

Groton Daily Independent

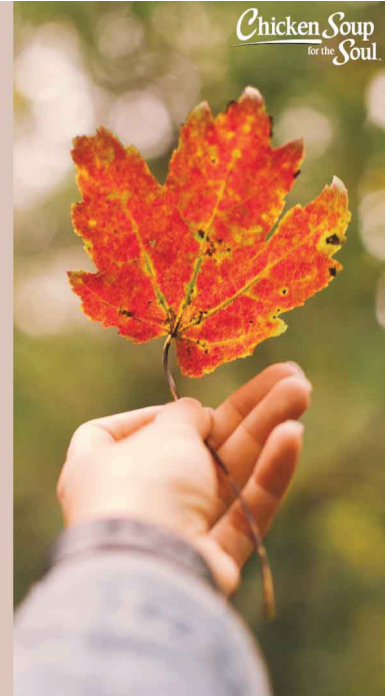
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Football: Aberdeen Roncalli 18, Groton Area 14

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“You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.”

-John Wooden



Monday, October 5, 2020

State Boys Golf Meet at Southern Hills Golf Course, Hot Springs
4 p.m.: Combined 7th/8th grade football game at Roncalli (7th graders MIGHT play a 5th quarter)
5:15 p.m.: JV football game at Aberdeen Roncalli

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

State Boys Golf Meet at Southern Hills Golf Course, Hot Springs
6:30 p.m.: Volleyball vs. Leola/Frederick at Frederick (No "C" Match)
7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Thursday, October 8, 2020

1 p.m.: Northeast Conference Cross Country Meet at Webster
1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 9, 2020

Faculty In-Service
10 a.m.: Lake Region Marching Festival in Groton
Volleyball action vs. Aberdeen Roncalli at Groton Area. (7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 4 p.m. in the GHS Gym). (C Match at 5 p.m., JV match at 6 p.m. followed by 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.

Governor Noem Issues Proclamation for Special Session

PIERRE, S.D. - Today, Governor Kristi Noem issued a proclamation for a special session of the state legislature. The legislature will meet on Monday, October 5, 2020, with the purpose of considering legislation related to the use of federal stimulus relief funds, including the \$1.25 billion allocated to South Dakota in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF).

"South Dakota has used our federal CRF funds as intended to cover many costs related to COVID-19," said Governor Noem. "We all have a shared mission: to make South Dakota stronger, safer, and healthier. I look forward to hearing the legislature's recommendations of how we can accomplish that while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars."

Governor Noem first announced the special session on September 21, 2020. The session will take place from 10 a.m. until midnight on Monday, October 5, 2020. Governor Noem will address a joint session of the legislature from the chamber of the House of Representatives at 10 a.m. You can read the proclamation on the next page.



Concrete poured

A layer of concrete is placed on top of the pea rock in the center of base for the water tower. Notice the pipe in the middle. That "little" pipe is 10 inches in diameter and that pipe feeds water to the whole town. That pipe is tied into the pump room where the water leaves the facility in 8 inch diameter pipe. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

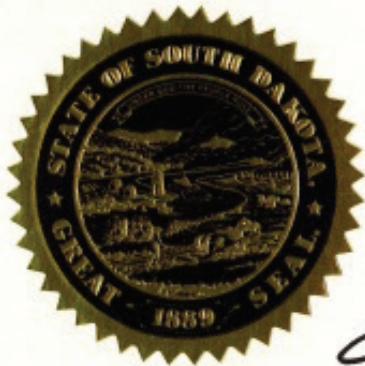
Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor
Proclamation Convening the Legislature
In Special Session During the Year 2020

Whereas, Article IV, Section 3 of the South Dakota Constitution authorizes the governor to convene special sessions of the South Dakota Legislature by Executive Proclamation for the purpose stated in the proclamation; and

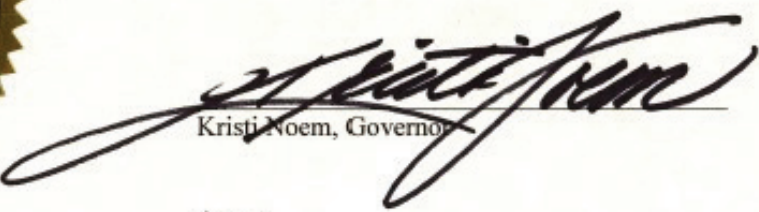
Whereas, The Governor deems it necessary and appropriate to convene a special session of the South Dakota Legislature for the important public purpose described herein;

Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim a special session of the South Dakota Legislature will be convened at the State Capitol Building in the City of Pierre, South Dakota, on Monday, the Fifth day of October, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. central daylight savings time. The members of the Ninety-Fifth Legislature are called to the Capitol to attend such special session to transact only the business encompassed by the stated purpose specified in this Proclamation. Such special session shall adjourn sine die no later than 11:59 p.m. central daylight savings time on the Fifth day of October, 2020.

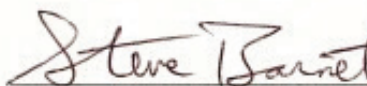
The sole purpose of the special session is to amend the Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the planned expenditure of federal funds relating to coronavirus relief received by the state, and to consider the resolution recommended by the Interim Committee on Appropriations on September 30, 2020.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Second Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.


Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:


Steve Barnett, Secretary of State

#222 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

I think we should begin this report by noting that Mr. Trump and his wife have tested positive for this virus. I am sure we will receive news about them both as they recover; I don't think a country can afford a to have leader very ill or ill over a long period—too much uncertainty. I understand he has been given the experimental Regeneron monoclonal antibody cocktail we've talked about here (most recently in my Update #219 on September 29 – link: <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/4025158750833834>); it seems quite promising although it is still in randomized, controlled trials, so we cannot be sure. He is also receiving remdesivir, that antiviral which shortens the course of severe infections. Perhaps this will resolve soon.

We do not have a great deal of change from yesterday, although new cases are up again today, now to over 50,000 for the first time in nearly a week. We're at 7,362,100 cases, having added 54,300 today, a 0.7% increase. The seven-day average is up again too. Kentucky has been reporting record-breaking numbers of cases over the past couple of days; their new cases remain high, as do their deaths, which include the first death in the state of a person in their 20s. High new-case numbers continue in South Dakota, although well off the record-setting days. There is a significant outbreak in a women's prison, and the state's test positivity on the day was north of 30%; that's been above 5% for 70 days running. Almost half of Montana's total cases to date were reported in September, and they continue to report record numbers this month. The middle of the country is still where you'll find most of the trouble.

There were 881 deaths reported today, a 0.4% increase from yesterday. That number has remained below 1000 for 9 days now, a small comfort in the ongoing growth of cases. We are now at 208,536 lives lost in the US to this pandemic.

I've been asked a couple of times about zinc; people are reading that zinc supplements are protective against Covid-19 and wondering whether that's true. You can buy over-the-counter zinc-containing lozenges and such; they've been sold as a cold remedy for some years. So what's the story?

Zinc is necessary to proper functioning of your immune system, so if you are deficient in zinc, then supplementing would, indeed, improve your immune functioning. But you're probably not deficient. Zinc is found in a fair array of foods, for example, poultry, crab and lobster, nuts, and seeds; and deficiency is seen mostly in the malnourished. Vegetarians are somewhat more likely to be deficient, as are older people, those with alcohol dependency, and those with digestive disorders. The best way to resolve a deficiency is by eating foods rich in a nutrient; almost every nutrient is better absorbed from foods than from supplements.

If you do decide to supplement, watch the dose: The upper safe limit for zinc is 40 milligrams (mg) per day. Taking too much zinc can result in symptoms like nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, headache, and abdominal cramping. It can also lead to deficiencies of other nutrients, and zinc supplements can interfere with some drugs, so should never be taken at the same time of day as any medication. (For the record, this is true for calcium supplements as well.)

There has been some evidence zinc shortens the duration of a cold by a couple of days, but it is pretty sketchy—all small studies, not randomized or controlled. So we don't really have any particular reason to think it is helpful there unless you are deficient. It will not, however, hurt you to take those zinc lozenges, within the safe dosage, for a few days over the course of a cold. If they work, they probably work best in the first few days and have little effect after that. And we have exactly zero evidence they will do a thing with respect to Covid-19. There is no reason at all to think it will help or to take it to prevent infection, and it could be harmful to supplement at high levels for the duration of the threat, which is likely to be several months yet.

Here's something odd. I don't think it is going to have any particular significance—at least there's no sign it will; but it's odd. After sampling water all summer, finally now when beach season is pretty much over, a researcher has found traces of the coronavirus in the water off four beaches of Lake Superior. The thinking is that swimmers shed the virus into the water, but the timing is interesting since there aren't many swimmers these days. The research project has been extended into November in an attempt to understand whether this finding tells us anything about community infection. There is no thought at pres-

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ent that the water will act as a means of transmission, so has not been a focus of study.

As the supply of the new cheap, rapid antigen tests for the virus starts to hit the market, there is talk of a more proactive strategy toward managing this pandemic. Antigen tests detect a viral protein on the virus's surface; they're faster and cheaper and can be made in larger quantity than the gold standard molecular test, the RT-PCR that takes several hours, requires specialized equipment, and often has to be sent off for processing. They are also less accurate, a topic we'll address in a moment. Their advantage will be that speed, the low cost, and increasing availability.

As you've heard me say many times, the key to control is testing and contact tracing, and you can't do that if you don't have enough tests. The supply of antigen tests is growing rapidly so that we could perhaps finally begin to rapidly screen large numbers of asymptomatic people. When we know who is infected, we can use control measures to prevent transmission; when we don't, we're sort of dead in the water. And that's pretty much where we've been from the start.

The analyses say we're going to need around 4.4 million tests per day to regularly test some of the highest risk groups: prison inmates and guards, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, K-12 teachers and staff, and university students. This is what epidemiologists call "a basic level of proactive testing" to stop outbreaks before they spill over into the community. It looks as though we may have enough rapid-testing capacity by the end of the year or early next year to do this. Researchers say we really need even more, as many as 14 million tests per day, so we can test all school children, health care workers, food service employees, cashiers, and retail store clerks. With that, we could get society closer to normal sooner, but I'm not sure how fast we're going to be able to do that, likely not fast enough.

A problem is that, in order to make this sort of strategy work to enable us to get our hands around this pandemic, we need clear federal guidelines for using these tests so that the people we need to test are being tested; without that, they will not be an effective tool. At the moment, this is not how these tests are being used; for example, we are using many of them to test professional athletes right now. A team at Brown University School of Public Health and the Harvard Global Health Institute has developed a tool to allow public health authorities to evaluate which groups they need to prioritize and how many tests they'll need to screen them regularly. These guidelines vary by priority and outbreak size, so you can input your parameters and discover how to allocate testing for your specific purposes. The tool was released to the public yesterday, so it is ready to go when testing capacity come online.

It is important to note that these rapid tests are not as accurate as the molecular test; they produce more false negatives and false positives. They also need further evaluation before being deployed to screen large numbers of asymptomatic people; but they are best at finding people when they are at their most infectious, so they appear to be well-suited to the purpose. That is an important point. A false negative isn't as big a deal if you are repeatedly testing that same person because frequent testing is more likely to turn up an infection in one of those iterations and it's most likely to turn it up while it is most infectious. The other thing we need before deploying such a strategy is the information management system to report and process large numbers of tests. This is not yet in place.

The availability of this testing capacity paired with a coordinated strategy for using it have the potential to help us bring the virus under better control in the country; but it is not a magic wand. Jennifer Nuzza, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Health Security, who has been studying testing, says, "I don't think it's helpful to oversell optimism. I don't want to leave people with the belief that all the hard challenges are behind us. No one tool is going to lead us out of this pandemic." So it's a tool, but not the only one we need. Nonetheless, I will be happy to see it in place.

You should be aware that there is a "treatment" for Covid-19 being prescribed by some physicians which is an unapproved, possibly dangerous, drug which has no evidence at all that it is effective. The drug is called thymosin-alpha-1, and it might be marketed as a preventive or a cure—or maybe just as an "immune booster." Some of the advertising lists it as "FDA approved," which it most emphatically is not.

The drug is made up in compounding pharmacies, little pharmaceutical labs, some of which have been in legal trouble more than a time or two in their histories. Now, don't confuse these legally and scientifically questionable outfits with the compounding pharmacy that might be in your home town; most compounding pharmacies are reputable and an important part of the health care system. These organizations can mix up a customized medication for a patient with a special need; for example, they might make up a special

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formulation of a drug for a patient who is allergic to one of the ingredients in the publicly available version. But it is important to realize that these drugs are neither tested nor evaluated by the FDA, so they are never considered FDA approved. Some compounding pharmacies, the ones with questionable practices, can be lax about safety protocols and might sell contaminated product; there was a widely-known incident back in 2012 where drugs from one such that were tainted with mold gave more than 700 people meningitis, killing 64 of them.

Quack remedies like thymosin-alpha-1 tend to be expensive, and insurance will generally not cover them, so you're out of pocket for the cost. Prices seem to run close to \$400 for a month's supply, so the cost is not inconsiderable. When the drug doesn't work, even if it turns out to be safe, that's lost money. And there is no reason at all to think this stuff works; there have been no randomized, controlled trials for it. Still, some doctors will prescribe it, claiming they've had excellent results in their patients. For the record, having a bunch of patients take a drug and seeing what happens next is not the kind of study that demonstrates efficacy for the drug. To be clear, there are no medicines currently approved to prevent Covid-19 or to treat it outside the hospital setting, so if someone offers you one, they are lying to you. There may some day be an approved drug (or two), but if there is, you will not see it advertised on Facebook or Twitter before you see articles about the FDA's approval. Don't fall for this.

Janie McAuley is an award-winning Associated Press sportswriter in California's Bay Area. She covers the Oakland A's and San Francisco Giants baseball teams, the Golden State Warriors basketball team, and the San Francisco 49ers football team. She has also covered three Summer and two Winter Olympics Games, the World Cup, a Super Bowl, and four World Series. I'm going to guess her world changed pretty radically last winter when professional sports shut down and got better pretty fast once things started up again. As a journalist, she was one of the few people allowed inside the ballpark at baseball games this summer. It has to be a surreal experience to wander a facility meant for thousands of screaming fans largely in silence, not just early in the day before the crowds arrive as in the past, but right through to the end of the game. But a job is a job.

For fans, a time-honored part of sitting in the outfield seats at a major league baseball game is the attempt to catch a foul ball because you get to keep the ball as a souvenir of the game.

McAuley heard this summer from a lifelong baseball fan who had never, in her 52 years, managed to catch a foul ball, and McAuley, having plenty of opportunity to find them this year—and no competition picking one up, saw to it that the fan received one.

She wrote, "This sparked an idea: Why not share the souvenirs, spreading some joy to those who can't go to the ballpark?" A's management was on board with her picking up a couple of balls each game, and the grounds crew even started tipping her off where to find them. She says there were days she would come to work, and there would be baseballs at her workstation or balls would be delivered to her during the game. She has gathered more than 100 of them this year and given them away, some to people she knows, others to random strangers. She has offered a choice, "clean, or dirty and scuffed?" to construction crews, a kindergarten teacher, UPS drivers, post office workers, firefighters, grocery store workers. Once she dropped one from the outfield walkway at Oracle Park, which is right on the water, to a man walking along McCovey Cove below. She gave one to the Alameda Unified School District Teacher of the Year and his principal, one to the cook at her favorite café, and some to a crew of bakers. She left one on the porch of a A's and Giants fan; the thank-you note she received said, "You certainly cheered me up once again with your thoughtful and sweet and cool gift from the ballpark (that I miss so much)." That had to feel good.

The farthest one of her gifts has gone was to a Giants fan in Germany at the request of his daughter for his 85th birthday. His daughter wrote, "He is so excited, giving him something to live for since he is almost blind. It was wonderful to hear him being so happy." And so McAuley became sort of a one-woman happiness crew, all in a day's work. We could all do more of that.

Take care. We'll talk again.

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Area COVID-19 Cases

	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29
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. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3			
Minnesota	98,447	99,134	100,200	101,366			
Nebraska	45,044	45,564	46,185	46,977			
Montana	12,724	13,071	13,500	13,855			
Colorado	70,025	70,536	71,218	71,898			
Wyoming	4,948	5,046	5,170	5,289			
North Dakota	21,401	21,846	22,218	22,694			
South Dakota	21,997	22,389	23,136	23,522			
United States	7,191,349	7,234,257	7,279,065	7,335,946			
US Deaths	206,005	206,963	207,816	208,739			
Minnesota	+809	+687	+1,066	1,166			
Nebraska	+466	+520	+621	+792			
Montana	+311	+347	+429	+355			
Colorado	+535	+511	+682	+680			
Wyoming	+51	+98	+124	+119			
North Dakota	+418	+445	+372	+476			
South Dakota	+259	+392	+747	+386			
United States	+41,232	+42,909	+44,808	+56,881			
US Deaths	+914	+958	+853	+923			

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October 2nd COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Back to normal, if if this is what you call it. One death recorded in Fall River County. A female in the 80+ age group. North Dakota had eight more deaths.

South Dakota had 386 positive cases and 230 recoveries. The positivity rate today is 13.3 percent.

Locally, Brown had 17 positive and 19 recovered, Day had 4 positive and 1 recovered, Edmunds and Spink each had had 1 recovered, McPherson had 1 positive, and no change in Marshall County.

Counties with double digit increases were Brown 17, Codington 12, Davison 21, Hughes 31, Lincoln 28, Meade 13, Minnehaha 80, Oglala Lakota 13, Pennington 37, and Yankton 10.

Brown County:

Total Positive: +17 (1,292) Positivity Rate: 11.6%

Total Tests: +146 (11,216)

Recovered: +19 (1090)

Active Cases: -2 (198)

Ever Hospitalized: +0 (55)

Deaths: +0 (4)

Percent Recovered: 84.3

South Dakota:

Positive: +386 (23,522 total) Positivity Rates: 13.3%

Total Tests: 2,904 (282,513 total)

Hospitalized: +10 (1,588 total). 220 currently hospitalized +6)

Deaths: +1 (237 total)

Recovered: +230 (19,298 total)

Active Cases: +155 (3,987)

Percent Recovered: 82.0%

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 9% Covid, 49% Non-Covid, 42% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 17% Covid, 55% Non-Covid, 27% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 4% Covid, 15% 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: +3 positive, +0 recovered (17 active cases)

Beadle (10): +9 positive, +8 recovered (98 active cases)

Bennett (3): +3 positive, +2 recovered (11 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +4 positive, +0 recovered (26 active cases)

Brookings (2): +7 positive, +5 recovered (121 active

cases)

Brown (4): +17 positive, +19 recovered (198 active cases)

Brule (1): +3 positive, +4 recovered (33 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +8 positive, +1 recovered (23 active cases)

Butte (3): +2 positive, +2 recovered (39 active cases)

Campbell: +0 positive, +2 recovered (20 active cases)

Charles Mix: +2 positive, +2 recovered (56 active cases)

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

Clay (7) +4 positive, +1 recovered (40 active cases)

Codington (7): +12 positive, +18 recovered (188 active cases)

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

Custer (3): +1 positive, +2 recovered (28 active case)

Davison (2): +21 positive, +8 recovered (146 active cases)

Day: +4 positive, +1 recovered (28 active cases)

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

Dewey: +1 positive, +0 recovered (56 active cases)

Douglas (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (29 active cases)

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

Fall River (5): +1 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)

Faulk (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (8 active cases)

Grant (1): +7 positive, +2 recovered (62 active cases)

Gregory (3): +4 positive, +5 recovered (37 active cases)

Haakon (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (9 active case)

Hamlin: +2 positive, +2 recovered (20 active cases)

Hand: +1 positive, +3 recovered (24 active cases)

Hanson (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (14 active cases)

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Harding: +0 positive (1 active case)
 Hughes (5): +31 positive, +11 recovered (136 active cases)
 Hutchinson (2): +6 positive, +3 recovered (42 active case)
 Hyde: +0 positive, +1 recovered (1 active cases)
 Jackson (1): +0 positive, +0 recovered (9 active cases)
 Jerauld (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (36 active cases)
 Jones: +0 positive, +0 recovered (6 active cases)
 Kingsbury: +2 positive, +2 recovered (14 active cases)
 Lake (7): +3 positive, +7 recovered (29 active cases)
 Lawrence (5): +7 positive, +4 recovered (101 active cases)
 Lincoln (2): +28 positive, +19 recovered (265 active cases)
 Lyman (3): +3 positive, +5 recovered (40 active cases)
 Marshall: +0 positive, +0 recovered (12 active cases)

McCook (1): +4 positive, +1 recovered (35 active cases)
 McPherson: +1 positive, +0 recovery (6 active case)
 Meade (5): +13 positive, +5 recovered (126 active cases)
 Mellette: +2 positive, +0 recovery (5 active cases)
 Miner: +1 positive, +0 recovered (7 active cases)
 Minnehaha (82): +80 positive, +39 recovered (701 active cases)
 Moody: +3 positive, +2 recovered (26 active cases)
 Oglala Lakota (3): +13 positive, +1 recovered (84 active cases)
 Pennington (37): +37 positive, +17 recovered (428 active cases)
 Perkins: +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)
 Potter: +0 positive, +1 recovered (4 active cases)
 Roberts (1): +4 positive, +2 recovered (55 active cases)
 Sanborn: +2 positive, +0 recovered (12 active cases)
 Spink: +0 positive, +1 recovered (33 active cases)
 Stanley: +1 positive, +1 recovery (7 active cases)
 Sully: +0 positive, +0 recovered (4 active cases)
 Todd (5): +2 positive, +0 recovered (32 active cases)
 Tripp (1): +2 positive, +3 recovered (61 active cases)
 Turner (3): +2 positive, +1 recovered (36 active cases)
 Union (8): +2 positive, +3 recovered (84 active cases)
 Walworth (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (33 active cases)
 Yankton (4): +10 positive, +4 recovered (102 active cases)
 Ziebach: +0 positive, +0 recovered (4 active case)s)

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	739	0
10-19 years	2638	0
20-29 years	5430	2
30-39 years	4061	7
40-49 years	3191	10
50-59 years	3192	22
60-69 years	2277	35
70-79 years	1146	45
80+ years	848	116

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	12259	107
Male	11263	130

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report
 COVID-19 Daily Report, October 2:

- 7.2% rolling 14-day positivity
 - 6.6% daily positivity
 - 477 new positives
 - 7,255 susceptible test encounters
 - 111 currently hospitalized (+5)
 - 3,739 active cases (+49)
- Total Deaths: +8 (264)

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	66	48	561	0	Moderate
Beadle	831	723	2841	10	Substantial
Bennett	72	58	787	3	Substantial
Bon Homme	98	71	1208	1	Moderate
Brookings	822	714	4878	2	Substantial
Brown	1292	1090	7193	4	Substantial
Brule	141	104	1229	1	Substantial
Buffalo	150	124	823	3	Substantial
Butte	123	81	1648	3	Substantial
Campbell	37	17	151	0	Substantial
Charles Mix	198	142	2390	0	Substantial
Clark	45	34	571	0	Moderate
Clay	576	529	2644	7	Substantial
Codington	954	759	5129	7	Substantial
Corson	93	83	745	1	Moderate
Custer	196	165	1349	3	Substantial
Davison	380	232	3588	2	Substantial
Day	93	65	961	0	Substantial
Deuel	90	78	643	0	Moderate
Dewey	167	111	2944	0	Substantial
Douglas	96	66	571	1	Substantial
Edmunds	100	85	628	0	Substantial
Fall River	100	82	1482	5	Moderate
Faulk	76	67	317	1	Substantial
Grant	165	102	1202	1	Substantial
Gregory	144	103	671	3	Substantial
Haakon	29	19	385	1	Moderate
Hamlin	106	86	1022	0	Substantial
Hand	54	30	494	0	Substantial
Hanson	46	31	352	1	Moderate
Harding	4	3	90	0	Minimal
Hughes	514	373	3019	5	Substantial
Hutchinson	118	75	1266	2	Substantial

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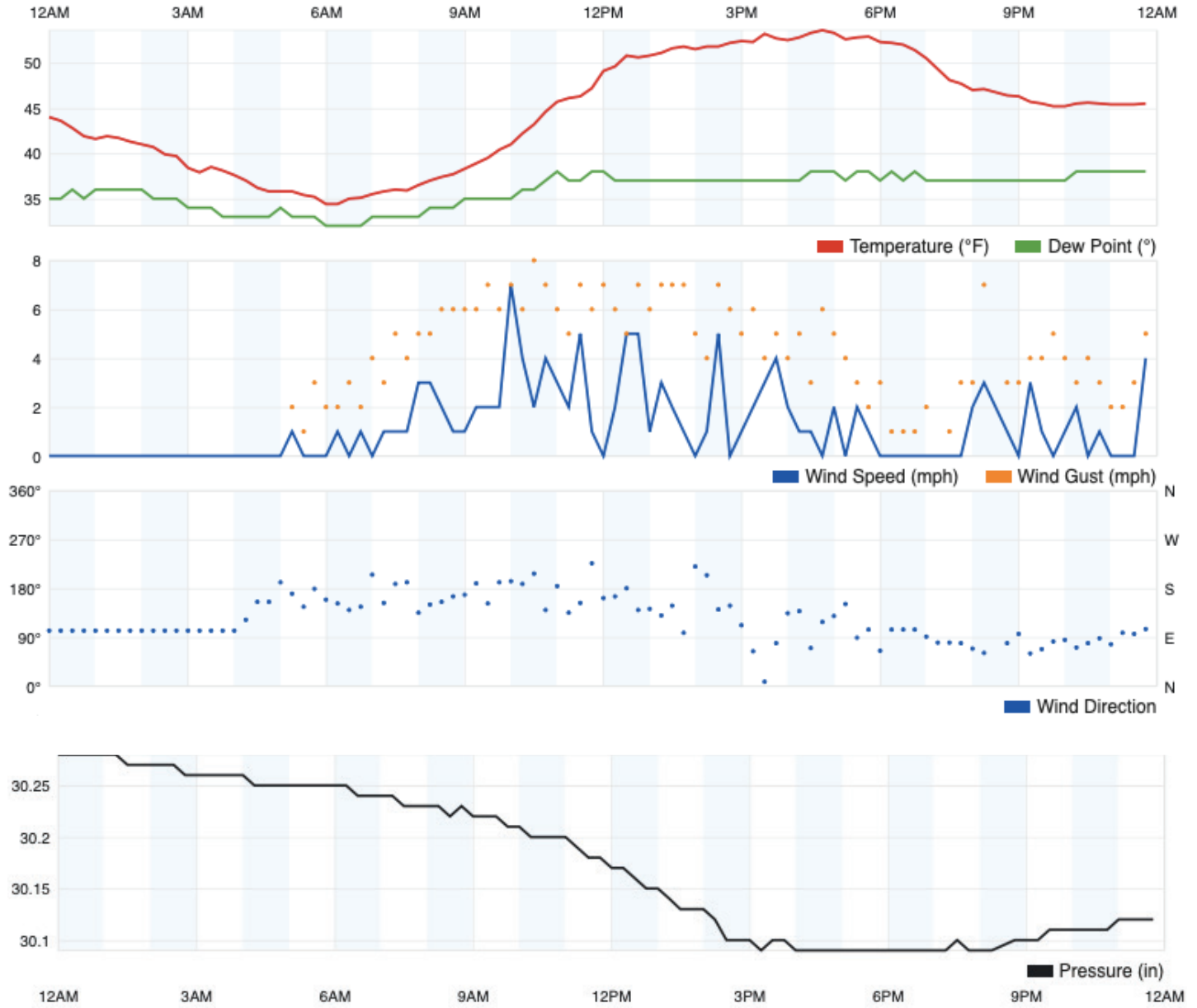
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Hyde	20	19	222	0	Moderate
Jackson	37	27	640	1	Moderate
Jerauld	99	65	340	1	Substantial
Jones	17	11	100	0	Minimal
Kingsbury	63	49	824	0	Substantial
Lake	209	173	1475	7	Substantial
Lawrence	449	343	4275	5	Substantial
Lincoln	1502	1235	10830	2	Substantial
Lyman	175	132	1273	3	Substantial
Marshall	46	34	664	0	Moderate
McCook	117	81	925	1	Substantial
McPherson	38	32	320	0	Moderate
Meade	597	473	3869	5	Substantial
Mellette	34	29	505	0	Minimal
Miner	28	21	355	0	Minimal
Minnehaha	7011	6228	42307	82	Substantial
Moody	104	78	890	0	Substantial
Oglala Lakota	325	218	4496	3	Substantial
Pennington	2516	2041	18651	37	Substantial
Perkins	42	34	372	0	Moderate
Potter	47	43	489	0	Moderate
Roberts	224	168	2746	1	Substantial
Sanborn	35	23	338	0	Moderate
Spink	149	117	1504	0	Substantial
Stanley	45	38	448	0	Moderate
Sully	14	10	136	0	Minimal
Todd	140	102	2923	5	Substantial
Tripp	178	116	941	1	Substantial
Turner	179	140	1423	3	Substantial
Union	444	352	3154	8	Substantial
Walworth	138	102	1171	1	Substantial
Yankton	461	355	4954	4	Substantial
Ziebach	63	59	513	0	Minimal
Unassigned	0	0	4884	0	

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today

Tonight

Sunday

Sunday
Night

Monday



Partly Sunny



Mostly Cloudy
then Frost



Frost then
Sunny



Mostly Clear



Sunny

High: 54 °F

Low: 32 °F

High: 61 °F

Low: 46 °F

High: 75 °F

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/abr



<p>Today</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy</p> <p>Isolated showers in northeastern SD and western MN this afternoon</p>  <p>Highs: 50s</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>Patchy to widespread frost possible in the morning</p>  <p>FROST</p> <p>Highs: Upper 50s & Low 60s</p>	<p>Monday</p> <p>Mostly Sunny</p> <p>Wind gusts 25-35 mph possible</p>  <p>Highs: 70s</p>
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Graphic Created 10/3/2020 4:49 AM

Light showers are possible early today from the I-29 corridor into western MN. Sunday morning brings another chance for patchy to widespread frost through the region. After that we see a warming trend, getting back to the 70s by Monday.

