

# Groton Daily Independent

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Volleyball Action yesterday at Faulkton:  
C Team lost, 2-1; JV lost 2-0; and Varsity lost, 3-0.

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## Tuesday, September 29, 2020

5:00: Only one Junior High Volleyball Match vs. Florence/Henry in the GHS Gym.  
5:00: Volleyball hosts Florence Henry with C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity match, in the Arena.



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

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

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**More concrete was poured at the site of the new Groton Water Tower on Monday. It was a long task of pumping in the concrete to a depth of about 10 feet and about a foot in diameter.**



## Fliehs, Traphagen qualify for state golf



Two Groton Area golfers placed in the top 20 at the regional tournament held Monday at the Dakota Magic Golf Course. Brevin Fliehs (left) placed sixth and Tristan Traphagen placed 18th. Fliehs shot an 88 and Traphagen a 96. The state tournament will be Monday and Tuesday at Hot Springs. (Photo by Jarod Fliehs)

## Smith wins Steve Grode Meet

Isaac Smith took first place at the Groton Steve Grode Cross Country meet held Monday at the Olive Grove Golf Course. He ran the 5,000m course in 18:27.1. Johnathan Bretsch of Frederick Area placed sixth with a time of 1:16.4. Milo Sumption, Frederick Area, placed ninth with a time of 19:47.3. Stephen Achen, Frederick Area, placed 15th, 20:45.7. Winston Clark, Frederick Area, 20th, 21:38; Nolan Jensen, Frederick Area, 21st, 21:39.8; Jackson Garstecki, Groton Area, 37th, 25:13.5; Jayden Schwan, Groton Area, 38th, 25:39; Benjamin Hoeft, Groton Area, 27:10.6; Braden Freeman, Groton Area, 45th, 28:15.1; Steven Paulson, Groton Area, 29:12.1.

In the girl's 5000m race, Morgan Sumption, Frederick Area, placed 7th with a time of 21:38.4; Laura Sumption, Frederick Area, 12th, 23:11; Sofia Losure, Frederick Area, 16th, 24:03.1; Gabby Millard, Frederick Area, 20th, 25:28.1; Sierra Ehresmann, Groton Area, 30th, 28:05.0.

Boys Junior Varsity Race, 3000m: 1, Noah Kippley, Frederick Area, 13:55.2; 6, Erik Losure, Frederick Area, 14:50.8.

Girls Junior Varsity Race, 3000m: 1, Chloe Akin, Frederick Area, 14:27.5; 9, Zoe Cox, Frederick Area, 17:49.2; 12, Rebecca Poor, Groton Area, 19:18; 12, Cabria Bonn, Groton Area, 21:30.3.

### Elementary Fun Run

Kindergarten - Second Grade Boys: 1, Knox Mulder; 2, Bentley Ehresmann; 3, Colton Morehouse. Girls: 1, Kinley Sandness; 2, Andi Iverson; 3, Libby Johnson.

3rd Grade through 5th Grade Boys: 1, TC Schuster; 2, Jordan Schwan; 3, Jace Johnson. Girls: 1, Rylie Rose.



**Isaac Smith wins Groton Cross County Meet.**

(Photo by Adam Franken)



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**#218 in a series**

## **Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller**

This will be relatively brief. It was a light news day.

Today looks pretty much like yesterday. We're up to 7,175,900 cases in the US. 37,900 new cases were reported today, a 0.5% increase. That puts us at 23% over 14 days ago, still a hefty increase. Here are the hardest-hit states over the past week. North Dakota has shown a 13% increase in new case reports in the past week and, based on the seven-day rolling average, reports 52 new cases daily per 100,000 residents; two North Dakota counties appear in the top 10 counties across the country for per capita new cases. South Dakota has shown a 39% increase in new case reports and had 47 new daily cases per 100,000; two South Dakota counties appear in the top 10 counties for per capita new cases. Wisconsin had a 19% increase with 39 new daily cases per 100,000. Utah had an 18% increase with 33 new daily cases per 100,000. Iowa had 6% increase with 28 new daily cases per 100,000. Montana had 50% increase and more than doubled in two weeks, currently sitting with 27 new daily cases per 100,000 and one county on the top 10 list; it also set another single-day new-case record today. South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Utah all show very low levels of testing per population as well. Center of the country's in a fair amount of trouble. Idaho also set a single-day new-case record today.

There were 298 deaths reported today, a 0.1% increase. There have now been 204,888 deaths to date in the US. The world reached a tragic milestone today; there have now been over one million deaths from this infection. That is a shocking number, and we're not half through this yet.

A new report from the CDC finds that the rate of coronavirus infection in children 12 to 17 is about double the rate in those 5 to 11 years. The report suggests the low numbers of confirmed cases in children is mostly from a lack of testing, not a lack of actual cases. It also suggests "the young persons might be playing an increasingly important role in community transmission." Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, echoed this thinking today: "It is unclear the degree to which they transmit. There are papers that come out that say they don't do it as efficiently as adults do, particularly young children. But it's an evolving situation. The more you read about it and the more papers come out, you have got to keep an open mind when it comes to an issue like what the role of children is in transmission." So don't count them out yet.

Another vaccine candidate, this one from Inovio, has been ready to begin combined phase 2/phase 3 clinical trials in the US. This is a DNA vaccine that inserts a string of synthetic viral RNA-complementary DNA into host cells so that the cells will produce copies of viral proteins to trigger an immune response. In order to get the DNA into the host cells, the vaccine is administered along with brief electrical pulses to create openings in cells. This requires a specialized electroporation device to provide the pulses.

These late-stage trials had originally been slated to begin this summer, but were put off while the company talked with the FDA about unspecified matters. They were then scheduled to begin this month, but it was announced today that a further delay is occurring while the company answers some FDA questions about that device. We don't have any more information than this at present other than the questions are reportedly not related to any adverse events from the early-stage trial. The earliest those trials can get underway now would be later in October. We will wait for further news on this.

Hazel Jacobs likes to keep busy; she gardens at her home in London and she is teaching herself Italian. She has also been helping people all her life, for example, she was a suicide hotline volunteer for years. An 86-year-old widow who had recently suffered a minor stroke, she was pretty stuck when the lockdown in the UK brought her usual activities to a halt. So one morning in March, she decided to do something.

Jacobs knew a lot of her friends had been feeling pretty down, struggling to adjust to a narrowed life. And she was struggling too without any way to take care of other people. She said "I'm used to supporting others, so I thought that'll be my role, to cheer people up."

She pulled the hundreds of colorful scarves she'd accumulated in a life spent traveling the world with her husband who had been a land surveyor and living in Scotland, Hong Kong, California, and London. Each scarf was bound up with memories of places and events. And thus was born "Scarf Aid," a blog where

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each entry starts out with a scarf and is meant to cheer and divert.

The writing is vivid. On Easter Sunday, she began with a scarf in the vibrant colors of sunset and produced this: "Beyond Sausalito lay Alcatraz, the former island prison, a grim grey fortress, and looming from the sea fog to the right, the top of the Golden Gate Bridge, then ahead, the incredible skyline of San Francisco. Today, we are all in our individual Alcatraz situations, knowing what lies behind the walls, yet curtailed from escape. But, for us, we are not lifers, and freedom lies ahead." She added brainteasers and puzzles and carefully researched historical facts about the places she discussed. Her audience was small but important to her, and it grew with time. She gave her readers something to look forward to each day, and they gave her a sense of purpose and connection.

When the lockdown let up over the summer, Jacobs moved from daily to weekly posting. She surveyed her pile of scarves not yet written about and made another decision. "The time has come for drastic action. Scissors out!" And she cut into the first of them, sewing it into a face mask. She has enough scarves to make a lot of masks.

And that's one way to help yourself while helping others, to connect with people who need connection. Together, apart. We've certainly had that conversation before.

Stay healthy. We'll talk again.



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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	
Minnesota	91,422	92,100	93,012	94,189	95,659	96,734	97,638
Nebraska	41,785	42,278	42,731	43,162	43,596	44,063	44,578
Montana	10,700	10,912	11,242	11,564	11,907	12,107	12,413
Colorado	66,053	66,669	67,217	67,926	68,510	69,079	69,490
Wyoming	4,231	4,368	4,488	4,585	4,618	4,780	4,897
North Dakota	18,508	18,981	19,451	19,885	20,380	20,724	20,983
South Dakota	19,189	19,634	20,097	20,544	21,133	21,541	21,738
United States	6,897,495	6,935,415	6,978,874	7,034,824	7,079,689	7,113,666	7,150,117
US Deaths	200,818	201,920	202,819	203,789	204,499	204,750	205,091
Minnesota	+480	+678	+912	+1,177	+1,460	+1,075	+904
Nebraska	+397	+493	+453	+431	+434	+467	+515
Montana	+271	+212	+330	+323	+343	+200	+306
Colorado	+654	+616	+548	+709	+584	+569	+411
Wyoming	+42	+137	+120	+97	+33	+162	+117
North Dakota	+264	+473	+470	+434	+495	+344	+259
South Dakota	+320	+445	+463	+457	+579	+412	+198
United States	+39,357	37,920	+43,459	+55,950	+44,865	+33,977	+38,451
US Deaths	+928	+1,102	+899	+970	+710	+251	+341
	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 28th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

North Dakota had three more deaths and none were recorded in South Dakota. The cases in South Dakota dropped to 198 and North Dakota has dropped down to 260. The positivity rate in South Dakota for today is 13.6 percent and in North Dakota it is 6.7 percent.

Those in South Dakota with double digit increases were Beadle 10, Brown 16, Davison 10, Lawrence 10, Minnehaha 41, and Pennington 17.

Locally, Brown had 16 positive cases, Day had none, Edmunds had one, Marshall and McPherson 0, Spink 2.

It's nice to see some low numbers for a change.

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +16 (1,205) Positivity Rate: 21.1%

Total Tests: 76 (10,570)

Recovered: +5 (995)

Active Cases: +11 (206)

Ever Hospitalized: +0 (46)

Deaths: +0 (4)

Percent Recovered: 82.6

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +198 (21,738 total) Positivity Rates: 13.6%

Total Tests: 1,455 (264,379 total)

Hospitalized: +5 (1,488 total). 209 currently hospitalized -7)

Deaths: +0 (218 total)

Recovered: +159 (17,692 total)

Active Cases: +38 (3,828)

Percent Recovered: 81.4%

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 9% Covid, 46% Non-Covid, 45% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 12% Covid, 60% Non-Covid, 28% 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 (12 active cases)

Beadle (9): +10 positive, +9 recovered (109 active cases)

Bennett (1): +0 positive, +5 recovered (16 active cases)

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

Brookings (2): +5 positive, +10 recovered (116 active cases)

Brown (4): +16 positive, +5 recovered (206 active cases)

Brule: +1 positive, +1 recovered (30 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +0 positive, +0 recovered (23 active cases)

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

Campbell: +1 positive, +0 recovered (23 active cases)

Charles Mix: +1 positive, +0 recovered (44 active cases)

Clark: +0 positive, +1 recovered (9 active cases)

Clay (5) +1 positive, +5 recovered (45 active cases)

Codington (3): +4 positive, +9 recovered (221 active cases)

Corson (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)

Custer (2): +1 positive, +0 recovered (38 active case)

Davison (2): +10 positive, +3 recovered (112 active cases)

Day: +0 positive, +2 recovered (17 active cases)

Deuel: +0 positive, +1 recovered (11 active cases)

Dewey: +2 positive, +0 recovered (55 active cases)

Douglas (1): +2 positive, +0 recovered (30 active cases)

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

Fall River (3): +1 positive, +0 recovered (14 active cases)

Faulk (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (15 active cases)

Grant (1): +5 positive, +1 recovered (56 active cases)

Gregory (3): +1 positive, +9 recovered (50 active cases)

Haakon: +2 positive, +1 recovered (10 active case)

Hamlin: +0 positive, +0 recovered (22 active cases)



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Hand: +2 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Hanson: +2 positive, +0 recovered (12 active cases)  
 Harding: +0 positive (1 active case)  
 Hughes (5): +9 positive, +4 recovered (134 active cases)  
 Hutchinson (2): +0 positive, +0 recovered (36 active cases)  
 Hyde: +0 positive, +0 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Jackson (1): +1 positive, +0 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Jerauld (1): +1 positive, +0 recovered (27 active cases)  
 Jones: +0 positive, +0 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Kingsbury: +1 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Lake (7): +1 positive, +0 recovered (34 active cases)  
 Lawrence (4): +10 positive, +4 recovered (109 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +8 positive, +5 recovered (206 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): +2 positive, +3 recovered (44 active

cases)  
 Marshall: +0 positive, +0 recovered (6 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +1 positive, +2 recovered (21 active cases)  
 McPherson: +0 positive, +0 recovery (6 active case)  
 Meade (5): +5 positive, +3 recovered (122 active cases)  
 Mellette: +0 recovery (3 active cases)  
 Miner: +0 positive (4 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (81): +41 positive, +28 recovered (638 active cases)  
 Moody: +4 positive, +0 recovered (30 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (3): +6 positive, +20 recovered (58 active cases)  
 Pennington (37): +17 positive, +20 recovered (426 active cases)  
 Perkins: +2 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Potter: +2 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)  
 Roberts (1): +0 positive, +3 recovered (63 active cases)  
 Sanborn: +0 positive, +0 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Spink: +2 positive, +4 recovered (31 active cases)  
 Stanley: +1 positive, +1 recovery (12 active cases)  
 Sully: +0 positive, +0 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Todd (5): +0 positive, +0 recovered (19 active cases)  
 Tripp: +3 positive, +5 recovered (70 active cases)  
 Turner (2): +2 positive, +2 recovered (35 active cases)  
 Union (7): +0 positive, +1 recovered (66 active cases)  
 Walworth (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (46 active cases)  
 Yankton (4): +4 positive, +2 recovered (92 active cases)

Ziebach: +0 positive, +0 recovered (10 active case)  
 North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, September 28:

- 6.7% rolling 14-day positivity
- 6.7% daily positivity
- 260 new positives
- 3,867 susceptible test encounters
- 105 currently hospitalized (+9)
- 3,669 active cases (-97)

Total Deaths: +3 (234)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	684	0
10-19 years	2435	0
20-29 years	5140	2
30-39 years	3768	7
40-49 years	2950	10
50-59 years	2919	22
60-69 years	2044	32
70-79 years	1032	38
80+ years	766	107

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	11263	100
Male	10475	118

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	56	44	550	0	Moderate
Beadle	801	683	2683	9	Substantial
Bennett	67	50	747	1	Substantial
Bon Homme	83	69	1160	1	Moderate
Brookings	768	650	4746	2	Substantial
Brown	1205	995	6926	4	Substantial
Brule	121	91	1126	0	Substantial
Buffalo	138	112	771	3	Substantial
Butte	104	68	1567	3	Substantial
Campbell	30	7	146	0	Substantial
Charles Mix	174	130	2215	0	Substantial
Clark	40	31	547	0	Moderate
Clay	564	514	2548	5	Substantial
Codington	876	651	4964	4	Substantial
Corson	91	80	723	1	Moderate
Custer	186	146	1294	2	Substantial
Davison	305	191	3501	2	Substantial
Day	76	59	943	0	Substantial
Deuel	84	73	628	0	Moderate
Dewey	146	91	2878	0	Substantial
Douglas	82	51	555	1	Substantial
Edmunds	94	74	606	0	Substantial
Fall River	95	78	1428	3	Moderate
Faulk	73	57	304	1	Substantial
Grant	133	76	1112	1	Substantial
Gregory	128	75	633	3	Substantial
Haakon	26	16	367	0	Moderate
Hamlin	99	77	998	0	Substantial
Hand	40	24	459	0	Substantial
Hanson	40	28	343	0	Moderate
Harding	4	3	85	0	Minimal
Hughes	446	307	2863	5	Substantial
Hutchinson	99	61	1220	2	Substantial



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Hyde	19	13	215	0	Moderate
Jackson	35	23	613	1	Moderate
Jerauld	85	57	337	1	Substantial
Jones	13	7	93	0	Minimal
Kingsbury	56	43	797	0	Substantial
Lake	196	155	1426	7	Substantial
Lawrence	412	299	4056	4	Substantial
Lincoln	1363	1155	10410	2	Substantial
Lyman	162	115	1242	3	Substantial
Marshall	38	32	652	0	Moderate
McCook	97	75	909	1	Substantial
McPherson	33	27	306	0	Moderate
Meade	542	415	3716	5	Substantial
Mellette	30	27	481	0	Minimal
Miner	23	19	346	0	Minimal
Minnehaha	6691	5971	40935	81	Substantial
Moody	94	64	869	0	Substantial
Oglala Lakota	287	206	4336	3	Substantial
Pennington	2328	1865	17996	37	Substantial
Perkins	40	30	357	0	Moderate
Potter	45	33	477	0	Moderate
Roberts	209	145	2712	1	Substantial
Sanborn	29	19	328	0	Moderate
Spink	136	105	1487	0	Substantial
Stanley	42	30	428	0	Moderate
Sully	11	9	136	0	Minimal
Todd	120	96	2810	5	Substantial
Tripp	158	88	906	0	Substantial
Turner	164	127	1364	2	Substantial
Union	402	329	2994	7	Substantial
Walworth	126	79	1138	1	Substantial
Yankton	417	321	4609	4	Substantial
Ziebach	61	51	509	0	Minimal
Unassigned	0	0	4980	0	

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



#### I pledge

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

*Your vote will be much appreciated!*



**Absentee voting begins September 18th**



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

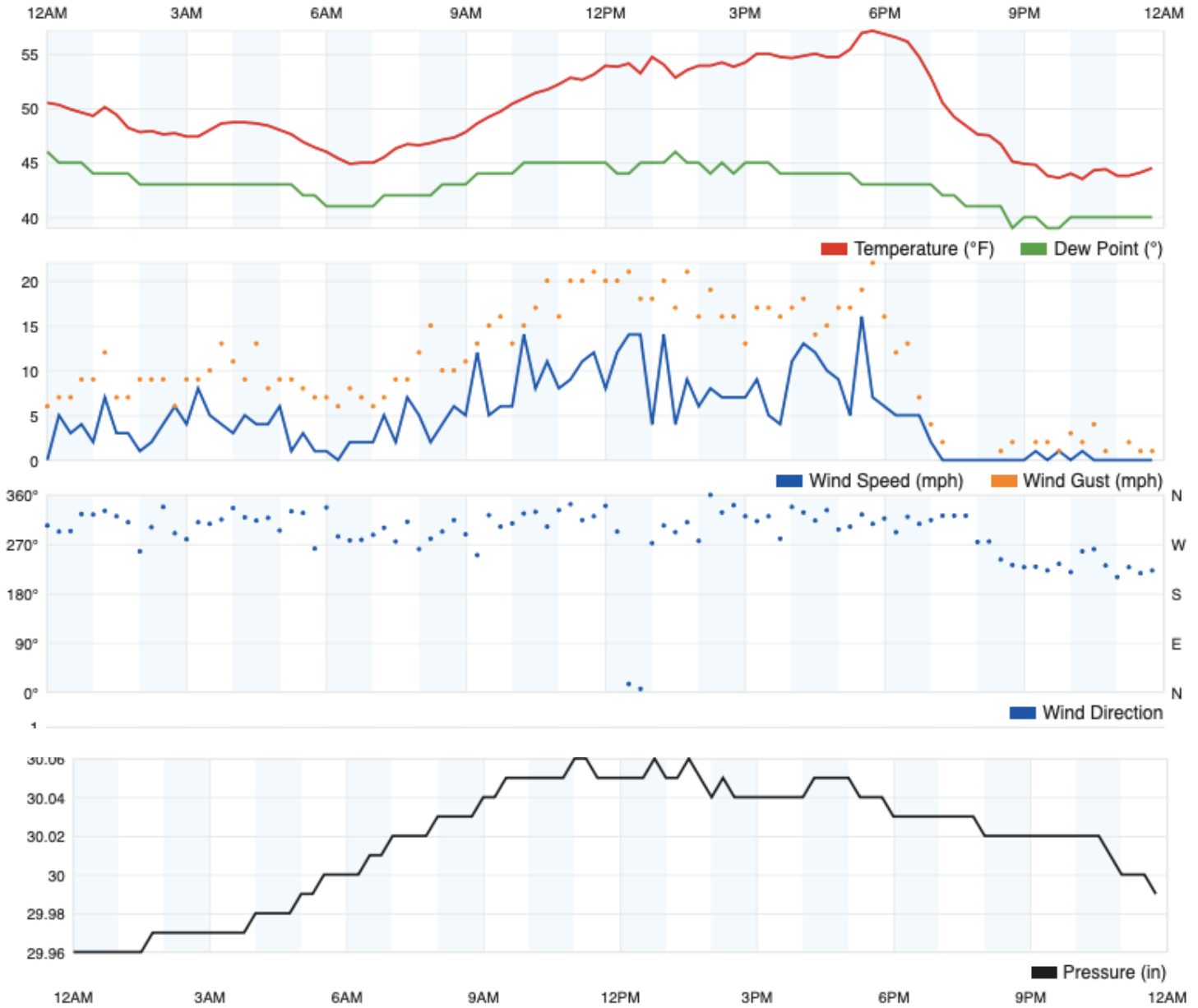
**Vote for Michael Nehls for Brown County Commission (your vote **only** for Mike could make a difference)**

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

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday  
Night

Thursday



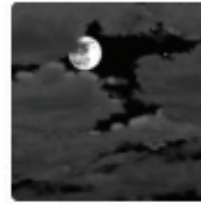
Decreasing  
Clouds



Mostly Clear



Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy



Mostly Cloudy



Partly Sunny

High: 68 °F

Low: 44 °F

High: 58 °F

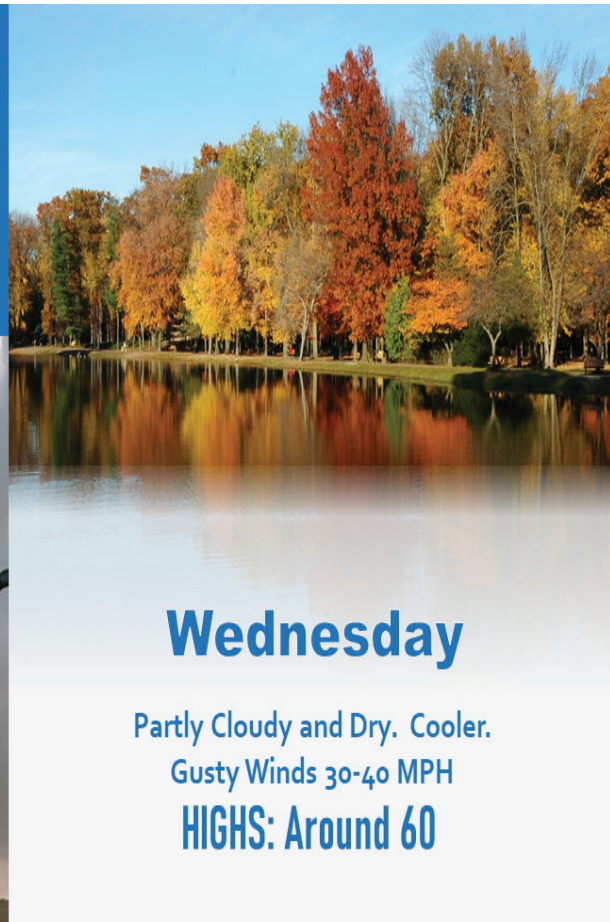
Low: 38 °F

High: 50 °F

## Today

Increasing Clouds.  
Breezy Northwest Winds Developing.

HIGHS: 70s



## Wednesday

Partly Cloudy and Dry. Cooler.  
Gusty Winds 30-40 MPH

HIGHS: Around 60

Warm and dry conditions are expected today. A cold front passing through later today will bring breezy northwest winds and cooler temperatures, with highs for Wednesday near 60. Wind gusts up to 40 MPH will be possible Wednesday.



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## Today in Weather History

September 29, 1982: An early snowfall in the Black Hills resulted in the breakage of tree branches and caused power outages in parts of Lead and Nevada Gulch.

