

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 1 of 90

- [1- Church Services Today](#)
- [2- Sunday Extras](#)
- [15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [16- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
- [18- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [19- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [20- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [22- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [25- COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLD-WIDE](#)
- [26- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [27- October 3rd COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [31- SD Newswatch: CDC report on Smithfield COVID-19 outbreak in Sioux Falls was redone with 'watered down' safety recommendations](#)
- [36- Netters go 0-3 for the week](#)
- [38- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [39- Weather Pages](#)
- [42- Daily Devotional](#)
- [43- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [44- News from the Associated Press](#)



Church Services

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church: Worship in the church at 8:30 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215332349572015/>)

Groton Christian & Missiary Alliance Church: Worship in the church at 10:30 a.m.: (<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)

St. John's Lutheran Church: Worship in the church at 9 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/>)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Worship inside at 9 a.m. Due to COVID-19 issues, there will be no livestream.

(<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church-GrotonSD-ELCA-636505039852208/>)

United Methodist Church: Worship in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc>)

Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden, 10:30 a.m. Worship inside or stay in vehicle and listen on the FM.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont has worship on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the basement.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont / Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden - will have a podcast posted. <https://anchor.fm/paul-irvin-kosel>



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 2 of 90

Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

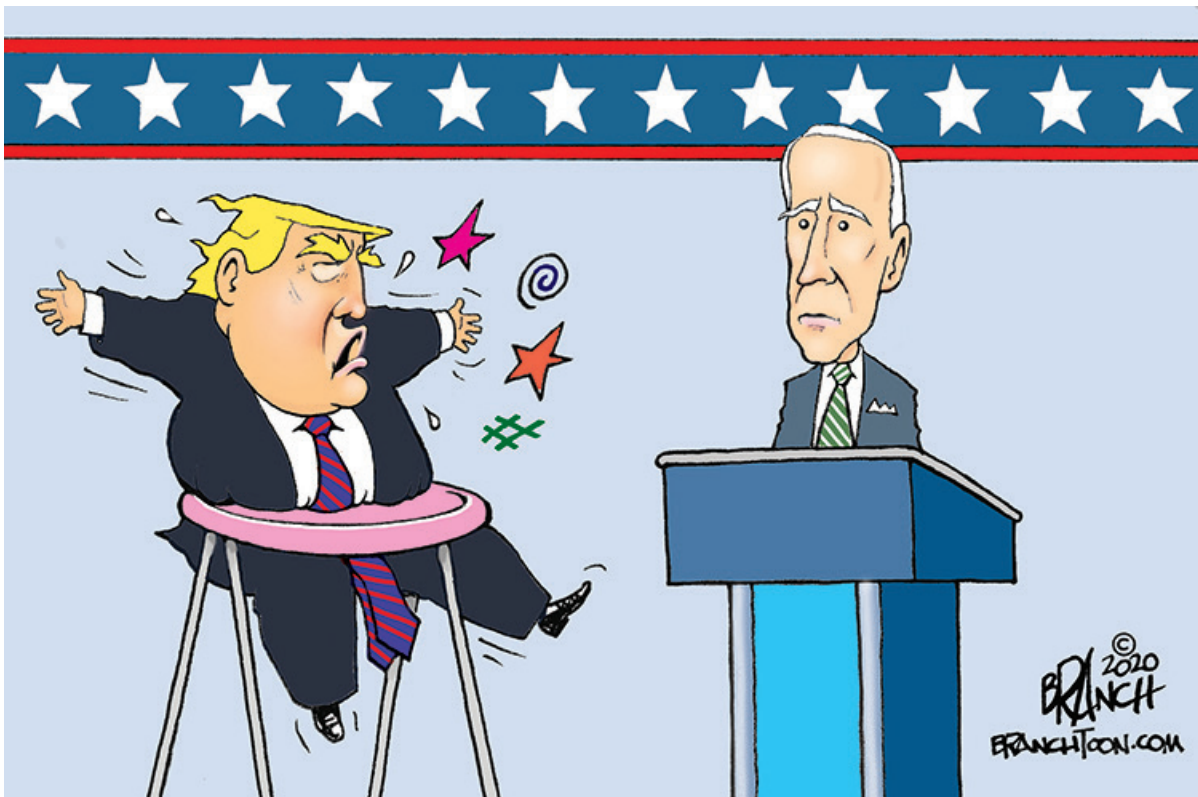


1868 Children's Magazine etching

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

ACTS 16:16,17

© 2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



BIBBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Daniel in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From 2 Samuel 22, who said, "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer"? *David, Samuel, Peter, Solomon*

3. 2 Kings 19 and which other book's chapter are almost alike word for word? *Deuteronomy 7, Isaiah 37, Jeremiah 50, Job 16*

4. From 2 Samuel 11, who was the mother of King Solomon? *Ruth, Jezebel, Bathsheba, Miriam*

5. As stated in Judges 16:19, who cut Samson's hair? *Servant girl, Delilah, Unnamed man, Rebekah*

6. From Genesis 4, who perhaps invented farming? *Adam, Cain, Abel, Jubal*

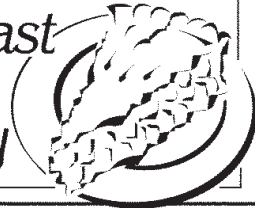
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) David; 3) Isaiah 37; 4) Bathsheba; 5) Unnamed man; 6) Cain

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Garden Pilaf

"Help! My garden is being overtaken by zucchini!" That seems to be the battle cry of most gardeners right about now. If you too have been overblessed with a bountiful crop of this vigorous squash member, then stir up this delicious recipe. You may be so pleased that you just might ask your friends for their extra zucchini!

- 2 cups shredded unpeeled zucchini
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 (16-ounce) can fat-free chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups uncooked instant rice

1. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute zucchini and carrots for 6 to 8 minutes. Add chicken broth, parsley flakes and black pepper. Mix well to combine. Stir in uncooked rice. Bring mixture to a boil.

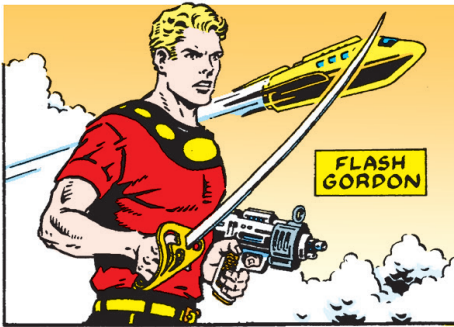
2. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes, or until rice is tender and most of the liquid is absorbed, stirring occasionally. Makes 6 (2/3 cup) servings.

• Each serving equals: 116 calories, 0g fat, 4g protein, 25g carb., 173mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Vegetable.

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 4 of 90

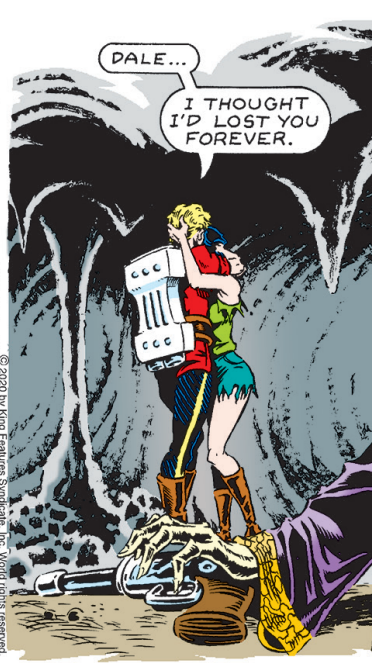


FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

Pencils: MARK McMURRAY
9-27

AS THE MONSTROUS ARACHNID MAKES A MEAL OF MING'S HENCHMAN...
...DALE MAKES HER ESCAPE.



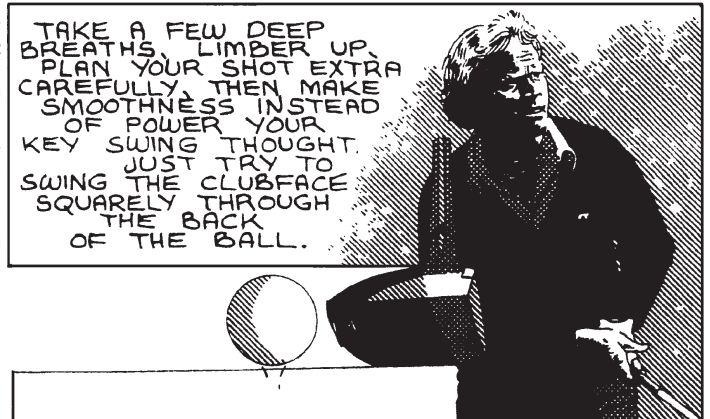
TO BE CONT'D

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

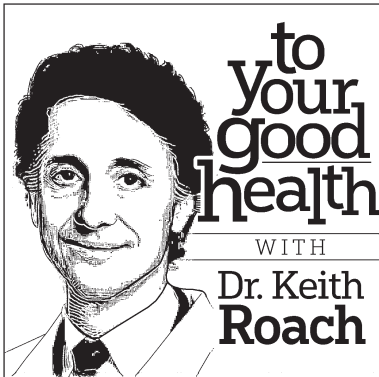


NO MATTER HOW NERVOUS OR SELF-CONSCIOUS YOU MAY FEEL, NEVER RUSH YOUR OPENING TEE SHOT. MY EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE OPENING DRIVE GENERALLY SETS THE PATTERN FOR THE ENTIRE ROUND.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



TAKE A FEW DEEP BREATHS, LIMBER UP, PLAN YOUR SHOT EXTRA CAREFULLY, THEN MAKE SMOOTHNESS INSTEAD OF POWER YOUR KEY SWING THOUGHT. JUST TRY TO SWING THE CLUBFACE SQUARELY THROUGH THE BACK OF THE BALL.



Gluten-Free Foods Aren't a Sales Gimmick

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have no health issues, but I'm a cheapskate. I see products labeled as "grain-free" or as "gluten-free," but they always cost more than the regular product. Are there any health benefits to using these, or are they marketing gimmicks? — *L.C.*

ANSWER: They are not marketing gimmicks at all. People with celiac disease have a sensitivity to a protein in gluten, called gliadin. Even small amounts of gluten can cause long-lasting damage to the intestines, and many people with celiac disease will be unable to properly absorb nutrients if they are regularly exposed to gluten. This can manifest with severe symptoms, such as weight loss, diarrhea and severe metabolic disturbance. Or it can trigger much milder ones, such as mild abdominal discomfort after eating, skin changes, anemia or joint pains.

Because the symptoms of celiac disease are so varied, a physician must be fairly convinced it's celiac before making the diagnosis. Biopsy is the gold standard for certainty, but blood testing — if done while consuming a diet containing gluten — is suggestive. I strongly recommend getting a diagnosis before going on a strict gluten-free diet if you suspect celiac disease.

For people with diagnosed celiac disease, strict adherence to a gluten-free diet is essential, and the increasing availability of gluten-free foods has made the lives of people with celiac disease better. Many grains are gluten-free naturally.

There are people with symptoms from gluten-containing foods but who

do not have celiac disease. The term is "non-celiac gluten sensitivity." Some people with this condition are sensitive to components of the food other than the gluten, although there are some people who are sensitive to gluten but do not have celiac disease.

For people without NCGS and without celiac disease, avoiding gluten is not necessary. A diet with many different whole grains has been proven to reduce heart disease risk compared with a more meat-based diet.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Please discuss the problem of the thirst mechanism as it relates to the elderly. I'm 70 years old and in almost perfect physical health. I bicycle every day — 75 miles each week. Even with this enormous physical exercise, I am never thirsty all day and night. Also, I do not perspire. I need to force myself to drink water. Why don't I feel thirsty? — *M.U.*

ANSWER: Thirst is a powerful motivation. In people with an intact thirst mechanism, the desire for water can be overpowering; it's one of the body's main ways of regulating salt and volume in the body. You are exactly right that as people age, the thirst mechanism becomes less powerful, and that tends to leave older people with a slightly higher amount of salt in the body compared with younger people. Remembering to drink water, especially on hot days, reduces the risk of dehydration.

However, people who drink continually may never trigger the thirst response. There are many social cues to drink, and people who are not losing fluid through exertion and sweat may never trigger a strong thirst response. Drinking too much is as dangerous as not drinking enough: If thirst is really impaired, you need to use other mechanisms to monitor fluid status. For example, needing to urinate every several hours (at least) is one way of staying in the right zone.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

© 2020 North America Synd., Inc.
All Rights Reserved



1. Name the group that typically appeared on stage in Indian chief, policeman, soldier, construction worker, cowboy and biker costumes.

2. Which Beatles song mentions "plasticine porters"?

3. Who wrote and released "Mr. Tambourine Man"?

4. Which group released "Marrakesh Express"?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "All day long, wearing a mask of false bravado, Trying to keep up the smile that hides a tear."

Answers

1. The Village People. They're best known for their hit "Y.M.C.A." The Library of Congress added it to the recording collection because the song is considered "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant."

2. "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," in 1967. John Lennon claims he got the idea for the psychedelic lyrics from his son's nursery school drawing. Legend has always said that the song is about drugs, hence the first letters of the words in the title: L S D.

3. Bob Dylan, in 1965. The Byrds released a version a few months later, minus some of the verses.

4. Crosby, Stills & Nash, in 1969.

5. "Baby Come Back," by Player in 1977. The song was a single from their debut album, bringing them mainstream attention when it reached No. 1 on the Hot 100 chart.

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

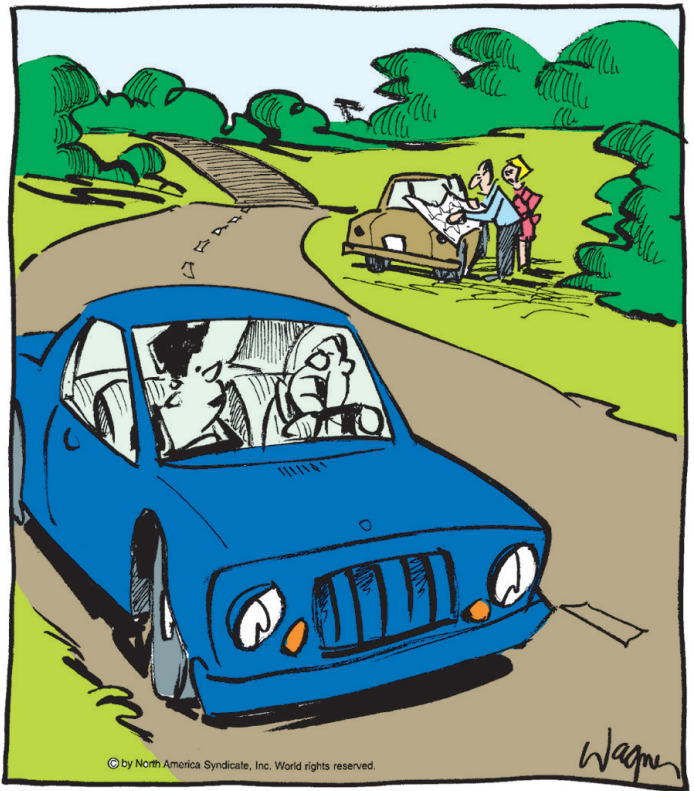
Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 6 of 90

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}

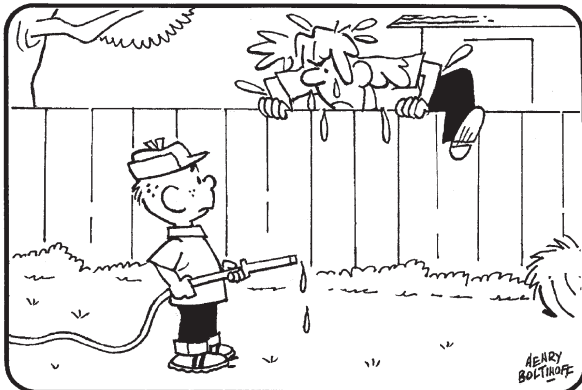


© by North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

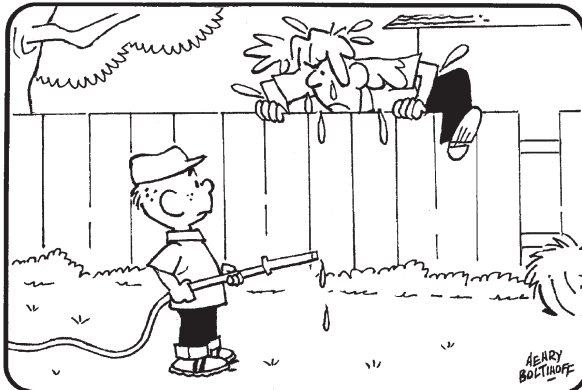
"Well, I asked ... they were lost, too."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Differences: 1. Boy's hat is different. 2. Fence board is missing. 3. Hose is longer. 4. Window is missing. 5. Tree is fuller. 6. Man's nose is different.