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Today in Weather History

October 3, 1985: High winds of 60 to 75 mph occurred across much of western South Dakota from the late afternoon of the 3rd into the early morning hours of the 4th. The winds blew down power lines and caused power outages for many locations in the Black Hills. The strong winds uprooted trees in Rapid City and blew the roof off of a barn near Newell in Butte County.

1780: A hurricane, which formed on October 1st, destroyed the port city of Savanna-la-Mar on the island of Jamaica on this day. By some estimates, this storm caused 3,000 deaths. This storm is documented in the Jamaica Archives and Record Department.

1903: An unusual late-season tornado moved northeast from west of Chatfield, Minnesota, passing through and devastating St. Charles, Minnesota. Seven people were killed, and 30 injured as 50 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed.

1979: An F4 tornado struck the towns of Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Suffield in Connecticut, causing an estimated \$400 million in property damage, on this day. The New England Air Museum, which housed more than 20 vintage aircraft, was destroyed. This tornado also caused a United Airlines flight to abort a landing at the Bradley International Airport because the pilot saw the tornado.

2002: Hurricane Lili made landfall between White Lake and Vermilion Bay, Louisiana as a Category 1 storm.

2015: Unprecedented rainfall fell throughout South Carolina from October 1st — 5th, 2015. Storm total amounts greater than 20" were observed in Columbia and Sumter.

2017: The City of Houston had the wettest year on record with 73.51 inches. The previous wettest year was in 1900 when 72.86 inches were measured.

1841 - An October gale, the worst of record for Nantucket, MA, caught the Cap Cod fishing fleet at sea. Forty ships were driven ashore on Cape Cod, and 57 men perished from the town of Truro alone. Heavy snow fell inland, with 18 inches near Middletown, CT. (David Ludlum)

1912 - The longest dry spell of record in the U.S. commenced as Bagdad, CA, went 767 days without rain. (David Ludlum)

1964 - Hurricane Hilda struck Louisiana spawning many tornadoes, and claimed twenty-two lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1979 - The first killer tornado of record in October in Connecticut destroyed sixteen vintage aircraft at the Bradley Air Museum in Windsor Locks. The tornado damaged more than one hundred homes causing 200 million dollars damage. Three persons were killed, and 500 others were injured. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Remnants of Hurricane Paine deluged Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas with 6 to 10 inch overnight rains. Hardy, OK, was drenched with 21.79 inches. Heavy rain between September 26th and October 4th caused 350 million dollars damage in Oklahoma. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Twenty-five cities in the Upper Midwest, including ten in Iowa, reported record low temperatures for the date. Duluth MN, Eau Claire, WI, and Spencer, IA, dipped to 24 degrees. Temperatures warmed into the 80s in the Northern and Central High Plains Region. At Chadron, NE, the mercury soared from a morning low of 29 degrees to an afternoon high of 88 degrees. Temperatures soared above 100 degrees in southern California. The high of 108 degrees at Downtown Los Angeles was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cold Canadian air invaded the north central U.S. bringing an end to the growing season across those states. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Phoenix, AZ, reported a record high of 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed from the Pacific Northwest to the Upper Mississippi Valley. A dozen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Bismarck, ND, and Williston, ND, with readings of 16 degrees above zero. An upper level weather disturbance brought snow to parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, with five inches reported at West Yellowstone, MT. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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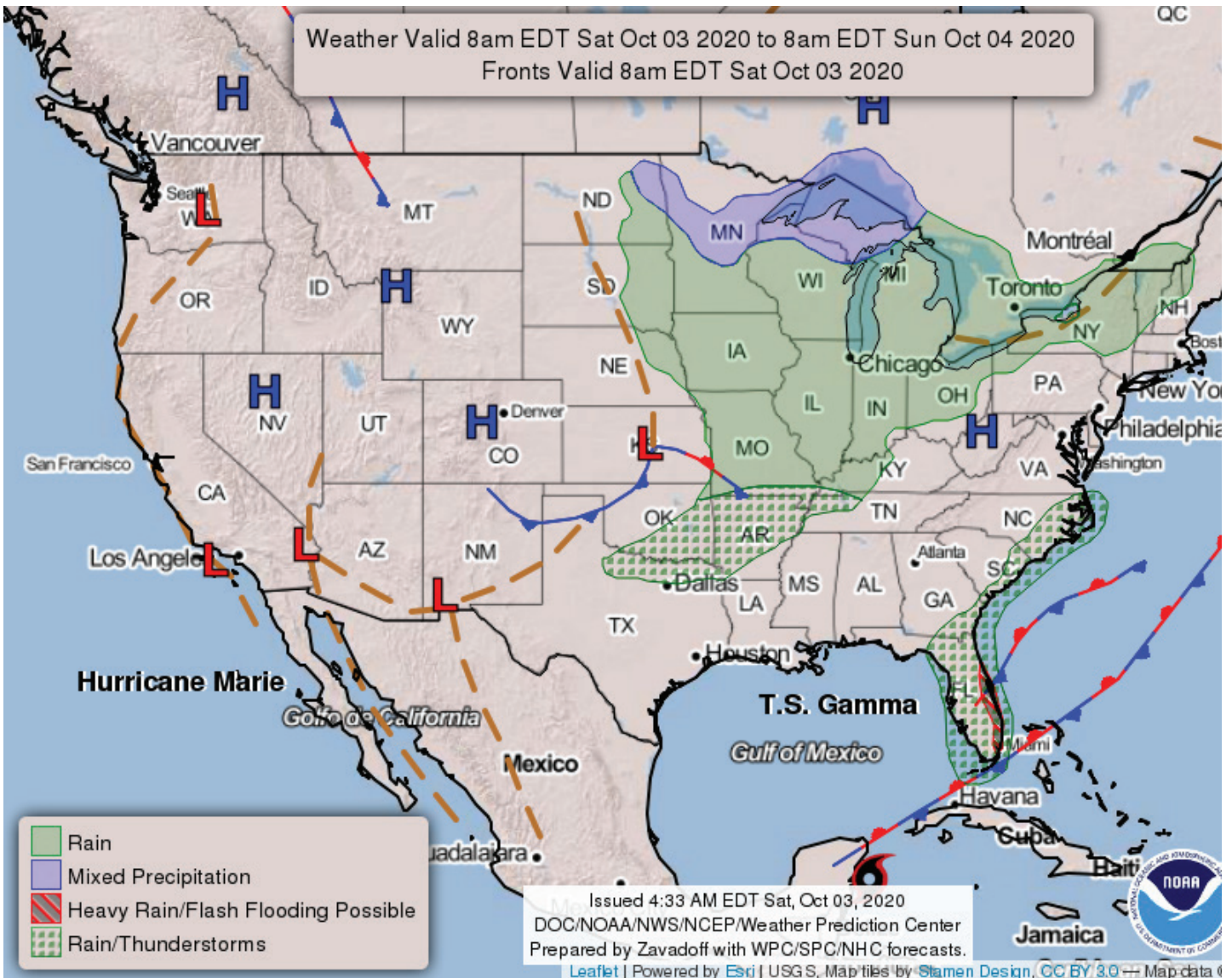
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 54 °F at 4:36 PM
Low Temp: 34 °F at 6:05 AM
Wind: 8 mph at 10:24 AM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1922
Record Low: 20° in 1894
Average High: 64°F
Average Low: 38°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 0.16
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 18.64
Precip Year to Date: 15.15
Sunset Tonight: 7:09 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:36 a.m.



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FACING REALITY

Linus approached Charlie Brown in a comic strip and boldly asked, "Charlie Brown, do you want to know what the trouble is with you?"

"No," he answered.

"That's the trouble with you, Charlie Brown," screamed Linus. "You don't want to know what the trouble is with you!"

Charlie Brown is not the only one with that problem.

Few want to hear or accept the fact that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." But, not wanting to listen to that fact, does not change anything.

To refuse to hear something does not mean that it was not said. And, if we deny something does not mean that it is not true. Sin is sin, and it comes in all sizes and shapes, colors and containers, with many options and countless opportunities.

We all seem to have a Charlie Brown attitude. Few want to admit that we have broken God's laws or that we have refused to follow the teachings of Jesus. But, Paul said all have sinned and fallen short of God's plan. That "all" includes every one of us.

Denying the fact of sin will not keep us from sinning nor eliminate the penalty that comes from being disobedient to God. No one is foolish enough to believe that if they deny the reality of death, they will live forever. We must all admit and accept what is: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life!"

Prayer: Open our hearts, Father, to the truths in Your Word and the reality of sin and salvation. May we look to You in faith, believing that You alone can save us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

VP Pence ordered borders closed after CDC experts refused

By JASON DEAREN and GARANCE BURKE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence in March directed the nation's top disease control agency to use its emergency powers to effectively seal the U.S. borders, overruling the agency's scientists who said there was no evidence the action would slow the coronavirus, according to two former health officials. The action has so far caused nearly 150,000 children and adults to be expelled from the country.

The top Centers for Disease Control and Prevention doctor who oversees these types of orders had refused to comply with a Trump administration directive saying there was no valid public health reason to issue it, according to three people with direct knowledge of the doctor's refusal.

So Pence intervened in early March. The vice president, who had taken over the Trump administration's response to the growing pandemic, called Dr. Robert Redfield, the CDC's director, and told him to use the agency's special legal authority in a pandemic anyway.

Also on the phone call were Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, and acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf. Redfield immediately ordered his senior staff to get it done, according to a former CDC official who was not authorized to discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The CDC's order covered the U.S. borders with both Mexico and Canada, but has mostly affected the thousands of asylum seekers and immigrants arriving at the southern border. Public health experts had urged the administration to focus on a national mask mandate, enforce social distancing and increase the number of contact tracers to track down people exposed to the virus.

But Stephen Miller, a top aide to President Donald Trump who has been a vocal opponent of immigration, pushed for the expulsion order.

"That was a Stephen Miller special. He was all over that," said Olivia Troye, a former top aide to Pence, who coordinated the White House coronavirus task force. She recently resigned in protest, saying the administration had placed politics above public health. "There was a lot of pressure on DHS and CDC to push this forward."

Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act gives federal health officials unique powers during a pandemic to take extraordinary measures to limit transmission of an infectious disease. One of those is the ability to stop the flow of immigration from countries with high numbers of confirmed cases, a legal authority the CDC does not normally have.

Public health experts say the administration's pattern of dismissing science-based decision making in favor of political goals has endangered many, including President Donald Trump himself, who on Friday confirmed he and the first lady had tested positive for the coronavirus.

"The decision to halt asylum processes 'to protect the public health' is not based on evidence or science," wrote Dr. Anthony So, an international public health expert at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in a letter to Redfield in April. "This order directly endangers tens of thousands of lives and threatens to amplify dangerous anti-immigrant sentiment and xenophobia."

Since the order went into effect on March 20, nearly 150,000 people — including at least 8,800 unaccompanied children who are normally afforded special legal protections under a court settlement and federal law — have been sent back to their countries of origin without typical due process. Many have been returned to dangerous and violent conditions in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Pence's spokeswoman Katie Miller called the account of the phone call "false."

"Vice President Pence never directed the CDC on this issue," she said in an email.

Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project described the order as "a complete bypass of the entire asylum system and (the) system protecting unaccompanied children."

"That is what the Trump administration has been trying to do for four years and they finally saw a win-

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dow," he added.

Miller started his campaign for the order by button-holing the coronavirus task force staff to try to get the issue on its agenda, according to Troye. The task force did not take the issue up immediately, said Troye. The administration had already passed a nonessential travel ban, which public health experts had largely supported. The CDC spurned Miller's idea, too. In early March the agency's Division of Migration and Quarantine, led by Dr. Martin Cetron, refused to support the order because there was not a strong public health basis for such a drastic move, according to three people with knowledge of his decision.

White House officials were undeterred. They turned to lawyers at CDC's parent agency, the Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. In a call with CDC's senior leadership, attorneys for both agencies urged CDC to use its public health authority to turn people back at the borders. Border officials said they wanted to protect their agents, and American lives.

By mid-March, CDC's scientists still refused to comply. That's when Pence and Wolf called with the message to get it done and quickly.

An HHS lawyer then wrote the order and submitted it to Redfield, who reviewed it and signed it. Redfield declined to comment through a CDC spokesperson, because the order is currently in litigation.

"They forced us," said a former health official involved in the process. "It is either do it or get fired,"

Trump described the order as originating at CDC, when it had not. "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has decided to exercise its authority ... to give Customs and Border Protection the tools it needs to prevent the transmission of the virus coming through both the northern and the southern border," Trump told a March 20 coronavirus task force press briefing.

"So we're treating the borders equally — the northern border and the southern border," he said. "A lot of people say that they're not treated equally. Well, they are."

In recent months, Trump has highlighted the decision to shut down the border as an argument for his reelection in November.

And the Title 42 order has been renewed multiple times since it first passed as a month-long temporary measure. Mark Morgan, the acting Customs and Border Protection commissioner, said in August that the expulsions were necessary to protect his agents, and that 10 CBP employees had died after contracting COVID-19.

"It's a great — it's a great feeling to have closed up the border," Trump said that same month after being updated on border wall construction in Yuma, Arizona. "Now people come in, if they come in, through merit, if they come in legally. But they don't come in like they used to."

Before March, Central American children who crossed into the U.S. alone were generally sent to facilities overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS shelters are required to be state licensed, have beds and provide schooling. Most children are eventually placed with family or friends who serve as sponsors while they await their day in court.

Under the Title 42 order this year, the administration instead detained some migrant children in hotels, sometimes for weeks, before expelling them to their home countries.

After witnessing a gang member murder a young man and being threatened, one 16-year-old decided to leave Honduras over the summer and arrived at the border near El Paso on July 4, where he was taken into government custody, detained in a hotel and told he would be deported, his father said. He was allowed to stay after the ACLU filed a suit challenging the Title 42 expulsions and in August was reunited with his father in Texas, where he is now attending school online.

"He was really worried they wouldn't let him reunite with me, and they didn't let him see anyone, so he was just waiting for them to send him back to Honduras," his father, Carlos Emilio Barrera, told AP. "He's doing better now because he's taking classes in school and he's hoping he will have the opportunity to one day get asylum, but he still sometimes has dreams that he's back inside locked up."

The administration's move not to grant migrant children their normal due process is currently being challenged in court.

"I don't know how you could look another CDC scientist in the eye after doing this," Dr. Josh Sharfstein, a former FDA deputy commissioner and a Johns Hopkins professor, said of Redfield. "It's undermining the

purpose of having an agency that uses evidence to protect public health.

"It's a profound dereliction of duty for a CDC director."

A previous version of this story gave an incorrect spelling for the first name of Pence aide Marc Short. Burke reported from San Francisco.

To contact AP's investigative team, email investigative@ap.org

Trump's diagnosis shows US vulnerability to the coronavirus

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

President Donald Trump's startling COVID-19 diagnosis serves as a cruel reminder of the pervasive spread of the coronavirus and shows how tenuous of a grip the nation has on the crisis, health experts said.

With U.S. infections rising for several weeks, Trump was one of about 40,000 Americans who learned they had tested positive when he broke the news early Friday. First lady Melania Trump also tested positive, and both were described as having mild symptoms. The president went to a military hospital for what the White House said was a precautionary visit of "a few days." Some of his top advisers and allies also have tested positive recently.

"No one is entirely out of the virus's reach, even those supposedly inside a protective bubble," said Josh Michaud, associate director of global health policy with the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington.

Eight months after the virus first reached the United States, worrying signals mounted of what's ahead this fall. The NFL postponed its first game because of a worsening outbreak among the Tennessee Titans. Some hospitals in Wisconsin have run low on space, and experts warned of a likely surge in infections during the colder months ahead. Some economists say it could take as long as late 2023 for the job market to fully recover.

The U.S. leads the world in numbers of confirmed infections, with more than 7 million, and deaths, with more than 208,000. Only a handful of countries rank higher in COVID-19 deaths per capita.

"The statistics are so mindboggling, they make us numb to the reality of just how painful, unacceptable and absurd this is," said Dr. Reed Tuckson, board chairman of the nonpartisan Health Policy Alliance in Washington. "Every single American must double down on their vigilance. If we don't, then we are being foolhardy and irresponsible."

The president's infection occurred as the nation has reached a crossroads in its response to the virus.

The U.S. is averaging 40,000 cases a day. The situation is improving in Sun Belt states that were hot spots in the summer — months after states reopened in May and gatherings during the Memorial Day and July Fourth holidays fueled a surge in infections, hospitalizations and deaths.

Many of those states took action this week to loosen restrictions. Mississippi's governor ended a mask requirement, South Carolina's governor said he would ease capacity restrictions on restaurants and New Orleans bars were given the greenlight to sell carry-out drinks. Florida has moved ahead with an aggressive reopening that gives bars and restaurants latitude to allow as many customers as they choose.

The outlook is gloomier in the Midwest.

Wisconsin reported a record daily death toll Wednesday, and hospitals in multiple cities said they were running out of space. A 530-bed field hospital that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built on the state fairgrounds in the city of West Allis in April could be put to use if the situation worsens.

Iowa reported more than 1,000 new cases for the third consecutive day Friday as the virus continued to aggressively spread in many regions of the state. South Dakota health officials reported record highs in deaths and cases Thursday.

Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases expert at Vanderbilt University, said Trump's diagnosis "reinforces the notion we need a national policy and we need everyone to participate in the basic preventions."

Instead, Schaffner said, the response "has been subcontracted to the governors, which has left us with a crazy quilt of approaches."

For months, Trump has downplayed the virus, rarely wearing a mask, holding large campaign rallies and urging businesses and schools to reopen. Masks have not been mandatory for White House staff, despite evidence they help to stop the spread.

"Now, tragically, this experiment has shown, at the highest office of the country, it ain't working. It didn't work," Schaffner said.

Michaud said the nation is experiencing "a dangerous moment."

"We have lots of schools, universities, workplaces and other businesses and institutions reopening. Colder weather is also on the way, which will likely increase the chances people will congregate together indoors," Michaud said.

If complacency sets in, infections will rise.

"We're still not doing sufficient testing and contact tracing across the country," Michaud said. "For all these reasons, we're likely to more transmission in the U.S., not less, in the coming weeks and months."

Johnson reported from Washington state.

Cancer fighter's cohorts show support with paint brushes

By ERIN BORMETT SIOUX FALLS ARGUS LEADER

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Washington High School science teacher Tim Gjoraas wouldn't consider bright blue to be his first choice for a new house color. His wife, Lisa, loves it, and he agreed, knowing that she will be living with it much longer than he will.

Gjoraas was diagnosed with colon cancer last year. The journey has not been easy, and he made the difficult decision to leave his teaching position before the school year began to focus on spending what time he has left with his family.

When Gjoraas reached out to a friend to ask for help repainting his house next summer, he instead was greeted on a Saturday by a dozen of his former colleagues armed with paint sprayers, brushes and tarps. Within five hours, Washington teachers from the past and present had completed the house's paint job and were reminiscing together over lunch in the driveway.

"He told me he got quite a bit of help, but I didn't know it was going to represent my whole career, people from all my years at Washington High," said Gjoraas, whose tenure lasted 22 years. "I kind of got torn out of the classroom this year and I miss it. It feels really good to get back together with my coworkers. They're doing something really special for my family, but I also get to talk a little bit about Washington High with them and share old stories."

Doug Rinken, a retired chemistry teacher, put the whole plan in motion. He said he wasn't sure if he'd find anyone who wanted to help, but if not he was willing to put in the work himself. However, within an hour of making phone calls, all 12 people were on board and ready to work.

"It was really effortless, almost, to get this many people to say yes," said Rinken. "You want to help in any way you can, but you know that whatever you do, it isn't going to be enough. Even this what we're doing today, it isn't going to change anything, but I just hope it makes him feel a little more comfortable. It maybe makes us feel a little better too."

Beyond those who donated their time to complete this home improvement project, more people donated enough money to pay for the paint, and another few coworkers provided lunch for the group.

Gjoraas said that day was uniquely meaningful because it was put together by those coworkers and friends in his innermost circle, but this isn't the first time he's experienced the generosity of his community. There have been multiple fundraisers for him over the past year, helping with anything from medical expenses to making the travel possible that he's always wanted to experience with his family.

"I've had so much of this happening since I got the news that I was dying of cancer," said Gjoraas. "The first time somebody wanted to do a fundraiser for me I said, no, we're fine, we're fine, we're fine. They were like, no, your family deserves this, you deserve this."

Another coworker, government, speech and debate teacher Travis Dahle, said that none of this support

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is surprising because of how many people love Gjoraas. He fondly remembered the morning "coffee club" with Gjoraas and a few other teachers that became like a ritual before the school day began.

"Most teachers will tell you that at Washington we are a family," said Dahle. "It's just who we are, we love working with each other and being around each other."

Even if this level of care for each other is ingrained in the staff at Washington, Gjoraas doesn't take any of it for granted. He said he is extremely humbled over and over by the support he's received.

"If you spend your life being a good person and hanging around good people, trying to make a positive impact on your community, if you need something people show up," he said. "It's pretty amazing the outpouring of love my family's had."

As the paint dried on the house behind them, Gjoraas and his friends talked into the afternoon, swapping stories of the early days in their careers and savoring the memories they still have time to make.

Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Aberdeen Roncalli 18, Groton Area 14

Beresford 28, Flandreau 21

Brandon Valley 41, Sioux Falls Lincoln 21

Britton-Hecla 32, Dakota Hills 13

Brookings 44, Mitchell 25

Burke 51, Corsica/Stickney 14

Canistota 58, Castlewood 7

Canton 27, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 2

Chester 41, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 26

Clark/Willow Lake 58, Waverly-South Shore 8

Colman-Egan 50, Estelline/Hendricks 0

Custer 40, Bennett County 0

Dakota Valley 16, Dell Rapids 14

Dell Rapids St. Mary 55, Centerville 14

Elk Point-Jefferson 36, Garretson 14

Gregory 20, Bon Homme 14

Hamlin 44, Florence/Henry 26

Hanson 58, Alcester-Hudson 24

Herreid/Selby Area 59, Avon 28

Hitchcock-Tulare 14, Colome 6

Howard 39, DeSmet 0

Ipswich/Edmunds Central 44, Great Plains Lutheran 0

Kadoka Area 38, Timber Lake 36

Lemmon/McIntosh 32, Harding County 16

O Gorman 31, Sioux Falls Washington 7

Parker 20, Deubrook 6

Philip 45, Jones County/White River 22

Pierre 35, Huron 13

Pine Ridge 28, Hot Springs 18

Platte-Geddes 48, Menno/Marion 8

Rapid City Central 32, Rapid City Stevens 28

Sioux Valley 30, McCook Central/Montrose 20

Sisseton 36, Redfield 8

St. Thomas More 54, Belle Fourche 7

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Sully Buttes 28, North Border 14
Tea Area 54, Lennox 14
Tri-Valley 14, Sioux Falls Christian 7
Viborg-Hurley 60, Elkton-Lake Benton 8
Warner 34, Langford 20
West Central 35, Vermillion 19
Winner 52, Chamberlain 14
Wolsey-Wessington 36, Kimball/White Lake 10
Yankton 20, Sturgis Brown 3

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

09-38-47-49-68, Mega Ball: 25, Megaplier: 2

(nine, thirty-eight, forty-seven, forty-nine, sixty-eight; Mega Ball: twenty-five; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$41 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$43 million

Construction starting on Dakota Access pipeline pump station

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Construction on a new pump station to help push more oil through the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota is scheduled to begin next week, a state official said Friday.

The Energy Transfer project will be built about 5 miles west of Linton, in Emmons County, state Public Service spokeswoman Stacy Eberl told The Bismarck Tribune. The commission approved the project in February after a hearing in which experts testified about the safety of expanding the pipeline's capacity and members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe spoke out against the plans.

Initial work at the site will involve surveying, installing environmental controls, moving dirt and pouring concrete, according to Energy Transfer spokeswoman Vicki Granado. She said in an email that similar construction work is beginning on a pump station in South Dakota.

