The recommendation to stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart — some authorities cite about half that distance — is based on the idea that larger particles fall to the ground before they can travel very far. They are like the droplets in a spritz of a window cleaner, and they can infect somebody by landing on their nose, mouth or eyes, or maybe being inhaled.

But some scientists are now focusing on tinier particles, the ones that spread more like cigarette smoke. Those are carried by wisps of air and even upward drafts caused by the warmth of our bodies. They can linger in the air for minutes to hours, spreading throughout a room and build up if ventilation is poor.

The potential risk comes from inhaling them. Measles can spread this way, but the new coronavirus is far less contagious than that.

For these particles, called aerosols, "6 feet is not a magic distance," says Linsey Marr, a leading researcher who is studying them at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. But she says it's still important to keep one's distance from others, "the farther the better," because aerosols are most concentrated near a source and pose a bigger risk at close range.

Public health agencies have generally focused on the larger particles for coronavirus. That prompted more than 200 other scientists to publish a plea in July to pay attention to the potential risk from aerosols. The World Health Organization, which had long dismissed a danger from aerosols except in the case of certain medical procedures, later said that aerosol transmission of the coronavirus can't be ruled out in cases of infection within crowded and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

The issue drew attention recently when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted and then deleted statements on its website that highlighted the idea of aerosol spread. The agency said the posting was an error, and that the statements were just a draft of proposed changes to its recommendations.

Dr. Jay Butler, CDC's deputy director for infectious disease, told The Associated Press that the agency continues to believe larger and heavier droplets that come from coughing or sneezing are the primary means of transmission.

Last month Butler told a scientific meeting that current research suggests aerosol spreading of the coronavirus is possible but it doesn't seem to be the main way that people get infected. Further research may change that conclusion, he added, and he urged scientists to study how often aerosol spread of the coronavirus occurs, what situations make it more likely and what reasonable steps might prevent it.

Marr said she thinks infection by aerosols is "happening a lot more than people initially were willing to think."

As a key piece of evidence, Marr and others point to so-called "superspreader" events where one infected person evidently passed the virus to many others in a single setting.

In March, for example, after a choir member with coronavirus symptoms attended a rehearsal in Washington state, 52 others who had been seated throughout the room were found to be infected and two died. In a crowded and poorly ventilated restaurant in China in January, the virus evidently spread from a lunchtime patron to five people at two adjoining tables in a pattern suggesting aerosols were spread by the air conditioner. Also in January, a passenger on a Chinese bus apparently infected 23 others, many of whom were scattered around the vehicle.

Butler said such events raise concern about aerosol spread but don't prove it happens.

There could be another way for tiny particles to spread. They may not necessarily come directly from somebody's mouth or nose, says William Ristenpart of the University of California, Davis. His research found that if paper tissues are seeded with influenza virus and then crumpled, they give off particles that bear the virus. So people emptying a wastebasket with tissues discarded by somebody with COVID-19 should be sure to wear a mask, he said.

Scientists who warn about aerosols say current recommendations still make sense.

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Wearing a mask is still important, and make sure it fits snugly. Keep washing those hands diligently. And again, staying farther apart is better than being closer together. Avoid crowds, especially indoors.

Their main addition to recommendations is ventilation to avoid a buildup of aerosol concentration. So, the researchers say, stay out of poorly ventilated rooms. Open windows and doors. One can also use air-purifying devices or virus-inactivating ultraviolet light.

Best of all: Just do as much as you can outdoors, where dilution and the sun's ultraviolet light work in your favor.

"We know outdoors is the most spectacularly effective measure, by far," says Jose-Luis Jimenez of the University of Colorado-Boulder. "Outdoors it is not impossible to get infected, but it is difficult."

The various precautions should be used in combination rather than just one at a time, researchers say. In a well ventilated environment, "6 feet (of separation) is pretty good if everybody's got a mask on" and nobody stays directly downwind of an infected person for very long, says Dr. Donald Milton of the University of Maryland School of Public Health, whose lab houses the Gesundheit II machine.

Duration of exposure is important, so there's probably not much risk from a short elevator ride while masked or being passed by a jogger on the sidewalk, experts say.

Scientists have published online tools for calculating risk of airborne spread in various settings.

At a recent meeting on aerosols, however, Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, noted that preventive steps can be a challenge in the real world. Keeping apart from other people can be difficult in homes that house multiple generations. Some old buildings have windows that were "nailed shut years ago," he said. And "we have far too many communities where they simply don't have access to clean water to wash their hands."

It might seem strange that for all the scientific frenzy to study the new coronavirus, the details of how it spreads can still be in doubt nine months later. But history suggests patience.

"We've been studying influenza for 102 years," says Milton, referring to the 1918 flu epidemic. "We still don't know how it's transmitted and what the role of aerosols is."

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## Reagan's age, Mitt's binders: Presidential debate highlights

By ASHLEY THOMAS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, are set to meet on Tuesday for their first debate, a highly anticipated event in a highly unusual election year.

The campaign has been divisive on a historic scale. Trump was impeached for trying to pressure Ukraine to investigate Biden and his son and has repeatedly tried to cast doubt on Biden's mental acuity, going so far as to say the former vice president "doesn't know he's alive." For his part, Biden has said of Trump, "If we were in high school, I'd take him behind the gym and beat the hell out of him."

Against that backdrop, the two are set to face off for the first time as presidential nominees in Cleveland in a debate moderated by Chris Wallace of Fox News Channel.

Here are some of the most memorable moments in presidential debate history:

### THE FIRST TELEVISED DEBATE

The 1960 presidential election offered the country's first televised debate. It's remembered less for what was said than for what viewers saw.

Democrat John F. Kennedy, the handsome young Massachusetts senator, looked tan and relaxed. Republican Richard Nixon, who had been sick and in the hospital, looked hollow-eyed and had a five o'clock shadow. Kennedy paired his tan with a blue suit, offering a nice contrast on black and white TVs. Nixon was wearing a gray suit, which blended into the gray studio background.

Many considered the debate a turning point in Kennedy's campaign.

'NO SOVIET DOMINATION'

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Republican President Gerald Ford's insistence that "there is no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe" during a 1976 debate against Democrat Jimmy Carter was such a blunder that the questioner asked whether he really meant to say that.

"I'm sorry, could I just follow — did I understand you to say, sir, that the Russians are not using Eastern Europe as their own sphere of influence in occupying most of the countries there and making sure with their troops that it's a Communist zone?"

Ford said he did. Years later, Ford acknowledged, "There's no question I did not adequately explain what I was thinking."

## TURNING AGE INTO A PLUS

Republican Ronald Reagan, then seeking to become the oldest president to win reelection, used humor to address questions about his advanced age at a 1984 debate against Democrat Walter Mondale.

When a questioner asked Reagan if he had any doubts whether he had the strength for the job as his age, the then-73-year-old was quick to respond: "Not at all. I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience."

Even Mondale, 56, had to laugh at that.

## THE KIDS ARE OFF-LIMITS

Democrat John Kerry's response to a question about homosexuality during a 2004 presidential debate against Republican incumbent George W. Bush caused a fight between him and Vice President Dick Cheney. "I think if you were to talk to Dick Cheney's daughter, who is a lesbian, she would tell you that she's being who she was. She's being who she was born as," Kerry said. The Cheneys blasted Kerry for bringing up their daughter, and the vice president described himself as an "angry father."

## 'BINDERS FULL OF WOMEN'

During a 2012 presidential debate between Republican Mitt Romney and Democratic incumbent Barack Obama, Romney was asked about pay equity in the workplace for women. He talked about how he had pulled together a list of candidates for administration positions when he was Massachusetts' governor.

"I went to a number of women's groups and said, 'Can you help us find folks?' And they brought us whole binders full of women," Romney said.

The comment drew ridicule almost immediately and was held up as an example of Romney's dissonance on women's issues.

## SURPRISE PRE-DEBATE NEWS CONFERENCE

The second 2016 presidential debate was two days after the release of the 2005 "Access Hollywood" tape of Trump boasting about grabbing women by the genitals, and Trump was determined to change the narrative.

He called a surprise news conference hours ahead of the debate against Democrat Hillary Clinton, and reporters walked in to find Trump sitting at a table alongside three women who had accused Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, of unwanted sexual advances decades earlier. The women detailed their allegations against the former president as Trump watched, his hands folded in front of him.

The women later joined him at the debate as his invited guests.

## THE 2016 LOWLIGHT REEL

The 2016 debates were filled with moments that in any other election year would be the most notable. In the first debate, Trump questioned U.S. intelligence findings that Russia had hacked the Democratic National Committee: "It could also be somebody sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds, OK?"

In the second debate, Trump loomed behind Clinton as she spoke, seeming to follow her around the stage. Clinton didn't react in the moment but later wrote in her memoir, "What Happened," that she wishes she had said, "Back up, you creep, get away from me."

Trump referred to Clinton as "the devil" and said his administration would appoint a special prosecutor to investigate her use of a private computer server as secretary of state. "It's just awfully good that someone with the temperament of Donald Trump is not in charge of the law in our country," Clinton replied. Trump retorted: "Because you'd be in jail."

In the third debate, Trump waded into uncharted territory for America's democracy by refusing to say

if he'd accept the results of the election if Clinton won. "I will tell you at the time," he said. "I'll keep you in suspense."

Follow Thomas on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/thomashley>

## In Breonna Taylor's name: Devastation and a search for hope

By CLAIRE GALOFARO and AARON MORRISON Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Chea Woolfolk searched the crowd until she found the face of the woman she'd come to regard as a second mother. And then she watched the tears roll down Rose Henderson's cheeks. Looking into Mama Rose's eyes, Woolfolk could see that her heart was breaking.

This formidable woman looked off balance, like she might topple. Mama Rose has been the matriarch of "Injustice Square," a block downtown that protesters, many of them Black women, have occupied for 120 days.

They have been tear gassed by police together, arrested, threatened online, shot with pepper bullets. They lost jobs and friends and homes to show up every day because they had hope: that there would be justice for Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old emergency medical technician shot and killed by police when they burst into her house in the middle of the night in a botched raid. And that in that justice America would signal that their lives and the lives of other Black women have value.

Now they were standing in the square, listening together as the Commonwealth of Kentucky announced no charges would be filed against officers for Taylor's death.

"That broke me," Mama Rose cried, and that agony rippled across the country, as protesters took to the streets for days to say Taylor's name, and to display rage, despair, powerlessness, exhaustion.

"It was like sitting at a funeral, it was a collective feeling like someone died, and everyone was grieving," said Woolfolk, a 45-year-old radio personality who documented the movement from its early days.

She didn't expect then that she would be back every day for four months, and that she would come to refer to the protesters as "us." That she'd be enveloped in what would become a family.

"It was probably one of the heaviest moments I've ever felt in my life," Woolfolk said.

Beyond Louisville, the decision reverberated widely across Black America. For months, Taylor's name has been a rallying cry for activists who hoped Black women and their deaths at the hands of police would finally receive the same attention given to cases concerning the extrajudicial killing of Black men.

And to some degree, that has happened. Famed musicians, actors, athletes and politicians said her name and called for the arrests of the officers involved in the raid that killed Taylor.

Then, on Wednesday, the grand jury decision came down to charge one officer with three counts of wanton endangerment for firing wildly into the apartment building. But the charges were for endangering Taylor's neighbors. No one was charged in connection with Taylor's death.

There followed the kind of coast-to-coast protests not seen since the start of summer, along with a rising sense of doom and despair. On social media, some noted that the decision came 65 years to the day after an all-white jury acquitted white men of murdering Emmett Till, a Black teen from Chicago who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955 after he was said to have whistled at a white woman.

"I am completely mortified that our criminal justice system has failed Breonna Taylor, her family and friends, and frankly, it has failed our country," said Patrisse Cullors, co-creator of Black Lives Matter and executive director of its network of BLM chapters.

The grand jury's decision was "just another reminder of how the system doesn't value Black life," said Zellie Thomas, a BLM organizer in Paterson, New Jersey, who led a vigil Thursday night, in the aftermath of the announcement.

"Breonna got featured on covers of magazines, she got TV specials, she got streets named after her," he said. "But she didn't get justice. All these things seem nice, but it's nothing compared to justice."

For the Rev. Starsky Wilson, the grand jury's failure to indict in Taylor's death was all too familiar. He was a co-chair of the Ferguson Commission, which recommended wide-ranging policy reforms after the

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2014 police shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The announcement that the officer who killed Brown would not be indicted sparked an uprising by residents in the majority Black city.

Wilson, incoming president of the Children's Defense Fund, said the system "was never designed to give people the kind of care or sense of accountability that people are looking for."

The Taylor case "is a watershed moment for the Black Lives Matter movement," said Alvin Tillery Jr., an associate professor of political science at Northwestern University. "The activists are going to have to supplement their disruptive protests with political organizing and voting if they are going to change the environment in Kentucky."

Some Louisville activists say their goals remain unchanged. They want the immediate firing and revocation of the pensions of the officers involved in the raid that killed Taylor (one of whom has been fired already), defunding or divesting from the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department and creating independent civilian oversight of police.

But to the stalwarts in the Louisville square, Taylor is much more than a rallying point. Even if they never met her, they feel that they've known her deeply, that she could have been any one of them.

"It's reiterating to me that my life does not matter, that I'm unsafe," said Millicent Cahoon, a therapist who started a counseling network for the movement.

For months, protesters came to her describing panic attacks and nightmares; they couldn't eat or sleep. Some don't know how to process their experience and what it means about their city and their world. "How do I tell my kids?" they wonder.

Now, she worries fatigue and hopelessness could settle in. Her group is offering free therapy to any protester who is struggling.

"You get tired of fighting after a while," she said. "We want to make sure hope stays alive, so we can keep going."

The night the decision was announced, Rose Henderson was tending to the memorial to Taylor: a portrait that stands nearly 8 feet tall, circled by signs, painting and flowers that others have left in tribute. This is her space. She orders her fellow protesters to be peaceful and to take care of themselves so they can keep up the fight: Pull up your mask, she tells them, drink more water.

But around her, people were angry. Some set small fires, and threw plastic bottles at police. About a mile away, two police officers were shot and wounded, and that, too, broke Henderson's heart. She felt like she'd lost control.

Lines of officers in riot gear descended on the square, and a loudspeaker ordered everyone to disperse, threatening to use chemical agents if they stayed.

So she left.

She and Woolfolk both cried themselves to sleep, and cried again when they awakened the next morning.

Though Henderson had barely missed a day at the square, Woolfolk worried she might not come back right away; it had been a hard day.

But then Mama Rose walked in, arranged the memorial just right, scolded people to pull up their masks and drink more water.

Woolfolk asked her if she was OK.

"No, I'm not," Henderson said, "but I'm going to keep going."

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Morrison, who reported from New York, is a member of AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/aaronlmorrison>. Galofaro is a National Writer based in Louisville. Follow her on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/clairagalofaro>.

## Social media and COVID shaming: Fighting a toxic combination

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

In the spring, Rick Rose drew the wrath of strangers after he practically shouted on Facebook that he wasn't buying a face mask. Two months later, he contracted COVID-19 — and, he posted, he was strug-

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gling to breathe. Days later, on July 4, he was dead.

That post, among the Ohio man's final public words on Facebook, attracted attention in the form of more than 3,100 "haha" laughing face emoji and a torrent of criticism from strangers.

"If they would have known him, they would have loved him like everybody else did," says Tina Heschel, mother of the 37-year-old Rose. She says she's "tired of all the hate."

"I just want him to rest," she says.

Shaming people who get sick or don't follow the rules in a public health crisis has been a thing since well before coronavirus, researchers say. But the warp speed and reach of social media in the pandemic era gives the practice an aggressive new dimension.

"It's like someone just turned up the volume on stigmas that were already there," says University of Pennsylvania professor David Barnes, who has studied pandemics and stigmatization.

People shame or stigmatize when they feel threatened by something. They need an explanation, and they find a scapegoat. It helps them reaffirm their thinking and make sense of what's happening. That's an important notion during a pandemic, which can feel vague and invisible.

"There's never been a society that hasn't moralized disease, ever," Barnes says.

Social media sites like Facebook take this practice, which used to be confined to social circles or by geography, and scale it to mass proportions, making it effectively limitless.

"It's changed the expectation of being able to speak up," says Pamela Rutledge, a psychologist who studies the impact of social media as director of the Media Psychology Research Center. "Everyone has a voice now."

And those voices are used.

When a Florida sheriff said in August that his deputies wouldn't be allowed to wear masks except in limited circumstances, Twitter users swiftly branded him a "#COVIDIOT." When doctors diagnosed Ecuador's first coronavirus case earlier this year, pictures circulated within hours on social media showing the retired school teacher unconscious and intubated in her hospital bed.

Rose's death was reported by national media, and visitors from around the country have stopped at his Facebook page to post messages or memes shaming him. Many also left messages wishing him well or scolding those who criticized.

Shaming can help people feel reassured that they have done things right and that the other person must have made a mistake, says Sherry Turkle, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor who studies social media. She calls this "magical protection and fantasy."

"It's a way of putting a wall between ourselves and the people who are getting sick," she says.

Social media also gives people isolated in a pandemic a quick way to join communities that share their beliefs. And when someone joins a group, that broader identity makes it easy to pile on.

"You behave in ways that you would not behave individually," Rutledge says.

People may not even realize that they are piling on as they click an emoji or leave a comment while scrolling through their feed. Social media, Turkle says, can make shaming very addictive.

"They're not even addicted to the particular content anymore. They're just sort of addicted to the process of participating," she says.

Plus, Facebook, Twitter and the like give users a way to quickly pass judgment — one that Rutledge says can create "legal, economic and all kinds of ramifications that never would have happened before."

Julian Siegel figures business dropped about 20% earlier this spring at his Fort Lauderdale, Florida, restaurant after someone posted a picture on the Nextdoor app of people waiting in his parking lot for food. The person said the customers weren't following social distancing guidelines at The Riverside Market; Siegel insists that they were.

"It was crazy. People who have never been here were bashing us, saying how we were spreading COVID," Siegel says.

After that, he started seeing people drive slowly by his restaurant, apparently taking pictures or video with phones. "We call them social media warriors. There's nothing you could do," he says. "We would

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wave.”

Siegel saw three or four posts on the Nextdoor app and Facebook, and he says arguments would break out on the posts about whether patrons were being safe. In the end, he figures more people defended the restaurant than criticized it.

Christy Broce used social media to fight stigmatization instead of fuel it. The Pocahontas County, West Virginia, resident spent nearly a month in quarantine this summer after she and her two sons came down with the virus.

She says family members brought them groceries, and she and her boys kept to themselves. But they still felt scorned, especially after someone falsely reported to the local health department that she was shopping at a grocery store a couple days after she tested positive.

That prompted her to make a public plea for compassion on Facebook. Hundreds of people liked or loved that post, and several sent cards or messages of support.

“People have reached out and been a little more caring,” Broce says.

Such a response doesn’t surprise Rutledge. She says sharing empathy or support on social media makes both the giver and the recipient feel better. Like shaming or criticism, it can also help reaffirm a person’s views or beliefs.

And there’s this benefit, too: “It’s also a way to sort of make the world seem like a kinder, gentler place.”

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Follow Associated Press health writer Tom Murphy on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/thpmurphy>

## **In leaders’ UN videos, the backgrounds tell stories, too**

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the world to “reject attempts to build blocks to keep others out” as an image of his country’s storied Great Wall hung behind him. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte used photos and videos to illustrate what he was talking about. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison shared his policy views — and his scenic view of Sydney Harbor.

If the annual U.N. General Assembly meeting of national leaders is always a window on the world, this year the window is opening directly onto their desks, presidential palaces and homelands.

Staying home because of the coronavirus pandemic, they are speaking by video, adding a new layer of imagemaking to the messages and personas they seek to project.

“They have to be authentic, they have to be believable, and this is even more of a challenge virtually. But it need not be, if you’re able to think about how to use your background creatively,” says Steven D. Cohen, a Johns Hopkins University business communication professor who has coached politicians.

“They can use what happens in the frame to complement those messages, to break through the glass of the computer and connect through stories, through visions,” he says.

The General Assembly hall’s podium has provided decades of presidents, prime ministers and monarchs with a coveted portrait of statesmanship — and a setting conducive to it. While it’s no secret that many speeches are aimed largely at domestic audiences, sideline encounters and the prospect of live reactions from the international community can be “a factor for nudging people into what multilateral diplomacy is all about: finding common cause,” said Richard Ponzio, a former U.S. State Department and U.N. official and now a fellow at the Stimson Center, a foreign policy think tank.

Many leaders lamented that they can’t convene in person this year.

“Thankfully, we can make optimal use of modern technology,” said Suriname’s new president, Chan Santokhi, one of several speakers whose videos featured introductory music.

Others enhanced their presentations with subtitles or even cable-news-style chyrons, like “HOW WE CAN BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL” and “WE MUST LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND” to underscore key messages from eSwatini’s prime minister, Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini. Duterte overlaid parts of his speech with relevant photos and videos of coronavirus test centers, storms and more, going well beyond the maps and pictures that leaders occasionally hold up at the assembly podium.

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Without the hall, some speakers opted for a more approachable posture. Pope Francis, for example, eschewed a podium to stand close to the camera in a bookcase-lined room, as though speaking to a visitor.

Many leaders sat at desks, sometimes giving the world a glimpse of personal photos, stacks of books and other presumably carefully curated workaday items, including a coffee cup for Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Speaking from a desk connotes being “friendly, conversational, trying to connect with people,” said Jim Bennett, executive director of the Virtual Meetings and Events Association, an event planners’ clearinghouse. But desks — especially large ones — also can signal authority.

Morrison chose an even more conversational setting: a sunny spot overlooking the city’s famous harbor and opera house, with boats passing in the background. Morrison, who has complained in the past about international institutions bossing countries around, called the virus a reminder of the importance of multinational cooperation, though he added that international institutions need to be “accountable to the sovereign states that form them.”

Fiji’s prime minister, Frank Bainimarama, had a crowd in the background of his speech for a special session on the U.N.’s 75th anniversary. After his remarks highlighting Fiji’s role in peacekeeping missions and ocean preservation efforts, he and the spectators gave the U.N. a birthday cheer.

To be sure, many leaders spoke the traditional visual language of political speechmaking, flanked by flags with TV-friendly plain backdrops. Many others appeared in well-appointed offices and ceremonial rooms that could provide plenty of fodder for the decor-ranking that took flight online this spring as the pandemic forced TV commentators and other public figures to work from home. Kausea Natano, the prime minister of the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu, gave the global audience a picture of its tropical shore.

For heads of state, of course, a backdrop often speaks to more than individual taste.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis’ against a panorama of the Acropolis and the Parthenon. In the background as Vietnamese President Nguyen Phu Trong spoke was a bust of revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh — who, Trong said, aspired to see Vietnam join the U.N. long before it did in 1977, after decades of conflict.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro spoke before a large portrait of 19th-century South American independence leader Simón Bolívar and invoked him while lashing out at the United States, which doesn’t recognize Maduro as Venezuela’s president. U.S. President Donald Trump, for his part, used the White House diplomatic reception room to film an uncommonly brief address focused on criticizing China.

Palau’s president, for one, used his video to send a more up-close-and-personal message in his final U.N. speech after serving as the Pacific island nation’s leader for 16 of the last 20 years.

With some points of pride in the background — a U.N. environmental award and baseball and basketball trophies from teams on which he played — and a bright pink polo shirt instead of the dark suits he wore to the assembly rostrum over the years, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. reflected on what the group has and hasn’t tackled since he first addressed it in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in 2001.