- Want a great way to clean around your faucets? The answer may be closer than you think! A worn-out toothbrush can do a much better job of cleaning fixtures than it can your teeth and gums. Simply brush the wet bristles of a toothbrush over the base and it'll get in those nooks and crannies you can't reach with a sponge.

- Remove mildew from plastic shower curtains by spraying them with a mix of bleach and water, or just toss them in the washing machine with your next load of towels.

- “We have a playroom, and the kids argue about who made what mess and who should pick up which toys. We made a cleaning schedule for the room, having one or two children per day responsible to clean up at the end of the day. It was a rough start, but the kids have learned to clean up as they go rather than leave a big mess for someone else (payback is not kind).”
— *A.M. in Kentucky*

- If your vacuum has a paper filter, spray it with your favorite perfume or essential oil. It will blow into the air as you vacuum, leaving behind a pleasant scent.

- “Need your nails to dry in a hurry? You can use the cool setting on your hair dryer. It works really fast.” — *L.E. in Georgia*

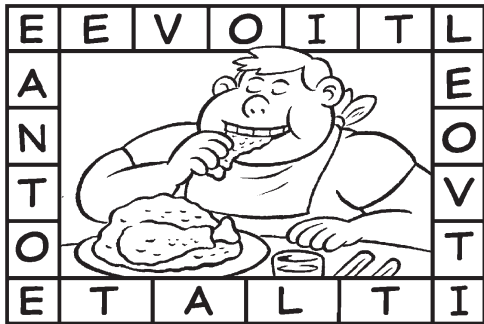
- Using your fireplace? Try adding citrus peels to the logs for a nice aroma. They can be a good starter material as well.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 8 of 90



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

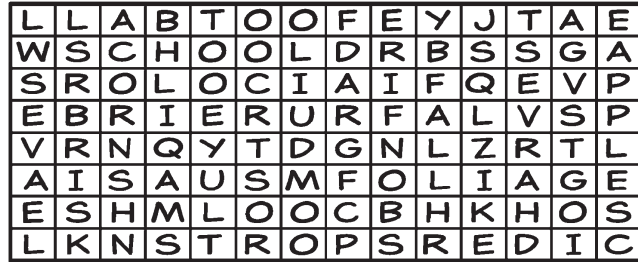
A WISE PIECE OF ADVICE! Hidden in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counter-clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with "E" in the bottom left corner, "Eat to live, not live to eat."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A PROBLEM FOR THE "SEASONED" PUZZLER!



Hidden in the above diagram are 19 words associated with the FALL season. They can be found by reading up or down, side to side, or diagonally. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the 19 words you're looking for:

- Acorns
- Apples
- Autumn
- Birds
- Bonfire
- Brisk
- Cider
- College
- Colors
- Cool
- Corn
- Fall
- Foliage
- Football
- Harvest
- Hay ride
- Leaves
- School
- Sports

"HI, DIDDLE, DIDDLE, THE CAT AND THE RIDDLE!"

You'll be in the catbird seat if you can solve these two puzzles:

1. What is a library cat?
2. What cat loves water?



Answers: 1. A catalogue. 2. A catamaran.

Illustrated by David Coulson

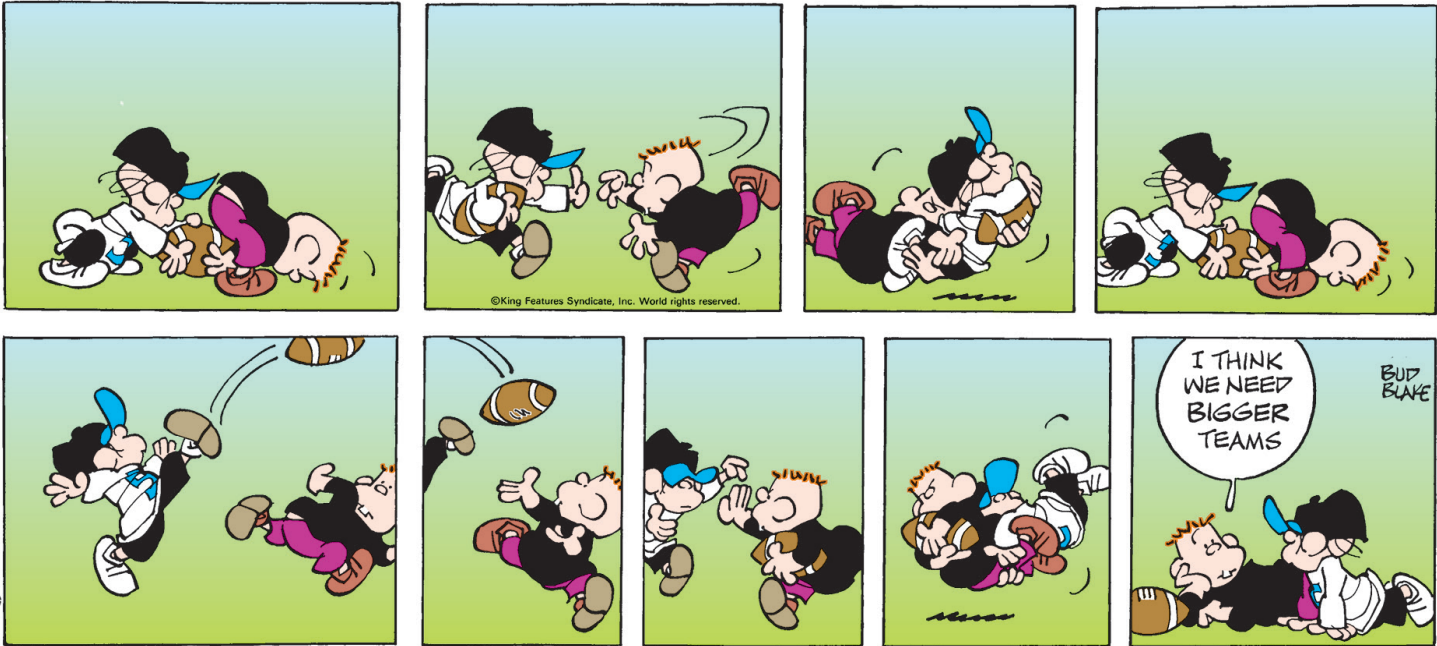
LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 one-syllable words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1. ALL | THY |
| 2. RANK | ENDS |
| 3. LEE | SURE |
| 4. WEAL | OWED |
| 5. OFF | LED |
| 6. TON | RED |

Answers: Allowed, rankled, leered, wealthy, offends, tonsure.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 9 of 90

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Off
- 6 Handed out hands
- 11 Drunk (Sl.)
- 12 Wickerwork willows
- 14 WWI president
- 15 "The Compleat Angler" writer
- 16 Furthermore
- 17 Farewell
- 19 Coloration
- 20 Requirement
- 22 Right angle
- 23 California wine region
- 24 Contribute
- 26 Got rid of the bumps

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		
11												13	
14													
16					17		18					19	
20				21			22				23		
24					25		26		27				
				28		29		30					
31	32	33					34		35		36	37	38
39						40		41		42			
43					44				45		46		
47				48				49		50			
51									52				
	53								54				

- 28 Tummy muscles
- 30 Morning moisture
- 31 Not as prevalent
- 35 Bar legally
- 39 Frilly, in a way
- 40 Minor worker
- 42 Bygone times
- 43 Inseparable
- 44 Baby-sitters, often
- 46 Dead heat
- 47 IBM computer that won on "Jeopardy!"
- 49 Trumpeter Marsalis
- 51 Most cunning
- 52 Prepares to propose
- 53 Dispatches
- 54 ESPN datum
- DOWN**
- 1 Straightened
- 2 Gave shape to
- 3 "Monty Python"
- 4 Old promenade
- 5 Device for testing physical conditions
- 6 Fastened with pegs
- 7 Birthright barterer
- 8 Have a bug
- 9 Deadly
- 10 Theatrical company
- 11 Master, on safari
- 13 Golf's "Slamin' Sammy"
- 18 Well, — be!"
- 21 Blog, basically
- 23 Full of info
- 25 Jimmy Fallon's network
- 27 Churchill's gesture
- 29 Cosines' reciprocals
- 31 Decelerates
- 32 Venice's thoroughfares
- 33 Vinegar radical
- 34 Director Howard
- 36 Stagger
- 37 Baltimore athlete
- 38 Hammerhead parts
- 41 Stares stupidly
- 44 Asking too many questions
- 45 Agreement
- 48 Red or Black
- 50 "The Matrix" role

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 10 of 90

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	M	I	S	S	D	E	A	L	T		
B	L	O	T	T	O	S	I	E	R	S	
W	I	L	S	O	N	W	A	L	T	O	N
A	N	D	A	D	I	E	U	H	U	E	
N	E	E	D	E	L	L	N	A	P	A	
A	D	D	I	N	L	E	V	E	L	E	D
A	B	S	D	E	W						
S	C	A	R	C	E	R	E	S	T	O	P
L	A	C	Y	C	O	G	Y	O	R	E	
O	N	E	N	A	N	A	S	T	I	E	
W	A	T	S	O	N	W	Y	N	T	O	N
S	L	Y	E	S	T	K	N	E	E	L	S
S	L	A	Y	S	S	C	O	R	E		

LAFF - A - DAY



"Hey, you forgot to mail my letter!"

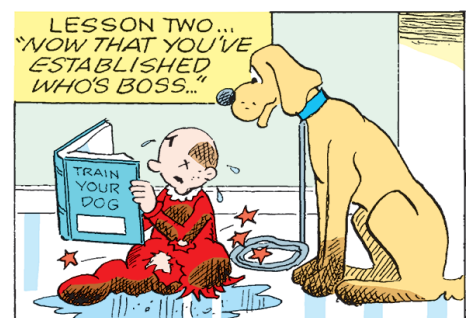
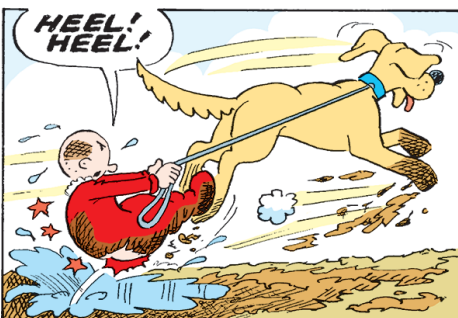
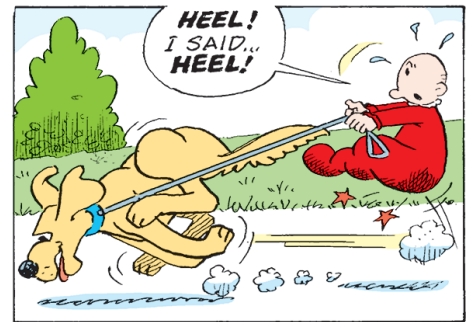
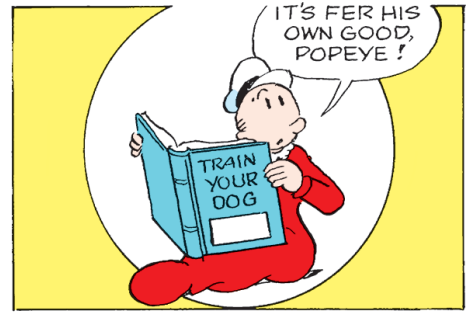
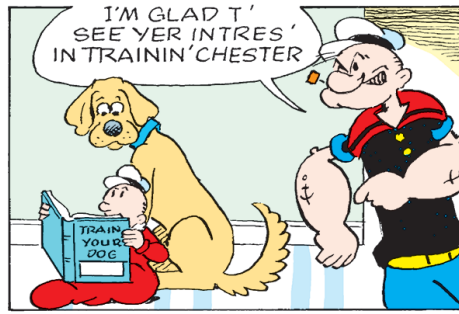
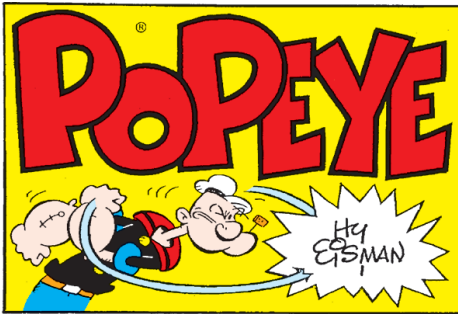
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 11 of 90



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
www.kingfeatures.com
www.rfcomic.weebly.com

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 12 of 90

Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

Our Story:
CARRYING THE EGG THAT GAWAIN STOLE LONG AGO FROM THE FARAWAY WEEDY ISLE, VAL HAS LURED ITS MOTHER FROM RUINED CAMELOT. HE BOLTS FOR THE WOODS, HOPING THE THICKETS MIGHT SLOW THE BEAST.

WITH HER UNBORN OFFSPRING SO CLOSE, THE MONSTER'S PACE NEARLY CATCHES VAL BEFORE HIS STEED REACHES THE COVER OF THE TREES.

©2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

THE DENSE FOREST DOES SLOW THE BEAST SOMEWHAT, THOUGH NOT SO MUCH AS THE KNIGHT WOULD HAVE HOPED.

BUT HE KEEPS HIS SLIGHT LEAD OVER THE MILES THAT FINALLY END...

...AT THE HIGH CLIFFS THAT OVERLOOK THE SEA! "SCALY MOTHER!" - VAL LIFTS THE PRECIOUS ORB - "I HAVE CARRIED YOUR WHELP AS FAR AS I CAN! HOW BADLY DO YOU WANT HIM?"

3782

NEXT:
Val's gambit

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

YEARS AGO THEY USED TO HAVE PAY TOILETS.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

HOW MUCH DID THEY PAY?

APR 10 2020

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Scammers' Tricks Are No Treat

They never give up. Scammers are still taking every opportunity to steal our identity and separate us from our money, and the list keeps growing. Here are a few of the scams out there now:

Seniors are getting calls from people who claim to be employees of the Department of Justice. Reports to the National Elder Fraud Hotline say that these scammers pretend to be investigators, and what they want is your personal information. If you get a call like this, don't be concerned that it's an authentic government call. It isn't. Just hang up.

Maybe you'll get a call wanting to sell you an air purifier. They'll claim it will clean any coronavirus out of the air in your home. Maybe they'll try to get you to put it on a credit card, or they'll claim it's Medicare approved and all you need to do is give them your Medicare number. Don't fall for

either of these tricks.

Scammers will try these same tactics with miracle cures for COVID, masks that are "guaranteed" to protect you, face shields, vitamin supplements, free COVID tests, low-cost prescription drugs and much more.