The pipeline company wants to nearly double the amount of oil that can flow through the line, from 570,000 barrels per day to 1.1 million barrels per day. The plan is to build pump stations in North Dakota, South Dakota and Illinois and add additional horsepower to several existing stations.

The Illinois Commerce Commission has not made a decision on the company's expansion plans.

The North Dakota project comes as U.S. District Judge James Boasberg weighs another request by Standing Rock and other tribes fighting the pipeline to halt its operations. The judge issued a ruling in July requiring the pipeline to shut down for the duration of a lengthy environmental review he ordered earlier in the year, but the shutdown was reversed by a higher court.

Three congressmen who joined Trump in Minnesota test clear

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Three Minnesota congressmen and a U.S. Senate candidate who flew on Air Force One with President Donald Trump shortly before he tested positive for the coronavirus moved quickly to get tested Friday, as did other political figures who came close to the president during his visit to Minnesota this week.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem also crossed paths with Trump on Wednesday when she attended a

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Minneapolis-area fundraiser. Spokesman Ian Fury said Noem was "not a close contact" of Trump or anyone else who tested positive.

About 40 people attended the fundraiser, Minnesota Republican Party Chairwoman Jennifer Carnahan told Minnesota Public Radio News. The \$200,000-per-couple fundraiser was held at the sprawling Lake Minnetonka home of Marty Davis, the president and chief executive of Cambria, which manufactures quartz countertops. Davis did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press.

"The event site was professionally cleaned and sanitized prior to the event," Republican National Committee spokeswoman Mandi Merritt said in an email. "The White House Medical Unit and U.S. Secret Service evaluated all attendees in order for them to gain access to the event. Attendees tested negative for COVID-19 on the day of the event, completed a wellness questionnaire, and passed a temperature screening. Every guest was at least 6 feet from the president at all times."

Republican U.S. Reps. Tom Emmer, Jim Hagedorn and Pete Stauber flew with the president to and from his rally in Duluth on Wednesday night. Hagedorn, who is being treated for kidney cancer, posted a photo of the three of them on his Facebook page. All three said Friday afternoon that their test results came back negative.

GOP Senate candidate Jason Lewis, a former congressman, was part of the greeting committee at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport when Trump arrived Wednesday afternoon, along with Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, his wife Maralee and House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt. Lewis also accompanied Trump to Duluth on Air Force One. They all stood near Trump on the tarmac as they spoke and posed for pictures for about five minutes, but did not shake hands, according to Daudt and Lewis.

None of them wore masks at the time, video of the arrival showed. All four of them got tested Tuesday in preparation for Trump's visit and came out negative.

Lewis went ahead with a busy day of virtual events Friday, including a debate with incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Tina Smith. He said in an interview that he felt fine and that he's already been tested four or five times in the last month because Trump and Vice President Mike Pence each have visited Minnesota twice in the last month.

Lewis said he was advised to wait a day or two to get tested again because the virus might not show up right away due to its incubation period. He said he would self-quarantine at least until he gets his test results back, "just to play it safe," and then probably hit the campaign trail again.

Neither Lewis nor the three sitting congressmen attended the fundraiser. Lewis said they waited together in a conference room on Air Force One, "watching some ball games and getting caught up" until the short flight to Duluth.

"As I recall, the president came to the doorway once and just said 'Hey guys, how's the trip? You having a good time? Good. Let's go get 'em,' A little pep talk. It couldn't have been more than 30 seconds," Lewis said. He added that they were probably 20 feet behind behind Trump in the hallway before the president walked down the stairs in Duluth and that none of them joined Trump on stage, as they were kept in a holding area.

Daudt and Gazelka both said they were getting retested and would self-quarantine.

U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, a Democrat and a frequent target of Trump's, criticized him sharply for what she called "actively spreading a deadly virus." Omar, who said earlier this year that her father died of COVID-19, said in a statement that she wouldn't wish it on anyone. But she criticized Trump for going unmasked in Minnesota this week, saying he exposed hundreds of people in a state where cases are rising.

Members of the Davis family, which hosted the Trump fundraiser, have been entrepreneurs for decades, starting in butter and expanding into cheese and then quartz. Including Marty Davis' father and siblings, they came in at No. 149 on Forbes' list of America's richest families, with an estimated net worth of \$1.7 billion.

Associated Press writers Amy Forliti in Minneapolis and Tali Arbel in New York contributed to this report.

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Office: Noem not in close contact with Trump at fundraiser

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who attended a fundraiser in Minnesota where President Donald Trump appeared this week, was not in close contact with him or anyone else who has tested positive for the coronavirus, her spokesman said Friday.

Spokesman Ian Fury said Noem tested negative Tuesday night, the day before the fundraiser in the Minneapolis suburb of Shorewood. Fury said Noem "is tested regularly."

Trump tweeted early Friday morning that he and first lady Melania Trump had tested positive for COVID-19. The White House said the couple has experienced "mild symptoms" after testing positive.

The Republican governor has become a surrogate for Trump's campaign and has developed a national profile within the GOP.

Some have been critical of her soft approach to the coronavirus epidemic in South Dakota where health officials reported all-time highs for the toll of COVID-19 Thursday, with 13 deaths and 747 more people who tested positive.

The first-term governor never shut down businesses, never mandated mask-wearing and welcomed two massive public gatherings to her state this summer — a fireworks display at Mount Rushmore, which Trump attended, and the Sturgis motorcycle rally attended by hundreds of thousands of people.

"Bryon (Noem's husband) and I are praying for President Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, their entire family, and everyone fighting this virus," Noem wrote on social media. "America is stronger together, and together we will get through this."

Police shoot, wound man in eastern South Dakota

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Police in eastern South Dakota shot and wounded a man during a standoff, authorities said.

The standoff happened at a gas station in Madison Wednesday where a man had barricaded himself inside a vehicle. Employees and customers at the Class Corner were evacuated during the standoff.

The South Dakota Attorney General's Office said at one point during the standoff the man was shot and wounded by police. Attorney General spokesman Tim Bormann and the Madison Police Department did not say what caused police to shoot.

Bormann says the man is expected to survive, the Argus Leader reported.

The South Dakota Department of Criminal Investigation is reviewing the case.

Supreme Court opens new term on cusp of conservative control

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court opens a new term Monday with Republicans on the cusp of realizing a dream 50 years in the making, a solid conservative majority that might roll back abortion rights, expand gun rights and shrink the power of government.

Eight justices are getting back to work at a most unusual, politically fraught moment in American history. They're still mourning the death of their colleague Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the leader of the court's liberal wing. They're working in the midst of a pandemic that has forced the court to drastically change the way it conducts business. And the presidential election is less than a month away.

President Donald Trump's nominee for Ginsburg's seat, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, could be on the bench in time for one of the term's biggest cases, post-Election Day arguments in the latest Republican bid to strike down the Affordable Care Act, which provides more than 20 million people with health insurance.

Barrett's confirmation would cement a 6-3 conservative majority and diminish Chief Justice John Roberts' ability to moderate the court's decisions. That's because conservatives would have five votes even in cases where Roberts might side with the remaining three liberal justices.

"I would guess that on the whole we're going to see a considerable and perhaps quite rapid shift to the right," said Orin Kerr, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

The term is so far short on high-profile cases, but that could change quickly because of the prospect of

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court involvement in lawsuits related to the election. Trump has said he wants Barrett in place soon so that she could be among nine justices, including his other appointees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, who weigh in on any voting cases. Four years ago, Republicans were content to leave a Supreme Court seat open through the election, even if it meant having an eight-justice court decide any election challenges.

High-court involvement in the election could make this "the most tumultuous and divisive term since the Supreme Court decided *Bush v. Gore* 20 years ago and effectively determined who would become president of the United States," said Irv Gornstein, a Georgetown University law professor.

Already this year, the justices have weighed in on election issues in Wisconsin, Alabama, Rhode Island, Florida and Texas. Among the issues: ballot witness requirements and allowing all voters to vote by mail. Pending are pleas from Republicans to reverse decisions extending the deadline for receiving and counting mail-in ballots in the battleground state of Pennsylvania and suspending a ballot witness requirement in South Carolina, where polls find a tight race between Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham and Democratic challenger Jaime Harrison.

The court will begin the term the way it ended the last one, meeting by telephone because of the coronavirus pandemic and allowing the public to listen live to arguments. The biggest change is the absence of Ginsburg, who died of cancer last month at age 87 after 27 years on the bench. When the justices met remotely in May, she already was suffering from a recurrence of pancreatic cancer that was first diagnosed in 2009.

The only time her colleagues, masked and remaining at some distance from each other, gathered in person since March, when the court was closed to the public, was for Ginsburg's memorial service in the court's Great Hall.

"I'm still trying to get my head around the idea that Justice Ginsburg won't be on the bench any longer," said Donald Verrilli, the Obama administration's top lawyer before the Supreme Court who will argue in the Affordable Care Act case in November.

The cases being argued over the next two weeks, meanwhile, all had been scheduled for last spring, but were postponed when the virus forced the court to shut down for a time. The most consequential case in October is a dispute between technology giants in which Oracle claims it's owed \$9 billion by Google for using Oracle's copyrighted code in the development of Google's Android operating system for smartphones.

The day after the election brings a battle of religious rights and LGBT discrimination from Philadelphia. A social service agency run by the Catholic church sued after the city decided to stop placing children with the agency over its policy of not permitting same-sex couples to serve as foster parents. It could be one of the first cases the court hears with nine justices, if Republicans succeed in confirming Barrett before the election.

In December, the justices will decide whether the House of Representatives can obtain grand jury materials that were part of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian interference in the last election.

It's among several cases that could go away or at least look very different if Democrat Joe Biden wins the election.

One other possibility next year is a retirement, especially if Biden wins and Democrats retake the Senate. Justice Stephen Breyer is now the court's oldest justice, at age 82.

Both he and Ginsburg rebuffed suggestions that they retire the last time Democrats controlled the Senate and the White House, in 2014.

The Latest: GOP Minnesota congressmen criticized for flight

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on coronavirus infections hitting President Donald Trump and others in his circle (all times EDT):

10:50 a.m.

Three Republican congressmen from Minnesota are facing criticism for taking a commercial flight home from Washington just two days after they were on Air Force One with President Donald Trump.

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Reps. Pete Stauber, Tom Emmer and Jim Hagedorn were on a Delta Air Lines flight Friday night despite its restrictions on passengers recently exposed to COVID-19. Trump announced early Friday that he had tested positive for the virus.

Delta's policy says customers who know they were exposed to the virus in the past 14 days cannot travel. The airline defines exposure as face-to-face contact with someone with the virus or sustained contact for more than 15 minutes less than 6 feet (2 meters) apart.

State Democratic Party chairman Ken Martin said the three congressmen put the health and safety of other passengers at serious risk.

Hagedorn pushed back in a post on his campaign Facebook page Saturday, saying the three men had tested negative and had not been exposed to someone carrying the virus longer than 15 minutes and closer than 6 feet (2 meters). He said they also informed the airline and the flight's captain of their situation and Delta "made the decision to fly based upon the facts."

Delta spokeswoman Gina Laughlin told the Minneapolis Star Tribune that the flight was less than 40% full and that no one left the plane before it took off to protest the men's presence.

10:20 a.m.

The White House says President Donald Trump's doctor will provide an update on his condition Saturday morning as the president undergoes treatment for COVID-19 symptoms at a military hospital.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany says Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley will address reporters at 11 a.m. from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

In a late Friday letter, Conley reported that Trump had been treated at the hospital with remdesivir, an antiviral medication, after taking another experimental drug at the White House. He added that Trump is "doing very well" and is "not requiring any supplemental oxygen."

The White House said Trump was expected to stay at the hospital for "a few days" out of an abundance of caution and that he would continue to work from the hospital's presidential suite, which is equipped to allow him to keep up his official duties.

10 a.m.

Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson says he's tested positive for the coronavirus.

Johnson's office announced the diagnosis in a statement Saturday. He's the third Republican senator to report a positive test this week, following Utah Sen. Mike Lee and North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis. Johnson's announcement is adding to the swirl of tension in Washington since President Donald Trump announced his positive test Friday.

Johnson, a second-term Republican, had reported exposure last month to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, and quarantined for 14 days without developing symptoms. Johnson said he tested negative twice during that time.

He returned to Washington on Sept. 29 and said he was exposed soon after that to someone who tested positive. Johnson says he was tested Friday afternoon after learning of the exposure, and it came back positive.

Johnson said he feels healthy and doesn't have symptoms, but will isolate until cleared by his doctor.

Trump at military hospital; new cases among allies emerge

By ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A feverish and fatigued President Donald Trump was spending the weekend at a military hospital for treatment of COVID-19, as new cases continued to emerge among some of the president's top advisers and allies.

Trump's physician, Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley, was set to update the nation on his condition from the hospital Saturday morning. The decision to have Conley brief reporters marks a change in strategy by the White House, which has so far been less than transparent about the virus's spread.

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It was a reporter for Bloomberg News – not the White House — that broke news that a close aide to Trump had been infected. And aides so far have declined to share basic health information about the president, including a full accounting of his symptoms, what tests he's undertaken and the results.

In a memo released shortly before midnight, Conley did report that Trump had been treated at the hospital with remdesivir, an antiviral medication, after taking another experimental drug at the White House. He added that Trump is "doing very well" and is "not requiring any supplemental oxygen."

The White House said Trump was expected to stay at the hospital for "a few days" out of an abundance of caution and that he would continue to work from the hospital's presidential suite, which is equipped to allow him to keep up his official duties. In addition to accessibility to tests and equipment, the decision was made, at least in part, with the understanding that moving him later, if he took a turn for the worse, could send a worrying signal.

As the White House works to piece together the flurry of new infections, attention is focused in particular on last Saturday's White House event introducing Trump's Supreme Court nominee. That day, Trump gathered more than 150 people in the Rose Garden. People mingled, hugged and shook hands — overwhelmingly without masks. There were also several indoor receptions, where Trump's Supreme Court pick, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, her family, senators and others mingling in the close quarters of the White House, photographs show.

Among those who attended who have now tested positive: former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, the president of the University of Notre Dame, and at least two Republican lawmakers — Utah Sen. Mike Lee and North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis.

The decision for the president to leave the White House for the hospital capped a day of whipsaw events in Washington Friday. The president, who has spent months playing down the threat of the virus, was forced to cancel all campaign events a month before the election as he fought a virus that has killed more than 205,000 Americans and is hitting others in his orbit as well.

Trump walked out of the White House on Friday evening wearing a mask and gave a thumbs-up to reporters but did not speak before boarding Marine One. Members of the aircrew, Secret Service agents and White House staff wore face coverings to protect themselves from the president onboard the helicopter.

In a video taped before leaving for Walter Reed, Trump said, "I think I'm doing very well, but we're going to make sure that things work out." He remained fully president, all authority intact.

"Going well, I think! Thank you to all. LOVE!!!" he wrote in his first tweet from the hospital Friday night.

Trump first revealed that he had tested positive in a tweet about 1 a.m. Friday — hours after he returned from a Thursday afternoon political fundraiser. He had gone ahead to the event, saying nothing to the crowd though knowing he had been exposed to an aide with the disease that has infected millions in America and killed more than 1 million people worldwide.

First lady Melania Trump also tested positive and has said she has mild symptoms. She is believed to be isolating at the White House.

Also testing positive: Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien. Campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said Stepien received a diagnosis Friday and is experiencing "mild flu-like symptoms." Stepien, who joined Trump at Tuesday's first presidential debate, plans to quarantine until he recovers. On Saturday, Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin became the third Senate Republican to publicly confirm testing positive in the current spate of infections, although Johnson was not at last week's Rose Garden event.

Trump's diagnosis came during an already turbulent period in Washington and around the world, with the U.S. gripped in a heated presidential election and the pandemic taking a heavy human and economic toll. Trump's immediate campaign events were all canceled, and his next debate with Democrat Joe Biden, scheduled for Oct. 15, is now in question.

Trump has been trying all year — and as recently as Wednesday — to convince the American public that the worst of the pandemic is past, and he has consistently played down concerns about being personally vulnerable. He has mostly refused to abide by basic public health guidelines — including those issued by his own administration — such as wearing face coverings in public and practicing social distancing. Until he

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tested positive, he continued to hold campaign rallies that drew thousands of often maskless supporters. "I felt no vulnerability whatsoever," he told reporters back in May. With the election coming up in a month, he is urging states and cities to "reopen" and reduce or eliminate shutdown rules despite continuing virus outbreaks.

The White House tried to maintain an atmosphere of business-as-usual on Friday.

"President Trump remains in good spirits, has mild symptoms, and has been working throughout the day," said press secretary Kayleigh McEnany. "Out of an abundance of caution, and at the recommendation of his physician and medical experts, the president will be working from the presidential offices at Walter Reed for the next few days."

The president's physician said in a memo that Trump received a dose of an experimental antibody combination by Regeneron that is in clinical trials. Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley said Trump "remains fatigued but in good spirits" and that a team of experts was evaluating both the president and first lady in regard to next steps.

Late Friday, Conley issued an update that said Trump is "doing very well" and is "not requiring any supplemental oxygen." But he said that, "in consultation with specialists we have elected to initiate remdesivir therapy," an antiviral medication.

"He has completed his first dose and is resting comfortably," the doctor wrote.

The first lady, who is 50, has a "mild cough and headache," Conley reported, and the remainder of the first family, including the Trumps' son Barron, who lives at the White House, tested negative.

Trump is 74 years old and clinically obese, putting him at higher risk of serious complications from a virus that has infected more than 7 million people nationwide.

Both Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris have tested negative, their campaign said. Vice President Mike Pence tested negative for the virus Friday morning and "remains in good health," his spokesman said. Pence was to resume his campaign schedule after his test.

Barrett, who was with Trump and many others on Saturday and has been on a Capitol Hill meeting with lawmakers, also tested negative, the White House said. It was confirmed that she had a mild case of COVID earlier this year and has now recovered.

Many White House and senior administration officials were undergoing tests,, but the full scale of the outbreak around the president may not be known for some time as it can take days for an infection to be detectable by a test. Officials with the White House Medical Unit were tracing the president's contacts.

Trump's handling of the pandemic has already been a flashpoint in his race against Biden, who spent much of the summer off the campaign trail and at his home in Delaware, citing concern about the virus. Biden has since resumed a more active campaign schedule, but with small, socially distanced crowds. He also regularly wears a mask in public, something Trump mocked him for at Tuesday night's debate.

"I don't wear masks like him," Trump said. "Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away from me, and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen."

No course correction for state Republicans after Trump test

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Republican governors and lawmakers in many states have followed President Donald Trump's lead on their response to the coronavirus, declining to impose mask mandates and pushing to lift restrictions on businesses and social gatherings as swiftly as possible.

Revelations that the president and first lady are now among those who have tested positive for the disease appeared to do little to change their thinking.

In the hours after the nation learned that Trump had tested positive for the virus, Republican-controlled courts, conservative groups and Republican lawmakers continued to move against mask mandates and other coronavirus restrictions.

In Michigan on Friday, the state Supreme Court, which has a Republican majority, struck down months of orders by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, including a mask mandate, that were aimed at preventing the spread

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of the coronavirus. It said she illegally drew authority from a 1945 law that doesn't apply.

It was an extraordinary development in a long, nasty fight between Whitmer, a Democrat, and Republicans who control the Legislature. At one point over the summer, protesters and an armed militia filled the statehouse to demand an end to the restrictions some labeled "tyranny."

Right before Friday's ruling, a conservative group, with support from Republican lawmakers, turned in 539,000 signatures to put legislation before lawmakers to repeal the 75-year-old law. Whitmer would be unable to veto it if it passes.

Also Friday, Republicans who control the Louisiana House of Representatives supported a package of measures aimed at unraveling the state's coronavirus restrictions imposed by Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat.

The legislation would overturn all of Edwards' coronavirus executive orders for a month or more. It also would give lawmakers greater ability to overturn all or part of future executive orders – or extensions of existing COVID-19 restrictions – the governor wants to enact.

"I don't think that the president having COVID is any more important than every Louisianian that's had COVID, so it doesn't really change my perspective on it," said Rep. Julie Emerson, a Republican from a suburban area in southcentral Louisiana.

Rep. Tanner Magee, the chamber's No. 2 Republican from a seafood and oil industry hub in southeastern Louisiana, said it's "a false narrative" that Republicans are not concerned about public health.

"We are. We're just concerned about both public health and the state of our economy and seeing how we can move forward in a way that addresses both issues," Magee said.

In Wisconsin, which is third in the nation in new cases per capita, according to the COVID Tracking Project, Republicans who control the Legislature filed a court motion Friday in support of a lawsuit seeking to repeal a mask mandate under Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat.

That prompted a Twitter response from Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, a Democrat: "Republican legislators have officially joined Covid-19 in the fight against Wisconsinites."

The motion came even as virus cases there are rising quickly.

"There is no pandemic exception to the rule of law or our Constitution," said Rick Esenberg, president of the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, which is suing Evers over the mask mandate.

Similar power struggles have played out ever since the beginning of the virus outbreak in numerous states, mostly where the governor is a Democrat and Republicans control the legislature. Kansas has had one of the longest running feuds, since Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly closed schools in March and imposed stay-at-home orders and restrictions on businesses and social gatherings. Republican lawmakers, who already had forced Kelly to accept local control over coronavirus restrictions, are now considering creating a panel with permanent oversight of how the governor handles extended emergencies.

In GOP-controlled Legislatures in Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania, Democrats pushed Republican majority leaders to toughen their policy on masks for lawmakers on official business, force Republican members to actually comply with it or simply implement one.

Ohio state Rep. Kent Smith, a Democrat from suburban Cleveland, said it isn't known how many Republican lawmakers from the state interacted with Trump — who was there Tuesday for the debate with Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden — or his entourage in recent days. He asked for a mask mandate for committee hearings and floor sessions.

"The work of the people need not become a super spreader event during a global pandemic without a treatment or cure," he said in a statement.

Some Republicans, including Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof, said they were comfortable with the existing protocols, while others said they cannot force rank-and-file lawmakers to obey them.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, who has imposed a statewide mask mandate and endured criticism from some fellow Republicans in the Legislature over his coronavirus restrictions, would not criticize the Legislature for lacking a mask mandate of its own.

On Thursday, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives canceled its floor session on the news that a

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second Republican member had tested positive.

House Minority Leader Frank Dermody, a Pittsburgh-area Democrat, unloaded stinging criticism after months of watching Republicans — many of them flouting the chamber's mask-wearing protocol — pass more than a half-dozen veto-bound bills that are designed to strip or limit Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's power to impose coronavirus restrictions.

Trump's reckless approach has seeped down to his Republican counterparts, who have blocked a resolution to enshrine a mask mandate into the chamber's rules, Dermody said.

"It's time that we realize that we are in this situation and it is real, and I hope they realize that it is real when the president contracts the virus," Dermody said.

Rep. Dan Moul, a Republican from rural southern Pennsylvania, said it has nothing to do with Trump. He almost always wears a mask when he enters a business, Moul said, he but doesn't on the House floor because he's around friends.

"When it's my turn to get it, I'm going to get it, whether I'm wearing a mask or not," Moul said.

The virus is a leading issue in the campaign for governor in Missouri, where Republican Gov. Mike Parson, a staunch Trump supporter, is recovering after testing positive. Rising case counts have made Missouri 15th in the nation in new cases per capita, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

Parson has taken a more hands-off approach to addressing the virus, leaving decisions on mask requirements, school shutdowns and other restrictions to local officials, and his representatives gave no hint that he would change.

He will continue to follow safety protocols to protect his health and those around him, and encourage mask-wearing and social distancing, a spokesperson said Friday.

His Democratic challenger, Nicole Galloway, said Parson's and Trump's diagnoses are proof that anyone can get the virus. She pushed Parson to live up to White House guidance on testing, contact tracing and a statewide mask mandate.

"This is the best way to put our state on the path to economic recovery," Galloway said.

Parson isn't the only Republican governor who said their decisions would not be affected by Trump's diagnosis. A spokesman for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has been aggressively lifting restrictions on restaurants and other businesses despite concerns of a resurgence, said the governor isn't going to change the state's reopening plans just because the president contracted the virus.

Associated Press writes Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan; Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida; John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas; Jim Salter in O'Fallon, Missouri; and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Distortions from a week of wild disruption

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's COVID-19 diagnosis Friday cut short the week's political arguing and even quieted his Twitter account for a time. But the wild presidential debate produced plenty of distortions in the campaign for the election a month away. Here's a review:

HEALTH INSURANCE

TRUMP: "We guaranteed preexisting conditions."

THE FACTS: That's not true. Protections for people with preexisting conditions are not guaranteed by Trump's recent executive order, even though the president has said that's "affirmed, signed, and done, so we can put that to rest."

If the Supreme Court overturns Obamacare as unconstitutional, Congress and the president would have to enact legislation to replace the health law's guarantee that people with medical problems can't be denied coverage or charged more on account of a health condition.

Variou Republican proposals debated in 2017 as replacements for Obamacare would have weakened the law's standard. For example, one idea would have required people to maintain continuous coverage

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in order to avoid a surcharge on their premiums for an individual policy.

Trump's order states that his administration is committed to ensuring affordable care to people with preexisting illness — but it does not bring that protection into effect. The order carried the general disclaimer that it is "not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural." In other words, it is symbolic.

PROTESTS

BIDEN: "His own former spokesperson said, you know, riots and chaos and violence help his cause. That's what this is about."

TRUMP: "I don't know who said that."

BIDEN: "I do."

TRUMP: "Who?"

BIDEN: "Kellyanne Conway"

TRUMP: "I don't think she said that."

FACT CHECK: She said that.

"The more chaos and anarchy and vandalism and violence reigns, the better it is for the very clear choice on who's best on public safety and law and order," the Trump adviser told "Fox and Friends" on Aug. 27.

TRUMP: "Portland — the sheriff just came out today and he said, 'I support President Trump.'"

THE FACTS: No he didn't. Sheriff Mike Reese of Multnomah County, Oregon, where Portland is located, said "I have never supported Donald Trump and will never support him." Portland has been a flashpoint in the debate over racial injustice protests.

BIDEN: "There was a peaceful protest in front of the White House. What did he do? He came out of his bunker, had the military use tear gas on them."

THE FACTS: Not exactly. It was law enforcement, not the military, that used chemical irritants to force peaceful protesters from Lafayette Square outside the White House on June 1.

And there is no evidence Trump was inside a bunker at the time. It was days earlier when Secret Service agents rushed Trump to a White House bunker as hundreds of protesters gathered outside the executive mansion, some throwing rocks and tugging at police barricades.

VOTING

TRUMP: "A solicited ballot, OK, solicited, is OK. You're soliciting. You're asking. They send it back. You send it back. I did that. If you have an unsolicited, they're sending millions of ballots all over the country. There's fraud."

THE FACTS: He's vastly overstating the potential for fraud in "unsolicited" ballot states.

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

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

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

Trump frequently blasts "unsolicited" ballots as flawed and fraudulent while insisting that "solicited" mail ballots in certain states such as Florida, a must-win state for him, are fine and safe.