1927 - An outbreak of tornadoes from Oklahoma to Indiana caused 81 deaths and 25 million dollars damage. A tornado (possibly two tornadoes) cut an eight-mile long path across Saint Louis MO, to Granite City IL, killing 79 persons. The damage path at times was a mile and a quarter in width. The storm followed a similar path to tornadoes which struck in 1871, 1896, and 1959. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - A storm produced 28 inches of snow at Colorado Springs, CO. (David Ludlum)

1983 - Heavy rains began in central and eastern Arizona which culminated in the worst flood in the history of the state. Eight to ten inch rains across the area caused severe flooding in southeastern Arizona which resulted in thirteen deaths and 178 million dollars damage. President Reagan declared eight counties of Arizona to be disaster areas. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A week of violent weather began in Oklahoma which culminated in one of the worst flooding events in the history of the state. On the first day of the week early morning thunderstorms caused more than a million dollars damage in south Oklahoma City. Thunderstorms produced 4 to 7 inches of rain from Hobart to Ponca City, and another round of thunderstorms that evening produced 7 to 10 inches of rain in north central and northeastern sections of Oklahoma. (Storm Data)

1987 - A slow moving cold front produced rain from the Great Lakes Region to the Central Gulf Coast Region. A late afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 62 mph at Buffalo NY. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. In Oregon, the afternoon high of 96 degrees at Medford was a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - High pressure brought freezing temperatures to parts of Vermont and New York State. Burlington VT dipped to 30 degrees, and Binghamton NY reported a record low of 34 degrees. The high pressure system also brought cold weather to the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Alamosa CO reported a record low of 18 degrees, and Gunnison CO was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of just five degrees above zero. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, as readings soared into the 80s and low 90s in the Northern Plateau and Northern Plains Region. Record highs included 91 degrees at Boise ID, and 92 degrees at Sheridan WY. The high of 100 degrees at Tucson AZ marked their 51st record high of the year, and their 92nd day of 100 degree weather. (National Weather Summary)

# Groton Daily Independent

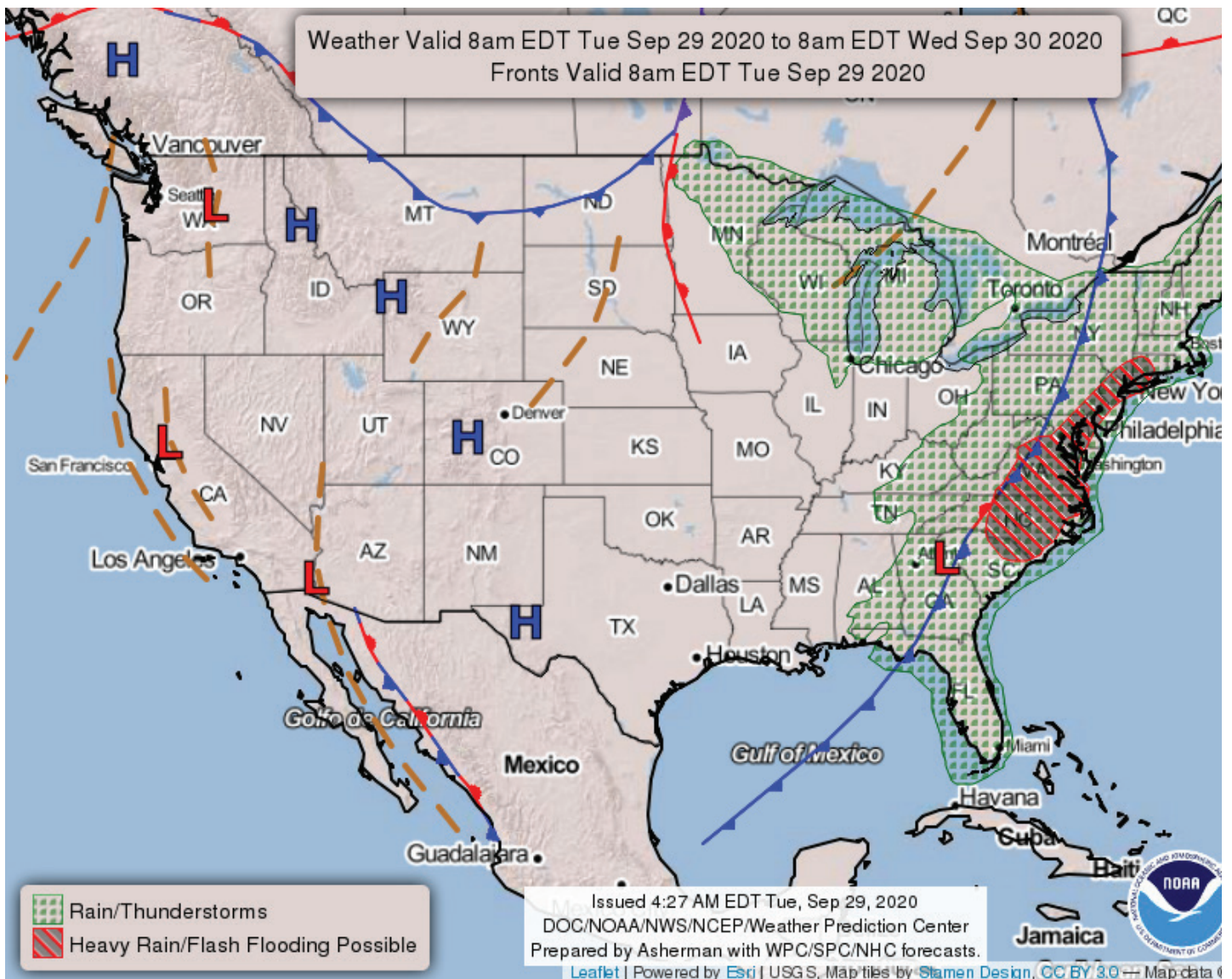
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 58 °F at 5:37 PM**  
**Low Temp: 43 °F at 10:12 PM**  
**Wind: 23 mph at 12:34 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 95° in 1897**  
**Record Low: 11° in 1938**  
**Average High: 66°F**  
**Average Low: 40°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept...: 2.05**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 1.80**  
**Average Precip to date: 18.34**  
**Precip Year to Date: 15.15**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:17 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:31 a.m.**



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## THE NEXT MILE

Eric Severide was a news journalist who achieved much recognition and fame. In fact, he was considered to be an "elite correspondent."

When he graduated from high school, a local newspaper sponsored him and a classmate, Walter Port, to travel by canoe from Minneapolis to York Factory - a journey of 2250 miles. When they came to the last leg of their journey, they were overwhelmed with what they faced - 450 miles through the rugged wilderness.

As they faced what seemed to them to be overwhelming odds, an old fur trader recognized their doubt. So, he offered a few words of simple advice: "Just think of the last mile."

Great advice for them. Great advice for Christians.

We do not know what the journey before us may be. As we face today or tomorrow or next week, we do not know what lies before us. Sometimes we look back and recall unpleasant memories that have left us scared and scarred, perhaps fearful and frightened. So, we doubt.

But, we are here today, and have the final, reassuring promise of Jesus to hold on to for the rest of our lives: "Be sure of this, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

When we place our trust in the Lord, we have a Guide who has never forgotten His promises and a Guard who has never abandoned one of His children.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your guarantee that You are and always will be with us no matter what. May we trust You always, knowing that Your grace is sufficient. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20

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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



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News from the  Associated Press

## Monday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Baltic def. Tri-Valley, 25-21, 25-23, 15-25, 15-25, 15-8

Chester def. Deubrook, 25-17, 25-18, 25-15

Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Dell Rapids, 19-25, 25-21, 25-13, 25-22

Faulkton def. Groton Area, 25-17, 25-7, 25-12

Flandreau def. Estelline/Hendricks, 20-25, 25-21, 17-25, 25-14, 15-10

Freeman def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-21, 25-21, 25-20

Herreid/Selby Area def. Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D., 25-19, 16-25, 20-25, 25-13, 15-12

Howard def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-8, 25-12, 25-7

Ipswich def. North Central Co-Op, 25-12, 25-15, 25-21

West Central def. Sioux Valley, 25-17, 26-24, 14-25, 25-13

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

## **\$10,000 reward offered in Rapid City gun store robbery**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities said Monday a \$10,000 reward is being offered to help catch suspects in a Rapid City gun store robbery and recover some of the stolen weapons.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms industry, are each putting up \$5,000 for information relating to the Sept. 23 robbery at First Stop Gun & Coin.

Investigators believe up to 40 guns were stolen and surveillance footage captured three people breaking into the store. Police have recovered 21 of the firearms and currently have a juvenile in custody.

"Firearms theft is a very serious crime," federal agent Terry Henderson said. "Once firearms are stolen, they are often used in violent crimes soon after. We highly encourage anyone with information to come forward as soon as possible to prevent these firearms from being used in a crime of violence in our communities."

## **Secretary of Health: Hospitals can handle more virus cases**

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's hospitals have plenty of capacity to care for COVID-19 patients, a top health official said Monday, even as the state has become one of the nation's coronavirus hotspots.

South Dakota has reported the nation's second-highest number of new cases per capita in the last two weeks, with about 556 new cases per 100,000 people. Health officials reported Monday that 198 more people tested positive, taking the number of active infections to a high of 3,828. More than 200 virus patients were being treated in hospitals.

Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon assured reporters that hospitals have plenty of capacity to treat COVID-19 patients. She said 33 hospital facilities across the state are caring for coronavirus patients and that over 1,000 hospital beds remain available.

"We work very actively with hospitals in the state to understand what's going on," Malsam-Rysdon said. "We are very confident that we have the hospital beds we need to serve people with COVID, as well as other health care needs."

Physicians have been dealing with an uptick in patients from COVID-19 and other medical needs that were delayed earlier in the pandemic when hospitals postponed elective procedures.

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Gov. Kristi Noem has taken an approach that focuses on treating COVID-19 cases rather than preventing the virus from spreading. She says the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations is the primary indicator she watches to assess how the virus is impacting the state.

The positivity rate for coronavirus testing in South Dakota has also been sky-high in recent weeks. The seven-day positivity average for testing is over 25%, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

Malsam-Rysdon said the state is working to increase testing in order to drive down the positivity rate.

The state has a goal of running enough tests every month to test the equivalent of 5% of the state's population. It has already surpassed that number this month. But Malsam-Rysdon said the Department of Health does not have an exact goal of how many more tests it wants to run as infections surge.

Over the course of the pandemic, 21,738 cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed in South Dakota. More than 80% have recovered, but 218 have died. September has been the state's deadliest month, with 51 coronavirus-related deaths reported.

## Crowd in Brandon celebrates life of teen killed in crash

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — Several hundred people gathered at a church in Brandon Sunday night to celebrate the life of a 14-year-old boy killed in a rollover accident last week.

Many of those who attended the vigil at Celebrate Community Church were fellow students of Noah Kimball at Brandon Valley High School.

The event was originally scheduled to be outdoors, but a steady rain canceled the candlelight portion of the vigil. With every seat in the sanctuary filled, people also congregated in the aisles and the lobby.

Kimball's classmate, Faith Carson, held a poster that was signed with messages to Kimball by family and friends. The other side of the poster listed the school district's motto of being respectful, kind, responsible, safe and active leaders, the Argus Leader reported.

Carson said Kimball, whose nickname was Bubbles, was all of those attributes and he knew how to make people laugh.

A long line waited to greet Kimball's mother and stepfather, Kerry and Adam Hirsch.

## South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota Media volleyball poll for the week of Sept. 21, 2020. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

### CLASS AA

1. O'Gorman (16)	13-0	80	1
2. S.F. Washington	7-3	50	2
3. Aberdeen Cent.	7-2	48	3
4. Huron	6-2	41	4
5. Watertown	6-2	21	5

Receiving Votes: None.

### CLASS A

1. S.F. Christian (16)	14-0	80	1
2. Dakota Valley	9-4	59	2
3. R.C. Christian	14-0	43	4
4. Madison	7-2	28	5
5. Winner	9-3	15	3

Receiving Votes: Garretson (11-1) 12; Parker (10-5) 2; Mobridge-Pollock (10-1) 1.

### CLASS B

1. Northwestern (16)	13-1	80	1
2. Warner	8-1	62	2
3. Faulkton Area	8-1	46	3

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4. Chester Area 10-2 33 4  
5. Bridgewater-Emery 12-1 14 5  
Receiving Votes: Deubrook Area (9-0) 4; Colman-Egan (10-2) 1.

## South Dakota Prep Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Prep Media football polls for the week of Sept. 21 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.

### Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(22)	5-0	110	1	
2. Brandon Valley	-	3-1	87	2	
3. Harrisburg	-	4-1	62	3	
4. Lincoln	-	3-1	43	4	
5. Sioux Falls Washington	-	3-2	21	5	

Others receiving votes: Sioux Falls O'Gorman 7.

### Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Yankton (19)	5-0	107	1		
2. Brookings	(3)	5-0	86	2	
3. Pierre	-	3-1	70	3	
4. Mitchell	-	3-2	44	4	
5. Sturgis	-	2-3	22	5	

Others receiving votes: Sturgis 1, Douglas 1.

### Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Tea Area (18)	4-0	106	1		
2. Dell Rapids	(4)	5-0	92	2	
3. Canton	-	2-2	49	4	
4. Dakota Valley	-	3-2	41	5	
5. Madison	-	2-3	35	3	

Others receiving votes: Huron 1.

### Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Winner (17)	4-0	105	1		
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	(5)	6-0	93	2	
3. Sioux Valley	-	4-1	59	3	
4. McCook Central-Montrose	-	4-1	37	4	
5. St. Thomas More	-	3-1	19	5	

Receiving votes: Mobridge-Pollock 17.

### Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Viborg-Hurley	(22)	5-0	110	1	
2. Lemon-McIntosh	-	5-0	86	2	
3. Hamlin	-	6-0	56	3	
4. Platte-Geddes	-	5-0	53	4	
5. Hanson	-	5-0	21	5	

Others receiving votes: Deuel 4.

### Class 9A

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Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Howard (22)	5-0	110	1	
2. Canistota-Freeman	-	4-1	84	2
3. Warner -	5-0	59	3	
4. De Smet -	5-1	49	4	
5. Wall -	5-0	22	RV	

Others receiving votes: Gregory 3, Ipswich 2, Philip 1.

Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Wolsey-Wessington	(12)	4-1	96	1
2. Langford Area (10)	4-1	95	2	
3. Dell Rapids St. Mary	-	3-2	42	4
4. Alcester-Hudson -	4-1	38	RV	
5. Herreid-Selby Area	-	4-1	37	5

Others receiving votes: Kadoka Area 14, Colman-Egan 8.✕

## France to ban use of wild animals in circuses, marine parks

Associated Press undefined

PARIS (AP) — France's environment minister has announced a gradual ban on using wild animals in traveling circuses, on keeping dolphins and killer whales in captivity in marine parks and on raising mink on fur farms.

Barbara Pompili, France's minister of ecological transition, said in a news conference Tuesday that bears, tigers, lions, elephants and other wild animals won't be allowed any more in travelling circuses "in the coming years."

In addition, starting immediately, France's three marine parks won't be able to bring in nor breed dolphins and killer whales any more, she said.

"It is time to open a new era in our relationship with these (wild) animals," she said, arguing that animal welfare is a priority.

Pompili said the measures will also bring an end to mink farming, where animals are raised for their fur, within the next five years.

The ban does not apply to wild animals in other permanent shows and in zoos.

Pompili did not set any precise date for the ban in travelling circuses, saying the process should start "as soon as possible." She promised solutions will be found for each animal "on a case-by-case basis."

The French government will implement an 8 million-euro (\$9.2 million) package to help people working in circuses and marine parks find other jobs.

"That transition will be spread over several years, because it will change the lives of many people," she said.

## Dutch students work hard to keep virus out of shared houses

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

LEIDEN, Netherlands (AP) — This is not the student life Iris Raats had hoped for when she was accepted at Leiden University to study law.

With the coronavirus pandemic casting its long shadow over education in the Netherlands and around the world, most of her lectures are online and the vibrant social life in the country's oldest university city has been reined in to contain the spread of the pandemic.

Instead, socializing happens predominantly within the four walls of the house that the 19-year-old shares with 13 other students close to the city's central railway station.

"I'm very glad that I found ... a room in Leiden and that I can experience living with students and have parties here in the kitchen," she said. "But it's not like real student life."



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Houses packed with students in Dutch university cities are seen as a worrying source of infections as the Netherlands has been hit by a strong resurgence of coronavirus in recent weeks. Infections have soared among people aged 20-30.

"It's very complicated for students if there are 14 of you living in a house with shared kitchen, shared bathroom," Dutch Education Minister Ingrid van Engelshoven told The Associated Press. "What we see now is that students are working with one another to work out how to make those houses safe."

That is happening at the house in Leiden, where students are packed into communal spaces almost as tightly as their bicycles in racks in the front yard. The residents have made up their own rules to keep the virus out, largely sealing themselves off from the outside world by strictly limiting the number of visitors.

Students with a cough or runny nose are supposed to self-isolate in their rooms, although the housemates concede it's hard to rigidly enforce that rule. At the height of the outbreak earlier this year, residents were allowed just one guest, a rule that allowed partners to visit.

When a room is vacated, meetings between housemates and potential new residents — thought to be a source of spreading infections — now happen largely online or in the house's back garden.

So far, it's worked for Iris and her housemates. Nobody has tested positive for COVID-19, even as Dutch infections are spiking and the government is introducing tougher measures to rein in its spread.

Students squeeze in and out of the cramped kitchen and sit talking around a small table cluttered with newspapers, books, cups and glasses. Iris cooks eggs and fiscal law student Gerard Velthuijs makes coffee.

In a hall, at the bottom of a steep flight of stairs, beer crates are stacked up and empty bottles collected in boxes. A single face mask hangs out of a student's mail collection rack on the wall.

So far, about 100,000 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Netherlands and around 6,300 have died, although the true toll is higher because of limited testing, missed cases and other factors.

Student housing is not just a problem in the Netherlands.

In Britain, outbreaks at universities in cities including Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester have seen thousands of students confined to their residence halls. Security guards at some schools prevent young people from leaving their buildings.

The clampdown has angered students and parents, who say government and universities should have been better prepared, with clearer social distancing rules and routine virus testing for students.

Confining students to dorms also has not stopped them from socializing. Police were called to a residence at Edinburgh University last week to break up multiple student parties.

In the United States, dozens of universities have emerged as virus hot spots. Although students are being spaced apart in classrooms and dining halls, the virus has continued to spread in cramped dorms and through off-campus parties that have been blamed for thousands of cases.

In Leiden, second-year physics student David Hintzen is spending way more time than he would like in his bedroom on the house's third floor. His days are spent peering at his laptop on the table next to his bed, although he must sometimes go to a university lab to carry out experiments.

"Most of our colleges are online through the website, so ... everything I do is basically here," he said. "I do study with friends sometimes, but that's also through the laptop."

Not all students in Leiden have been able to resist the temptation to party. Police intervened earlier this month to halt one late-night gathering of students in a Leiden park where people failed to social distance.

"It doesn't always go well," Van Engelshoven said. "That was — and they've said this themselves — stupid and irresponsible and we have to make sure we prevent that."

For the students, the one upside of the restrictions is more time to focus on their education.

"You can't get out to ... party," said Velthuijs. "Normally we used to party quite a bit together in the town but that's all stopped, so it's kind of boring. But you can concentrate on your studies now, so that's okay."

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

## The Latest: Greece tests more cruise ship crew amid outbreak

By The Associated Press undefined

ATHENS - Health inspectors in Greece are carrying out additional COVID-19 tests on crew members of a cruise ship with more than 1,500 people on board, ordering the ship to stop at a testing area at the country's largest port near Athens.

The Maltese-flagged Mein Schiff 6, which is on a Greek island cruise, was docked Tuesday at the port of Piraeus after sample testing of the crew found 12 crew members were positive but asymptomatic, the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry said.

Passengers had undergone coronavirus tests before boarding.

But since only 150 of the ship's 666 crew members had been tested, the public health team will re-test the 12 positive cases as well as anyone else deemed necessary by the ship's crew and doctor.

The vessel, operated by TUI Cruises, has 922 passengers. It began its trip late Sunday from the port of Iraklio, on the island of Crete.

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

- Worldwide death toll from the coronavirus pandemic has passed 1 million
- A viral march across the planet, tracked by a map in motion
- New York City elementary schools reopen in big back-to-school test
- Dutch university students work hard to keep virus out of shared 14-person houses
- Montreal and Quebec City return to highest COVID-19 alert level, Ontario reports a record 700 new daily infections

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

BRUSSELS — Brussels authorities have decided to ban prostitution until further notice in a bid to slow the spread of coronavirus in Belgium's capital city.

In addition, authorities have shut down three hotels hosting sex workers because social distancing measures were not respected, Wafaa Hammich, a spokeswoman at Brussels city hall told The Associated Press on Tuesday. She said police controls will be stepped up to make sure the ban is enforced.

The decision came after Brussels decided to impose a curfew on bars. Since the start of this week, all bars and cafes have to close between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. while any other businesses selling drinks or food will shut down at 10 p.m.

Brussels is facing a surge of new coronavirus infections.

JERUSALEM — Israel's health minister says the country's nationwide lockdown is likely to be extended. The Israeli government imposed a second countrywide lockdown ahead of the Jewish High Holidays earlier this month in a bid to halt the spread of the coronavirus.

The lockdown was initially slated to be lifted on Oct. 11, but in a radio interview on Tuesday Health Minister Yuli Edelstein said that "there is no scenario that in another 10 days we will lift everything and say 'It's all over, everything is ok.'"

Israel has recorded more than 233,000 confirmed cases of the virus since the pandemic began and more than 1,500 deaths from the disease, according to the Health Ministry.

While Israel garnered praise for its swift response to the arrival of the pandemic in March, the country's reopening of the economy in May saw new infections skyrocket over the summer, and now it has one of the highest infection rates per capita in the world.

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres says the loss of 1 million people to the coronavirus is an "agonizing milestone" that has been made worse by the "savageness of this disease."

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In a statement released after the global death toll from the pandemic crossed 1 million, Guterres called it a "mind-numbing figure."

"They were fathers and mothers, wives and husbands, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues," he said. "The pain has been multiplied by the savageness of this disease."

Guterres warned "there is no end in sight to the spread of the virus, the loss of jobs, the disruption of education, the upheaval to our lives."

Still he said he said the pandemic could be overcome with responsible leadership, cooperation and science, as well as precautions such as social distancing and wearing face masks. He said any vaccine must be "available and affordable to all."

**NEW DELHI** — India has registered 70,589 new confirmed coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, maintaining a noticeable decline in daily infections.

The Health Ministry raised India's confirmed total since the pandemic began to more than 6.1 million on Tuesday, but said the country had a little less than 1 million active coronavirus cases. It also reported 776 fatalities in the last 24 hours, which pushed the death toll to 96,318.

India is still registering the highest number of daily cases globally, but with a recovery rate of more than 82.5%, the number of recoveries has passed 5 million, the Health Ministry said.

The first two weeks of September saw India clocking 90,000 cases every day. Since then India has seen a sharp decrease in the number of new daily cases.

But health experts have warned about the potential for the virus to spread during the upcoming religious festival season.

**PERTH**, Australia — Authorities are concerned by a COVID-19 outbreak aboard a cargo ship off Australia's northwest coast that has infected most of the crew.

Eight more members of the Filipino crew tested positive for the new coronavirus on Monday, bringing the number of infections to 17 out of a crew of 21.

Seven of the infected sailors remained aboard the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier Patricia Oldendorff, which is anchored off Port Hedland, a major iron ore export terminal, Western Australia State Health Minister Roger Cook said Tuesday.

The seven are part of an essential skeleton crew of nine. The other 10 infected crew members were in hotel quarantine at Port Hedland. None required hospital treatment.

Cook said he wanted to bring the skeleton crew ashore, but the ship would need a replacement crew and to undergo a deep clean before that replacement crew boarded.

**MANILA**, Philippines — A southern Philippine province and its war-battered capital will be placed under a mild lockdown in October, while the rest of the country will have more relaxed quarantine restrictions.

President Rodrigo Duterte announced the quarantine restrictions for October in televised remarks Monday night. Lanao del Sur province and its capital, Marawi city, will fall under a lockdown starting Thursday due to infection spikes in recent weeks.