Sometimes scammers pretending to be from the government will try to get your personal information by saying they want to send you a stimulus check, or maybe they claim to need Census 2020 information. Sometimes it's about an expired warranty on your car or lower interest rates.

Just hang up. Don't press 1 or any other number to have your number taken off their list. All that does is give them another opportunity to convince you to give up personal information.

If someone you don't know leaves a message about any of these topics, ignore it.

Remember that we seniors are the preferred target of these scammers. Don't fall for their tricks.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 14 of 90

1. What Argentinian tennis player defeated Steffi Graf to win the US Open women's singles championship in 1990?

2. Name the broadcaster who earned the nickname "The Voice of God" as narrator for NFL Films from 1966-84.

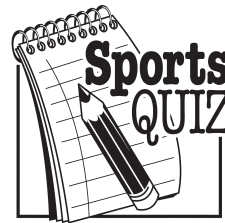
3. What Boston Bruins great won the Norris Trophy for the NHL's best defenseman eight years in a row from 1968-75?

4. Before serving as head coach of the Minnesota Vikings, Bud Grant won four Grey Cups as coach of what CFL team?

5. Hadi Saei won two Olympic gold medals and one bronze medal for Iran as a competitor in what sport?

6. What bespectacled Cincinnati Reds third baseman was named NL Rookie of the Year in 1988?

7. Dutch performance artist Iepe Rubingh and French comic-book artist Enki Bilal are credited with creating what hybrid sport?



by Ryan A. Berenz

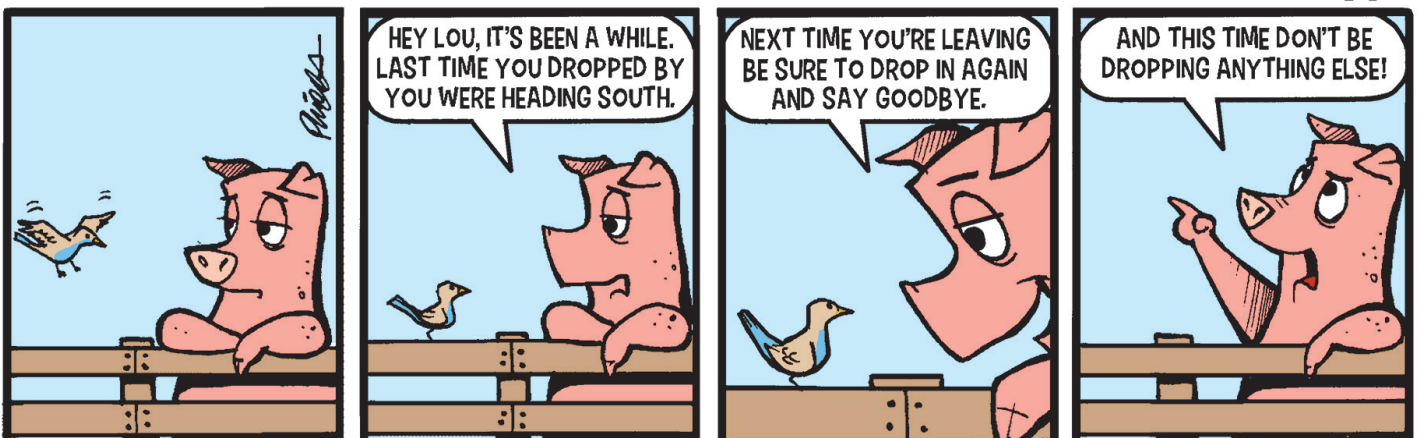
Answers

1. Gabriela Sabatini.
2. John Facenda.
3. Bobby Orr.
4. The Winnipeg Blue Bombers.
5. Taekwondo.
6. Chris Sabo.
7. Chessboxing.

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 15 of 90



CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



The PRICE is Right

Throughout my first two years in Congress, I've heard from cattle producers struggling with a volatile market and unpredictable pricing. It's no secret to our producers – the 2019 Holcomb fire and COVID-19 disrupted the cattle market and exposed cracks in our supply chain.

Last year, after urging from Agriculture state members like myself, Senator Thune, and Senator Rounds, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue announced an investigation into the cattle market. Part of that investigative report was released over the summer.

Although the report did not find any violations, it identified a number of policy approaches to address market weaknesses. Many of USDA's suggestions to improve the market directly related to policy issues I began working on when I was first sworn into office. I introduced the Small Packer Overtime and Holiday Fee Relief Act and the Livestock Risk Management and Education Act, and I was pleased to see these bills identified as suggested fixes by USDA in its recent report.

USDA's report revealed one thing: Congress has work to do in the cattle market.

Systemic issues require a systematic change, which is why this week I introduced the PRICE Act, a sweeping cattle reform bill. The PRICE Act is a big bill, and it addresses a number of fixes USDA identified in its report. It will increase price transparency for our producers, improve risk management, and support new and existing meat processors.

The PRICE Act would also create financing opportunities to encourage producer-owned, cooperative processing. It also creates an authority to allow USDA, states and other organizations to provide assistance in the hefty up-front cost of opening up shop. Allowing more producers to capture more value. It creates transparency by amending the Packers and Stockyards Act to create a cattle contract library, allowing producers to see what terms packers are offering.

Cattle country is not fully recovered from the impacts of COVID-19 – and I believe my bill is the answer to many of the issues our ranchers have faced for years.

Scott VanderWal, the President of the South Dakota Farm Bureau was right when he said, "No one solution is perfect, but a combination of commonsense free-market changes can help."

I'm grateful the PRICE Act gained the support of over a dozen bipartisan House members and several national agriculture groups. There are diverse opinions on the silver bullet for the cattle market, but it takes consensus to get change through Congress.

Politicians often grasp for the silver bullet – the quick easy fix. Just as there is no one way to raise cattle, there are many ways to craft policy for a more competitive market. Our producers are united behind the desire for a fair market, and that's what this bill aims to deliver. Now Congress needs to deliver for cattle country.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 16 of 90



History Repeats

In the Bible, the book of Ecclesiastes says “there’s nothing new under the sun.” That’s been proven true time and time again. In 1937, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt attempted to “pack the court.” During Roosevelt’s first term in office, the Supreme Court struck down many of his New Deal proposals, deeming them as unconstitutional. After winning re-election, Roosevelt vowed to alter the court to try to shove through his agenda. He introduced legislation to increase the number of justices and explained this to the American people on one of his fireside chats. The American people weren’t buying what Roosevelt was selling. The plan proved to be incredibly unpopular, failed to pass through Congress and went down as one of the biggest failures of Roosevelt’s presidency.

But, neglecting this historic lesson, the “packing the court” plan is back today. Vice President Joe Biden was asked this past week at the first presidential debate if he supported the court. He refused to answer the question. Sen. Kamala Harris, Biden’s Vice Presidential candidate has been asked this question before, and her response: “I’m absolutely open to it.”

DC Democrats are upset with the timing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s passing. It comes at the onset of an election which they are hopeful of winning, allowing them to gain control of judicial nominations. DC Democrats say that if Republicans fulfill their constitutional duty before the election by replacing Justice Ginsburg’s vacancy with President Trump’s nominee, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, they’ll “pack the court.”

In the minds of DC Democrats, the seats would be filled by liberal justices sympathetic to their socialist agenda. Currently the Supreme Court sits at nine justices. Proponents of court packing have suggested this number could be increased to 11, 13 or even 15.

For centuries, the Supreme Court has remained apolitical. Justices aren’t on cable news giving interviews. They interpret the law, rule on the constitutionality of the case before them and stay out of politics. Historically and by design, justices have made an effort to avoid legislating from the bench. Packing the court instantly transforms the Supreme Court into a political body and erodes the court’s integrity. If DC Democrats are able to successfully pack the court, the Supreme Court could become a vehicle to turn agenda into law - think Medicare for All, the Green New Deal and threats to Second Amendment rights.

Unfortunately, packing the court is just one of the DC Democrats’ revolutionary plans to fundamentally change our democracy. They are also committed to eliminating the filibuster and to Washington, D.C., statehood.

The filibuster is a big, fancy Washington word but it really just refers to a historic Senate process that leads to bipartisanship and compromise by allowing the minority to stall the debate. Democrat Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D - N.Y.) has said, “As for the filibuster, I’m not busting my chops to become majority leader to do very little or nothing. We are going to get a whole lot done. And as I’ve said, everything, everything is on the table.”

I’ll admit the filibuster rule is frustrating for those of us who would like to see legislation move more quickly, but it’s a Senate tradition rooted in the Founder’s vision of bipartisan compromise. Eliminating the filibuster gives the majority the procedural ability to pass one-party, unrepresentative votes. This, in turn, paves the way for packing the Supreme Court and Washington, D.C., statehood.

If the District of Columbia is granted independent statehood, DC Democrats believe they will have two more senators voting in their favor. In fact, the Pelosi-controlled House of Representatives has already

Groton Daily Independent

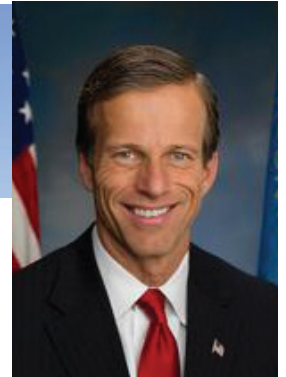
Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 17 of 90

passed legislation providing the District of Columbia with statehood.

Again, a little history lesson. In the Federalist papers Number 43, James Madison argued that the nation's capital needed to be separate from the states, saying, "...but a dependence of the members of the general government on the State comprehending the seat of the government...might bring on the national councils an imputation of awe or influence, equally dishonorable for the government and dissatisfactory to the other members of the Confederacy." Madison makes the point that the national capital being located in a state may provide that state with unjust or unequal influence.

For South Dakota and America, the "filibuster," although annoying, guarantees compromise. Packing the Supreme Court will destroy our economy and way of life. DC statehood would guarantee both.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



The Kind of Supreme Court Justice All Americans Should Want

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Judge Amy Coney Barrett, the president's nominee to serve on the Supreme Court. I can say with confidence that she is everything you could want in someone who would serve on our nation's highest court. She was first in her class in law school. She clerked for a circuit court judge and a Supreme Court justice. She worked in private practice and in academia. And she currently serves as a highly respected federal judge in the Midwest, having received bipartisan support for her confirmation.

Her qualifications to serve on the Supreme Court are abundantly clear, but don't take my word for it.

During her confirmation to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, support for Judge Barrett poured in from her students, colleagues, and peers – from both sides of the aisle. Every one of the Supreme Court clerks who had served with Judge Barrett during her clerkship with Justice Antonin Scalia wrote a letter to the then-chairman and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee expressing their support for her confirmation. This included Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's clerks and other clerks from the liberal wing of the court.

In their letter, they wrote, "We are Democrats, Republicans, and independents, and we have diverse points of view on politics, judicial philosophy, and much else. Yet we all write to support the nomination of Professor Barrett to be a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Professor Barrett is a woman of remarkable intellect and character. She is eminently qualified for the job."

Judge Barrett's colleagues from Notre Dame sent a similar letter, which was signed by every full-time member of the Notre Dame Law School faculty: "Amy Coney Barrett will be an exceptional federal judge. ... As a scholarly community, we have a wide range of political views, as well as commitments to different approaches to judicial methodology and judicial craft. We are united, however, in our judgment about Amy. She is a brilliant teacher and scholar, and a warm and generous colleague. She possesses in abundance all of the other qualities that shape extraordinary jurists: discipline, intellect, wisdom, impeccable temperament, and above all, fundamental decency and humanity."

Again, Judge Barrett's experience, sound judicial philosophy, and stellar record stand on their own. That's why Democrats have resorted to scare tactics to try to sink her nomination. They realize that it's pretty hard to oppose Judge Barrett on the merits, so they've attacked her faith and her family. Democrats have even tried their best to imply they already know how Judge Barrett would rule on certain cases in the future.

No one knows exactly how Judge Barrett – or any potential judge or justice – would rule on a particular case, and why would we? Justices should be impartial and decide cases according to the rule of law, not a preferred or predetermined outcome. And we already know that about Judge Barrett. She will consider the facts of the case, the law, and the Constitution. She will rule based on those guideposts – regardless of her personal feelings or beliefs.

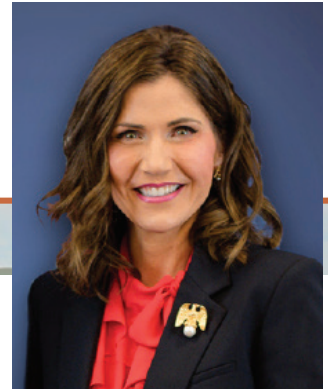
As Judge Barrett noted in her speech accepting the president's nomination, "A judge must apply the law as written. Judges are not policymakers, and they must be resolute in setting aside any policy views they might hold." That's the kind of justice Judge Barrett would be. That's the kind of justice all Americans should want.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 19 of 90



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



A South Dakota Staple: The Buffalo Roundup

I recently got to enjoy one of my favorite days of the year in South Dakota, the annual Buffalo Roundup. I appreciate each and every day that I have the privilege to serve you as governor, but the day of the Buffalo Roundup is truly special. It incorporates South Dakota's culture, heritage, outdoor spirit, and love for freedom, and it's a heck of a lot of fun to boot.

For those of you who don't know, the event takes place every year on the last Friday in September in Custer State Park. The Park is home to a herd of about 1,400 bison, and every year they are rounded up so that we can tend to them and even sell some to help grow other herds. This year, I especially appreciated the opportunity to ride alongside my daughter Cassidy, my son-in-law Kyle, and a few champion rodeo cowboys as we herded the bison across fields and into the corrals.

This year's Buffalo Roundup included a crowd of more than 20,000 people, with visitors from around the country. Many of them came to South Dakota because they heard that we're open and wanted to experience it for themselves. The Buffalo Roundup was the perfect venue to help them fall in love with our state; there's nothing more free than a bison herd thundering by. Several visitors came up to me, jaws dropped, to let me know just how awe-struck they were by the display.

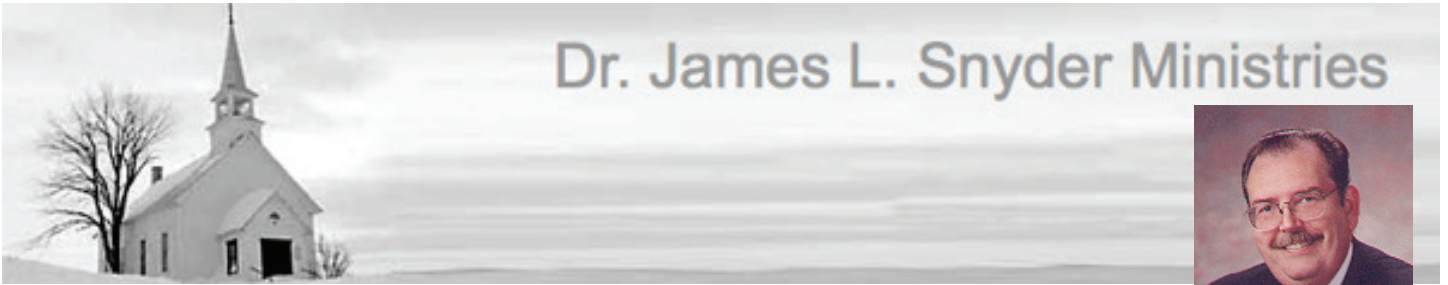
When I was in Congress, I led efforts to name the bison as America's National Mammal, and we got that bill passed in 2016. It's estimated that in the late 1800s, fewer than 1,000 bison were alive in the United States. After more than a century of steady conservation efforts, those numbers have swelled to more than 500,000 in America today. Those efforts are largely thanks to the Custer State Park bison herd, because our herd has some of the best genetics in the country. Every year, we sell some of these bison to intersperse their genetics with those of other herds, improving the health of the species' population across the country.