“My message then was one of unity,” he said, and “this call remains apt today.”

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Associated Press writer Cara Anna in Johannesburg contributed to this report. Follow New York-based AP reporter Jennifer Peltz on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/JennPeltz>

## Trump shifts focus to Pennsylvania to shore up reelection

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, MARC LEVY and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — President Donald Trump’s campaign has grown increasingly focused on making inroads in Pennsylvania to offset potential vulnerabilities in other battlegrounds.

The president will travel to the state for the second time in a week on Saturday, hoping to attract the same rural and white working-class voters who delivered him a narrow victory here in 2016. The in-person touch, in what may become the most important battleground on the map, complements an aggressive get-out-the-vote operation that has been working for four years to find new voters by knocking on doors

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in competitive neighborhoods.

Trump narrowly flipped three Great Lakes states — Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — from blue to red in 2016. He has virtually no path to reelection without keeping at least one of those states in his column. His campaign has long viewed Wisconsin as his best option, but aides who requested anonymity to discuss strategy said their thinking has begun to shift.

There are growing concerns inside the campaign, the aides said, about Trump's ability to retain Wisconsin. Even winning that upper Midwest battleground wouldn't provide the needed votes if Trump's Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, claims Arizona.

But Pennsylvania would be enough.

"With Pennsylvania, I don't have to make a play, we've got Pennsylvania," boasted Trump at a rally Tuesday night just outside Pittsburgh.

That may be harder than Trump suggests.

Despite fervent Republican efforts, no GOP nominee since George H.W. Bush in 1988 had captured the state until Trump did four years ago, winning by just 44,000 votes out of nearly 5.9 million cast. And as someone born in Scranton, Joe Biden is also heavily focused on the state.

Recent Pennsylvania polls disagree over the state of the race: Some show Trump and Biden in a competitive race, while others have Biden slightly ahead of Trump.

And just as "Florida, Florida, Florida" became the moniker in 2000 for the electoral delays and controversies in the state that decided the election that year, Pennsylvania, which may be 2020's tipping point state, may have its own drama looming.

With 3 million or more voters expected to cast ballots by mail, lawmakers, party officials and election officials are warning that the conditions are ripe for a presidential election result to be left hanging in limbo on a drawn-out vote. A partisan stalemate and lawsuits have held up fixes to glitches in the state's fledgling mail-in voting law, and Democrats are warning that as many as 100,000 or more mail-in ballots — dubbed "naked ballots" — could be invalidated if they aren't put in the proper envelope by people unaccustomed to voting by mail.

Pennsylvania also is where a federal prosecutor's announcement that nine mailed-in military ballots had been found in the trash at a local election office was seized upon by Trump and his supporters. But there was little explanation of what had happened or whether investigators believed a criminal act had occurred in a county controlled by Republicans.

Pennsylvania is anchored by large cities — Philadelphia to the east, Pittsburgh to the west — on opposite ends, each with sprawling suburbs. But the rest of the state is largely rural, comprised of small cities and towns where Trump ran up the score four years ago.

He will likely need to again, as his prospects have slipped since 2016 in vote-rich suburban Philadelphia, where he underperformed by past Republican measures. This raises the stakes for his campaign's more aggressive outreach to new rural and small-town voters across the industrial north.

In Chester County, for instance, Trump was the first Republican presidential nominee in more than 50 years to lose what is Pennsylvania's fourth most-populous county and once a GOP stronghold. While 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney carried the county on the western edge of metro Philadelphia, Trump fell short by 10 percentage points.

If Trump is to carry Pennsylvania again, he cannot just add new voters in the state's expansive rural areas but must stop the bleeding outside Philadelphia, former Rep. Ryan Costello, a Republican, said.

"If the hypothesis is Trump can increase his margin, he will have to first not allow regions where he didn't perform well to perform worse," Costello said. "That means he has to make up even more ground."

Republicans also point to an aging population and a shrinking voter-registration edge for Democrats, down 20% from 2016's election to 733,000, according to the latest state data, although the numbers also show that many more non-voting Democrats than Republicans fell off voter rolls in the last four years.

Despite the pandemic, Trump's campaign has prioritized in-person events, including over 4,000 meet-ups that have drawn more than 38,000 people. The president and his allies are also hitting hard in TV ads

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accusing Biden of wanting to ban fracking, a sensitive topic in the No. 2 natural gas state behind Texas. While Biden insists he does not want to ban fracking broadly -- he wants to ban it on federal lands and make electricity production fossil-fuel free by 2035 -- it may make it harder for him to win back rank-and-file union members who work on an expanding network of pipelines, power plants and processing facilities.

Biden may have an advantage in getting his message out in the state. He's outspent Trump by more than 2-to-1 in Pennsylvania from last spring through this month, according to data from Kantar/CMAG, a market research and consulting firm. From April through mid-September, Biden had spent \$27 million compared with the Trump campaign's \$12.5 million.

The campaigns had reserved similar amounts for the six-week stretch to Nov. 3, with Trump at \$11.5 million and Biden at \$10.1 million.

Pennsylvania, which is tied for the fourth most electoral college votes, is "personal" for Biden, the former vice president recently acknowledged during one of his trips to his native state.

Since the beginning of June, he's made eight in-person trips to Pennsylvania, far outpacing other states with his pandemic-limited itinerary. Priorities USA, a pro-Democrat group, has identified Pennsylvania as the likely tipping point state in the Electoral College, and it announced Thursday a new \$7.3 million TV and online ad blitz in the state that will pummel Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sincere Harris, a senior strategist for Biden in Pennsylvania, said the personal ties to the state are "huge" and open a path to votes that other Democrats might not get.

"Biden is in the perfect position to come back to these voters that Trump lied to four years ago," Harris said.

Lemire reported from New York. Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa. Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## Maine lobster business salvaged its summer despite pandemic

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Maine's lobster fishermen braced for a difficult summer this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, but then the unexpected happened. They kept catching lobsters, and people kept buying them.

The pandemic has posed significant challenges for the state's lobster fishery, which is the nation's largest, but members of the industry reported a steady catch and reasonable prices at the docks. Prices for consumers and wholesalers were low in the early part of the summer but picked up in August to be about on par with a typical summer.

The Maine lobster industry is in the midst of a multiyear boom, and fishermen have caught more than 100 million pounds (45,360,000 kilograms) for a record nine years in a row.

It's hard to guess whether they'll reach that total again, but summer 2020 hasn't been half bad for a season in which many fishermen expected collapse, said Kristan Porter, president of the Maine Lobstermen's Association.

"Especially early in the season when nothing was open, no restaurants were open. We were thinking it would be a complete disaster," Porter said. "If it stays like this, we can struggle through and have a season, and then get ready to fish next year."

Lobster fishermen harvest the seafood species using underwater traps, and the busiest part of the season is the summer. Maine's lobster fishery is by far the largest in the country. Lobsters are also closely tied to tourism in Maine, which also took a hit from the pandemic.

The lobster industry was apparently helped by the fact that many consumers who typically eat lobster in restaurants started buying them retail, said John Sackton, an industry analyst and founder of Seafood-News.com. The catch might have been less than recent summers, but that kept prices from falling, he said.

Live lobsters were selling in the \$8 range in the wholesale market in mid-September, not too far off from recent seasons.

"Even with Maine travel and quarantine restrictions, there was probably heavier tourist usage in Maine

than it appeared that there would be," Sackton said.

Some lobster businesses pivoted to a direct-to-consumer model during the early stages of the pandemic in an attempt to keep moving product. That allowed the industry to weather the months in which shipping was disrupted and restaurants were almost completely shut down. And lobsters remained easy to find in Maine supermarkets throughout the summer.

Farther from home, the slow reemergence of China as a market for the seafood also bodes well for the lobster business's future, industry members said.

Lobster has been a major piece of President Donald Trump's trade hostilities with China. The U.S. shipped almost \$26 million in lobster to China through July — far less than the record year of 2018 but more than \$6.5 million ahead of the 2019 pace.

That allowed Stephanie Nadeau, owner of The Lobster Co. in Arundel, to rehire most of her crew, which she laid off during the disruptions of the trade war. It has been a hectic year, she said, but the increase in international shipping is a positive sign.

"It's like riding a bucking bronco," she said. "You never know which way the bronco's going to break."

## **Lebanese nominated premier resigns, in blow to Macron plan**

By ZEINA KARAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's prime minister-designate resigned Saturday amid a political impasse over government formation, dealing a blow to French President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to break a dangerous stalemate in the crisis-hit country.

The announcement by Moustapha Adib nearly a month after he was appointed to the job further delays the prospect of getting the foreign economic assistance needed to rescue the country from collapse. Adib told reporters he was stepping down after it became clear that the kind of Cabinet he wished to form was "bound to fail."

The French leader has been pressing Lebanese politicians to form a Cabinet made up of non-partisan specialists that can work on enacting urgent reforms to extract Lebanon from a devastating economic and financial crisis worsened by the Aug. 4 explosion at Beirut port.

An official in Macron's office, commenting on Adib's resignation, described it as "a collective betrayal" by Lebanon's political parties.

"It is indispensable to have a government capable of receiving international aid. France will not abandon Lebanon," said the official, who was not authorized to be publicly named.

Lebanon is in desperate need of financial assistance but France and other international powers have refused to provide aid before serious reforms are made. The crisis is largely blamed on decades of systematic corruption and mismanagement by Lebanon's ruling class.

But efforts by the French-supported Adib have hit multiple snags, after the country's main Shiite groups, Hezbollah and Amal, insisted on retaining hold of the key Finance Ministry. Their insistence emerged after the U.S. administration slapped sanctions on two senior politicians close to Hezbollah, including the ex-finance minister.

The two groups also insisted on naming the Shiite ministers in the new Cabinet and objected to the manner in which Adib was forming the government, without consulting with them.

After a short meeting with Aoun on Saturday, Adib said he was stepping down after his efforts hit a dead end.

"I have apologized about continuing the mission of forming a government after it became clear that a Cabinet according to the characteristics I had set for it would be bound to fail," he told reporters.

The Lebanese pound dropped against the dollar following his resignation, trading at more than 8,100 Lebanese pounds on the black market Saturday.

Lebanon, a former French protectorate, is mired in the country's worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history. It defaulted on paying back its debt for the first time ever in March, and the local currency has lost nearly 80 % of its value amid hyperinflation, soaring poverty, and unemployment. Talks with the International Monetary Fund on a bailout package have stalled.

The crisis has been compounded by the coronavirus pandemic and more recently by the Aug. 4 explosion at Beirut's port caused by the detonation of thousands of tons of ammonium nitrates. It killed nearly 200 people, injured thousands and caused losses worth billions of dollars.

Adib's resignation comes a few days after Aoun himself bluntly told reporters that Lebanon would be going to "hell" if a new government was not formed soon.

In a televised address, he criticized his political allies, the Shiite groups Hezbollah and Amal, for insisting on holding on to the Finance Ministry portfolio in any new government, but also criticized Adib for attempting to form a government and impose names for Cabinet positions without consulting with the parliamentary blocs.

Adib, who was ambassador to Germany before he took the job on Aug. 31, emerged as a candidate for the post of prime minister after he won the support of former Prime Minister Saad Hariri and three other ex-premiers. According to Lebanon's sectarian-based power sharing system the prime minister has to be a Sunni Muslim.

The Shiite groups have accused Hariri of directing Adib in his Cabinet formation efforts and said they refuse to be sidelined. Hariri stepped down last year in response to mass demonstrations demanding the departure of the entire sectarian-based leadership over entrenched corruption, incompetence and mismanagement.

French President Macron has described his initiative including a road map and a timetable for reforms, as "the last chance for this system."

Associated Press writer Angela Charlton in Paris contributed reporting.

## Ukraine plane crash death toll rises to 26, with 1 survivor

MOSCOW (AP) — Searchers combing the area where a Ukrainian military aircraft crashed found two more bodies Saturday, bringing the death toll to 26. One person survived.

The plane, a twin-turboprop Antonov-26 belonging to the Ukrainian air force, was carrying a crew of seven and 20 cadets of a military aviation school when it crashed and burst into flames Friday night while coming in for landing at the airport in Chuhuiv, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of the capital Kyiv.

Two people initially survived the crash, but one later died in a hospital. No cause for the crash has been determined.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared Saturday to be a day of mourning for the crash victims and ordered that flights of An-26 planes be halted pending investigation into the cause of the crash.

Zelenskyy, who visited the crash area Saturday, called for a full assessment of the condition of the country's military equipment. Prime Minister Denis Shygal called for an official report on the crash by Oct. 25.

"Yesterday we lost young cadets and experienced military men, who had their whole lives and, I am sure, more than one military feat ahead of them," Zelenskyy said in a statement released by his office. "The whole country will mourn today with their families."

Deputy Defense Minister Igor Starobinsky said the families of the dead would each be paid compensation of about 1,500,000 hryvna (\$56,000).

The An-26 is a transport plane used by both military and civilian operators. Nearly 1,400 of the planes were manufactured from 1969 to 1986, according to the company's website. Defense Minister Andrei Taran said the plane that crashed was built in 1977.

An An-26 chartered by a contractor for the World Food Program crashed on Aug. 22 while taking off from Juba in South Sudan, killing seven people.

The crash was the second large air disaster to afflict Ukraine this year. In January, a Boeing 737 belonging to Ukraine International Airlines was shot down shortly after takeoff from the airport in Tehran, Iran, killing all 176 people aboard.

The plane was shot down by Iran's Revolutionary Guards amid high tensions after the United States killed a top general in a drone strike.

This story has been corrected to show that it was the prime minister, not the president, who called for the official report.

## Early vote shows signs of Black voters' shift to mail voting

By BRYAN ANDERSON and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press/Report for America

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Shirley Dixon-Mosley had never sent a ballot through the mail. She always treasured casting her ballot in person. But for November's election, she voted early and by mail because she didn't want to take any chances.

"I want to make sure my vote got in and it counted," said the 75-year-old retired teacher's aide in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Black voters are among the least likely to vote by mail nationally, but there are early signs they are changing their behavior as the shadow of the coronavirus hangs over the presidential race. The evidence is clearest in North Carolina, the first state in the nation to send out mail-in ballots and where voting has been underway for almost three weeks. But there are hints in other battleground states like Georgia and Pennsylvania.

The signal are good news for Democrats, who will need a robust turnout by Black voters in these states to win both the White House and control of the U.S. Senate. With coronavirus increasing the risk of in-person voting, African American mail voting rates are one indicator of whether that key part of the Democratic coalition will participate at its regular clip.

In North Carolina, Black voters cast 16.7% of the more than 173,000 ballots returned so far, a jump from the 9% of mail votes cast by Black voters in 2016. They are 21% of North Carolina's registered voters.

"They're changing their dynamics," said Michael Bitzer, a political scientist at Catawba College in North Carolina who tracks state elections. "It seems like there's a shift going on which will certainly help Democrats."

But the numbers also come with a warning sign. North Carolina's Black voters are four times more likely than whites to have their ballots not yet accepted due to missing witness information. Just under 5% of absentee ballots returned by Black voters either still have missing witness information or are in the process of having ballot requirements corrected, compared with just 1.3% of ballots returned by white voters.

It is, of course, very early — the votes so far in North Carolina translate to only about 5% of those cast in the entire 2016 presidential election. It's unclear how much Black voters' early embrace of the new method will increase overall turnout and whether issues will persist as more votes roll in.

Alarmed by the not-accepted figures, Democratic-leaning groups are already shifting their messaging to help Black voters resolve the witness requirements. North Carolina made this process easier on Tuesday, settling a lawsuit from the North Carolina Alliance for Retired Americans seeking to ease absentee guidelines on the state's witness component. County boards of elections now mail an affidavit for a voter to return to resolve ballot problems. Both Republicans on the state's five-person Board of Elections resigned after the settlement.

"There's been a big push to get Black voters to use the option of vote-by-mail," said Adrienne Shropshire of VoteBlackPac, one of several groups trying to boost the use of mail-in ballots among Black voters. The group sent absentee ballot applications to 400,000 North Carolina voters. "The problems that people are having is related to the fact that this is new to people."

Jeffrey Brooks, a 49-year-old Democrat from Durham, said he's previously voted in person. But when he sent in his mail-in ballot earlier this month, he failed to have a family member sign it as a witness.

"I didn't know that," Brooks said. "I thought it was just for young people. I didn't get them to sign it because I did it at home. I didn't know you had to have a witness."

Voters like Brooks have until Nov. 12 to correct their ballots and get them received by their local county elections board.

The North Carolina Democratic Party and Democratic nominee Joe Biden's campaign have established

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hotlines for confused voters. Both groups also have volunteers working on the ground to help people remedy witness issues.

Tonya Foreman, an activist whose group CAREE has been registering people to vote in barbershops and a pop-up registration tent in the eastern part of the state, worries that some of these Black voters, already deeply suspicious of a system they see as rigged against them, "will just decide 'I knew it' and not fix their ballots."

Foreman has seen shifts in Black voters' interest and trust in voting by mail, saying it seemed high last spring but then tapered off after controversy over mail delays due to changes at the United States Postal Service.

Black voters have traditionally preferred to vote in-person and see their ballot being accepted, a certainty sought after generations of voter suppression, discrimination and fighting to win the right to vote. In 2018, only 11% of African American voters cast their ballots by mail compared with 24% of white voters, according to the U.S. Census.

But Black people have been disproportionately killed by the coronavirus, and many older Black Americans are now trying to balance safety with their rights, said Marcus Bass, an activist with the group Advance Carolina.

"The most faithful bloc of voters are older Black voters," Bass said.

Still, Bass' group has acquired 250,000 pieces of protective gear because he thinks many Black voters will want to vote in-person again.

There are hints of the shift in other data on mail voting. In Georgia, about one-third of all absentee ballot requests so far have come from African Americans, slightly higher than their share of registered voters, said Tom Bonier, a Democratic data analyst. In Pennsylvania, 7.38% have — which is also precisely the Black share of that state's electorate.

Bonier said the early data suggests that Democratic investments in educating Black voters about mail-in ballots may be paying off. The rates, he added, are also "an early indicator of very high engagement by Black voters."

Dixon-Mosley is one of those engaged voters. She was happy to have the option to vote by mail, but she added she would cast her ballot in person if she had to.

"Our parents and forefathers fought too hard to get the vote," she said. "To not do it is to dishonor them."

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Anderson is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## China pushes emergency use of COVID vaccine despite concerns

By HUIZHONG WU and SAM McNEIL Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — After the first shot, he had no reaction. But Kan Chai felt woozy following the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine approved for emergency use in China.

"When I was driving on the road, I suddenly felt a bit dizzy, as if I was driving drunk," the popular writer and columnist recounted in a webinar earlier this month. "So I specially found a place to stop the car, rest a bit and then I felt better."

His is a rare account from the hundreds of thousands of people who have been given Chinese vaccines, before final regulatory approval for general use. It's an unusual move that raises ethical and safety questions, as companies and governments worldwide race to develop a vaccine that will stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Chinese companies earlier drew attention for giving the vaccine to their top executives and leading

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researchers before human trials to test their safety and efficacy had even begun. In recent months, they have injected a far larger number under an emergency use designation approved in June, and that number appears poised to rise.

A Chinese health official said Friday that China, which has largely eradicated the disease, needs to take steps to prevent it from coming back. But one outside expert questioned the need for emergency use when the virus is no longer spreading in the country where it was first detected.

It's unclear exactly who and how many people have been injected so far, but Chinese vaccine makers have offered some clues. State-owned Sinopharm subsidiary CNBG has given the vaccine to 350,000 people outside its clinical trials, which have about 40,000 people enrolled, a top CNBG executive said recently.

Another company, Sinovac Biotech Ltd., has injected 90% of its employees and family members, or about 3,000 people, most under the emergency-use provision, CEO Yin Weidong said. It has also provided tens of thousands of rounds of its CoronaVac to the Beijing city government.

Separately, the Chinese military has approved the use of a vaccine it developed with CanSino Biologics Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, in military personnel.

"The first people to have priority in emergency use are the vaccine researchers and the vaccine manufacturers because when the pandemic comes, if these people are infected then there's no way to produce the vaccine," Yin said.

Now, large Chinese firms including telecom giant Huawei and broadcaster Phoenix TV have announced they're working with Sinopharm to get the vaccine for their employees.

Several people who say they work in "front-line" organizations have said on social media that their workplaces have offered vaccinations for about 1,000 yuan (\$150). They declined to comment, saying they would need permission from their organizations.

In an established but limited practice, experimental medications have been approved historically for use when they are still in the third and last phase of human trials. Chinese companies have four vaccines in phase 3 — two from Sinopharm, and one each from Sinovac and CanSino.

The Chinese government referenced the World Health Organization's emergency-use principles to create its own through a strict process, National Health Commission official Zheng Zhongwei said at a news conference Friday.

He said there have been no serious side effects in the clinical trials.

"We've made it very clear that the COVID-19 vaccine we put into emergency use are safe," Zheng said. "Their safety can be ensured but their efficacy is yet to be determined."

Under the emergency rule, high-risk personnel such as medical and customs workers and those who have to work overseas are given priority access, he said. He declined to provide exact numbers.

"In China's case, the pressure in preventing imported infections and domestic resurgence is still huge," Zheng said.

But Diego Silva, a lecturer in bioethics at the University of Sydney, said that giving vaccines to hundreds of thousands outside of clinical trials doesn't have "scientific merit" in China, where there are currently very few locally transmitted cases, and incoming arrivals are quarantined centrally.

"If it's in the U.S. where the virus is still raging that's a bit different, but in a country like China it doesn't seem to make sense to me," he said. "Because there's not enough of the virus in China locally to deduce anything, you're introducing a whole host of other factors" by injecting people outside of trials.

Zheng said that all those injected under emergency use are being closely tracked for any adverse health effects.

Kan Chai, the columnist, wrote in an article posted online in September that despite initial hesitation, he decided to sign up after he heard a state-owned company was looking for volunteers.

He didn't say whether his was an emergency-use case, but the timing of his vaccination suggests it was. He took the first dose in late July, when the emergency inoculations were getting started and the trials were all but over.

"I'm willing to be a little white mouse, and the biggest reason is because I have trust in our country's

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vaccination technology," he said.

His real name is Li Yong, but his 1.65 million followers on the Twitter-like social platform Weibo know him better by his pen name, which means "10 years of chopping wood." He declined an interview request.

He described taking the vaccine in a public webinar hosted by 8am HealthInsight, a popular health media outlet. It's unclear why he qualified to receive it.

Scant information is publicly available about the program's scope, size, and scientific merit. CNBG and parent Sinopharm declined to comment. Zheng, the National Health Commission official, did not know about the Kan Chai case.

While emergency use may be the right path, Chinese companies are not being transparent about issues such as informed consent, said Joy Zhang, a professor who researches the ethical governance of emerging science at University of Kent in Britain.

Zhang said that she could not find any relevant information on the Sinopharm website, and aside from reports published in international medical journals, there is little else made public.

She said relatively more information is publicly available about other trials such as one run by Oxford University and AstraZeneca. The trial was halted after a participant developed severe neurological side effects, and only resumed after clinical data was submitted to an independent review board.

China has a troubled past with vaccines, with various scandals over the past two decades.

The most recent case was in 2018, when Changsheng Biotechnology Co. came under investigation for falsifying records and making ineffective rabies vaccines for children.

In 2017, Wuhan Institute of Biological Products Co., a CNBG subsidiary behind one of the vaccines in phase 3 trials, was found to have made defective diphtheria vaccines that were ineffective.