But "unsolicited" ballots are cast in the same way as "absentee" or "solicited" mail ballots, with the same level of scrutiny such as signature verification in many states.

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Of the nine states automatically sending out ballots to registered voters, only Nevada is a battleground. The main states being contested — Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — only send mail ballots to voters who request them, which Trump has deemed “OK.”

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

TRUMP: “Well, we’re going to deliver it right away. We have the military all set up. Logistically, they’re all set up. We have our military that delivers soldiers and they can do 200,000 a day. They’re going to be delivering ... it’s all set up.”

THE FACTS: This is not true.

The Pentagon says in a statement that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is responsible for executing the plan to distribute vaccines to the public when the time comes. The Defense Department is helping in the planning but, with perhaps some exceptions in remote areas, is not going to be delivering, as Trump claimed.

“Our best military assessment is that there is sufficient U.S. commercial transportation capacity to fully support vaccine distribution,” the department’s statement says. “There should be no need for a large commitment of DOD units or personnel to support the nationwide distribution of vaccines. Any DOD required support would be by exception.”

VIRUS DEATH TOLL

TRUMP, addressing Biden on U.S. deaths from COVID-19: “If you were here, it wouldn’t be (200,000 people), it would be 2 million people because you were very late on the draw. You didn’t want me to ban China, which was heavily infected.... If we would have listened to you, the country would have been left wide open.”

THE FACTS: The audacious claim that Biden as president would have seen 2 million deaths rests on a false accusation. Biden never came out against Trump’s decision to restrict travel from China. Biden was slow in staking a position on the matter but when he did, he supported the move. Biden never counseled leaving the country “wide open” in the face of the pandemic.

Trump repeatedly, and falsely, claims to have banned travel from China. He restricted it.

More than 27,000 Americans returned from mainland China in the first month after the restrictions took effect. As well, The Associated Press found that more than 8,000 Chinese and foreign nationals based in the Chinese territories of Hong Kong and Macao entered the U.S. in the first three months.

DRUG PRICES

TRUMP: “Drug prices will be coming down 80 or 90%.”

THE FACTS: That’s a big stretch, at best. No plan on the horizon would lower drug prices as dramatically as Trump claims.

Trump has been unable to get legislation to lower drug prices through Congress. Major regulatory actions from his administration are still in the works, and are likely to be challenged in court.

Prescription drug price inflation has been low and slow during the Trump years, but it hasn’t made a U-turn and sped off in the other direction. Prices have seesawed from year to year.

Looking back at the totality of Trump’s term, from January 2017 to the latest data from August 2020, drug prices went up 3.6%, according to an analysis by economist Paul Hughes-Cromwick of Altarum, a nonprofit research and consulting organization.

PANDEMIC

TRUMP, on coronavirus and his campaign rallies: “So far we have had no problem whatsoever. It’s outside, that’s a big difference according to the experts..”

THE FACTS: That’s not correct. Trump held an indoor rally in Tulsa in late June, drawing both thousands of participants and large protests. New coronavirus cases in the county more than doubled to a record

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high in the first week of July and local health officials said the rally probably contributed to that. Now Trump has COVID-19. Where and how he got it are unknown.

TRUMP, addressing Biden: "You didn't do very well in swine flu. H1N1. You were a disaster."

THE FACTS: First, Biden as vice president wasn't running the federal response to the 2009 pandemic. As well, the government's flu surveillance network quickly picked up on the first few cases. A public health emergency was declared about two weeks later and the national stockpile began releasing anti-flu drugs to help hospitals get ready.

It took the Trump administration seven weeks to declare a state of emergency after the first COVID-19 case was announced.

More than 200,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S. About 12,500 people in the U.S. died from the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic, the government says.

ECONOMY

BIDEN on Trump: "He has, in fact, worked on this in a way that he's going to be the first president of the United States to leave office having fewer jobs in his administration than when he became president. Fewer jobs than when he became president. First one in American history."

THE FACTS: No, if Trump loses reelection and employment trends stay on track in the next few months, he would be the first since Depression-era Herbert Hoover to have lost jobs during his presidency. Franklin Roosevelt defeated Hoover in 1932.

VETERANS

TRUMP, comparing his record on fixing the Department of Veterans Affairs to when Biden was vice president: "A fixing of the VA, which was a mess under him, 308,000 people died because they didn't have proper health care. He was a mess."

THE FACTS: Trump's claim of 308,000 deaths of veterans while they were seeking VA care under Biden's watch is unsupported.

The IG report examined claims of delayed care after the 2014 VA scandal in which several VA hospitals were found to have covered up extended waiting times for veterans seeking appointments.

The audit found that over 300,000 veterans with pending applications for VA health care were likely deceased, but it made clear that "data limitations" prevented investigators from determining how many now-deceased veterans applied for health care benefits or when. The applications go back nearly two decades, and officials said numerous applicants actually died before the start of the Obama administration in 2009 — not when Biden was vice president.

For instance, a veteran who died in 1988 was listed as awaiting approval to enroll in VA health care until January 2015. One non-veteran who received emergency care at a VA hospital in 2000 was listed as awaiting approval to enroll in VA health care for over a decade, even though the patient was never eligible to enroll. And yet another veteran who appeared to have died waiting for care was shown applying for VA enrollment in 2009, and failing to receive any help. However, the patient died in 1993.

Associated Press writers Robert Burns, Matthew Daly, Michelle R. Smith, Josh Boak, Colleen Long, Ellen Knickmeyer, Mark Sherman, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Bill Barrow, David Klepper, Amanda Seitz, Michael Balsamo and Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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

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Amid pandemic challenges, houses of worship show resiliency

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

The coronavirus pandemic has posed daunting challenges for houses of worship across the U.S., often entailing large financial losses and suspension of in-person services. It also has sparked moments of gratitude, wonder and inspiration.

In the Chicago suburb of Cary, Lutheran pastor Sarah Wilson recorded a sermon aboard a small plane piloted by a congregation member. The video that went online showed a high-up view of idyllic landscapes.

"It was very spiritual," Wilson said.

In New York, Episcopal priest Steven Paulikas heard from someone in France who watched a service via Facebook. "I loved your sermon," was the message.

"It's a new experience for me," said Paulikas, of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. "People I've never met before, from different states and countries, are joining us online."

Such positive experiences are not uncommon. Clerics nationwide say they and their congregations responded to the pandemic and resulting lockdowns with creativity, resiliency and invigorated community spirit.

Financially, there's no simple summary of how houses of worship have fared through six months of pandemic. Revenue at Wilson's church, St. Barnabas, has been stable even as it resorted to drive-in parking lot services. Paulikas says giving is up 19% at All Saints'.

But in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, offerings fell more than 75% early in the pandemic and remain down 25%, according to chief operating officer Betsy Bohlen, resulting in layoffs, furloughs and some asset sales.

Social service outreach remains vigorous, however. Bohlen said \$25 million has been raised for a COVID-19 emergency fund.

The archdiocese, with over 2 million parishioners, has resumed in-person services with attendance limited to 20% capacity.

There are similar challenges in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., where in-person attendance is roughly a quarter of pre-pandemic levels and offertory revenue is down about 10% after plunging 30% early in the outbreak.

Its vicar general, the Rev. Daniel Carson, said there have been personnel cuts and departments been asked to trim budgets by 10%.

Live-streaming services has been successful, even attracting some non-Catholics, Carson said, but he hopes parishioners still yearn for in-person worship and Holy Communion.

At Friendship Baptist Church, a mostly African American congregation in Baltimore, pastor Alvin Gwynn Sr. has held in-person services throughout the pandemic, but attendance hasn't risen much above 80 people — a small fraction of normal. Giving by congregation members is about 60% of normal, enough to keep food-pantry programs running.

Ryan Radke, digital outreach coordinator for the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod, said the financial picture has been mixed for the district's 215 congregations from Pennsylvania to South Carolina.

Some churches are closing, but those were already threatened before the coronavirus, Radke said. Others are sharing resources as COVID-19 strains their ministries.

Some smaller churches have attracted large, far-flung online audiences — one drew over 1,000 to a recent virtual service, Radke said.

A United Methodist church in College Station, Texas, home to Texas A&M University, launched online services for students after they left campus. Soon relatives of students were tuning in from as far away as Utah and Michigan, regional Bishop Scott Jones said, with some even joining the church.

Similarly, online services by Valley Beth Shalom, a synagogue in Encino, California, have attracted new members from Israel, England and Brazil.

"We can't gather the same way anymore, not in homes, not in schools and especially not in temples,"

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Rabbi Noah Farkas said via email. "Our community is gathering, just in very different ways. We are evolving rapidly from the past into the future."

The Southern Baptist Convention is the nation's largest Protestant denomination with roughly 47,000 churches. Executive committee president Ronnie Floyd said offerings fell more than 20% at some churches early on, but finances are now stabilizing.

In September the committee reported that annual payments from SBC churches to fund missions, seminaries and administration were down less than 3% from last year, less than some leaders had feared,

Though there are no overall attendance figures, some SBC churches have fared well, such as Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Owensboro, Kentucky. Its Sunday attendance rose from about 320 in June to over 470 in September.

New pastor Jonathan Bonar took charge in July and rankled some worshippers by asking everyone to wear masks at services. He defused the friction by organizing a best-mask competition for congregants.

In the United Methodist Church's Mountain Sky region, covering Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana, many pastors serve towns without reliable internet service, according to Bishop Karen Oliveto. One in Columbia Falls, Montana, kept in touch with older congregants by sending them handwritten notes.

"This is the church's moment," Oliveto said. "It's pushed the church to leave the building — they're coming alive in their communities."

What lies ahead?

Scott Jones, UMC bishop for 58 counties in eastern Texas, said one short-term challenge is avoiding singing as in-person services resume.

"Methodists love to sing hymns, but we're being taught that it's one of the most dangerous ways to spread the virus," he said. "That's a real loss."

Longer-term, Jones sees a possibility of profound changes in how pastors approach their ministries and wonders how the now-large online cohort will respond when in-church worship is fully restored.

"People have gotten used to watching services from their home in their pajamas with a cup of coffee," he said. "Some are asking, 'Why do I need to go back to church?' But there also are a lot of people eager to see their Christian friends and be in a holy place again."

The Rev. Walter Kim, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, is raising similar questions, such as whether people who converted to a faith after tuning in to online services will stick by their decisions.

Citing a recent survey, Kim said some evangelical online worshippers are sticking firmly with their pre-pandemic churches, others are "church shopping" after seeing alternatives and still others have stopped participating altogether.

Collectively, pastors characterized the pandemic as both a source of anguish and a motive for hopefulness.

"This pandemic isn't going away anytime soon," pastor Wilson said in her mid-flight sermon. "This is life here and now, a gift from God."

Associated Press writer Gary Fields contributed.

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An abundance of risk, not caution, before Trump's diagnosis

By CALVIN WOODWARD and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Standing well apart on the debate stage, President Donald Trump and his Democratic opponent Joe Biden looked out at an odd sight — one section of the room dutifully in masks, the other section flagrantly without.

The mostly bare-faced contingent was made up of Trump's VIP guests, who had flouted the rules by removing their masks once inside the hall despite the best efforts of the debate's health advisers from

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the Cleveland Clinic to keep everyone safe. It was a conspicuous act of rebellion, reflecting divisions writ large across the country.

But what Trump calls the "invisible enemy" was spreading — before the debate, during it, after it, or some combination — and now it has spread to him.

No one knows how, when or from whom Trump became infected. Nor is it established who, if anyone, has contracted the disease from him. But to retrace some of his steps over the last week is to see risk at multiple turns and an abundance of opportunity for infection.

This was the case day after day and right up until a few hours before his positive diagnosis, as he took a contingent to New Jersey for a fundraiser with the White House knowing he'd been close to someone sick with COVID-19.

The result is that one of the most protected people on the planet has caught a disease that has killed more than 1 million people worldwide, more than 200,000 of them in the United States.

A look at the days leading up to it:

TUESDAY

After a spirited send-off from the White House grounds, Trump and members of his team headed to Cleveland and the raucous debate. Adviser Hope Hicks was among them.

Everyone admitted to the hall had been tested in advance by his or her own team and come up negative, the Cleveland Clinic said in a statement. "We had requirements to maintain a safe environment that align with CDC guidelines — including social distancing, hand sanitizing, temperature checks and masking."

Such steps do not rule out the possibility that someone could have had a coronavirus infection that was not yet detectable by tests. The virus can incubate for days before a test will uncover it.

And Trump's adult children and senior staff stripped off their masks for the duration of the debate, violating the rules.

Moderator Chris Wallace, seated on stage, noted that when Biden's VIP guests, including his wife, Jill, walked in, they were wearing masks and kept them on throughout the debate.

"I don't wear a mask like him," Trump said of Biden mockingly in the debate. "Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away from him and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen."

Said Biden: "He's been totally irresponsible the way in which he has handled the social distancing and people wearing masks, basically encouraged them not to. He's a fool on this."

Trump and his team returned late to Washington, with much more on tap for the week and the election now just a month away.

WEDNESDAY

People around Trump are tested daily for the coronavirus and Hicks had her test in the morning, along with the others to be traveling with him for the day. Her results were negative. She joined others aboard Marine One for the 15-minute or so flight to Air Force One waiting for them at Joint Base Andrews.

Marine One is a single-cabin chopper, normally seating 10, a noisy aircraft with no partitions except between the president and the cockpit. Once at Andrews, it was on to Minnesota for a fund-raiser followed by an outdoor rally in Duluth.

On the ground in Minnesota, Hicks reported feeling unwell.

It was blustery and cold in Duluth with a bit of a mist. As usual, few in the crowd wore masks. They heard Trump make his dubious promise of a vaccine by the end of the year and congratulate himself for doing a great job. "On November 3rd, Minnesota will decide whether we end this pandemic, defeat the virus, and return to record prosperity," he said. "Either way, we're returning. Either way."

Trump's speech was notably shorter than usual, 45 minutes instead of the usual one to two hours.

After his remarks, he mingled on stage briefly, pumping his fist to the beat of the Village People and waving to folks in the crowd. He did not speak to reporters before boarding Air Force One nor come back to speak with them on the flight.

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Hicks kept apart from others on the big plane coming back and did not take the crowded Marine One back to the White House once at Andrews. Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, attended the debate and has tested positive for COVID-19.

THURSDAY

On Thursday morning, Hicks got another test. This time it was positive.

The results came not long before the president was set to lift off in Marine One for a fundraiser at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey.

Hicks' diagnosis affirmed that Trump had been in close proximity to someone infected with the virus. That's when you should quarantine, according to public-health guidelines. But Trump went ahead with the trip. Not only that, but others who had also been around Hicks were not immediately told about her positive test.

The White House worked furiously to swap out staff who had been in close contact with Hicks and replace them with others. Spokesman Judd Deere was swapped in at the last minute, without being told why. White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany did not make the trip. White House officials said they began learning of Hicks' positive test after Trump boarded Marine One to start his journey to New Jersey.

Comedian Joe Piscopo attended the outdoor Bedminster fundraiser and told The Associated Press by phone that "it was meticulously run, from the Secret Service to COVID testing to masking."

"I've never seen him more on top of his game — warm, funny, vulnerable," Piscopo said. "Like we say in New Jersey, he's an animal. He's going to be fine, and I mean that in a good way."

This chain of events does not establish how or where Trump got the virus. Given the highly variable period between infection and sickness — anywhere from a few days to two weeks — he could have contracted it on any number of occasions from a variety of people.

Attention is increasingly focused on the week-old Rose Garden event where Trump announced Amy Coney Barrett as his Supreme Court choice, a gathering where four attendees — Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Thom Tillis of North Carolina, former Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway and University of Notre Dame President John I. Jenkins — were later diagnosed with the disease.

Or it could have been his rally in Pennsylvania that night, his event with a few lawmakers and Lordstown, Ohio, truck executives Monday — or his routine interactions anytime in the incubation period.

Many hours later, Trump confirmed Hicks had tested positive and told Fox News he and his wife had been tested and were prepared to quarantine if necessary.

FRIDAY

At 12:54 a.m., Trump tweeted: "Tonight, @FLOTUS and I tested positive for COVID-19. We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately. We will get through this TOGETHER!" Flotus refers to Melania Trump, the first lady, who also has COVID-19.

Well wishes came in from around the world and from across the political divide, some of them with an I-told-you-so undertone.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi pronounced the news "tragic, it's very sad," but also unsurprising given actions by Trump that were "sort of a brazen invitation for this to happen." Biden kept to a simple statement saying "We will continue to pray for the health and safety of the president and his family."

Despite the abject failure to keep the president protected from the virus, White House officials defended their current protocols as well thought out. And masks still won't be required on the White House grounds for all West Wing employees. "Wearing a mask," said one official, "is a personal choice."

Associated Press writers Thalia Beaty in New York and Zeke Miller and Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report.

India, South Africa ask WTO to ease IP rules for COVID-19

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By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL and CARA ANNA Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — South Africa and India have asked the World Trade Organization to waive some provisions in the international agreements that regulate intellectual property rights, to speed up efforts to prevent, treat and contain the COVID-19 pandemic and make sure developing countries are not left behind.

The countries argue, in a joint submission to the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights dated Friday, that without a rapid waiver of some existing safeguards for intellectual property rights, some countries — particularly developing ones that have been “disproportionately impacted” — would find it hard to access vaccines or medicines quickly.

Activists have warned that a COVID-19 vaccine could be hoarded by rich countries in a race to inoculate their populations first. Some countries including Britain, France, Germany and the U.S. have ordered hundreds of millions of doses of potential vaccines even before clinical trials have shown they are effective.

Poorer countries, whose economies have been shattered by the pandemic, are not in a position to place such bets. With the world surpassing 1 million confirmed COVID-19 deaths, urgency has grown.

Leena Menghaney, who heads the access campaign in South Asia for international aid group Doctors Without Borders, called it “crucial that other member governments of the WTO support this, as we need to ensure that vaccines, drugs and other medical tools needed for COVID-19 can be scaled up by countries and their manufacturers without facing protracted negotiations for licenses.”

South Africa and India are seeking waivers to rules that relate to copyright, industrial designs, patents and the protection of undisclosed information or trade secrets, and they propose that the waiver be in place “until widespread vaccination is in place globally” and most of the world has developed immunity to the coronavirus.

The countries say there are “significant concerns” about whether new treatments and vaccines being developed for COVID-19 would be made available promptly and affordably to meet the global demand.

The letter says the existing flexibilities written into the rules might not be enough, and could result in legal difficulties for developing nations. Countries with a limited capacity to manufacture pharmaceuticals are particularly vulnerable, and this could make the process of importing and exporting medicines “cumbersome and lengthy,” it says.

“Internationally, there is an urgent call for global solidarity, and the unhindered global sharing of technology and know-how in order that rapid responses for the handling of COVID-19 can be put in place on a real time basis,” the letter says. It asks that the council urgently approach the WTO’s high-level decision-making body, the General Council.

India’s government and a spokeswoman for South Africa’s health ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. South Africa has been outspoken in the past about access to treatments, notably affordable drugs for HIV.

Africa’s 54 countries have teamed up during the COVID-19 pandemic to pursue equitable access to any effective vaccine. An African Union communique in June said governments around the world should “remove all obstacles” to any vaccine’s swift and equitable distribution, including by making all intellectual property and technologies immediately available.

The communique specifically mentioned the Doha Declaration on public health by WTO members in 2001, which refers to the right to grant compulsory licenses — where a government can license the use of a patented invention without the consent of the patent-holder.

The African communique, read out after a continental conference on the quest for COVID-19 vaccines, states an urgent need for countries to “make full use of legal measures ... to ensure monopolies do not stand in the way of access.” It points out the “barriers” intellectual property rules have posed in the past to affordable vaccines in developing countries.

Drug companies have said they need to protect their intellectual property to fund their expensive research. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization has supported a COVID-19 technology access pool where IP and data can be shared voluntarily.

Anna reported from Johannesburg.

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Bosnia: Unnerved by virus denial, survivors mourn their dead

By SABINA NIKSIC Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Denis Zekic was on his daily video call with his parents in Bosnia in early August when his father said he might be coming down with a fever. Less than a month later, both of Zekic's parents were dead, joining the people who would be counted as the coronavirus pandemic's global toll climbed toward 1 million.

Zekic says his mother, Sefketa, and father, Muharem, both were comparatively healthy before they died at age 68. They were rule followers who practiced social distancing in the city of Zenica. Before his father was hospitalized, his mother wore gloves and a face mask while caring for him, but she ended up as a COVID-19 patient in the same intensive care wing, Zekic said.

"I saw her walk into the hospital on her own feet. From a distance. With protective masks covering our faces," he said. "Honestly, I believed that she would pull through."

Yet Zekic and his sister soon discovered that some neighbors and acquaintances had little sympathy for their sudden double loss, but plenty of opinions and, at times, cruel disdain. One time, a random man taunted the siblings in a store, alleging that authorities had paid them to say the coronavirus killed their parents.

"How to respond to that?" Zekic said.

Bosnia's coronavirus rebels have grown increasingly vocal, and hostile, in recent months as the number of confirmed virus cases rose in the small, impoverished Balkan nation of 3.5 million. Social media and the comment sections of news websites have become platforms for vicious arguments that occasionally have spilled over into invasive confrontations.

Several recent studies of coronavirus-related media content in Bosnia conducted by the independent organization Mediacentar Sarajevo concluded that pandemic-related comments on news sites are dominated by "offensive and disparaging" remarks.

"We are now paying the price for years of neglect of our education system, our political system, for our media illiteracy," said Elvira Jukic Mujkic, editor-in-chief of its online magazine, Media.ba.

A conference in Bosnia sponsored by the European Union this week brought together fact-checkers, science journalists and experts from the Balkans and the EU, to discuss disinformation during the pandemic. One of the conclusions from the event stated: "The damage inflicted by fringe 'scientists' is pervasive and grave. The scientific community in the (Balkan) region does not currently feel empowered to respond to this."

While other countries around the world also have outspoken contingents of coronavirus conspiracy theorists, the voices of the virus deniers have the potential to echo farther in Bosnia, which bears economic, political and social scars from the fratricidal ethnic war fought there during 1992-95.

The pandemic has amplified the country's many problems, including an extreme shortage of doctors and nurses, and rampant public corruption. A number of prominent public and government officials are under investigation on suspicion of malfeasance in the procurement of desperately needed medical equipment.

"After years of declining trust in government and public institutions, public response to the perceived incompetence of our authorities in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic was to put in doubt everything they say," psychologist Tanja Tankosic-Girt said.

The allegations further undermine the public trust on which government efforts to curb the spread of the infection in Bosnia depend. The country has a low number of confirmed virus cases compared with countries with a lot more people, but nearly 60% of its nearly 28,000 confirmed cases were reported since the end of July.

More people around the country nevertheless are bending or ignoring social distancing rules, gathering

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in uncomfortably close quarters and ditching face masks. At the same time, public discourse around the coronavirus, like around many other issues in the country, is growing increasingly divisive, Tankosic-Girt said.

"Black-and-white thinking is becoming so prevalent that we are reaching the point of a complete loss of empathy," she said.

The death in early August of 37-year-old philanthropist Belma Soljanin, the director of a maternal and child health organization in the capital, Sarajevo, triggered days of heated online discussions that unraveled quite a few long friendships.

Just hours after news of Soljanin's death broke, people were sifting through her mother's personal Facebook account and sharing a post in which she alleged her daughter, who had been hospitalized in a COVID-19 isolation ward while in late pregnancy, died because of doctors' negligence.

The post became fodder for virus deniers, who quickly took over the conversation.

"Coronavirus is a hoax. Even her mother says she wasn't infected, but you just go on wearing your face masks and believing the lies they serve you," one person wrote. "While you hide from the inexistent virus, they are ripping you off, remove face masks and be free."

The head of the Institute of Emergency Medical Care in Sarajevo, Dr. Adem Zalihic, said he is certain that "virus deniers are contributing to the spread of the infection and the number of deaths" by convincing people they should not wear face masks and maintain social distance.

"The virus is among us. It infects and kills people, I do not understand how they can deny it despite all the evidence. How can they sleep at night?" Zalihic said.

Pulmonologist Besim Prnjavorac, the director of the COVID-19 hospital in the central city of Tesanj, said people tend to dismiss COVID-19 as "something that happens to others" or is "nonexistent" until it is too late.

"It is only when their loved ones get sick or even die that they realize the coronavirus is real and very, very dangerous," Prnjavorac said.

Emira Telic, 38, who is currently recovering from a severe case of COVID-19 in the Tesanj hospital, has all the proof she needs to refute the deniers: the breaths she struggles to take.

"I was the first to think COVID (-19) was a lie, but look at me now," Telic said. "Now, I am sure that it is not a lie."

Video Journalist Almir Alic contributed from Zenica, Bosnia.

Nobel Prizes and COVID-19: Slow, basic science may pay off

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

While the world wants flashy quick fixes for everything, especially massive threats like the coronavirus and global warming, next week's Nobel Prizes remind us that in science, slow and steady pays off.

It may soon do so again.

Science builds upon previous work, with thinkers "standing on the shoulders of giants," as Isaac Newton put it, and it starts with basic research aimed at understanding a problem before fixing it. It's that type of basic science that the Nobels usually reward, often years or decades after a discovery, because it can take that long to realize the implications.

Slow and steady success in science has made researchers hopeful in the fight against the pandemic. It even offers a glimmer of climate optimism.

Many years of advances in basic molecular science, some of them already Nobel Prize-winning, have given the world tools for fast virus identification and speeded up the development of testing. And now they tantalize us with the prospect of COVID-19 treatments and ultimately a vaccine, perhaps within a few months.

"This could be science's finest hour. This could be the time when we deliver, not just for the nation but for the world, the miracle that will save us," said geophysicist Marcia McNutt, president of the National Academy of Sciences.

The coronavirus was sequenced in a matter of weeks, testing became available quickly, and vaccines

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that would normally take years may be developed in a year or less, and "it's all been built on the back of basic science advances that have been developed in the past three decades," McNutt said.

She pointed to gene sequencing and polymerase chain reaction, which allows for multiple copying of precise DNA segments. That latter discovery won the 1993 Nobel in chemistry.

And even further back, in 1984, the Nobel in medicine went to a team for theories on how to manipulate the immune system using something called monoclonal antibodies. Now those antibodies are one of the best hopes for a treatment for the coronavirus.

"Despite the politics, despite whatever other things are slowing us down, Nobel Prize-winning discoveries from 20 years ago are going to be key to treating and preventing COVID next year," said Sudip Parikh, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "That was made possible by basic research."

Basic research comes first. The benefits are typically reaped only later, in what is called applied science. "Without basic science, you won't have cutting-edge applied science," said Frances Arnold, a Caltech chemical engineer who won the 2018 Nobel in chemistry.

Nobel-winning basic research has allowed us to see the world in a whole new light.

Do you like white, efficient LED light to replace the nasty fluorescent hum of industrial lighting or energy-gobbling incandescent bulbs? A key part of those lights are blue light-emitting diodes, and their discovery won the 2014 Nobel in physics, said astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, head of the Hayden Planetarium.