This fantastic event stands as a testament to the spirit of conservation in our state. We love South Dakota's breathtaking landscapes and wide-open spaces. We love the wildlife that roams our state. We believe that we can conserve our natural beauty through careful management, while avoiding unnecessary government overreach.

In South Dakota, we hunt, we fish, and we care for our wildlife. We're home to the beautiful Black Hills and the awesome Badlands, among countless other natural wonders. And we work to protect this natural beauty through responsible stewardship. But it doesn't require a government takeover of the environment. One bright side to these last several months is that countless folks have headed back outdoors for the first time in a long while. And no event highlights South Dakota's amazing outdoors as well as the Buffalo Roundup.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 20 of 90



Chillin Ain't What I Thought It Was

Last week the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came up with a brilliant idea. At least, at the time, it seemed brilliant.

"Why don't we," she began, "take Monday off and just chill?"

Since it's been a long time since I did any chillin, I had to ask her, "What do we chill about?"

She looked at me with one of those looks and said, "Oh, silly boy. Don't you know what it means to just chill for a day?"

It's been so long since I did any of that I'm not sure if I remember what the rules are for chilling for a day. I can't remember the last time we did that. I'm sure being sick in bed does not qualify.

"Don't you worry about a thing," she said with a huge smile on her face, "I'll take care of everything."

That's what got me to worry. When the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is in charge of planning, nothing is off the table.

I queried her throughout the week about what she had in mind for Monday, and she would smile and say, "Don't you worry about a thing." That's all she would tell me, which led me to worry about everything.

Whenever anybody, especially my wife, tells me not to worry, it is a red flag to begin worrying as best I can. If anybody can worry with dignity, it is Yours Truly.

I began worrying when I was very young. My parents would tell me, don't worry about anything, "We'll take care of everything, and you don't have to worry about anything."

Every time that happened, nothing really good came out of it, especially for me. My parents always planned around what they liked without any regard to what I liked. According to them, I was to like what they liked and appreciate what they were doing.

To an extent, I appreciated that, but to another extent, it made me worry quite a bit. After years of practicing my worrying, I think I have it down to a science.

So, when my wife says I'm not to worry and she'll take care of things, I then begin to worry like I haven't worried for a long time. I feared for the dawn of the coming Monday.

As we went to bed Sunday night, my wife said, "Are you as excited about our chillin day tomorrow as I am?"

Not knowing exactly what she had planned, I wasn't as excited as she was.

We had a light breakfast and chattered a little while watching the news on TV.

"There's a new restaurant in our area. Let's go there for lunch."

That was okay with me, then she said, "We should leave a little before lunch, I need to stop to pick up something."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 21 of 90

I really wasn't listening to what she said because I was trying to figure out what this chillin would be like today.

"And then," she continued, "I need to go over to Lowe's and pick up some material for the room we're remodeling.

Of course, that room we are remodeling is my home office. How could I say no to that?

Finally, we did get to the new restaurant and had a wonderful lunch. After lunch, we headed over to Lowe's and picked up the material she had ordered.

I still was trying to figure out what we were going to be doing to chill out today. While I was thinking about it, she suddenly said, "Look, there's a thrift store I haven't been to in a month. Let's stop and see what they got."

Coming out of the thrift store with a shopping cart full of stuff, "I sure am grateful that we stopped here today. Look at all the wonderful stuff I got and look at how much money I saved."

Driving out of the parking lot and onto the main highway, we went for just a few minutes, and then my wife said, "Oh, look over there. They have some material I need to get to finish the project I'm working on. Let's stop there for a minute."

We brought out another shopping cart full of "stuff" she needed for her project. I glanced at her as we got into the van, and she was smiling.

I made the mistake of asking her, "Why are you smiling?"

"Oh," she said, chuckling, "this is the best chillin day I've had, in, I can't remember how long. Aren't you glad we took this day off to chill?"

It was about suppertime, so I suggested we stop at a local restaurant for supper. While we were enjoying our supper together, she entertained me with all of the wonderful stuff she got and all the money she saved by shopping at these thrift stores.

We got home and sat down in the living room after we had unloaded her van, and she said, "This has been a wonderful time together. We should do this more often." And she looked at me and smiled, and I returned her smile thinking, I don't think so.

As she talked, I couldn't help but think of one of my favorite Old Testament passages. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

I still haven't figured out what a chillin day is, but I have learned, if I want what she wants, that makes it all the more wonderful.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 22 of 90

#223 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Not much has changed. We had 47,200 new cases reported today, a bit down for the weekend, which is sort of standard; but we're still about where we've been. This is a 0.6% increase to 7,409,300 cases since the start of the pandemic in the US. There have been 209,267 deaths so far. Today, 731 more were reported, a 0.4% increase.

An interesting study from researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany was published a couple of days ago in the journal Nature. They explored a gene cluster found in some people that has been linked to a higher risk of hospitalizations and respiratory failure in patients. The genes belong to a group called a haplotype, which probably came from Neanderthals. Humans and Neanderthals are known to have interbred at different points in history, which resulted in an exchange of genes we can still identify in genomes today, and this particular haplotype is one such group of genes. We see the haplotype in about 16% of Europeans and half of South Asians, but it is non-existent in Africa and East Asia. Studies from the UK have shown that people there with Bangladeshi descent have about twice the risk of death as the general population; estimates are that 63% of the population in Bangladesh carries a copy of this haplotype, which explains the high death rates there. Work is underway to try to discover what it is in the haplotype which is causing these outcomes. This has no consequences for treatment at present, but it is worth investigating and it is interesting. The question arises how genes which have survived in populations for tens of thousands of years are such a liability to an immunologic challenge; seems to me they would have died off long ago. Perhaps they confer some other advantage we have not yet identified.

We've seen a few reports of reinfections over the months this virus has been making its way across the world, and two of those cases have been confirmed as reinfections. One individual had no symptoms upon second infection, but the other person was sicker the second time around. So one thing we're left to wonder is just how well-protected you are after an initial infection. It is important to note that we believe these reinfections are uncommon, so this may not be a huge concern at this juncture. Still, it is worrisome. It is possible that the non-specific innate immune response in which white blood cells trigger inflammation to clear the virus may be enough to get the job done so that your adaptive immune responses are never activated; this would result in you not developing immunologic memory for the virus because memory is an outcome of the adaptive response. Perhaps that explains the reinfections. (If you find yourself in need of a refresher on innate and adaptive responses—or you were not with us when it was discussed—see my Update #150 posted on July 22 at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3796230603726651>.)

So far, neutralizing antibodies (those are the highly effective ones) have been detected as much as four months after infection, so it appears they last at least that long. Antibodies against related coronaviruses generally last a couple of years; but you will want to remember that declining levels of antibody do not necessarily mean you are no longer protected. The memory cells that enable a faster, more efficient response upon subsequent infection outlive antibodies for many pathogens. With SARS infections, we've found memory T cells (part of the adaptive cell mediated response) that trigger responses up to the present, close to 20 years later.

So how does all this discussion of the duration of immunity after natural infection relate to vaccination? Not as much as you might think. Vaccines are frequently engineered to improve on nature. One thing we can do with vaccines is to focus the immune response on specific antigens that elicit stronger responses. A pathogen—bacterium or virus—has many antigens, any of which can elicit a response; the response to one antigen might be more protective than the response to another. When we produce a vaccine, we can include the antigen(s) that elicit the most protective response. Most of the vaccines for Covid-19 focus on those spike proteins because those are the guys that enable the virus to get inside our cells, the ones you really want to shut down. We can also tinker with immunogenicity (the ability to elicit that immune response) in a vaccine. One way to do this is to include an adjuvant, which enhances immunogenicity.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 23 of 90

(For a discussion of adjuvants, see my Update #166 posted August 7 at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3846639405352437>.) We can also control the dose and route of administration of the antigen to encourage the kind of response we want in the place we want it. It could be, for example, that eventually we'll have a Covid-19 vaccine that is administered in the nose, delivering the antigen right where the virus first replicates, offering protection at the site of entry. Turns out vaccine design relies on having a pretty good understanding of our natural immune response to the pathogen, and that's why vaccines will likely continue to be developed and to improve for some time to come.

I waded through a paper today (in preprint, which means it has not yet been peer-reviewed) from a research group at Yale University. They pulled a group of 3300 patients from their health system database and then carried out proteomic profiling on their plasma. This involves identifying every single protein present in the liquid portion (plasma) of these patients' blood. Then they pulled the clinical data for these patients and used a machine learning algorithm to match proteins with outcomes. This is the kind of research that simply could not reasonably be done without some sophisticated computer software and which can be incredibly valuable. They were able to identify a constellation of five cytokines present in patients who became severely ill, all of them important in neutrophil recruitment and activation. Neutrophils are a variety of white blood cell. You may have noticed by now that, over time, I have labeled a whole bunch of different cells as "a variety of white blood cell;" this is because you have a whole bunch of different kinds of white blood cells, all of them active, one way or another, in immunologic activity. Neutrophils (so-called because they stain best with neutral-pH dyes), are early responders in an innate response, migrating through blood vessels and in between tissue cells responding to cytokines (those messaging molecules that recruit inflammatory and immune cells to a response). There is a set of five such cytokines which activate and recruit neutrophils that were found to be elevated in severely-ill patients; this activation preceded the onset of critical illness and predicted increased mortality. The researchers also found that early elevations in developing and mature neutrophil counts also predicted higher mortality rates. This means neutrophil recruitment is a bad sign in Covid-19 infections; it predicts serious outcomes. Being able to spot those who are likely to go south would be most helpful in focusing clinical efforts on forestalling that outcome. Presuming these findings can be reproduced, this information may add an interesting tool to add to our arsenal. The more we know, the better we can do.

I had a look at findings from a group of variously-affiliated researchers who examined the immunological responses of 40 older adults to the Moderna vaccine candidate. They found that adverse events were mostly mild to moderate in severity and included fatigue, chills, headache, myalgia (muscle aches), and pain at the injection site. These were dose-dependent and more common after the second immunization. They got very nice antibody titers similar to those seen in recipients between the ages of 18 and 55 years and above those seen in convalescent serum donors. This means the response, even in older individuals is better than what we see in natural infections. Additionally, there was a strong CD4 cytokine response, which is one that involves type 1 helper T cells, indicating a strong cell-mediated response as well. The cell-mediated response is a second sort of response in addition to the humoral (antibody) response; so it means we are recruiting more of the immune system against the virus. Given this was a small study, further work needs to be done to confirm this outcome in larger samples; but if this is replicable, it is excellent news for older individuals hoping for a vaccine which is effective for them.

In the midst of this pandemic, it is sometimes easy to forget people are facing crises that are not related to the virus. One such person is Tim Gjoraas, a 22-year veteran teacher at Washington High School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was diagnosed with colon cancer last year and started chemotherapy, but learned in July he has only a few months left to live. Reluctantly, he packed up his classroom at the high school and came home to spend more time with his family. "I found out I was not going to win the fight," he told CNN this week. The good news is that the community has really rallied around him and his family in this difficult time.

People organized fundraisers. And then, Gjoraas mentioned to a friend and retired teacher that he was hoping to have his house repainted for his family. They've been there for 20 years, and it is more than

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 24 of 90

time for a new coat of paint. He's not going to be able to provide that now. Gjorass said, "I just asked him if next summer, which I probably won't be here for, if he can paint it for my wife." The friend went one better. He recruited a dozen other teachers and friends to paint the house blue—a color Gjoraas' wife, Lisa, had picked out. It took a little over half a day to do the painting; then they opened a few beers with their friend and shared stories with Gjorass. He says he is very appreciative of the support from community and friends. He is soaking up all the memories he can with his family and having beer with friends when he feels good.

His friend says, "You want to help in any way you can . . . Even this what we're doing today, it isn't going to change anything, but I just hope it makes him feel more comfortable. It maybe makes us all feel a little better too."

I disagree: I think what they did that day does change something. Their kindness will not extend a life, but it will make leaving it just a bit easier and it will make staying behind a bit easier too. This is no small thing. If we each have not sought out and done something to make someone's passage through life a bit easier, then we may have failed in our life's purpose. Just something to consider.

Be well. We'll talk again.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 25 of 90

COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLDWIDE

3 Weeks Ago	2 Weeks Ago	Last Week	This Week
Global Cases 28,787,808	Global Cases 30,804,120	Global Cases 32,870,631	Global Cases 34,791,855
6,486,401 US	6,766,631 US	7,079,689 US	7,379,614 US
4,754,356 India	5,400,619 India	5,992,532 India	6,473,544 India
4,315,687 Brazil	4,528,240 Brazil	4,717,991 Brazil	4,880,523 Brazil
1,059,024 Russia	1,098,958 Russia	1,146,273 Russia	1,198,663 Russia
716,670 Peru	758,398 Colombia	806,038 Colombia	848,147 Colombia
708,964 Colombia	756,412 Peru	794,584 Peru	821,564 Peru
663,973 Mexico	694,121 Mexico	726,431 Mexico	790,818 Argentina
648,214 South Africa	659,656 South Africa	716,481 Spain	789,932 Spain
566,326 Spain	640,040 Spain	702,484 Argentina	757,953 Mexico
546,481 Argentina	622,934 Argentina	669,498 South Africa	679,716 South Africa
Global Deaths 920,795	Global Deaths 957,348	Global Deaths 994,534	Global Deaths 1,031,528
193,705 deaths US	199,268 deaths US	204,499 deaths US	209,335 deaths US
131,210 deaths Brazil	136,532 deaths Brazil	141,406 deaths Brazil	145,388 deaths Brazil
78,586 deaths India	86,752 deaths India	94,503 deaths India	100,842 deaths India
70,604 deaths Mexico	73,258 deaths Mexico	76,243 deaths Mexico	78,880 deaths Mexico
41,712 deaths United Kingdom	41,848 deaths United Kingdom	42,060 deaths United Kingdom	42,407 deaths United Kingdom
35,603 deaths Italy	35,692 deaths Italy	35,818 deaths Italy	35,968 deaths Italy

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 26 of 90

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	Oct. 4		
Minnesota	98,447	99,134	100,200	101,366	102,787		
Nebraska	45,044	45,564	46,185	46,977	47,403		
Montana	12,724	13,071	13,500	13,855	14,356		
Colorado	70,025	70,536	71,218	71,898	72,555		
Wyoming	4,948	5,046	5,170	5,289	5,415		
North Dakota	21,401	21,846	22,218	22,694	23,134		
South Dakota	21,997	22,389	23,136	23,522	23,986		
United States	7,191,349	7,234,257	7,279,065	7,335,946	7,379,614		
US Deaths	206,005	206,963	207,816	208,739	209,335		
Minnesota	+809	+687	+1,066	1,166	+1,421		
Nebraska	+466	+520	+621	+792	+426		
Montana	+311	+347	+429	+355	+501		
Colorado	+535	+511	+682	+680	+657		
Wyoming	+51	+98	+124	+119	+126		
North Dakota	+418	+445	+372	+476	+440		
South Dakota	+259	+392	+747	+386	+464		
United States	+41,232	+42,909	+44,808	+56,881	+43,668		
US Deaths	+914	+958	+853	+923	+596		

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 27 of 90

October 3rd COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

South Dakota recorded 11 deaths and North Dakota recorded eight as the death count from COVID-19 takes a jump. In South Dakota, 248 people have died from COVID-19 issues. Three were female and 5 were males. Five were in the 80+ age group, 3 in the 70s and 3 in the 60s. Counties with first deaths are Ziebach and Hand. Having one death each were Gregory, Lincoln, Oglala Lakota, Turner and Union. Those with 2 deaths were Jerauld and Minnehaha. North Dakota had 271 who have died.