Most of Marawi's commercial and downtown areas were destroyed in 2017 fighting between the military and Islamic State group-aligned militants.

Metropolitan Manila and five other cities will remain under general quarantine restrictions with more businesses and public transport allowed to partially operate on the condition people wear masks and stay safely apart. Classes in public schools resume online on Oct. 5.

The Philippines has reported the most coronavirus infections in Southeast Asia.

**SEOUL**, South Korea — South Korea's new coronavirus tally has come below 50 for the first time in about 50 days amid a downward trend in new infections.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said Tuesday the 38 cases added in the last 24 hours

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took the country's total to 23,699 with 407 deaths.

South Korea had seen a viral resurgence, mostly in the densely populated Seoul area since early last month. But the number of new cases has begun slowing after authorities enforced stringent social distancing rules.

Many experts have warned the virus could spread again after this week's traditional Chuseok autumn holidays.

—  
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's governor says the state is showing signs of a potential new surge of coronavirus cases.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that could prompt another shutdown of businesses and further delay school reopenings. Newsom said his message to the business community and parents of school-aged children is to "abide by these mask mandates."

A business industry expert says a slow-down of business reopenings could not come at a worse time, especially for retailers who depend on the holiday shopping season for a majority of their annual sales.

Rex Hime, president and CEO of the California Business Properties Association, a group representing owners of commercial properties, said the consequences of a third shutdown "will be devastating."

Newsom also received a flu shot during his news conference on Monday, and urged others to do the same.

—  
MONTREAL — The premier of Quebec says the two biggest cities in the Canadian province — Montreal and Quebec City — are returning to the highest COVID-19 alert level.

Quebec reported 896 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, the province's highest single-day tally in months. Montreal and Quebec City are included in the "red zone" lockdown. The measures will last from Oct. 1 to Oct. 28.

Premier Francois Legault says there should be no guests in homes with a few exceptions for help. He says restaurants and bars will close except for delivery and outdoor gatherings require two meters (6 1/2 feet) of spacing for people.

Legault says the objective is to protect schools.

—  
TORONTO — The premier of Canada's largest province says his government was looking at all options to combat an alarming surge in cases after the Ontario reported a record 700 new cases on Monday.

Premier Doug Ford called the daily number extremely troubling and called on the public to help fight the latest spike.

Ontario's chief medical officer of health says the province must work to flatten the curve of the virus again to allow hospitals to respond without being overwhelmed. Dr. David Williams says people became too casual as virus numbers improved in late August, and urged them to now be more vigilant.

The latest figures prompted Ontario's hospitals to call on the government to reinstate restrictions on non-essential businesses like restaurants, gyms and movie theaters.

## **Analysis: In debate, a last chance for Trump to define Biden**

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a presidential candidate in 2016, Donald Trump seized control of the White House race and never let go. He masterfully defined and denigrated his opponents with cutting nicknames and a say-anything debate style, and repeatedly drew his rivals into the controversies he created.

That's proven far more difficult for Trump in the 2020 race. Though he may still be the most visible and visceral force in the White House contest, he has repeatedly struggled to control the contours of the campaign against Democrat Joe Biden.

The president's attacks on Biden have been scattershot and inconsistent, frustrating some Republicans who believe he has squandered repeated opportunities to define his rival. His efforts to move past the coronavirus pandemic and onto issues he views as more favorable for his reelection prospects, including



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law enforcement and the economy, have failed to convince many voters that the public health crisis is any less of a concern or that his leadership during the pandemic has been effective.

Even Trump's rollout of Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his Supreme Court nominee on Saturday, a pick aimed at energizing conservative voters, was overshadowed the very next day by bombshell revelations in *The New York Times* about his personal finances.

Tuesday's first presidential debate between Trump and Biden offers the president one of his last opportunities to reshape the race and color voters' impressions of the former vice president. But with just five weeks until Election Day, voting already underway in some battleground states, and partisan views among many voters deeply entrenched, some Republicans say Trump may have effectively run out of time.

"Donald Trump is essentially facing three enemies in this campaign: He's facing the coronavirus, he's facing Joe Biden, and he's facing the calendar," said Neil Newhouse, a Republican pollster.

Few leaders in either party are ready to truly count Trump out, particularly given that polls broke late for him in his 2016 contest against Hillary Clinton. And in the lead-up to Tuesday night's debate, Trump has previewed a broad attack on Biden's record, his character and his mental acuity.

But his messaging has inherent inconsistencies.

Sometimes Trump paints Biden as a far-left candidate; at other times he argues that while Biden is more moderate, he would be controlled by his party's most liberal factions. Trump has aggressively argued that his 77-year-old rival has lost a step and isn't up for the job; yet in talking points Trump's campaign sent Republicans on Monday, they warned that Biden's abilities in the debate should not be underestimated.

Some of the president's supporters say they remain confident Trump has both the time and the political skill to overtake Biden in this final stretch.

"President Trump has plenty of ready-made ammunition he has been using effectively on the campaign trail," said Ed Brookover, a Republican strategist who advised Trump's 2016 campaign before being ousted during the general election. "They will resonate as people learn more about Vice President Biden."

But privately many Republicans are perplexed that Trump, who skillfully identified and preyed on his rivals' weaknesses in 2016, seems to still be grasping for the most effective ways to define Biden at this late stage of the campaign. Some warned the campaign earlier this summer that they were at risk of wasting the advantages of incumbency: the months and the money that a sitting president can typically use to test out messages against a rival ahead of the fall campaign.

Indeed, recent incumbents who won second terms effectively used the spring and summer before the election, when their eventual rivals were still finishing primary contests and just beginning to build out for a general election, to define their opponents for voters before they could do so themselves. President George W. Bush used the time to cement the impression that Democrat John Kerry was a flip-flopper. President Barack Obama launched an advertising barrage casting GOP challenger Mitt Romney as a wealthy, out-of-touch corporate raider.

"The average voter needs to hear the same message eight times to even remember it, let alone believe it, and most voters don't spend their days consuming their political news," said Ben LaBolt, a former Obama campaign and White House aide. "Trump has thrown a lot of darts at the board, but none of them have stuck."

It's not for a lack of trying on Trump's part.

On Twitter and at campaign events, the president has for months lobbed an array of attacks on Biden, targeting his lengthy career in Washington and floating unsubstantiated claims about his son Hunter's business ties to Ukraine. With time running out, some of Trump's attacks have become more spurious, including an assertion that Biden may be on drugs during the debate. There is no evidence to support Trump's claim and it appears to be an attempt to preemptively explain away a strong performance by his Democratic opponent.

So far none of the attacks have had the resonance of Trump's scathing critiques on his 2016 GOP primary rivals and, ultimately, Clinton. He hammered Clinton relentlessly as a "crooked," calculating and secretive politician — attacks that had added resonance with some voters late in the campaign after WikiLeaks

revealed hacked emails detailing the inner workings of her campaign and then-FBI Director James Comey revived questions about a private email server she used as secretary of state.

"He was successful in making the race more about Hillary Clinton in 2016 than it was about himself," said Newhouse, the Republican pollster. "This year it's been a struggle to do that."

Editor's Note: Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for the AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

## Amnesty Int'l halts India operations, citing gov't reprisals

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Human rights watchdog Amnesty International said Tuesday that it was halting its operation in India, citing reprisals from the government and the freezing of its bank accounts by Indian authorities.

Amnesty International India said in a statement that the organization had laid off its staff in India and paused its ongoing campaign and research work on human rights, alleging that Indian authorities froze its bank accounts on suspicions of violating rules on foreign funding.

The statement said that the authorities' actions were "the latest in the incessant witch-hunt of human rights organizations" by India's government "over unfounded and motivated allegations," and that the group's "lawful fundraising model" was being portrayed as money laundering because it has challenged the "government's grave inactions and excesses."

Indian authorities did not immediately confirm whether Amnesty India's bank accounts had been frozen.

Amnesty India's executive director, Avinash Kumar, said the accounts were frozen as a result of the group's "unequivocal calls for transparency in the government" and accountability of New Delhi police and the Indian government regarding "grave human rights violations in Delhi riots" and Indian-administered Kashmir.

"For a movement that has done nothing but raise its voices against injustice, this latest attack is akin to freezing dissent," Kumar said in a statement.

Amnesty International said the only other country where it ceased operations was Russia, in 2016.

It is not the first time that Amnesty India has said Indian authorities targeted its operations. In 2018, Indian authorities raided its office and froze its bank accounts on similar charges.

In 2016, it faced sedition charges after Hindu nationalists objected to an event held in the southern city of Bangalore to discuss human rights violations in the disputed region of Kashmir. The charges were dropped three years later.

The rights group regularly accuses Indian authorities of committing human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir and has released multiple reports on the raging conflict in the region.

In 2019, the watchdog testified before the U.S. Foreign Affairs Committee during a hearing on human rights in South Asia and highlighted its findings on the use of excessive force and torture in Kashmir.

In August, it said Indian police violated human rights during deadly religious riots in New Delhi earlier this year and accused the police of beating protesters, torturing detainees and in some cases taking part in riots with Hindu mobs.

Authorities say more than 50 people were killed when clashes broke out between Hindus and Muslims over a controversial citizenship law in February in the worst rioting in the Indian capital in decades.

Amnesty International's acting secretary general, Julie Verhaar, called the freezing of the bank accounts an "egregious and shameful act" by the Indian government.

"It is a dismal day when a country of India's stature, a rising global power and a member of the UN Human Rights Council, with a constitution which commits to human rights and whose national human rights movements have influenced the world, so brazenly seeks to silence those who pursue accountability and justice," Verhaar said in a statement.

Amnesty India has repeatedly condemned what it says is a crackdown on dissent and freedom of speech in India.

Its announcement to halt operations comes at a time when critics accuse Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist government of increasingly brandishing laws to silence human rights activists, intellectuals, filmmakers, students and journalists.

Under Modi, critics say, India is growing notoriously intolerant, with its crackdown on dissent unprecedented in scale. Leaders of Modi's party have routinely labeled critics as "anti-nationals," and the authorities have dealt with many rights advocates and activists with an iron fist.

## **Bubble hockey champions: Tampa Bay Lightning win Stanley Cup**

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writer

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — The joyful yells from the bench could be heard in the empty arena in the final seconds and the roar from players when Commissioner Gary Bettman called for Steven Stamkos to accept the Stanley Cup echoed even louder.

The triumph of winning the NHL championship in a bubble was certainly no less sweet for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Brayden Point scored his playoff-best 14th goal and the Lightning beat the Dallas Stars 2-0 in Game 6 on Monday night to finish off the most unusual NHL postseason in history, staged nearly entirely in quarantine because of the pandemic.

The clock hitting zeros with no fans in attendance set off a celebration for a team that endured years of playoff heartbreak and two months in isolation — and their fans outside Amalie Arena in Tampa celebrated right along with them.

"It takes a lot to be in a bubble for 80 days or whatever long it was," said defenseman Victor Hedman, who won the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. "But it's all worth it now. We're coming home with the Cup."

Before giving that trophy to Hedman, Bettman gave all the players credit for enduring a quarantine largely on their own for so long.

"To be in this place at this time under these circumstances is remarkable and frankly overwhelming," Bettman said. "Frankly, all of the players who participated should feel like MVPs."

Goals from Point and Blake Coleman and a 22-save shutout by Andrei Vasilevskiy in Game 6 were enough to power the Lightning to their second championship after winning it in 2004. That one came just ahead of a lockout that wiped out an entire season and similar uncertainty hangs in the air now because of the coronavirus.

Questions about the future were put off for a celebration by the Lightning and by the NHL, the first of the four major North American professional sports leagues to crown a champion since the start of the pandemic.

Tampa Bay's core group closed out the final with an almost poetic display of what got the Lightning to this point over the past several years and months. Point's goal came with assists from longtime standouts Nikita Kucherov and Hedman, key addition Coleman scored on an odd-man rush in the second and Vasilevskiy did his job on a relatively slow night in net.

Veteran defenseman Braydon Coburn was the first to get the Cup after Stamkos and Hedman, even though he played just three games in the postseason. He played 964 regular-season and 137 playoff games to get to this point, losing in the final twice before.

"The beauty of our team is everyone was chipping in," Point said. "We got contributions from anyone and everyone at different times, and that's what makes this win so special."

It was more of a coronation than a challenge as the dominant Lightning outshot the Stars 29-22 and looked like the powerhouse they've been for much of the past decade.

Tampa Bay's power play turned the series around after Dallas won the opener. Point's goal made it 7 for 16 over the past five games to decimate the Stars, who were undone by their lack of discipline and couldn't get enough "Dobby" magic from goaltender Anton Khudobin.

"There is no feelings right now," Khudobin said. "Just empty, you know. We battled hard, especially with

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this situation, it's not easy to stay without families for two months and stuff like that."

The Stars simply ran out of gas after injuries piled up.

"I couldn't ask more from our players," said coach Rick Bowness, an assistant for Tampa Bay for five years who was part of their 2015 run that fell short in the final. "So it wasn't enough to beat that team, so it wasn't enough. But it's better than sitting here saying how we could have done this or could have done. We don't second-guess anything we've done."

The Lightning did to the Stars what Chicago did to them in the '15 final, when injuries built up. Tampa Bay had Point and No. 2 center Anthony Cirelli playing hurt this time, didn't have Stamkos for almost all of the playoffs — and still survived.

"These last six weeks have been really emotional for my family and I, not only on the ice but off the ice," said Stamkos, who played just 2:37 in the playoffs yet scored a goal in Game 3. "I just want to say to my family: I love you guys so much. To all the friends and everyone who supported us along the way: We love you, we can't wait to celebrate with you."

The painful playoff losses look like mile markers now — losing four consecutive games to Chicago after going up 2-1, blowing 3-2 series leads in the Eastern Conference final in 2016 and 2018, and last season's jaw-dropping, first-round sweep by Columbus after the Lightning had tied the NHL single-season wins record and won the Presidents' Trophy.

Coach Jon Cooper thought the attitude needed to change from wanting to beat every opponent 9-0 because that's not realistic in playoff hockey. His team went 12-3 in one-goal games this postseason, and he said the Lightning won because they were strengthened by years of "heartbreak."

Bettman was on hand exactly 201 days after his dismal if hopeful announcement that the season was being put on pause with 189 games left unplayed.

The league and players' union worked for nearly four months to iron out where, how and when to play so 2020 wouldn't join 1919 and 2004 as a year in which the Cup wasn't awarded. The plan they came up with was unusual. Like the NBA, it called for walling off teams from the public for months on end. Unlike the NBA, it called for doing it in two spots — Toronto and Edmonton, while the U.S. grappled with spiking coronavirus cases in too many places for NHL leadership to feel comfortable.

And it worked. After more than 31,000 tests, there were zero positive coronavirus cases reported among players, coaches and staff inside the bubbles and just a handful among hotel, arena or restaurant employees. There was nothing close to a breakout.

Bizarre as it was with no fans and manufactured crowd noise and light shows, the hockey was often top notch. The expanded, 24-team playoffs meant there was hockey nearly every day, sometimes from midday until past midnight, including a five-overtime marathon that was the second longest in modern hockey history. And in this unprecedented postseason, there were even two elimination games on the same day in the same arena.

By the conference finals, Rogers Place, a nearby JW Marriott and the rest of a heavily fenced bubble in downtown Edmonton became the center of hockey for fans thousands of miles away with Dallas and Tampa Bay, two of the southernmost teams in the league, settling the Cup in the NHL's northernmost arena.

In all, the NHL played 130 games in a bubble, 25 of them going into overtime, before the final horn set off a celebration by Tampa Bay that simply had to do with no fans in the stands, and few loved ones allowed on the ice to share the moment. Unable to hug them, players embraced each other and took out their phones to call and video chat with those who couldn't be there.

"We were in the bubble for this many days away from our friends and family, our support systems," Stamkos said. "We love each and every person that has helped us and allowed us to come here and accomplish our dream."

NOTES: Tampa Bay is the first team to win the Cup without a captain dressed for the clinching game since the 1977 Montreal Canadiens Yvan Cournoyer missed the playoffs because of back surgery. ... Kucherov's 27 assists are the third most in a single postseason behind only Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux. ... Alexander Volkov made his NHL playoff debut for Tampa Bay, which also saw Patrick Maroon become just



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the eighth player to win the Cup in back-to-back seasons with different teams (St. Louis).

UP NEXT

The NHL has targeted a tentative Dec. 1 start date for next season, but even Bettman acknowledged a later December or January start is possible. And even that is no guarantee given the uncertainty.

Follow AP Hockey Writer Stephen Whyno on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/SWhyno>

More AP NHL: <https://apnews.com/NHL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## AP Analysis: Dark days ahead for Lebanon as crisis bites

By ZEINA KARAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The past year has been nothing short of an earthquake for Lebanon, hit by an economic meltdown, mass protests, financial collapse, a virus outbreak and a cataclysmic explosion that virtually wiped out the country's main port.

Yet Lebanese fear even darker days are ahead.

The country's foreign reserves are drying up, the local currency is expected to spiral further out of control, and incidents of armed clashes between rival groups are escalating. Bickering politicians have been unable to form a government, putting an international bailout out of reach.

Last week, a French initiative to form a rescue government of specialists fell apart when the political factions split along familiar fault lines, deepened by the U.S.-Iran rivalry.

The country risks slipping into chaos.

"Absent a major change in either side's political calculations, the coming weeks will see continued stalemate, a caretaker government that lacks the capability to implement any serious reforms, and an acceleration of the economic collapse," said Mike Azar, a former Johns Hopkins SAIS professor of finance.

French President Emmanuel Macron's plan was widely seen as a last opportunity to charter a way out of Lebanon's gravest crisis since the 1975-90 civil war. It included a six-month timeline for a small government made up of non-partisan experts to deliver reforms. Mistrustful of Lebanon's famously corrupt leaders, the West has made billions of dollars in aid contingent on those reforms.

Lebanon's politicians initially committed to the plan and named a new prime minister-designate, Moustapha Adib, who promised to deliver a Cabinet within two weeks. To avert the usual horse-trading among factions over ministries, Adib tried to pick his own names to form the government.

But the two main Shiite parties, Hezbollah and Amal, accused him of acting on behalf of their local political rivals. They insisted on naming Shiite members of the Cabinet and on keeping the Finance Ministry for their sect. Adib refused and stepped down Saturday.

For all the pressure on the factions to put aside their usual self-serving interest and jockeying, another force is in part making them dig in: escalating U.S.-Iran tensions.

The Trump administration has stepped up its maximum pressure campaign on Iran and its proxy militias, including Hezbollah, ahead of the Nov. 3 U.S. elections.

It slapped sanctions on two senior pro-Hezbollah politicians, including the former finance minister, in the middle of efforts to form the Cabinet. That fueled suspicions Washington was seeking to isolate Hezbollah and diminish its role in any new government.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo openly berated Macron for meeting with Hezbollah officials during his visit to Lebanon and promised a wider array of sanctions targeting the group and its local allies.

Hazem al-Amin, an anti-Hezbollah Lebanese journalist and columnist, wrote that the militant group has effectively put the Lebanese public in the middle of an "open confrontation" with the United States.

Writing in the pan-Arab news site Daraj, he said the U.S. is looking to squeeze Hezbollah before the elections, while Hezbollah is trying to wait out the Trump administration, betting on a new president.

But can Lebanon wait?

Last week, Lebanese President Michel Aoun, an ally of Hezbollah, could not have been blunter when he

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was asked by a reporter where Lebanon was headed if a new government is not formed.

"To hell, of course," he replied.

Macron, in a press conference on Sunday, said he was "ashamed" of Lebanon's political leaders and warned of "a new civil war" if they can't set aside personal and sectarian interests to unlock international aid.

That aid is more sorely needed than ever, with worse still to come for Lebanese in the country's slide to the bottom.

In the next few weeks, the Central Bank is expected to end subsidies on basic goods. Since the local currency's collapse, the bank has been using its depleting reserves to support imports of fuel, wheat and medicine.

Already, after the blow of the financial crisis, half the population is below the poverty line. Lifting subsidies will further fuel inflation and could be a trigger for food riots. Civil unrest would put the population in confrontation with demoralized security forces who — like other Lebanese — have seen their salaries decrease by up to 80% in U.S. dollar terms.

"The threat is very real. There have been a couple of security incidents over the past month that show weapons are around in abundance, and so are idle young men to wield them," said Heiko Wimmen, project director for Lebanon, Iraq and Syria with the International Crisis Group.

He said turf wars among local armed groups may become a daily occurrence in areas that are not controlled by any political actor and could scale up once groups driven by sectarian and political motivations become involved.

Meanwhile, everyday life becomes harder.

A Beirut landfill is nearing maximum capacity, threatening a new trash crisis. Hospitals struggle to cope with the financial crisis amid a surge in coronavirus cases, triggering warnings of an Italy-like scenario. Medicines are harder to find. Poverty and crime are rising, along with sectarian tensions fanned by politicians seeking to hang on to their seats.

The Aug. 4 explosion at Beirut's port — blamed on the political leadership's corruption and incompetence — didn't just cause pain, death and damage. It struck yet another blow to the economy. Economic activity losses attributed to the blast damage range between \$2.9 billion and 3.5 billion, the World Bank estimated. Public sector reconstruction and recovery requires some \$1.8 billion to \$2.2 billion — funds that are nowhere seen on the horizon.

Even if a government is formed, Lebanon will not be out of the woods. IMF negotiations failed in July because Lebanese actors could not agree among themselves.

Wimmen said the core of the problem are political elites who have captured the state to wreck and plunder it.

"The bottom line is that fixing the financial sector and the budget — the two key issues that the IMF is supposed to address — will have to mean that the interest of some people who have political clout suffer, so there is a lot of potential for conflict," he said.

Azar gave a similarly bleak outlook. "Given that Lebanon's economic collapse is a self-inflicted wound due to a dysfunctional political system, it is unlikely that any economic recovery will be sustainable without a fundamental rethinking of the political system," he said.

The longer it takes, the more opportunities are lost, the bigger the brain drain and the more irreversible the trend becomes.

"When businesses shutter and human capital emigrates, it becomes much more difficult for an economy to recover as the drivers of such recovery would no longer exist," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Zeina Karam, the news director for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, has covered the Middle East since 1996. Follow her on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/zkaram](https://www.twitter.com/zkaram).

## Dying winds give crews hope in Northern California fires

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Firefighters say they hoped dying winds would enable them to bear down on a wildfire that exploded in the Northern California wine country, prompting tens of thousands of evacuations while a second blaze killed at least three people.

The Glass Fire raged through Napa and Sonoma counties on Monday, tripling in size to around 56.6 square miles (146.59 square kilometers) without any containment.

Some two dozen homes had burned, the San Jose Mercury News reported.

The fire north of San Francisco was driving through brush that hadn't burned for a century, even though surrounding areas were incinerated in a series of blazes in recent years.

But dry winds that gave the flames a ferocious push appeared to have eased by Monday evening and firefighters were feeling "much more confident," said Ben Nicholls, a division chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

"We don't have those critical burning conditions that we were experiencing those last two nights," he said.

The Glass Fire is one of nearly 30 wildfires burning around California and the National Weather Service warned that hot, dry conditions with strong Santa Ana winds could remain a fire danger in Southern California into Tuesday.

In a forested far northern part of the state, more than 1,200 people were evacuated in Shasta County for the Zogg Fire.

Three people have died in the fire, Shasta County Sheriff Eric Magrini said Monday. He gave no details but urged people who receive evacuation orders: "Do not wait."

Residences are widely scattered in the area, which was torched just two years ago by the deadly Carr Fire — infamously remembered for producing a huge tornado-like fire whirl.

Pacific Gas & Electric had cut power to more than 100,000 customers in advance of gusty winds and in areas with active fire zones. The utility's equipment has caused previous disasters, including the 2018 Camp Fire that killed 85 people and devastated the town of Paradise in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

By Monday night, the utility said it had restored electricity to essentially all of those customers. However, PG&E said about 24,000 people remained without power in areas affected by two fires in Napa, Sonoma, Shasta and Tehama counties.

So far in this year's historic fire season, more than 8,100 California wildfires have killed 29 people, scorched 5,780 square miles (14,970 square kilometers), and destroyed more than 7,000 buildings.