How about seeing better, without glasses, thanks to LASIK surgery? That stemmed from research into precise lasers that led to the 2018 Nobel for physics, but was also the product of an accident in which a researcher got lasered in the eye, said microbiologist Rita Colwell, former head of the U.S. National Science Foundation.

And those lasers used concepts that date back to Albert Einstein, said British Royal Astronomer Martin Rees.

John Mather, who won the 2006 physics Nobel for cosmology, which is the study of the origin of the universe and is thus the ultimate basic science, said nearly everything we use around us is there because of basic science.

"Engineers and entrepreneurs use this knowledge to build commercial empires," he said. "Doctors use what we find to develop new cures. Architects build houses with modern materials. Airplanes are designed at the very edge of what is possible. Even cars are completely dependent on basic science."

But some people don't make that connection. Adam Riess, who won the 2011 Nobel in physics, and Tyson said this is especially noticeable when people who deny climate science or vaccine effectiveness do so while reaching fellow nonbelievers on smartphones and Google searches made possible because of basic science research.

"Maybe, maybe science needs a PR agent, OK?" Tyson said in an interview. "Maybe with a new discovery in science in a way that affects your life outcomes, the TV commercials say, 'Did you know this? This thing that you're using was invented here in this lab by this person. And it was brought to market by this company. And now you're using it and enjoying it.' Stop in silence. 'You're welcome.'"

As for fixing climate change, Mexican chemist Mario Molina has hope that the world will be able to solve the problem because of the work that led to his 1995 Nobel Prize.

He and others discovered that industrial chemicals known as chlorofluorocarbons were reaching high into the atmosphere and eating away at Earth's protective ozone layer. He discovered this many years before an ozone hole developed over Antarctica.

His work and the opening of the hole led to a 1987 international agreement to ban those ozone-depleting chemicals, and the hole has started shrinking. Now Molina hopes that kind of action can be applied to what he calls "the climate emergency."

"That's why I'm optimistic. Because we do have one example of a global problem where practically all the countries of the planet agreed to work together. The ozone layer is healing. It takes quite awhile," Molina said. "But it's working, slowly. So it can be done."

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Better weather won't keep California from grim fire landmark

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Firefighters may get a reprieve from the weather Saturday as red flag warnings of extreme fire danger expire. But the state is still poised to reach a grim milestone: 4 million acres burned this year by wildfires.

The state is only about 20,000 acres from reaching the unprecedented figure, fire officials said. Meanwhile, two major fires that have killed four people and incinerated hundreds of homes in the wine country and the far north continued to burn.

Powerful winds that had been expected to drive flames since Wednesday hadn't materialized, and red flag warnings of extreme fire danger for hot, dry and gusty weather were due to expire at 6 a.m.

The weekend was expected to usher in some cooling — or less intense heat — and long-range forecast models hinted at the possibility of rain early next week.

But with California a tinderbox of dead trees and dried brush after weeks of scorching weather and years of drought, fires could explode in rural areas, grasslands and dense forest even without the push of winds.

"It just leaves us kind of nervous that we're not out of the woods yet when it comes to what might happen in California," said Jonathan Cox, a deputy chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

The easing winds proved a mixed blessing at the Glass Fire in Sonoma and Napa counties. Although the fire raged on, crews got a break as they struggled to keep flames from jumping containment lines and renewing their march toward scenic communities.

"The good news is that with the lack of wind, we didn't have continued control issues," said Ben Nicholls, a Cal Fire division chief.

"However," he added, "due to that lack of wind, the smoke has stayed in place" and hindered aircraft from attacking the blaze.

Evacuation orders for many of the 5,000 residents of Calistoga were reduced Friday to warnings, although trees and some homes on the town borders were burning.

Juan Perez, 27, of Calistoga, had defied the original evacuation order. But he decided to leave on Friday after his 9-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter told him they were afraid.

"It's been pretty bad, the ash and the smoke," Perez told the San Francisco Chronicle. "Plus I'm running out of water and food."

The fire, which had destroyed about 600 homes and other buildings, still threatened around 29,000 homes. It was growing by making "short, intense runs up slopes and drainages," and throwing out embers that create spot fires, Cal Fire said in an update.

The fire had burned 95.5 square miles (247 square kilometers) and was only 8% contained.

In Shasta County in the north end of the state, the Zogg Fire that began Sunday has killed four people and destroyed 170 homes and other buildings. It was 56% contained.

Altogether, wildfires have killed 31 people in California this year. Many of the largest fires were started by lightning strikes in mid-August and most of the destroyed acreage has come since then.

Some 17,000 firefighters are still battling nearly two dozen major blazes.

Numerous studies 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.

What is contact tracing, and how does it work with COVID-19?

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By The Associated Press undefined

What is contact tracing, and how does it work with COVID-19?

The goal of contact tracing is to alert people who may have been exposed to someone with the coronavirus, and prevent them from spreading it to others. Health experts say contact tracing is key to containing the virus and allowing places to reopen more safely.

But the process isn't easy.

After a person tests positive for the virus, a contact tracer would get in touch with the person and attempt to determine where they have been and who they were around.

The focus is on close contacts, or people who were within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 10 minutes or so. Those people would then be asked to self-isolate, monitor themselves for symptoms and get tested if needed.

For those showing symptoms, the tracing process would start all over again.

Contact tracing is done in a variety of ways around the world. But a common issue is that determining who a person has been around can get harder as gatherings with friends and family resume, and as bars, restaurants and other places start reopening.

Health officials could also become overwhelmed with cases. In the U.S. for example, local health departments may rely on automated texts to alert people who may have been exposed to an infected person. Health officials prefer to call people if possible because it can help build trust. But some people never return calls or texts.

There's also pressure to act quickly. Ideally, most of a person's contacts would be alerted within a day.

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

Read previous Viral Questions:

How long could I be contagious before a positive virus test?

Can the coronavirus travel more than 6 feet in the air?

Does a face mask protect me, or just the people around me?

Halfway home: Lakers top Heat 124-114 for 2-0 Finals lead

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Anthony Davis got most of his points with a feathery shooting touch. LeBron James flexed his muscle to bulldoze his way to damage. And whenever the lead looked even the tiniest bit threatened, the Los Angeles Lakers had an answer.

The NBA Finals are halfway to a coronation.

James finished with 33 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, Davis made 14 of his first 15 shots on the way to 32 points, and the Lakers took a 2-0 lead in the title series by beating the short-handed Miami Heat 124-114 on Friday night. The Lakers shot 51%, making 16 consecutive shots from 2-point range in a stretch that started late in the first quarter and ended late in the third.

James and Davis were the first Lakers duo to score at least 32 points in a finals game since Game 3 against New Jersey in 2002, when Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant did it.

"It's very humbling that we can be even mentioned with those greats," James said.

Shaq and Kobe got rings that year.

James and Davis are two wins away.

"Those guys are playing at an extremely high level, and hopefully we can get two more wins," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said.

Jimmy Butler finished with 25 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds for Miami, which played without injured starters Bam Adebayo (neck and left shoulder) and Goran Dragic (torn left plantar fascia). The Heat scored 39 points in the third quarter and that was only good enough to cut a 14-point halftime deficit to a 10-point hole going into the fourth, mainly because they just couldn't get enough stops.

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"Look, I love these guys. I love the way we compete," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We have to figure out how to overcome this and get over the top.

Game 3 is Sunday night. It's unclear if Dragic, Adebayo or both could return; each lobbied to play Friday night, before the Heat had to make the call to keep them sidelined.

It's also unclear how much it will matter.

This is the 24th time that James has had a 2-0 series lead; his teams in Cleveland, Miami and L.A. are 23-0 in the previous instances. And the last time the Lakers' franchise has wasted a 2-0 lead was in the 1969 finals against Boston.

"Until we win four games, we haven't accomplished our goal," Lakers guard Alex Caruso said. "It's been over a year together and we've talked about the same goal from Day One. We're still here chasing that same goal. Until we get four wins, we're staying hungry."

Kelly Olynyk scored 24 points for the Heat, who trailed by as many as 32 in Game 1 and — even without Adebayo and Dragic — were far more competitive in Game 2. Miami got within nine points in the fourth, but never got close enough to truly put a scare into the Lakers.

"Maybe we've just got to play a lot harder, to know that's how we're going to squeak out a win in the end," Butler said. "There really isn't too much to say to our guys. We understand what we have to do."

Tyler Herro had 17, Kendrick Nunn scored 13 and Jae Crowder had 12 for the Heat. Herro and Meyers Leonard took Dragic's and Adebayo's spots in the starting lineup.

"We had it right there on the edge, but we just couldn't push it over," Olynyk said. "We can build on that."

Rajon Rondo had 16 points, while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Kyle Kuzma each had 11 for the Lakers — who improved to 4-0 in these playoffs when wearing the Kobe Bryant-inspired "Black Mamba" uniforms, one of many tributes to the Lakers legend who died Jan. 26 in a helicopter crash.

"This is what it's all about," James said. "We're thinking about the Bryant family ... and hopefully we're making them proud."

TIP-INS

Heat: Miami led for 53 seconds in the first quarter and have led for 10:44 out of 96 minutes played in the series. ... The Heat have rallied from a 2-0 series hole only once in eight previous tries, that one being the 2006 NBA Finals. ... Spoelstra collided with official Eric Lewis while trying to call time with 7:49 left. They both got a laugh out of it.

Lakers: Jeanie Buss, the team's owner and president, was in the bubble for the game. ... Flea, the bassist from the Red Hot Chili Peppers — formed in Los Angeles — performed the national anthem. ... James, in his 10th NBA Finals, has a 2-0 lead in the title series for the first time. ... The Lakers took a franchise-record 47 3s, making 16.

YOUNGEST STARTER

Herro, at 20 years, 256 days, became the youngest player to start an NBA Finals game. He did so eight days younger than Magic Johnson was when he started Game 1 of the title series for the Lakers against the Philadelphia 76ers on May 4, 1980. They're the only 20-year-olds to start; Tony Parker is the third-youngest, at 21 years, 18 days for San Antonio in Game 1 against New Jersey on June 4, 2003.

CLUTCH 3'S

The Lakers had a knack in the second half for making clutch 3's whenever it seemed like Miami was poised to threaten. Rondo made a 3 with 37.2 seconds left in the third to push a nine-point lead back to 12, Kuzma connected 47 seconds into the fourth to make the lead 13 and, with the Heat within nine, Markieff Morris hit with 9:41 left to make it 111-99.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

History on screen: East Germany through its filmmakers' eyes

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — As John F. Kennedy peered over the Berlin Wall into communist East Germany in 1963,

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red curtains blocked the U.S. president's view through the Brandenburg Gate and a banner perched in front of it accused the United States of breaking an international agreement "to prevent the rebirth of German militarism."

A western newsreel documented the crowds cheering Kennedy on the western side as well as the East German stunt, the narrator noting that Kennedy didn't get a good look at the gate, because "the Iron Curtain was supplemented by a giant cloth one, as the Communists made sure he saw their propaganda."

That might have been the final word on the visit, were it not for a new project, 30 years after Germany's reunification, to digitize thousands of East German newsreels. The movies being scanned, transcribed and posted online provide a perspective from inside a country that no longer exists but was a critical part of the Cold War.

The East German Augenzeuge, or Eyewitness, newsreel on the Kennedy visit trumpeted the prank as a triumph, scoffing that the American president got an "unexpected surprise instead of the great view into the East German capital promised by his Secret Service" and allegedly had to cut his visit from "20 minutes to five."

"History and who we are is a narrative, so it's very important to compare the different narratives," said Gunnar Dedio, a film producer and media entrepreneur who last year bought Progress, the company holding the license rights to the East German film collection.

"It's not only the propaganda side of it, but also the whole societal side, where we can understand much better the differences in the Germany of today — why people who were socialized in East or West are still quite different often in their thinking, because their backgrounds, their history, was quite different."

Dedio charges license fees to documentary producers, museums and others wanting to use the films, but they're currently available to view online for free.

The cellar of his Leipzig operation is stacked floor-to-ceiling with canisters of 35mm film reels, each labeled, catalogued and waiting to be scanned, a process that is expected to take another two to three years. In all there are more than 12,000 films, including some 2,000 newsreels — one made every week the German Democratic Republic, or DDR by its German initials, existed.

The online offerings include digitized films from other archives, like western newsreels and a series of home movies featuring Adolf Hitler's girlfriend, and later wife, Eva Braun, enjoying holidays with family, friends, pets and the Nazi dictator himself as German armies marched through Europe.

Though some of the better-known movies have been available on DVD for a long time, having the entire collection available is a goldmine for researchers, said Stefan Wolle, the head of research for Berlin's DDR Museum, who is not affiliated with the project.

"For me, and for us, these films are terribly important and valuable, partially as historical documents, which tell a lot about the time from the perspective of the time — the ideology, the cultural policies. And they're also artistically valuable," he said.

Germany was divided into four occupation zones after World War II, the Soviet-influenced East Germany and West Germany's American, British and French sectors.

In the Soviet sector, authorities in 1946 founded DEFA, a monopoly film production company that used the famous Babelsberg studio outside Berlin and its personnel to start making movies meant to reeducate the German people after years of Nazi rule.

DEFA soon broadened its productions to highlight wider themes of communism, like the emancipation of women and the redistribution of wealth, in feature films, documentaries and newsreels.

In 1950, the year after East Germany was established as a country, the authorities formed another company, Progress, as a state monopoly to distribute DEFA films and to import foreign productions.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, DEFA's studios were sold and its film collection was given to a state-run foundation. Progress went through a couple of hands before being acquired by Dedio's company in 2019.

DEFA teams shot around the world from the Eastern perspective, exploring the inequities of South Africa under apartheid while it was still largely tolerated by Western nations, focusing on the civil rights movement

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and Vietnam War protests in the U.S., and looking at the 1967 six-day war between Israel and its neighbors as an act of "imperialist aggression" by Tel Aviv in collusion with "the U.S.A and other NATO countries."

The films feature leaders like Fidel Castro, Mao Zedong, Kim Il Sung, Indira Gandhi, Yasser Arafat, Ho Chi Minh and Salvador Allende, as well as prominent individuals such as American civil rights activist Angela Davis and actors and entertainers like Marlene Dietrich, Jane Fonda, and Louis Armstrong.

"It's a picture to show that 'Our system is right and that the Western democracies are very far from being good societies, and some of it is, of course, propaganda,'" Dedio said. "But some of it seen with eyes from today is very, very interesting and revealing. It shows what wasn't captured on the western side of the Iron Curtain."

As anti-government sentiment grew in East Germany during the 1980s, directors were emboldened to slip messages about topics that were verboten to talk about overtly past the strict state censors, such as by filming buildings in disrepair in the background of scenes to document the country's crumbling infrastructure.

"Most of the time, they find these very small ways to express what they really think, in metaphors, in symbolic ways, in very intelligent ways, where it was difficult for the censorship to intervene. But for the majority of people, it was clear how it was meant," said Dedio, who was born in the East German city of Rostock in 1969 and grew up watching DEFA films.

A documentary on the underground music scene made just before the fall of the Berlin Wall features a beach concert of the East Berlin punk band Feeling B, several of whose members later found fame as part of the post-reunification band Rammstein.

A group of youths, their pants cuffed and boots laced high as they dance wildly in the sand, wouldn't have looked out of place in a New York. London or Toronto mosh pit in the 1980s, a reminder that beyond the official rhetoric, most residents on the east side of the Iron Curtain were just ordinary people living their lives.

"You see a lot of real life in pictures out of the East which you can't find in the official propaganda," Dedio said.

What we know, and what we don't, about Trump's coronavirus

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

There are many unanswered questions surrounding President Donald Trump's COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment. White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said he only had mild symptoms, and his doctor said Trump was fatigued. But the president was being flown to Walter Reed Medical Center, where he was expected to stay a few days.

Here's what we know and what we don't know:

WHO INFECTED TRUMP?

We don't know, although there's no shortage of possible suspects. Trump, who typically shuns masks, was around hundreds if not thousands of people this week, traveling to a campaign rally, his golf club, the presidential debate, fundraisers and meetings with people involved in his nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

White House counselor Hope Hicks, one of Trump's closest advisers, fell ill with the coronavirus Wednesday while accompanying Trump to a fundraiser in Minnesota, officials say. It's not clear if her case is related to the president's. And Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, who was at the White House last weekend, announced Friday he had tested positive.

The White House Medical Unit is slated to trace the president's contacts.

WHEN DID TRUMP KNOW HE HAD BEEN EXPOSED?

That question is important to answering whether the president continued his campaign events and other activities despite knowing he might be infecting others, and to knowing whether the White House was adequately transparent about Trump's illness.

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White House officials say they learned of Hicks' positive test results for the coronavirus Thursday, after Trump boarded the Marine One helicopter for a private fundraiser in New Jersey. But Trump went ahead with the trip and the fundraiser. He told Fox News that evening he was being tested.

Just before 1 a.m. Friday, he tweeted that he and first lady Melania Trump had tested positive.

WHAT SYMPTOMS DOES HE HAVE?

The White House officially has given few details, except that he had a fever and was fatigued.

HOW IS HE BEING TREATED?

Trump's physician, Dr. Sean Conley, said Friday doctors were providing Trump with an experimental antibody cocktail; vitamin D; famotidine, which is typically used to treat heartburn and acid reflux; the sleep aid melatonin; and an aspirin.

Late Friday, Conley issued an update that said Trump is "doing very well" and is "not requiring any supplemental oxygen," But he said that, "in consultation with specialists we have elected to initiate remdesivir therapy," an antiviral medication.

And while he said initially that Trump planned to stay at the White House, the White House announced late Friday afternoon Trump instead would be working from "presidential offices" at Walter Reed.

AP Explains: Transfer of power under 25th Amendment

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced early Friday on Twitter that he has been diagnosed with the coronavirus, and he will spend several days at Walter Reed Medical Center for treatment and evaluation.

The 25th Amendment provides some answers about how presidential power could be transferred, either temporarily or more permanently. Trump has not invoked the amendment in this case. In fact, the White House said he will continue to work from an office set up for him at the hospital.

Here are some questions and answers about the amendment.

WHY WAS IT PASSED?

The push for an amendment detailing presidential succession plans followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963. President Lyndon B. Johnson in his 1965 State of the Union promised to "propose laws to insure the necessary continuity of leadership should the President become disabled or die." The amendment was passed by Congress that year and ultimately ratified in 1967.

HAS IT BEEN INVOKED TO TRANSFER POWER BEFORE?

Yes, presidents have temporarily relinquished power but not all invoked the 25th Amendment. Previous transfers of power have generally been brief and happened when the president was undergoing a medical procedure.

In 2002, President George W. Bush became the first to use the amendment's Section 3 to temporarily transfer power, to Vice President Dick Cheney while Bush was anesthetized for a colonoscopy. Bush temporarily transferred power in 2007 to undergo another colonoscopy.

WHAT ABOUT RONALD REAGAN?

The 25th Amendment was never invoked after President Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981. Reagan did temporarily transfer power to Vice President George H. W. Bush while undergoing surgery to remove a polyp from his colon in 1985, but he said at the time he wasn't formally invoking the 25th Amendment. While he said he was "mindful" of it, he didn't believe "that the drafters of this Amendment intended its application to situations such as the instant one." Bush was acting president for eight hours according to a book on the amendment by John D. Feerick.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

To temporarily transfer power to the vice president, a president sends a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President pro tempore of the Senate that he is "unable to discharge the powers

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and duties of his office." The vice president then becomes acting president. When the president is ready to resume authority, the president sends another letter. That's spelled out in the amendment's Section 3.

The next section of the amendment, Section 4, lays out what happens if the president becomes unable to discharge his duties but doesn't transfer power. In that case, the vice president and majority of the Cabinet can declare the president unfit. They'd then send a letter to the Speaker and President Pro Tempore saying so. The vice president then becomes acting president.

If the president ultimately becomes ready to resume his duties, the president can send a letter saying so. But if the vice president and majority of the Cabinet disagree they can send a letter to Congress within four days. Congress would then have to vote. The president resumes his duties unless both houses of Congress by a two thirds vote say he's not ready. The section has never been invoked.

Bob Gibson, fierce Hall of Fame ace for Cards, dies at 84

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

Hall of Famer Bob Gibson, the dominating St. Louis Cardinals pitcher who won a record seven consecutive World Series starts and set a modern standard for excellence when he finished the 1968 season with a 1.12 ERA, died Friday. He was 84.

The Cardinals confirmed Gibson's death shortly after a 4-0 playoff loss to San Diego ended their season. He had long been ill with pancreatic cancer in his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska.

Gibson's death came on the 52nd anniversary of perhaps his most overpowering performance, when he struck out a World Series record 17 batters in Game 1 of the 1968 World Series against Detroit.

One of baseball's most uncompromising competitors, the two-time Cy Young Award winner spent his entire 17-year career with St. Louis and was named the World Series MVP in their 1964 and '67 championship seasons. The Cards came up just short in 1968, but Gibson was voted the National League's MVP and shut down opponents so well that baseball changed the rules for fear it would happen again.

Gibson died less than a month after the death of a longtime teammate, Hall of Fame outfielder Lou Brock. Another pitching great from his era, Tom Seaver, died in late August.

"I just heard the news about losing Bob Gibson and it's kind of hard losing a legend. You can lose a game, but when you lose a guy like Bob Gibson, just hard," Cardinals star catcher Yadier Molina said. "Bob was funny, smart, he brought a lot of energy. When he talked, you listened. It was good to have him around every year. We lose a game, we lose a series, but the tough thing is we lost one great man."

At his peak, Gibson may have been the most talented all-around starter in history, a nine-time Gold Glove winner who roamed wide to snatch up grounders despite a fierce, sweeping delivery that drove him to the first base side of the mound; and a strong hitter who twice hit five home runs in a single season and batted .303 in 1970, when he also won his second Cy Young.

Baseball wasn't his only sport, either. He also starred in basketball at Creighton and spent a year with the Harlem Globetrotters before totally turning his attention to the diamond.

Averaging 19 wins a year from 1963-72, he finished 251-174 with a 2.91 ERA, and was only the second pitcher to reach 3,000 strikeouts. He didn't throw as hard as Sandy Koufax, or from as many angles as Juan Marichal, but batters never forgot how he glared at them (or squinted, because he was near-sighted) as if settling an ancient score.

Gibson snubbed opposing players and sometimes teammates who dared speak to him on a day he was pitching, and he didn't even spare his own family.

"I've played a couple of hundred games of tic-tac-toe with my little daughter and she hasn't beaten me yet," he once told The New Yorker's Roger Angell. "I've always had to win. I've got to win."

Equally disciplined and impatient, Gibson worked so quickly that broadcaster Vin Scully joked that he pitched as if his car was double-parked.

Ball in hand, he was no nonsense on the hill. And he had no use for advice, scowling whenever catcher Tim McCarver or anyone else thought of visiting the mound.

"The only thing you know about pitching is you can't hit it," Gibson was known to say.

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His concentration was such that he seemed unaware he was on his way to a World Series single game strikeout record (surpassing Sandy Koufax's 15) in 1968 until McCarver convinced him to look at the scoreboard.

During the regular season, Gibson struck out more than 200 batters nine times and led the National League in shutouts four times, finishing with 56 in his career. In 1968, thirteen of his 22 wins were shutouts, leading McCarver to call Gibson "the luckiest pitcher I ever saw. He always pitches when the other team doesn't score any runs."

He was, somehow, even greater in the postseason, finishing 7-2 with a 1.89 ERA and 92 strikeouts in 81 innings. Despite dominating the Tigers in the 1968 Series opener, that year ended with a Game 7 loss — hurt by a rare misplay from star center fielder Curt Flood — and a rewriting of the rules that he would long resent.

Gibson's 1.12 ERA in the regular season was the third lowest for any starting pitcher since 1900 and by far the best for any starter in the post-dead-ball era, which began in the 1920s.

His 1968 performance, the highlight of the so-called "Year of the Pitcher," left officials worried that fans had bored of so many 1-0 games. They lowered the mound from 15 to 10 inches in 1969 and shrank the strike zone.

"I was pissed," Gibson later remarked, although he remained a top pitcher for several years and in 1971 threw his only no-hitter, against Pittsburgh.

Gibson had a long major league career even though he was a relatively late bloomer and was in his early 30s in 1968. Signed by the Cards as an amateur free agent in 1957, he had early trouble with his control, a problem solved by developing one of baseball's greatest sliders, along with a curve to go with his hard fastball. He knew how to throw strikes and how to aim elsewhere when batters stood too close to the plate.

Hank Aaron once counseled Atlanta Braves teammate Dusty Baker about Gibson.

"Don't dig in against Bob Gibson; he'll knock you down," Aaron said, according to the Boston Globe. "He'd knock down his own grandmother if she dared to challenge him. Don't stare at him, don't smile at him, don't talk to him. He doesn't like it. If you happen to hit a home run, don't run too slow, don't run too fast. If you happen to want to celebrate, get in the tunnel first. And if he hits you, don't charge the mound, because he's a Gold Glove boxer."

Only the second Black (after Don Newcombe) to win the Cy Young Award, he was an inspiration when insisting otherwise. Gibson would describe himself as a "blunt, stubborn Black man" who scorned the idea he was anyone's role model and once posted a sign over his locker reading "I'm not prejudiced. I hate everybody."

But he was proud of the Cards' racial diversity and teamwork, a powerful symbol during the civil rights era, and his role in ensuring that players did not live in segregated housing during the season.

He was close to McCarver, a Tennessean who would credit Gibson with challenging his own prejudices, and the acknowledged leader of a club which featured whites (McCarver, Mike Shannon, Roger Maris), Blacks (Gibson, Brock and Flood) and Hispanics (Orlando Cepeda, Julian Javier).

"Our team, as a whole, had no tolerance for ethnic or racial disrespect," Gibson wrote in "Pitch by Pitch," published in 2015. "We'd talk about it openly and in no uncertain terms. In our clubhouse, nobody got a free pass."

Cardinals pitcher Jack Flaherty, who is Black, grew close to Gibson in recent years. The right-handers would often talk, the 24-year-old Flaherty soaking up advice from the great who wore No. 45.

"That one hurts," said Flaherty, the Cardinals' losing pitcher Friday night. "He's a legend, first and foremost, somebody who I was lucky enough to learn from. You don't get the opportunity to learn from somebody of that caliber and somebody who was that good very often."

"I had been kept up on his health and where he was at. I was really hoping it wasn't going to be today. I was going to wear his jersey today to the field but decided against it," he said.

Born Pack Robert Gibson in Omaha on Nov. 9, 1935, Gibson overcame childhood illness that nearly cost him his life. His father died soon before his birth, and he grew up in poverty. His mother was a laundry

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worker, trying to support Gibson and his six siblings.

"Growing up without a father is a hardship and deprivation that is impossible to measure," Gibson wrote in "From Ghetto to Glory," one of a handful of books he published.