Those currently hospitalized in South Dakota dropped by five to 215. Positive cases in South Dakota numbered 464 with 328 being recovered. North Dakota had 443 new positive cases and 286 recovered. The positivity rate in South Dakota today is 12.8 percent and in North Dakota is 7.5 percent.

Counties with double digit increases are Beadle 10, Bon Homme 10, Brookings 11, Brown 34, Codington 16, Davison 16, Hughes 16, Lincoln 29, Minnehaha 98, Pennington 52, Roberts 13, Todd 11, and Union 10.

Locally, counties with positive-recovered: Brown 34-21, Day 2-1, Edmunds 2-4, Marshall 0-0, McPherson 2-0, and Spink 1-7.

Brown County:

Total Positive: +34 (1,326) Positivity Rate: 13.7%
Total Tests: +247 (11,463)
Recovered: +21 (1,111)
Active Cases: +13 (211)
Ever Hospitalized: +0 (55)
Deaths: +0 (4)
Percent Recovered: 83.8

South Dakota:

Positive: +464 (23,986 total) Positivity Rates: 12.8%
Total Tests: 3,621 (286,134 total)
Hospitalized: +27 (1,615 total). 215 currently hospitalized -5)
Deaths: +11 (248 total)
Recovered: +328 (19,626 total)
Active Cases: +125 (4,112)
Percent Recovered: 81.8%
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 9% Covid, 46% Non-Covid, 45% Available
ICU Bed Capacity: 16% Covid, 55% Non-Covid, 28% Available
Ventilator Capacity: 4% Covid, 16% Non-Covid, 80% Available

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

Aurora: +2 positive, +0 recovered (19 active cases)
Beadle (10): +10 positive, +13 recovered (95 active

cases)

Bennett (3): +2 positive, +0 recovered (13 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +10 positive, +1 recovered (35 active cases)

Brookings (2): +11 positive, +13 recovered (119 active cases)

Brown (4): +34 positive, +21 recovered (211 active cases)

Brule (1): +5 positive, +7 recovered (31 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +1 positive, +0 recovered (24 active cases)

Butte (3): -1 positive, +1 recovered (37 active cases)

Campbell: +0 positive, +2 recovered (18 active cases)

Charles Mix: +8 positive, +1 recovered (63 active cases)

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

Clay (7) +5 positive, +3 recovered (42 active cases)

Codington (7): +16 positive, +21 recovered (183 active cases)

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

Custer (3): +0 positive, +1 recovered (27 active case)

Davison (2): +16 positive, +8 recovered (154 active cases)

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

Deuel: +3 positive, +0 recovered (15 active cases)

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

Douglas (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (31 active cases)

Edmunds: +2 positive, +4 recovered (13 active cases)

Fall River (5): +3 positive, +1 recovered (15 active cases)

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

Grant (1): +7 positive, +4 recovered (65 active cases)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 28 of 90

Gregory (4): +1 positive, +2 recovered (35 active cases)
 Haakon (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (10 active case)
 Hamlin: +2 positive, +3 recovered (19 active cases)
 Hand (1): +2 positive, +4 recovered (22 active cases)
 Hanson (1): +1 positive, +0 recovered (15 active cases)
 Harding: +0 positive (1 active case)
 Hughes (5): +16 positive, +7 recovered (145 active cases)
 Hutchinson (2): +1 positive, +2 recovered (41 active cases)
 Hyde: +0 positive, +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED)
 Jackson (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (8 active cases)
 Jerauld (3): +0 positive, +3 recovered (31 active cases)
 Jones: +1 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)
 Kingsbury: +0 positive, +0 recovered (14 active cases)
 Lake (7): +3 positive, +3 recovered (29 active cases)
 Lawrence (5): +8 positive, +13 recovered (96 active cases)
 Lincoln (3): +29 positive, +16 recovered (277 active cases)
 Lyman (3): +4 positive, +5 recovered (39 active cases)

Marshall: +0 positive, +0 recovered (12 active cases)
 McCook (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (37 active cases)
 McPherson: +2 positive, +0 recovery (8 active case)
 Meade (5): +8 positive, +14 recovered (120 active cases)
 Mellette: +2 positive, +0 recovery (7 active cases)
 Miner: +0 positive, +0 recovered (7 active cases)
 Minnehaha (84): +98 positive, +41 recovered (756 active cases)
 Moody: +7 positive, +3 recovered (30 active cases)
 Oglala Lakota (4): +8 positive, +6 recovered (105 active cases)
 Pennington (37): +52 positive, +44 recovered (446 active cases)
 Perkins: +0 positive, +0 recovered (10 active cases)
 Potter: +4 positive, +0 recovered (8 active cases)
 Roberts (1): +13 positive, +4 recovered (64 active cases)
 Sanborn: +4 positive, +2 recovered (14 active cases)
 Spink: +1 positive, +7 recovered (27 active cases)
 Stanley: +3 positive, +2 recovery (8 active cases)
 Sully: +0 positive, +0 recovered (4 active cases)
 Todd (5): +11 positive, +1 recovered (42 active cases)
 Tripp (1): +7 positive, +13 recovered (55 active cases)
 Turner (4): +2 positive, +1 recovered (36 active cases)
 Union (9): +10 positive, +14 recovered (79 active cases)
 Walworth (1): +2 positive, +2 recovered (33 active cases)
 Yankton (4): +3 positive, +4 recovered (101 active cases)
 Ziebach (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (6 active case)

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report
 COVID-19 Daily Report, October 3:

- 7.3% rolling 14-day positivity
- 7.5% daily positivity
- 443 new positives
- 5,942 susceptible test encounters
- 100 currently hospitalized (-11)
- 3,784 active cases (+45)

Total Deaths: +8 (271)

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	753	0
10-19 years	2692	0
20-29 years	5508	2
30-39 years	4135	7
40-49 years	3261	10
50-59 years	3258	22
60-69 years	2336	38
70-79 years	1173	48
80+ years	870	121

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	12497	110
Male	11489	138

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 29 of 90

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	68	48	564	0	Moderate
Beadle	841	736	2895	10	Substantial
Bennett	74	58	792	3	Substantial
Bon Homme	108	72	1219	1	Moderate
Brookings	833	727	4911	2	Substantial
Brown	1326	1111	7286	4	Substantial
Brule	146	111	1234	1	Substantial
Buffalo	151	124	825	3	Substantial
Butte	122	82	1666	3	Substantial
Campbell	37	19	153	0	Substantial
Charles Mix	206	143	2407	0	Substantial
Clark	46	35	575	0	Moderate
Clay	581	532	2657	7	Substantial
Codington	970	780	5171	7	Substantial
Corson	94	84	748	1	Moderate
Custer	196	166	1363	3	Substantial
Davison	396	240	3610	2	Substantial
Day	95	66	972	0	Substantial
Deuel	93	78	647	0	Moderate
Dewey	174	112	2961	0	Substantial
Douglas	99	67	579	1	Substantial
Edmunds	102	89	629	0	Substantial
Fall River	103	83	1486	5	Moderate
Faulk	76	67	318	1	Substantial
Grant	172	106	1209	1	Substantial
Gregory	145	105	675	4	Substantial
Haakon	32	22	384	1	Moderate
Hamlin	108	89	1029	0	Substantial
Hand	56	34	497	1	Substantial
Hanson	47	31	354	1	Moderate
Harding	4	3	92	0	Minimal
Hughes	530	380	3046	5	Substantial
Hutchinson	119	77	1277	2	Substantial

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 30 of 90

Hyde	20	20	224	0	Moderate	
Jackson	37	28	646	1	Moderate	
Jerauld	99	68	341	3	Substantial	
Jones	18	12	101	0	Minimal	
Kingsbury	63	49	827	0	Substantial	
Lake	212	176	1478	7	Substantial	
Lawrence	457	356	4312	5	Substantial	
Lincoln	1531	1251	10919	3	Substantial	
Lyman	179	137	1281	3	Substantial	
Marshall	46	34	667	0	Moderate	
McCook	120	82	927	1	Substantial	
McPherson	40	32	326	0	Moderate	
Meade	608	487	3889	5	Substantial	
Mellette	36	29	506	0	Minimal	
Miner	28	21	356	0	Minimal	
Minnehaha	7109	6269	42751	84	Substantial	
Moody	111	81	895	0	Substantial	
Oglala Lakota	333	224	4563	4	Substantial	
Pennington	2568	2085	18786	37	Substantial	
Perkins	42	34	373	0	Moderate	
Potter	51	43	492	0	Moderate	
Roberts	237	172	2792	1	Substantial	
Sanborn	39	25	338	0	Moderate	
Spink	150	124	1514	0	Substantial	
Stanley	48	40	451	0	Moderate	
Sully	14	10	136	0	Minimal	
Todd	151	103	2916	0	5	Substantial
Tripp	185	129	950	1	Substantial	
Turner	181	141	1429	4	Substantial	
Union	454	366	3172	9	Substantial	
Walworth	140	104	1180	1	Substantial	
Yankton	464	359	4968	4	Substantial	
Ziebach	65	58	519	1	Minimal	
Unassigned	0	0	4777	0		

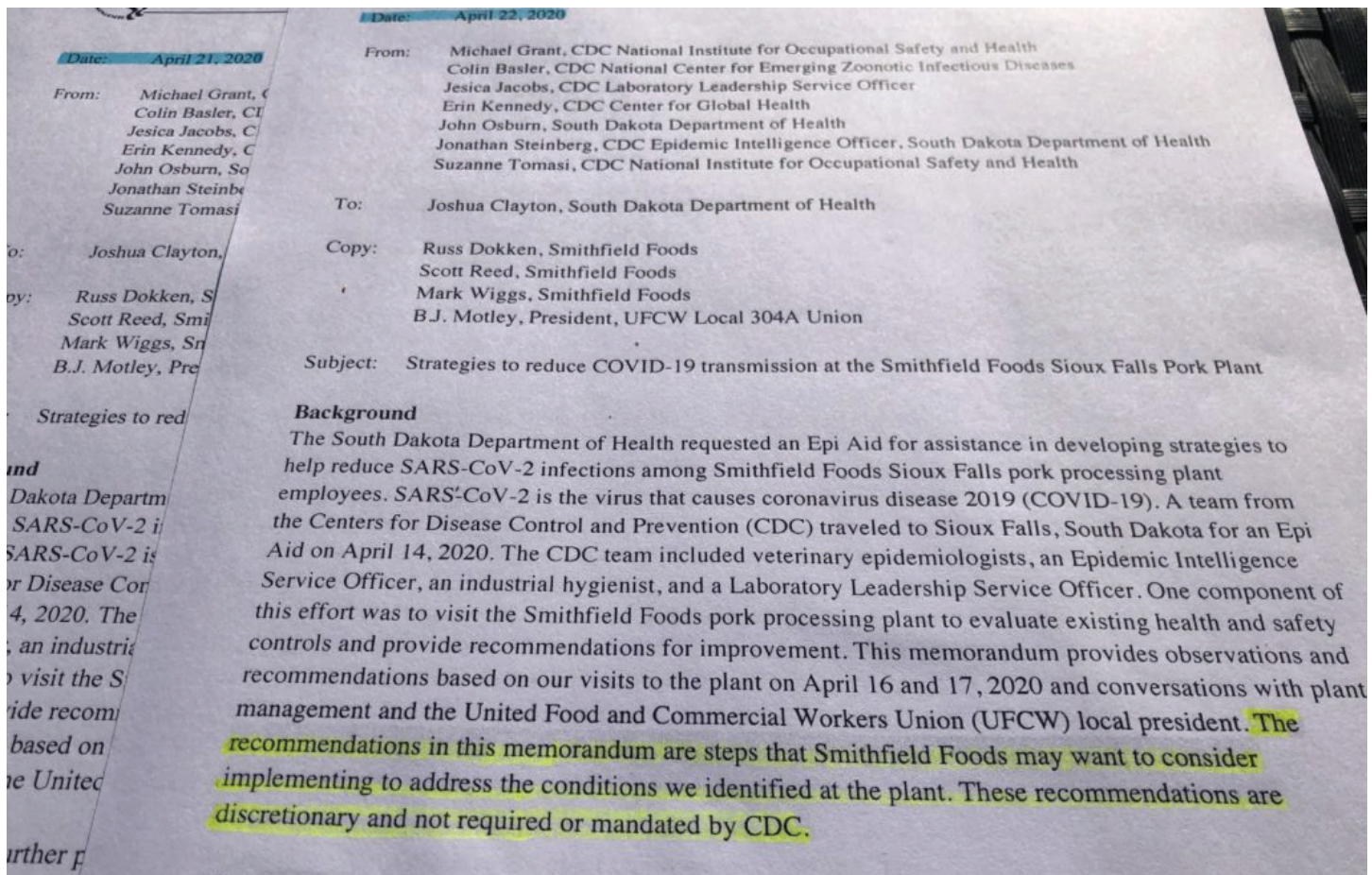
CDC report on Smithfield COVID-19 outbreak in Sioux Falls was redone with 'watered down' safety recommendations

Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved a final report on a massive COVID-19 outbreak at the Smithfield Foods plant in Sioux Falls, then retracted that report and redid a second final report with much less stringent worker-safety recommendations.

The first report was dated April 21, 2020, and included 15 pages of recommendations for improved safety. The second report, issued the next day, included many of the same recommendations but with added language stating that safety improvements were "discretionary and not required" to be implemented by Smithfield.

The second report also contains numerous references to safety measures that should be implemented only "if feasible" or "if possible," including whether sick employees should stay home, whether dirty or



The original version of the CDC report on the Smithfield Foods COVID-19 outbreak in Sioux Falls on the left, dated April 21, 2020, does not contain the highlighted text and other text that appeared in the second version of the report issued the next day. Most of the added text indicates worker safety recommendations are "discretionary" or should be implemented only "if feasible" or "if possible." Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 32 of 90



A second, altered version of a CDC report with safety recommendations for the Smithfield Foods plant in Sioux Falls said that installation of plastic barriers between workers, such as these shown in a Tyson Foods chicken plant, should be put in place only “wherever feasible.” Photo: News Watch file

wet masks should be replaced, and whether protective barriers should be used to keep workers safe.

The Smithfield pork processing plant in downtown Sioux Falls became the largest COVID-19 hotspot in the country in April; in all, about 929 workers and 210 close contacts of workers were known to be sickened, leading to two deaths, according to the state. Smithfield was fined \$13,494 by federal regulators in early September.

The CDC sent in a team of inspectors to the Sioux Falls plant in mid-April to complete what is known as an “Epi Aid” investigation into the outbreak and to make safety recommendations. The review was requested by the South Dakota Department of Health.

A congressional inquiry has been launched to find out who is responsible for what Democratic lawmakers said is the “watering down” of the CDC report recommendations, and to discover why and when the changes to the first version of the report were made. A member of the House of Representatives who chairs a subcommittee on worker safety raised concerns

on Sept. 30 that politics may have played a role in the rewriting of the CDC report.

Robert Redfield, head of the CDC, told a U.S. Senate committee in September that the changes were made simply to note that CDC safety recommendations are suggestions and not requirements. However, such notations were not made in past CDC reports, including a report on a COVID-19 breakout at a Colorado meat plant issued just two days before the release of the Smithfield report.

News Watch has confirmed through congressional records that the South Dakota Department of Health was given a “pre-clearance draft” copy of the first version of the report by email on April 20, the day before the initial version was to be released.

Those records also indicate that officials from the Smithfield plant in Sioux Falls were also given a draft copy of the first version of the report before its release.

Officials with the health department, including Secretary Kim Malsam-Rysdon and epidemiologist Joshua Clayton, who is listed as the primary recipient of both CDC reports, did not respond to specific questions sent to them by News Watch.