Public anger over the case prompted an overhaul of a vaccine punishment law in 2019. The country tightened supervision over the vaccine development and distribution process, and increased penalties for fabricating data.

Those concerns seem to be of the past. Guizhen Wu, the chief biosafety expert for China's Center for Disease Control, said a vaccine could be ready for the general public in China as early as November. She said she took an experimental vaccine back in April.

An overseas employee at a Chinese state-owned company, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she wasn't authorized to speak with the media, said she decided to sign up last week.

She said she isn't worried because a vaccine is a government priority, so authorities will keep a close watch on the process.

Wu reported from Taipei, Taiwan. Associated Press producer Olivia Zhang and videojournalist Dake Kang contributed to this report.

## China opens auto show under anti-disease controls

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Ford, Nissan and BMW unveiled electric models with more range for China on Saturday as the Beijing auto show opened under anti-virus controls that included holding news conferences by international video link.

Automakers are looking to China, the first major economy to start recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, to drive sales growth and reverse multibillion-dollar losses.

Auto China 2020, postponed from March, is the first major trade show for any industry since the pandemic began. The ruling Communist Party's decision to go ahead with it reflects official confidence China, where the pandemic began in December, has the disease under control.

"The 2020 Beijing motor show is a symbol of hope," BMW AG's China CEO, Jochen Goller, told reporters who wore masks but stood shoulder-to-shoulder at the event. He paid tribute to Chinese medical workers who "made it possible for us to enjoy this large-scale event today."

Authorities ordered limits on crowds at the event, which attracted 820,000 visitors at its last installment

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in 2018. Employees walked through the cavernous exhibition center carrying signs that said, "Be Sure to Wear Masks."

China's auto market, the world's biggest, already has rebounded to sales above pre-pandemic levels. Purchases rose 6% in August compared with a year earlier, while U.S. sales were down 9.5%.

Global and Chinese automakers displayed dozens of electric models, part of a race by the industry to meet Chinese government sales quotas imposed to promote the technology.

Electrics increasingly offer speeds and acceleration to rival gasoline engines in an effort to make the technology a mainstream product. Some promise ranges of up to 600 kilometers (380 miles), or more than the average tank of gasoline, to combat "range anxiety," or consumers' fear of running out of power.

Ford Motor Co. held the China debut of its all-electric Mustang Mach-E SUV. It promises 0-to-100 kph (0-to-60 mph) acceleration in 3.5 seconds.

Nissan Motor Co. showed its all-electric Ariya SUV, which it said can travel up to 610 kilometers (380 miles) on one charge.

"We need to adapt to the Chinese market," said CEO Makoto Uchida in a news conference conducted by video link from Nissan's Yokohama, Japan, headquarters.

Uchida said China is a key part of an effort under way to return Nissan to profit after it reported a \$6.2 billion loss for the year ending in March.

That plan calls for releasing nine electrified models in China by 2025, according to Nissan senior vice president Sohei Yamazaki.

Most foreign-based auto executives stayed home due to travel restrictions that require visitors arriving in China from abroad to undergo a two-week quarantine. Several brands broadcast their events online to reach auto writers abroad.

BMW displayed its iX3 electric SUV, which Goller said will be produced at a factory in China's northeast for sale worldwide. The company also held the global debut of its M3 sedan and M4 coupe, reflecting the growing importance of China's luxury market.

The Communist Party wants to make China a leader in electrics and has used subsidies and other support to transform it into the biggest EV market, accounting for about half of global sales. Beijing ended restrictions on foreign ownership of electric vehicle producers in 2018 to spur competition.

China's young but ambitious brands also are pushing aggressively to extend the range of battery-powered vehicles to appeal to a broader market.

Geely Auto, Xiaopeng state-owned Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp. displayed models that all promise more than 500 kilometers (300 miles) on one charge.

GAC New Energy, a unit of state-owned Guangzhou Automotive Corp. New Energy, is working on plans to export to Europe but has yet to decide on which markets, according to its public relations manager, Wu Shinan. The company's Aion line includes a pure-electric sedan and displayed a hydrogen fuel cell-powered concept SUV.

Demand for electrics weakened last year as Beijing started to wind down subsidies. They were due to end this year, but regulators extended them at a lower level through 2022 to help the industry weather the pandemic.

Chinese brands also are pressing ahead with plans to export to developed markets despite weak U.S. and European demand.

Chery, one of China's biggest independent brands, is working on plans to export its X70PLUS, a gasoline-powered SUV, to Western Europe, according to its general manager, Chen Jiakai. He said sample models have been sent to some markets but declined to give other details.

China's major auto shows, held in Beijing and Shanghai in alternate years, are the industry's biggest events, attracting every global automaker and dozens of Chinese brands.

This week's event follows a smaller auto show in July in the western city of Chengdu with 120 exhibitors, equal to about 10% of the size of the typical Beijing and Shanghai shows.

Associated Press researcher Yu Bing contributed.

## Progress against virus brings complacency in parts of Africa

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — With Zimbabwe's coronavirus infections on the decline, schools are reopening, along with churches, bars, restaurants, airports and tourist attractions. Strict lockdowns designed to curb the disease are being replaced by a return to relatively normal life.

The threat has eased so much that many people see no need to be cautious. With his face mask stuffed into his pocket, Omega Chibanda said he's not worried about COVID-19.

"We used to fear coronavirus, not anymore," the 16-year-old said in the crowded Chitungwiza town on the outskirts of the capital, Harare. "That's why I'm not even wearing a mask."

As the global death toll from COVID-19 approaches 1 million, Zimbabwe and several other African countries have not experienced the widespread surges and many deaths that were predicted. That has invited complacency.

"It's all relaxed now," Chibanda said.

Earlier this month, Zimbabwe went a week without recording any deaths from coronavirus, and new infections and deaths have declined, as in South Africa and Kenya.

Africa's surge has been leveling off, with its 1.4 million confirmed cases increasing relatively slowly. Antibody testing is expected to show many more infections, but most cases are asymptomatic. Just over 35,000 deaths have been confirmed on the continent of 1.3 billion people.

But the improving figures and the start of the searing heat of the Southern Hemisphere's summer could undermine efforts to beat back the virus even further, said community health worker Rosemary Rambire.

She leaves home early in the morning and returns in the evening after going door to door calling "the gospel is here" and gathering families for quick awareness sessions.

"Our job is now harder to do because people are no longer afraid," Rambire said. "Some even tell us that it has not killed anyone they know. Most of them say the sun kills COVID-19 so they have no reason to worry."

Some think they are immune once they eat garlic, ginger and onions, she said.

In her 14 years on the job and through multiple disease outbreaks, COVID-19 has been the most difficult to get people to take preventive measures, she said.

"It's different from before, when we did campaigns on cholera (and) HIV. We could tell that people were afraid. They tried to follow preventive measures," she said. "With COVID-19, they are not afraid."

Many people look at the infection and death figures in Zimbabwe, compare them with other countries "and conclude that it only affects other countries and not Zimbabwe," Rambire added.

In Chitungwiza, a sprawling working-class center on the southern edge of Harare, people no longer wear masks at markets, funerals or other public events. Masks are now the exception in many of Harare's poor residential areas.

"We have lost both the initial COVID-19 fear factor and the motivation to comply with national guidelines," said Aaron Sundsmo, of the charitable organization Mercy Corps. The group has now enlisted local soccer, music and film celebrities to renew awareness.

The government will "not hesitate to do something really strict" to curb any creeping complacency, said Dr. Agnes Mahomva, the chief COVID-19 response coordinator in Zimbabwe.

"The dire projections that 'Africa, you are going to be toast,' perhaps actually helped us. We tightened up," she said.

Continued vigilance should accompany Africa's apparent success story, said Mervyn Joullie, deputy regional director for Africa at Mercy Corps, which operates in 16 of Africa's 54 countries.

Limited testing in many African countries makes it difficult to assess "the reality of COVID-19 situation," Joullie said.

In West Africa's Sahel region, for example, positive cases of COVID-19 have declined over the past sev-

eral weeks amid low testing capacity, which could suggest “a significant presence of undetected cases,” Joulie said.

Health experts point to Africa’s youthful population as a factor in why COVID-19 has not taken a larger toll, along with swift lockdowns and the later arrival of the virus.

Many African countries have eased the lockdowns and curfews in recent weeks to boost economies battered by the virus outbreak and, in some cases, ease local political pressure.

Balancing concerns about unemployment, security and access to food, as well as the complacency and the need to keep infections low could be Africa’s next big challenge, experts said.

“We are at a crossroads as we relax some of the restrictions,” said Dr. Mahomva, Zimbabwe’s COVID-19 response coordinator. “It’s not over until it’s over.”

But for Chibanda, the teenager in Chitungwiza, there is no such dilemma.

“Coronavirus is not an issue anymore here,” he said, pointing to people walking on the street without masks. “Just look around.”

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

## Yom Kippur synagogue attack leaves German Jews still uneasy

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — As Jews around the world gather Sunday night to mark the beginning of Yom Kippur, many in Germany remain uneasy about going together to their houses of worship to pray, a year after a white-supremacist targeted a synagogue in the eastern city of Halle on the holiest day in Judaism.

If the assailant — armed with multiple firearms and explosives — had managed to break into the building, there’s no telling how many of the 52 worshippers inside might have been killed. As it was, he turned his attentions on people outside, killing a passer-by and a man at a kebab stand before he was apprehended.

Since then, security has been increased at Jewish institutions across the country, but many wonder whether it is enough amid reports of increasing anti-Semitism and the Halle attack still fresh in their minds.

Naomi Henkel-Guembel was inside the building that day a year ago, and didn’t immediately understand what was happening when she heard a loud bang outside.

Together with other young Jews from Berlin, the 29-year-old had traveled to the eastern German city to celebrate Yom Kippur, which fell on Oct. 9 in 2019, with the small, aging community there.

She still remembers the scene vividly as the 28-year-old German right-wing extremist tried to barge into the synagogue, shooting at the heavy door in an unsuccessful attempt to force it open, then throwing explosives over a wall into a cemetery inside the compound while livestreaming the attack.

“When I heard the second explosion and saw a light flash outside the window, I knew that this was an anti-Semitic incident,” said Henkel-Guembel.

“Still, I was not aware of the dimension of what was happening outside of the sanctuary — I would have never thought that somebody would throw explosive devices at the synagogue and the adjacent cemetery.”

The attack suspect, Stephan Balliet, is currently on trial on charges of murder for the killings outside the synagogue. He explained his motivation to the court: “Jews are the main cause of white genocide and want to establish a new world order.”

The attack, one of the most violent and overt anti-Semitic acts in postwar history, caused shockwaves across Germany, which considers protecting its Jewish minority of about 200,000 a special responsibility after the Nazi genocide of 6 million Jews.

While many Jewish institutions get some kind of protection — particularly on Jewish holidays — the Halle synagogue didn’t have any. Now steps are being taken to ensure wider-spread security, said Josef Schuster, the president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

People “were clearly more worried to send their children to school or kindergarten or to visit Jewish institutions,” Schuster told The Associated Press in an interview this week.

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"But after that day, security staff in front of synagogues and other Jewish places was increased and it has stayed that way."

Since then, Schuster said, state authorities have developed new security measures for Jewish houses of worship and all 16 German states have given varying amounts of financial support to spend on boosting security. Bavaria, for example, provided 8 million euros (\$9.37 million) to its Jewish communities and Saxony-Anhalt, where Halle is located, committed some 2.4 million euros over 2020-2021 to help better secure Jewish sites.

Earlier this month, the federal government said it would also provide 22 million euros to improve security.

Still, the deputy head of Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office, Juergen Peter, acknowledged recently that "the protection of Jewish institutions is better than last year, but it is not good enough nationwide."

"Overall, we cannot be satisfied with the current status quo," Peter said, adding that on average, there had been more than five anti-Semitic incidents registered per day in Germany in 2019. Those included physical attacks, property damage, threats, anti-Semitic propaganda and other acts of malicious behavior such as giving the stiff-armed Nazi salute.

Ronen Steinke, an investigative reporter with the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper, studied the issue in depth after the Halle attack, and found that too often Jews are left to avert the danger of possible assaults themselves.

In his book "Terror Against Jews," published earlier this year after he visited more than 20 Jewish communities around the country, Steinke found that while authorities are helpful with making security assessments, the communities themselves are often left to implement the official suggestions.

Smaller communities, in particular, struggle and frequently end up not getting enough funds "because they have problems with the bureaucracy or because they can't agree with the state on a common line," Steinke said.

"Danger prevention is the task of the state, not the job of those who are threatened by danger," said Steinke, who himself is a German Jew.

Even if security can be perfected, that does not mean there is no work left to be done by the German authorities, he said.

"It's a perverted state of siege, in which one can only go to school or religious service if people with pistols have to watch out for you," said Steinke.

For Naomi Henkel-Guembel it has been a year of soul searching after Halle.

"The event left deep marks, not just for those who were immediately affected, but for Jews in Germany in general," said Henkel-Guembel, who is currently studying in Berlin to become a rabbi.

The granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Henkel-Guembel grew up in Munich, then moved to Israel after her high school graduation in search of a Jewish homeland. Today she shares her time between both countries.

Since Halle, she said, she and others who were at the Yom Kippur service have been questioning whether Germany is where they want to build their future lives as Jews.

For herself, Henkel-Guembel said she has decided to stay, and has even joined the trial of the Halle attacker as a co-plaintiff, as allowed under German law.

"The question is whether one leaves and surrenders the space to the attacker and his abettors — or whether one opposes them," she said.

## Probe into 'discarded' ballots becomes campaign outrage fuel

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and MARK SCOLFORO Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The news release from a U.S. attorney in Pennsylvania was provocative: Nine mailed-in military ballots had been "discarded" by the local election office in a swing county of one of the most important presidential battleground states.

All of them were marked for President Donald Trump, it said. Then came another news release with key details changed — the presidential choice was unknown on two of the ballots because they had

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been resealed — but still little explanation of what had happened and whether investigators believed a criminal act had occurred.

Despite the information vacuum, the White House press secretary told reporters “ballots for the president” had been “cast aside.” The Trump campaign’s rapid response arm pushed out the release from Trump’s own Justice Department under the headline “Democrats are trying to steal the election” — ignoring the fact that the local government, Luzerne County, is controlled by Republicans. Conservative voices used the news release as rocket fuel to amplify the investigation on social media.

Thursday’s kerfuffle and accompanying internet outrage over a handful of ballots is likely a taste of what’s to come in the month left before the presidential election, which is being held amid a global pandemic that has triggered a wave of absentee ballot requests as Trump continues to launch unsubstantiated attacks on mail voting.

It was Trump, after being briefed on the case by Attorney General William Barr, who first revealed publicly that the discarded ballots had been cast for him. He did so in an interview earlier Thursday with Fox News Radio in which he used the investigation to further sow doubt about mail-in voting. The radio interview was hours before the U.S. attorney’s office in Pennsylvania issued its news release about the probe to reporters.

“If past is prologue, we will see more,” said Wendy Weiser, an elections expert and director of the democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice. “We are in an unprecedented situation where a sitting president of the United States and a candidate for reelection is and has long been actively seeking to undermine the election and discredit it.”

Weiser said it was important that officials provide detailed information about any voting issues that arise, which happen every election cycle. For instance, officials with the U.S. Postal Service said this week they are investigating a report that an unknown number of ballots were among other mail found in a ditch near a highway intersection in Wisconsin, another presidential battleground state.

Officials have so far released little information in that case, including whether the ballots were blank and on their way to voters or if they had been completed and were being returned to the local election office.

Experts say the lack of information in these cases opens the door to speculation and conspiracy theories.

By Friday, more details had emerged in the Pennsylvania case. Federal officials were considering whether a recently hired, temporary election worker may have mishandled the ballots. Aside from the unknowns about the investigation itself, questions persist over how the Justice Department handled the matter.

The first word of a federal investigation into unspecified “issues with a small number of mail-in ballots” came in a statement Tuesday by the local district attorney in Luzerne County. There was no mention of Trump, and there was little attention to the case beyond local news reports.

That all changed when the office of U.S. Attorney Dave Freed issued Thursday’s statement, an unusual step given U.S. Department of Justice guidance to refrain generally from commenting on any investigation — especially one involving an election in which voters already are casting ballots. In addition, the mention of which presidential candidate the ballots favored raised concerns among election law experts and voter advocacy groups (ballots include races for all kinds of offices and issues, not just the race for president).

The U.S. attorney’s office in Pennsylvania notified senior officials at Justice Department headquarters earlier this week about a small number of ballots that were found to be discarded, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. Barr told Trump that the Justice Department was going to look into the matter before the department publicly confirmed the investigation, the person said.

The U.S. attorney’s office had received inquiries from local reporters about the ballots, the person said, and released the statement — which included specific details about the ballots — after Trump revealed the existence of the investigation in the interview with Fox News Radio. The person could not discuss the investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Justice Department policy imposes limitations on contacts with the White House so as to guard against the politicization of law enforcement matters, though different memos issued over time have permitted the department to advise the White House of pending investigations or cases under specific circumstances.

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The memos acknowledge that such communication may be more regular when it comes to matters of national security.

"This is clear politicization of the Justice Department's work in the middle of an active general election," said Kristen Clarke, executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "It seemed like a thinly veiled attempt to breathe life into President Trump's false claims about mail ballot fraud."

The number of public Facebook and Instagram posts mentioning the discarded ballots quickly skyrocketed, receiving nearly 900,000 interactions — likes or comments — in less than 24 hours, according to Facebook's CrowdTangle, which tracks public posts.

Many of the most popular posts about the discarded ballots were made by the Trump campaign, pro-Trump accounts or conservative news outlets and used to support the doubts Trump has cast on the mail-in voting process. Notably, the ballots involved were from military personnel, who are sent their ballots earlier than other voters in every election.

Freed, a Republican nominated by Trump, said in a letter sent late Thursday to the local elections office that the FBI had recovered nine military ballots from a trash bin. Seven of them were completed ballots without the envelopes voters had mailed them in, and all were cast for Trump. The two other ballots had already been put back into envelopes by unnamed elections workers, Freed said. Four other empty absentee ballot envelopes also were recovered.

Freed said Pennsylvania law prohibits elections offices from opening mail-in ballots before Election Day. Investigators were told that the military mail-in envelopes and absentee request envelopes were so similar that election workers "believed that adhering to the protocol of preserving envelopes unopened" would result in them missing ballot applications, so they opened them.

It still wasn't clear, however, how or why they ended up in the trash. A statement by the county manager on Friday characterized it as "an error" discovered by a public servant and reported to law enforcement.

When asked why he disclosed information about which presidential candidate the voters supported, Freed said in an email to the AP that the ballot information was factual and it was "vital that voters who have sent in military ballots are informed of the possibility that their ballot was opened and discarded."

J.J. Abbott, executive director of Commonwealth Communications, a liberal advocacy group, said he was concerned that Freed provided information about the Trump ballots without much context about what had occurred.

"I just think, given how highly charged the rhetoric, particularly from the president, has been about mail-in voting, it's highly concerning given the lack of detail provided," Abbott said.

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Cassidy reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Mike Balsamo and Eric Tucker in Washington; Scott Bauer in Madison, Wis.; Anthony Izaguirre in Lindenhurst, New York; and Amanda Seitz in Chicago 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/>

## Family demands release of evidence in Breonna Taylor's case

By CLAIRE GALOFARO, PIPER HUDSPETH BLACKBURN and ANGIE WANG Associated Press  
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Breonna Taylor's family demanded Friday that Kentucky authorities release all body camera footage, police files and the transcripts of the grand jury proceedings that led to no charges being brought against police officers who killed the Black woman during a raid at her apartment.

The decision disappointed and angered those who have been calling for justice for Taylor for six months, and protesters vowed to stay in the streets until all the officers involved are fired or someone is charged with her killing.

A diverse group, including Taylor's mother, marched through Louisville on Friday evening. The protests were peaceful, though at one point, police in riot gear fired flash bang devices to turn back a crowd on

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a street. Two were arrested, authorities said.

About a dozen people who were out past the city's 9 p.m. curfew were arrested later.

Earlier, Taylor's lawyers and family expressed dismay that no one has been held accountable for her death.

"I am an angry Black woman. I am not angry for the reasons that you would like me to be. But angry because our Black women keep dying at the hands of police officers — and Black men," Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, wrote in a statement read by a relative. She stood close by wearing a shirt that said, "I (heart) Louisville Police" with bullet holes in the heart emoji.

Palmer's statement said the criminal justice system had failed her, and state Attorney General Daniel Cameron was the final person in the chain, following the officer who sought a no-knock warrant as part of a drug investigation, the judge who signed it and police who burst into Taylor's apartment. The warrant was connected to a suspect who did not live there, and no drugs were found inside.

Taylor was shot multiple times by white officers after her boyfriend fired at them, authorities said. He said he didn't know who was coming in and fired in self-defense, wounding one officer. Cameron, Kentucky's first Black attorney general, said the officers were not charged with Taylor's killing because they acted to protect themselves.

The grand jury indicted one officer on endangerment charges, saying he fired gunshots into a neighboring home that didn't strike anyone. He has been fired.

"I hope you never know the pain of your child being murdered 191 days in a row," said Bianca Austin, wearing her niece's emergency medical technician jacket as she read Palmer's statement.

Family attorney Sam Aguiar said all the videos should be released because Cameron's investigation is over, noting that he's seen dozens of them, most of which are not public.

Cameron "got so much wrong. We've seen so much piecemeal stuff come out throughout the case," he said without giving specifics.

Gov. Andy Beshear, a Democrat, also has called on the Republican attorney general to release what evidence he can.

Cameron said through a spokeswoman that he understood the family's pain.

"Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but prosecutors and Grand Jury members are bound by the facts and by the law," spokeswoman Elizabeth Kuhn said in a statement.

As Taylor's family decried how the case was handled, a man accused of shooting and wounding two officers during protests Wednesday appeared in court. They're expected to recover.

A not-guilty plea was entered for Larynzo D. Johnson, 26, and bond was set at \$1 million. Attorney Zac Meihaus called the streets "a war zone" when the shooting happened and said it's difficult to "pinpoint" if Johnson fired the shots in question. A prosecutor replied that a gun was recovered from Johnson, and there are video and witness accounts of the shooting.

Taylor's case has become a rallying cry as protesters nationwide call out racism and demand police reforms.

Protesters marched through Louisville on Friday with a purple banner bearing Taylor's name. They danced and chanted, "Bow for Breonna." Some handed out pizza or water, while others tried to register voters.

One protester, Victoria Gunther, was so outraged she traveled more than 600 miles (965 kilometers) from Reading, Pennsylvania, to Louisville.

"I'm a Black woman — that could have been me, that would have been my family," she said. "We are disrespected and disregarded. They think we don't matter. That's why I'm here, to say we do matter."

The police presence was light until protesters neared the city's East Market section, a few blocks from the banks of the Ohio River. About a dozen police cruisers were parked under a highway overpass, and officers with clubs and face shields formed a semi-circle blocking protesters' path.

Police told people to move to the sidewalk. Officers deployed two flash bang rounds into the air, and the crowd moved away, authorities said in a statement. Past a nighttime curfew, people gathered in a park that protesters are now calling "Injustice Square" and then at a church, where there was no major police presence — a change from the previous night.

As he marched, David Ward wore his cap that says "Desert Storm Veteran" because he wanted to send

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a message: he fought for America, but when he takes his hat off, he's a Black man treated like any other in a country built on racism.