The Glass Fire began Sunday as three fires that merged and drove vineyards and mountain areas into eastern Santa Rosa. Some 70,000 people are under evacuation orders, including the entire 5,000-plus population of Calistoga in Napa County.

Some people were injured and Sonoma County sheriff's deputies had to rescue people who ignored evacuation orders, officials said.

Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin, who lives in the Oakmont area of Santa Rosa, heeded the order to flee late Monday night. It took her nearly two hours of crawling along a jammed road to reach safety.

Gorin's home was damaged in another fire three years ago and she was rebuilding it. She saw three neighboring houses in flames as she fled.

"We're experienced with that," she said of the fires. "Once you lose a house and represent thousands of folks who've lost homes, you become pretty fatalistic that this is a new way of life and, depressingly, a normal way of life, the megafires that are spreading throughout the West."

Gorin said it appeared the fire in her area was sparked by embers from the Glass Fire.

Ed Yarbrough, a wildfire evacuee from St. Helena in Napa County, watched firefighters douse flames across from his house Monday.

"I can see in the distance that it looks like it's intact," he said but said spot fires were still being doused.

"So I know we're not really out of the woods yet, and the woods can burn," he said.

The fires came as the region approaches the anniversary of the 2017 fires, including one that killed 22 people. Just a month ago, many of those same residents were evacuated from the path of a lightning-sparked fire that became the fourth-largest in state history.

"Our firefighters have not had much of a break, and these residents have not had much of a break," said Daniel Berlant, an assistant deputy director with Cal Fire.

Officials did not have an estimate of the number of homes destroyed or burned, but the blaze engulfed the Chateau Boswell Winery in St. Helena and at least one five-star resort.

Numerous studies in recent years have linked bigger wildfires in America to climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Scientists say climate change has made California much drier, meaning trees and other plants are more flammable.

Associated Press reporters Christopher Weber and John Antczak in Los Angeles, Juliet Williams in San Francisco and Haven Daley in Santa Rosa, California, contributed to this report.

## Ethics experts see national security concern in Trump's debt

By AAMER MADHANI and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Revelations that President Donald Trump is personally liable for more than \$400 million in debt are casting a shadow that ethics experts say raises national security concerns he could be manipulated to sway U.S. policy by organizations or individuals he's indebted to.

New scrutiny of Trump, who claims great success as a private businessman, comes after The New York Times reported that tax records show he is personally carrying a staggering amount of debt — including more than \$300 million in loans that will come due in the next four years.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., was blunt about the potential implications. "He may be vulnerable to financial blackmail from a hostile foreign power and God knows what else," said Warren, a frequent Trump critic.

The Times said the tax records also show that Trump did not pay any federal income taxes in 11 years between 2000 and 2018, raising questions about the fairness of a president — who purports to be a billionaire — paying less in taxes than most Americans.

The politically damaging revelations about Trump's tax avoidance, however, are perhaps less concerning than word the president is holding hundreds of millions of dollars of soon-to-mature debt, ethics experts said.

"Americans should be concerned about the president's debt because it's a national security risk for our country," said Donald Sherman, deputy director of the nonprofit government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW). "This is information that the president has aggressively and repeatedly tried to keep away from the public."

Trump, citing an ongoing Internal Revenue Service audit, has refused to follow the post-Watergate precedent set by other presidents of releasing his tax returns, so the complexities of his financial interests and whom he does business with have remained opaque. He's fighting ongoing court battles with New York's attorney general, Manhattan's district attorney and two House committees who want the records.

Richard Painter, who served as chief ethics attorney in Republican George W. Bush's White House, also noted that Trump-owned companies have declared bankruptcy six times, raising the question: Why have lenders been willing to keep risking loans of such enormous amounts?

"Why would banks assume the risk on these loans?" Painter said. "Or did someone else quietly assume risk of that loan for the bank to make it happen?"

Trump, according to his latest financial disclosure statement, reported that he had 14 loans on 12 properties.

One lender, Germany-based Deutsche Bank, continued to do business with Trump even after he defaulted in 2008 on a loan for his Chicago hotel and condo development. Trump filed suit against the bank and others whom he blamed for his inability to repay.

But Deutsche Bank's private banking division continued to lend to Trump, including \$125 million to finance the purchase and renovation of his Doral golf resort in 2012, according to previous disclosures.

Trump on Monday suggested that his debt load is hardly unusual in comparison with his assets, claiming



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in a tweet that he's in fact "extremely under leveraged."

"I have very little debt compared to the value of assets," he wrote, adding that he may release a financial statement that spells out all assets, properties and debts.

Trump during an appearance Monday ignored a reporter's question about when he might release such a statement, and the White House would not comment on when he might follow through. He said repeatedly before his election that he would release his actual taxes, but he never has.

Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert at Washington University in St. Louis, said that a separate financial statement from Trump would shed little light on his business dealings if he does not disclose who his business partners are in his various holdings.

"The Trump Organization consists of hundreds of LLCs (limited liability corporations) that have been listed on his financial disclosure forms," Clark said. "One of the things that Trump has benefitted from and that oligarchs and money launderers benefit from is opaqueness of LLCs, ... the ease of which individuals can hide their assets, can hide their financial interests."

Trump refused to divest his business interests after his 2016 victory, and left day-to-day operation of his family's real estate and other holdings to his sons Donald Jr. and Eric. Still, the president has benefitted personally from U.S. and foreign government activity at his properties since his election and hasn't shied away from promoting his hotels and golf courses.

Republicans have held at least 88 political events at his properties, the president has visited his hotels and golf courses more than 500 times, and at least 13 foreign governments have held events at Trump establishments, according to a tally by CREW.

The administration drew criticism last year when Vice President Mike Pence, while visiting Dublin for meetings, lodged at Trump International Golf Links and Hotel more than 180 miles away in Doonbeg, Ireland. And Trump scrapped a plan to hold a meeting of the Group of 7 world leaders at one of his Florida properties last year after bipartisan criticism.

In the runup to his 2016 election victory, Trump played down his bankruptcies as a smart business strategy and even referred to himself as the "king of debt."

"I've always loved debt, I must be honest with you," Trump said during a campaign rally. "I don't love it for countries, but I love it individually. If things work out good that's great, if they don't, you go renegotiate."

The New York Times, citing the tax records it obtained, also revealed that Trump did not pay federal income tax in 11 of 18 years, and just \$750 each year for 2017 and 2018, as he claimed millions of dollars in business losses.

Top Democratic lawmakers on Monday called Trump's tax avoidance galling, but seized on his debt as perhaps more concerning.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on MSNBC that "our responsibility is to protect and defend and we have to make sure we know what exposure the president of the United States has, and what an impact it has on national security decisions for our country."

Painter said that if Trump were attempting to appoint someone with his massive debt load to a high-profile government position, the nominee would almost certainly face trouble getting a security clearance. Indeed, inability or unwillingness to satisfy debts and a history of not meeting financial obligations could disqualify any federal employee from receiving a security clearance, according to government guidelines.

Peter Schweizer, the president of the Government Accountability Institute, said: "The question is also one of whether the loans are tied to actual assets such as buildings, etc., or was the political figure granted special favors in getting loans. Politicians and their families can engage in commercial transactions, the question is whether the loans are unusual and unique compared to others in the marketplace."

Trump is hardly the first president to contend with debt, either in office or later in life.

Thomas Jefferson, whose peak net worth in current dollars reached \$236.8 million according to research by 24/7 Wall Street, died in debt. The debt was accrued during and after his presidency — as well as by relatives — and his family sold dozens of enslaved people from his Monticello estate to satisfy his liabilities.

On the other hand, Barack Obama, in his second term, encouraged American homeowners to refinance their mortgages as rates dropped well below what he was paying, but he said he and his wife were hold-

ing off.

"When you're president, you have to be a little careful about these transactions, so we haven't refinanced," Obama explained at the time.

Madhani reported from Chicago.

An AP Graphic on past presidents' taxes: <https://interactives.ap.org/embeds/zUUtX/5/>

## Barrett tied to faith group ex-members say subjugates women

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court has close ties to a charismatic Christian religious group that holds men are divinely ordained as the "head" of the family and faith. Former members of the group, called People of Praise, say it teaches that wives must submit to the will of their husbands.

Federal appeals judge Amy Coney Barrett has not commented publicly about her own or her family's involvement, and a People of Praise spokesman declined to say whether she and her husband are current members.

But Barrett, 48, grew up in New Orleans in a family deeply connected to the organization and as recently as 2017 she served as a trustee at the People of Praise-affiliated Trinity Schools Inc., according to the non-profit organization's tax records and other documents reviewed by The Associated Press. Only members of the group serve on the schools' board, according to the system's president.

The AP also reviewed 15 years of back issues of the organization's internal magazine, Vine and Branches, which has published birth announcements, photos and other mentions of Barrett and her husband, Jesse, whose family has been active in the group for four decades. On Friday, all editions of the magazine were removed from the group's website.

People of Praise is a religious community based in charismatic Catholicism, a movement that grew out of the influence of Pentecostalism, which emphasizes a personal relationship with Jesus and can include baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. The group organizes and meets outside the purview of a church and includes people from several Christian denominations, but its members are mostly Roman Catholic.

Barrett's affiliation with a conservative religious group that elevates the role of men has drawn particular scrutiny given that she would be filling the high court seat held by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a feminist icon who spent her legal career fighting for women to have full equality. Barrett, by contrast, is being hailed by religious conservatives as an ideological heir to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, a staunch abortion-rights opponent for whom she clerked as a young lawyer.

In accepting Trump's nomination Saturday, the Catholic mother of seven said she shares Scalia's judicial philosophy.

"A judge must apply the law as written," Barrett said. "Judges are not policy makers, and they must be resolute in setting aside any policy views they might hold."

Barrett's advocates are trying to frame questions about her involvement in People of Praise as anti-Catholic bigotry ahead of her upcoming Senate nomination hearings.

Asked about People of Praise in a televised interview last week, Vice President Mike Pence responded, "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."

But some people familiar with the group and charismatic religious groups like it say Barrett's involvement should be examined before she receives a lifelong appointment to the highest court in the nation.

"It's not about the faith," said Massimo Faggioli, a theology professor at Villanova University, who has studied similar groups. He says a typical feature of charismatic groups is the dynamic of a strong hierarchical leadership, and a strict view of the relationship between women and men.

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Several people familiar with People of Praise, including some current members, told the AP that the group has been misunderstood. They call it a Christian fellowship, focused on building community. One member described it as a "family of families," who commit themselves to each other in mutual support to live together "through thick and thin."

But the group has also been portrayed by some former members, and in books, blogs and news reports, as hierarchical, authoritarian and controlling, where men dominate their wives, leaders dictate members' life choices and those who leave are shunned.

The AP interviewed seven current and former members of People of Praise, and reviewed its tax records, websites, missionary blogs and back issues of its magazine to try to paint a fuller picture of an organization that Barrett has been deeply involved in since childhood.

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People of Praise was founded in South Bend, Indiana, in 1971 as part of the Catholic Pentecostal movement, a devout reaction to the free love, secular permissiveness and counterculture movements of the 1960s and early '70s. Many of the group's early members were drawn from the campus of nearby Notre Dame, a Catholic university.

The group has roughly 1,800 adult members nationwide, with branches and schools in 22 cities across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. All members are encouraged to continue to attend church at their own parishes.

After a period of religious study and instruction that lasts from three to six years, people involved in People of Praise can choose to make a lifelong covenant pledging love and service to fellow community members and to God, which includes tithing at least 5% of their gross income to support the group's activities and charitable initiatives, according to a statement on the group's website.

People of Praise's more than 1,500-word covenant, a copy of which was reviewed by the AP, includes a passage where members promise to follow the teachings and instructions of the group's pastors, teachers and evangelists.

"We agree to obey the direction of the Holy Spirit manifested in and through these ministries in full harmony with the church," the covenant says.

It's unclear whether Barrett took the covenant. But members of the organization and descriptions of its hierarchy show that members almost invariably join the covenant after three to six years of religious study or they leave, so it would be very unusual for Barrett to continue to be involved for so many years without having done so.

A 2006 article in the group's magazine includes a photo of her attending a People of Praise Leaders' Conference for Women. The magazine also includes regular notices when members are "released from the covenant" and leave the group. The AP's review found no such notice of Barrett's or her husband's departure.

A request to interview Barrett made through the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, where she currently serves as a judge, was declined. The judge didn't mention People of Praise in her 2017 Senate judicial questionnaire, filled out prior to her confirmation for the bench.

Jesse Barrett did not respond to voicemail or email sent through his law firm in South Bend.

People of Praise spokesman Sean Connolly declined to discuss the Barretts or their affiliation with the group.

"Like most religious communities, the People of Praise leaves it up to its members to decide whether to publicly disclose their involvement in our community," Connolly said by email. "And like most religious communities, we do not publish a membership list."

Several people familiar with the group told the AP that, unlike some other charismatic movements, People of Praise has a strong commitment to intellectualism, evidenced in part by the schools they have established, which have a reputation for intellectual rigor.

Barrett's father, Michael Coney Sr., has served as the principal leader of People of Praise's New Orleans branch and was on the group's all-male Board of Governors as recently as 2017. Her mother, Linda Coney,

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has served in the branch as a "handmaid," a female leader assigned to help guide other women, according to documents reviewed by the AP.

"One of the key principles of People of Praise is freedom, the exercise of our own freedom in following the Lord and in following our own — what we believe, what we think is right," Michael Coney, 75, said Friday in an interview with the AP.

Joannah Clark, 47, grew up in People of Praise and became a member as an adult. She acknowledged that the board of governors consists of all men, but said that is not a reflection on the "worth or ability of women," but rather the approach the group has chosen for that level of leadership.

"In a marriage, we look at the husband as the head of the family. And that's consistent with New Testament teaching," said Clark, who is the head of Trinity Academy in Portland, Oregon. "This role of the husband as the head of the family is not a position of power or domination. It's really quite the opposite. It's a position of care and service and responsibility. Men are looking out for the good and well-being of their families."

Clark said she had previously served as a "handmaid." The term was a reference to Jesus' mother Mary, who called herself "the handmaid of the Lord." The organization recently changed the terminology to "woman leader" because it had newly negative connotations after Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel "The Handmaid's Tale" was turned into a popular television show.

Clark said the woman leaders in People of Praise do things like provide pastoral care and organize help for community members, such as when people are sick or need other help.

"They're also in a role of advising, so the men will ask the women leaders' advice on issues that affect the patterns of life within the community, certainly issues that affect women and families," Clark said.

Barrett, in accepting Trump's nomination at the White House on Saturday, put particular emphasis on the equality of her own marriage, saying she expected from the start she and her husband would run their household as partners.

"As it has turned out, Jesse does far more than his share of the work," she said. "To my chagrin, I learned at dinner recently that my children consider him to be the better cook."

Though People of Praise opposes abortion, those familiar with the group said it would be a mistake to pigeonhole their politics as either left or right. While socially conservative in their understanding of family and gender, some members are deeply committed to social justice in matters of race and economics, they said. Barrett's parents are both registered Democrats, according to Louisiana voter registration records.

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Tax records and other documents show that as recently as 2017 Barrett sat on the board of Trinity Schools, a campus of which was recently designated by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos as a National Blue Ribbon School. The schools are coed, but most classes are segregated by gender.

The school's website says the group sees men and women "created by God equal in dignity but distinct from one another."

"We seek to uphold both that equality and appropriate distinction in our culture," it goes on.

Similarly, at People of Praise the leadership structure is largely segregated by gender. And as they become adults, members frequently live together in same-gender communal houses sometimes owned by the group, or they are invited to live with a family within the community. Articles in the People of Praise magazine frequently note when young single members get married to each other. Multiple birth announcements often follow.

The group's magazine also offers insights into the group's views on marriage, community and members' finances. A 2007 issue discusses how the 17 single women who live together in a household, called the Sisterhood, had their paychecks direct deposited into a single bank account. One member said she had "no idea" what the amount of her paycheck was.

The pooled money was managed by one woman, who budgeted for everyone's clothing and other expenses, including \$36 weekly per person for food and basics like toilet paper. All women were expected to give 10% of their pay to People of Praise, another 1% to the South Bend branch and additional tithes



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to their churches.

Married couples and their children also often share multifamily homes or cluster in neighborhoods designated for "city building" by the group's leaders, where they can easily socialize and walk to each other's houses.

As part of spiritual meetings, members often relay divine prophecies and are encouraged to pray in tongues, where participants make vocal utterances thought to carry direct teachings and instructions from God. Those utterances are then "interpreted" by senior male leaders and relayed back to the wider group.

A 1969 book by Kevin Ranaghan, a co-founder of People of Praise, dedicates a chapter to praying in tongues, which he describes as a gift from God.

"The gift of tongues is one of the word-gifts, an utterance of the Spirit through man," Ranaghan wrote in "Catholic Pentecostals." "Alone, the gift of tongues is used for prayer and praise. Coupled with the gift of interpretation it can edify the unbeliever and strengthen, console, enlighten or move the community of faith."

In a blog entry on the group's website from March of this year, a mother described taking her children to pray in tongues as the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

While People of Praise portrays itself as a tightknit family of families, former members paint a darker picture of that closeness.

Coral Anika Theill joined People of Praise's branch in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1979, when she was a 24-year-old mother of 6-month-old twins.

"My husband at the time was very drawn to it because of the structure of the submission of women," recounted Theill, who is now 65.

Theill, who converted to Catholicism after getting married, said in her People of Praise community women were expected to live in "total submission" not only to their husbands, but also the other male "heads" within the group.

In a book she wrote about her experience, Theill recounts that in People of Praise every consequential personal decision — whether to take a new job, buy a particular model car or choose where to live — went through the hierarchy of male leadership. Members of the group who worked outside the community had to turn over their paystubs to church leaders to confirm they were tithing correctly, she said.

Theill says her "handmaid," to whom she was supposed to confide her innermost thoughts and emotions, then repeated what she said to the male heads, who would consult her husband on the proper correction.

"There'd be open meetings where you just have to stand for the group and they'd tell you all that was wrong with you," Theill recounted to the AP last week. "And I would ask questions. I was a critical thinker."

When she told her husband she wanted to wait to have more children, Theill said, he accompanied her to gynecological appointments to ensure she couldn't get birth control.

"I was basically treated like a brood mare," she said, using the term for a female horse used for breeding. During her 20-year marriage, Theill had eight children from 11 pregnancies.

Theill, who says she declined to take the covenant, described being dominated and eventually shunned because of the doubts she expressed about the group.

Clark, a current member in Oregon, said she had never heard of members being shunned.

"At any point, a community member can decide to leave and is free to do so," Clark said. She said she has friends who have left the community. "These are people I've maintained a good friendship with and people who've maintained friendships with other people in community."

But Theill isn't the only former member to describe forced subjugation of women within People of Praise or shunning of former members.

Among People of Praise's very first members in South Bend were Adrian Reimers and his wife, Marie. The couple was active for more than a dozen years before he said he became disillusioned and was "dismissed" from the group in the mid-1980s.

Reimers, who teaches philosophy at Notre Dame, went on to write detailed academic examinations of the group's inner workings and theological underpinnings. In a 1997 book about People of Praise and other

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covenant communities, Reimers wrote that the fundamental principle of the group was St. Paul's stipulation from the Bible that the husband is the "head" of his wife and that the wife is to "submit in all things."

"A married woman is expected always to reflect the fact that she is under her husband's authority," Reimers wrote. "This goes beyond an acknowledgment that the husband is 'head of the home' or head of the family; he is, in fact, her personal pastoral head. Whatever she does requires at least his tacit approval. He is responsible for her formation and growth in the Christian life."

Though women are allowed to serve in some administrative roles within the community, Reimers wrote that no woman is allowed to hold a pastoral position of leadership in which she would oversee or instruct men.

"People who leave these communities are often shunned by other members and are spoken of as no longer brothers and sisters in Christ or even no longer Christian," he wrote.

Reimers declined to expand on his experience with People of Praise, saying he doesn't know Amy Coney Barrett and didn't want to get drawn into a political fight. But he said he stands by his prior account.

"To quote Pontius Pilate, 'What I have written, I have written,'" he said last week, referring to the Roman official in the Bible who signed the order condemning Jesus to be crucified.

Lisa Williams said her parents joined the Minnesota branch of People of Praise in the late 1970s, when she was a fourth-grader. She chronicled her experience in a blog called "Exorcism and Pound Cake," a reference to how she knew as a child that it was a meeting night because of the smell of baked goods coming from the kitchen.

"I remember my mother saying a wife could never deny sex to her husband, because it was his right and her duty," said Williams, 56. "Sex is not for pleasure. It's for as many babies as God chooses to give you. ... Women had to be obedient. They had to be subservient."

Corporal punishment of children was common, Williams told the AP. When she was insufficiently obedient to her father, she was beaten with a belt and then required to kneel and ask forgiveness from both him and God, she said.

She recalled People of Praise meetings held in her parents' living room where members prayed in tongues to cast out demons from a person writhing on the floor, rituals she described as exorcisms.

When her parents, from whom she is now estranged, decided to leave People of Praise when she was a junior in high school, she remembers the leaders said her family would be doomed to hell and they were shunned. "Nobody would talk to you," she recalled.

Steven Hassan, a mental health counselor who works with people who have left fundamentalist authoritarian religious groups, said the culture within People of Praise as described by Theill and Williams, including the practice of shunning former members, creates fear so that people are dependent and obedient.

"A person who is in one of these groups has to suppress their own thoughts, feelings, desires that doesn't align with the dogma," Hassan said.

He cautioned, however, that Theill's and Williams' experiences were from decades ago and not necessarily illustrative of how the group now operates. And current members of People of Praise interviewed by the AP strongly disputed those characterizations.

"There's a high value on personal freedom," said Clark, the Trinity School director in Oregon.

She said she had never heard of some of the practices the former members detailed to the AP, such as micromanaging finances or handing over paychecks. She grew emotional when she recounted the sacrifices people in the group make for each other as part of their covenant, like the case of a man known for helping his fellow members move, who was in turn cared for by group members as he died.

"I've never been asked to do anything against my own free will," said Clark, a member of the group for 25 years. "I have never been dominated or controlled by a man."

Thomas Csordas, an anthropology professor at University of California San Diego, has studied the religious movement that includes People of Praise. He said such communities are conservative, authoritarian, hierarchical and patriarchal.

But, he said, in his view, the group's leaders are unlikely to exert influence over Barrett's judicial decisions.

Coney, Barrett's father, said the culture of female submission described by some former members was

based on misunderstandings of the group's teachings.

"I can't comment on why they believe that. But it is certainly not a correct interpretation of our life," he said. "We're people who love each other and support each other in their Christian life, trying to follow the Lord."

As a lawyer himself, he rejected the notion that his daughter's religious beliefs will unduly influence her opinions if she is confirmed to the high court.

"I think she's a super lawyer and she will apply the law as opposed to any of her beliefs," he said. "She will follow the law."

Smith reported from Providence, Rhode Island. Associated Press reporters Mitch Weiss in Greenville, South Carolina, and Juliet Linderman in Baltimore, Maryland, contributed.

Follow Investigative Reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck> and Smith at <http://twitter.com/MRSmithAP>

Contact AP's global investigative team at [Investigative@ap.org](mailto:Investigative@ap.org)

## Worldwide grief: Death toll from coronavirus tops 1 million

By ADAM GELLER and RISHABH R. JAIN Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Joginder Chaudhary was his parents' greatest pride, raised with the little they earned farming a half-acre plot in central India to become the first doctor from their village.

For the coronavirus, though, he was just one more in a million.

After the virus killed the 27-year-old Chaudhary in late July, his mother wept inconsolably. With her son gone, Premlata Chaudhary said, how could she go on living? Three weeks later, on Aug. 18, the virus took her life, too — yet another number in an unrelenting march toward a woeful milestone.

Now, 8 1/2 months after an infection doctors had never seen before claimed its first victims in China, the pandemic's confirmed death toll has eclipsed 1 million, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

That is partly due to the virus's quickening spread through India, where reported deaths have topped 96,000 and cases are increasing at the fastest rate in the world.

The United States, where the virus has killed about 205,000 people, accounts for 1 out of 5 deaths worldwide, far more than any other country despite its wealth and medical resources.