Instead, health department spokesman Derrick Haskins said in an email to News Watch, “We would refer you to CDC for questions related to its report. Dr. Clayton, Sec. Malsam-Rysdon, and Governor Noem were primarily responsible for requesting the initial CDC and NIOSH support to help assess the COVID-19 mitigation practices at Smithfield Foods and disseminating the investigation findings from the report.”

Changes softened safety recommendations

A News Watch line-by-line review of the two versions of the CDC reports on the Smithfield plant found 24 alterations from the first version to the second version.

The most substantive additions come on the first and fifth pages, with language added to the second version in two places that was not in the first version. Those two added passages both note that, “The recommendations in this memorandum are steps that Smithfield Foods may want to consider implementing to address the conditions we identified at the plant. These recommendations are discretionary and

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 33 of 90



U.S. Rep. Alma Adams

“Given the information we currently have, it appears as if politics played a role – ultimately leading the CDC to weaken critical workplace safety guidance putting workers’ lives at risk.”

-- U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, D-North Carolina

not required or mandated by the CDC.”

In the “Recommendations” section on Page 5, the initial report contains language that was removed from the second report, including that the following actions are recommended “to ensure that existing and future control efforts are effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.”

Later in that section, language in the first version states that Smithfield officials, the state health department and community partners “should develop an implementation plan for these and other interventions ... that should be rolled out in the workplace” to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The wording is changed in the second version to say that those groups should “work together to implement recommendations and plans” to reduce the spread.

In all, the second version of the report includes 14 references to implementing safety measures and procedures “where feasible,” “if feasible” or “if possible.”

The “if possible” or “wherever possible” statements are added in the second version to recommendations related to the following:

- Replacing dirty or wet facial coverings.
- Contactless distribution of face masks.
- Use of face masks to enhance worker protection.
- Asking workers about recent history of fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- Use of signs, in-plant messaging and clear language to educate workers on safety measures.

The “wherever feasible” or “if feasible” language was added to the second version of the report in relation to recommendations that:

- The plant eliminate transmission hazards.
- Physical barriers should be used in combination with social-distancing efforts.
- All employees should wear face coverings over their noses and mouths in all areas of the plant.
- Face shields should be used in addition to eye protection
- Hand-sanitizing stations should be located wherever employees take anything from a bin.

New safety guidance should be reviewed and implemented as it becomes available.

The second version of the report also changes the word “slaughtering” of animals in the first version to “harvesting” of animals in the second version.

The first version of the Smithfield report was reviewed and approved for publication by two separate CDC task forces; it was obtained by News Watch through the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee.

Inquiries about the two Smithfield reports have intensified as members of that committee and others have interviewed federal officials about COVID-19 and industry, and have asked follow-up questions about the Smithfield reports.

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., is a member of that committee; a spokesperson for Johnson said on Oct. 1 that he was not aware of the two versions of the CDC report or any language changes being made.

Congressional Democrats seek answers

U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, D-N.C., chair of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, said in a statement on Sept. 30 that she was unsatisfied with Redfield's statements as to why the new language appeared in the second version of the Smithfield report, and added that she was concerned that political considerations may have played a role in softening the CDC guidance.

"Dr. Redfield's explanation ... for why the CDC felt it was necessary to weaken the Epi Aid report language does not hold water, nor has the CDC provided Congress with any substantive reason for changing the report," Adams said. "Given the information we currently have, it appears as if politics played a role – ultimately leading the CDC to weaken critical workplace safety guidance putting workers' lives at risk. I am committed to finding out exactly who was involved in this decision, and why they did what they did."

Adams and three other Democrats who serve on labor and worker-safety committees in Congress sent letters on Sept. 28 to top officials at federal agencies involved in the Smithfield plant investigation, demanding answers to who altered the initial CDC report, when and why.

One letter, seeking information about the "watering down" of the CDC report on the Sioux Falls Smithfield plant COVID-19 outbreak, was sent from U.S. Sens. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., and U.S. Reps. Robert C. Scott, D-Va., and Alma Adams to Redfield of the CDC, Alex Azar of the Department of Health and Human Services and John Howard of the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety.

The letter seeks information and correspondence related to the CDC investigation, the compiling of the two versions of the report and the involvement of any and all parties in making changes to the reports, including the South Dakota Department of Health and Smithfield Foods.

Those members of Congress also sent a letter that same day asking for similar information from Sonny Perdue, secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

In a press release announcing that the letters were sent, the members of Congress wrote that on Sept. 23, Redfield appeared before a Senate committee and "testified that he had no contact with the Department of Agriculture, the White House or Smithfield about this matter, which seems to contradict CDC officials who have confirmed an April 22 phone call between the CDC director and the USDA secretary."

Gov. Noem said on April 16 that she had been in close contact with USDA Secretary Perdue and officials from the Smithfield plant as the investigation into the outbreak was ongoing.

Noem told South Dakota media on April 22 that the USDA and CDC had been in contact with one another regarding the Smithfield investigation.

In response to questions about the two versions of the CDC report posed by News Watch on Sept. 30, Ian Fury, a spokesman for Noem, said, "It's the CDC's report, and we'll defer to them on how it was compiled."

When asked if Noem was consulted on the contents of the report at any time, Fury wrote, "She was heavily involved in getting the CDC to Smithfield for the purpose of providing recommendations so that the plant could reopen safely."

The initial report findings and recommendations, those



Officials from Smithfield Foods say they have spent millions of dollars and taken numerous steps to keep workers at the Sioux Falls pork processing plant safe from COVID-19, which ravaged the plant in March and April of 2020. Photo: Smithfield Foods

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 35 of 90

made before the softening of the language, were sent by email on April 20, 2020, to the South Dakota Department of Health, executives of the Smithfield plant and a local union official in Sioux Falls, according to questioning by committee members on May 28 with answers provided by John Howard, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

The second, revised version of the Smithfield report was then sent to the South Dakota health department on April 22, Howard said.

"While the substance of CDC's recommendations did not change between the first and second version, a sentence was added at the beginning to clarify that this was not a regulatory document and throughout there were some working changes (couched in "if phrases") to reinforce the non-regulatory nature of the report," Howard testified.

Smithfield says safety measures now in place

The changes to the Smithfield CDC report have become the subject of further discussion and questioning by some members of Congress.

The questions raised by congressional Democrats come amid concerns that the meat-packing industry played a big role in pushing for plants to stay open or to re-open during the pandemic. Several national news organizations have published emails showing that meatpackers and industry groups provided language that formed the basis of an executive order signed by President Donald Trump in late April declaring meat-processing companies to be "critical infrastructure" that needed to remain open during the pandemic, even as thousands of workers became infected.

The House Education and Labor Committee leadership, in a press release issued Sept. 30, noted that such statements, or "weakening phrases," are not included in any other CDC Epi Aid reports beyond the Smithfield report.

News Watch reviewed a similar Epi Aid report issued by the CDC after an investigation of a COVID-19 outbreak at the JBS USA beef processing plant in Greeley, Colo. That memorandum was issued on April 20, just one day before the release of the initial CDC report on the Smithfield plant in Sioux Falls.

The JBS memorandum, published in a similar format as the Smithfield memorandum, contains no language indicating the report recommendations are "discretionary" or "not required or mandated" or should be implemented only "if feasible" or "if possible."

For example, the second, softened version of the CDC memo on the Smithfield plant says that "employees who are ill should stay home if feasible," with the "if feasible" clause added after the revision of the first report.

Meanwhile, the JBS memo issued only two days earlier states that if plant workers have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, "they are told to return home, surrender their plant identification card, follow up with a telehealth provider" and be notified of available pay and benefits.

In the section outlining CDC safety recommendations, the JBS memo states, "The health and safety committee and labor representatives should develop an implementation plan for these and any other interventions."

The two versions of the CDC report on the Smithfield plant were sent to company officials Russ Dokken, Scott Reed and Mark Wiggs as well as B.J. Motley, president of the local United Food and Commercial Workers Local 304A union in Sioux Falls. News Watch requests for comment to Motley were not answered.

In response to News Watch questions, Keira Lombardo, Smithfield Foods executive vice president for corporate affairs, said the company has cooperated fully with government inspectors and scientists during the pandemic and has spent \$500 million on plant safety.

"We implemented a wide range of measures and protocols well in advance of any government guidance," Lombardo wrote in an email. "To be very clear, we have implemented CDC recommendations and guidance whether those recommendations and guidance are mandatory or not. Our measures have been working – active cases among our U.S. workforce are at a fraction of 1% and have been for a sustained period."

Haskins, of the health department, said the state provides updates on COVID-19 clusters when there are more than 40 cases in a single setting. The department has not reported on any new clusters at the Smithfield plant, Haskins said on Oct. 2.

Netters go 0-3 on the week



Jasmine Gengerke in the Florence/Henry match

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Sydney Leicht had two digs and one kill. Alyssa Thaler had 14 digs. Stella Meier three kills and one dig. Trista Keith one kill, one ace serve and four digs. Madeline Flihs had two kills, one block assist and nine digs. Allyssa Locke had seven digs and Brooklyn Gilbert had three digs and one ace serve.

The Lady Tigers hosted Florence/Henry on Tuesday. Groton's junior varsity team won its match, 2-0. That match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3 FM, sponsored by Jerry and Kathy Bjerke. The first game was tied 11 times and there were four lead changes. The Falcons held an 18-17 lead before Groton Area scored five straight points to take a 22-18 lead and went on to win, 25-21. Groton led the entire

Groton Area's volleyball team started off the week travelling to Faulkton, then hosted Florence/Henry on Tuesday and traveled to Hamlin on Thursday.

Frost Construction sponsored the C match on GDILIVE.COM. Faulkton won the first game, 25-23. The game was tied four times and there were three lead changes. Groton tied the game at 15 before the Chargers took a 24-20 lead. Groton Area closed to within one, 24-23, but Hamlin would win, 25-23. The second game was tied 11 times and there were five lead changes. Hamlin held a 13-9 lead, but Gon rallied to tie the game at 20. The Chargers held the upper hand until Groton took the lead, 25-24, and then went on to win, 27-25. Hamlin took the early lead in the third game and went on to win, 15-12. Shallyn Foertsch had five kills and an ace serve. Elizabeth Flihs had five kills, Carly Guthmiller and Ava Wienk each had one kill and an ace serve. Anna Fjeldheim had four kills, Hollie Frost and Marlee Tollefson each had one kill.

Flihs Sales & Service sponsored the junior varsity match on GDILIVE.COM. Faulkton won the match, 25-3 and 25-9. Maddie Bjerke and Megan Flihs each had one kill, Emilie Thurston had two ace serves and Brooke Gengerke had one ace serve.

Faulkton won the varsity match, 3-0. That game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3 FM, sponsored by BaseKamp Lodge, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Hefty Seed and Flihs Sales & Service. Game scores were 25-17, 25-7 and 25-12. Kenzie McInerney had two kills, one solo block and one assisted block.



Kenzie McInerney in the Faulkton match

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 37 of 90



Brooklyn Gilbert in the Hamlin match.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

second game, but Florence/Henry tied the game at 22, 23 and 24 before the Tigers scored the last two points to win, 26-24. Maddie Bjerke had two kills and three ace serves. Lydia Meier had four kills and an ace serve, Sydney Leicht had three kills and an ace serve, Emma Schinkel and Megan Flihs each had three kills, Brooke Gengerke and Riley Leicht each had two ace serves and Anna Fjeldheim had one kill.

Florence/Henry won the varsity match, 3-0. That game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3 FM, sponsored by BaseKamp Lodge, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Hefty Seed and Larry and Kathy Harry.

Florence/Henry jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the first game en route to a 25-9 win. The Falcons scored seven straight points midway in the second game to take a 19-10 lead en route to a 25-18 win. Groton Area had a brief lead in the third game at 3-2 and the game was tied three times include tied at seven, but then the Falcons went on several rallies en route to a 25-17 win.

Madeline Flihs had 10 digs, three kills, three blocks and an ace serve. Aspen Johnson had four kills and two digs. Stella Meier had three kills and an ace serve. Alyssa Thaler had 17 digs. Trista Keith had nine digs, Allyssa Locke had eight digs and an ace serve. Brooke Gengerke had four digs. Sydney Leicht had one kill and two digs. Jasmine Gengerke had one kill and three digs. Brooklyn Gilbert had three kills, one ace serve and one dig. Maddie Bjerke had one dig.

Then on Thursday, the Lady Tigers went to Hamlin High School to take on the Chargers.

The C match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the White House Inn. Hamlin won the first game, 25-17. The second game was tied nine times and there were five lead changes as the Chargers hung on to win, 28-26. Anna Fjeldheim led the Tigers with six ace serves and four kills.

The junior varsity match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Lorin and Julie Flihs. It was a virtual repeat of the C match with Hamlin winning the first game, 25-19. The second game was tied 11 times and there were four lead changes before

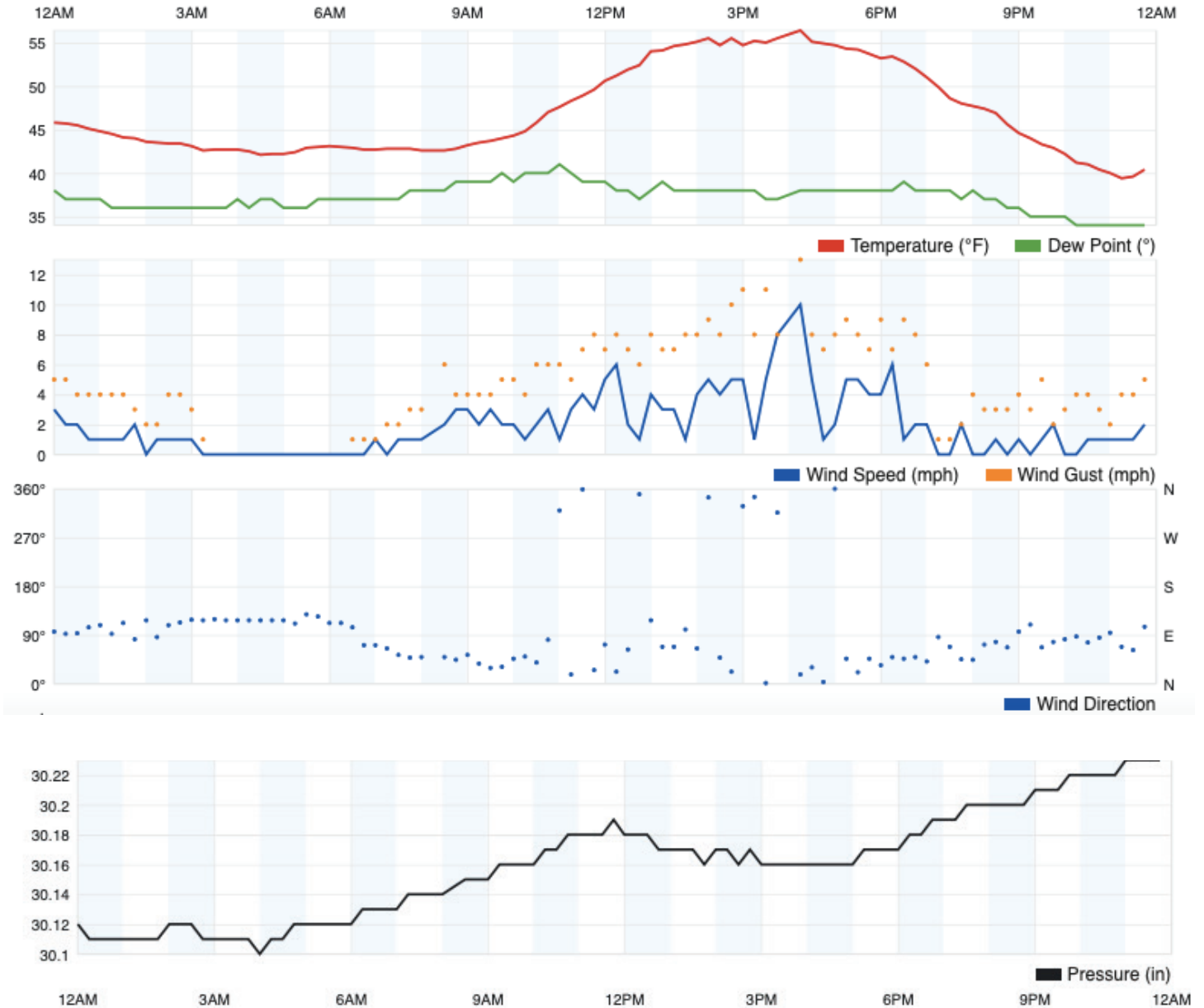
the Chargers hung on to win, 28-26. Brooke Gengerke had two kills and an ace serve, Lydia Meier had one ace serve, Emma Schinkel had two kills and a block, Megan Flihs had two kills, Anna Fjeldheim had two ace serves and a kill and Maddie Bjerke had one block and two ace serves.