Gibson went to Omaha Tech High School and stayed in town, attending Creighton from 1954-57, and averaging 20.2 points during his college basketball career. The roughly 6-foot, 2-inch Gibson, who seemed so much taller on the mound, spent the 1957-58 season with the Globetrotters before turning his full attention to baseball.

At Omaha in the minor leagues, he was managed by Johnny Keane, who became a mentor and cherished friend, "the closest thing to a saint" he would ever know in baseball.

Gibson was often forced to live in separate hotels from his white teammates and was subjected to vicious taunts from fans, but he would remember Keane as "without prejudice" and as an unshakeable believer in his talent.

His early years with the Cardinals were plagued by tensions with manager Solly Hemus, who openly used racist language and was despised by Gibson and other Cardinals. Hemus was fired in the middle of the 1961 season and replaced, to Gibson's great fortune, by Keane.

The pitcher's career soon took off. He made the first of his eight National League All-Star teams in 1962, and the following year went 18-9 and kept the Cardinals in the pennant race until late in the season.

In 1964, a year he regarded as his favorite, he won three times in the last 11 games as the Cardinals surged past the collapsing Philadelphia Phillies and won the National League title. Gibson lost Game 2 of the World Series against the New York Yankees, but he came back with wins in Games 5 and 7 and was named the MVP.

The series was widely regarded as a turning point in baseball history, with the great Yankee dynasty falling the following year and the Cardinals embodying a more modern and aggressive style of play. Keane stuck with Gibson in Game 7 even after the Yankees' Clete Boyer and Phil Linz homered in the ninth inning and narrowed the Cardinals' lead to 7-5. He would later say of Gibson, who retired Bobby Richardson on a pop fly to end the series, that he had a commitment to "his heart."

Gibson was also close to Keane's successor, Red Schoendienst, who took over in 1965 after Keane left for the Yankees. Gibson enjoyed 20-game seasons in 1965 and 1966 and likely would have done the same a third straight year, but a Roberto Clemente line drive broke his leg in the middle of the season. (Gibson was so determined he still managed to finish the inning).

Gibson returned in September, finished 13-7 during the regular season and led the Cardinals to the 1967 championship, winning three times and hitting a home run off Red Sox ace Jim Lonborg in Game 7 at Boston's Fenway Park. The final out was especially gratifying; he fanned first baseman George Scott, who throughout the series had been taunting Gibson and the Cards.

But 1968 was on a level few had seen before. He began slowly, losing five of his first eight decisions despite an ERA of 1.52, and fumed over the lack of hitting support. ("Starvation fare," Angell would call it).

But from early June to late August, Gibson was unbeatable. He won 15 straight decisions, threw 10 shutouts and at one point allowed just three earned runs during 101 innings. One of those runs scored on a wild pitch, another on a bloop hit.

He was at his best again in the opener of the World Series, giving a performance so singular that his book "Pitch by Pitch" was dedicated entirely to it.

On a muggy afternoon in St. Louis, facing 31-game winner Denny McLain and such power hitters as Al Kaline — who also died this year — Norm Cash and Willie Horton, he allowed just five hits and walked one in a 4-0 victory. Gibson struck out at least one batter every inning and in the ninth fanned Kaline, Cash and Horton to end with 17, the final pitch a slow breaking ball that left Horton frozen in place.

"I was awed," Tigers second baseman Dick McAuliffe later said. "He doesn't remind me of anybody. He's all by himself."

In Game 4, Gibson homered as he led the Cards to a 10-1 romp over McLain and 3-to-1 advantage in the series. But the Tigers won the next two and broke through in the finale against Gibson, who had a one-hitter with two out in the seventh inning, and the score 0-0.

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Gibson allowed two singles before Flood, a Gold Glove center fielder, misplayed Jim Northrup's drive to left center and the ball fell, before the warning track, for a two-run triple. The Cardinals lost 4-1 and Gibson would grimace even decades later when asked about the game.

By the mid-1970s, his knees were aching and he had admittedly lost some of his competitive fury. On the last day of the 1974 season, with a 2-1 lead and a division title possible, he gave up a two-run homer to the Montreal Expos' Mike Jorgensen in the eighth inning and the Cards lost 3-2.

He retired after 1975, humiliated in his final appearance when he gave up a grand slam home run to the Chicago Cubs' Pete LaCock. (When the two faced off a decade later, at an old-timers game, Gibson beamed him).

Gibson was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1981, and the Cards retired his uniform number. He had a far less successful career as a coach, whether for the New York Mets and Braves in the 1980s, or for the Cardinals in 1995.

He was married twice, most recently to Wendy Gibson, and spent much of his retirement at his longtime home in the Omaha suburb of Bellevue. He was active in charitable causes and hosted a popular golf event in Omaha that drew some of the top names in sports.

Gibson worried that young people were forgetting about baseball history, and he spoke with dismay about a Cardinal player who knew nothing about Jackie Robinson. But in 2018, Gibson himself was honored when the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra commissioned a rap song in his honor.

The lyrics inspired by "From Ghetto to Glory" — "He was a game changer The complete gamer Throw a pitch so fast It'll rearrange ya He's no stranger He's Bob Gibson been on a mission He changed the game forever The pitcher was his position."

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Trump's virus hospitalization rocks final stage of campaign

By STEVE PEOPLES and BILL BARROW Associated Press

An election year already defined by a cascade of national crises descended further into chaos, with President Donald Trump quarantined at a military hospital with the coronavirus after consistently playing down the threat.

Democratic challenger Joe Biden took down his attack ads Friday and pressed a bipartisan message in battleground Michigan after he and his wife tested negative.

"This cannot be a partisan moment. It must be an American moment. We have to come together as a nation," Biden declared at a speech in Grand Rapids, warning that the virus "is not going away automatically."

While Biden vowed to continue his cautious approach to campaigning during the pandemic, the president's diagnosis injected even greater uncertainty into an election already plagued by crises that have exploded under Trump's watch: the pandemic, devastating economic fallout and sweeping civil unrest. With millions of Americans already voting, the country on Friday entered uncharted territory that threatened to rattle global markets and political debates around the world.

The development focuses the campaign right where Biden has put his emphasis for months — and where Republicans don't want it: on Trump's uneven response to a pandemic that has killed more than 205,000 people in the U.S. And for the short term, it's grounded Trump under quarantine at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, denying him the large public rallies that fuel his campaign just a month before the election.

Biden and other Democratic officeholders wished Trump well in the wake of his diagnosis, although some could not help but admonish the Republican president, who openly ignored his own administration's social safety recommendations for much of the year.

"Going into crowds unmasked and all the rest was sort of a brazen invitation for this to happen," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on MSNBC.

The White House reported Friday evening that Trump will spend "a few days" at the military hospital;

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the president's doctor reported that Trump was "fatigued" and had been injected with an experimental antibody drug combination still in clinical trials. His campaign announced that all of Trump's scheduled campaign events were being moved online or temporarily postponed. Trump's family, a steady presence on the campaign trail, was also grounded.

Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien and Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel have tested positive for the virus as well. But Vice President Mike Pence, who has tested negative, will attend his campaign events as planned.

Other world leaders, including Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, have contracted the virus and made full recoveries. But strategists in both parties acknowledged the timing is bad.

Millions of Americans have already begun voting in several key states, and tens of millions more will receive absentee mail-in ballots or begin in-person early voting in the coming weeks.

"Trump's main advantages, including incumbency, have been removed. Rallies, his main vehicle for mobilizing his base, will no longer be possible. Fly-bys with Air Force One as a backdrop are gone," said Republican strategist Rick Tyler, a frequent Trump critic.

He said that Trump's infection also "fundamentally undercuts his entire campaign strategy, which was to ignore the pandemic and make unsubstantiated claims that we've turned the corner and are making an economic comeback."

Biden, meanwhile, moved to take down his ads attacking Trump, according to deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield, who noted that the campaign would continue running positive ads. The decision was made before news surfaced that Trump would be moved to a military hospital.

Otherwise, Biden is not expected to alter his approach to the campaign significantly as Trump recovers.

The Democratic nominee has been much more cautious on the campaign trail than Trump. Having spent much of the spring and summer avoiding crowds, Biden has held far fewer public events since returning to the campaign trail last month — all of them with small crowds, if any, following social distancing guidelines. Only on Thursday did Biden's campaign announce that it would resume door-to-door canvassing in addition to its phone and digital outreach to voters.

Biden traveled from Delaware to Michigan on Friday afternoon for a campaign event, while Jill Biden was attending a separate event in New Hampshire. Biden's running mate, Kamala Harris, made her previously scheduled trip to Las Vegas as well.

The campaign confirmed Biden, his wife and Harris all tested negative for the virus.

"This is not a matter of politics. It's a bracing reminder to all of us," Biden said in Grand Rapids, calling for a nationwide mask mandate as he spoke wearing a surgical mask. "We have to take this virus seriously.

Trump now faces tremendous pressure to adjust his rhetoric and campaign tactics after spending much of the year downplaying the severity of the virus and repeatedly declaring COVID-19 would "disappear."

As recently as Tuesday, Trump ridiculed Biden on national television for his cautious approach.

"I put a mask on when I think I need it," Trump said during the debate. "I don't wear masks like him. Every time you see him he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away, and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen."

Two additional debates are scheduled for Oct. 15 and Oct. 22. The Commission on Presidential Debates has not yet commented on any changes in the debate schedule or health protocols, but has confirmed that next week's vice presidential debate is on as scheduled.

Both presidential candidates are in high-risk categories for COVID-19 complications. Trump is 74 years old and clinically obese. Biden is 77 years old.

Should Trump emerge with no visible effects, he could declare a speedy recovery as proof that he's been right about COVID-19 being overblown. But that still would be at odds both with established science and with what Trump himself has said privately. Recordings by journalist Bob Woodward captured Trump in early February detailing the "deadly" consequences of coronavirus, contrary to his public dismissiveness.

"From now until we get to the election, attention is going to be back where it should be: on COVID, the president's response and the impact — and on health care," said Democratic strategist Antjuan Seawright, a Biden supporter. "This proves our candidate was right all along."

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller and Alexandra Jaffe contributed to this report.

Virus spreads on panel handling Supreme Court nomination

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have tested positive for the coronavirus, raising questions about the timing of Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett and whether additional senators may have been exposed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell vowed the confirmation process is going “full steam ahead.”

North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis and Utah Sen. Mike Lee both said Friday that they had tested positive for the virus. Both attended a ceremony for Barrett at the White House on Sept. 25 with President Donald Trump, who announced Friday that he had tested positive and was later hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Lee, who did not wear a mask at the White House event, said he had “symptoms consistent with longtime allergies.” Tillis, who did wear a mask during the public portion of the event, said he has no symptoms. Both said they will quarantine for 10 days — ending just before Barrett’s confirmation hearings begin on Oct. 12.

The positive tests come as Senate Republicans are pushing to quickly confirm Barrett in the few weeks they have before the Nov. 3 election. There is little cushion in the schedule set out by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham and McConnell, who want to put Trump’s third hand-picked justice on the court immediately in case they lose any of their power in the election.

Democrats immediately seized on the announcements to call for a delay in the hearings.

“We now have two members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who have tested positive for COVID, and there may be more,” tweeted Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer. “I wish my colleagues well. It is irresponsible and dangerous to move forward with a hearing, and there is absolutely no good reason to do so.”

Several other members of the Senate Judiciary panel attended the White House ceremony, including Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse, Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn and Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo. Blackburn said she tested negative after the event and Crapo said he “recently” had a negative test but an aide did not specify when he took it.

Sasse tested negative, but will work remotely from his home state and undergo further testing due to his “close interaction with multiple infected individuals,” his office said. He plans to return to Washington Oct. 12 — the date confirmation hearings are scheduled to begin.

A representative for Hawley did not respond to questions about whether he had been tested.

Graham was not at the White House on Saturday but sees Trump frequently; he said Friday that he had taken a test after interacting with Lee and it was negative.

Confirmation hearings for Barrett, who would replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, are scheduled to last for four days. McConnell showed little interest in delaying the hearings at an event in Kentucky on Friday, saying that the Senate had been operating amid coronavirus since May and he expected to proceed normally in the coming weeks before the election. He said he thought remote hearings could work if some senators couldn’t attend.

Graham also suggested the possibility of remote hearings, saying in a Twitter post that “any senator who wants to participate virtually will be allowed to do so.” Senators cannot vote virtually, however, so Republicans would need a full slate of committee members to approve the nomination shortly after the hearings and all of their senators on the floor for a final confirmation vote, which they hope will happen the last week of October.

Tillis is in a competitive re-election race against Democrat Cal Cunningham and the two debated Thursday evening. On Twitter, Cunningham said he wished Tillis a quick recovery and said he would also get tested.

Barrett, who was with Trump and many others on Saturday and met with Lee, Tillis and other members of the Judiciary panel this week, tested negative, the White House said Friday. It was confirmed that she

had a mild case of COVID earlier this year and has now recovered.

Trump, who has consistently downplayed the virus and often discouraged the use of masks, was flown to Walter Reed on Friday evening after experiencing symptoms such as fatigue and fever. The White House said the visit was precautionary and that he would continue to work from the hospital's presidential suite, which is equipped to allow him to keep up his official duties.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly in Washington and Meg Kinnard in Columbia, S.C. contributed to this report.

Biden: Trump diagnosis is 'bracing reminder' of virus stakes

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE, LAURIE KELLMAN and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Democrat Joe Biden offered sympathy to President Donald Trump over his coronavirus diagnosis while casting the moment as a reminder of the worldwide health crisis that has hit the United States particularly hard.

Shortly after the White House announced Trump would spend "a few days" at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the Biden campaign said it would take down its negative advertising. Biden said Friday from the battleground state of Michigan that it cannot be a "partisan moment" and that Americans must "come together as a nation."

Speaking from the parking lot of a union hall while wearing a mask, Biden said Trump's diagnosis is a "bracing reminder to all of us that we have to take this virus seriously."

"It's not going away automatically," Biden added.

One month before Election Day, Biden faces a unique moment in what has already been a chaotic presidential campaign. He must balance his opponent's illness and its destabilizing effect on Washington while making a closing argument that the coronavirus is serious and requires stronger leadership in the White House.

Biden has long offered a contrast to Trump in substance and style when it comes to the coronavirus, which has killed more than 205,000 Americans and more than 1 million people worldwide. He's issued multiple plans for dealing with the public health and economic implications of the pandemic, while Trump has largely left state and local officials to create their own guidelines and frequently contradicts his own public health experts.

Biden has taken a low-key approach to in-person campaigning, largely keeping a thinner schedule of small, socially distanced events and adhering closely to state and local public health recommendations regarding masks. Meanwhile, Trump has proceeded with large in-person rallies where attendees often go maskless, and he regularly mocks Biden's decision to wear a mask in public.

The contrast between the two candidates was made even starker Friday as the president lay low in the White House before leaving for the military hospital. Trump confirmed the results of his test in an early Friday morning tweet, leaving much of Washington scrambling to assess the potential fallout, with little clarity on who in the administration may have been exposed and who had been tested.

Meanwhile, Biden, who spent 90 minutes on stage with Trump in their Tuesday debate, went forward with a planned event in Michigan on Friday afternoon after testing negative.

His running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, also tested negative for the virus and held planned events Friday, a fundraiser with former President Barack Obama and a drive-in rally in Las Vegas. Throughout the day, she mentioned Trump's diagnosis only once — during the fundraiser, where she offered her "deepest prayers" for the president and his wife. She made no mention of the development during her later event in Las Vegas.

Some Democrats were careful to avoid gloating over Trump's diagnosis after his consistent flouting of health guidelines, aware of political implications of being seen as celebrating the president's illness. New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a leading progressive figure, called news of the president's infection "tragic."

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"I personally don't think it's appropriate for us to be talking about how a diagnosis of a disease is a political play," she said. "I hope that this rallies the country to socially distance, to get more serious, if they haven't, about mask-wearing and making sure that we are taking spread of this disease seriously."

Democratic strategist Maria Cardona said Biden doesn't need to tell voters explicitly that he was right.

"He doesn't need to say I told you so. History is saying I told you so," she said. "The VP just needs to continue to abide by what he has before: His true North has always been science, evidence, truth, the experts, and keeping the well being of voters front and center, and that will continue to be the case."

Jesse Ferguson, a former Hillary Clinton spokesman, said Trump's diagnosis crystalizes the stakes of the presidential campaign on the pandemic.

"Americans don't need to just be reminded that there's a problem. They need to be reminded that there is an antidote," he said. "There's a better way to combat this fire."

The development comes at a pivotal time in the campaign.

The Biden campaign just began launching in-person canvassing, after largely focusing on virtual events because of the pandemic. Biden himself ramped up the pace of his campaigning earlier this week with a seven-stop train tour of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and he was planning to venture out West next week for his first campaign event in Arizona.

The Biden campaign declined to comment on whether those plans would change in the days ahead. Meanwhile, Trump has canceled all his in-person events, with plans to hold them online.

Trump campaign spokesperson Tim Murtaugh slammed Biden for his campaign's decision to begin in-person campaigning after expressing concern for volunteers' safety for months.

"Joe Biden is a complete hypocrite because after months of saying door-to-door campaigning was dangerous and would kill people, his campaign is now engaged in doing just that because he knows he's getting outworked on the ground," he said.

But some Republicans acknowledged this marked a "role reversal" of sorts, as West Virginia GOP Rep. Alex Mooney said, noting that the president will be unable to engage in the massive rallies that have long fueled the energy behind his campaign.

"Biden's been hiding in his basement for months — but now he's coming out to do in-person rallies," he said. "And now Trump will have to do them by Zoom."

Jaffe and Kellman reported from Washington.

Trump gets experimental drug aimed at curbing severe illness

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

The experimental antibody drug given to President Donald Trump has been called one of the most promising approaches to preventing serious illness from a COVID-19 infection.

Its maker, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc., said the company agreed to supply a single dose, given through an IV, for Trump at the request of his physician under "compassionate use" provisions, when an experimental medicine is provided on a case-by-case emergency basis, while studies of it continue.

The new drug is in late-stage testing and its safety and effectiveness are not yet known. No treatment has yet proved able to prevent serious illness after a coronavirus infection.

Trump was given the experimental drug at the White House on Friday before he was taken to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he'll be monitored, officials said. So far, Trump has had only mild symptoms, including fatigue.

Several physicians who treat COVID-19, including Dr. David Boulware at the University of Minnesota, had speculated that doctors might use the antibody drug, given that this approach has worked against other diseases in the past.

"They're not going to just sit around and watch to see if he gets sick," Boulware said.

HOW ANTIBODIES WORK

Antibodies are proteins the body makes when an infection occurs; they attach to a virus and help the

immune system eliminate it. Vaccines trick the body into thinking there's an infection so it makes these antibodies.

But it can take weeks for them to form after natural infection or a vaccine. The drugs aim to give that protection immediately, by supplying concentrated versions of one or two antibodies that worked best against the coronavirus in lab and animal tests.

Regeneron's drug contains two antibodies to enhance chances that it will work. The company previously developed a successful Ebola treatment from an antibody combo.

WHAT'S KNOWN SO FAR

The drug is given as a one-time treatment through an IV. In multiple studies, Regeneron is testing it both for preventing infection and in people already infected, like Trump, to try to prevent serious illness or death.

Earlier this week, Regeneron said partial results from about 275 COVID-19 patients who were not sick enough to need hospitalization suggested it might be cutting how long symptoms last and helping reduce the amount of virus patients harbor.

However, the study has not been completed, the results were only announced in a company news release and have not been published or reviewed by other scientists.

TRUMP'S OTHER TREATMENTS

Trump's physician, Dr. Sean Conley, said late Friday that Trump had also been given the antiviral drug remdesivir at the military hospital. The Gilead Sciences drug has been shown to help some COVID-19 patients recover faster.

Earlier, Conley said Trump also was taking zinc, vitamin D, an antacid called famotidine, melatonin and aspirin. None of those have been proven to be effective against COVID-19.

Trump apparently is not receiving hydroxychloroquine, a drug he widely promoted that has been shown in many studies to be ineffective for preventing or treating COVID-19.

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Cavalier White House approach to COVID catches up to Trump

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Masks were rarely spotted in the West Wing. Crowds of people gathered shoulder to shoulder on the White House South Lawn. And Air Force One streaked across the sky from one massive campaign rally to another.

With ready access to testing and the best public health minds at his disposal, President Donald Trump should have been the American safest from COVID-19. Instead, he flouted his own government's guidelines and helped create a false sense of invulnerability in the White House, an approach that has now failed him as it did a nation where more than 200,000 people have died.

Marine One, the presidential helicopter, lifted off Friday to take Trump to a military hospital from the same White House lawn that less than a week earlier had been the site of his celebratory nomination of a new Supreme Court justice as he charged toward the November election.

Several people at the event, including a U.S. senator, have since tested positive for the coronavirus. Trump is now ensconced at Walter Reed Medical Center after running a fever and feeling fatigued following his early-morning revelation that he had tested positive for the virus.

"He let the country down by disregarding the CDC, ignoring federal guidelines and acting like he was Superman," said presidential historian Douglas Brinkley. "He did not just downplay the virus, he paraded around like a peacock, making fun of those who took it seriously."

From the pandemic's early days, Trump, by his own admission, played down the severity of the virus. He repeatedly suggested it would "disappear" and for a while was pushing for the American economy to fully reopen by Easter, just a month after the pandemic fully engulfed the nation.

And he soon began resisting the advice of public health experts on his own coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx. He publicly clashed with the heads of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over everything from the risks associated with opening schools to the timetable for a potential COVID-19 vaccine.

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Those on the White House staff dared not break with the president, who wanted to embody a nation on the way back, not one fixated with health guidelines that would remind a nervous public about the virus rather than an economic resurgence.

Experts urged the widespread use of masks, including CDC Director Robert Redfield, who testified before Congress last month that face coverings could be a more effective safeguard than a vaccine. Trump has eschewed their use, telling aides that he didn't like how he looked in them and that it sent a message to the public that he was worried about his health.

He has worn masks only sporadically and politicized their use, saying he didn't need them because he was tested and most people he saw were kept six feet away. He mocked Democrat Joe Biden for consistently wearing a face covering, while many of the president's supporters followed his example and skipped them, even at crowded events.

And their use, while technically required, wasn't enforced in the White House either. Most senior aides rarely wore masks, even in tight quarters in the West Wing or on Air Force One. A belief took hold that because those who came in contact with president received a rapid COVID-19 test every day, they were safe in their bubble.

But the rapid tests were far from foolproof and were sometimes foiled by the virus' lengthy incubation period. Staff members, including the national security adviser and the president's personal valet, contracted the virus while one of the president's closest aides, Hope Hicks, tested positive just hours before Trump and first lady Melania Trump did.

"He mocked the medical experts and their advice. He mocked it all right up until the presidential debate when he stood on that stage," said Michael Steele, former head of the Republican Party. "He had the best information possible and didn't take it."

The White House, for its part, has brushed off criticism of spotty mask-wearing by Trump and his staff by citing the frequent testing regimen. Trump styles his large campaign gatherings as "peaceful protests" exempt from limits on crowd size. And as for Trump's undercutting of public health officials, officials are quick to point to contrary medical opinions.

Journalist Bob Woodward recorded Trump early in the year admitting to downplaying the threat of the virus. The president always pushed forward, insisting the nation was nearly over the pandemic even as cases surged throughout the country.

Even in the hours after the president's diagnosis, senior White House staff, including chief of staff Mark Meadows and economic adviser Larry Kudlow, walked around the White House complex without wearing masks. The White House, even now, says the face coverings are a matter of "personal choice" for most staffers.

In a belated shift, National Security Council staffers were required to start wearing them as of Friday. Secret Service agents are mandated to wear them when social distancing is not possible.

And it wasn't just about masks.

As the summer wound down, and Trump lagged behind Biden in polls for an election seen as a referendum on White House handling of the pandemic, the president's campaign aimed to project normalcy in an effort to convince voters that the president had the virus under control.

After a botched attempt to restart Trump's trademark rallies in Tulsa in June, the campaign began slowly organizing smaller gatherings of supporters, usually outdoors at airports. Though the CDC recommended against large crowds and unnecessary travel, the president began crisscrossing the country, even while Biden largely remained at home, conducting virtual events.

The rallies got bigger and bigger as the months marched on, with little social distancing and masks recommended but not required. And crowds became part of the messaging for two of the president's recent signature events: Hundreds of people packed the White House South Lawn for his acceptance speech during the Republican National Convention, and the Rose Garden was packed for the nomination of his Supreme Court pick, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a week ago.

Six days later, Trump was again on that lawn. This time, he walked slowly to the waiting helicopter, bound for Walter Reed for a multi-day hospital stay. There were no cheering crowds. And everyone on the lawn,

reporter and staffer alike, wore a mask. Trump did, too.

Trump, stricken by COVID-19, flown to military hospital

By ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stricken by COVID-19, a feverish and fatigued President Donald Trump was flown to a military hospital Friday night where he is being given Remdesivir therapy after being injected with an experimental drug combination in treatment at the White House.

In a day of whipsaw events, the president, who has spent months downplaying the threat of the virus, was forced to cancel all campaign events a month before the election as he fought a virus that has killed more than 205,000 Americans and is hitting others in his orbit as well.

The White House said Trump's expected stay of "a few days" at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center was precautionary and that he would continue to work from the hospital's presidential suite, which is equipped to allow him to keep up his official duties.

Trump walked out of the White House Friday evening wearing a mask and gave a thumbs-up to reporters but did not speak before boarding Marine One. Members of the aircrew, Secret Service agents and White House staff wore face coverings to protect themselves from the president onboard the helicopter.

In a video taped before leaving for Walter Reed, Trump said, "I think I'm doing very well, but we're going to make sure that things work out." He remained fully president, all authority intact.

"Going well, I think! Thank you to all. LOVE!!!" he wrote in his first tweet from the hospital Friday night.

Just a month before the presidential election, Trump's revelation that he was positive for the virus came by tweet about 1 a.m. Friday after he had returned from a Thursday afternoon political fundraiser. He had gone ahead to the event, saying nothing to the crowd though knowing he had been exposed to an aide with the disease that has infected millions in America and killed more than a million worldwide.

First lady Melania Trump also tested positive, the president said, and several others in the White House have, too, prompting concern that the White House or even Trump himself might have spread the virus further. He said in his video that his wife was doing very well.

Several administration officials pointed to the Saturday Rose Garden announcement of Trump's nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court as the possible connection between cases that spanned Washington Friday. Former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, the president of the University of Notre Dame, and at least two Republican lawmakers who were also present at the event — Utah Sen. Mike Lee and North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis — announced Friday they had tested positive and were isolating.

Also testing positive: Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien. Campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh confirmed news, first reported by Politico, that Stepien received a diagnosis Friday and is experiencing "mild flu-like symptoms." Stepien, who joined Trump at Tuesday's first presidential debate, plans to quarantine until he recovers.

Trump's diagnosis came during an already turbulent period in Washington and around the world, with the U.S. gripped in a heated presidential election amid the human and economic toll of the virus. Trump's immediate campaign events were all canceled, and his next debate with Democrat Joe Biden, scheduled for Oct. 15, is now in question.