"It's not just a number. It's human beings. It's people we love," said Dr. Howard Markel, a professor of medical history at the University of Michigan who has advised government officials on containing pandemics. On a Thursday morning in February, Markel's mother, 84 and infirm, was stricken by an illness later diagnosed as COVID-19. She died before midnight.

"It's our brothers, our sisters. It's people we know," Markel said. "And if you don't have that human factor right in your face, it's very easy to make it abstract."

Even at 1 million — greater than the population of Jerusalem or Austin, Texas, more than four times the number killed in the 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean — the toll is almost certainly a vast undercount.

Many deaths were probably missed because of insufficient testing and inconsistent reporting, and some suspect concealment by countries like Russia and Brazil.

And the number continues to mount. Nearly 5,000 deaths are reported each day on average. Parts of Europe are getting hit by new outbreaks and experts fear a second wave may await the U.S.

"I can understand why ... numbers are losing their power to shock, but I still think it's really important that we understand how big these numbers really are," said Mark Honigsbaum, the London-based author of "The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria and Hubris."

Few people can testify to those numbers like the Rev. Mario Carminati, a priest in the northern Italian province of Bergamo, which was hit by one of Europe's first major outbreaks last spring. When the virus

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overwhelmed local cemeteries, Carminati opened his church to the dead, lining up 80 coffins in the center aisle. After an army convoy carted them to a crematory, another 80 arrived. Then 80 more.

"It was something completely unpredictable that arrived like a bolt of lightning in a clear sky ... and struck our reality," he said.

Eventually the crisis receded and the world's attention moved on. But the pandemic's grasp endures. In August, Carminati buried his nephew, 34-year-old Christian Persico.

"This thing should make us all reflect. The problem is that we think we're all immortal," Carminati said.

The virus first appeared late last year in patients hospitalized in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The first death was reported there on Jan. 11. By the time authorities locked down the city nearly two weeks later, millions of travelers had come and gone. China's government has come in for criticism that it did not do enough to alert other countries to the threat.

Government leaders in countries such as Germany, South Korea and New Zealand worked effectively to contain it. Others, like U.S. President Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, dismissed the severity of the threat and the guidance of scientists, even as hospitals filled with gravely ill patients.

Brazil has recorded the second most deaths after the U.S., with about 142,000. India is third and Mexico fourth, with more than 76,000.

Oscar Ortiz, an oil platform worker for Mexico's state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos, said he felt helpless while ill and quarantined this spring, as 14 of his coworkers died from the virus, three in a single week.

"It's very painful to see this and not be able to do anything," said Ortiz, whose company has reported more than 300 deaths in its ranks.

The virus has forced trade-offs between safety and economic well-being. The choices made have left millions of people vulnerable, especially the poor, minorities and the elderly.

India, whose government relaxed tight restrictions in recent months to jump-start an economy where many subsist on earnings from day labor, is the latest example.

"When the pandemic actually started to get under control to some extent, the lockdown was eased and then completely lifted," said K. Srinath Reddy, president of the Public Health Foundation of India. "The virus had a free passage and could spread much more easily."

With so many of the deaths beyond view in hospital wards and clustered on society's margins, the milestone recalls the grim pronouncement often attributed to Soviet dictator Josef Stalin: One death is a tragedy, millions of deaths are a statistic.

The pandemic's toll of 1 million dead in such a limited time rivals some of the gravest threats to public health, past and present.

It exceeds annual deaths from AIDS, which last year killed about 690,000 people worldwide. The virus's toll is approaching the 1.5 million global deaths each year from tuberculosis, which regularly kills more people than any other infectious disease.

But "COVID's grip on humanity is incomparably greater than the grip of other causes of death," said Lawrence Gostin, a professor of global health law at Georgetown University. He noted the unemployment, poverty and despair caused by the pandemic, and deaths from myriad other illnesses that have gone untreated.

To put the death toll, alone, in perspective, look to Brazil.

Nearly a decade ago, more than 900 Brazilians were killed in flooding that was widely described as the country's worst-ever single day of natural disaster. From late May to late August, the coronavirus killed more Brazilians than that, on average, day after day.

The victims included Caravaldina Oliveira da Costa, who worked for years as a maid in the beach resort of Armacao dos Buzios. She also stood up for her neighbors in Rasa, a poor community filled with the descendants of escaped slaves, becoming their voice in a fight for land rights.

"She brought something to Rasa that no politician would bring: self-confidence," said Rejane Oliveira, her niece and disciple.

When the elder Oliveira died in June at 79, Buzios' mayor decreed three days of mourning. But city hall ruled out holding a ceremony. Because of the virus, officials said, it wasn't safe to gather.



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For all its lethality, the virus has claimed far fewer lives than the so-called Spanish flu, which killed an estimated 40 million to 50 million worldwide in two years, just over a century ago.

That pandemic came before scientists had microscopes powerful enough to identify the enemy or antibiotics that could treat the bacterial pneumonia that killed most of the victims. In the U.S., the Spanish flu killed about 675,000. But most of those deaths did not come until a second wave hit over the winter of 1918-19.

Up to now, the disease has left only a faint footprint on Africa, well shy of early modeling that predicted thousands more deaths.

But cases have recently surged in countries like Britain, Spain, Russia and Israel. In the United States, the return of students to college campuses has sparked new outbreaks. With approval and distribution of a vaccine still probably months away and winter approaching in the Northern Hemisphere, the toll will continue to climb.

"We're only at the beginning of this. We're going to see many more weeks ahead of this pandemic than we've had behind us," Gostin said.

Already, though, far too many grieve.

"This pandemic has ruined my family," said Rajendra Chaudhary, who lost his son, the young Indian doctor, and then his wife. "All our aspirations, our dreams, everything is finished."

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Associated Press writers Nicole Winfield in Rome, Suman Naishadham in Phoenix and David Biller in Rio de Janeiro contributed to this story. Jain reported from New Delhi and Geller from New York.

## Worldwide death toll from coronavirus eclipses 1 million

By ADAM GELLER and RISHABH R. JAIN Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The worldwide death toll from the coronavirus has eclipsed 1 million, nine months into a crisis that has devastated the global economy, tested world leaders' resolve, pitted science against politics and forced multitudes to change the way they live, learn and work.

"It's not just a number. It's human beings. It's people we love," said Dr. Howard Markel, a professor of medical history at the University of Michigan who has advised government officials on containing pandemics and lost his 84-year-old mother to COVID-19 in February.

"It's our brothers, our sisters. It's people we know," he added. "And if you don't have that human factor right in your face, it's very easy to make it abstract."

The bleak milestone, recorded on Monday in the U.S. by Johns Hopkins University, is greater than the population of Jerusalem or Austin, Texas. It is 2 1/2 times the sea of humanity that was at Woodstock in 1969. It is more than four times the number killed by the 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

Even then, the figure is almost certainly a vast undercount because of inadequate or inconsistent testing and reporting and suspected concealment by some countries.

And the number continues to mount. Nearly 5,000 deaths are reported each day on average. Parts of Europe are getting hit by new outbreaks, and experts fear a second wave in the U.S., which accounts for about 205,000 deaths, or 1 out of 5 worldwide. That is far more than any other country, despite America's wealth and medical resources.

"I can understand why ... numbers are losing their power to shock, but I still think it's really important that we understand how big these numbers really are," said Mark Honigsbaum, author of "The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria and Hubris."

The global toll includes people like Joginder Chaudhary, who was his parents' greatest pride, raised with the little they earned farming a half-acre plot in central India to become the first doctor from their village.

After the virus killed the 27-year-old Chaudhary in late July, his mother wept inconsolably. With her son gone, Premlata Chaudhary said, how could she go on living? Three weeks later, on Aug. 18, the virus took her life, too. All told, it has killed more than 96,000 in India.

"This pandemic has ruined my family," said the young doctor's father, Rajendra Chaudhary. "All our aspirations, our dreams, everything is finished."

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When the virus overwhelmed cemeteries in the Italian province of Bergamo last spring, the Rev. Mario Carminati opened his church to the dead, lining up 80 coffins in the center aisle. After an army convoy carted them to a crematory, another 80 arrived. Then 80 more.

Eventually the crisis receded and the world's attention moved on. But the pandemic's grasp endures. In August, Carminati buried his 34-year-old nephew.

"This thing should make us all reflect. The problem is that we think we're all immortal," the priest said.

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Government leaders in countries like Germany, South Korea and New Zealand worked effectively to contain it. Others, like U.S. President Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, dismissed the severity of the threat and the guidance of scientists, even as hospitals filled with gravely ill patients.

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The virus has forced trade-offs between safety and economic well-being. The choices made have left millions of people vulnerable, especially the poor, minorities and the elderly.

With so many of the deaths beyond view in hospital wards and clustered on society's margins, the milestone recalls the grim pronouncement often attributed to Soviet dictator Josef Stalin: One death is a tragedy, millions of deaths are a statistic.

The pandemic's toll of 1 million dead in such a limited time rivals some of the gravest threats to public health, past and present.

It exceeds annual deaths from AIDS, which last year killed about 690,000 people worldwide. The virus's toll is approaching the 1.5 million global deaths each year from tuberculosis, which regularly kills more people than any other infectious disease.

But "COVID's grip on humanity is incomparably greater than the grip of other causes of death," said Lawrence Gostin, a professor of global health law at Georgetown University. He noted the unemployment, poverty and despair caused by the pandemic, and deaths from myriad other illnesses that have gone untreated.

For all its lethality, the virus has claimed far fewer lives than the so-called Spanish flu, which killed an estimated 40 million to 50 million worldwide in two years, just over a century ago.

That pandemic came before scientists had microscopes powerful enough to identify the enemy or antibiotics that could treat the bacterial pneumonia that killed most of the victims. In the U.S., the Spanish flu killed about 675,000. But most of those deaths did not come until a second wave hit over the winter of 1918-19.

Up to now, the disease has left only a faint footprint on Africa, well shy of early modeling that predicted thousands more deaths.

But cases have recently surged in countries like Britain, Spain, Russia and Israel. In the United States, the return of students to college campuses has sparked new outbreaks. With approval and distribution of a vaccine still probably months away and winter approaching in the Northern Hemisphere, the toll will continue to climb.

"We're only at the beginning of this. We're going to see many more weeks ahead of this pandemic than we've had behind us," Gostin said.

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Geller reported from New York. Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this story.

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

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## Trump, Biden prepare to debate at a time of mounting crises

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — In an election year like no other, the first debate between President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, could be a pivotal moment in a race that has remained stubbornly unchanged in the face of historic tumult.

The Tuesday night debate will offer a massive platform for Trump and Biden to outline their starkly different visions for a country facing multiple crises, including racial justice protests and a pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans and cost millions of jobs.

The health emergency has upended the usual trappings of a presidential campaign, lending heightened importance to the debate. But amid intense political polarization, comparatively few undecided voters remain, raising questions as to how, or if, the debate might shape a race that has been defined by its bitterness and, at least so far, its stability.

Biden will step onto the Cleveland stage holding leads in the polls — significant in the national surveys, closer in the battleground states — but facing questions about his turn in the spotlight, particularly considering Trump's withering attacks. And Trump, with only 35 days to change the course of the race, will have arguably his best chance to try to reframe the campaign as a choice election and not a referendum over his handling of a virus that has killed more people in America than any other nation.

"This will be the first moment in four years that someone will walk on stage as co-equal to Trump and be able to hold him to account for the malfeasance he has shown leading the country," said Steve Schmidt, senior campaign aide for John McCain's 2008 Republican presidential bid and a frequent Trump critic. "If Biden is unable to indict Trump for all that he has done, (that) would be profound failure. There is no spinning that away."

The president's handling of the coronavirus will likely dominate much of the discussion. The pandemic's force will be tangible as the candidates' podiums will be spaced far apart and the traditional opening handshake scrapped.

And the debate could be shaped by an extraordinary confluence of other recent moments: the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, allowing Trump to nominate a conservative jurist to replace a liberal voice and reshape the high court for generations, and the blockbuster revelations about Trump's long-hidden tax history, including that he paid only \$750 a year in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017 and nothing in many other years.

But the impact of the debate — or the two that follow in the weeks ahead — remains unclear.

The tumult of 2020 is difficult to overstate: COVID-19 has rewritten the rules of everyday life; schools and businesses are shuttered; and racial justice protests have swept the nation after a series of high-profile killings of Black people by police.

Despite the upheaval, the presidential race has remained largely unchanged since Biden seized control of the Democratic field in March. The nation has soured on Trump's handling of the pandemic, and while his base of support has remained largely unchanged, he has seen defections among older and female voters, particularly in the suburbs, and his path to 270 Electoral College votes, while still viable, has shrunk.

Polls suggest fewer undecided voters remain than at this point in the 2016 campaign. And several high-profile debates in past elections that were thought to be game-changing moments at the time ultimately had little lasting effect.

Four years ago, Democrat Hillary Clinton was widely seen as besting Trump in their three debates, but she lost in November. In 2012, Mitt Romney crushed Barack Obama in their first meeting only to falter in the rematches.

But some debates have mattered: most famously, a turning point in the 1960 race was when John F. Kennedy was perceived — at least by TV viewers — as outdueling Richard Nixon. And in 1980, Ronald Reagan was able to reassure nervous voters that he possessed a presidential temperament when he delivered a winning performance against incumbent Jimmy Carter.

While both sides anticipate a vicious debate between two men who do not like each other, the Biden

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campaign has downplayed the night's importance, believing that the pandemic and the battered economy will outweigh any debate stage gaffe or zinger. Conversely, the Trump campaign has played up the magnitude of the duel, believing it will be a moment for the president to damage Biden and recast the race.

Trump had told advisers that he is preparing an all-out assault on Biden, claiming that the former senator's 47 years in Washington have left him out of touch and that his family, namely his son Hunter, has benefited from corruption. The president on Monday also repeated his demand that Biden take some sort of drug test, asserting without evidence that the Democratic nominee was somehow using a performance enhancer.

That continued a curious round of expectations setting: While Trump's campaign has of late praised Biden's debate skills, the president has also vividly portrayed his opponent as not being up to the job, potentially allowing Biden to come off well as long as he avoids a major stumble.

"This guy doesn't have a clue. He doesn't know where the hell he is," Trump said recently, likening the debate to a boxing match and pointing to his head. "To win matches you need that up here. This wins, probably, it's 50% of it. This is not prime time for Joe."

But Trump — never a polished debater, though a commanding presence on stage — has done little in the way of formal preparations, which may mean he is walking into his own trap.

"Historically, incumbents do less well in the first debate, largely because they're unaccustomed to being challenged openly," said presidential historian Jon Meacham. "The most important single debate in terms of direct impact on outcome came 40 years ago, with the single Carter-Reagan meeting a week before the election. The key question then — 'Are you better off than you were four years ago?' — has fresh and compelling resonance."

Biden's performances during the primary debates were uneven, and some Democrats have been nervous as to how he will fare in an unscripted setting. But his team views the night as a moment to illuminate Trump's failings with the pandemic and economy, with the former vice president acting as a "fact checker on the floor" while bracing himself for the onslaught that is coming.

"They're going to be mostly personal," Biden said. "That's the only thing he knows how to do. He doesn't know how to debate the facts because he's not that smart. He doesn't know that many facts."

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Lemire reported from New York.

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Follow Lemire at <http://twitter.com/JonLemire> and Colvin at <http://twitter.com/colvinj>

## **A viral march across the planet, tracked by a map in motion**

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

On a Thursday night in early January, the disease that would become known as COVID-19 claimed its first victim, a 61-year-old man who succumbed to the newly identified coronavirus in the city of Wuhan, in the People's Republic of China.

Nine months later, the pandemic took its millionth life. And while the vagaries of record-keeping mean we may never know who that victim was, the fact remains: COVID has killed a million people.

Tens of millions of things undone. Daughters and sons unborn, works of genius uncreated. Pieces of communities — excised. Entire residential complexes filled with older people — ravaged. Human contribution melted away, with no way of ever knowing or chronicling what was lost. Accounting for what's missing when people die is never an easy task; now it is one multiplied by an entire million.

A new Associated Press interactive map of the coronavirus' spread — represented by the lives it has claimed — blends data and geography in a way that forces us to see what has happened to the world. And what is still happening to it.

Like so many things in the world, it started small. At first, the map shows only one splash of color: China, the place where the coronavirus silently began its march.

As it began to move around, the map evolved. Month by month, week by week, day by day, the coro-



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navirus spread. Pandemic was declared. Hospitals girded. Cities and countries, shut down. The world changed so fast that its people could barely keep up.

How did something so contained at first, so localized, upend the routines and activities of huge chunks of human civilization?

We all have watched it, lived through it, but the visual is striking. From a world largely unsullied by the virus to one merely touched by it to an entire planet feeling its effects. Choose a place to pause. Each juncture offers a window into that moment.

— March 18, 2020. China still leads the world in deaths. In the United States, President Donald Trump has just declared a state of emergency. The United States has lost 191 people. The wide belief among Americans: This can still be contained.

— April 6, 2020. Italy is being ravaged; 16,523 have been lost. China has dropped out of the top five when it comes to deaths. The United States is second by now at 14,199 dead.

— May 22, 2020. The United States has shot ahead of the rest of the world and sits on the cusp of 100,000 dead — 99,166. It, like the United Kingdom (35,440), Italy (32,616), Spain (28,626) and France (28,292), is rendered in a darker forest green, along with Brazil. The march is accelerating.

— July 26, 2020. In the heart of the summer, the United States remains the country with the most dead: 147,656. Brazil, whose president has just tested positive for coronavirus, is second at 87,004. Darker greens are starting to fill the map, including in India. In China, blamed by Trump for the virus in terms some deem racist, the hue is light after strict and protracted containment measures.

— Sept. 27, 2020. This past Sunday. India is third in the world with 95,542 deaths. The United States, still No. 1 and criticized for its haphazard efforts at containment, has just passed the 200,000 mark. Brazil sits at 141,741, with no apparent detrimental political effect on its leader. Russia is now darker green. Africa, Australia and much of Asia are lighter, though swaths of Southeast Asia are showing higher death rates.

This map tells the story of an invisible virus that upended the world. It tells of first responses and fear and decisions good and bad. Stories of valiant women and men who tried to stop it, and were sometimes claimed by their efforts. It tells stories of leaders who measured up and leaders who didn't. And how simple human touch ended up killing.

Most of all, it tells of the 1 million dead and gone. These are the stories of the human beings who, had they been able to stick around, might have done things we'd all remember — or might have done things just as important that only a few people they loved would remember. The map contains their stories, too, and even amid the elegant lines of the map and the illuminating contours of the data they should not be forgotten.

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, oversees the news organization's coverage of the pandemic's ripple effect on society. Follow him on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/anthonyted>

## They wanted disruption in 2016. Now they're Trump defectors

By TAMARA LUSH Associated Press

Shawna Jensen's moment of reckoning came in March, as she sat in her suburban Fort Worth, Texas, living room next to her fireplace. Her laptop was open to a Zoom happy hour with five girlfriends. She sucked in a breath, gripping her glass of red wine.

"Hey, guys, I gotta tell you something," she said. The women, all white, Republican, suburban moms, stared back at her.

Jensen's heart raced. How would they react? What would they think? She never dreamed she would utter these words aloud.

"I'm not voting for Trump this year. My heart will not let me do it. I can't vote for someone who is that ugly to other people."

An uncomfortable pause descended over the screen. "Oh, OK," one woman said, in a strained voice.

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Since then, the 47-year-old hasn't been invited to parties, and the Zoom happy hours have been few. Jensen is among former Donald Trump supporters who are voting for Democrat Joe Biden this year, breaking ranks with family, friends and, in many cases, a lifelong political affiliation. They say it's caused them anguish, both to personal relationships and their own identity. They wanted change and disruption, until they found out what that actually looked like under a President Trump.

Trump's case for reelection rests almost solely on the intensity of support from those who backed him four years ago. Unlike other modern presidents, he has done little to try to expand his base, and there's no evidence that he has. So he cannot afford to lose many voters like Jensen.

It's unclear how many voters like Jensen are out there — white, middle-class people who are pro-gun and anti-abortion rights, solid Republicans in most conventional ways — and how they will affect the election's outcome. Voters like Jensen could be only a slice of the electorate, but they still represent a flashing caution sign for the president.

Trump's support among Republicans has been stable throughout his time in office. For all those voters repelled by Trump, there are diehard legions who remain solidly with him because they believe he honored his campaign promises, shows strengths and has presided over an economy that was flourishing before the pandemic.

In a tight race — especially in swing states — those who are abandoning Trump could make a difference.

In two dozen interviews with voters in three traditional swing states and Texas, people discussed why they aren't voting for him again and what it feels like to leave behind a political allegiance that was part of their personal identity.

"Everything that I thought I knew doesn't exist anymore," said 22-year-old Zach Berly, of North Carolina, who was active in high school and college Republican clubs and enthusiastically cast his first presidential ballot for Trump in 2016 but won't be voting for him in November. "There has to be another solution. I don't even know what I am."

The bedrock of Trump's America is white voters who are 45 or older, and they are largely solidly with him, especially in rural areas. According to a Pew Research Center study, the 2018 elections showed a decline in support for Republicans in suburban areas, and if that is true in 2020, it provides an opening for Biden.

"Joe Biden's a family man and so am I, and that's how I'm connecting with him," said Jensen. "He loves his kids and his wife, you can tell it. For me, he's the safer of the two candidates. And he doesn't make fun of people."

Nearly everyone who spoke with The Associated Press said they had hesitations about voting for Trump in 2016 but chose him anyway because of his outsider status and willingness to shake up Washington. They expected him to grow into the job. Jensen was one of those voters.

"I was super proud that day I walked out of voting," said Jensen, who voted for Trump in the primary and general election in 2016. She'd been a lifelong Republican. "My son was with me, and he just turned 18. He voted for Trump as well. It was a year of 'Hey, let's do something different.' I really thought he was going to drain the swamp, get rid of career politicians, small government, be a leader. We wanted everything to change."

She recalled Ronald Reagan. He was an out-of-the-box, unusual choice, and so was Trump. "I was looking for that Reagan-esque, (Arnold) Schwarzenegger appeal.

"Looking back, though, it was all a big mistake."

Jensen sighs a lot when talking about the 2016 election. When Trump became president, he didn't become presidential, she noted. His tweets were alarming, and so was his rhetoric. But she could overlook a lot.

Her first serious inkling that he didn't align with her values was when he nominated Betsy DeVos as secretary of education. Jensen, who is a librarian at a high school, felt that DeVos wasn't qualified.

But there were many other troubling signs to come, including Trump's habit of belittling people. "I started being mindful. Watching things. Growing up with traditional Christian values, it bothered me how he made fun of people," she said.

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She tried to focus on her favorite things in life: '80s music, books, her ownership in a small cattle ranch in her native Oklahoma. She shared plenty of photos of her colorful life on Facebook. But politics crept in like a gray fog that clings to the edge of nightmares. The more Jensen learned about Trump, the less she liked. For the first time in her life, she was uncomfortable with a Republican.

Friends would cite the stock market as proof of Trump's success, and Jensen grew increasingly annoyed. Previously, she'd lived in a half-million-dollar home in Texas with her ex-husband. That was where she met most of her social circle and developed deep friendships with a group of women.

But after her divorce, she moved into a "regular, \$200,000 teacher's home," and later married a man who coached high school football. She was solidly middle class and happy with her life, but couldn't understand how her wealthier friends didn't see what was going on with anyone but their own kind.

"Not everything is based off the stock market," she said. "Most regular people just don't have stocks. Everything about the stock market comments irritated me."

Over the course of Trump's first term, as Jensen grew more alarmed by the president's actions, her stance on many issues started to shift. She began to read different news sources, scour new types of books. She watched MSNBC along with Fox News, and read about media bias and immigration.

Everything she thought she believed was in question. She'd loved George W. Bush and was a strong critic of Barack Obama. Now? She found herself warming to U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a progressive Democrat from the Bronx, which was about as far away from suburban Texas as you could get.

"I love her spirit," said the mother of four, who is equally at ease in a leopard-print sweater as dingy brown farm coveralls. "But sometimes she's too much, she turns people off. I don't like her rhetoric, but I love that she's a passionate woman. She stands up for her values, even though they're different than mine."