Hamlin won the varsity match, 3-0. That game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by BaseKamp Lodge, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Hefty Seed and Larry and Kathy Harry. The first and second games were both tied at one before the Chargers rallied to win, 25-12 in the first game and 25-14 in the second game. The second game was tied at two, three and four before the Chargers scored nine straight points en route to a 25-17 third game win. Sydney Leicht had two kills, one ace serve, one block assist and seven digs. Alyssa Thaler had 25 digs. Stella Meier had two kills, one block, one ace serve and one dig. Trista Keith had six digs, one block and one ace serve. Megan Flihs had three kills, Madeline Flihs had one block assist, one solo block, two kills and four digs. Alyssa Locke had one ace serve. Maddie Bjerke had one kill and three digs and Brooklyn Gilbert had one kill.

Groton Daily Independent






Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 38 of 90















Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

















Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 39 of 90

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Areas Frost then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy
High: 65 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 78 °F

SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
													
Forecast 64°	Forecast 48°	Forecast 73°	Forecast 45°	Forecast 76°	Forecast 48°	Forecast 65°	Forecast 41°	Forecast 70°	Forecast 51°	Forecast 76°	Forecast 48°	Forecast 72°	Forecast 54°
Departure 0°	Departure +10°	Departure +10°	Departure +8°	Departure +13°	Departure +11°	Departure +3°	Departure +5°	Departure +8°	Departure +15°	Departure +15°	Departure +12°	Departure +11°	Departure +19°
Record 96°	Record 19°	Record 91°	Record 19°	Record 91°	Record 14°	Record 87°	Record 9°	Record 85°	Record 14°	Record 93°	Record 10°	Record 93°	Record 16°

7 Day Forecast - Aberdeen

SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
													
Forecast 72°	Forecast 47°	Forecast 77°	Forecast 46°	Forecast 82°	Forecast 48°	Forecast 71°	Forecast 47°	Forecast 78°	Forecast 51°	Forecast 81°	Forecast 50°	Forecast 77°	Forecast 55°
Departure +5°	Departure +6°	Departure +10°	Departure +5°	Departure +16°	Departure +8°	Departure +5°	Departure +7°	Departure +13°	Departure +12°	Departure +17°	Departure +11°	Departure +13°	Departure +16°
Record 94°	Record 24°	Record 98°	Record 19°	Record 91°	Record 20°	Record 92°	Record 18°	Record 89°	Record 22°	Record 93°	Record 19°	Record 95°	Record 16°

7 Day Forecast - Pierre



More breezy to windy conditions this week. Temperatures will be consistently, at least, 5 to 15 degrees above normal throughout the region this week.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 40 of 90

Today in Weather History

October 4, 2005: An intense low-pressure system developed over the Central Rockies and moved through the Northern Plains, bringing heavy snow to much of the northern Black Hills and far northwest South Dakota. Precipitation started as rain during the day and changed over to snow during the late afternoon and early evening, mixed with freezing rain and sleet. Heavy snow fell during the night and ended in the morning. Snowfall amounts were generally in the 6 to 12-inch range, with locally more substantial amounts across northern and western Harding County. The heavy, wet snow resulted in many downed trees, large branches, and power lines, which caused numerous power outages and some minor property damage. A few locations had some of the highest daily snowfall amounts ever recorded in October. Camp Crook received 12 inches of snow, which tied the daily record for snow in October. Redig also tied its record for most snowfall in one day in October with 9 inches. Lemmon had its second-highest daily total snowfall for October (6.5 inches). Bison received 6 inches, which was tied for the 3rd highest daily total in October. Spearfish tied for the 8th highest daily snow total for October with 7 inches.

1777: The Battle of Germantown was fought in a morning fog that grew denser with the smoke of battle, causing great confusion. Americans firing at each other contributed to the battle's loss.

1957: The world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik, was launched on October 4th, 1957 by the Soviet Union. Sputnik was about the size of a beach ball and weighed 183.9 pounds. It took about 98 minutes to orbit Earth on an elliptical path.

1987: A storm brought record snows to the northeastern U.S. Snowfall totals ranged up to 21 inches at North Springfield, VT. It was the earliest snow of record for some locations. The storm claimed 17 lives in central New York State, injured 332 persons, and in Vermont caused seventeen million dollars damage. The six-inch snow at Albany, NY, was their earliest measurable snow in 117 years of records.

2005: Hurricane Stan, a minimal Category 1 Hurricane with 75 mph maximum sustained surface winds, made landfall near Punta Roca Partida, Mexico, at 4 AM EDT on this day. While not a particularly strong hurricane, the torrential rains caused flooding and landslides, which resulted in 1,513 deaths in Guatemala.

2013: While western South Dakota was dealing with a crippling blizzard, the tri-state region of Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa saw several tornadoes, including an EF-4. This violent tornado started 2 miles southwest of Climbing Hill, Iowa, flattening corn crops and snapping tree trunks. As the tornado moved northeast, it intensified and struck a farmstead approximately 5 miles west-northwest of Correctionville, Iowa. Sheds and other buildings were severely damaged or destroyed, with the residence being severely damaged. The tornado continued to increase in both size and magnitude as it continued on its trek northeast. The tornado reached its maximum intensity 2.5 miles south of Pierson, Iowa, when this mile-wide tornado struck two farmsteads. Numerous outbuildings and barns were destroyed, with farm equipment being tossed over 400 yards. It was here that the tornado was rated EF-4. The tornado stayed southeast of Pierson, Iowa, and to the west of Washta, Iowa. Before lifting, the tornado produced more tree damage and downed power poles and lines 2 miles west of Washta, Iowa.

Groton Daily Independent

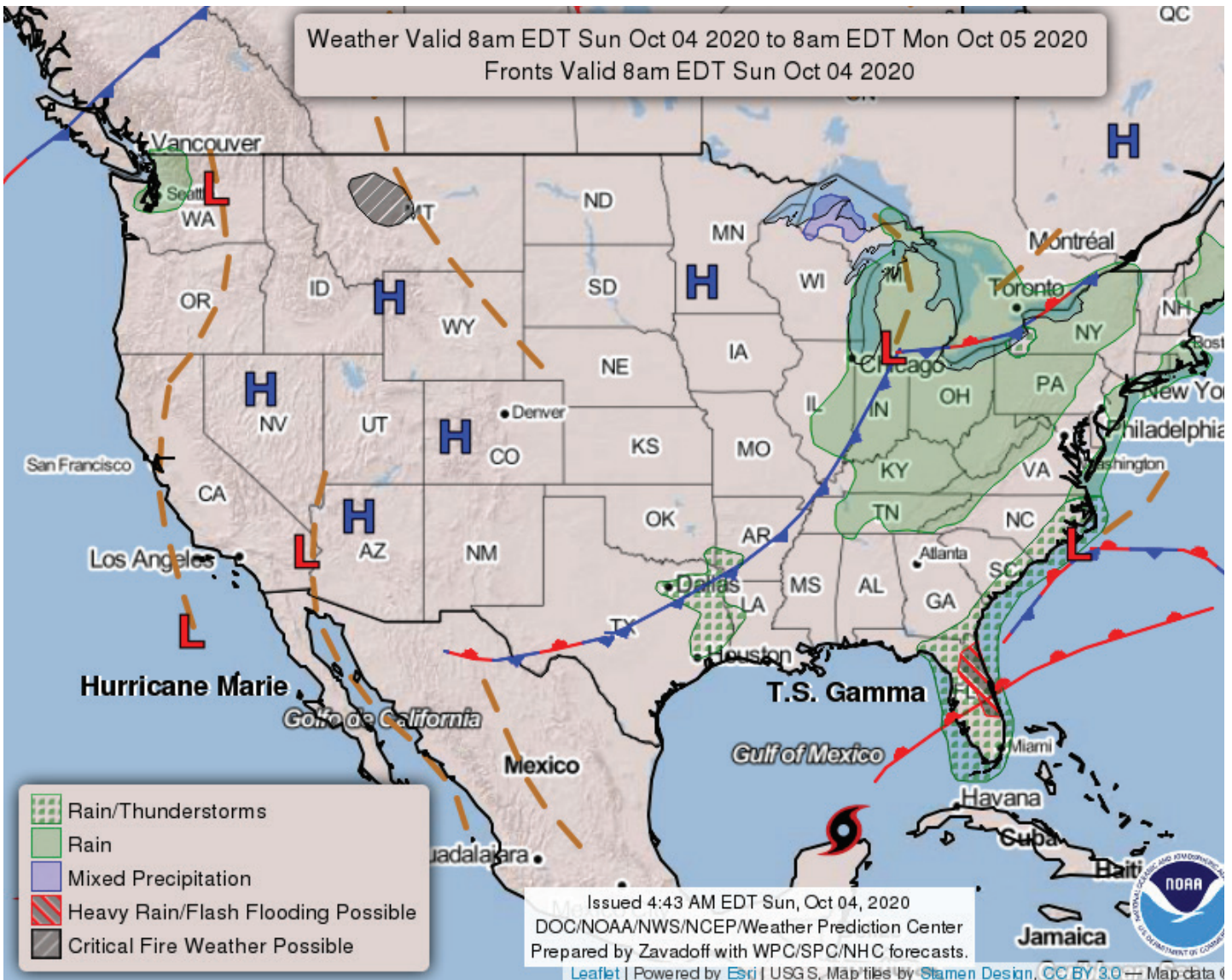
Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 41 of 90

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 56 °F at 4:14 PM
Low Temp: 39 °F at 11:18 PM
Wind: 13 mph at 4:15 PM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1975
Record Low: 13° in 1894
Average High: 64°F
Average Low: 38°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 0.25
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 18.73
Precip Year to Date: 15.15
Sunset Tonight: 7:07 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:38 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 42 of 90



NOW OR NEVER

A soldier was assigned the responsibility of driving a senator from the airport to a military installation. Between the baggage claim area and the vehicle, he noticed an elderly lady struggling to pull her suitcase behind her. He immediately went to her rescue and pulled the bag until they met her waiting family. He then paused to help a young mother secure her child in a stroller. After that, he helped a man who was having a difficult time opening the door to the restroom.

Impressed, the senator asked, "How is it that you see so many people who need help and immediately go to their rescue?"

After a moment of silence, he replied quietly, "During my tour of duty in Vietnam, it was my job to clear minefields. I never knew if my next step would be my last. It was there that I learned to get the most out of every moment because, in life, it's now or never."

Paul summed it up this way: "Share each other's troubles and problems because if you do so, you will obey the law of Christ." We, as Christians, have a responsibility to God and to others who are faced with a difficult situation, to help them in their time of need. It can be as simple as opening a door or as complex as helping them through the loss of a loved one.

The size of the problem does not matter to God. What matters most to Him is the willingness of His children to help those in need.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, for eyes that see the needs of others, ears that hear the cries of others, hearts that are open to others, and hands that are willing to help others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 43 of 90

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 44 of 90

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

07-13-14-21-33

(seven, thirteen, fourteen, twenty-one, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$237,000

Lotto America

07-16-32-34-48, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 2

(seven, sixteen, thirty-two, thirty-four, forty-eight; Star Ball: two; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.6 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball

18-31-36-43-47, Powerball: 20, Power Play: 2

(eighteen, thirty-one, thirty-six, forty-three, forty-seven; Powerball: twenty; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$43 million

The Latest: India records 75,800 new cases, recovery high

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW DELHI — India has registered 75,829 confirmed coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, a day after crossing 100,000 fatalities.

The Health Ministry raised India's confirmed total to more than 6.5 million on Sunday and said at least 101,782 people have died of COVID-19.

India is still registering the highest number of daily cases globally but with the recovery rate at more than 83%, the number of those cured has surpassed 5.5 million, the Health Ministry said.

India also has the low fatality rate of 1.56%, which is nearly half of the global one.

The Health Ministry credited the increased testing in the country to a sustained low death rate. India has conducted nearly 79 million tests so far, according to official data.

India is preparing to reopen cinemas and entertainment parks with limited capacity beginning Oct. 15, in an effort to revive the economy. Health experts warn the move has the potential for the virus to spread during the upcoming religious festival and winter season.

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

- Doctor: Trump improving, but not 'out of the woods' yet
- Analysis: Trump faces credibility crisis over health scare
- Pence ordered borders closed after CDC experts refused
- 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.
- Madrid has started its first day under a partial lockdown with police controlling travel in and out of the Spanish capital. The Madrid region has become Europe's most critical hot spot in the second wave of the coronavirus.
- Pope Francis has traveled to the tomb of his nature-loving namesake to sign an encyclical laying out his vision of a post-COVID world built on solidarity, fraternity and care for the environment.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 45 of 90

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

MELBOURNE, Australia — The premier of Australia's Victoria state has called on citizens to "stay the course" after large groups flooded beaches and parks at the weekend in defiance of strict lockdown regulations.

Victoria, emerging from a major winter spike in coronavirus cases, relaxed lockdown regulations last weekend but still allowed only five people from up to two households to congregate outside.

Many ignored those regulations on Saturday and crowded parks and beaches, causing Premier Daniel Andrews to remind Victorians not to be selfish and maintain social distancing. Victoria reported only 12 new coronavirus cases and one death Sunday, well down on the peaks of winter.

"We are so, so close," Andrews said. "Let's not any of us do anything that might undermine the very positive numbers. Once we get them low, we can keep them low and we can open up again if we don't do anything silly or anything selfish right now."

Andrews said the situation in Victoria is "delicately poised" as the state moves toward further easing of lockdown rules.

"It's sunny, yes, and people love to go to the beach when it's sunny but there's a global pandemic on," he said. "Surely, there's a greater urge to see this thing, to defeat it and to have a normal summer and have a COVID normal Christmas and 2021."

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported 64 new cases of the coronavirus, the fourth straight day its increase came below 100, possibly reflecting the fewer number of tests conducted during one of the biggest holidays of the year.

The figures released by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Sunday brought the national caseload to 24,091, including 421 deaths.

Thirty-eight of the new cases were reported from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, which has been at the center of a viral resurgence since August. Health workers have struggled to track transmissions tied to churches, hospitals, schools and offices.

Seventeen of the new cases were linked to international arrivals, mostly from other Asian countries such as the Philippines, India, and Bangladesh.

There are concerns that infections could rise in coming weeks because of increased travel during the five-day Chuseok harvest holiday that continues through Sunday.

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico officials have reported 298 additional known COVID-19 cases and three more deaths, increasing the statewide totals to 30,296 cases with 890 deaths.

The additional cases reported Saturday included 75 in Bernalillo County, 67 in Dona Ana County, 32 in Chaves County, 22 in Lea County and 20 in Curry County.