"When I put that hat on, I'm a good person, when I don't, I'm a bad person in their eyes," Ward said, and to him that means Black people must constantly prove their worth.

At least 24 people were arrested Thursday night — including Democratic state Rep. Attica Scott — during protests that authorities said resulted in vandalism.

The curfew in Louisville will last through the weekend, and the governor has called up the National Guard for "limited missions."

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Associated Press writers Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina and Bruce Schreiner, Rebecca Reynolds Yonker, Dylan Lovan and John Minchillo in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed.

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Hudsbeth Blackburn is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

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This story has been updated to correct that the officer charged by the grand jury is accused of firing into a neighboring apartment, not more than one.

## It's 'now or never' for ex-Trump aides weighing speaking out

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elizabeth Neumann wrestled with the decision for weeks. She worried about the backlash, the impact it would have on her career, potential threats to her family.

But the former Department of Homeland Security official, who had resigned in April, reached a breaking point after President Donald Trump deployed Homeland Security agents to Portland, exacerbating tensions there. She decided it was worth the risk to speak out against Trump, whom she had come to view as a threat to the country.

"Enough is enough," said Neumann, the former assistant secretary of counterterrorism and threat prevention. "People need to understand how dangerous a moment we are in."

There are plenty of others weighing the same decision.

With just weeks left before the Nov. 3 election, now is the moment of truth for current and former Trump administration officials debating whether they, too, should step forward and join the chorus of Republican voices trying to persuade on-the-fence voters to help deny Trump a second term.

"It's now or never," said Miles Taylor, former chief of staff at DHS, who has been working to recruit others to join the effort. In interviews, Taylor has accused Trump of routinely asking aides to break the law, using his former agency for explicitly political purposes, and wanting to maim and shoot migrants trying to cross the southern border.

"Those who witnessed the president's unfitness for office up close have a moral obligation to share their assessment with the electorate," said Taylor, who launched the group REPAIR — The Republican Political Alliance for Integrity and Reform — to bring together concerned former officials.

A related group, Republican Voters Against Trump, has compiled nearly 1,000 video testimonials from Republicans across the country who want Trump out. Strategic director Sarah Longwell said her goal was to provide a "permission structure" to help wavering Republicans feel comfortable opposing Trump.

The effort, she said, grew out of research on "soft" Trump voters.

"While these voters disliked Trump intensely, they didn't trust the media, they didn't trust Democrats, they didn't trust the leaks," she said. "Who's a credible messenger? It was people like them."

Other prominent "formers" have spoken out independently — or are considering it.

Former national security adviser John Bolton wrote a scathing book in which he said Trump "saw conspiracies behind rocks, and remained stunningly uninformed" on how to run the government. Former

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Defense Secretary Jim Mattis broke a self-imposed vow of silence in June with an op-ed slamming Trump's response to racial justice protests. He and former director of national intelligence Dan Coats also were quoted extensively in a new book by journalist Bob Woodward calling Trump dangerous and unfit for office.

But Mattis and Coats, like former White House chief of staff John Kelly and former national security adviser H.R. McMaster, have refrained from more explicit condemnations, often citing a "duty of silence" or a long tradition of military officials staying out of politics, according to people who've spoken with them.

Efforts to draw them out are ongoing. While former Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen appears disinclined to step forward, there are hopes that former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson might be persuaded to comment and that Coats might be urged to say more. And Kelly, a retired four-star general, is said to be on the fence and torn about the decision.

"I think that he loves his country and he wants to do what's best for the country," said Neumann, who served as Kelly's deputy chief of staff at DHS and is hopeful he'll speak out, even as others don't think it will happen.

Officials like Kelly, with long careers and hefty pensions, would seem to have less to lose by doing so than more junior staffers like Olivia Troye, a former counterterrorism adviser to Vice President Mike Pence who last week joined the campaign against Trump and said she'd be voting for Biden.

In a video and interviews, Troye has accused Trump of mishandling the coronavirus and being more concerned about his reelection prospects than saving lives. The White House punched back with an aggressive attack campaign aimed at discrediting her through a barrage of statements, interviews and denunciations from the lectern in the White House briefing room.

"These are not profiles in courage, but these are profiles in cowardice," White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said of Troye and Taylor, dismissing them as part of a "fringe club of, quote, 'Never Trumpers' who are desperate for relevancy."

Taylor said it was clear the White House was "coming after" those who speak out as a warning to others who are considering doing likewise.

"The White House knows if they show this is a very costly thing to do they will scare people from going forward," he said.

He added that while more people are still considering coming forward, the White House tactics have worked to some extent — dissuading one senior official who had been on the cusp of speaking out.

Rick Wilson, a longtime Republican strategist who co-founded the anti-Trump Lincoln Project, stressed that time is running out.

"There will be a cottage industry when Trump is out of office of people who say, 'Oh, I fought from the inside, I fought the good fight, I kept so many bad things from happening.'" he said. "It doesn't matter. There's only one moment in time where it matters. And that's now."

For Neumann, who describes herself as a conservative Christian and voted for Trump in 2016, the considerations were deeply personal, including what it might mean for her career in a city that puts a premium on loyalty.

"This is a town based on relationships," she said. "And what we have done is, you know, usually not done in this town. Usually you stab people in the back and do it quietly. You do it as an anonymous source. You don't actually put your name to it."

Neumann is still out of work and notes that many companies fear making hires that might seem political. But she still said she's been pleasantly surprised by the response overall.

"It was more positive than I expected," she said, adding, "No serious threats, haven't had to call the police or anything, so that's good."

Anthony Scaramucci, who turned against the president last year after a short stint as White House communications director, has also been in discussions with those on the fence and is using every channel he can find to spread his message, including a new anti-Trump documentary.

"We have to keep the pressure on, and so for me it's a multimedia approach. It's radio, it's podcasts, it's Twitter, it's television and it's movies," he said. "As a citizen all I've tried to do is provide a surgeon

general's warning. ... This guy is a threat to the institutions of democracy, and I worked for him and I think it's important to send a signal to other people," he said, that it's OK to speak out.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long and Nancy Benac contributed to this report.

## Trump expected to announce conservative Barrett for court

By ZEKE MILLER, LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expected to announce Saturday that he is nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court as he aims to put a historic conservative stamp on the high court just weeks before the election.

Trump said Friday he had made up his mind and it was "very exciting," without giving away the name, aiming to maintain some suspense around his personal announcement. But the White House indicated to congressional Republicans and outside allies that the pick was Barrett.

"Well I haven't said it was her, but she's outstanding," Trump said of the Indiana federal judge.

Conservative groups and congressional allies are laying the groundwork for a swift confirmation process for her, even before Trump makes the selection official in a Rose Garden ceremony Saturday evening. They, like the president, are wasting little time moving to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, organizing multimillion-dollar ad campaigns and marshalling supporters both to confirm the pick and to boost Trump to a second term.

The likely shift in the court's makeup — from Ginsburg, a liberal icon, to an outspoken conservative — would be the sharpest ideological swing since Clarence Thomas replaced Justice Thurgood Marshall nearly three decades ago.

Ever the showman, Trump remained coy about his choice Friday evening as he returned from a campaign swing. When asked whether lawmakers were being told it was Barrett, Trump responded with a nod on the tarmac at Joint Base Andrews, before replying, "Is that what they're telling you?"

"You'll find out tomorrow," he went on to say, flashing a wide smile. "Look, they're all great. It could be any of one them. It could be actually anyone on the list."

For Trump, it will provide a much-needed political assist as he tries to fire up his base. For conservatives, it will mark a long-sought payoff for their at-times uncomfortable embrace of Trump. And for Democrats, it will be another moment of reckoning, with their party locked in a bitter battle to retake the White House and the Senate.

Senate Republicans are readying for confirmation hearings in two weeks, with a vote in the full chamber now expected before Election Day. Democrats are essentially powerless to block the votes.

"I'm confident he's going to make an outstanding nomination," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told Fox News. "The American people are going to take a look at this nominee and conclude, as we are likely to conclude, that she well deserves to be confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court."

"They're hell-bent on getting this done as fast as possible," said Democratic Senate whip Dick Durbin. "They think it helps Donald Trump get reelected."

Outside conservative groups, who have been preparing for this moment for 40 years, are planning to spend more than \$25 million to support Trump and his nominee. The Judicial Crisis Network has organized a coalition that includes American First Policies, the Susan B. Anthony List, the Club for Growth and the group Catholic Vote.

"One of the things we've learned from the histories of confirmation processes, the intensity of the fight has more to do with the previous occupant of the seat than who the nominee is," said JCN's Carrie Severino. "We expect this to be a very high stakes confirmation."

Within hours of Ginsburg's death, Trump made clear his intention to nominate a woman in her stead, after previously putting two men on the court and as he struggles to mitigate an erosion in support among suburban women.

Trump's announcement Saturday will come before Ginsburg is buried beside her husband next week at

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Arlington National Cemetery. On Friday, she was the first woman to lie in state at the Capitol, and mourners flocked to the Supreme Court for two days before that to pay respects.

The White House has already concluded a round of vetting this month, as Trump released an additional 20 names he would consider for the court. He has challenged Democrat Joe Biden to list possible nominees, too.

Trump had said he was considering five women for Ginsburg's seat, but Barrett was at the White House at least twice this week, including for a Monday meeting with Trump. He is not known to have met with any of the other contenders.

The staunch conservative's 2017 appeals court confirmation on a party-line vote included allegations that Democrats were attacking her Catholic faith. Trump allies see that as a political windfall for them should Democrats attempt to do so once again. Catholic voters in Pennsylvania, in particular, are viewed as a pivotal demographic in the swing state that Democratic nominee Joe Biden, also Catholic, is trying to recapture.

Vice President Mike Pence defended Barrett when asked whether her affiliation with People of Praise, a charismatic Christian community, would complicate her ability to serve on the high court.

"I must tell you the intolerance expressed during her last confirmation about her Catholic faith I really think was a disservice to the process and a disappointment to millions of Americans," he told ABC News.

Though the court can break down along ideological lines in high-profile cases, Chief Justice John Roberts and his colleagues resist the idea they are politicians in robes and emphasize that they agree more than they disagree. Still, Barrett's appointment would make the court more conservative. It would be transformed from a court divided 5-4 between conservatives and liberals to one in which six members are conservatives appointed by Republican presidents. Barrett has been hailed as a justice in the mold of Antonin Scalia, for whom she clerked.

Trump played up the power to make judicial nominations with conservative voters in 2016, when Republican senators kept open the seat vacated by the death of Scalia rather than let President Barack Obama fill the opening. Trump's decision to release lists of accomplished conservative jurists for potential elevation was rewarded by increased enthusiasm among white evangelical voters, many of whom had been resistant to supporting the candidacy of the one-time New York Democrat.

Trump's campaign is preparing to use the latest confirmation fight for maximum political effect.

"This is big jet fuel on our base," said Bill Schuette, a former Michigan attorney general and now a Trump campaign surrogate. "This is going to fire up our base in order to support the responsibility of the Senate and the president to make the nomination, the Senate to confirm."

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AP writers David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Portland, Oregon, braces itself for large right-wing rally

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — At least several thousand people are expected in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday for a right-wing rally in support of President Donald Trump and his "law and order" reelection campaign as tensions boil over nationwide following the decision not to charge officers in Louisville, Kentucky, for killing Breonna Taylor.

The Proud Boys, a group that has been designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, described it as a free speech event to support Trump and the police, restore law and order and condemn anti-fascists, "domestic terrorism" and "violent gangs of rioting felons" in the streets. Local and state elected officials forcefully condemned the event and rushed to shore up law enforcement ranks as left-wing groups organized several rallies to oppose the Proud Boys' message.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Friday said she was sending state troopers to help the Portland police and was creating a unified command structure among city, regional and state law enforcement — a tactic that essentially circumvents a city ban on the use of tear gas as a crowd-control measure. The state police

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said a "massive influx" of troopers would be in Portland by Saturday morning.

"This is a critical moment. We have seen what happens when armed vigilantes take matters into their own hands. We've seen it in Charlottesville, we've seen it in Kenosha and, unfortunately, we have seen it in Portland," she said, referencing deaths in Virginia, Wisconsin and Oregon during clashes between those on the right and left of the political spectrum.

"The Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer groups have come time and time again looking for a fight, and the results are always tragic. Let me be perfectly clear, we will not tolerate any type of violence this weekend," said Brown, a Democrat. "Left, right or center, violence is never a path towards meaningful change."

The Proud Boys are self-described "Western chauvinists" and they have held multiple events in Portland since Trump's election alongside other right-wing groups such as Patriot Prayer that often end in violent clashes with left-wing counter-demonstrators.

Last month, a Trump supporter and Patriot Prayer follower was shot and killed after some vehicles in a pro-Trump car caravan diverted into downtown Portland and crossed paths with left-wing activists. Right- and left-wing demonstrators fought in the streets, and some members of the caravan fired paintballs and bear spray at counter demonstrators. The suspect in the shooting, a self-described anti-fascist, was killed the following week by law enforcement as they tried to arrest him in Washington state.

Similar clashes in 2017, 2018 and 2019, have resulted in violence and unrest and a massive deployment of law enforcement.

The Proud Boys mentioned the death of Trump supporter Aaron "Jay" Danielson in their permit application, as well as Kyle Rittenhouse, the 17-year-old charged in the shooting deaths of two Black Lives Matter protesters in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Rittenhouse's attorneys have said he was acting in self-defense. The Proud Boys raised the specter of a vigilante response to the actions of a "mob" in a permit application filed with the city this week.

"The lawlessness has culminated with the assassination of our friend and Trump supporter Jay Danielson in Portland," the Proud Boys wrote in their application.

"Portland leadership is unwilling to stop the violence. They have been blinded by their hatred of our President and will not allow outside help stopping the violence."

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said the city and its police force did not need or want help from "paramilitaries or vigilante groups"

"For the past three years, our community has repeatedly had to deal with rallies of this kind, in which participants travel to our city threatening 'takeovers,' touting their 'combat unit' capacity, and openly bragging about the waste of City resources that they can provoke," he said.

"We are unified and strong, and we will use every available power and resource of our city government to protect free speech and our community from violence."

Police have canceled all scheduled days off for officers Saturday and will primarily be focused on keeping dueling groups of protesters separated.

Deputy Chief Chris Davis acknowledged that Oregon is an open-carry state for firearms. But he reminded those attending the rally and counter-demonstrations that under Portland law, it's illegal to carry a loaded firearm in public without an Oregon concealed handgun permit. Officers will patrol for weapons and check for permits as needed, he said.

"We ask that you come peacefully and engage in your free speech peacefully," Police Chief Chuck Lovell said. "It's OK for us to disagree about things. But at the end of the day, doing so peacefully, letting people exercise their rights safely is very important. So that's my ask the folks who are attending."

The rally comes as Portland approaches its fifth month of almost nightly protests against racial injustice and police brutality.

Demonstrators want the city to take millions from the police budget and reallocate it to support the Black community. Some also are angry with the mayor — who is also the police commissioner — for allowing police to use tear gas until recently and for what they call overly aggressive police tactics. Wheeler has also refused to cede control of the police bureau to a Black city councilwoman with a decades-long resume of activism around police reform.

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Groups of between 100 and 300 demonstrators frequently set small fires, smash windows and hurl fireworks and rocks at police officers in the early morning hours and have targeted police precincts and other city and county government buildings. Some also point lasers into officers' eyes.

This week, protesters hurled three firebombs at police officers as tensions escalated in the wake of a Kentucky grand jury's decision not to charge officers with killing Taylor, a Black woman who was fatally shot in her home by officers conducting a drug investigation.

The continuous unrest has drawn the attention of Trump, who has repeatedly attacked Wheeler for not stopping the violence.

For a two-week period in July, thousands of protesters squared off with federal agents sent by Trump from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to protect a federal courthouse in downtown Portland that was a focus of the demonstrations.

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Associated Press reporter Sara Cline in Salem, Oregon, contributed to this report.

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Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

## Celtics control second half, top Heat to win Game 5 in East

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Their season saved for at least two more days, Boston coach Brad Stevens offered the most succinct assessment of his Celtics.

"We're prideful," Stevens said.

Celtic Pride. It was on display Friday night — when Jayson Tatum and his teammates announced very loudly that they're not ready to see the world that exists outside the NBA's restart bubble quite yet.

Tatum had 31 points and 10 rebounds, Jaylen Brown added 28 points and the Celtics shook off a slow first half to top the Miami Heat 121-108 in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals and stave off elimination.

"Our deal was to come out and play, come out and compete, give it our best shot and I thought we played pretty well in the second half," Stevens said. "But we're going to have to do it again and again because of the position we're in."

The Heat lead the series 3-2, with Game 6 on Sunday.

Daniel Theis had 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Celtics, who trailed by 12 early but outscored Miami 41-25 in the third quarter and never looked back. Kemba Walker scored 15 points, Marcus Smart had a 12-point, eight-rebound, eight-assist night and Gordon Hayward scored 10 for the Celtics.

Goran Dragic scored 23 points before fouling out with 4:27 left for Miami, which got 20 from Duncan Robinson.

"It's certainly not going to be easy," Robinson said. "We've got to band together to do difficult things."

Jimmy Butler scored 17, Tyler Herro and Jae Crowder each had 14 and Bam Adebayo 13 for the Heat — which could get nothing to fall from 3-point range.

Miami was 7 for 36 from beyond the arc, now shooting 24.8% on 3's in its last 13 quarters — after shooting 38.3% on those in the playoffs before that drought.

"Boston played great in that second half," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They deserved and earned what they got. We understand how tough it is to win in the playoffs. We did not compete hard enough defensively and we paid the price for that. But you do have to credit Boston. They played with great force."

Brown made back-to-back 3's in the fourth quarter to turn an eight-point lead into a 103-89 margin with 8:05 left, and things weren't in doubt again. He turned a blew a kiss to the Heat bench after the second of those 3's, reminiscent of something Herro did during his 37-point barrage in Game 4.

Game on. Series on.

"It's not going to be perfect," Tatum said. "You just want to give yourself a chance."

The opening minutes didn't go according to plan for Boston, which missed 11 of its first 12 shots, committed four turnovers in that dismal stretch to make matters even worse, and got into a 17-5 hole very

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early.

But they weathered all that and, even after shooting only 40% in the first half, Boston trailed 58-51 at the break — never leading, but never letting Miami get too far removed from view.

The Heat scored the first basket of the third quarter. The next few minutes were all Celtics.

They went on a 13-0 run over a stretch of only 3:06 to turn a nine-point deficit into a 64-60 lead, and the game changed just that fast. A separate 7-0 burst followed, Walker connected on a 3-pointer with 4:26 left for a 77-67 edge — Boston's first double-digit cushion of the night.

"In all sincerity, first time I've seen Celtics basketball in the last few games," Stevens told his team during a time-out.

And it was good enough to ensure that Friday wouldn't be the last time he'd see Celtics basketball this season.

TIP-INS

Heat: Adding to the woes of the third quarter was this — Miami was outrebounded 16-5 in those 12 minutes. ... With their fourth 3-pointer Friday, by Robinson with 47 seconds left in the first half, the Heat passed the 2017-18 Golden State Warriors (1,161) for 14th place on the single-season 3's list. Next up: The 2016-17 Warriors, who had 1,198.

Celtics: Not that any of this should count on a neutral floor, but Boston ended what officially goes down as a five-game "home" losing streak. ... The Celtics are 2-0 when facing elimination games this season. The last time Boston won multiple elimination games in the same season was 2008, when it prevailed in first- and second-round Game 7's and going on to win the NBA title.

GOOD THIRD

This was the 18th playoff game in Celtics history where they scored at least 41 points in a quarter — and probably not surprisingly, they're 18-0 in those games. It has happened in 20 different quarters; they did it in three separate quarters in a 157-128 win over the Knicks on April 28, 1990.

BAD THIRD

The only other time Miami allowed 41 points in a postseason quarter was June 10, 2014, when the Heat were outscored 41-25 in the first quarter of Game 3 of that season's NBA Finals against San Antonio. Coincidentally, Friday's third-quarter debacle had the same score: 41-25.

## He's not running, but Morales looms large in Bolivia vote

By CARLOS VALDEZ and CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Even in exile, Evo Morales looms over Bolivia's election next month.

National rifts that contributed to chaos in Bolivia in 2019 threaten to destabilize the Oct. 18 vote and its aftermath nearly one year after Morales, Bolivia's first Indigenous president from the Aymara group, was forced to resign following disputed vote results, protests, violence and a military call for him to go.

The country is divided mainly along ethnic, regional and socioeconomic lines, and between those who applaud Morales as a voice for the historically poor and disenfranchised and those who say he became increasingly corrupt and authoritarian during 14 years in power. The interim government that replaced him has also been accused of undermining Bolivia's democratic institutions, including the judiciary.

The feud has reverberated outside the landlocked country of 12 million people, echoing ideological divisions from an era when the political left and right in Latin America were more clearly defined.

In a speech to the virtual U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, interim President Jeanine Áñez accused neighboring Argentina, where Morales is in self-exile, of "systematic and abusive harassment" of Bolivia's institutions and supporting a "violent conspiracy" led by the former president.

Argentina's Foreign Ministry said it was regrettable that Áñez, who has withdrawn from the Bolivian election race, would try to involve Argentina in her country's internal politics and urged her to focus energy on ensuring "free and transparent" elections.

In a letter Tuesday to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Sen. Bernie Sanders and 27 other members of the U.S. Congress expressed concern that the Organization of American States, based in Washington,

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had been invited to monitor the Bolivian election. The letter alleged a "lack of accountability and transparency" in an OAS audit that found evidence of fraud and other irregularities in 2019 election results indicating Morales had won.

Morales, a 60-year-old former coca farmer and union leader, faces terrorism and other charges in Bolivia and is not an election candidate this year. Some human rights advocates believe the charges amount to political persecution of Morales, who is basically in campaign mode, talking up his past administration's achievements.

The party that he founded, Movement for Socialism, also known by its Spanish acronym MAS, controls the congress and is a powerful election contender. Its presidential candidate, Luis Arce, is a former economy minister who oversaw a nationalization program when Morales was president.

The other main candidates draw much of their support from Bolivia's urban, more affluent population and should benefit from Añez's withdrawal from the race. Carlos Mesa is a former president who ran in last year's election against Morales, and Luis Fernando Camacho led protests against Morales and is strong in Santa Cruz, an eastern region that is Bolivia's economic engine and a counterweight to the political dominance of La Paz, in the west.

Several polls indicate the Movement for Socialism would lead in the round of voting next month, but struggle for the support needed to avoid a runoff pitting the top two candidates against each other. If there should be a runoff, MAS would come under more pressure if its opponents united.

There is a high number of undecided voters, said María Teresa Zegada, a sociology professor at the Universidad Mayor de San Simón, a Bolivian university.

Morales' detractors fear a MAS election victory could open the way to the former president's return to Bolivia and his political rehabilitation.

Whatever happens, Bolivians could face more weak governance, political volatility and economic hardship at a time when the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown measures are undoing years of progress toward alleviating poverty.

In a joint statement last weekend, Bolivian church leaders, the European Union and the United Nations welcomed "the most active phase of the electoral process" in Bolivia and appealed for people to refrain from violence or intimidation.

Many Bolivians are apprehensive.

"We are not excited about the elections. We are interested in generating economic reactivation policies," said Héctor Delgado, a carpenter and union leader in El Alto, a city next to La Paz that suffers high unemployment and a lack of basic services.