Trump has been trying all year — and as recently as Wednesday — to convince the American public that the worst of the pandemic is past, and he has consistently played down concerns about being personally vulnerable. He has mostly refused to abide by basic public health guidelines — including those issued by his own administration — such as wearing face coverings in public and practicing social distancing. Until he tested positive, he continued to hold campaign rallies that drew thousands of often maskless supporters.

"I felt no vulnerability whatsoever," he told reporters back in May. With the election coming up in about a month, he is urging states and cities to "reopen" and reduce or eliminate shutdown rules despite continuing virus outbreaks.

The White House tried to maintain an atmosphere of business-as-usual on Friday.

"President Trump remains in good spirits, has mild symptoms, and has been working throughout the day,"

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said press secretary Kayleigh McEnany. "Out of an abundance of caution, and at the recommendation of his physician and medical experts, the president will be working from the presidential offices at Walter Reed for the next few days."

The president's physician said in a memo that Trump received a dose of an experimental antibody combination by Regeneron that is in clinical trials. Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley said Trump "remains fatigued but in good spirits" and that a team of experts was evaluating both the president and first lady in regard to next steps.

Late Friday, Conley issued an update that said Trump is "doing very well" and is "not requiring any supplemental oxygen," But he said that, "in consultation with specialists we have elected to initiate Remdesivir therapy," an antiviral medication.

"He has completed his first dose and is resting comfortably," the doctor wrote.

The first lady, who is 50, has a "mild cough and headache," Conley reported, and the remainder of the first family, including the Trumps' son Barron, who lives at the White House, tested negative.

Trump is 74 years old and clinically obese, putting him at higher risk of serious complications from a virus that has infected more than 7 million people nationwide.

Both Democratic presidential nominee Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris have tested negative, their campaign said. Vice President Mike Pence tested negative for the virus Friday morning and "remains in good health," his spokesman said. Pence was to resume his campaign schedule after his test.

Barrett, who was with Trump and many others on Saturday and has been on Capitol Hill meeting with lawmakers, also tested negative, the White House said. It was confirmed that she had a mild case of COVID earlier this year and has now recovered.

Very early Friday, after returning from the Thursday afternoon New Jersey fundraiser, Trump stunningly tweeted, "Tonight, @FLOTUS and I tested positive for COVID-19. We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately. We will get through this TOGETHER!"

Hours earlier, the White House confirmed that a top aide who had traveled with him during the week had tested positive.

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows on Friday confirmed that the White House knew Hope Hicks, the aide, had tested positive before Trump attended the fundraiser.

"I can tell you in terms of Hope Hicks, we discovered that right as Marine One was taking off yesterday," said Meadows. Several staffers were pulled from the trip, but Trump did not cancel and there was no direct evidence that her illness was connected to his.

Many White House and senior administration officials were undergoing tests Friday, but the full scale of the outbreak around the president may not be known for some time as it can take days for an infection to be detectable by a test. Officials with the White House Medical Unit were tracing the president's contacts.

Trump's handling of the pandemic has already been a major flashpoint in his race against Biden, who spent much of the summer off the campaign trail and at his home in Delaware citing concern about the virus. Biden has since resumed a more active campaign schedule, but with small, socially distanced crowds. He also regularly wears a mask in public, something Trump mocked him for at Tuesday night's debate.

"I don't wear masks like him," Trump said. "Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away from me, and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen."

In a tweet Friday morning, Biden said he and his wife "send our thoughts to President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump for a swift recovery. We will continue to pray for the health and safety of the president and his family."

World leaders offered the president and first family their best wishes after their diagnosis, and governments used the case as a reminder for their citizens to wear masks and practice social distancing measures.

Multiple White House staffers have previously tested positive for the virus, including Pence's press secretary, Katie Miller, national security adviser Robert O'Brien and one of the president's personal valets. An RNC official confirmed Friday that Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel learned she had tested positive Wednesday afternoon. She has been at her home in Michigan since last Saturday and did not attend the debate.

It is unclear where the Trumps or Hicks caught the virus, but in a Fox interview, Trump seemed to sug-

gest it may have been spread by someone in the military or law enforcement in greetings.

The White House began instituting a daily testing regimen for the president's senior aides after earlier positive cases close to the president. Anyone in close proximity to the president or vice president is also tested every day, including reporters.

Trump is far from the first world leader to test positive for the virus, which previously infected Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who spent a week in the hospital, including three nights in intensive care. Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was hospitalized last month while fighting what he called a "hellish" case of COVID-19.

Recordings reveal confusion behind Breonna Taylor's death

By DYLAN LOVAN and PIPER HUDSPETH BLACKBURN Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The police officer who fatally shot Breonna Taylor described seeing only "shadowy mass" and said he didn't recall firing the 16 bullets later matched to his gun. As she lay bleeding, Taylor's boyfriend called his mother before dialing 911.

And neighbors roused by the gunfire at Taylor's apartment after midnight on March 13 only added to conflicting testimony about whether police serving a narcotics warrant announced themselves before using a battering ram to break down her door.

Details of the chaos and confusion during the raid that resulted in the 26-year-old Black woman's death were revealed in 15 hours of audio recordings released Friday. They contained testimony and recorded interviews presented last month to the Kentucky grand jury that decided not to charge any Louisville police officers for killing Taylor.

"If you told me I didn't fire a gun, I would be like, OK," detective Myles Cosgrove told investigators soon after the shooting.

In fact, investigators determined Cosgrove shot 16 of the 32 bullets police fired into Taylor's apartment, responding to a single gunshot from her boyfriend when they rammed down her door. Evidence showed one of Cosgrove's bullets killed Taylor.

Her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, said he thought intruders had burst into Taylor's home, not police. As she lay bleeding, Walker said he called his mother — then dialed 911, telling an operator: "Somebody kicked in the door and shot my girlfriend."

The dramatic accounts of the moments before Taylor's death are key to a case that has fueled nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism. Police said they knocked and announced themselves for a minute or more before using a battering ram to get inside. Walker said he did not hear officers identify themselves, perhaps because he was too far from the door.

If he'd heard them, Walker said, "it changes the whole situation because there's nothing for us to be scared of."

The recordings mark a rare public look into grand jury proceedings that are typically kept secret. Though they shed light on what happened as police fired 32 shots in the last moments of Taylor's life, nothing in them appeared to change the fundamental narrative that was previously made public.

The recordings also do not include any discussion of potential criminal action on the part of the officers who shot Taylor because Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron determined beforehand that they had acted in self-defense. As a result, he did not seek charges against police in her killing.

A court ruled the recordings should be released after the jury's decision last week angered many in Louisville and around the country and set off renewed protests. One of the jurors also sued to make the proceedings public.

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund President Sherrilyn Ifill called the release "a critical first step," but the group will release its own assessment of how the evidence was presented.

At Jefferson Square Park, where protesters outraged over Taylor's death have gathered for months, a small, subdued group gathered Friday evening.

On the March night in question, police arrived after midnight at Taylor's apartment with a narcotics warrant to search the home. She and her boyfriend were in bed. Within minutes, she had been shot five times.

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Though police had a “no-knock” warrant that would have allowed them to burst in unannounced, they agreed it was better to “give them a chance to answer the door,” said Louisville police Lt. Shawn Hoover. In a police interview played for the grand jury, Hoover said the officers announced themselves as police and knocked three times. He estimated they waited 45 seconds to a minute before going through the door. Another officer said they waited as much as two minutes.

Walker said he heard knocking, but that police did not respond to his and Taylor’s repeated requests that whoever was at the door identify themselves. He told police that he grabbed his gun, and they both got up and walked toward the door.

“She’s yelling at the top of her lungs, and I am too at this point. No answer. No response. No nothing,” said Walker.

Police said they hit the door three times with a battering ram before getting inside. Detective Michael Nobles said officers made so much noise that an upstairs neighbor came outside.

Walker fired once, hitting detective Jonathan Mattingly in the leg as soon as he leaned inside the apartment.

Mattingly said he fired his gun while falling on his backside.

Cosgrove came through the door and saw Mattingly on the ground. In his interview with investigators, he spoke to the confusion of the confrontation, saying he saw a “distorted shadowy mass, a figure in front of me.”

Officer Brett Hankison, who has since been fired, told investigators that he saw flashes from a gun coming from inside the apartment and began shooting.

Hankison was the only officer indicted by the grand jury, which charged him with wanton endangerment for shooting into another home with people inside. He has pleaded not guilty.

“What I saw at the time was a figure in a shooting stance, and it looked as if he was holding, he or she was holding, an AR-15 or a long gun, a rifle,” Hankison said.

Walker was, in fact, using a handgun.

While Walker told police he did not hear officers identify themselves, Hoover, the police lieutenant, said he believed Walker and Taylor “ambushed” the officers.

Police interviews with Taylor’s neighbors didn’t clear up the confusion. Two neighbors said they didn’t hear the police knocking. One of them also said he was certain he didn’t hear police identify themselves. Another man gave three differing accounts — in two of them saying he heard officers identify themselves.

Associated Press writers from around the country contributed to this report.

Find more AP stories on the Breonna Taylor case at <https://apnews.com/hub/breonna-taylor>

From Trump’s taxes to virus: News moves at breakneck pace

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Remember the presidential debate? The revelation about how much President Donald Trump pays in taxes? The nomination of a new U.S. Supreme Court justice?

They all happened within the past week. Then, just as quickly, they receded into memory with the revelation Friday that Trump had tested positive for COVID-19. News, substantial news, is rushing by at the speed of light.

Memory more than full.

“I don’t know how many writers who were working on political melodramas have just deleted their files and opened up a bottle of Scotch,” said veteran journalist Jeff Greenfield.

Seventeen hours after the world learned of the president’s diagnosis, television pictures showed the president walking toward the Marine One helicopter, before it took off to take him to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Minutes after, he tweeted out a video image thanking people for their concern.

“I think I’m doing very well, but we’re going to make sure that things work out,” he said.

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The hospital trip increased speculation about how sick the president was. CNN medical correspondent Sanjay Gupta called it "a bit unsettling."

Meanwhile, the White House Correspondents Association said three journalists there tested positive for COVID on Friday. All had covered White House events last weekend. The correspondents association asked all its members who are not assigned to small pools to follow the president and who don't have enclosed workplaces to work from home.

The coronavirus story unfurled shortly after 8 p.m. Eastern on Thursday when Jennifer Jacobs, Bloomberg News White House reporter, tweeted that sources had told her that Hope Hicks, one of Trump's closest aides, had tested positive. Trump confirmed that news in a tweet two and half hours later, adding that he and First Lady Melania Trump were being tested and awaiting the results in quarantine.

Then, at 12:54 a.m. Eastern, the president tweeted that both of them were positive.

"It's a lot to wake up to," Savannah Guthrie said at the top of NBC's "Today" show for those who were asleep when the news hit.

There were plenty of angles for reporters to chase, and questions were raised about why Trump went to a fundraiser Thursday when he knew Hicks was sick. White House chief of staff Mark Meadows was asked pointedly why he was not wearing a mask when he briefed reporters Friday afternoon.

ABC's hiring of former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie as an analyst paid dividends, as he told a "Good Morning America" audience that he had been at the White House for several days until Tuesday for debate preparation and that none of Trump's aides were wearing masks. Looking shaken, Christie was preparing for a test himself.

Fox News Channel's Chris Wallace, who moderated Tuesday night's Trump-Biden debate in Cleveland, said that he got no closer to Trump than it appeared on television. He appeared on the network several time Friday for updates, saying the lesson of the day is "wear the damn mask."

Wallace also had harsh words for Scott Atlas, a former Fox guest who lately has had the president's ear offering advice on coronavirus policy.

"Listen to the independent people who do not have a political axe to grind," Wallace said. "And I frankly don't think Scott Atlas is one of those people."

Through much of Friday, Twitter was a whack-a-mole of announcements about people testing positive (like Ronna McDaniel, chairwoman of the Republican National Committee) and negative (Democratic opponent Joe Biden and his wife, Jill).

It was all a little exhausting. Former CBS News anchor Dan Rather said it felt like he had been through a "newsquake."

"I don't recall any week where there have been this many important stories in the same week, not since World War II," he said. Anytime a narrative sets in, "boom, something comes in and changes the subject."

Greenfield, who is 77, said he can't remember a time when such major news has come so fast and furiously. It makes Bob Woodward's book about the Trump administration, and the revelations therein, feel like ancient history.

Greenfield recommends people take some time away from social media and the television. Read a novel. Watch some sports.

"You may want to go out for a walk," he said. "But by the time you come back, the asteroid may have hit or the aliens landed and you have a whole new story."

Misinformation spikes as Trump confirms COVID-19 diagnosis

By AMANDA SEITZ and BEATRICE DUPUY Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — News Friday that President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump had tested positive for COVID-19 sparked an explosion of rumors, misinformation and conspiracy theories that in a matter of hours littered the social media feeds of many Americans.

Tweets shared thousands of times claimed Democrats might have somehow intentionally infected the president with the coronavirus during the debates. Others speculated in Facebook posts that maybe the president was faking his illness. And the news also ignited constant conjecture among QAnon followers,

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who peddle a baseless belief that Trump is a warrior against a secret network of government officials and celebrities that they falsely claim is running a child trafficking ring.

In the final weeks of the presidential campaign, Trump's COVID-19 diagnosis was swept into an online vortex of coronavirus misinformation and the falsehoods swirling around this polarizing election. Trump himself has driven much of that confusion and distrust on the campaign trail, from his presidential podium and his Twitter account, where he's made wrong claims about widespread voter fraud or hawked unproven cures for the coronavirus, such as hydroxychloroquine.

"This is both a political crisis weeks before the election and also a health crisis; it's a perfect storm," said Alexandra Cirone, an assistant professor at Cornell University who studies the effect of misinformation on government.

Facebook said Friday that it immediately began monitoring misinformation around the president's diagnosis and had started applying fact checks to some false posts.

Twitter, meanwhile, was monitoring an uptick in "copypasta" campaigns about Trump's illness. "Copypasta" campaigns are attempts by numerous Twitter accounts to parrot the same phrase over and over to inundate users with messaging, and they are sometimes signals of coordinated activity. The social media company said it was working to limit views on those tweets.

But nearly 30,000 Twitter users had retweeted a variety of conspiracy theories about the news by Friday morning, according to an analysis by VineSight, a tech company that tracks online misinformation.

Roughly 10,000 of those retweets touted the drug hydroxychloroquine, an unproven treatment for COVID-19, as a treatment for the president. Another 13,000 retweets were related to a QAnon conspiracy theory that the president is going into quarantine while mass arrests of high-profile politicians like Trump's former Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton are carried out, according to the company's analysis.

Most of the conversation was coming from unverified accounts on Twitter, said Gideon Blocq, the CEO of VineSight.

"A lot of them seem very happy about what's going to happen because they think Hillary Clinton is going to be arrested," Blocq said of the QAnon accounts.

Misinformation was not only promoted in the fringe spheres of the internet but by everyday social media users as well, said Shane Creevy, head of editorial at Kinzen, an Ireland-based company that works to monitor misinformation online.

"The conspiracy part of the internet is like outside the mainstream, but even among regular users we are seeing quite a lot of crazy thinking pushed out there from people who should know better," Creevy said.

Other social media users were suggesting that Trump's diagnosis is a hoax aimed at generating sympathy among voters or even getting out of the next presidential debate against Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden.

That speculation shows up in Facebook comments on news stories about Trump.

"It is a lie," one Facebook user wrote on a TV news network's post about Trump, calling it a "Strategy to not debate Biden anymore."

Similar posts making the groundless claim were shared hundreds or thousands of times online.

"Is Trump faking COVID to avoid narcissistic injury of losing the election?" one Twitter user asked in a post retweeted more than 4,000 times Friday morning.

Clint Watts, a disinformation expert with the Foreign Policy Research Institute, published a report in July describing one or both of the candidates contracting COVID-19 as a scenario for prompting an onslaught of disinformation in the campaign.

"The biggest reason why this is a disaster is because there are no trusted information sources remaining that have not been undermined by the president," he said.

The news is also ripe for foreign and domestic internet instigators to exploit in a disinformation campaign, and opens the door for people to unwittingly spread misinformation, said Cirone, the Cornell professor.

She predicted that internet users will share video clips of politicians coughing or appearing ill to prematurely claim that they have tested positive for the virus.

In fact, social media users have already employed a similar strategy when they shared video clips of

Biden coughing during an event in Pennsylvania on Wednesday to suggest he was sick. The video resurfaced again — getting more than 160,000 views on Twitter by Friday morning — with social media users suggesting that Biden either infected Trump or had caught the virus from Trump during the debate. Biden and his wife tested negative Friday for the virus.

“Individual citizens shouldn’t amplify any speculation,” Cirone said. “Nefarious actors are banking on the (likelihood) that citizens will be very concerned about this and accidentally spread fake news.”

In perhaps a sign of what’s to come, state-backed Russian television channel RT tweeted a story suggesting that Biden’s prolonged coughing from the debate raised concerns for the former vice president after Trump’s test. In the last presidential election, Russia launched an online misinformation campaign with bogus social media accounts that aimed to sway U.S. voters’ opinions in the race, and there are signs that the Kremlin is at it again.

Watts said Russian-backed accounts are mostly only trolling the president and the White House so far, but they are just getting started — especially given that the president has only begun his quarantine.

“They are going to position all sorts of conspiracies or amplify American conspiracies,” Watts said.

Dupuy reported from New York. Associated Press technology reporter Barbara Ortutay in Oakland, California, contributed to this report.

Sexual, gender minorities much likelier to be crime victims

By ASTRID GALVAN Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The first study of its kind found that people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or gender non-conforming are nearly four times as likely to be victims of violent crime than those outside such communities.

Although other research has long shown that LGBTQ people and gender minorities are disproportionately affected by crime, the study published in *Science Advances*, a multidisciplinary journal, on Friday looked at data that has only been collected since 2016, making for the first comprehensive and national study to examine the issue.

It found that members of such communities, referred to as sexual and gender minorities, experienced a rate of 71.1 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons a year, compared with 19.2 per 1,000 a year among non-sexual and gender minorities.

But it was the fact that sexual and gender minorities are victims of such a variety of crimes at such disparate rates — and who they’re victimized by — that surprised researchers, said lead author Andrew R. Flores, an assistant professor at American University.

For example, researchers found that such a population is much more likely to be victimized by someone they know well than a person who is a non-sexual and gender minority.

The fact that sexual and gender minorities are victimized by people close to them at such higher rates “does kind of raise questions hopefully future research can address about the nature of these incidents and the nature of these relationships,” Flores said.

“There are certain socializations that goes in that. I think many people are socialized and have a certain disdain for trans and queer people,” said Tori Cooper of the Human Rights Campaign, a national organization that advocates for the LGBTQ community. Cooper is the director of community engagement for the organization’s Transgender Justice Initiative.

A survey of more than 12,000 LGBTQ teens around the country released in 2018 by the Human Rights Campaign found that 67% report they’ve heard family members make negative comments about LGBTQ people.

Cooper said transgender people are particularly vulnerable, especially by partners or people close to them. The HRC has documented the killings of at least 30 transgender or non-gender conforming people in 2020 alone. The majority were Black and Latina transgender women.

“There’s an incalculable amount of transphobia ... that plays into these relationships,” Cooper said.

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The new study didn't have a large enough sample of surveys by transgender people to come to a conclusion about their specific victimization rates, but Flores said other research has shown they are particularly vulnerable.

The study also found that sexual and gender minorities are burglarized at twice the rate of other households, and that they're more likely to be victims of other types of property theft.

The study is based on a national crime survey conducted by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, which until 2016 had not asked respondents about their sexual orientation and gender identity. Researchers examined responses to the 2017 survey, which was released last year.

But it may be a while before researchers can look at the data in this way again. The Trump administration, without seeking public comment, announced that it was moving the sexual orientation and gender identity questions from the general demographic section of its national crime survey to a part of the survey only pertaining to victims. This will limit what researchers can learn about crime disparities because asking only victims about their sexual or gender identification makes it impossible to compare those rates of violence to the general population.

Judge: Census violated order; demands mass text to workers

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A federal judge ordered the Census Bureau to text every 2020 census worker by Friday, letting them know the head count of every U.S. resident is continuing through the end of the month and not ending next week, as the agency previously had announced in violation of her court order.

The new order issued late Thursday by U.S. District Lucy Koh in San Jose, California, instructed the Census Bureau to send out a mass text saying an Oct. 5 target data for finishing the nation's head count is not in effect and that people can still answer the questionnaire and census takers can still knock on doors through Oct. 31.

The judge also ordered Census Bureau director Steven Dillingham to file a declaration with the court by the start of next week confirming his agency was following a preliminary injunction she had issued last week.

Besides deciding how many congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state gets, the census also determines how \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is distributed annually. Among other things, that spending includes highway funding and money for health care and education.

Judge Koh wrote in Thursday's decision that the Census Bureau and Commerce Department, which oversees the agency, had violated her injunction "in several ways." She threatened them with sanctions or contempt proceedings if they violated the injunction again.

"Defendants' dissemination of erroneous information; lurching from one hasty, unexplained plan to the next; and unlawful sacrifices of completeness and accuracy of the 2020 Census are upending the status quo, violating the Injunction Order, and undermining the credibility of the Census Bureau and the 2020 Census," the judge wrote. "This must stop."

Koh's injunction last week suspended a Sept. 30 deadline for ending the head count and also a Dec. 31 deadline for turning in numbers used to determine how many congressional seats each state gets in a process known as apportionment. By doing this, the deadlines reverted back to a previous Census Bureau plan that had field operations ending Oct. 31 and the reporting of apportionment figures at the end of April.

By issuing the injunction, the judge sided with civil rights groups and local governments that had sued the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Those groups had argued that minorities and others in hard-to-count communities would be missed if the counting ended in September.

Koh referred to a tweet by the Commerce Department and Census Bureau last Monday that they now were targeting Oct. 5 as the date to end the census as "a hasty and unexplained change to the Bureau's operations that was created in 4 days."

"The decision also risks further undermining trust in the Bureau and its partners, sowing more confusion, and depressing Census participation," Koh wrote.

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In court papers, attorneys for the federal government argued that the Commerce Department and the Census Bureau had been complying with the judge's injunction.

The Census Bureau said it sent out the mandated message Friday afternoon. "As a result of court orders, the October 5, 2020 target date is not operative, and data collection operations will continue through October 31, 2020," the message read. "Employees should continue to work diligently and enumerate as many people as possible. Contact your supervisor with any questions."

The Census Bureau reported that 99.1% of the nation's households had been counted, though several states in the South were trailing that figure. About a third had been counted by census takers knocking on doors and two-thirds had been counted by people self-responding online, by mail or by phone.

Despite Thursday's order, there was still confusion on the ground about when the census would end. Pam Coleman, who is chair of a statewide committee responsible for census outreach efforts in New Mexico, said census staff in her area had not received directions on what they should do as of Friday afternoon.

"While there is justifiable cause for hope, it is not completely clear when the count will end," said Coleman, who chairs New Mexico's State Complete Count Commission.

Earlier this week, Koh had told attorneys for the civil rights groups and local governments that she would be open to a contempt motion against the Trump administration.

While the court has the authority to find the Trump administration in contempt, the plaintiff attorneys said in a motion that they were not seeking a contempt finding at this time. Instead, they said they wanted full compliance with the judge's order, arguing the Trump administration had violated it "several times over."

"An unrushed, full and fair count is paramount to ensuring the accuracy of the 2020 Census," said Melissa Sherry, one of the plaintiff attorneys. "This ruling brings us one step closer to realizing that important goal."

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>.

Rochester mayor indicted in campaign finance probe

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren was indicted Friday on charges she broke campaign finance rules and committed fraud during her reelection campaign three years ago, adding another layer of crisis in a city that has been reeling over its handling of a police killing.

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley also announced charges against Warren's campaign treasurer, Albert Jones Jr., and the treasurer of her political action committee, Rosalind Brooks-Harris.

The indictment dramatically increases political peril for Warren, who was already facing calls to resign for the city's handling of the suffocation of Daniel Prude. The Democrat is midway through her second term as the first female and second Black mayor of Rochester, a city of more than 200,000 by Lake Ontario.

Elections officials began fielding complaints about Warren's campaign finances in 2017, when Warren defeated two challengers in a Democratic primary prior to her reelection. In March, the state Board of Elections presented Doorley with a 35-page report "that found considerable evidence" that Warren, Jones and Brooks-Harris may have violated the law, the prosecutor said at a news conference.

"Our investigation began in earnest at this point, but was slowed due to the corona 19 pandemic," she said. A grand jury was empaneled in September and wrapped up its work on Friday.

The indictment alleges Warren and the others took steps to evade contribution limits between Nov. 6, 2013 and Nov. 7, 2017.

"The indictment alleges that it was not a mistake," Doorley told reporters.

Warren had previously denied any attempt to evade campaign finance rules, blamed errors on sloppy bookkeeping and referred to the investigation as a "political witch hunt."

"She wants you to know Monday morning that she's coming to work and she's going to represent the constituents with the same vigor and dedication that she does every single day on the job," her attorney, Joseph Damelio, told reporters in Rochester. "She's going to walk into the building with her head held high and she's going to go to work."

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"We know there's some problems in this city and she's working to correct them," said Damelio, adding he wants a quick trial because Warren plans to run again next year.

The lawyer did not immediately return phone and email messages to The Associated Press.

Doorley, a Republican, denied politics played a role in the investigation. She said Warren was offered the opportunity to testify before the grand jury.

"The mayor has counsel so we could not speak to her directly," Doorley said. She said the indictment doesn't affect Warren's ability to serve as mayor.

"Lovely Warren is still the mayor of the city of Rochester," she said. "Mayoral business needs to continue. I don't want to disrupt that and I want us to continue in our community."

Warren's arraignment, on charges of scheming to defraud and violating election laws, was scheduled for Monday. If convicted, she could face a maximum of 16 months to four years in prison and removal from office.

Demonstrators have been calling for reforms and top-level resignations in Rochester since videos were released in September of Prude being handcuffed by officers on a city street. Officers put a hood over his head to stop him from spitting, then held him down for about two minutes until he stopped breathing. He died a week later after he was taken off life support.

The body-camera video was taken early on the morning of March 23, but wasn't released until five months later after an open records request by Prude's family.

Critics accused police and city officials of covering up Prude's killing, though Warren said she had no idea the medical examiner ruled his death a homicide until Aug. 4, when she saw the video.

NFL reschedules Steelers-Titans, Ravens' bye now Week 7

By TERESA M. WALKER AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans now know when they are rescheduled to play the Pittsburgh Steelers after the first NFL game postponed by a COVID-19 outbreak.

Getting back into their own building depends on the results of continued testing. The Titans' outbreak expanded by two more players testing positive Friday, pushing the team's total to 14 within the past week.

The outbreak forced the NFL to postpone Tennessee's game from Sunday to Oct. 25 in Week 7, forcing the Steelers into their unplanned bye. Pittsburgh now will play Baltimore on Nov. 1 with the Ravens' bye now pushed to Week 7 instead of Week 8, which had been the bye for both teams.