Even admitting that much about such a left-leaning politician was shocking to Jensen.

With each new scandal and breaking news alert, she felt like her eyes were opening for the first time. Perhaps, she thought, she'd been too rigid in her thinking.

Hispanic immigrants? She noticed several in the school where she worked. It made her think of Trump's fixation on a border wall. "The wall really bothered me, and the inhumane way we were treating Hispanic people."

Abortion? "I'm pro-life, but I just feel that Republicans have become so hung up on our abortion stance that we are letting this man ruin us."

She's also left baffled by Trump's Cabinet and campaign staffing choices. "The buck stops with the leader. He can't keep a staff. Why does he have so much turnover?" She paused. "People don't leave when you have a good boss. Why is it that he cannot keep the Cabinet? It's one crisis after another, and all he does is go on Twitter. Does he have a job?"

She finally decided Trump had failed at his job when it mattered most, when the pandemic struck. "He did nothing to help us," she said. And she went for Biden.

To be sure, Jensen is not typical. Trump's approval rating was 86% among Republicans in a recent AP poll. There are many who remain fervent in their support for Trump for the very reasons she has come to spurn him: They agree with his immigration policies, his abortion stance. They appreciate his brashness and believe that he is bedeviled by unfair coverage in the media.

But she also is not alone — and she's still a registered Republican. Across the country, others who voted for Trump came to the same conclusions she did: He isn't the man they thought he was.

Folks who are switching their votes from 2016 all cite different turning points for their change of heart. For some, it was when Trump gave his inauguration speech. For others, it was the way he called certain nations "s---hole countries," and how he responded to the Ukraine scandal. Others quit Trump this summer amid nationwide protests over race and a pandemic that's killed more than 200,000 Americans.

Among the two dozen Trump defectors, there is no discernible pattern. They are women and men, old and young. Some are evangelicals, with strong opposition to abortion.

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In 2016, Al Cogossi, 75, a retired defense contractor in Marysville, a suburb of Columbus, Ohio, and a lifelong Republican, voted for Trump because he despised Democrat Hillary Clinton. He decided to switch as he saw the toll of the pandemic mount. He felt that Trump was "politicizing" a national crisis.

"I should've voted for Hillary. I think she would have done an outstanding job handling the issues we're facing today," he said, sighing.

Others had more specific breaking points.

James Farr, a 77-year-old evangelical Christian who lives in Kissimmee, Florida, voted Republican in large part because of his opposition to abortion.

While working as a Bible translator in Papua New Guinea in 2016, he voted for Trump by absentee ballot. Now back in the United States, he is appalled at how Trump treated the Kurds. In October 2019, Trump declared U.S. troops would step aside for an expected Turkish attack on the Kurds, who had fought alongside Americans for years, but then threatened to destroy the Turks' economy if they went too far.

Farr called that decision a "dealbreaker." He's voting for Biden, the first Democrat he's selected. "I really am scared with what Trump does. Feels like he's able to do anything and get away with it."

For Dee Stoudemire, a 64-year-old retired legal administrator and lifelong Republican in Jacksonville, Florida, it was Syria. When Trump made the decision to pull out of that country, going against the recommendations of his military advisers, she ceased supporting him. "That was a bat signal to me, that he's not listening to his military leaders. When you have a leader that cannot and will not listen to his military leaders when it comes to world affairs, you've got a problem."

Stoudemire says most of her friends are Republicans. "We don't talk about the election a lot. Because our friendship is too important. They're aware of how I feel. What other people think about me is not my business."

For others, the issue of racial justice, and Trump's attitude on the subject, prompted them to reject the president.

Daniel Turner, a 59-year-old construction contractor in Deerfield Beach, Florida, had high hopes that Trump's outsider status would help him cut through the bureaucracy in Washington. Then, the 2017 Charlottesville protest happened, with members of the alt-right marching while a woman was killed. "I probably say that the tipping point was definitely when he claimed there were good people on both sides in Charlottesville. I just don't know any good Nazis."

The divisions the Trump era has sewn in many parts of the country have also affected individual families, tearing at their sense of unity.

In rural North Carolina, Zach Berly and his mother avoid talking about Trump, politics or the coronavirus. They were both Trump supporters in 2016. Now only one of them is.

"In order to really keep the peace, we just don't talk about it," said Jennifer Wise, his mother, who is 45 and from Lillington, a town of about 3,100 between Raleigh and Fayetteville. She recently expressed worries that her son was now "regurgitating" talking points of the Democratic Party.

Like others, Berly decided to abandon Trump when he saw how the president handled the pandemic. The recent college graduate lives in Holly Springs and now has "secret" discussions with friends about voting for Biden.

"It's gotta be Joe Biden, right?" Berly said to a friend one day. "It was a really crazy moment to say that out loud. Fox News is on TV everywhere here."

Berly tuned into the Democratic National Convention in August. "Watching the DNC is the first time I've felt proud to be American in a while. After watching that, I really wished I could share that with someone. I'd love to go back to my grandparents and say, 'Isn't this the vision you want for America?'"

Berly said that if he did try to talk about it with his family, he'd be brushed off.

"They will dismiss all of it. There's no sense of compromise," he said. "It's not so much they're not willing to criticize Trump. It's an unwillingness to listen to Democratic talking points."

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In the weeks leading up to the 2016 election, Shawna Jensen didn't mention politics on social media.



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She posted about her children, her cattle, her beloved Chicago Cubs. She was tagged in photos of large groups of smiling friends.

Shortly before Election Day, she made note of when she voted early with a smiling selfie but didn't make any partisan statement.

On Nov. 8, 2016, Jensen posted on Facebook, "CNN having a meltdown," referring to Trump's unexpected win.

A friend replied: "Please please keep the lead. So stressful," and Jensen liked her comment.

Now, four years later, she's still posting about her cattle and her children, but she's dipping a toe into political waters. She joined a Facebook group called "Former Trump Supporters," and posts charts about media bias.

Because of the pandemic — and because of her newfound political beliefs — she's not in many group photos anymore. She still does the occasional Zoom happy hour, but it can get uncomfortable.

"They'll still wear their MAGA hats and things around me," she said. "They'll do it teasingly, but I can tell there's some strain. I think I've grown, and my friends have not."

But she hasn't wavered. "I'm happier now. My time here is limited. I see myself four years ago, I would have never said, 'Black lives matter.' But they do. Sometimes we have to put ourselves in other people's shoes. It does not always have to align with what your friends believe."

She's mindful of not getting into heated arguments or nasty debates. Her son, who went with her to vote in 2016, has decided not to vote at all this year; all he's told her is that he doesn't feel comfortable with Trump.

Now she asks one question of Trump supporters, whether it's online or in person.

"Were you better off four years ago right before the 2016 election, or today?"

## 3 killed in Northern California wildfire; thousands flee

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Northern California's wine country was on fire again Monday as strong winds fanned flames in the already scorched region, destroying homes and prompting orders for nearly 70,000 people to be evacuated. Meanwhile, three people died in a separate fire further north in the state.

In Sonoma County, residents of the Oakmont Gardens senior living facility in Santa Rosa boarded brightly lit city buses in the darkness overnight, some wearing bathrobes and using walkers. They wore masks to protect against the coronavirus as orange flames marked the dark sky.

The fire threat forced Adventist Health St. Helena hospital to suspend care and transfer all patients elsewhere.

The fires that began Sunday in the famed Napa-Sonoma wine country about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of San Francisco came as the region nears the third anniversary of deadly wildfires that erupted in 2017, including one that killed 22 people. Just a month ago, many of those same residents were evacuated from the path of a lightning-sparked fire that became the fourth-largest in state history.

"Our firefighters have not had much of a break, and these residents have not had much of a break," said Daniel Berlant, assistant deputy director with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin evacuated her property in the Oakmont community of Santa Rosa at about 1 a.m. She is rebuilding a home damaged in the 2017 fires.

Gorin said she saw three neighboring houses in flames as she fled early Monday.

"We're experienced with that," she said of the fires. "Once you lose a house and represent thousands of folks who've lost homes, you become pretty fatalistic that this is a new way of life and, depressingly, a normal way of life, the megafires that are spreading throughout the West."

More than 68,000 people in Sonoma and Napa counties have been evacuated in the latest inferno, one of nearly 30 fire clusters burning across the state, said Cal Fire Division Chief Ben Nichols.

In Napa County, the entire town of Calistoga, population around 5,000, was ordered to evacuate Monday

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evening.

Many more residents have been warned that they might have to flee, even though winds eased significantly Monday afternoon, giving firefighters an opportunity to make some progress, he said.

"The smoky skies that we're under are a sign that there's not a lot of air movement out there moving the smoke around," Nichols said at an evening briefing. "Not good for air quality, and folks outside exercising, but great for us to work on containing this fire and working on putting it out."

The Glass Fire broke out before 4 a.m. Sunday and merged with two other fires to scorch more than 56 square miles (145 square kilometers) as of Monday. There was no containment. Officials did not have an estimate of the number of homes destroyed or burned, but the blaze engulfed the Chateau Boswell Winery in St. Helena and at least one five-star resort.

Logan Hertel of Santa Rosa used a garden hose to fight flames at a neighbor's house in the Skyhawk neighborhood until firefighters could relieve him.

"Seems like they got enough on their hands already. So I wanted to step in and put out the fire," Hertel said.

Dominic Wiggins, who lives in the same neighborhood, evacuated but returned later Monday. His home was still standing, but many others were gone. "It's so sad," he said.

Pacific Gas & Electric was inspecting its equipment as it sought to restore power to more than 100,000 customers who had it turned off in advance of gusty winds and in areas with active fire zones. The utility's equipment has caused previous disasters, including the 2018 Camp Fire that killed 85 people and devastated the town of Paradise in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

By Monday night, the utility said it had restored electricity to essentially all of those customers. However, PG&E said about 24,000 people remained without power in areas affected by two fires in Napa, Sonoma, Shasta and Tehama counties.

More than 1,200 people were also evacuated in Shasta County for the Zogg Fire, spread over 23 square miles (59 square kilometers) by Monday.

Shasta County Sheriff Eric Magrini said three people died as a result of the fire, though he gave no details.

"It's with a sad heart that I come before you today," he said, urging residents to heed advice to leave. "When you get that order, evacuate immediately. Do not wait."

Residences are widely scattered in the forested area in the far northern part of the state. The region was torched just two years ago by the deadly Carr Fire — infamously remembered for producing a huge tornado-like fire whirl.

The causes of the new fires were under investigation.

Mark Ghilarducci, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, said 2020 has been challenging.

"The silver lining to it is that people who live in California become more prepared, they're more aware, they know these events take place and we're seeing a citizenry that does get it and is working hard to be prepared," he said.

Numerous studies in recent years have linked bigger wildfires in America to climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Scientists say climate change has made California much drier, meaning trees and other plants are more flammable.

The latest fires erupted as a giant ridge of high pressure settled over the West, producing powerful gusts blowing from the interior toward the coast while slashing humidity levels and raising temperatures.

So far in this year's historic fire season, more than 8,100 California wildfires have now killed 29 people, scorched 5,780 square miles (14,970 square kilometers), and destroyed more than 7,000 buildings.

Most of the losses occurred after a frenzy of dry lightning strikes in mid-August ignited a massive outbreak of fires.

Fire worries were developing across Southern California, although it was unclear how strong the predicted Santa Ana winds would become. Heat and extreme dryness were also expected to create problems.

Conditions were also hot, dry and windy in parts of Arizona, where the Sears Fire in Tonto National Forest north of Phoenix has grown to more than 14 square miles (36 square kilometers) since it erupted Friday. Authorities reported zero containment.

Associated Press reporters Christopher Weber and John Antczak in Los Angeles, Juliet Williams in San Francisco and Haven Daley in Santa Rosa, California contributed to this report.

## **Barrett tied to faith group ex-members say subjugates women**

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court has close ties to a charismatic Christian religious group that holds men are divinely ordained as the "head" of the family and faith. Former members of the group, called People of Praise, say it teaches that wives must submit to the will of their husbands.

Federal appeals judge Amy Coney Barrett has not commented publicly about her own or her family's involvement, and a People of Praise spokesman declined to say whether she and her husband are current members.

But Barrett, 48, grew up in New Orleans in a family deeply connected to the organization and as recently as 2017 she served as a trustee at the People of Praise-affiliated Trinity Schools Inc., according to the nonprofit organization's tax records and other documents reviewed by The Associated Press. Only members of the group serve on the schools' board, according to the system's president.

The AP also reviewed 15 years of back issues of the organization's internal magazine, Vine and Branches, which has published birth announcements, photos and other mentions of Barrett and her husband, Jesse, whose family has been active in the group for four decades. On Friday, all editions of the magazine were removed from the group's website.

People of Praise is a religious community based in charismatic Catholicism, a movement that grew out of the influence of Pentecostalism, which emphasizes a personal relationship with Jesus and can include baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. The group organizes and meets outside the purview of a church and includes people from several Christian denominations, but its members are mostly Roman Catholic.

Barrett's affiliation with a conservative religious group that elevates the role of men has drawn particular scrutiny given that she would be filling the high court seat held by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a feminist icon who spent her legal career fighting for women to have full equality. Barrett, by contrast, is being hailed by religious conservatives as an ideological heir to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, a staunch abortion-rights opponent for whom she clerked as a young lawyer.

In accepting Trump's nomination Saturday, the Catholic mother of seven said she shares Scalia's judicial philosophy.

"A judge must apply the law as written," Barrett said. "Judges are not policy makers, and they must be resolute in setting aside any policy views they might hold."

Barrett's advocates are trying to frame questions about her involvement in People of Praise as anti-Catholic bigotry ahead of her upcoming Senate nomination hearings.

Asked about People of Praise in a televised interview last week, Vice President Mike Pence responded, "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."

But some people familiar with the group and charismatic religious groups like it say Barrett's involvement should be examined before she receives a lifelong appointment to the highest court in the nation.

"It's not about the faith," said Massimo Faggioli, a theology professor at Villanova University, who has studied similar groups. He says a typical feature of charismatic groups is the dynamic of a strong hierarchical leadership, and a strict view of the relationship between women and men.

Several people familiar with People of Praise, including some current members, told the AP that the group has been misunderstood. They call it a Christian fellowship, focused on building community. One member described it as a "family of families," who commit themselves to each other in mutual support to live together "through thick and thin."

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But the group has also been portrayed by some former members, and in books, blogs and news reports, as hierarchical, authoritarian and controlling, where men dominate their wives, leaders dictate members' life choices and those who leave are shunned.

The AP interviewed seven current and former members of People of Praise, and reviewed its tax records, websites, missionary blogs and back issues of its magazine to try to paint a fuller picture of an organization that Barrett has been deeply involved in since childhood.

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People of Praise was founded in South Bend, Indiana, in 1971 as part of the Catholic Pentecostal movement, a devout reaction to the free love, secular permissiveness and counterculture movements of the 1960s and early '70s. Many of the group's early members were drawn from the campus of nearby Notre Dame, a Catholic university.

The group has roughly 1,800 adult members nationwide, with branches and schools in 22 cities across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. All members are encouraged to continue to attend church at their own parishes.

After a period of religious study and instruction that lasts from three to six years, people involved in People of Praise can choose to make a lifelong covenant pledging love and service to fellow community members and to God, which includes tithing at least 5% of their gross income to support the group's activities and charitable initiatives, according to a statement on the group's website.

People of Praise's more than 1,500-word covenant, a copy of which was reviewed by the AP, includes a passage where members promise to follow the teachings and instructions of the group's pastors, teachers and evangelists.

"We agree to obey the direction of the Holy Spirit manifested in and through these ministries in full harmony with the church," the covenant says.

It's unclear whether Barrett took the covenant. But members of the organization and descriptions of its hierarchy show that members almost invariably join the covenant after three to six years of religious study or they leave, so it would be very unusual for Barrett to continue to be involved for so many years without having done so.

A 2006 article in the group's magazine includes a photo of her attending a People of Praise Leaders' Conference for Women. The magazine also includes regular notices when members are "released from the covenant" and leave the group. The AP's review found no such notice of Barrett's or her husband's departure.

A request to interview Barrett made through the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, where she currently serves as a judge, was declined. The judge didn't mention People of Praise in her 2017 Senate judicial questionnaire, filled out prior to her confirmation for the bench.

Jesse Barrett did not respond to voicemail or email sent through his law firm in South Bend.

People of Praise spokesman Sean Connolly declined to discuss the Barretts or their affiliation with the group.

"Like most religious communities, the People of Praise leaves it up to its members to decide whether to publicly disclose their involvement in our community," Connolly said by email. "And like most religious communities, we do not publish a membership list."

Several people familiar with the group told the AP that, unlike some other charismatic movements, People of Praise has a strong commitment to intellectualism, evidenced in part by the schools they have established, which have a reputation for intellectual rigor.

Barrett's father, Michael Coney Sr., has served as the principal leader of People of Praise's New Orleans branch and was on the group's all-male Board of Governors as recently as 2017. Her mother, Linda Coney, has served in the branch as a "handmaid," a female leader assigned to help guide other women, according to documents reviewed by the AP.

"One of the key principles of People of Praise is freedom, the exercise of our own freedom in following the Lord and in following our own — what we believe, what we think is right," Michael Coney, 75, said Friday in an interview with the AP.



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Joannah Clark, 47, grew up in People of Praise and became a member as an adult. She acknowledged that the board of governors consists of all men, but said that is not a reflection on the "worth or ability of women," but rather the approach the group has chosen for that level of leadership.

"In a marriage, we look at the husband as the head of the family. And that's consistent with New Testament teaching," said Clark, who is the head of Trinity Academy in Portland, Oregon. "This role of the husband as the head of the family is not a position of power or domination. It's really quite the opposite. It's a position of care and service and responsibility. Men are looking out for the good and well-being of their families."

Clark said she had previously served as a "handmaid." The term was a reference to Jesus' mother Mary, who called herself "the handmaid of the Lord." The organization recently changed the terminology to "woman leader" because it had newly negative connotations after Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel "The Handmaid's Tale" was turned into a popular television show.

Clark said the woman leaders in People of Praise do things like provide pastoral care and organize help for community members, such as when people are sick or need other help.

"They're also in a role of advising, so the men will ask the women leaders' advice on issues that affect the patterns of life within the community, certainly issues that affect women and families," Clark said.

Barrett, in accepting Trump's nomination at the White House on Saturday, put particular emphasis on the equality of her own marriage, saying she expected from the start the she and her husband would run their household as partners.

"As it has turned out, Jesse does far more than his share of the work," she said. "To my chagrin, I learned at dinner recently that my children consider him to be the better cook."

Though People of Praise opposes abortion, those familiar with the group said it would be a mistake to pigeonhole their politics as either left or right. While socially conservative in their understanding of family and gender, some members are deeply committed to social justice in matters of race and economics, they said. Barrett's parents are both registered Democrats, according to Louisiana voter registration records.

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Tax records and other documents show that as recently as 2017 Barrett sat on the board of Trinity Schools, a campus of which was recently designated by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos as a National Blue Ribbon School. The schools are coed, but most classes are segregated by gender.

The school's website says the group sees men and women "created by God equal in dignity but distinct from one another."

"We seek to uphold both that equality and appropriate distinction in our culture," it goes on.

Similarly, at People of Praise the leadership structure is largely segregated by gender. And as they become adults, members frequently live together in same-gender communal houses sometimes owned by the group, or they are invited to live with a family within the community. Articles in the People of Praise magazine frequently note when young single members get married to each other. Multiple birth announcements often follow.

The group's magazine also offers insights into the group's views on marriage, community and members' finances. A 2007 issue discusses how the 17 single women who live together in a household, called the Sisterhood, had their paychecks direct deposited into a single bank account. One member said she had "no idea" what the amount of her paycheck was.

The pooled money was managed by one woman, who budgeted for everyone's clothing and other expenses, including \$36 weekly per person for food and basics like toilet paper. All women were expected to give 10% of their pay to People of Praise, another 1% to the South Bend branch and additional tithes to their churches.

Married couples and their children also often share multifamily homes or cluster in neighborhoods designated for "city building" by the group's leaders, where they can easily socialize and walk to each other's houses.

As part of spiritual meetings, members often relay divine prophecies and are encouraged to pray in tongues, where participants make vocal utterances thought to carry direct teachings and instructions from God. Those utterances are then "interpreted" by senior male leaders and relayed back to the wider group.

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A 1969 book by Kevin Ranaghan, a co-founder of People of Praise, dedicates a chapter to praying in tongues, which he describes as a gift from God.

"The gift of tongues is one of the word-gifts, an utterance of the Spirit through man," Ranaghan wrote in "Catholic Pentecostals." "Alone, the gift of tongues is used for prayer and praise. Coupled with the gift of interpretation it can edify the unbeliever and strengthen, console, enlighten or move the community of faith."

In a blog entry on the group's website from March of this year, a mother described taking her children to pray in tongues as the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

While People of Praise portrays itself as a tightknit family of families, former members paint a darker picture of that closeness.

Coral Anika Theill joined People of Praise's branch in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1979, when she was a 24-year-old mother of 6-month-old twins.

"My husband at the time was very drawn to it because of the structure of the submission of women," recounted Theill, who is now 65.

Theill, who converted to Catholicism after getting married, said in her People of Praise community women were expected to live in "total submission" not only to their husbands, but also the other male "heads" within the group.

In a book she wrote about her experience, Theill recounts that in People of Praise every consequential personal decision — whether to take a new job, buy a particular model car or choose where to live — went through the hierarchy of male leadership. Members of the group who worked outside the community had to turn over their paystubs to church leaders to confirm they were tithing correctly, she said.

Theill says her "handmaid," to whom she was supposed to confide her innermost thoughts and emotions, then repeated what she said to the male heads, who would consult her husband on the proper correction.

"There'd be open meetings where you just have to stand for the group and they'd tell you all that was wrong with you," Theill recounted to the AP last week. "And I would ask questions. I was a critical thinker."

When she told her husband she wanted to wait to have more children, Theill said, he accompanied her to gynecological appointments to ensure she couldn't get birth control.

"I was basically treated like a brood mare," she said, using the term for a female horse used for breeding. During her 20-year marriage, Theill had eight children from 11 pregnancies.

Theill, who says she declined to take the covenant, described being dominated and eventually shunned because of the doubts she expressed about the group.

Clark, a current member in Oregon, said she had never heard of members being shunned.

"At any point, a community member can decide to leave and is free to do so," Clark said. She said she has friends who have left the community. "These are people I've maintained a good friendship with and people who've maintained friendships with other people in community."

But Theill isn't the only former member to describe forced subjugation of women within People of Praise or shunning of former members.

Among People of Praise's very first members in South Bend were Adrian Reimers and his wife, Marie. The couple was active for more than a dozen years before he said he became disillusioned and was "dismissed" from the group in the mid-1980s.

Reimers, who teaches philosophy at Notre Dame, went on to write detailed academic examinations of the group's inner workings and theological underpinnings. In a 1997 book about People of Praise and other covenant communities, Reimers wrote that the fundamental principle of the group was St. Paul's stipulation from the Bible that the husband is the "head" of his wife and that the wife is to "submit in all things."

"A married woman is expected always to reflect the fact that she is under her husband's authority," Reimers wrote. "This goes beyond an acknowledgment that the husband is 'head of the home' or head of the family; he is, in fact, her personal pastoral head. Whatever she does requires at least his tacit approval. He is responsible for her formation and growth in the Christian life."

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Though women are allowed to serve in some administrative roles within the community, Reimers wrote that no woman is allowed to hold a pastoral position of leadership in which she would oversee or instruct men.

"People who leave these communities are often shunned by other members and are spoken of as no longer brothers and sisters in Christ or even no longer Christian," he wrote.

Reimers declined to expand on his experience with People of Praise, saying he doesn't know Amy Coney Barrett and didn't want to get drawn into a political fight. But he said he stands by his prior account.

"To quote Pontius Pilate, 'What I have written, I have written,'" he said last week, referring to the Roman official in the Bible who signed the order condemning Jesus to be crucified.

Lisa Williams said her parents joined the Minnesota branch of People of Praise in the late 1970s, when she was a fourth-grader. She chronicled her experience in a blog called "Exorcism and Pound Cake," a reference to how she knew as a child that it was a meeting night because of the smell of baked goods coming from the kitchen.