This week, Moody's Investors Service issued a ratings downgrade for Bolivia, noting the pandemic and weaker foreign exchange earnings because of lower demand for Bolivian oil and gas. Bolivia has a favorable debt structure and the outlook is stable, even as the country endures its first recession since the 1980s, the credit ratings agency said.

"Given Bolivia's weak institutional and governance framework, a highly polarized society, and fragile social fabric, Moody's expects a prolonged period of political instability and policy uncertainty, even after the upcoming October election is held," the agency said.

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Associated Press writer Carlos Valdez reported this story in La Paz, Bolivia, and AP writer Christopher Torchia reported from Mexico City.

## Russia, China block release of UN report criticizing Russia

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia and China blocked the official release of a report by U.N. experts on Libya that accused its warring parties and their international backers -- including Russia -- of violating a U.N. arms embargo on the conflict-racked country, U.N. diplomats said Friday.

Germany's deputy U.N. ambassador, Günter Sautter, said he brought the issue to the Security Council after the two countries blocked the report's release by the committee monitoring sanctions on Libya,

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which Germany heads.

"Many delegations have asked for the publication of the panel of experts' interim report," he said. "This would create much needed transparency. It would contribute to naming and shaming those who continue to blatantly violate the arms embargo in spite of agreements that have been made."

But diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because Friday's council consultations were closed, said Russia and close ally China again blocked the report's publication.

Sautter said before the meeting, when asked what Germany could do if Russia and China blocked the report's release again: "Let me assure you I will continue to use every tool at hand in order to make sure that we have the necessary transparency."

The report, seen by The Associated Press earlier this month, said the arms embargo was being violated by Libya's U.N.-supported government in the west, which is backed by Turkey and Qatar, and by rival east-based forces under commander Khalifa Hifter, backed by the United Arab Emirates, Russia and Jordan. The panel said the embargo remains "totally ineffective."

The experts said 11 companies also violated the arms embargo, including the Wagner Group, a private Russian security company that the panel said in May provided between 800 and 1,200 mercenaries to Hifter.

In addition, the experts said the warring parties and their international backers, along with Egypt and Syria, failed to inspect aircraft or vessels if they have reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains military weapons and ammunition, as required by a 2015 Security Council resolution.

Anwar Gargash, the United Arab Emirates' minister of state for foreign affairs, told a group of reporters at a virtual briefing Friday that he wouldn't comment on a report he hadn't seen. But he said that "we categorically deny" many of the "wild allegations that we've been hearing in the press."

In the years after the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi, Libya has sunk further into turmoil and is now divided between two rival administrations based in the country's east and west, with an array of fighters and militias backed by various foreign powers allied with each side.

Tensions in oil-rich Libya escalated further when east-based forces Hifter launched an offensive in April 2019 trying to capture the capital, Tripoli. But Hifter's campaign collapsed in June when militias backing the U.N.-supported government in Tripoli, with Turkish support, gained the upper hand, driving his forces from the outskirts of the capital and other western towns.

The Security Council adopted a resolution on Sept. 15 demanding that all countries enforce the widely violated U.N. arms embargo on Libya and withdraw all mercenaries from the North African nation. It also extended the U.N. political mission in Libya and called for political talks and a cease-fire in the war, which the U.N. has been pursuing.

One glaring gap for the U.N. has been the failure to replace its former top envoy, Ghassan Salame, who resigned in March, mainly as the result of a U.S. demand to split his job in two. The resolution adopted last week did split it, putting a special envoy in charge of the U.N. mission to focus on mediating with Libyan and international parties to end the conflict and providing for a coordinator to be in charge of day-to-day operations.

But finding a replacement acceptable to all Security Council diplomats has proven exceedingly difficult.

One possibility is the U.N.'s current top Mideast envoy, Nikolay Mladenov, a former Bulgarian foreign minister, U.N. diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because discussions have been private. But the diplomats said the three African members of the council — South Africa, Niger and Tunisia — oppose him because they want an African in the job.

Germany's Sautter said the Security Council has agreed that there will be a special envoy "and we need an agreement urgently on who that is going to be."

## As campaign heats up, Trump woos Latino, Black voters

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — With fewer than 40 days left before the election, President Donald Trump unveiled

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his second policy plan in as many days as he tried to chip away at his Democratic rival's support among Black and Hispanic voters and in key battleground states.

At a "Black Voices for Trump" event in Atlanta, Georgia, Trump announced what his campaign dubbed a "Platinum Plan" laying out his "promise to Black America" if he wins a second term, including a push for economic development and loan money and a pledge to designate Juneteenth as a federal holiday. Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, is so named because June 19, 1865, is when slaves were freed in Galveston, Texas.

The announcement came during a two-day campaign swing that ticked off a long list of boxes, both geographically and with key constituencies.

He unveiled what aides termed a "vision" for health care in North Carolina, where polls show him and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden effectively tied. He held a rally in Jacksonville, Florida, one of the most hotly contested battleground states. He courted Hispanic voters near Miami and Black voters in Atlanta. And he held another rally Friday night in Newport News, Virginia. Biden is well ahead of Trump in that state, but the location is close to key North Carolina counties that are difficult for the president to visit, according to the campaign, because not all airports can accommodate Air Force One and its landing requirements.

Trump has tried to contrast his jam-packed schedule with Biden, who has made just 12 visits outside of Delaware since his Aug. 11 selection of California Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate, worrying some Democrats with his low-key approach.

Trump complained in Atlanta that Biden "never goes out!" and said losing the Nov. 3 election would sting even worse if he lost to a man who never campaigns.

Trump also made rare references to the recent killings of Black men and women at the hands of police, which have sparked massive protests across the nation. Trump said the nation grieves for the "senseless" deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery, while continuing to lash out at demonstrators.

"Our hearts break for their families and for all families who have lost a loved one. ... But we can never allow mob rule," he said, denouncing the Black Lives Matter movement. "This is an unusual name for an organization whose ideology and tactics are right now destroying many Black lives," Trump charged.

The plan unveiled Friday included a long list of promises, with few details on how they would be paid for or fulfilled.

"If you vote Republican over the next four years, we will create 3 million new jobs for the Black community, open 500,000 new black-owned businesses, increase access to capital in Black communities by \$500 billion," he said. The plan also calls for expanding opportunity zones, designating the Ku Klux Klan and antifa as terrorist organizations and creating a national clemency project to "right wrongful prosecutions and to pardon individuals who have reformed."

Trump claimed that Democrats like Biden have taken Black voters "for granted."

"He doesn't know Black Americans like I do," added Trump, who has a history of making racist remarks. Biden responded in a statement before Trump spoke.

"As president, I will work to advance racial equity across the American economy and build back better," he said. "I promise to fight for Black working families and direct real investments to advance racial equity as part of our nation's economic recovery."

Biden also pointed to the nearly 6,800 Georgians who have died of the coronavirus, which has disproportionately impacted Black and Hispanic communities, as well as Trump's efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act.

On Thursday, Trump unveiled a health care "vision" more than three-and-a-half years into his presidency and signed an executive order that included a pledge to protect people with preexisting medical conditions from insurance discrimination — even though that right is already guaranteed in the Obama-era health law his administration is asking the Supreme Court to overturn.

In Virginia on Friday, he said he would extend a moratorium on offshore drilling to the Virginia and North Carolina coasts. But then he told the rally crowd, "If you want to have oil rigs out there, just let me know, we'll take it off."

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Trump has been campaigning with little regard for the virus, which has now killed more than 200,000 people in the United States. At the Atlanta event, there was no effort at social distancing, even though nearly half of the ballroom where the event was held was empty. His rally in Newport News Friday night drew thousands of supporters despite rainy weather most of the day; most did not wear masks.

On Friday morning, at his golf club in Doral, Florida, Trump tried to blunt Biden's support among Hispanic voters at a "Latinos for Trump" roundtable. Trump's campaign is increasingly confident that his support is growing with the demographic, including in Florida, one of the most competitive 2020 battlegrounds, where elections are often won by a single percentage point.

An NBC-Marist poll of Florida voters released earlier this month found Latinos in the state about evenly divided between Biden and Trump — a major change from the same poll in 2016, when Democrat Hillary Clinton led Trump by a 59% to 36% margin. But a Monmouth University poll also conducted this month found Biden well ahead of Trump among Latino voters in the state, 58% to 32%.

Because of mounting concerns that Biden's standing is slipping, the campaign has embarked on an urgent effort to try to shore up support among older voters, suburbanites and African Americans to try to make up for losses elsewhere.

Hispanic voters in Florida tend to be somewhat more Republican-leaning than Hispanic voters nationwide because of the state's Cuban American population, which Trump acknowledged several times in his remarks.

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Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Deb Riechmann contributed to this report.

## Trump expected to announce conservative Barrett for court

By ZEKE MILLER, LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expected to announce Saturday that he is nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court as he aims to put a historic conservative stamp on the high court just weeks before the election.

Trump said Friday he had made up his mind and it was "very exciting," without giving away the name, aiming to maintain some suspense around his personal announcement. But the White House indicated to congressional Republicans and outside allies that the pick was Barrett.

"Well I haven't said it was her, but she's outstanding," Trump said of the Indiana federal judge.

Conservative groups and congressional allies are laying the groundwork for a swift confirmation process for her, even before Trump makes the selection official in a Rose Garden ceremony Saturday evening. They, like the president, are wasting little time moving to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, organizing multimillion-dollar ad campaigns and marshalling supporters both to confirm the pick and to boost Trump to a second term.

The likely shift in the court's makeup — from Ginsburg, a liberal icon, to an outspoken conservative — would be the sharpest ideological swing since Clarence Thomas replaced Justice Thurgood Marshall nearly three decades ago.

Ever the showman, Trump remained coy about his choice Friday evening as he returned from a campaign swing. When asked whether lawmakers were being told it was Barrett, Trump responded with a nod on the tarmac at Joint Base Andrews, before replying, "Is that what they're telling you?"

"You'll find out tomorrow," he went on to say, flashing a wide smile. "Look, they're all great. It could be any of one them. It could be actually anyone on the list."

For Trump, it will provide a much-needed political assist as he tries to fire up his base. For conservatives, it will mark a long-sought payoff for their at-times uncomfortable embrace of Trump. And for Democrats, it will be another moment of reckoning, with their party locked in a bitter battle to retake the White House and the Senate.

Senate Republicans are readying for confirmation hearings in two weeks, with a vote in the full chamber now expected before Election Day. Democrats are essentially powerless to block the votes.

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"I'm confident he's going to make an outstanding nomination," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told Fox News. "The American people are going to take a look at this nominee and conclude, as we are likely to conclude, that she well deserves to be confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court."

"They're hell-bent on getting this done as fast as possible," said Democratic Senate whip Dick Durbin. "They think it helps Donald Trump get reelected."

Outside conservative groups, who have been preparing for this moment for 40 years, are planning to spend more than \$25 million to support Trump and his nominee. The Judicial Crisis Network has organized a coalition that includes American First Policies, the Susan B. Anthony List, the Club for Growth and the group Catholic Vote.

"One of the things we've learned from the histories of confirmation processes, the intensity of the fight has more to do with the previous occupant of the seat than who the nominee is," said JCN's Carrie Severino. "We expect this to be a very high stakes confirmation."

Within hours of Ginsburg's death, Trump made clear his intention to nominate a woman in her stead, after previously putting two men on the court and as he struggles to mitigate an erosion in support among suburban women.

Trump's announcement Saturday will come before Ginsburg is buried beside her husband next week at Arlington National Cemetery. On Friday, she was the first woman to lie in state at the Capitol, and mourners flocked to the Supreme Court for two days before that to pay respects.

The White House has already concluded a round of vetting this month, as Trump released an additional 20 names he would consider for the court. He has challenged Democrat Joe Biden to list possible nominees, too.

Trump had said he was considering five women for Ginsburg's seat, but Barrett was at the White House at least twice this week, including for a Monday meeting with Trump. He is not known to have met with any of the other contenders.

The staunch conservative's 2017 appeals court confirmation on a party-line vote included allegations that Democrats were attacking her Catholic faith. Trump allies see that as a political windfall for them should Democrats attempt to do so once again. Catholic voters in Pennsylvania, in particular, are viewed as a pivotal demographic in the swing state that Democratic nominee Joe Biden, also Catholic, is trying to recapture.

Vice President Mike Pence defended Barrett when asked whether her affiliation with People of Praise, a charismatic Christian community, would complicate her ability to serve on the high court.

"I must tell you the intolerance expressed during her last confirmation about her Catholic faith I really think was a disservice to the process and a disappointment to millions of Americans," he told ABC News.

Though the court can break down along ideological lines in high-profile cases, Chief Justice John Roberts and his colleagues resist the idea they are politicians in robes and emphasize that they agree more than they disagree. Still, Barrett's appointment would make the court more conservative. It would be transformed from a court divided 5-4 between conservatives and liberals to one in which six members are conservatives appointed by Republican presidents. Barrett has been hailed as a justice in the mold of Antonin Scalia, for whom she clerked.

Trump played up the power to make judicial nominations with conservative voters in 2016, when Republican senators kept open the seat vacated by the death of Scalia rather than let President Barack Obama fill the opening. Trump's decision to release lists of accomplished conservative jurists for potential elevation was rewarded by increased enthusiasm among white evangelical voters, many of whom had been resistant to supporting the candidacy of the one-time New York Democrat.

Trump's campaign is preparing to use the latest confirmation fight for maximum political effect.

"This is big jet fuel on our base," said Bill Schuette, a former Michigan attorney general and now a Trump campaign surrogate. "This is going to fire up our base in order to support the responsibility of the Senate and the president to make the nomination, the Senate to confirm."

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AP writers David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Judge removes Trump public lands boss for serving unlawfully

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A federal judge ruled Friday that President Donald Trump's leading steward of public lands has been serving unlawfully, blocking him from continuing in the position in the latest push-back against the administration's practice of filling key positions without U.S. Senate approval.

U.S. Interior Department Bureau of Land Management acting director William Perry Pendley served unlawfully for 424 days without being confirmed to the post by the Senate as required under the Constitution, U.S. District Judge Brian Morris determined.

The ruling came after Montana's Democratic governor in July sued to remove Pendley, saying the former oil industry attorney was illegally overseeing an agency that manages almost a quarter-billion acres of land, primarily in the U.S. West.

"Today's ruling is a win for the Constitution, the rule of law, and our public lands," Gov. Steve Bullock said Friday. Environmental groups and Democratic lawmakers from Western states also cheered the judge's move after urging for months that Pendley be removed.

The ruling will be immediately appealed, according to Interior Department spokesman Conner Swanson. He called it "an outrageous decision that is well outside the bounds of the law," and he said the Obama administration had similarly filled key posts at the agency with temporary authorizations.

The agency will abide by the judge's order while the appeal is pending, officials said. It will also have to confront questions over the legitimacy of all decisions Pendley had made, including his approval of land use plans in Montana that Morris said Pendley was not authorized to make.

The land bureau regulates activities ranging from mining and oil extraction to livestock grazing and recreation. Under Trump, it has been at the forefront in the administration's drive to loosen environmental restrictions for oil and gas drilling and other development on public lands.

Pendley has been one of several senior officials in the Trump administration running federal agencies and departments despite not having gone before the Senate for the confirmation hearings that are required for top posts.

Last month, the Government Accountability Office, a bipartisan congressional watchdog, said acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and his acting deputy, Ken Cuccinelli, were improperly serving and ineligible to run the agency under the Vacancies Reform Act. The two have been at the forefront of administration initiatives on immigration and law enforcement.

Trump agencies have defended the skipped deadlines for Senate hearings for administration nominees, saying that the senior officials involved were carrying out the duties of their acting position but were not actually filling that position, and thus did not require a hearing and votes before the Senate.

Pendley had been formally nominated by Trump to direct the land bureau in July, after being given temporary authorizations to the acting position several times by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.

But the nomination was withdrawn earlier this month after the confirmation process threatened to become contentious, potentially disrupting key U.S. senate races in Montana, where Bullock is seeking to unseat incumbent Republican Steve Daines, and Colorado, where Republican Sen. Cory Gardner is being challenged by former Gov. John Hickenlooper.

Pendley continued to hang on to the post despite the withdrawal, under an arrangement that Pendley himself set up months ago. In a May 22 order, Pendley made his own position, deputy director, the bureau's top post while the director's office is vacant.

After establishing that succession order, Pendley's actions included approval of two sweeping land resource management plans in Montana that would open 95% of federal land in the state to oil and gas development, attorneys for Bullock contended in court filings.

Administration officials had insisted in public statements and court filings that Pendley was not in fact the acting director, but rather "exercising the authority of the director."

Morris rejected the administration's argument, saying they were "evasive and undermine the constitu-

tional system of checks and balances.”

“Under the federal defendant’s theory, a president could ignore their constitutional appointment responsibility indefinitely and instead delegate authority directly or through cabinet secretaries to unconfirmed appointed officials. Such an arrangement could last for an entire presidential administration. In fact, the case before the Court presents that scenario,” he wrote.

The bureau’s holdings are sweeping, with nearly 1 out of every 10 acres nationally under its dominion, mostly across the U.S. West.

Pendley was a longtime industry attorney and property rights advocate from Wyoming who had called for the government to sell its public lands before joining the Trump administration.

After joining the government, he declared that his past support for selling public lands was irrelevant because his boss, Bernhardt, opposes the wholesale sale of public lands.

Trump’s actions to bypass the confirmation process has raised serious questions about the legitimacy of people in acting roles.

The GOP-led Senate typically is falling short of the votes needed from its ranks to confirm some of Trump’s choices. But as Trump bypassed the chamber, chipping away at its advise-and-consent role, the Republican leadership has also allowed the acting positions to stand.

Shortly after the GAO questioned the DHS officials, Trump formally nominated Wolf to the secretary post. A hearing was held last week in the Senate on his nomination, but it’s unlikely Wolf will be confirmed before the election.

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Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer contributed from Oklahoma City and Lisa Mascaro from Washington.

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Follow Matthew Brown on Twitter: @matthewbrownap

## California braces for power shutoffs and warm, windy weekend

By DAISY NGUYEN Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Firefighters and officials at California’s largest utility company braced for hot, dry and windy weather in northern and central areas of the state this weekend that may fan the flames of several major wildfires or ignite new ones.

Pacific Gas & Electric warned Friday it may cut power from Sunday morning to Monday, potentially affecting 97,000 customers in 16 counties, during which forecasters said a ridge of high pressure will raise temperatures and generate gusts flowing from the interior to the coast.

PG&E initially warned that approximately 21,000 customers in three counties would lose power beginning Saturday evening but expanded the potential shutoff when the forecast changed.

The utility is tracking the weather to determine if it would be necessary to shut off power to areas where gusts could damage the company’s equipment or hurl debris into lines that can ignite flammable vegetation.

When heavy winds were predicted earlier this month, PG&E cut power to about 167,000 homes and businesses in central and Northern California in a more targeted approach after being criticized last year for acting too broadly when it blacked out 2 million customers to prevent fires.

PG&E equipment has sparked past large wildfires, including the 2018 fire that destroyed much of the Sierra foothills town of Paradise and killed 85 people.

Firefighters battling the state’s largest wildfire braced for the change in weather by constructing fuel breaks on Friday to keep the flames from reaching a marijuana-growing enclave where authorities said many of the locals have refused to evacuate and abandon their maturing crops.

The wildfire called the August Complex is nearing the small communities of Post Mountain and Trinity Pines, about 200 miles (322 kilometers) northwest of Sacramento, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Law enforcement officers went door to door warning of the encroaching fire danger but could not force residents to evacuate, Trinity County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Nate Trujillo said.

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"It's mainly growers," Trujillo said. "And a lot of them, they don't want to leave because that is their livelihood."

As many as 1,000 people remained in Post Mountain and Trinity Pines, authorities and local residents estimated Thursday.

Numerous studies in recent years have linked bigger U.S. wildfires to global warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas, especially because climate change has made California much drier. A drier California means plants are more flammable.

The U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Region announced Friday that it is extending the closure of all nine national forests in California due to concerns including fire conditions and critical limitations on firefighting resources.

The threatened marijuana growing area is in the Emerald Triangle, a three-county corner of Northern California that by some estimates is the nation's largest cannabis-producing region.

People familiar with Trinity Pines said the community has up to 40 legal farms, with more than 10 times that number in hidden, illegal growing areas.

Growers are wary of leaving the plants vulnerable to flames or thieves. Each farm has crops worth half a million dollars or more and many are within days or weeks of harvest.

One estimate put the value of the area's legal marijuana crop at about \$20 million.

"There (are) millions of dollars, millions and millions of dollars of marijuana out there," Trujillo said. "Some of those plants are 16 feet (5 meters) tall, and they are all in the budding stages of growth right now."

Gunfire in the region is common. A recent night brought what locals dubbed the "roll call" of cannabis cultivators shooting rounds from pistols and automatic weapons as warnings to outsiders, said Post Mountain volunteer Fire Chief Astrid Dobo, who also manages legal cannabis farms.

Hundreds of migrant workers typically pour into the area this time of year to help trim and harvest the plants, but it's uncertain whether that population dwindled due to the coronavirus pandemic, said Julia Rubinic, a member of the Trinity County Agriculture Alliance, which represents licensed cannabis growers.

Mike McMillan, spokesman for the federal incident command team managing the northern section of the August Complex, said fire officials plan to deliver a clear message that "we are not going to die to save people. That is not our job."

"We are going to knock door to door and tell them once again," McMillan said. "However, if they choose to stay and if the fire situation becomes, as we say, very dynamic and very dangerous ... we are not going to risk our lives."

A firefighter was killed and another was injured on Aug. 31 while working on the fire. Diana Jones, a volunteer firefighter from Texas, was among 26 people who have died since more than two dozen major wildfires broke out across the state last month.

A memorial service was held Friday for a veteran firefighter, Charles Morton, 39, a squad boss with the Big Bear Interagency Hotshot Crew who died Sept. 17 while battling the El Dorado Fire in the San Bernardino National Forest east of Los Angeles.

"I know that Charlie was a very skilled, in fact extraordinary, firefighter and a fire leader," U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen told the gathering at The Rock Church in San Bernardino.

"He committed himself, often for weeks and months on end, to protecting lives, communities and natural resources all around this country in service to fellow Americans."

The Butte County Sheriff's Office on Friday released the identity of another of the 15 people killed in a rampaging forest fire earlier this month. The remains of Linda Longenbach, 71, of Berry Creek, were found on Sept. 10 in a roadway about 10 feet from an ATV, close to the body of a man previously identified as Paul Winer, 68.

A relative told investigators the victims were aware of the fire and chose not to evacuate.

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Associated Press writer John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Virus cases rise in US heartland, home to anti-mask feelings

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH, NICKY FORSTER and JOCELYN NOVECK Associated Press

MISSION, Kan. (AP) — It began with devastation in the New York City area, followed by a summertime crisis in the Sun Belt. Now the coronavirus outbreak is heating up fast in smaller cities in the heartland, often in conservative corners of America where anti-mask sentiment runs high.

Elsewhere around the country, Florida's Republican governor lifted all restrictions on restaurants and other businesses Friday and all but set aside local mask ordinances in the political battleground state, in a move attacked by Democrats as hasty.

Meanwhile, confirmed cases of the virus in the U.S. hit another milestone — 7 million — according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the real number of infections is believed to be much higher.

The spike across the Midwest as well as parts of the West has set off alarms at hospitals, schools and colleges.

Wisconsin is averaging more than 2,000 new cases a day over the last week, compared with 675 three weeks earlier. Hospitalizations in the state are at their highest level since the outbreak took hold in the U.S. in March.