Officials from the NFL and the players' union also were in Nashville on Friday, meeting with the Titans and reviewing the way the team is handling the matter. The NFL and the players' union also agreed to continue daily testing, including bye weeks, for the foreseeable future in a decision shared with teams Friday.

Coach Mike Vrabel has said he's very confident that the Titans have followed the league protocols precisely and that nobody was to blame for this outbreak during a pandemic.

"We continue to follow protocol from the NFL that was set forth, and that continues to change and adapt and adjust," Vrabel said Thursday. "Whatever the NFL tells us that we're required to do and we're supposed to do as positive tests come in, that's what we'll do."

The NFL already had postponed the Titans' game Sunday against Pittsburgh. That came a day after the league said it hoped the teams would play Monday or Tuesday. But another positive test result Thursday led to the postponement and Friday's rescheduling.

Then the Titans added a pair of wide receivers to the reserve/COVID-19 list Friday: veteran Adam Humphries and Cameron Batson, who's on the practice squad. Each new positive test requires the team's infectious control officer to track down everyone in contact with those people.

The Minnesota Vikings (0-3) again had no positive test results Friday, leaving them on target to visit Houston (0-3) on Sunday as scheduled after losing 31-30 to the Titans last week. The Viking returned to work and practice at their facility on Thursday.

The Titans (3-0) instead find themselves on an unexpected bye, hoping to return to work inside their own building Monday or Tuesday. But further testing could delay that return, and more positives could

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jeopardize the Titans' next scheduled game Oct. 11 against the Buffalo Bills in Nashville.

With the NFL rescheduling their game with the Steelers, the Titans announced Friday that capacity will be expanded as well from the planned 10%, or about 7,000, to 15% with 3,000 more seats available.

Tennessee's outbreak started with a defensive back on the practice squad added to the reserve/COVID-19 list on Sept. 24. Then outside linebackers coach Shane Bowen's test result came back positive on Saturday, preventing him from traveling with Tennessee to Minnesota.

On Tuesday, the Titans placed three players on the reserve/COVID-19 list, including defensive captain and lineman DaQuan Jones and long snapper Beau Brinkley, with five other team personnel testing positive. Outside linebacker Kamalei Correa became the fourth player on that list Wednesday, and rookie cornerback Kristian Fulton became the fifth Thursday.

With the new cases, the Titans' total is now 14: seven players and seven other organization members just since last Saturday. Vrabel said he's confident the Titans have followed the contact tracing protocol to identify anyone at risk from being close together.

The NFL alerted teams Thursday of new procedures to follow when dealing with an outbreak or having been exposed to a team having an outbreak.

"We'll do exactly what the league asks us to do for the safety of the players and their families, and our staff and their families," Vrabel said Thursday.

Minnesota coach Mike Zimmer said he's proud of how his Vikings have handled the changes in stride. Zimmer says there haven't been the usual complaints and griping.

"We've obviously had to do a lot of extra things that we don't normally do – point-of-care contact test, our normal testing, then you've got to sit in your car and wait until you get to go into the facility," Zimmer said Friday. "We've had to adjust schedules at times, but they've handled it really well."

AP Pro Football Writers Barry Wilner and Dave Campbell contributed.

Follow Teresa M. Walker at <https://twitter.com/TeresaMWalker>

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Pre-election economy: Unemployment falls, but hiring slows

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The final jobs report before Election Day a month from now showed hiring slowed in September even as the U.S. unemployment rate fell to 7.9% — a mixed result for President Donald Trump, who has staked his reelection in part on the economy.

The Labor Department said Friday that employers added just 661,000 jobs last month amid the coronavirus outbreak, down from 1.5 million in August and 1.8 million in July.

Unemployment fell from 8.4% in August, but that mainly reflected a decline in the number of people seeking work, rather than a surge in hiring. The government doesn't count people as unemployed if they aren't actively looking for a job.

"There seems to be a worrisome loss of momentum," said Drew Matus, an economist at MetLife Investment Management. "There's a lot of caution on the part of employers."

With September's hiring gain, the economy has now recovered slightly more than half the 22 million jobs wiped out by the coronavirus, which has killed over 200,000 Americans and infected more than 7 million. With many businesses and customers plagued by fear and uncertainty, some economists say it could take as long as late 2023 for the job market to fully recover.

This week, moreover, brought a new wave of layoff announcements reflecting the continuing slump in travel and tourism: Disney is cutting 28,000 jobs, Allstate will shed 3,800, and U.S. airlines said as many as 40,000 employees are losing their jobs this month as federal aid to the industry expires.

In another problematic sign in Friday's report, the number of laid-off workers who say their jobs are

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gone for good rose from 3.4 million to 3.8 million.

While unemployment has tumbled from April, when it topped out at 14.7%, it is still high by historical standards. For the Trump administration, the pandemic recession has been a whiplash, with unemployment soaring from a half-century low in February of 3.5% to a 90-year peak in April of 14.7%.

The U.S. gained nearly 7 million jobs from Trump's 2017 inauguration until the pandemic struck. Now it has 3.9 million fewer than when he took office.

Friday's numbers offered voters a final look at the most important barometer of the economy before the Nov. 3 presidential election — an election whose outcome was thrown into deeper uncertainty by the announcement Friday that Trump has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Still-high unemployment is a potential political liability for Trump. Yet President Barack Obama was re-elected in 2012 even with unemployment at 7.8% on the eve of the election.

And even as the economy has struggled to sustain a recovery, it has remained one of the few bright spots in Trump's otherwise weak political standing. Roughly half of voters approve of his performance on the economy.

Voters in some battleground states may feel differently. In August, the latest data available, unemployment was 10.3% in Pennsylvania and 8.7% in Michigan, both above the national rate that month. Florida was at 7.4% and Wisconsin at 6.2%, with both states below the national average.

The economy is under pressure on a number of fronts, including the expiration of federal aid programs that had fueled rehiring and sustained the economy — from a \$600-a-week benefit for the unemployed to \$500 billion in forgivable short-term loans to small businesses.

The September jobs report showed that women in their prime working years are quitting their jobs and leaving the workforce at much higher rates than men, a sign that many women are staying home to help their children with remote schooling.

"Women continue to bear the brunt of this recession," said Julia Pollak, a labor economist at ZipRecruiter. "They are supervising at-home schooling."

This is the first U.S. recession in which service-sector jobs have been hardest hit, instead of goods-producing industries like manufacturing, and women make up a greater share of the workforce in service industries like retail and health.

Many in-person service providers, such as gyms, movie theaters, and restaurants are still employing far fewer people than before the outbreak.

Charlie Cassara, who owns two gyms on New York's Long Island, said he has brought back only one of his 20 employees since gyms were allowed to reopen at 33% capacity in late August. He said many of his clients have stayed away out of fear of the virus.

He has been unable to pay full rent and expects he will have to close one gym by the end of the year unless things change.

"Everybody is pretty much hanging on now with the hope that maybe they are going to have a chance if they can survive the winter, but the outlook is not good," said Cassara, president of the New York Fitness Coalition, which has sued New York City to allow indoor fitness group classes.

The unemployment rate for Black workers fell sharply last month but is still much higher than it is for whites. The African-American rate dropped to 12.1% from 13% in August. For whites, unemployment declined from 7.3% to 7%. For Hispanics, the rate fell from 10.5% to 10.3%.

Overseas, unemployment rose for a fifth straight month in Europe in August and is expected to climb further amid concern that government support programs won't be able to keep many businesses hit by coronavirus restrictions afloat indefinitely.

Associated Press writers Steve Peoples and Alexandra Olson in New York contributed to this report.

Actor Rick Moranis sucker punched while walking in NYC

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

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NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Rick Moranis was sucker punched by an unknown assailant while walking Thursday on a sidewalk near New York's Central Park, a law enforcement official told the Associated Press. Surveillance video shows a man wearing a black "I (heart) NY" sweatshirt and a backpack hitting the 67-year-old "Ghostbusters" star and knocking him to the ground around 7:24 a.m. Thursday.

The attack happened just a few blocks from the Central Park West apartment building where Moranis' character lived in the movie.

Moranis took himself to the hospital and later went to a police station to report the incident, according to the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the incident and did so on condition of anonymity.

Moranis' representative Troy Bailey said in a written statement Friday: "Rick Moranis was assaulted on the Upper West Side yesterday. He is fine but grateful for everyone's thoughts and well wishes."

Police released surveillance video of the assault in seeking the public's help to find the attacker, but did not say Moranis was the victim because of privacy concerns. Police describe the incident as a "random unprovoked assault."

Moranis was attacked while walking south on Central Park West. The assailant fled northbound. Moranis suffered back, hip, neck and head pain, though the full extent of his injuries was not clear, the official said.

Moranis shot to fame in the 1980s as a star of the sketch comedy series "Second City Television," before landing roles in blockbuster movies like "Ghostbusters," "Spaceballs" and "Honey I Shrunk the Kids." He put acting aside in the last 1990s to focus on raising his children, but has made occasional appearances since.

How long could I be contagious before a positive virus test?

By The Associated Press undefined

How long could I be contagious before a positive virus test?

Studies have shown that people may be contagious for about two days before developing COVID-19 symptoms.

In fact, right before developing symptoms is when people are likely the most contagious, said Dr. Werner Bischoff, an infectious disease specialist at Wake Forest University.

People who never develop symptoms can spread infection, too. That's a problem because many people would never seek testing unless they developed symptoms or knew they'd been exposed.

But there's a more complicated part to this question: What if someone knows they were exposed but their virus test comes back negative -- could they still be contagious?

Maybe.

A negative test within less than seven days after exposure "is a very, very poor indicator of whether you have virus on board," said Dr. Alan Wells of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Some tests are less accurate than others, and you have to factor in the incubation period, he said.

A negative test between seven and 10 days of exposure is a better indicator, Wells said, but even then some people might not test positive until later.

"That is why if you have had a credible exposure, you should wear a mask and you should self-quarantine if there's any question," he said.

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

Can the coronavirus travel more than 6 feet in the air?

How can I volunteer for a COVID-19 vaccine study?

How can I tell the difference between the flu and COVID-19?

AP-NORC poll: Americans concerned by foreign interference

By ERIC TUCKER and EMILY SWANSON Associated Press

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans are concerned at least somewhat by the potential for foreign interference in November's election, and a majority believes that Russia sought in 2016 to influence the outcome of that race, according to a new poll that underscores the anxiety and political divisions heading into the final weeks of the presidential contest.

The poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that about three-quarters of Americans are at least somewhat concerned about interference, whether in the form of tampering with voting systems and election results, stealing data from candidates or parties or influencing the candidates themselves or the way voters think about them. Still, no more than half are "extremely" or "very" concerned about each of those possibilities.

The poll was taken as intelligence officials warn of ongoing efforts by foreign adversaries to interfere in American politics, including a concerted Russian effort to denigrate Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. FBI Director Christopher Wray told lawmakers last month that Russia was continuing to use social media to try to influence the election, though he said officials had not seen targeting of voting system infrastructure. Officials also say they don't have intelligence that foreign countries are targeting the vote-by-mail process.

The extent of concerns about 2020 election interference breaks largely along partisan lines, with 68% of Biden supporters saying they are "extremely" or "very" concerned about foreign countries influencing how Americans perceive the candidates, according to the poll. Among supporters of President Donald Trump, 30% are extremely or very concerned, with 29% saying they are somewhat concerned.

Foreign interference, or influence, could theoretically take many shapes. Besides meddling with voting systems — which officials say would be hard to do in such a way as to materially affect results — or shaping voters' perception of the candidates, there are also potential concerns about stealing information from a candidate or party or influencing candidates themselves.

Dawn Jackson, 61, who is retired and lives in Gilbert, Arizona, and plans to vote for Trump, said she is not exceedingly concerned.

"My opinion is countries have interfered in elections for a long, long time, and I am positive the United States has done their share of trying to interfere in other countries' elections," Jackson said. "So what goes around comes around."

But Nancy Camfield, 68, of Frankfort, Illinois, who supports Biden, said she is among those concerned about foreign influence through social media, especially because intelligence officials have been sounding the alarms.

"When former FBI directors and intelligence agency employees say that they know that's going on, and Trump denies it, well, I'd rather believe the experts," Camfield said.

Austin Wright, an assistant professor at the University of Chicago's Harris School, said it was striking that Americans are not more concerned by the threat of foreign interference given the range of dangers. He suggested that may have to do with domestic concerns currently occupying public attention, and with the fact that some American leaders — including Trump — are themselves working to undermine confidence in the election.

"We don't have to worry about foreign countries doing that anymore. We have plenty of actors who are more than happy to completely undermine our democratic institutions with the short-term goal of four more years of the Trump administration," Wright said.

The concerns are heightened by Russian interference in 2016, when intelligence operatives stole Democratic emails that were then published online in the weeks before the election and when Russians used social media to push out content aimed at sowing discord in America.

A majority of Americans, or 69%, believe Russia tried to influence the results of the 2016 election. About 9 in 10 Biden supporters feel that way, compared with roughly half of Trump backers.

Michael Asmar, 53, a software engineer from Vernon, Connecticut, who supports Trump, said he didn't doubt that foreign countries were trying to interfere in the election. But he said he thought they were doing so "on their own terms" without any solicitation from Trump.

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"With the fully connected world we have now with Facebook and all that, I think it's very easy for anybody to really sway opinions," Asmar said. "I think that certainly Russia, China — anybody, really — looking to meddle in an election could do that."

The August intelligence assessment that outlined ongoing Russian interference also noted that China regards Trump as unpredictable, prefers that he lose to Biden and has been working to shape the U.S. policy environment.

Trump has seized on that finding as he and several other senior administration officials have tried to make the case that Beijing is the more assertive adversary. Trump has repeatedly maintained that China is working to defeat him, though Microsoft noted in a blog post last month that among those targeted by Chinese state-backed hackers are people associated with the Biden campaign.

Overall, 46% of Americans disapprove of Trump's relationship with Russia, compared to 26% who approve. An additional 27% say they neither approve nor disapprove.

A slim majority of Trump supporters, 55%, approve of how Trump is dealing with Russia, with just 7% disapproving. Among Biden backers, 84% say they disapprove.

Trump has said he has been tougher than anyone on Russia, but Democrats have criticized him for what they see as his failure to publicly call out Russian President Vladimir Putin for election interference or to even embrace the intelligence community's findings that Russia meddled in 2016.

Trump supporters are somewhat more likely to support strengthening ties with Russia over weakening them, 54% to 42%, while three-quarters of Biden supporters endorse weaker ties with Russia.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,053 adults was conducted Sept. 11-14 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>.

Good grief! 'Peanuts' celebrates 70th anniversary with art

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The virus pandemic won't stop Charlie Brown, Snoopy or the "Peanuts" gang from marking an important birthday and they're hoping to raise the spirits of sick kids while they celebrate.

The beloved comic celebrates its 70th anniversary this week with new lesson plans, the announcement of a new TV show and a philanthropic push that includes donating "Peanuts" murals for kids to paint in 70 children's hospitals around the globe, from Brooklyn to Brazil.

"When kids see the familiar face of Snoopy, they feel like they are at home watching the cartoon," said Dr. Kusum Viswanathan, who heads the pediatrics department at Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center in New York. "I think it'll really help in positive coping and distraction. It makes the environment very comfortable, as opposed to being very stiff and professional."

The 4-foot-8-inch wide by 4-foot-1-inch high murals have been sent to participating hospitals in six pieces, along with smocks, brushes and paints in 13 colors. Children and hospital staffers are encouraged to paint the easy-to-follow templates, a diversion that gains even more importance during coronavirus restrictions.

The initiative is being welcomed at the CHOC Children's Hospital in Orange, California, where the virus pandemic has shut down the playrooms and cut back on starchy, well-wishing visitors, like baseball star Mike Trout.

"There's really nothing to look forward to so I thought even just painting something like this at bedside is going to really truly mean something, especially during this time," said Amber Chavez, the special programs coordinator.

The finished murals show an image of Snoopy and Woodstock sharing a laugh atop his red doghouse. It's co-sponsored by Peanuts Worldwide and the Foundation for Hospital Art. They hope the custom murals

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bring a smile to worried families.

"Art is always very therapeutic," Viswanathan said. "Any child who comes — even if a child comes for a regular check-up — it's always a slightly scary event and I think it helps patients feel a sense of normalcy."

Jeannie Schulz, the widow of the comic strip's creator, Charles Schulz, said the initiative hopes to lower the fear level in hospitals: "If you can have a little bit of levity — a little smile — we know that lowers your blood pressure. It's almost as good as patting a dog."

How each hospital deploys the murals has been left to the local administrators. Brookdale let lots of children paint them in its auditorium, while the California hospital wants to give one panel each to four patients and two nurses. The hope is the finished murals will offer children a chance to leave a permanent mark on the facility.

"They could come to the hospital for their next check-up and see their mural is out there and they provided the painting maybe for the head or the stomach or whatever part of Snoopy that they did," Viswanathan said.

Scott Feight, the executive director, of the Foundation for Hospital Art, said the murals represent a chance to "celebrate humanity and our ability to overcome and fight this virus." The nonprofit over the years has donated more than 49,000 paintings to 7,500 hospitals in 195 countries.

Other initiatives launching to celebrate the "Peanuts" anniversary include an animated video campaign on social media urging viewers to be kind to each other, Earth and themselves. There's also a new Apple TV+ animated show debuting in February called "The Snoopy Show."

"Peanuts" made its debut Oct. 2, 1950. The travails of the "little round-headed kid" Charlie Brown and his pals eventually ran in more than 2,600 newspapers, reaching millions of readers in 75 countries.

The 1965 CBS special "A Charlie Brown Christmas" won an Emmy and rerun immortality, and many other specials followed. There was a hit stage musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." The characters also appeared on sheets, stationery, amusement park attractions and countless other products. Apple TV+ debuted "Snoopy in Space" in 2019.

Jeannie Schulz said her husband managed to create "recognizable characters that express the humanity of each of us. It hits on a lot of cylinders."

The strip offered enduring images of kites in trees, Charlie Brown trying to kick a football, tart-tongued Lucy handing out advice for a nickel at what looked like a lemonade stand and Snoopy taking the occasional flight of fancy to the skies of World War I. Phrases such as "security blanket" and "good grief" are a part of the global vernacular. Schulz died in 2000.

The hospital administrators say that "Peanuts" teaches children that the world is big enough for everybody, appreciate the small things and embrace friendships. Those lessons, they say, fit with their mission.

"It teaches about kindness and friendship," Viswanathan said. "It teaches our children that life has challenges but with support from friends, you can solve problems. I think it teaches them not to give up."

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

National Guard taps units for rapid response to civil unrest

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Guard has designated military police units in two states to serve as rapid reaction forces so they can respond quickly to any potential civil unrest around the country, following violent protests that rocked the nation's capital and several states this summer.

Military leaders don't explicitly tie the changes to concerns about possible election-related violence, but the nation is bracing for unrest surrounding the tumultuous presidential campaign, particularly if voting results are not known for days or weeks because of the increase in mail-in ballots.

According to the Guard, about 600 troops — 300 in both Alabama and Arizona — will be ready to deploy within 24 hours if requested by a governor in another state. And Guard leaders have also bought more than \$200,000 in new protective equipment, and have increased troop training on proper procedures in

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dealing with protests.

The moves come as Defense Department and National Guard leaders work to address shortfalls that were identified in the military response to the June protests triggered by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Military reviews of the response to the protests found problems with coordination between various state and federal government and law enforcement agencies — which at times slowed down troop movements.

“Coordination and communication were the probably the things that we’ll look back on and see very challenging,” Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said in an interview with The Associated Press. He said that as the protests escalated in D.C., and the call for help went out to governors around the country, 11 states said they were willing to provide support.

“But the problem with that is how quickly can you marshal them together, ensure they have the appropriate training, ensure they have the appropriate equipment, understand the task you’re going to give them?” said McCarthy. “It’s American streets. It could turn violent. It was an incredibly challenging thing.”

Governors can use National Guard troops for a variety of things, ranging from natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires, to assisting with border security and civil unrest. If a governor needs additional help, they can request troops from other state governors through a compact agreement system that details how the forces will be used and what they can and cannot do.

Lt. Gen. Mark Sasseville, vice chief of the National Guard Bureau, said the Guard employs a graduated approach, with states using their own troops first, and then, if more help is needed, they request forces from other states within their region. If more support is needed, then governors reach out to states further away.

“That makes sense because typically the states have good relations with the neighboring states,” said Sasseville in an interview with The Associated Press. “Speed becomes an element of this discussion.”

The problem, however, is that some states couldn’t free up troops to send to others because they also were dealing with protests or other emergencies. The Guard’s decision to formally designate troops in Alabama and Arizona as quick reaction forces will help because those units have aircraft that will allow them to rapidly deploy to another state within 24 hours of a governor’s request.

Guard officials said the forces in Alabama would respond in the eastern half of the country, and those in Arizona would respond in the west, and their deployment window at this point extends through the end of this year.

“A big thing that we’ve done differently is being able to move faster,” said Sasseville, adding that the Guard also had to buy equipment to replace protective gear for some units.

Military police from the Arizona National Guard were mobilized at least twice this year in support of law enforcement, including to Wisconsin and in response to protests in Phoenix in the wake of Floyd’s death.

During the June protests, governors used their own Guard troops and, in some cases sought and received forces from other states. At the peak, in early June, there were more than 43,000 Guard forces deployed across 34 states and the District of Columbia to help with civil unrest. That number has now plunged to about 3,200 across 10 states.

In extreme cases, the president can invoke the Insurrection Act and use active duty troops on domestic soil to quell riots or assist law enforcement. President Donald Trump pushed for that to happen, but senior defense and military leaders opposed it.

During the June protests, Defense Secretary Mark Esper drew the ire of the president when he told reporters that the Insurrection Act should be invoked in the United States “only in the most urgent and dire of situations.” He added, “We are not in one of those situations now.”

Associated Press writer Paul Davenport in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Trump joins growing list of virus-infected world leaders

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

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JOHANNESBURG (AP) — President Donald Trump has joined a growing group of world leaders who have been infected with the coronavirus. Some, like Trump, had been accused of not taking the pandemic seriously. A few are now sending Trump their wishes for a speedy recovery. At 74, the U.S. president is the oldest head of state to become infected with the virus, and his age puts him at higher risk of serious complications from COVID-19.

BORIS JOHNSON

The British prime minister was the first major world leader confirmed to have COVID-19, after facing criticism for downplaying the pandemic. He was moved to intensive care in April after his symptoms dramatically worsened a day after he was hospitalized for what were called routine tests. He was given oxygen but did not need a ventilator, officials said. He later expressed his gratitude to National Health Service staff for saving his life when his treatment could have "gone either way." Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, also tested positive in March and showed mild symptoms.

JAIR BOLSONARO

The Brazilian president announced his illness in July and used it to publicly extol hydroxychloroquine, the unproven malaria drug that he'd been promoting as a treatment for COVID-19 and was taking himself. For months he had flirted with the virus, calling it a "little flu," as he flouted social distancing at lively demonstrations and encouraged crowds during outings from the presidential residence, often without a mask.

JUAN ORLANDO HERNANDEZ

The Honduras president announced in June that he had tested positive, along with two other people who worked closely with him. Hernández said he had started what he called the "MAIZ treatment," an experimental and unproven combination of microdacyn, azithromycin, ivermectin and zinc. He was briefly hospitalized and released. He has added his voice to growing pleas for equitable access to any COVID-19 vaccine, asking the recent U.N. gathering of world leaders, "Are people to be left to die?"

ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO

The president of Belarus, who dismissed concerns about the virus as "psychosis" and recommended drinking vodka to stay healthy, said in July he had contracted it himself but was asymptomatic. Belarus is one of the few countries that took no comprehensive measures against the virus. Other top officials in former Soviet states who were infected include Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO

The palace of Monaco in March said the ruler of the tiny Mediterranean principality tested positive but his health was not worrying. He was the first head of state who publicly said he was infected.

ALEJANDRO GIAMMATTEI

The Guatemalan president said he tested positive for the virus in September. "My symptoms are very mild. Up to now, I have body aches, it hurt more yesterday than today, like a bad cold," he said during a televised address. "I don't have a fever, I have a bit of a cough." He said he'd be working from home.

JEANINE ANEZ

The virus drove the Bolivian interim president into isolation in July, but she said she was feeling well.

LUIS ABINADER

The newly elected president of the Dominican Republic contracted and recovered from COVID-19 during his campaign. He spent weeks in isolation before the country's July election.

IRAN

Iran, the epicenter of the Mideast's initial coronavirus outbreak, has seen several top officials test positive. Among them are senior Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri and Vice President Massoumeh Ebtekar. Cabinet members have tested positive, too.

INDIA

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, 71, recently tested positive but his office said he had no symptoms and was quarantined at home. Home Minister Amit Shah, the No. 2 man in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, was hospitalized for COVID-19 last month and has recovered. Junior Railways Minister Suresh

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Angadi last week was the first federal minister to die from COVID-19.

ISRAEL

Then-Health Minister Yaakov Litzman tested positive in April and recovered. Litzman is a leader in Israel's ultra-Orthodox community, which has seen a high rate of infection as many have defied restrictions on religious gatherings. The minister for Jerusalem affairs, Rafi Peretz, tested positive over the summer as cases surged nationwide and recovered.

SOUTH AFRICA

The country's defense minister, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, mineral resources and energy minister, Gwede Mantashe, and labor minister, Thulas Nxesi, were infected as cases surged in June and July.

SOUTH SUDAN

Vice President Riek Machar was among several Cabinet ministers infected.

GAMBIA

Vice President Isatou Touray tested positive in July along with the ministers of finance, energy and agriculture.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Prime Minister Nuno Gomes Nabiam in April said he tested positive.

Associated Press writers around the world contributed.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Oct. 3, the 277th day of 2020. There are 89 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 3, 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman (however, Simpson was later found liable for damages in a civil trial).

On this date:

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler declared in a speech in Berlin that Russia had been "broken" and would "never rise again."

In 1961, "The Dick Van Dyke Show," also starring Mary Tyler Moore, made its debut on CBS.

In 1967, folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie, the Dust Bowl Troubadour best known for "This Land Is Your Land," died in New York of complications from Huntington's disease; he was 55.

In 1970, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was established under the Department of Commerce.

In 1974, Frank Robinson was named major league baseball's first Black manager as he was placed in charge of the Cleveland Indians.

In 1981, Irish nationalists at the Maze Prison near Belfast, Northern Ireland, ended seven months of hunger strikes that had claimed 10 lives.

In 2001, the Senate approved an agreement normalizing trade between the United States and Vietnam.

In 2003, a tiger attacked magician Roy Horn of duo "Siegfried & Roy" during a performance in Las Vegas, leaving the superstar illusionist in critical condition on his 59th birthday.

In 2008, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was granted parole in July 2017 and released from prison in October of that year.)

In 2017, President Donald Trump, visiting Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, congratulated the U.S. island territory for escaping the higher death toll of what he called "a real catastrophe like Katrina;" at a church used to distribute supplies, Trump handed out flashlights and tossed rolls of paper