"I remember my mother saying a wife could never deny sex to her husband, because it was his right and her duty," said Williams, 56. "Sex is not for pleasure. It's for as many babies as God chooses to give you. ... Women had to be obedient. They had to be subservient."

Corporal punishment of children was common, Williams told the AP. When she was insufficiently obedient to her father, she was beaten with a belt and then required to kneel and ask forgiveness from both him and God, she said.

She recalled People of Praise meetings held in her parents' living room where members prayed in tongues to cast out demons from a person writhing on the floor, rituals she described as exorcisms.

When her parents, from whom she is now estranged, decided to leave People of Praise when she was a junior in high school, she remembers the leaders said her family would be doomed to hell and they were shunned. "Nobody would talk to you," she recalled.

Steven Hassan, a mental health counselor who works with people who have left fundamentalist authoritarian religious groups, said the culture within People of Praise as described by Theill and Williams, including the practice of shunning former members, creates fear so that people are dependent and obedient.

"A person who is in one of these groups has to suppress their own thoughts, feelings, desires that doesn't align with the dogma," Hassan said.

He cautioned, however, that Theill's and Williams' experiences were from decades ago and not necessarily illustrative of how the group now operates. And current members of People of Praise interviewed by the AP strongly disputed those characterizations.

"There's a high value on personal freedom," said Clark, the Trinity School director in Oregon.

She said she had never heard of some of the practices the former members detailed to the AP, such as micromanaging finances or handing over paychecks. She grew emotional when she recounted the sacrifices people in the group make for each other as part of their covenant, like the case of a man known for helping his fellow members move, who was in turn cared for by group members as he died.

"I've never been asked to do anything against my own free will," said Clark, a member of the group for 25 years. "I have never been dominated or controlled by a man."

Thomas Csordas, an anthropology professor at University of California San Diego, has studied the religious movement that includes People of Praise. He said such communities are conservative, authoritarian, hierarchical and patriarchal.

But, he said, in his view, the group's leaders are unlikely to exert influence over Barrett's judicial decisions.

Coney, Barrett's father, said the culture of female submission described by some former members was based on misunderstandings of the group's teachings.

"I can't comment on why they believe that. But it is certainly not a correct interpretation of our life," he said. "We're people who love each other and support each other in their Christian life, trying to follow the Lord."

As a lawyer himself, he rejected the notion that his daughter's religious beliefs will unduly influence her

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opinions if she is confirmed to the high court.

"I think she's a super lawyer and she will apply the law as opposed to any of her beliefs," he said. "She will follow the law."

Smith reported from Providence, Rhode Island. Associated Press reporters Mitch Weiss in Greenville, South Carolina, and Juliet Linderman in Baltimore, Maryland, contributed.

Follow Investigative Reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck> and Smith at <http://twitter.com/MRSmithAP>

Contact AP's global investigative team at [Investigative@ap.org](mailto:Investigative@ap.org)

## US official: 2020 census to end Oct. 5 despite court order

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross says the 2020 census will end Oct. 5, despite a federal judge's ruling last week allowing the head count of every U.S. resident to continue through the end of October, according to a tweet posted by the Census Bureau on Monday.

The tweet said the ability for people to self-respond to the census questionnaire and the door-knocking phase when census takers go to homes that haven't yet responded are targeted to end Oct. 5.

The announcement came as a virtual hearing was being held in San Jose, California, as a follow-up to U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh's preliminary injunction. The injunction issued last week suspended the Census Bureau's deadline for ending the head count on Sept. 30, which automatically reverted back to an older Census Bureau plan in which the timeline for ending field operations was Oct. 31.

The new Oct. 5 deadline doesn't necessarily violate the judge's order because the injunction just suspended the Sept. 30 deadline for field operations, as well as a Dec. 31 deadline the Census Bureau has for turning in figures used for determining how many congressional seats each state gets in a process known as apportionment. The census also is used to determine how to distribute \$1.5 trillion in federal spending annually.

Koh asked federal government attorneys during Monday's hearing to provide documents on how the new decision to end the head count on Oct. 5 was made. When a federal government lawyer suggested that the decision-making was a moving target without any records, the judge asked, "A one sentence tweet? Are you saying that is enough reason to establish decision-making? A one sentence tweet?"

Given the judge's preliminary injunction and a temporary restraining order she had previously issued prohibiting the Census Bureau from winding down 2020 census operations, the decision was made that the Sept. 30 deadline was no longer viable, said August Flentje, special counsel to the assistant U.S. Attorney General.

"It's day to day adjustments and assessments," Flentje said.

Koh said in her ruling last Thursday that the shortened schedule ordered by President Donald Trump's administration likely would produce inaccurate results that would last a decade. She sided with civil rights groups and local governments that had sued the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Commerce, which oversees the statistical agency, arguing that minorities and others in hard-to-count communities would be missed if the counting ends this month.

Attorneys for the federal government said they were appealing the decision. During hearings, federal government attorneys argued that the head count needed to end Sept. 30 in order to meet a Dec. 31 deadline for handing in figures used for apportionment.

Monday's statement was noteworthy in that it was solely attributed to the commerce secretary, while previous announcements about census schedule changes had been made either by Census Bureau director Steven Dillingham or both men jointly.

"It is time that the Trump Administration stopped working to politicize and jeopardize the 2020 Census,"



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said U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat from New York, who chairs the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, which has oversight over the Census Bureau.

The decision by the Commerce Department came as census takers across the U.S. told The Associated Press that they were being pressured to meet the Sept. 30 deadline, even after Koh issued her injunction.

In upstate New York, a census supervisor told her census takers Friday that the Buffalo office was operating with Sept. 30 as the end date, according to a text obtained by AP. "5 days left (no matter what the court status)," the text said.

In northern California, a manager told supervisors working under him on Sunday, "We're in the home stretch with only 3 days left," according to an email obtained by AP.

In that same region, a different manager told the census supervisors working underneath her Monday that they needed to complete 99% of households in the the Santa Rosa region by Wednesday, including 12,000 households yet to be counted in Mendocino County. In the conference call, area manager Nicole Terrazas pleaded with her supervisors to ask their census takers to head to Mendocino County, even though that part of California is under threat of wildfires.

"We need as much help as we can get. We only have three days to do it," said Terrazas on a call that an AP reporter listened in on.

When a census supervisor asked why they were being pressured with the Sept. 30 deadline when Koh's preliminary injunction prohibits the count from ending at the end of this month, Terrazas called the judge's order "something completely different."

Other census takers and supervisors, including one from Texas, have sent emails to Koh's court, saying that field operations in their areas are slated to shut down Sept. 30.

In response to the pandemic, the Census Bureau last April pushed back the deadline for ending the 2020 census from the end of July to the end of October. The bureau also asked Congress to let it turn in numbers used for apportionment from the end of December to the end of April.

The deadline extension passed the Democratic-controlled House but it stalled in the Republican-controlled Senate after President Donald Trump issued a memorandum seeking to exclude people in the country illegally from being used in the apportionment count. A panel of three judges in New York said earlier this month that the memorandum was unlawful.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

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## Feds to ship millions of tests in bid to reopen K-12 schools

By MATTHEW PERRONE and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced Monday that the federal government will begin distributing millions of rapid coronavirus tests to states this week and urged governors to use them to reopen schools for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The move to vastly expand U.S. testing comes as confirmed new COVID-19 cases remain elevated at more than 40,000 per day and experts warn of a likely surge in infections during the colder months ahead. It also comes just five weeks before the November election, with Trump facing continued criticism for his handling of the crisis.

The tests will go out to states based on their population and can be used as governors see fit, but the Trump administration is encouraging states to place a priority on schools. White House officials said at a Rose Garden event that 6.5 million tests will go out this week and that a total of 100 million tests will be distributed to governors over the next several weeks.

Officials said the administration is emphasizing testing in schools because it's important to the physical, social and emotional development of students to be back in classrooms to the degree that's possible. The Abbott Laboratories tests would allow parents to know whether their symptomatic child has COVID-19. In some cases, states could undertake some baseline surveillance, like testing a proportion of students per week or per month to make sure that the incidence of COVID-19 is low.

"You have too many states that are locked down right now," Trump said. "The governors are ... nobody knows what the governors are doing actually."

The tests will come from a previously announced supply of 150 million ordered from Abbott. The company's rapid test, the size of a credit card, is the first that does not require specialty computer equipment to process. It delivers results in about 15 minutes.

Rapid, convenient testing is considered essential to reopening the U.S. economy. But the effort has been plagued by problems since the earliest days of the outbreak.

First, the government lost pivotal weeks distributing, then correcting a flawed test developed by U.S. scientists. Then, for months private labs and hospitals struggled to ramp up testing capacity due to shortages of key supplies, including testing chemicals.

The issue is politically sensitive for Trump as he grapples with the pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans. For months, Trump has prodded state and local leaders to open schools this fall.

Only in the last two months has U.S. testing capacity generally exceeded demand. The government's top testing official, Adm. Brett Giroir, told Congress last week that the nation will soon have the capacity to run 3 million tests per day, on average. The U.S. has been averaging about 900,000 tests per day, according to data from the COVID Tracking Project.

Giroir demonstrated the ease with which the test is given, self-administering the nasal swab then placing it on a piece of paper that contained six drops of liquid.

"This is a very sophisticated little piece of cardboard with lots of antibodies and incredible technology," he said.

Abbott's test is an important advance because of its low cost and easy-to-use format. Until now, the vast majority of coronavirus tests had to be sent to high-grade medical laboratories for processing that typically took several days. Backlogs led to repeated delays in reporting results, especially during a summer spike in cases.

But rapid, point-of-care tests like Abbott's have their own downsides. They are less accurate, and positive results often need to be confirmed with higher-grade lab tests. Additionally, because the tests are often performed outside the health care system, state officials have warned that many tests are going unreported. That could lead to undercounts of new cases, skewing government data needed to track the virus.

"What we're hearing from the states is that they don't know where these tests are being done," said Dr. Jeffrey Engel of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, in a recent interview. He warned that schools generally do not have the capacity or expertise to report mass testing results, which could

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artificially lower infection counts sent to state and federal officials.

Trump warned that with an increase in testing, there would “automatically” be an increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

“It’s important to remember that as younger and healthier people return to work and as we massively increase testing capacity, we will identify more cases in asymptomatic individuals in low-risk populations,” Trump said. “This should not cause undue alarm.”

The tests from Abbott are being made in two factories, one in Illinois and one in Maine. The company is in a ramping-up phase. The federal government bought the first 150 million, and it will take the rest of the year to completely fill that order. After that, the administration will decide whether the government should purchase more or whether the free market can determine adequate distribution.

The nonprofit Rockefeller Foundation says the U.S. will need roughly 200 million tests per month to safely reopen schools as part of a broader phased approach to easing restrictions, according to a paper issued earlier this month. The report authors noted that the U.S. is currently averaging fewer than 30 million tests per month.

Despite the gap, Rockefeller’s director, Dr. Jonathan Quick, called Monday’s announcement “an exciting and very significant step.” He added that states will need sustained funding and testing supplies “for the foreseeable future.”

The Trump administration announced earlier this month that the Abbott tests would also go to assisted-living facilities, moving to fill a testing gap for older adults who do not need the constant attention of a nursing home. Senior day care centers and home health agencies are getting the tests too.

Long-term care facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living, account for a sliver of the U.S. population but more than 40% of deaths from COVID-19.

## **Salty lake, ponds may be gurgling beneath South Pole on Mars**

By MARCIA DUNN Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A network of salty ponds may be gurgling beneath Mars’ South Pole alongside a large underground lake, raising the prospect of tiny, swimming Martian life.

Italian scientists reported their findings Monday, two years after identifying what they believed to be a large buried lake. They widened their coverage area by a couple hundred miles, using even more data from a radar sounder on the European Space Agency’s Mars Express orbiter.

In the latest study appearing in the journal *Nature Astronomy*, the scientists provide further evidence of this salty underground lake, estimated to be 12 miles to 18 miles (20 kilometers to 30 kilometers) across and buried 1 mile (1.5 kilometers) beneath the icy surface.

Even more tantalizing, they’ve also identified three smaller bodies of water surrounding the lake. These ponds appear to be of various sizes and are separate from the main lake.

Roughly 4 billion years ago, Mars was warm and wet, like Earth. But the red planet eventually morphed into the barren, dry world it remains today.

The research team led by Roma Tre University’s Sebastian Emanuel Lauro used a method similar to what’s been used on Earth to detect buried lakes in the Antarctic and Canadian Arctic. They based their findings on more than 100 radar observations by Mars Express from 2010 to 2019; the spacecraft was launched in 2003.

All this potential water raises the possibility of microbial life on — or inside — Mars. High concentrations of salt are likely keeping the water from freezing at this frigid location, the scientists noted. The surface temperature at the South Pole is an estimated minus 172 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 113 degrees Celsius), and gets gradually warmer with depth.

These bodies of water are potentially interesting biologically and “future missions to Mars should target this region,” the researchers wrote.

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Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Officer charged in Breonna Taylor case pleads not guilty

By BRUCE SCHREINER, REBECCA REYNOLDS YONKER and PIPER HUDSPETH BLACKBURN Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The lone Kentucky detective facing charges related to the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor pleaded not guilty Monday.

Brett Hankison's plea comes five days after a grand jury indicted him on three counts of wanton endangerment for firing into the home of Taylor's neighbors. If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison on each count.

Hankison's lawyer asked that his client be allowed to keep firearms for self-defense, saying Hankison, who was fired in June, "has received a number of threats." The judge turned down the request.

The grand jury declined to charge Hankison or the other two undercover narcotics officers who opened fire inside Taylor's house with her shooting. The decision not to charge the officers set off protests in Louisville and across the country.

On Monday, Louisville's mayor lifted the curfew put in place after people refused to end their nighttime protests. Mayor Greg Fischer's statement said the 9 p.m. curfew had served its purpose.

"We sadly saw some violence, including the shooting of two police officers, one of whom remains hospitalized, dealing with complications of his injuries. But we believe the curfew helped, by ensuring fewer people were out late in the day," Fischer said.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said the protests were largely peaceful, with a few people taking advantage of the situation to commit violence.

"Let me say this, 99.99% of people that took to the streets or the sidewalks did so peacefully, raised their voices to be heard and we should listen. We should listen to the trauma and to the pain," Beshear said.

Meanwhile, Kentucky state Rep. Lisa Willner, a Louisville Democrat, said Monday that she's starting to craft legislation that would narrow the scope of the state's rioting statute.

Her proposal, which she intends to offer in next year's legislative session, would protect people from being charged with first-degree rioting if they're present but don't engage in destructive or violent actions. Her response comes after Democratic state Rep. Attica Scott was charged with the felony last week while participating in Louisville protests for racial justice.

"This is not any attempt at all to weaken the current law," Willner said in a phone interview. "It's just to make sure that people who are peacefully protesting, who are merely exercising their First Amendment rights, are clearly not engaging in rioting."

Scott was among demonstrators who converged in downtown Louisville to express their disagreement with the grand jury decision. Many marched along Louisville's streets chanting "Breonna Taylor, say her name," and "no justice, no peace."

Taylor was shot multiple times after her boyfriend opened fire as officers entered her home during a narcotics raid on the night of March 13, authorities said. Taylor's boyfriend said he didn't know who was coming in and fired in self-defense. One officer was wounded.

A coroner's report obtained Monday says Taylor was shot five times and died of multiple gunshot wounds. It says she was hit in the torso, her upper left extremity and both lower extremities. She tested negative for drugs and alcohol.

Scott, the state's only Black woman representative, was arrested and charged Thursday night with the felony of first-degree rioting as well as unlawful assembly and failure to disperse, which are misdemeanor offenses.

Police said Scott was in a group whose members damaged buildings and set fire to a library.

Scott called the charges "ludicrous" and said she would never be involved in setting fire to a library. She said she was arrested as she walked with her daughter to the sanctuary of a church.

Kentucky law defines a riot as a public disturbance involving five or more people "which by tumultuous and violent conduct creates grave danger of damage or injury to property or persons or substantially

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obstructs law enforcement or other government function.”

The law defines first-degree rioting as knowingly participating in a riot that causes injury to a person who is not rioting or causes substantial property damage.

Scott said she and her daughter were driving from a protest to a church that offered refuge to people who would otherwise be caught violating the curfew when police blocked their route, so they parked and walked to the church instead. Officers then converged on them to make arrests before the curfew took effect, Scott said.

“LMPD swarmed us,” Scott said. “They started yelling, ‘Circle ‘em, circle ‘em.’ They wouldn’t let us leave to go back to our vehicle. And they wouldn’t let us literally cross the street to get to the church and sanctuary.”

Willner said Scott’s arrest “raises the question of how many others have been accused of rioting in the first degree — which is a felony — who are facing loss of voting rights, simply by being present.”

“We can make the language much clearer so that in order for a person to be convicted for riot in the first degree, it should be clear that they participated in the unlawful action by engaging in violent or destructive acts or by complicitly encouraging others to engage in violent or destructive acts,” she said.

Republicans have overwhelming majorities in both chambers of the Kentucky legislature.

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Hudspeth 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.

## Trump went even further than other uber-rich to shrink taxes

By PAUL WISEMAN and MARCY GORDON AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tax-avoidance strategies that President Donald Trump capitalized on to shrink his tax bill to essentially zero are surprisingly common among major real estate developers and other uber-wealthy Americans.

Yet Trump characteristically pushed those strategies to the limit — perhaps to the breaking point.

So say tax experts in the wake of a New York Times report Sunday that found that Trump paid only \$750 in taxes in both 2016 and 2017 — and none at all in 11 of the 18 years that the newspaper examined.

“The things that Trump did are typical of wealthy businesspeople and particularly wealthy real estate developers,” said Steve Wamhoff, director of federal tax policy at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Still, Wamhoff noted, Trump claims “the special breaks and loopholes that are available in the tax code and sometimes just takes them to a whole new level.”

Seth Hanlon, a senior fellow and tax analyst at the left-leaning Center for American Progress, suggested that given all the tax breaks available to him, it wasn’t surprising that Trump paid so little in taxes.

But, Hanlon added, “it’s still pretty shocking to see it.”

U.S. tax law has long been kind to big real estate developers. It allows them myriad legal loopholes and breaks that can significantly shrink their tax bills. The law became even more beneficial to them after Trump’s Republican allies in Congress pushed through his \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul, which took effect in 2018.

The Times reviewed Trump’s tax returns for 2000 through 2017, so its report didn’t capture the impact of the 2018 law. But Martin Sullivan, chief economist at Tax Analysts, said, “It is much easier now for a real estate developer to avoid taxes than it was five years ago.”

Even before the 2018 law, developers could claim losses more quickly and easily than other businesses. They can also more easily delay or avoid reporting profits to the Internal Revenue Service. Even if they fall behind on their debts, they face fewer tax penalties than other investors do as long as their creditors forgive their debts.

Trump took full advantage of those tax breaks after failing to handle debts on his failing Atlantic City casinos in the 1990s and early 2000s. Even so, experts say it’s unclear whether all his actions were per-

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missible.

"There are a lot of things that Trump has done that may exceed what is allowed by the law," Wamhoff said.

Wamhoff noted that the IRS has raised questions about some of Trump's claims — in particular, a whopping \$72.9 million federal tax refund that he sought and received, as well as "business deductions for expenses that really look like personal expenses."

The Times reported, for example, that Trump has claimed a 200-acre family retreat in Bedford, New York, as an investment, thereby allowing him to write off property taxes. And he has used what the Times called "unexplained" consulting payments to shrink his business taxes. Trump even claimed \$70,000 in hair styling expenses during his TV show "The Apprentice."

At the same time, said Sullivan at Tax Analysts, defining legitimate business expenses is a "murky" issue.

Hair styling is a clearly a personal matter for an everyday office worker. But for a television personality, it would be a legitimate business expense.

Experts note that such outside tax advantages for the most privileged businesspeople have served to widen the nation's economic inequality. Economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman at the University of California, Berkeley, found that in 2018 billionaires faced a small burden than did the working class for the first time in 100 years: The richest 400 Americans paid an overall tax rate of 23%, including federal, state and local taxes, compared with 24.2% for the bottom 50% — and compared with Trump's effective 0% federal income tax.

Wealthy families typically try to transfer some of their assets during their lifetime to ease the tax burden on their heirs, something they can do legally in a variety of ways. As assets go, real estate is one of the most flexible options.

That said, there's a fine line between tax avoidance and abuse.

A key provision in the 2018 tax law delivered a steep tax break for a kind of business that is often set up by owners of profitable firms, including Trump and his family. The law allowed a 20% deduction against income taxes for businesses whose profits are taxed at the owner's personal income rate. They are known as "pass-through" companies because their profits are passed through to the owner's personal tax bucket.

Those businesses span a huge range, from the local florist and family-owned restaurant to law firms, hedge funds and privately held large firms like the Trump family's property empire.

Trump himself has owned about 500 entities structured as pass-throughs, according to his lawyers. This has made the Trump Organization less a single business than a grab-bag of units drawing on the fancier parts of the tax code: Sole proprietorships and limited-liability partnerships.

Beyond wealthy individuals, the Trump tax law made it easier for big corporations, too, to avoid paying income taxes, now at a 21% rate. Despite reaping billions in profits, some of them receive tax rebates that exceed their income tax bills, thereby granting them effectively a negative tax rate. Some of the companies that have done this in recent years according to their public filings include Amazon, General Motors, IBM and Netflix.

Apple, the most valuable company in the world, has used the the tax code to avoid paying billions in U.S. taxes by deploying a complex setup involving subsidiaries in Ireland.

More recently, embedded in the \$2.3 trillion pandemic rescue package speedily enacted in March is a tax break piggybacked onto the earlier break for "pass-through" companies. Experts say it helps mostly millionaires.

The new change in the tax code would deliver nearly 82% of its benefits to about 43,000 taxpayers who earn more than \$1 million yearly, according to an estimate from nonpartisan congressional tax analysts. And it would cost U.S. taxpayers \$86 billion this year by reducing tax revenue captured by the government, the Joint Committee on Taxation calculated earlier this year.

Proponents of the new tax break insisted it was needed relief for small businesses in dire cash-flow straits because of the virtual shutdown of the U.S. economy. Smaller pass-through companies, though, may not be as well-positioned as the giants to capitalize on the tax change.

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## Q&A: Will the Trump administration be able to ban TikTok?

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

A federal judge on Sunday postponed a Trump administration order that would have banned the popular video sharing app TikTok from U.S. smartphone app stores.

A more comprehensive ban remains scheduled for November, about a week after the presidential election. But the judge, Carl Nichols of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, cast doubt on the government's argument that TikTok is a national security threat because of its ties to China.

The ruling followed an emergency hearing Sunday morning — hours before the app-store ban was set to take effect — in which lawyers for the Chinese-owned app argued that the ban would infringe on First Amendment rights and do irreparable harm to the business.

Here are some questions and answers about the dispute.

### WHAT DID THE JUDGE SAY?

Nichols, who was appointed to the bench by President Donald Trump last year, said in a ruling unsealed Monday that the "government has provided ample evidence that China presents a significant national security threat."

But he added there is "less substantial" evidence that TikTok itself presents such a threat or that a ban is an effective way to address it.

Trump is trying to use his emergency authority under a 1977 law enabling a U.S. president to regulate international commerce to address unusual threats. But Nichols said that law has an exception to protect personal communications and disseminating information across borders — which he said would include much of the content found on TikTok.

Nichols also sided with TikTok's arguments that the app-store ban would cause it to lose users and advertisers, driving them to "alternative platforms and eroding TikTok's competitive position" even if TikTok were ultimately to win its case.

### WHAT IS TIKTOK?

TikTok is a smartphone app for making and watching short videos that's popular with teens and young adults, with typical posts centered around lip syncing, dancing or comedic pranks and sketches.

TikTok says it has 100 million U.S. users and hundreds of millions globally. It has its own influencer culture, enabling people to make a living by posting videos on the service, and hosts ads from major U.S. companies.

It's owned by Beijing-based tech company ByteDance. Like other social media services, the app collects a lot of personal data about its users. The Trump administration says it poses a threat because Americans' user data could fall into the hands of the Chinese government because Chinese companies are subject to intrusive laws compelling their cooperation with intelligence agencies.