Utah has seen its average daily case count more than double from three weeks earlier. Oklahoma and Missouri are regularly recording 1,000 new cases a day, and Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a staunch opponent of mask rules, tested positive this week. Kansas and Iowa are also witnessing a spike in cases. And South Dakota and Idaho are seeing sky-high rates of tests coming back positive.

"What we're seeing is the newer hot spots rise over the course of the last several weeks, predominantly in the Upper Midwest," said Thomas Tsai, a professor at Harvard's Chan School of Public Health.

The U.S. is averaging more than 40,000 new confirmed cases a day. While that number is dramatically lower than the peak of nearly 70,000 over the summer, the numbers are worrisome nonetheless. The nation's death toll eclipsed 200,000 this week, the highest in the world.

In the Midwest, the virus is now landing squarely in places where there is strong resistance to masks and governors have been reluctant to require face coverings.

In Springfield, Missouri, hospitals are starting to fill up with COVID-19 patients and the city has seen a big spike in deaths over the past month.

Amelia Montgomery, a nurse working in the COVID unit at Cox South Hospital in Springfield, describes a maddening routine where family members of sick patients call up medical staff on the phone on a daily basis and question whether their loved ones truly have the virus and the veracity of positive test results.

"We know what COVID looks like now after six months of dealing with it," Montgomery said. "It is like beating your head against a brick wall when you are constantly having patients, family members of these patients and the community argue so intensely that it is not real or we are treating it in the wrong way."

The skepticism about the virus coincides with deep frustration over mask requirements in the Midwestern cities that actually have them.

Mike Cooper, a 59-year-old and sign shop owner from the Branson, Missouri, area, is among those who have grown weary of virus restrictions that he sees as out-of-control government overreach. He has no doubts about the seriousness of the virus, but says the financial toll of business and school shutdowns creates its own set of health problems, such as alcoholism, suicide and depression. "Financial ruin kills people too," he said.

"To me, flatten the curve means extend the plague. Flatten the curve means you are just going to kill the same number of people over a longer period of time, so they are going to extend the plague," Cooper said.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis, a major ally of President Donald Trump, gave businesses the OK to re-open, declaring, "We're not closing anything going forward."

The governor, who has resisted making mask-wearing mandatory statewide, also said he will stop cities

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and counties from collecting fines from people who don't cover their faces, virtually nullifying local mask ordinances.

Florida was a major hot spot over the summer, and the death toll there stands at nearly 14,000. Deaths are running at over 100 a day, and newly confirmed infections at about 2,700 a day.

Like Trump, DeSantis has questioned the effectiveness of closing down businesses, arguing that states that more aggressively shut down, including California, have fared no better.

"The state of Florida is probably the most open big state in the country," he boasted Friday.

Florida Democrats have bemoaned the governor's push to reopen.

"No one is advocating for a full-scale lockdown in Florida. But we have been and continue to ask for common-sense prevention measures such as face masks, which are essential to preventing further spread," state Sen. Audrey Gibson said Thursday.

In other developments:

— Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced he and his wife have tested positive, though he said he has no symptoms. Northam, a Democrat who is also a doctor and usually wears a mask in public, has been criticized by Republicans who say his restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the virus are too stringent.

— Two former administrators of a Massachusetts veterans home where nearly 80 people died were charged with neglect over their handling of the outbreak. They could go to prison if convicted. It is believed to be the nation's first criminal case brought against nursing home officials for actions during the crisis.

— In New York City, which beat back the virus after a disastrous spring, four Orthodox Jewish schools were closed for violating social-distancing rules. Health officials said if virus cases in these neighborhoods continue to build, the city might roll back the reopening in some places and require businesses to close back down.

Mask and social distancing rules are starting to cause fatigue in some areas of the Midwest and West.

In Joplin, Missouri, a mask ordinance was allowed to expire in mid-August as virus fatigue grew. Since then, the number of positive cases there and in surrounding Jasper County — a deeply conservative county that Trump won by more than 50 percentage points over Hillary Clinton in 2016 — has risen about 80%.

"I am getting sick and tired of telling people to wear their masks, and I know they are sick and tired of me saying it," said Tony Moehr, chief of the Jasper County Health Department. "And it just seems like people have heard it so many times, I'm not sure if they really even hear it anymore when we say it."

At the home of the University of Oklahoma, the Norman City Council voted 5-3 this week to require that masks be worn indoors at house parties if more than 25 people are present. The ordinance passed over objections from members of the public.

"You can make any law that you want to. You come into my house telling me that I got to wear this stupid thing and you're going to have a firefight on your hands," said Josh Danforth, holding a mask, who identified himself as an Iraq war veteran.

Forster and Noveck contributed from New York.

## Oregon governor sends state police to Portland for protests

By SARA CLINE Associated Press/Report for America

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency Friday as she announced that state troopers and sheriff's deputies would be sent to Portland through the weekend to help police, in the state's largest city, monitor a weekend rally by the right-wing group Proud Boys and counter protests by liberal groups

Portland has been roiled by often violent protests for more than three months following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Demonstrations that went into a lull during Oregon's recent wildfires resumed this week, fueled by a Kentucky grand jury's decision to not indict officers in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor.

Brown told reporters she is exercising her gubernatorial authority to place Multnomah County Sheriff

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Mike Reese and Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton in charge of Portland's public safety on Saturday and Sunday. Brown said that Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler supports the plan.

"This is our entire community coming together to protect our community," Brown said. "We want the highest level of coordination and the strongest leadership possible."

Under the state of emergency declaration, Oregon State Police and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office will have the authority to set curfews and close roads.

In addition, Hampton said officers sent to Portland could use tear gas and less-lethal ammunition to disperse crowds if the protest and counter protests becomes violent or if people's lives are in danger.

"Certainly with the use of any tool or option, we are always going to be proportional in our response," Hampton said. "We want to do everything we can to intercede early, so we don't have to get to a higher level of force if it's required to keep the peace."

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has banned local police from using tear gas.

Hampton said that the change in command "is in no way an indictment of our colleagues at the Portland Police Bureau for the job that they have done or would have done this weekend."

"The Portland Police Bureau, their officers have endured some incredibly mentally and physically taxing situations for over 100 days, while they have done the best they can to keep Portland streets safe," Hampton said.

State troopers, sheriff's deputies and local police have worked together in the past during downtown protests in Portland. Hampton said.

Similar competing demonstrations have ended with fistfights and bloodshed, including the fatal shooting on Aug. 29 of Aaron "Jay" Danielson, a supporter of a right-wing group, who was killed in Portland after a caravan of pro-Trump supporters drove pickup trucks in a caravan downtown.

The suspect, antifa supporter Michael Reinoehl, was shot in a hail of gunfire by federal officers as they moved in to arrest him in neighboring Washington state.

Ahead of the planned Proud Boys rally set for Saturday, Brown said she "is incredibly concerned about the increased risk of violence in Portland this weekend and the safety of all Oregonians."

"Some people will be armed, with others ready to harass or intimidate Oregonians," the Democrat said. "The pattern of these particular groups is clear, to intimidate, instigate and inflame."

Organizers have said that the Proud Boys rally will support President Donald Trump and the police and condemn anti-fascists that the group accuses of "domestic terrorism."

The city denied a permit to protest organizers, citing estimated crowds of thousands amid the coronavirus pandemic. But police said they will not try to stop the Proud Boys from gathering at a park in northern Portland.

"If you want to come to Oregon, to Portland, to peacefully protest, to assemble, to voice your outrage, to voice your concern – we welcome you for that," Hampton said. "If your job and your intent is to come to Oregon to commit crimes, to provoke, to make people feel unsafe in their homes then we do not want you to come here."

Protesters in Portland late Thursday set fire to plywood attached to the front door of a police union building and clashed with officers, who made 14 arrests, police said in a statement.

The protesters who were detained were arrested on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to interfering with officers and trespassing.

The violence came a day after people hurled several firebombs at officers during a demonstration in which 13 were arrested.

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Cline is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

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Brown told reporters she is exercising her gubernatorial authority to place Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese and Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton in charge of Portland's public safety on Saturday and Sunday. Brown said that Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler supports the plan.

"This is our entire community coming together to protect our community," Brown said. "We want the highest level of coordination and the strongest leadership possible."

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## **Trooper quietly buried amid scrutiny over Black man's death**

By JIM MUSTIAN and ROGELIO V. SOLIS Associated Press

WEST MONROE, La. (AP) — A Louisiana state trooper who died in a single-car crash just hours after he was told he would be fired for his role in the death of a Black man was buried with honors Friday at a ceremony that authorities sought to keep secret out of concerns it would attract a mass protest.

State Police officials and family members mourned Master Trooper Chris Hollingsworth under tight security at services that marked the latest turn in the long-simmering in-custody death case of Ronald Greene, which has prompted a federal civil-rights probe and increasing calls for authorities to release body-camera video.

Hollingsworth, who was white, was the only one of six troopers placed on leave earlier this month in the May 2019 death of Greene following a high-speed chase. Police initially told Greene's family he died from injuries in a crash but later acknowledged troopers "struggled" with him during the arrest. Greene's family has filed a federal wrongful-death suit alleging troopers "brutalized" him, shocked him three times with a stun gun and left him "beaten, bloodied and in cardiac arrest."

Hollingsworth died Tuesday from injuries suffered in a single-car highway crash in Monroe that came just hours after he received a letter informing him that State Police intended to fire him over his role in Greene's death.

State Police have refused to release that letter or any details of how the highway crash occurred. And despite mounting pressure, the agency has repeatedly refused to release body-camera footage from Greene's arrest, citing the ongoing state and federal investigations.

On Friday, mourners, many in dress-blue trooper uniforms, packed the New Chapel Hill Baptist Church where Hollingsworth had been a member, filling its parking lots to capacity on a misty and overcast day.

The services were closed to the public despite a major police presence that included contingency plans for snipers, drones and a SWAT team to respond to any large disturbance, according to a law enforcement official familiar with the plans who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

The plans underscored the growing tension in communities around the country where demonstrators have taken to the streets to protest racial injustice and the killing of Black people by police.

While no protests materialized at the funeral, several dozen people gathered later in the day outside the Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge to denounce "violence or death at the hands of law enforcement officers."

"For too long, the State Police has tolerated behavior that is unacceptable," said Jamal Taylor, an organizer of the event from Lafayette, La.

Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, was not in attendance at Friday's funeral, which included a State Police honor guard and escort for Hollingsworth, who served nearly three decades in law enforcement.

Unlike other trooper deaths, Hollingsworth's was not announced internally by the agency's superintendent, Col. Kevin Reeves.

"The Hollingsworth family has elected to have a private ceremony for family and friends and asks for privacy at this time," said Lt. Nick Manale, a State Police spokesman. "Retired departmental personnel and active duty troopers who pass away in a non-line-of-duty death are afforded Honor Guard representation based on the requests of the family."

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An online fundraiser for the trooper's family said Hollingsworth would be remembered for his "quick, contagious smile and his dedication" to his schoolteacher wife of 21 years and their teenage son.

Mustian reported from New York. AP writer Melinda Deslatte contributed from Baton Rouge.

## Ginsburg makes history at Capitol amid replacement turmoil

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg lay in state Friday at the U.S. Capitol as the first woman ever so honored, making history again as she had throughout her extraordinary life while an intensifying election-year battle swirled over her replacement.

The flag-draped casket of Ginsburg, who died last week at 87, drew members of Congress, top military officials, friends and family, some with children in tow, to the Capitol's grand Statuary Hall, paying respect to the cultural icon who changed American law and perceptions of women's power.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, joined other invited guests. His vice presidential running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris said that "RBG," as she is known by many, cleared a path for women like her in civic life.

"She, first of all, made America see what leadership looks like -- in the law, in terms of public service -- and she broke so many barriers," Harris told reporters at the Capitol. "And I know that she did it intentionally knowing that people like me could follow."

Biden, who was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee when Ginsburg was confirmed 27 years ago this month, said he was brought back to when he met her back then. "Wonderful memories," he said.

Mourners gathered to honor Ginsburg under coronavirus distancing restrictions with the nation in political turmoil.

President Donald Trump is to announce a conservative nominee to replace her on Saturday, just weeks before the election. White House officials have indicated to congressional Republicans and outside allies that the nominee will be Indiana's Amy Coney Barrett but are maintaining a semblance of suspense to let Trump announce her.

His third justice, if confirmed, would be sure to move the court rightward on health care, abortion and other pivotal issues. A Senate confirmation vote would be expected in late October.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it was with "profound sorrow" that she welcomed Ginsburg and opened the private service.

She and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer stood under gray skies as Ginsburg's casket made the short procession from the court's steps where it had been on public view for several days to the East Front of the Capitol.

The court and the Capitol face each other across the street, separate but equal branches of government, keeping check on each other and also the White House. A military honor guard carried Ginsburg's casket inside.

Election-season politics have rippled through the commemorations this week. Noticeably absent after being invited to Friday's service was Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who is leading the rush to confirm Trump's nominee while early state voting is underway. No justice has been confirmed so close to a presidential election.

Trump and first lady Melania Trump paid their respects on Thursday as Ginsburg had lain in repose for two days at the Supreme Court, and thousands of people waited outside. Spectators booed and chanted "vote him out" as the president stood silently near Ginsburg's casket at the top of the court's front steps.

But Friday's ceremony focused on Ginsburg's life and work rather than current controversy. She was the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court and the first Jewish person to lie in state at the Capitol. The proceedings included musical selections from one of her favorite opera singers, mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves.

Small in stature, large in history, the Brooklyn-born Ginsburg was remembered as an extremely bright

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Columbia graduate who was passed over for jobs at a time when few women became lawyers, only to go on to reshape the nation's laws protecting women's rights and equality.

"Brick by brick, case by case," said Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt of the Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, she changed the course of American law.

"Today, she makes history again," the rabbi said.

Ginsburg will be buried next week in Arlington National Cemetery beside her husband, Martin, who died in 2010. A mother of two, she battled recurring cancer.

As visitors paid tribute at Ginsburg's casket, resting atop the catafalque used for Abraham Lincoln, the Bidens quietly joined. Joe Biden, who is Catholic, made the sign of the cross before he and his wife clasped hands and walked away.

Fewer Republicans attended the service that was filled with women and Democrats. Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, both former presidential contenders, were among those attending. The GOP whip, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, was there.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper and the nation's top military officers from the joint chiefs of staff paid their respects.

In the line of guests paying tribute, one dropped to the ground and did three quick pushups. It was Bryant Johnson, the justice's beloved trainer for her popular RBG workouts.

Members of the House and Senate who were not invited because of space limitations imposed by the coronavirus were able to pay their respects before the motorcade carrying Ginsburg's casket departed the Capitol in early afternoon.

As the hearse pulled away, lawmakers, many of them women, including Pelosi, waved good-bye.

The honor of lying in state has been accorded fewer than three dozen times, mostly to presidents, vice presidents and members of Congress. Rep. John Lewis, the civil rights icon, was the most recent following his death in July. Henry Clay, the Kentucky lawmaker who served as speaker of the House and also was a senator, was the first in 1852. Rosa Parks — a private citizen, not a government official — is the only woman who has lain in honor, a separate commemoration, at the Capitol.

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Associated Press writer Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

## Desk shortage forces people to get creative about workspaces

By JOSEPH PISANI AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — First it was toilet paper. Disinfectant wipes. Beans. Coins. Computers. Now, desks are in short supply because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Millions of kids logging onto virtual school this fall has parents scrambling to find furniture for them. It's a small indignity compared with the kids who don't even have home internet or computers, but it's a hassle for parents lucky enough to have the space and money to afford desks just the same.

At the same time, some people are realizing they'll be working from home for the long haul and require new furniture. To find desks, people are scouring stores near and far and even making their own.

Elizabeth Rossmiller, a teacher working from home for the first time, needed to upgrade from her temporary setup: an upside-down laundry basket on a nightstand.

The desk she wanted from Amazon was out of stock. None were available for under \$200 at Target or Walmart. Her husband found a floor model at a store 45 minutes away from their home in Gresham, Oregon.

It was smaller and more dinged up than she expected, but "better than a laundry basket!"

Target and Ikea are restocking home office supplies due to high demand. Amazon and Walmart did not respond to requests for comment. But John Furner, who runs Walmart's U.S. stores, acknowledged low stocks of kid's desks and laptops in a ABC News interview on Sept. 11.

Online, sales of desks and accessories, such as desk chairs and lamps, were up 283% in August from the year before, according to Rakuten Intelligence, which tracks shopper behavior. Sites that offer used

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goods show spiking interest: On Facebook Marketplace, interest in desks has doubled in the last month from the month before. But prices aren't necessarily cheap.

Shaynah Dungan, who needs a desk for when she starts esthetician school in January, said desks similar to the sold-out one she wants from Ikea were overpriced on Amazon and OfferUp, an app where people sell their stuff.

People are figuring out other solutions, sharing advice on turning dressers or book shelves into makeshift desks on Pinterest and Facebook.

Megan Fry, who is starting a new work-from-home customer service job in Indianapolis in October, said she had to go the "DIY route" after visits to Walmart, Ikea and other stores found no desk options under \$150. She made her own using a \$30 legless tabletop from Ikea placed on top of two short bookcases from Amazon, which cost \$42 apiece.

"It's not as cute or trendy as a bought desk and I wish it had drawers for storage," said Fry. "But I'm happy it's clean and has a large surface on top for my monitors and laptop."

Instead of bookcases, Patrick Brugh went with crates to build a desk for his 6-year-old after he couldn't find a desk at Ikea or Amazon. The Baltimore university administrator built it in two days, spending about \$70 at Home Depot on four crates and a board that he painted in bright blue.

Will the homemade desk make it through the school year?

"There's goo on the top from his snack," said Brugh, whose son spends about 40 hours a week on it for virtual classes. "I could not believe in three weeks how much damage he's done to this desk."

Follow Joseph Pisani on Twitter @ josephpisani

## Google parent agrees to \$310M misconduct lawsuit settlement

By MAE ANDERSON AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Google's parent company has reached a \$310 million settlement in a shareholder lawsuit over its treatment of allegations of executives' sexual misconduct.

Alphabet Inc. said Friday that it will prohibit severance packages for anyone fired for misconduct or is the subject of a sexual misconduct investigation. A special team will investigate any allegations against executives and report to the board's audit committee.

Thousands of Google employees walked out of work in protest in 2018 after The New York Times revealed Android creator Andy Rubin received \$90 million in severance even though several employees had filed misconduct allegations against him. Shareholder lawsuits followed, and in 2019 Google launched a board investigation over how it handles sexual misconduct allegations.

In January, David Drummond, the Alphabet's legal chief, left without an exit package, following accusations of inappropriate relationships with employees. The company didn't give a reason for his departure, but claims against Drummond were included in the board investigation.

With the settlement, Alphabet is pledging \$310 million toward diversity, equity and inclusion programs over 10 years. It is also setting up an advisory committee to monitor how it handles sexual misconduct allegations against its executives.

"This settlement will not only change and improve the culture at Google, but it will set the standard for culture change at tech companies throughout Silicon Valley," said Ann Ravel, an attorney from Renne Public Law Group who led parts of the settlement negotiation.

The changes, as well as changes that had already been implemented at Google, such as ending mandatory arbitration for worker disputes, will be extended to all of Alphabet's divisions. Mandatory arbitration requires employees to settle their disputes with the company privately and outside of court. The practice, widespread in U.S. employment contracts, can lend itself to secrecy and has faced criticism.

## Appeals court hears fight over Trump tax returns — again

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By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal appeals court tested the waters on a potential compromise, but didn't immediately rule Friday after arguments in President Donald Trump's long-running fight to prevent a top New York prosecutor from getting his tax returns — a battle that seems destined to return to the Supreme Court.

A Trump lawyer argued that a subpoena for the records is overly broad but balked when an appellate judge suggested the court might be able to alleviate that concern by limiting the scope of documents being sought.

Trump's lawyer, William Consovoy, signaled they will be satisfied only if Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. is barred from getting all of the requested records. Consovoy is seeking to have the case sent back to a lower court that last month rejected his attempt to quash the subpoena, arguing that judge erred in his ruling.

If the three-judge panel refuses to put a hold on the enforcement of the subpoena, Trump's lawyers will be forced to ask the Supreme Court to prolong the legal fight. The high court, which ruled 7-2 against the president in July, is down to eight justices after the death last week of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The matter may not be fully resolved before the November election.

Trump's lawyers appealed to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after a district court judge last month rejected their renewed efforts to invalidate a subpoena that the Vance's office issued to Trump's accounting firm as part of a grand jury investigation into his financial and business dealings.

The appellate judges appeared to meet Consovoy with a fair amount of skepticism, reminding him of the wide latitude grand juries are given to investigate potential wrongdoing. Judge Robert Katzmann suggested Trump's lawyer was asking the court "to change the way grand juries have done their work time immemorial just because we're dealing with somebody who's president of the United States."

Trump's lawyers maintain that the subpoena seeking eight years of the president's corporate and personal tax returns amounts to a "fishing expedition" and that Trump should be afforded the same protections as ordinary citizens in the same situation. They argued that aside from acknowledging an inquiry into money paid to two women who alleged affairs with Trump, Vance's office hasn't specified why it needs such a vast collection of his financial records.

Given that argument, Judge Raymond Lohier asked Consovoy if the president's side could live with a ruling that limited the subpoena to tax returns between 2011 and 2016, when the payments were made. Consovoy said no.

"Is there a request for documents that would not, in your view, be over broad?" Lohier asked.

"No," Consovoy said. "I think the answer is probably no, your honor."

"That's a problem," Lohier responded.

Carey Dunne, of the district attorney's office, said Trump and his lawyers have been on notice throughout the subpoena fight that the investigation involves more than just payments related to alleged affairs — but because of grand jury secrecy rules, they can't be told specifically what the office is after.

"The recipient of a subpoena just doesn't have a right to go to court and demand to be told what an investigation is all about," Dunne said.

A temporary stay remains in effect, preventing any tax records from being turned over at least until the latest appeal is decided. Trump has said he expects the case to return to the Supreme Court, making it unlikely the dispute will be resolved before the Nov. 3 election pitting the incumbent president and Democratic rival Joe Biden.

The Supreme Court in July ruled that the presidency in and of itself doesn't shield Trump from the investigation, prompting Trump's lawyers to raise new objections and start the appellate process over again.

With its decision, the Supreme Court returned the case to U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero in Manhattan so Trump's lawyers could seek to block the subpoena on other grounds. In rejecting their arguments, Consovoy said, Marrero "stacked the deck against the president by asserting that these claims are a disguised attempt to re litigate categorical immunity."

Trump's lawyers also contend the subpoena might have been politically motivated and amounted to

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harassment, though Consovoy didn't spend much time arguing those points at Friday's hearing.

Trump, like his lawyer, has called Vance's investigation "a fishing expedition" and said it's "a continuation of the witch hunt — the greatest witch hunt in history."

Vance, a Democrat, began seeking the Republican president's tax returns from his longtime accounting firm over a year ago, after Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen told Congress that the president had misled tax officials, insurers and business associates about the value of his assets.

Vance's office argued in court papers this week that there's "a mountainous record" of public allegations of misconduct to support its efforts to obtain Trump's tax returns, such as news reports alleging Trump or his companies inflated or minimized the value of assets for business and tax purposes.

Even if Vance does get Trump's tax records, those would be part of a confidential grand jury investigation and not automatically be made public.

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Associated Press writer Mark Sherman in Washington contributed to this report.

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Follow Michael Sisak on Twitter at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak)

## **NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen last week**

The Associated Press undefined

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

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Ruth Bader Ginsburg did not advocate lowering the age of consent

CLAIM: The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wanted to lower the age of consent for sex to 12 years old.

THE FACTS: This bogus claim first emerged during Ginsburg's 1993 confirmation hearings when official testimony misinterpreted a recommendation by Ginsburg in a 1977 report published by the United States Commission on Civil Rights. It has lingered in the public forum ever since. In the days after Ginsburg died of complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer, misinformation about her has circulated online, including the decades-old false claim about her views on the age of consent. "Why is everyone pretending to be sad that RBG died?" read a tweet that was later screen-captured and reposted on Instagram. "It was GOOD riddance by a long shot, she wanted to lower the age of consent for sex to 12. She is a pedophile sympathizer and deserves nothing less." The Instagram post was viewed more than 54,000 times and received more than 4,000 likes. Similar claims were shared by Twitter and Facebook accounts associated with QAnon, a baseless conspiracy theory that centers on the president fighting off satanic pedophiles and other enemies in the so-called deep state. The 1977 report, "Sex Bias in the U.S. Code," was prepared by Ginsburg and attorney Brenda Feigen-Fasteau. It included a discussion of sex-based language in U.S. law to provide resources for lawmakers who wanted to make laws gender-neutral. It noted the language of a proposed 1973 bill as an example of a gender-neutral definition of rape: "A person is guilty of an offense if he engages in a sexual act with another person, not his spouse, and (1) compels the other person to participate: (A) by force or (B) by threatening or placing the other person in fear that any person will imminently be subjected to death, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping; (2) has substantially impaired the other person's power to appraise or control the conduct by administering or employing a drug or intoxicant without the knowledge or against the will of such other person, or by other means; or (3) the other person is, in fact, less than 12 years old." The USCCR report did not suggest implementing the bill, which never passed into law. It was simply included it as a model for defining rape without sex-based references.

— Associated Press writer Ali Swenson contributed this report.

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Ginsburg did not author a tweet about Hillary Clinton

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**CLAIM:** The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg tweeted on the day she died that she had information that would lead to the arrest of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

**THE FACTS:** The tweet was fabricated. Ginsburg did not have a personal Twitter account. The day after the 87-year-old Ginsburg died of complications from pancreatic cancer, an image of a tweet she allegedly sent on the day of her death began circulating on Instagram. "I have information that will lead to the arrest of Hillary Clinton," read the tweet, allegedly sent by the account @RBGOfficial on Friday, Sept. 18, at 8 p.m. The image on Instagram was liked by more than 2,600 people and viewed more than 63,000 times. But the late justice did not maintain a personal Twitter account. The account @RBGofficial, created in 2013, now displays the name "jorge." The profile photo is an image of a guitar and does not show Ginsburg.

— Ali Swenson

Biden did not bungle the Pledge of Allegiance at a campaign stop

**CLAIM:** Video shows Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden botching the Pledge of Allegiance saying, "I pledge allegiance to the United States of America, one nation, indivisible, under God, for real."

**THE FACTS:** Biden was not reciting the full Pledge of Allegiance in the video taken during a campaign stop in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on Monday, he was discussing how he would govern as president. He also discussed coronavirus deaths in the U.S. surpassing 200,000 and details of his economic plan. "I don't pledge allegiance to the red states of America or blue states of America. I pledge allegiance to the United States of America, one nation, indivisible, under God, for real," he said. "I'm running as a proud Democrat. But I'm not going to govern as a Democratic president, I'm going to govern as president." C-SPAN captured the remarks. The video was shortened to remove the full context. The misleading video circulated widely on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube with claims Biden incorrectly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A spokesperson with the Biden campaign also confirmed to the AP that Biden was referencing the pledge in his remarks, not reciting the pledge.

— Associated Press writer Arijeta Lajka contributed this report.

Biden was answering questions from a television monitor, not using teleprompter

**CLAIM:** Joe Biden "caught red-handed" using a teleprompter during an interview on Telemundo.

**THE FACTS:** Biden was answering questions from a monitor, not using a teleprompter, during a recent interview on Telemundo, a Spanish-language television network. @TelemundoNews confirmed on Twitter that Biden did not use the teleprompter: "Recent social media posts claiming @JoeBiden used a teleprompter during an interview with Noticias Telemundo and anchor @jdbalart are absolutely FALSE." On Monday, a Twitter user shared a photo of the interview with the caption: "Biden just did an interview with Telemundo where he was asked questions, turned to the left and read the answers off a teleprompter." Eric Trump, President Donald Trump's son, tweeted the 26-second clip on Wednesday. "Unreal," he wrote. Text over the video reads: "Biden caught red-handed using a teleprompter." The post had more than 16,000 retweets. The false claim was also spreading on Facebook and Instagram. During the interview, several Telemundo viewers asked Biden questions through a monitor. A review of the interview shows that Biden was answering a question about the Obama administration's record on mass deportation. An image of a woman appears on the screen. "How can you guarantee this will not continue happening in our communities," she asks. While answering the question, Biden faces the monitor. "It took much too long to get it right," Biden remarks. "There are going to be no deportations in the first 100 days of my campaign." Telemundo anchor Jose Diaz-Balart then steps in to confirm the statement, "Let me get that right. You are going to freeze deportations?" "Freeze deportations for the first 100 days," Biden clarifies. "And the only people who will be deported are people who committed a felony while here, that's number one." "OK I lost that line," Biden says, looking toward the monitor. "That's good. We could talk, you and I on that," Diaz-Balart responds. The full interview was published to YouTube on Sept. 15.

— Arijeta Lajka

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Trump tweet about Obama's Supreme Court pick is fake

CLAIM: In April 2016, before he was elected president, Donald Trump tweeted that President Barack Obama "should wait until he leaves office" to pick a Supreme Court justice. The tweet also said if Obama didn't wait, "he should be fired."

THE FACTS: This tweet is fabricated. It does not appear in the Trump Twitter Archive, which tracks every tweet Trump sends, nor does it appear in an archive of deleted Trump tweets assembled by the nonprofit news outlet ProPublica. An image made to look like a 2016 tweet from President Donald Trump circulated online this week amid calls to delay filling the opening left by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg until the next president can make the nomination. In 2016, Republicans refused to vote on Obama's choice to fill the opening left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia because it was an election year. The fake Trump tweet dated April 3, 2016, stated "Obama should wait until he leaves office to pick another Justice! If he doesn't, he should be fired!" The timing of the tweet doesn't make sense. Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland to the high court in March 2016, according to reporting by The Associated Press. By April, when this fake tweet was allegedly sent, it was already up to the Senate to decide whether to consider Obama's nominee. Trump has said he will announce his nominee to replace Ginsburg on Saturday, Sept. 26.

— Ali Swenson

Kamala Harris' family did not come from India to Jamaica to exploit Black slaves

CLAIM: "My family came to Jamaica from India to exploit the black African slaves we bought like cattle. Now I pretend to be African American to exploit them for votes," says a caption with a 2017 photo of Democratic vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris.

THE FACTS: Harris did not make that statement, and there is no evidence anyone in her family went from India to Jamaica to benefit from the slave trade, as social media posts falsely suggest. Her father, Donald Harris, is Jamaican, and they both identify as Black. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was born and raised in India. Harris' parents met at the University of California, Berkeley, in the 1960s as graduate students. In 2018, Donald Harris, a Stanford University emeritus professor of economics, detailed his family's history in Jamaica in an essay in Jamaica Global Online. In the essay, which has been updated since first published, there is no mention of having Indian ancestry, and he makes clear his family has been in Jamaica for generations. The elder Harris did write that his paternal grandmother descended from a slave owner. That part of his essay has been distorted repeatedly in recent months to fuel misleading claims on social media about the Harris family's connections to slavery in Jamaica. One of the most recent false claims has a photo of Kamala Harris with text falsely asserting that Harris said her family moved to Jamaica from India to engage in the slave trade. There is no evidence to support this or that Harris said it. The photo in the meme was taken by the AP during a June 2017 Senate hearing when Harris was questioning former Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The post, which has circulated on Facebook since 2019, received tens of thousands of likes on Twitter, where it was being shared this week. In Donald Harris' 2018 essay, he wrote, "My roots go back, within my lifetime, to my paternal grandmother Miss Chrishy (née Christiana Brown, descendant of Hamilton Brown who is on record as plantation and slave owner and founder of Brown's Town)." The AP was not able to independently confirm Donald Harris' connection to Hamilton Brown, who was born in Ireland. Caitlin Rosenthal, a University of California, Berkeley history professor, told the AP in an email that while it is clear that Hamilton Brown was a major slave owner, "what is much less clear is how he fits into Kamala Harris's family tree." Rosenthal added, "What is most likely is that she is descended from both enslaved people and from slave owners, just like most African Americans today." Sasha Turner, a Jamaican professor of history at Johns Hopkins University, told the AP it is not surprising for Black Jamaicans to find out someone in their bloodline was a white slave holder, since "rape was part of the everyday experience of slavery." But social media posts in recent months have tried to use Donald Harris' essay to undermine Kamala Harris' Black identity and allege without evidence that she is a beneficiary of slavery. "This is really just a matter of twisting the facts," Turner said. "It's very disconcerting and quite disappointing that a history of such brutality, of such terror, is also being

used in this way to terrorize.”

— Associated Press reporters Jude Joffe-Block and Beatrice Dupuy contributed this report.

COVID-19 nasal tests are designed to reach where the virus lives

CLAIM: “Why such an invasive test for COVID-19 if it is so easily transmitted through droplets? A mouth swab would suffice if this was as deadly as they claim it to be. Someone is lying again.”

THE FACTS: As the U.S. coronavirus death toll surpasses 200,000, posts online are questioning the invasiveness of nasal tests. The answer is simple: Nasal swabs allow for a sample to be taken where the respiratory virus lives. Saliva tests for the virus have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and are also available. How the virus spreads and fatality rates is not what drives testing methods. Dr. Steven Woloshin, co-director of the Center for Medicine and Media at The Dartmouth Institute, told The Associated Press that the tests are designed to tell whether a person is carrying the virus. Nasal swabs are also used for respiratory infections like the flu, noted Neysa Ernst, nurse manager in the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. They are used to collect cells from an area in the back of the nose and throat known as the nasopharynx, where respiratory viruses live. “For years we have done respiratory specimens from the nasal swab so that was always considered to have the highest sensitivity,” Ernst said. The FDA has given emergency use authorization for several saliva tests, an alternative to nasal swabs tests, which are prone to shortages. Doctors said saliva tests also help break down barriers to testing. “If you can find ways to make it more convenient, less invasive and less painful people are more likely to do it,” Woloshin said.

— Beatrice Dupuy

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## Takeaways: Labor abuses in the palm oil industry

By The Associated Press undefined

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA (AP) — Palm oil is almost impossible to avoid. It can be found in roughly half the products on supermarket shelves, from Dove soap and Oreo cookies to instant noodles and hand sanitizer. While most shoppers know little about the commodity or the human toll, the \$65 billion industry has long been criticized for environmental destruction and labor abuses. And big companies and banks have been profiting.

Associated Press reporters spoke to more than 130 current and former workers from two dozen companies across wide swaths of Malaysia and Indonesia, the two biggest producing countries. The men, women and children interviewed came from eight different countries and included some of the most vulnerable people on the planet, including Rohingya Muslims who fled ethnic cleansing in their homeland.

Key takeaways from the AP’s Investigation:

LABOR ABUSES: As global demand for palm oil surges, plantations are struggling to find enough laborers, frequently relying on brokers who prey on the most at-risk people. The most serious abuses found by AP included child labor, outright slavery and allegations of rape. Some workers said they were cheated, threatened, held against their will or forced to work off unsurmountable debts or swept up in raids and detained in crowded government facilities.

They included Rohingya Muslims, who fled ethnic cleansing in Myanmar only to be sold into the palm oil industry. Fishermen who escaped years of slavery on boats also described coming ashore in search of help, only to be trafficked onto plantations — sometimes with police involvement. They said they worked for little or no pay and were trapped for years.

ICONIC GLOBAL BRANDS: Abuses were widespread, found on plantations big and small across Indonesia and Malaysia, which together supply more than 85 percent of the global demand. It ends up in the

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supply chains of some of the largest U.S. and European food and cosmetic companies, including Procter & Gamble, Nestle, L'Oreal, J.M. Smucker Co., and Unilever. Though labor abuses in the palm oil industry have been an open secret for years, most companies told the AP they do not tolerate human rights abuses and investigate allegations raised about companies that feed into their supply chains, taking appropriate action when warranted.

## WESTERN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

Asian banks are by far the most robust financiers of the palm oil industry, but Western lenders and investment companies have poured almost \$12 billion into plantations in the last five years alone, allowing for the razing and replanting of ever-expanding tracts of land, according to Forest and Finance, a database run by six non profit organizations that track money flowing to palm oil companies. The U.S institutions BNY Mellon, Charles Schwab Corp., Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase & Co., and Citigroup Inc., along with Europe's HSBC, Standard Chartered, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse and Prudential, together account for \$3.5 billion of that, according to the data.

Most banks responded by noting their policies vowing to support sustainability practices in the palm oil industry. Many of the financial institutions said they also incorporated human rights into their guidelines.

## New measurements show moon has hazardous radiation levels

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Future moon explorers will be bombarded with two to three times more radiation than astronauts aboard the International Space Station, a health hazard that will require thick-walled shelters for protection, scientists reported Friday.

China's lander on the far side of the moon is providing the first full measurements of radiation exposure from the lunar surface, vital information for NASA and others aiming to send astronauts to the moon, the study noted.

A Chinese-German team reported on the radiation data collected by the lander — named Chang'e 4 for the Chinese moon goddess — in the U.S. journal Science Advances.

"This is an immense achievement in the sense that now we have a data set which we can use to benchmark our radiation" and better understand the potential risk to people on the moon, said Thomas Berger, a physicist with the German Space Agency's medicine institute.

Astronauts would get 200 to 1,000 times more radiation on the moon than what we experience on Earth — or five to 10 times more than passengers on a trans-Atlantic airline flight, noted Robert Wimmer-Schweingruber of Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel, Germany.

"The difference is, however, that we're not on such a flight for as long as astronauts would be when they're exploring the moon," Wimmer-Schweingruber said in an email.

Cancer is the primary risk.

"Humans are not really made for these radiation levels and should protect themselves when on the moon," he added.

Radiation levels should be pretty much the same all over the moon, except for near the walls of deep craters, Wimmer-Schweingruber said.

"Basically, the less you see of the sky, the better. That's the primary source of the radiation," he said.

Wimmer-Schweingruber said the radiation levels are close to what models had predicted. The levels measured by Chang'e 4, in fact, "agree nearly exactly" with measurements by a detector on a NASA orbiter that has been circling the moon for more than a decade, said Kerry Lee, a space radiation expert at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"It is nice to see confirmation of what we think and our understanding of how radiation interacts with the moon is as expected," said Lee, who was not involved in the Chinese-led study.

In a detailed outline released this week, NASA said the first pair of astronauts to land on the moon under the new Artemis program would spend about a week on the lunar surface, more than twice as long as the Apollo crews did a half-century ago. Expeditions would last one to two months once a base

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camp is established.

NASA is looking to put astronauts on the moon by the end of 2024, an accelerated pace ordered by the White House, and on Mars sometime in the 2030s.

The space agency said it will have radiation detectors and a safe shelter aboard all Orion crew capsules flying to the moon. As for the actual landers, three separate corporate teams are developing their own craft with NASA oversight. For the first Artemis moon landing, at least, the astronauts will live in the ascent portion of their lander.

The German researchers suggest shelters built of moon dirt — readily available material — for stays of more than a few days. The walls should be 80 centimeters (about 2 1/2 feet) thick, they said. Any thicker and the dirt will emit its own secondary radiation, created when galactic cosmic rays interact with the lunar soil.

"So in this sense — I think the walls of European Castles would be too thick!" Berger wrote in an email.

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## Trump's coronavirus remarks weigh on minds of senior voters

By TAMARA LUSH Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump's remarks at a campaign event in Ohio this week reverberated all the way to a sparkling waterfront in Florida, where senior citizens parsed his assessment of the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump said that COVID-19 was seriously affecting "virtually nobody" under the age of 18 and sought to frame the pandemic as largely impacting older Americans, as he argued for school districts to resume in-person learning.

"Now we know it affects elderly people with heart problems and other problems," Trump said. "If they have other problems, that's what it really affects. That's it."

Florida, where 34 percent of the population is over the age of 55, is a potential swing state for Trump's re-election campaign. Democratic challenger Joe Biden has made some inroads among older voters here, according to recent polls, but the coronavirus could affect the race in profound ways.

Trump's recent remarks made Liz Cillo, a 72-year-old retiree from St. Petersburg, laugh bitterly. "We're dispensable. We're old. I feel as though he's never showed any empathy or compassion toward us."

Unlike in previous years, those who study voting patterns and elderly affairs issues say new trends appear to be unfolding this year. Jeff Johnson, the state director for the Florida AARP, says that among voters who are over 65, this year's presidential race seems to be more "in play" than in years past.

"The best we can tell, it seems to be driven by coronavirus," he said.

Which makes sense, he added. States like Florida have been hit hard by the pandemic, and no other demographic has been affected more than older folks. About 93 percent of Florida's 13,600 deaths from the virus have been people 55 and older. On Friday, Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, lifted all restrictions on restaurants and other businesses in Florida in a move to reopen the state's economy despite the virus' spread.

Cillo, who did not vote for Trump in 2016 and won't in November, feels that the president has thrown seniors under the bus. "We're the most vulnerable," she said.

She and her friend, 77-year-old Eva Johnson, walk every day along St. Petersburg's pretty downtown, which is dotted with restaurants and shops on one side and Tampa Bay on the other. They keep 6 feet apart and wear masks. Both are extremely worried about catching the virus, and feel lucky that they don't know anyone who's gotten it.

"I follow the rules, and if everyone else would follow the rules too, we'd be much better," Johnson said.

Nearby, 67-year-old Raymond Holmes was doing his daily five-mile power walk through downtown. Holmes is a Trump supporter who defends the president's remarks about older people and the coronavirus.

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"Trump could appear to have been insensitive but you have to understand that he didn't want people to panic and he couldn't necessarily say one group of people needs more than another group of people. He had to placate and he had to handle the entire population," he said.

The president's comments touched a nerve with the family of Celia Yap-Banago, a nurse in Kansas City, Missouri, who died of the coronavirus at the age of 69. She was just a week short of her 40-year anniversary working at the Research Medical Center and was close to retirement when she died.

Her son, Jhulan Banago, said the virus' toll clearly extends beyond older Americans like his mother, scarring his family and infecting people he knows.

"I don't know if I fully agree with that," he said of Trump's comments. "I have some doctor friends as well. Unfortunately one has tested positive for it. And I have a lot of nursing friends as well and they see the effects of it. ... I think it affects more than just the elderly."

Jay Mangold, a 69-year-old retired business owner in St. Petersburg, said people need to take a "degree of personal responsibility," when it comes to the virus.

"It's unfair to expect everyone else to put their lives on hold," he said, adding that he's taking precautions because of his age, like wearing masks indoors and staying out of crowds. He tries to exercise daily to boost his immune system.

He also wonders about the incessant news coverage of the virus, and whether discussion of it will vanish if Biden wins.

"It's all the TV news people are talking about," he said. "It's like force-feeding a goose for foie gras."

Michael Carl, who is 55, doesn't think Trump has handled the pandemic well, especially when it comes to older Black people. He cited the Trump administration's suing to overturn the Affordable Care Act, as evidence. And he feels that urging schools to open puts elders at risk.

"He could make a bigger effort," said Carl, then added with a sigh: "Again, if seniors go ahead and die, there's no social security to pay out."

Ann Wrigley, a 78-year-old who was walking her Shih Tzu, said she's not sure if the government could have done better when it comes to senior citizens.

"I think it's up to us. We're all individuals, and we need to do what we think is right," said Wrigley, a registered Republican in Ohio before moving to Florida 16 years ago. She says she's undecided on the presidential race.

"I just make my decision at the end when I walk in to vote," she said.

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Associated Press Writer Heather Hollingsworth in Mission, Kansas, contributed to this report.

## **The other issues: Pandemic focus at UN pushes out key topics**

By PETER PRENGAMAN Associated Press

At the United Nations this week, Kenya's president lamented the loss of animal species and called for measures to combat climate change. Slovenia's president spoke of eliminating land mines, legacies of bygone wars that still maim and kill. And leaders of Iran, Cuba and Libya asked for a lifting of sanctions, hoping to eliminate measures they say hinder development and undermine international cooperation.

Was anyone listening, though?

None of these issues — nor numerous others — is getting lavish attention during this year's virtual General Assembly leaders meeting, which goes through Sept. 29. Just as the coronavirus pandemic has taken center stage in daily life worldwide, it has hogged the conversation at the biggest of annual international meetings.

That has generated concerns that ground will be lost in tackling other major problems that will be around long after a COVID-19 vaccine is developed and deployed. Some of the other major issues getting lesser attention at the General Assembly this year: climate change, nuclear proliferation, refugee migration, poverty, cyber security and gender-based violence.

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"COVID-19 is a massive distraction," said Mala Htun, a professor of political science at the University of New Mexico. But, at the same time, Htun notes that the coronavirus is putting a spotlight on some big issues.

"Everybody agrees that the pandemic is both creating and revealing many underlying inequalities that the global community and national governments have been trying to address for years," she said.

Indeed, numerous world leaders have made the connection between fallout from the virus and inequality. That nexus has been the basis for calls that range from a cease fire in all armed conflicts worldwide to renewed efforts for a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestine Authority.

For leaders of several African nations, that connection has been the central argument for reduction, or even complete elimination, of foreign debt.

Listing ways his country has struggled to combat the virus, Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera said he was "hopeful for debt cancellations and extension of a debt moratorium in the meantime." Niger's president, Issoufou Mahamadou, was more blunt: "We need to purely and simply cancel this debt."

Leaders were also using the virus as a frame to highlight other issues.

Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid called her small European nation the "world's first digitally transformed state, where all public services run online." She said that thanks to that, combined with the use of digital IDs (something other nations have been slow to adopt because of security concerns), Estonia had a relatively easy transition to doing things virtually. While cybersecurity was a big issue that had to be dealt with as societies go more digital, the benefits could include helping to combat climate change, she argued.

"In a way, the pandemic and its aftermath gives us an opportunity for a great global technological leap," Kaljulaid said

Still, for all the attempts to tie COVID-19 to problems of the day, little beyond lofty statements was expected on issues that many experts deem urgent to the future of humanity, such as climate change. If it were not for the virus, devastating wildfires in recent years in the Brazilian Amazon, Western U.S. states, Australia and Indonesia, just to name some examples, would arguably have made global warming a much more central topic this year — as it was last year.

The most dedicated discussion expected on the environment is a "United Nations Summit on Biodiversity," scheduled for the day after the general debate ends. Many world leaders are scheduled to speak. Similar high-level meetings are planned for later next week to promote the achievement of gender equality and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Many leaders, such as Botswana's president, Mokgweetsi Masisi, clearly came wanting to make headway on other major issues like climate change. In his recorded address, Masisi described how droughts were impacting animals, which impacted food production.

"This has contributed to animal deaths and the escalation of the human-wildlife conflict," Masisi said, adding that the country would accelerate commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement aimed at curbing global warming.