TikTok has countered that Trump is targeting it for political reasons, tying his August executive order in part to a prank in which TikTok users mobilized to depress turnout at a Trump rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Trump has said TikTok could avoid a U.S. ban if it's sold to an American company.

TikTok is still scrambling to firm up a deal tentatively struck earlier in September in which it would partner with Oracle, a huge database-software company, and Walmart in an effort to win the blessing of both the Chinese and American governments. The company also last week sought China's approval to export its artificial intelligence technology, after the Chinese government set new restrictions in a move to gain leverage.

TikTok said in a statement that it was pleased with the U.S. court ruling and continues to work to turn its deal proposal into an actual agreement. The Commerce Department, which is responsible for the specific orders banning TikTok, said it will comply with the judge's order but intends to vigorously defend the administration's efforts against the app.

## Pakistan's top court accepts appeal by Daniel Pearl's family



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By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday accepted an appeal by the family of slain American journalist Daniel Pearl seeking to keep a British-born Pakistani man on death row over the beheading of the Wall Street Journal reporter.

The court delayed until next week hearing the appeal over the lower-court acquittal of Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who had been on death row since his conviction in 2002 over Pearl's killing.

The Supreme Court ordered Sheikh to remain in custody but Faisal Siddiqi, the lawyer for Pearl's family, told The Associated Press on Monday the court will decide next week whether Sheikh will remain imprisoned during the course of the appeal, which could be years.

The government has argued against Sheikh's release, despite his acquittal in April, saying it would endanger the public. But the Supreme Court will rule on that next week, Siddiqi said. He said Pakistan's top court expressed concern about keeping Sheikh locked up even though he stands acquitted.

"The appeal could take years," said Siddiqi. "Today the court admitted the appeal and next week it will decide if Sheikh stays in jail" until the appeal is decided. The family is arguing for Sheikh's continued incarceration.

Sheikh had been convicted of helping lure Pearl to a meeting in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi in which he was kidnapped. Pearl had been investigating the link between Pakistani militants and Richard C. Reid, dubbed the "Shoe Bomber" after trying to blow up a flight from Paris to Miami with explosives hidden in his shoes.

The lower court's April ruling acquitted Sheikh and three other accomplices, who had been sentenced to life in jail for their role in the plot. The lower court found Sheikh guilty on a single lesser charge of abduction, which he is also appealing.

The acquittal stunned the U.S. government, Pearl's family and journalism advocacy groups.

"We felt like (it was) a thunderstorm that is about to reopen our pains of 2002," Pearl's father Judea Pearl told The Associated Press in an email Monday. "Pakistan's judicial system caved to either inside or outside pressure to send a message of impunity to extremist elements worldwide."

Following Monday's court hearing, the Pearl family's lawyer, Siddiqi, said there was "ample evidence" to overturn Sheikh's appeal and return him to death row.

"There is eyewitness evidence, there is forensic evidence, there are confessional statements," Siddiqi said.

Among the confessional statements is a handwritten, July 19, 2019 letter by Sheikh that acknowledged his involvement in Pearl's killing, Siddiqi said. In the letter, Sheikh said his involvement in Pearl's death was "a relatively minor one." However, Siddiqi said Sheikh implicates himself in Pearl's killing with that admission.

Sheikh's lawyer, Mahmood Shaikh, told the AP he suffered a heart attack while arguing the case in the lower court, but remained confident the acquittal would stand.

"I have no doubt in my mind," Shaikh said. He said his doctors ordered him to remain on bed rest for the next two weeks, throwing into question whether the Supreme Court hearing will happen next week.

The Sindh provincial government also is appealing Sheikh's acquittal.

Pearl, 38, of Encino, California, was abducted Jan. 23, 2002. In Sheikh's original trial, emails between Sheikh and Pearl presented in court showed Sheikh gained Pearl's confidence sharing their experiences as both waited for the birth of their first child. Pearl's wife Marianne Pearl gave birth to a son, Adam, in May 2002.

Evidence entered into court accused Sheikh of luring Pearl to his death, giving the American journalist a false sense of security as he promised to introduce him to a cleric with militant links.

Pakistani police sought to locate Pearl for weeks until a video received by U.S. diplomats showed his beheading.

The 2019 letter by Sheikh was not among the evidence heard by the lower court that in April acquitted Sheikh on a number of charges, including the most serious of the kidnapping for ransom that led to Pearl's slaying.

"The 2019 letter is only one (piece of) evidence to something that we knew all along, without any doubt, that Sheikh lured Danny into the abduction trap which led to his murder," Pearl's father Judea said. "We

had copies of a long email exchange he had with Danny, using a pseudonym 'Bashir,' was which was downloaded from Danny's computer."

An investigation by students of Georgetown University in Washington implicated Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States, in Pearl's death. Mohammed has been in U.S. custody on Guantanamo Bay since his arrest in Pakistan in March 2003.

Pearl's father said he has received assurances from the U.S. State Department that it was closely following Sheikh's acquittal and subsequent appeals. The trial's outcome could impact relations between the two countries and again paint Pakistan as a haven for militants and extremists, he said.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement that it is watching the case closely and "stands with the Pearl family during this arduous and painful process."

The Pearl family launched a foundation in Daniel's name following the killing, said his father.

"We keep Danny's memory alive through the Daniel Pearl Foundation, which pursues his life-long mission of spreading friendship and understanding through journalism, dialogue and music," he said.

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Associated Press journalist Mohammad Yousaf in Islamabad contributed to this report.

## As suicides rise, Army brass reassessing outreach

SARAH BLAKE MORGAN Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — If there were any signs that Staff Sgt. Jason Lowe was struggling, the soldiers he served alongside didn't see them.

The 27-year-old paratrooper was a top performer. He was on the Commandant's List and had just finished second in his class in the Army's Advanced Leader Course, setting him up for a promotion within the storied 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg.

Yet, five days after graduation, after Lowe left texts and calls unreturned, Staff Sgt. Ryan Graves drove to Lowe's apartment in Fayetteville, North Carolina, with a bad feeling.

"On the way there I think it set in that maybe there's something a lot worse going on," Graves said.

Graves opened Lowe's unlocked apartment door to discover his friend had taken his own life. Weeks later, the why remains unanswered.

"Everything they teach you, that you're supposed to look for, doesn't exist in this situation," Graves told The Associated Press. "No financial trouble, no relationship trouble."

Lowe's was the tenth suicide the 82nd Airborne Division has endured so far this year, a number that stood at four last year. In 2018, six division paratroopers took their own lives; four did so in 2017.

While the driving factors of the suicides remain unknown, Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, who assumed command of the division in July, believes that the forced periods of isolation and other stressors the coronavirus pandemic have imposed on his troops and their families have been a major factor. The increase has pushed Donahue to make suicide prevention a priority and frequent topic of conversation within his ranks.

"There is absolutely a stigma that's out there," Donahue said. "And if we don't acknowledge that, we're lying."

2020 has been an unprecedented year for the 82nd Airborne Division. In January, for the first time in three decades, the Division's Immediate Response Force was activated amid rising tensions with Iran. Within hours, thousands of paratroopers went from ringing in the new year with family to boarding military transport planes bound for the Middle East.

At the same time, Lowe's unit was finishing up a nine-month rotation in Afghanistan, America's longest-running war.

By the time soldiers in both brigades returned to Fort Bragg in the spring, the COVID-19 pandemic was well underway as it threatened to overwhelm the U.S. public health system. Patriotic welcome home ceremonies were replaced with a mandatory two-week quarantine and restrictions preventing paratroopers from going on leave to visit family out of state. Gyms and dining facilities on post closed down and unit

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meetings were held via Zoom.

While those measures were necessary, Donahue believes it's the primary fuel igniting the suicide increase. "COVID has made us a division of strangers and we're doing everything in our power to bring us back together," he said.

While suicide has long been a problem in the U.S. military, numbers have risen this year by as much as 20% as service members struggle with isolation and other impacts of COVID-19, added to the pressures of deploying to war zones and responding to national disasters and civil unrest. Incidents of violent behavior also have spiked.

The numbers vary by service. Suicide is particularly taking its toll in the Army, where senior leaders told The Associated Press they've seen a 30% jump in active-duty suicides so far this year compared to last year. They're looking at ways to shorten combat deployments and put more focus on soldier well-being and less on combat readiness and weapons modernization in response to the rising numbers.

Uncertainty is a given for soldiers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. In June, the Immediate Response Force was called upon again, as paratroopers were sent to Washington, D.C., to quell protests after the death of George Floyd in police custody.

Some had just returned home from their first sudden deployment of 2020 and had been out of quarantine for less than a week when they climbed onto buses bound for D.C.

Living life on standby puts an obvious strain on relationships, which is another common thread the division is seeing in its suicides.

Peer support groups have been implemented for soldiers struggling with relationship issues and a sober living initiative has been launched to house paratroopers struggling with substance abuse in a separate, alcohol and drug-free barracks.

But those who knew Lowe can't pinpoint any of those factors in his sudden and tragic death.

Graves tosses around the idea of the pressure Lowe put on himself. But even that is speculation.

"He wanted to be the best. He probably was one of the best," Graves said.

Instead of delivering the news of Lowe's passing to his battalion in a mass formation, the notification came over Zoom. Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Christopher Walsh and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Gregerson had practice after another soldier took his life earlier this year.

The loss weighs heavily on them.

"You consider every decision you make and the impact it has on 630 heart beats," Walsh said.

Days after Lowe's death, his artillery battery went into the field for a three-week training exercise. Brigade chaplains visited their remote camp site to offer counseling or simply an ear to listen.

Their services are often rejected by hardened soldiers refusing to ask for help. Couple that with the stigma surrounding mental health and the longstanding belief running deep through the military that seeking counseling could negatively affect a soldier's career.

But since Lowe's death, the men and women of the 1-319th Field Artillery Regiment are opening up and chaplains have seen an increase in soldiers wanting to talk.

Soldiers are prepared to accept casualties when they're deployed. The 82nd's 3rd Brigade Combat Team lost five paratroopers during their recent stint in Afghanistan.

When a soldier is killed in action, Gregerson has watched the mission of the ones left behind, strengthen. They can focus on the enemy in front of them in combat; the objective is clear.

But at home, the fight changes. The demons haunting soldiers become more elusive.

"How do you get after this invisible enemy that you don't know people are going through?" he asked.

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Associated Press reporter Lolita Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

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Follow Sarah Blake Morgan on Twitter at @StorytellerSBM.

**At UN, nations urge overdue reckoning with colonial crimes**

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By ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Leaders of countries once subjugated to Western powers sent a pointed message at this year's U.N. General Assembly: For those who think the word "colonialism" evokes a long-ago, no-longer-relevant era, think again.

Several leaders raised this year's global protests inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States and renewed demands for reparations for the slave trade, calling them just one step in a still-unfinished reckoning with crimes of former empires.

The onetime French colony of New Caledonia -- still run by Paris, more than 10,000 miles and 10 time zones away -- is voting Sunday on whether to break free. A Congolese activist is going on trial Wednesday in France after recently trying to "take back" African art plundered from colonies and now showcased in European museums.

"The global movement for racial justice and equality is not a passing phenomenon," said Paul Kagame of Rwanda, once colonized by Germany and Belgium. "What is required is action that builds public trust in the equal dignity of all citizens, as demonstrated in the treatment of those who have historically been most marginalized, and who continue to suffer mistreatment disproportionately."

Both past and present are infusing discussions about the state of the world's nations at the General Assembly, which wraps up Tuesday, and where leaders of ex-colonies get equal time with ex-colonizers at the planet's most important diplomatic event.

Sierra Leone's vice president gave world nations a 10-year deadline to wrap up the colonial era, once and for all. Vanuatu in the South Pacific and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean were among those who used the U.N. event to press territorial disputes left over from colonial times.

And the leader of Caribbean ex-British colony Antigua and Barbuda said it's time for creditor countries -- many of whom built empires thanks to slave labor and exploiting colonies' resources -- to forgive poor-country debt amid 2020's global economic crisis.

Since the birth of the United Nations 75 years ago, its ranks have mushroomed from 51 members to 193, as territory after territory shed old-world rulers and proclaimed independence. But the scars and prejudices of colonialism slice deep.

"The nature of relations between Africa and countries with a colonial past should be re-imagined, to transform the painful history of colonization into opportunities," said Evariste Ndayishimiye of Burundi, once run by Germany and then Belgium.

But he stressed: "We should not forget the spirit of the conquests to enslave Africa and the strong resistance of the people of Africa to defend themselves against invasion, or to liberate themselves from the colonial yoke that mowed down millions of human lives in Africa and left injuries and wounds that struggle to heal."

Instead of big-power bullying and small powers pleading for outside help, Vice President Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh of ex-British colony Sierra Leone called for a new era of "mutual respect and partnership" instead.

"If we are to remain true to the fundamental principles of the United Nations that is fit for purpose, then it becomes absolutely necessary to relegate the chapter of colonialism to history within the period 2021-2030," he said.

Some former colonial powers touched upon that part of their past, but none expressly renounced it in this year's speeches to the U.N.

EU Council President Charles Michel, whose native Belgium has faced protests and soul-searching this year over the 19th century king who colonized swaths of Africa, said: "Our two continents have never been so interdependent, for better or for worse."

French President Emmanuel Macron, who has refused to take down statues of colonial leaders, described their era as the "second wave" of globalization: "It was globalization through trade, the first openings, but also the routes of slavery, exploitation, the development of some, the enslavement of others, the first population displacements and a reorganization of our world in the light of these dominions."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte simply noted "the European and Caribbean parts of the Kingdom of



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the Netherlands," but left it at that.

The United States' complicated history came in for criticism too, notably from rivals Cuba, Venezuela and Iran.

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla championed Caribbean nations' efforts to demand reparations for "the horrors of slavery and the slave trade, in a world where racial discrimination and the repression against Afro-descendant communities have been on the rise."

Multiple leaders mentioned territorial disputes that stem from colonial times — spats that occupy a big part of the docket at the U.N.'s international courts.

The prime minister of Mauritius spoke in front of a map that included the Britain-controlled Chagos Archipelago as part of its territory. Pravind Jugnauth argued that "the decolonization of Mauritius remains incomplete," and urged the U.N. to intervene.

The leader of Micronesia — colonized in turns by Spain, Germany and Japan, and now dependent on the U.S. for its defense and financial support — described his South Pacific archipelago as "a product of multilateralism" that's still working toward self-sufficiency 33 years after becoming a free state.

This year's pandemic has sharpened a feeling of economic and historic injustice, as rich countries shut borders, scale back aid, stockpile medical supplies and impose export restrictions.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines decried "the legacies of underdevelopment left in the wake of European settler colonialism, native genocide, the enslavement of Africans" and warned that "the disastrous economic implications of a global COVID-19 recession threaten to stymie our advances."

Barbados made news this month seeking to drop Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state, and Prime Minister Mia Mottley in her speech marking the U.N.'s 75th anniversary noted that at its founding, "The vast majority of development states had no seat and no say. ... Fundamental decisions about the global security, economic and financial order were taken on their behalf, on our behalf, but not necessarily in our best interests, by the colonial powers of the day."

Associated Press writers Cara Anna in Johannesburg and Ted Anthony contributed.

## 2020 Watch: How much do debates matter this year?

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

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

Days to general election: 36

Days to first debate: 1

### THE NARRATIVE

The race is tightening somewhat in some states, but Joe Biden is maintaining a remarkably stable lead over President Donald Trump in most national polls five weeks before Election Day as early voting intensifies. Still, the Republican president has at least two major opportunities to improve his standing this week.

First, Trump and his allies are poised to dominate the national conversation as they escalate their push to confirm Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, whom the president formally introduced to America on Saturday. Trump's team is betting that the evolving confirmation fight will help unify Republicans behind his candidacy and shift the national conversation away from his struggle to control the pandemic.

Second, the first general election debate gives Trump a prime-time opening to test Biden's physical and mental strength once and for all. Trump and Biden face off Tuesday night in Cleveland, a highly anticipated affair expected to feature a sharp contrast in policy and personality. Biden is being advised to avoid direct attacks, but based on past performance, Trump won't make it easy to take the high road.

And while Trump has opportunities this week, so does Biden. Democrats have seized on a New York Times report that the president paid little to no federal income taxes for several years because of huge

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losses in his businesses.

## THE BIG QUESTIONS

How much do debates matter in 2020?

The expectations game was raging over the weekend, but on the eve of the first general election debate, it's worth pondering the significance of the first debate-stage meeting between Trump and Biden.

If recent history is any guide, the 2020 debates will not significantly change the direction of the election. Remember former President Barack Obama's opening dud in 2012? Or what about the consensus that Hillary Clinton bested Trump four years ago?

At the same time, Trump and his team have so effectively lowered expectations for Biden by questioning his mental and physical health for much of the last year that the 77-year-old former vice president might be judged the winner if he can simply have an average night for 90 minutes.

The stakes may actually be higher for the president, who is running short on opportunities to alter the dynamics of the race.

Can Biden stay disciplined?

Biden talked a tough game when asked about his debate strategy over the weekend, but those close to the campaign tell us he's being advised to avoid too much direct confrontation or fact checking with the tough-talking Republican president.

Democrats believe that Trump is at his best when he's playing in the mud, and they want Biden to rise above the insults and disinformation to present a clear contrast to voters. Such a disciplined strategy is far easier said than done — especially for Biden, who has lost his cool with voters on the campaign trail at times and generally struggled with staying on message when given a long leash.

Despite the concerns of his advisers, Biden sounded like he was spoiling for a fight on MSNBC over the weekend. He compared Trump to a Nazi and argued that "the people know the president is a liar" and later added: "He doesn't know how to debate the facts because he's not that smart."

The Democratic base no doubt wants Biden to take the fight to Trump, but the former vice president may win the long game here by playing it safe.

Will Trump accept a peaceful transfer of power?

While some may not take him literally, Trump's team is the first to point out that the president has followed through with several campaign trail promises over the last four years. Therefore, it could be dangerous to shrug off his repeated refusals to agree to a peaceful transfer of power should he lose.

This is not the kind of question you'd expect a president to be asked in the United States, which casts itself as a global model of democracy. But here we are. It doesn't matter much how many Republicans on Capitol Hill or White House aides try to downplay Trump's comments so long as the man with the world's most powerful megaphone continues to cast doubt on a pillar of democracy.

We've already seen evidence of the president's supporters seizing on his rhetoric to commit acts of violence. This is dangerous territory.

Will SCOTUS help or hurt the GOP?

Lara Trump, the president's daughter in law and a campaign adviser, said in North Carolina last week that the Supreme Court debate would help energize the conservative base and win over "fence sitters" who otherwise might not vote. So far, we've seen no evidence that the nascent confirmation fight is making any difference in the president's political standing.

But the Trump campaign is investing \$10 million in a digital ad campaign featuring the court battle while encouraging battleground state voters to cast ballots. At the same time, Republicans are hosting a series of local events across the country this week to support Barrett's confirmation.

Our recent reporting in critical swing states like Pennsylvania and North Carolina revealed that the Supreme Court simply isn't a top issue for most voters, especially as the death toll from the pandemic continues to mount. That could limit the political upside or downside for Trump's GOP even as the confirmation battle intensifies.

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## THE FINAL THOUGHT

For millions of Americans, Election Day has already arrived.

State election officials have already issued more than 3 million absentee or mail ballots in Arizona, nearly 5 million in Florida, and more than 1.1 million in Wisconsin, according to data collected by The Associated Press. Early voting is going on in several other states as well, including Minnesota, North Carolina and Virginia.

As expected, Democrats have a significant advantage in the number of ballots issued so far in most states. It's too early to read too much into the numbers, except to remember that everything that happens from here on out has the potential to move votes in real time. It's on.

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

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

## Times' tax story is talker, but perceptions mostly hold

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Orlando Sentinel Editor-in-Chief Julie Anderson was curious how readers in polarized central Florida would react to her newspaper leading Monday's edition with a report that President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income tax in 2016 and 2017 — and no income tax at all in 10 of the previous 15 years.

By midday Monday, she'd heard from two people. One questioned the report's timing and another wondered why the paper would run The New York Times' account without other sources.

"That's a pretty muted response," she said.

It illustrates how hard it is for any news story — even a deeply reported one that penetrates the secrecy behind Trump's finances — to change political perceptions or pierce a media shield used by many to reinforce them.

"Bombshell" was a word frequently employed on Monday; how it was used depended on whether you were in Trump-friendly or unfriendly media territory. The liberal website Talking Points Memo used it in back-to-back headlines, saying the Biden campaign, "pounces on NYT bombshell," and "Trump gives rambling denial of NYT bombshell."

The conservative site Red State called it "the biggest dud of a 'bombshell' in political history."

Yet readers showed interest. It was the most-engaged story that The New York Times has had this year, with 4.2 million reposts or reactions on social media through early Monday afternoon, according to NewsWhip. Seven of the 10 most-engaged stories concerned Trump's taxes, either the Times' pieces or those of other news organizations.

Largely driven by the tax story, Sunday was the second-highest ever for page views on The Associated Press' apnews.com website, AP spokeswoman Lauren Easton said.

CNN and MSNBC both led late-morning news hours with the story, with CNN's Christine Romans calling Trump a "serial tax avoider crushed by a mountain of debt." Fox News Channel replayed an interview with Donald Trump Jr. denouncing the Times' story. At the time, the tax story on Fox's website centered on the president's reaction: "Everything was wrong, they are so bad, Trump says," was the headline.

Once Trump-friendly, the influential Drudge Report had a red headline on its site: "The Fake Billionaire."

Larry Holeva, executive editor of four daily newspapers in rural Pennsylvania, including Biden's home city of Scranton, is cognizant of deeply divided opinion in his territory, but tries not to let those concerns sway his news judgment.

"It can't," he said. "At the end of the day you need to know that you're judging the news based on the value of the news and not how people are reacting to the news."

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His Scranton Times-Tribune on Monday ran a front-page story summarizing the key findings of the Times' investigation. The story ran under a large photo of Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort shrouded in palm trees, itself a provocative news decision contrasting Trump's tax records with his wealth.

The paper got a bigger reaction from readers for another front-page story in which local residents were interviewed about the factors that went into their presidential decision. Some were angry that the story featured five Biden supporters and two who backed Trump, he said.

The Orlando Sentinel's story ran under the headline, "Report releases Trump tax info." Somewhat bland, the headline could be seen as a way of mollifying both sides. Anderson said that wasn't the intent; the caution came because it was just one newspaper's report.

"We get a lot of letters when people are upset by something that might be critical of Trump," Anderson said. "We do think about our readers' reaction, but it doesn't mean that we're not going to run a story" if it's important, she said.

It was still early on Monday, but MSNBC correspondent Ali Velshi, who was in Colorado to sample voters' opinions on the presidential race, said he hadn't seen any minds changed by the story.

"The news seems to have hardened people's already existing perceptions," he said.

The story got a lot of attention at news outlets in swing states. It was the lead story in The Detroit News, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson and the Miami Herald.

The Minneapolis StarTribune also led with it, and the story had attracted nearly 1,400 comment on its website by Monday afternoon.

There were thousands of takes on Twitter per hour. Ryan Ellis, president of the conservative Center for a Free Economy, tweeted that the story "is nothing more than the 'Orange Man Bad' version of 'gotcha' pieces liberal journalists routinely run about how big companies don't pay taxes."

The take was personal on ABC's "The View," where host Whoopi Goldberg refuses to say Trump's name.

"We're all supposed to be paying (our) fair share," Goldberg said Monday. "Why are we having to pay, and I say 'we' because I work every day like a whole bunch of people. Why is it all on us to do this? Where is he? How dare you!"

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 29, the 273rd day of 2020. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 29, 2005, John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation.

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

In 1910, the National Urban League had its beginnings in New York as The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes.

In 1918, Allied forces began their decisive breakthrough of the Hindenburg Line during World War I.

In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio signed an armistice aboard the British ship HMS Nelson off Malta.

In 1962, Canada joined the space age as it launched the Alouette 1 satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The musical "My Fair Lady" closed on Broadway after 2,717 performances.

In 1975, baseball manager Casey Stengel died in Glendale, California, at age 85.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was found dead in his Vatican apartment just over a month after becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in