Stewart Patrick, a senior fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations and an expert on the U.N., said the lack of in-depth discussions around many major issues wasn't just because of COVID-19. A growing rivalry between China and the United States, two of the world's most powerful countries, was also capturing attention, he said.

What's more, Patrick said that the central role that the United States traditionally played in U.N. happenings had changed under U.S. President Donald Trump, who "doesn't believe in open, international order."

"When you have a great power rivalry, and the country that has always been the fallback pillar of trying to get something out of the U.N. is absent, it's hard to have much action," he said.

For any lamenting the lack of robust discussions on issues not directly related to the coronavirus, there is little question that the pandemic will remain the world's top issue for some time. COVID-19 has killed nearly 1 million people worldwide, sickened tens of millions more and impacts just about every aspect of daily life.

What's more, the world's collective response has lacked coordination and arguably failed, a point that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made himself on Thursday.

Guterres told a high-level meeting of the U.N. Security Council that there had been "a lack of global preparedness, cooperation, unity and solidarity." The only solution, Guterres said, was to fortify multilateralism. "We have no choice," he said. "Either we come together in global institutions that are fit for purpose, or we will be crushed by divisiveness and chaos."

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## **Biden's push for unity faces test with Supreme Court fight**

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

From the opening of his third presidential bid, Joe Biden has argued that he is in a unique position to mend a fractured nation and work — even with Republicans — to "unify the country" into some semblance of consensus.

That central thesis of the Democratic presidential nominee's campaign is being severely tested by the battle over the future of the Supreme Court.

In the week since liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death, he's faced pressure from progressives seeking bolder action. And most Republicans in the Senate, a place where Biden spent 36 years of his career, have ignored his calls to wait until after the election to approve a successor. President Donald Trump is expected to name his pick on Saturday, launching a confirmation process that may only deepen the nation's sectarian politics.

For now, Biden is holding his ground, defending the purpose and function of institutions and governing processes that are needed to install Ginsburg's successor but appear to be fraying after years of strain.

"We have to de-escalate," Biden said on Sunday in his first extended remarks after Ginsburg's death. "Cool the flames ... engulfing our nation."

He followed up Monday in Wisconsin during a 25-minute speech where he didn't mention the court at all. "We have to bring the nation together," he said. "That's going to be my primary job."

The approach leaves Biden, a former senator shaped by a bygone era of Capitol Hill bonhomie, between ideological firing lines so intense as to risk overshadowing remembrances of Ginsburg as a legal giant, feminist hero and, late in her 87 years, a pop culture icon.

Whether Biden is right will determine not only his prospects in November but what kind of legislative success, well beyond judicial confirmations, he could muster once in office.

"Sometimes it sounds naïve," said progressive labor and Democratic Party leader Larry Cohen, who supports Biden but wants him to be more forceful about overhauling how Capitol Hill works.

Biden is with his fellow Democrats in decrying a swift GOP-run confirmation so close to an election — especially given Republicans' refusal to consider President Barack Obama's last Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, in March 2016, eight months before Election Day. Yet, at least publicly, Biden is not entertaining calls among some Democrats and progressives urging him to threaten specific retaliation.

Various groups already wanted Biden to endorse abolishing the Senate filibuster to allow anything to pass by majority vote. Now some want Biden to add the warning that a Democratic majority and President Biden would expand the Supreme Court at their first opportunity.

Even Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a consummate establishment Democrat like Biden, has declared that "nothing is off the table" if Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell go through with cementing a 6-3 conservative supermajority four years after denying Garland a confirmation vote. Garland would have tilted the court 5-4 in favor of Democratic appointees in 2016, with Ginsburg's death leaving a 4-4 court.

Inflaming tensions are other fundamental dynamics. Republicans hold a 53-seat Senate majority, but that

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group collectively represents millions fewer Americans and got millions fewer combined votes than the 47 senators in the Democratic caucus. Trump is the second consecutive Republican president not to win the national popular vote in his first election. In fact, since 1988 Republicans have won the presidential popular vote just one time: President George W. Bush's re-election in 2004.

Advisers to Biden and Trump agree that Democrats almost certainly will win it again this year, too.

"Democracy is being restricted to the elite and their minority," said Cohen, among the leaders pushing to end the filibuster.

Yet Biden doesn't lament the curious turns of the nation's institutions. Rather, he's staked his campaign on defending the structure.

"I'm gonna say something outrageous. I know how to make government work," Biden said at his first big rally in Philadelphia on May, 18, 2019.

Ahead of the Iowa caucuses this winter, he declared in Ames that, "Our Constitution is built in a way that literally it cannot function unless we are able to arrive at consensus."

Indeed, as a former six-term senator and two-term vice president, Biden tells stories of back-slapping and deal-making that he contends can be reprimanded.

"Compromise is not a dirty word; it's how our government is designed to work," he told a teachers union audience this summer. "I've done it my whole life."

Perhaps more accurately, Biden has been in the middle of Capitol Hill's evolution.

He was Senate Judiciary Chairman in 1987 when Democrats jettisoned a controversial Supreme Court nominee from President Ronald Reagan. Robert Bork, a favorite in conservative legal circles, got a floor vote but garnered just 42 votes, including two Democrats. Six Republicans were among the 58 nays. The move incensed conservatives and gave birth to the highly organized activist network that Republicans have used to great success in confirming their preferred jurists in recent years.

But it's worth noting that a subsequent Reagan nominee for the same vacancy, Anthony Kennedy, was confirmed unanimously. The final vote occurred early in the presidential election year of 1988.

When President Bill Clinton nominated Ginsburg in 1993, her liberal credentials and outlook were well-established. She was confirmed 96-3 anyway. Partisan wrangling intensified from Clinton's second term onward. Democrats spiked the filibuster for regional appeals court judges in 2013, citing Republican obstruction. McConnell and Republicans followed suit in 2017 by ending filibusters for Supreme Court justices. Biden, who'd once shepherded Kennedy's nomination through seamlessly, voted against both of George W. Bush's nominees: Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito.

Over the same period, bipartisan legislative deals waned.

Bush's signature domestic policy, the No Child Left Behind education law, had a Senate champion unthinkable today: the late Ted Kennedy, the "liberal lion" from Massachusetts. Biden often claims while campaigning that he cajoled three key Senate Republican votes for a 2009 economic rescue package when he was vice president – but just one of those senators, Susan Collins of Maine, remains in the Senate, and she faces a tough re-election battle. Obama's signature domestic legislative win, the Affordable Care Act, got through Congress without a single Republican vote and only because Democrats managed procedural moves to avoid a final filibuster.

Now, even as Senate Republicans seemed poised to fast-track a court confirmation, Congress remains unable to agree on another economic stabilization bill amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those trends, Cohen argued, offer little reason to think Biden and Democratic Senate majority "could even get floor votes" on major efforts on the climate crisis, immigration law or gun regulations.

A day before Ginsburg's death, Biden reiterated his optimism. "With President Trump out of the way" he predicted he'd find "somewhere between six and eight" GOP senators to work with a new Democratic majority.

"I'm going to be America's president," Biden insisted, "not a Democratic president."

**White House again criticizes FBI director for voting remarks**

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By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Christopher Wray was the target of White House criticism for the second time in a week Friday as Chief of Staff Mark Meadows chided him over remarks made a day earlier to Congress about voter fraud.

Meadows suggested in an interview with CBS that Wray was ill-informed when he told the Senate that there has not been any significant coordinated national voter fraud.

Wray, who last week drew criticism from President Donald Trump for his description of Russian election interference and the threat posed by the anti-fascist movement known as antifa, said in Senate testimony that the U.S. has only experienced occasional voter fraud and on a local level.

It was the latest sign of tension between the president and senior officials over election security, as Trump and his associates seek to minimize intelligence community reports that Russia is again seeking to influence voters on his behalf as it did in 2016. Trump and other administration officials have been eager to keep the focus on the threat from China, with the president tweeting angrily last week after Wray's testimony on election interference was centered instead on Russia.

Meadows was critical in his CBS interview of the director, tying his remarks on voter fraud to a probe of the FBI's handling of Russian links to the Trump campaign. The president and his allies have denounced the investigation, which a watchdog has said was flawed but legitimate overall.

"Well, with all due respect to Director Wray, he has a hard time finding e-mails in his own FBI, let alone figuring out whether there is any kind of voter fraud."

He then suggested that Wray needed more information about the allegations of voter fraud that have surfaced in several places.

"Perhaps he needs to get involved on the ground and then he would change his testimony on Capitol Hill," Meadows said.

It was unusually pointed criticism of an FBI director, especially one who was appointed by Trump.

In his testimony to the Senate Homeland Security committee on Thursday, Wray said the FBI takes "all election-related threats seriously," including voter fraud or voter suppression.

But in response to a question from Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, the FBI director said the agency has not seen evidence of widespread voter fraud, at least not to date.

"Now, we have not seen, historically, any kind of coordinated national voter fraud effort in a major election, whether it's by mail or otherwise," he said. "We have seen voter fraud at the local level from time to time."

It was the kind of nuanced answer that riled Trump last week when Wray was asked at a House hearing by lawmakers about antifa, and its role in the violence that has marred peaceful protests in recent months.

Wray said antifa activists were a serious concern and that the FBI has launched investigations into people who identify with it and have engaged in violence. But, he said, "It's not a group or an organization. It's a movement or an ideology," which angered the president and some of his supporters who want to see it treated like a terrorist group.

He told the Senate this week that people who associate themselves with antifa have organized locally or regionally but not at a national level. He also said there were "militia types" under investigation for violent activities during the protests as well.

"We sometimes refer to it as almost like a salad bar of ideology, a little bit of this, a little bit of that," he said.

## Trump camp hopes Mideast pacts translate to Jewish support

By ELANA SCHOR and JACK JENKINS undefined

Jewish American voters have leaned Democratic for decades, but Republicans are hoping the recent steps toward normalized relations between Gulf states and Israel — which Trump vigorously touted earlier this month — bolster his appeal to Jewish voters.

With battleground states like Pennsylvania, Florida and Michigan collectively decided in 2016 by fewer

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than 200,000 votes, any loss of the Jewish support by Democratic nominee Joe Biden could be pivotal.

"Democrats like to say they have a majority of the Jewish vote," said Republican Jewish Coalition executive director Matt Brooks, whose group is spending \$10 million to boost Trump and other GOP candidates in electoral battlegrounds ahead of November. "They do — but that's not what this game is about."

Brooks' group is working toward a goal of 300,000 voter contacts in swing states, focusing the bulk of its spending on Trump while also aiding some GOP congressional hopefuls. Last week's signing ceremony of the Israel-United Arab Emirates agreement, which Bahrain later joined, "proves that the president does have a vision" for working toward peace in the Middle East, Brooks said.

The Trump campaign is ramping up its own efforts as well, launching a new "Jewish Voices for Trump" initiative effort in September that centers on the president's support for Israel. Co-chairs include Nevada casino mogul and conservative donor Sheldon Adelson as well as former Trump White House aide Boris Epshteyn.

"President Trump is a champion of the Jewish people and the greatest ally the State of Israel has ever had," Epshteyn, who also advises Trump's campaign, said in a statement.

But whether Trump can gain ground with Jewish voters on the strength of his foreign policy agenda remains an unanswered question. According to a Pew Research Center poll conducted last year, 42% of Jewish Americans said Trump's policies favor the Israelis too much, while 47% said he strikes the right balance between Israelis and Palestinians.

And most Jewish voters broke for Democrats in the 2018 midterm elections. AP VoteCast found that 72% of Jews who voted nationwide backed Democratic House candidates, while 26% backed Republicans. Among those Jewish midterm voters in 2018, VoteCast shows that 74% disapproved of Trump and just 26% approved.

The majority of Jewish voters who view Trump unfavorably "are not going to put (that) out of their minds" because the president can trumpet new pacts between Gulf states and Israel, said Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of the liberal-leaning Jewish American advocacy group J Street.

J Street's political committee has raised more than \$2 million for Biden and hosted a virtual reception with the Democratic nominee in September. It's not alone among progressive Jewish American groups that are bullish on Biden: Halie Soifer, executive director of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, predicted in an interview that Biden could make up for Trump's 2016 margin of victory in Michigan and Pennsylvania "with the Jewish vote alone."

"When it comes to Israel, there's a tendency among Republicans, including the president himself, to treat Jewish voters as if we are, A, monolithic and, B, one-issue voters," said Soifer, who led Jewish voter outreach for former President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign in Florida. "He's wrong on both counts."

Indeed, Trump sparked criticism last year by telling reporters that Jewish Americans who vote Democratic are "disloyal" to both their faith and to Israel. The issue reemerged this month during an annual pre-Rosh Hashana call between Trump and Jewish leaders.

According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Trump ended the call by telling the Jewish American leaders, "We really appreciate you. ... We love your country also."

The Washington Post also reported on Wednesday (Sept. 23) that after ending phone calls with Jewish lawmakers, Trump — according to unnamed current and former White House officials — allegedly has muttered that Jews "are only in it for themselves" and "stick together" in an ethnic allegiance.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment regarding the allegations, but a spokesperson told The Washington Post that "Donald Trump's record as a private citizen and as president has been one of fighting for inclusion and advocating for the equal treatment of all."

The Biden campaign has been quick to condemn Trump's remarks and cast him as insensitive to Jews.

"We know that Donald Trump's use of anti-Semitic tropes has emboldened all those who hate Jews," Aaron Keyak, Biden's Jewish engagement director, said in a statement addressing the Post's reporting. "We must not numb ourselves to Trump's dangerous rhetoric during our sacred time of reflection and holiness. This should serve as a wakeup call to the relatively few Jewish Americans who still insist on

standing with and promoting the current occupant of the White House.”

In a separate interview, Keyak touted the robust outreach efforts by the Biden campaign to Jewish voters, such as staging regular phone banks and taking the unusual step of hiring dedicated Jewish vote directors in Florida and Pennsylvania.

“The Biden campaign and the DNC have made an unprecedented investment of resources and talent into turning out and persuading Jewish voters,” he said.

Biden’s team is working to target its efforts to be as local as possible. His campaign recently convened Jewish outreach events in Pennsylvania, Florida and Ohio with Douglas Emhoff, Kamala Harris’ husband, who is Jewish. It has also held an event for Democrats abroad in Israel with former Sen. Barbara Boxer and two former ambassadors to the nation.

“There’s no question that the Jewish vote can make a difference in Florida as well as states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan,” Keyak said.

The Trump campaign may be playing catch-up with Biden when it comes Jewish outreach, but Republicans are hoping the president’s record of support for Israel will speak louder to more moderate and conservative Jewish voters than his recent controversies. This includes Orthodox Jews, who comprise a minority of the Jewish American population but skew majority-Republican, according to a 2013 Pew study.

Nathan Diament, executive director of the Orthodox Union Advocacy Center, said this election is “about margins, and it’s about margins in key swing states.”

Diament, who’s been an appointed adviser on faith-based issues to both the Trump and Obama administrations, said that Orthodox Jews — while a minority of the Jewish American population — are the most swing-voter-like element of the faith’s broader voting bloc. His group has held virtual sessions with Biden’s Jewish outreach director as well as a Trump campaign representative and plans further programming this fall focused on specific swing states.

Views of Biden among Orthodox Jews tend to skew more positive than those of Hillary Clinton did in 2016, Diament said, but “on the other hand, Trump has a record to run on” when it comes to the specific issues that appeal to Jewish voters the president’s team wants to court.

He singled out Trump’s move of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, as well as the Israel-UAE deal, as “motivating for segments of American Jews for whom Israel is a priority voting issue.”

Of course, Biden can also make the case for his own record on U.S.-Israel relations. The former vice president has steered clear of the most liberal proposals on curtailing Israeli expansionism that some of his Democratic primary rivals offered, and one of Biden’s campaign surrogates, Rep. Lois Frankel, D-Florida, said she feels “very good” about how Biden has approached the issue.

It’s “to the detriment of Israel that Donald Trump and some Republicans try to use Israel as a political football, to make it appear as if Democrats are not for the security of Israel,” Frankel said in an interview.

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Elana Schor reports for The Associated Press and Jack Jenkins reports for Religion News Service.

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## With spy series ‘Tehran,’ Israelis reach out to an enemy

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Things are not as they seem in the new Apple TV+ series “Tehran” — as it should be in a spy thriller.

The series opens with a commercial flight from Jordan to India that’s suddenly diverted to Iran. A few of the passengers on board have secrets. Those secrets will soon have war jets scrambling and a covert manhunt launching.

As audacious as the premise, “Tehran” is equally bold: an Israeli production that offers viewers a sympathetic view of Iran — one of Israel’s greatest foes — without anyone from the production setting foot

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in the Islamic Republic.

"The core of the show is dealing with the question of identity, nationality, immigration and family roots," Moshe Zonder, the show's co-creator and co-writer, says from Tel Aviv. "It asks how we connect to them and our obligation to them and can we get free from them? This is relevant to everyone on the globe."

The show's eight episodes aired in Israel in June and July, to largely rave reviews. The espionage thriller, with dialogue in Hebrew, English and Farsi, debuts on Apple TV+ on Friday.

"Tehran" centers on a computer hacker-agent undertaking her very first mission in Iran's capital, which is also the place of her birth. When the mission goes wrong, the agent has to survive by her wits.

With several of the same actors and featuring a woman spy dealing with Middle Eastern and Central Asian intrigue at its center, some viewers may see similarities with the recently completed run of "Homeland."

But while that Showtime series explored how notions of good and evil can become corrupt and twisted on the international stage, "Tehran" is about making connections across ideological borders.

"There is not one clear enemy. It's not about one side against the other. It's really about people," Niv Sultan, an Israeli actor who plays the "Tehran" spy heroine, says from Tel Aviv. "For the first time, we're showing a different point of view of this conflict."

The setting of the series is definitely not as it seems. Sections of the Greek capital Athens stood in for Tehran after co-creator Dana Eden visited the European country on a family vacation and was struck by the visual similarities between the two cities. Israelis are banned from visiting Iran.

Turning Athens into Tehran meant replacing lamp posts, license plates and street signs, as well as adding street vendors and storefront signs. The Athens airport was used to mimic the one in Tehran and, in one scene, a huge building-sized mural depicts an ayatollah, an addition thanks to computer special effects.

For months before shooting, Sultan immersed herself in the Israeli martial arts Krav Maga and intensive Farsi lessons. She initially approached the language assignment with confidence, thinking her background would help

"I thought, 'All right. Not a problem.' My dad talks Moroccan, which is Arabic. I was like, 'Alright, Moroccan, Farsi — probably going to be similar.' No! It has nothing to do with Hebrew and not with Arabic. The pronunciation is so, so difficult for a Hebrew speaker."

Zonder — who served as a head writer on the first season of "Fauda," the groundbreaking action series on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — spent years researching and writing "Tehran."

The two series share an attempt to humanize enemies. In "Fauda," Zonder showed how a Hamas leader with Israeli blood on his hands was also a family man, much like he does with the main Iranian security officer chasing the heroine in "Tehran."

Zonder said he reached back to his days as an investigative journalist when he would sit down with Hamas and PLO leaders and interview them to understand their point of view.

"I always want to cross borders — physically and mentally — in order to meet the one that I've been told all my life is my enemy," he said.

While today Iran and Israel are mortal enemies, the series teases out their shared history and the respect Israelis and Iranians had for each others' cultures before the Islamic Revolution.

"It's an amazing country. They have an amazing nature and views and food. Hopefully, some day, I could go to visit Iran and Tehran," said Sultan. "But for now, I'm focusing on the possibility that maybe our series will open peoples' hearts and maybe open up some dialogue between Israelis and Iranians."

While the intent may have been to build bridges, the Iranian regime's reception to the series has been cold. The government-aligned Kayhan newspaper called the series an "anti-Iranian production" that reveals the "pro-West and promiscuous" agenda of anti-Iran activists.

Still, that hasn't stopped the filmmakers from hoping that some in Iran will find a way to see the show and be touched that Israelis are reaching out.

"Although it's not a documentary, it is very important to us that people from Iran will see the show and a least some of them will feel that some of the characters are representative," Zonder said.

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Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 26, the 270th day of 2020. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 26, 1960, the first-ever debate between presidential nominees took place as Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience from Chicago.

On this date:

In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1789, Thomas Jefferson was confirmed by the Senate to be the first United States secretary of state; John Jay, the first chief justice; Edmund Randolph, the first attorney general.

In 1888, poet T.S. Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1955, following word that President Eisenhower had suffered a heart attack, the New York Stock Exchange saw its worst price decline since 1929.

In 1964, the situation comedy "Gilligan's Island" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1990, the Motion Picture Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, to replace the X rating.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Arizona, called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.)

In 1996, President Clinton signed a bill ensuring two-day hospital stays for new mothers and their babies.

In 2003, President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin (POO'-tih) opened a two-day summit at Camp David.

In 2005, Army Pfc. Lynndie England was convicted by a military jury in Fort Hood, Texas, on six of seven counts stemming from the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal. (England was sentenced to three years in prison; she ended up serving half that time.)

In 2016, Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton participated in their first debate of the presidential campaign at Hofstra University in New York; Clinton emphatically denounced Trump for keeping his personal tax returns and business dealings secret from voters while Trump repeatedly cast Clinton as a "typical politician."

Ten years ago: Gloria Stuart, the 1930s Hollywood beauty who later became the oldest Academy Award acting nominee as the spunky survivor in "Titanic," died in Los Angeles at age 100.

Five years ago: Visiting Philadelphia on the final leg of his six-day U.S. trip, Pope Francis extolled America's founding ideals of liberty and equality while warning that religious freedom was under threat around the globe. Speaking at a U.N. summit on new development goals, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged billions in aid to the world's poorest countries and said Beijing would forgive debts of those worst-off.

One year ago: President Donald Trump lashed out at the person who gave information to the whistleblower accusing him of abusing his office, saying that the individual was "close to a spy" who could have committed treason; he said of spies, "We used to handle it a little differently than we do now." Jacques Chirac, a two-term French president who had been the first French leader to acknowledge the country's role in the Holocaust, died at the age of 86. Figures released by the Census Bureau showed that a measure of income inequality in the United States had increased in 2018 to its highest level in more than 50 years of tracking.

Today's Birthdays: Retired baseball All-Star Bobby Shantz is 95. Country singer David Frizzell is 79. Actor Kent McCord is 78. Television host Anne Robinson is 76. Singer Bryan Ferry is 75. Actor Mary Beth Hurt is 74. Singer Olivia Newton-John is 72. Actor James Keane is 68. Rock singer-musician Cesar Rosas

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(Los Lobos) is 66. Country singer Carlene Carter is 65. Actor Linda Hamilton is 64. Country singer Doug Supernaw is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cindy Herron (En Vogue) is 59. Actor Melissa Sue Anderson is 58. Actor Patrick Bristow is 58. Rock musician Al Pitrelli is 58. Singer Tracey Thorn (Everything But The Girl) is 58. TV personality Jillian Barberie is 54. Contemporary Christian guitarist Jody Davis (Newsboys) is 53. Actor Jim Caviezel (kuh-VEE'-zuhl) is 52. Actor Tricia O'Kelley is 52. Actor Ben Shenkman is 52. Actor Melanie Paxon is 48. Singer Shawn Stockman (Boyz II Men) is 48. Music producer Dr. Luke is 47. Jazz musician Nicholas Payton is 47. Actor Mark Famiglietti (fah-mihl-YEH'-tee) is 41. Singer-actor Christina Milian (MIHL'-ee-ahn) is 39. Tennis player Serena Williams is 39. Actor Zoe Perry is 37.