The three deaths occurred one each in Bernalillo, Curry and Dona Ana counties and involving people in their 70s or 80s with underlying conditions.

PHOENIX — Numerous inmates say Arizona's prison system has failed to provide necessary testing, supplies and treatment during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Arizona Republic reports that dozens of letters from inmates in recent months said the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry wasn't protecting staff and inmates during the outbreak.

The Republic reports inmates' letters describing fears and frustrations, asking for help while others provided graphic details in personal narratives of surviving the virus.

A department spokesperson denied many allegations by inmates, including that sick inmates weren't tested. Department spokesperson Judy Keane also cited health and safety protocols announced during the pandemic.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 46 of 90

LONDON — Britain has recorded 12,872 new coronavirus infections, by far the highest daily total since the outbreak began, though the figure includes a backlog of previously unreported cases.

The government says the figure includes an unspecified number of deaths over the past week that have not been reported because of a now-resolved “technical issue.”

Saturday’s total is more than 5,000 cases more than the previous high, recorded earlier this week.

Britain is seeing a second spike in coronavirus cases, though the daily number can’t directly be compared to the outbreak’s U.K. peak in April because many more tests are now being performed now.

The number of hospitalizations and deaths is also rising but remains far below the U.K.’s springtime peak. Another 49 COVID-19 deaths were reported on Saturday. Britain’s official coronavirus death toll is 42,317.

The government has imposed restrictions on social gatherings to try and curb the spread of the virus, and almost a third of the country’s population of 66 million is under tighter local lockdown measures.

NEW YORK — New York state’s daily count of new coronavirus cases is continuing to rise.

The state reported on Saturday that there were more than 1,700 new confirmed cases on Friday, up slightly from the day before with case totals not seen since May. Some of the hot spots in the state included the New York City borough of Brooklyn, where more than 350 people tested positive, and in suburban Rockland County, which saw at least 120 new cases.

The hardest hit regions of the state, on a per capita basis, were the Southern Tier area along the Pennsylvania border and the Mid-Hudson Valley.

The news of President Donald Trump’s coronavirus diagnosis serves as a reminder of the pervasive spread of the coronavirus in the United States.

U.S. infections have been rising for several weeks, a worrying sign with colder weather approaching. The response to the crisis rests largely with governors, which has meant a patchwork of approaches. Only a handful of countries rank higher in COVID-19 deaths per capita.

The Midwest is the new hotspot. 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 West Allis in April can be used if the situation worsens.

Iowa reported more than 1,000 new cases for the third consecutive day on Friday.

The U.S. leads the world with 7.3 million cases and more than 209,000 dead.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — South Dakota health officials announced 11 new deaths in the last day, increasing the total to 248 since the start of the pandemic.

There were about 617 cases per 100,000 people in South Dakota over the past two weeks, which ranks second in the country for cases per capita, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

Officials say there have been 464 new cases since Friday’s report and nearly 24,000 have tested positive statewide. There were 1,758 tests processed in the last day.

BEIRUT — Lebanon has registered a new record 1,321 daily cases of coronavirus amid a sharp increase around the country.

The Health Ministry reported 12 deaths, a day before authorities were to impose an eight-day lockdown in 111 towns and villages around Lebanon.

The new cases raise the total to 43,480 since the first was reported in small tiny of 5 million people in late February. The death toll has risen to 398.

The numbers rose following a massive blast in Beirut on Aug. 4 that resulted in many deaths and injuries. The blast led to people searching through the rubble and crowding at hospitals.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s doctors say the president is doing well, is fever-free and isn’t having difficulty breathing after contracting the coronavirus.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 47 of 90

Dr. Sean Conley, Trump's physician, says while he had fatigue, nasal congestion and coughing, his symptoms are resolving and improving. He says Trump had not been on oxygen Saturday or when he was with their medical team Friday.

Conley adds Trump said he felt he could walk out of a military hospital. Conley says the typical range of monitoring is seven to 10 days.

Trump was transferred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Friday afternoon in what doctors say was a precaution after he and first lady Melania Trump tested positive for the coronavirus.

BOSTON — The NFL has postponed Sunday's game between New England and the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs after positive coronavirus tests on both teams.

ESPN reported on Saturday that Patriots quarterback Cam Newton was among those contracting the disease. The NFL says the game will be played Monday or Tuesday.

The league says the move followed "positive COVID-19 tests on both teams." The Patriots confirmed a player has tested positive but didn't reveal his name.

This week, the matchup between Pittsburgh and Tennessee was postponed because of an outbreak on the Titans.

MILAN — New coronavirus cases in Italy maintained a trajectory above 2,500 on Saturday, with about 119,000 people tested.

Twenty-seven people died in the last 24 hours, according to the ministry of health, bringing known deaths to 35,968. There have been 322,751 total infections.

Nearly 300 people are in intensive care and 3,205 hospital beds in COVID-19 wards are occupied. Those number have been increasing with a surge in new cases in recent weeks, following dips to only 100 new cases a day in July.

SKOPJE, North Macedonia — North Macedonia has recorded 243 new coronavirus cases, the highest daily number since the pandemic began. There were also four new deaths.

Total number of confirmed cases exceed 18,600 with 753 deaths in the country of 2.1 million.

Facing a recent spike in cases, health authorities are considering imposing new restrictions, including banning public gatherings and limiting working hours for bars.

Schools in North Macedonia were opened on Thursday, but only for students in kindergarten and the first three grades. All other students attended classes online.

ATHENS, Greece — Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis says authorities would use local lockdowns to keep a recent surge in coronavirus cases under control.

Health authorities announced another 267 coronavirus cases Saturday and seven deaths.

The total number of confirmed cases is 19,613, about 80 percent recorded in the past two months. A daily record of 460 new cases were reported Friday, attributed to people not wearing masks and failing to keep social distancing.

In Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest, people participated in a 2-kilometer (1.25 mile) fast walk to debunk speculation that wearing face masks causes shortness of breath. Participants measured oxygen and carbon dioxide levels after the walk, finding all within the normal range.

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Brandon Valley def. Aberdeen Central, 24-26, 20-25, 25-19, 25-14, 15-13

DeSmet def. Flandreau, 25-22, 25-11, 25-21

Dell Rapids def. Canton, 25-18, 25-19, 20-25, 25-21

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 48 of 90

Deubrook def. Sioux Valley, 25-15, 25-20, 25-19
Estelline/Hendricks def. Langford, 25-11, 25-13, 25-11
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-16, 25-10, 25-19
James Valley Christian def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-23, 25-14, 22-25, 25-19
Jones County def. Bennett County, 25-20, 25-16, 25-6
Kimball/White Lake def. Canistota, 25-18, 25-14, 26-24
Mitchell def. Sturgis Brown, 25-19, 27-25, 25-11
Redfield def. Belle Fourche, 25-8, 25-14, 25-11
Sioux Falls Washington def. Harrisburg, 25-19, 25-16, 22-25, 25-15
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Iroquois, 23-25, 25-19, 20-25, 25-9, 15-11
Waverly-South Shore def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-13, 22-25, 25-10, 25-17
Wolsey-Wessington def. Wessington Springs, 25-18, 25-19, 25-19
Great Plains Conference=
Burke def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-17, 25-14
Burke def. Centerville, 25-10, 25-19
Burke def. Colome, 25-23, 25-14
Lead-Deadwood Invite=
Semifinal=
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Edgemont, 25-20, 25-15
Terry Peak Pool A=
Edgemont def. Bison, 25-23, 25-22
Rapid City Christian def. Edgemont, 25-14, 25-10
Terry Peak Pool B=
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Harding County, 25-12, 19-25, 25-23
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Kadoka Area, 25-20, 25-19
Twn Cities Tournament=
Lexington, Neb. def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-16, 25-21
Consolation Semifinal=
Chadron, Neb. def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-11, 26-24
Round Robin Tournament=
Alliance, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-23, 25-18
Grand Island Northwest, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-7, 25-11
Scottsbluff, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-21, 25-21
Seventh Place=
Rapid City Stevens def. McCook, Neb., 25-21, 25-22

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

Trump's diagnosis shows US vulnerability to the coronavirus

By CARLA K. JOHNSON and JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (AP) — 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 became one of the tens of thousands of Americans who test positive each day. He went through a "very concerning" period Friday and the next 48 hours "will be critical" in his care, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Saturday.

That differed dramatically from the rosy assessment by Trump's staff and doctors, who took pains not to reveal the president had received supplemental oxygen at the White House before he went to a military hospital. Some of Trump's top advisers and allies also have tested positive recently.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 49 of 90

"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 reached the United States, worrying signals mounted of what's ahead this fall. The NFL has postponed two games after players on three teams tested positive. 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."

Wallace Clark, 50, of Springfield, Illinois, said he was flummoxed by the president's diagnosis but hopes it makes people realize they need to take the pandemic seriously.

"Some people probably think they're immune or can't get it, but it is possible. It does send a message," Clark said Saturday.

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, and many loosened restrictions this week.

Mississippi's governor ended a mask requirement, South Carolina's governor said he would ease capacity restrictions on restaurants and New Orleans bars got 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 used 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, but the governor said bars in the two largest college towns could reopen Monday after a five-week closure. South Dakota officials reported record highs in deaths and cases Thursday.

In Missouri, several people waving Trump signs and American flags at drivers in the St. Louis suburb of St. Charles on Saturday said the president and Republican Gov. Mike Parson getting infected recently won't change their behavior. Of the roughly two dozen Trump supporters who gathered, most didn't wear masks.

Vince Kuhn, a 72-year-old retiree and Vietnam War veteran, called Trump "a brave man" who likely caught the virus because he was willing to be out with people. Kuhn said he opposed restrictions like mask mandates before the president got sick and still does.

"I fought for freedom in 'Nam," Kuhn said. "I really didn't like it when they stopped us from going to church and assembling. But people are coming back. Everything's coming back. People want the real America we fought for."

Carol Schutz, 54, who had a lung transplant last year and often wears a mask but didn't Saturday, doesn't believe Trump's illness will sway many people but will be "more fuel for the fire" for those who don't like him.

The mood was far different in St. Louis.

Arlene Mathis, 65, was one of several Black volunteers at voter registration event where nearly everyone wore masks.

"I don't know that we would have to have the president affected by this to be awakened by it, because so many people have died and continue to die every day," Mathis said.

She was hopeful, however, that Trump's illness would change behavior.

"It's an indication that nobody is immune," Mathis said. "It goes high, it goes low, it goes everywhere. So hopefully, them being affected by it will have an impact."

Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases expert at Vanderbilt University, said Trump's diagnosis "rein-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 50 of 90

forces 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 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.

It has George George, 63, worried.

“I’m nervous this process could last another couple of years,” George said outside a coffee shop in the Cleveland suburb of Cleveland Heights. “People in March and April were terrified of the unknown. But now restaurants are filling up. People are tired of being isolated.”

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 see more transmission in the U.S., not less, in the coming weeks and months.”

Johnson reported from Washington state. Associated Press writer John O’Connor in Springfield, Illinois, and Mark Gillespie in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, contributed to this report.

South Dakota surpasses 4,000 active COVID-19 cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has topped 4,000 active COVID-19 cases, state health officials said Saturday.

The update showed 11 new deaths in the last day, increasing the total number of fatalities to 248 since the start of the pandemic. There were two deaths reported in both Minnehaha and Jerauld counties and one death each in Union, Turner, Oglala Lakota, Lincoln, Hand, Gregory, and Ziebach counties.

Officials said there have been 464 new cases since Friday’s report and nearly 24,000 people have tested positive statewide. Hospitalizations currently stand at 215, down five in the last day.

There were about 617 new cases per 100,000 people in South Dakota over the past two weeks, which ranks second in the country for new cases per capita, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

There were 1,758 tests processed in the last day.

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

Historic land settlement inches closer in South Dakota

By STEWART HUNGTINGTON Indian Country Today

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Digging into the fate of Native children who died in the early 20th century at an Indian boarding school in this Black Hills city, Lakota researchers struck legal gold.

Through title records, they traced a string of questionable transactions that shows how municipal power brokers kept out of Indian hands all of the 1,200 prime, in-town acres left behind when the federal government quit the property — despite a 1948 federal law spelling out how Natives could share the wealth.

Today, the tightly argued legal claim for small parcels of the vast acreage has brought the city to the negotiating table to discuss terms of a land and asset transfer that, if executed, would mark the first time the city has reversed itself to address decades of demands that local Natives derive some benefit from the school property.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 51 of 90

"This started as simply a project to identify the children in the graves, but it has opened a Pandora's box of a variety of historical, legal and equitable issues in the community," said Heather Dawn Thompson, a Harvard University-trained lawyer and Cheyenne River Lakota who began searching for records of the lost children seven years ago.

The dispute "has proven to be an ongoing, nagging issue that has proven it's not going away," said Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender, who supports finding a negotiated settlement to the property with questionable deeds.

The boarding school opened in 1898, set on some 1,200 federal acres. It was one of a hundred or so boarding schools designed to carry out the government's goal of "civilizing" Native children, and its students came mainly from the nearest reservations — Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Cheyenne River.

In 1933, the school closed and the site became a home for Lakota tuberculosis patients called the Sioux Sanitarium, or Sioux San, which eventually became a general hospital serving the area's Native population.

After World War II, the federal government doled out the bulk of the original boarding school land to the city, the school district, the National Guard and area churches. A clause in the 1948 law states that the city and school properties revert back to federal ownership if the city or schools cease using the land for municipal or educational purposes.

It is that "reversion clause" that forms the backbone of the current legal claims.

Thompson's team has raised questions about three land parcels that were originally given to the city and school district but are now occupied by different entities. The sites today are home to a senior center, a behavioral health hospital and an assisted-living business.

"Today we have the documentation and history behind us that we feel we need to come to some kind of culmination with these efforts ... and come to some kind of a solution," said William Bear Shield, a Rosebud citizen who played an early role in the yearslong discussions with city leaders.

The U.S. Interior Department, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, agreed there are issues with the title transfers.

"It appears as if the analysis is correct: Three parcels that were deeded originally to the Rapid City School District and the City of Rapid City would now be subject to reversion," the BIA said in a 2017 memo sent to Allender and others.

The memo further offered support for a locally negotiated resolution urging leaders "to find a creative solution that helps rectify these deed violations and this historical imbalance."

Today, that search for a "creative solution" is inching toward a potentially historic resolution after years of careful groundwork. Native and municipal negotiators could present a plan to the City Council — and the public — as soon as next month.

"I think we finally got down to some concrete issues that we can work on rather than ideological or theoretical issues," Allender said. "Both parties in this discussion absolutely want to avoid tipping off a series of ongoing lawsuits. ... As soon as everyone lawyers up, everybody's screwed."

The 1948 statute allows for only two solutions to deed violations, reversion or return of the parcels to the BIA, or a land exchange for other parcels in Rapid City, with the limitation that they be used for "needy Indians," or the Rapid City Native American community. Any potential land transfers would be limited to the value of properties identified as being in violation of the reversion clause — not any other portions of the original boarding school property.

"We have come to a conceptual recommendation involving a 20- or 30-year plan to benefit the Native community as well as the community at large," Allender said.

And none too soon, say area elders. Every decade or so since the 1950s, members of the Lakota community questioned the 1948 distribution of the boarding school land.

Bev Warne, Oglala Lakota, spent part of her childhood in the 1940s and '50s in the Native encampment known as Osk Kosh Camp, along Rapid Creek in Rapid City. She and her relatives often wondered why none of the prime boarding school land was used for Native housing.

"I didn't think I'd ever see something like this," she said of a potential settlement.

The researchers have been aware that politics and public perceptions are paramount to achieving lasting

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 52 of 90

success. Since 2017, they have held frequent meetings and public forums to present their findings. They have found support in the non-Native community.

"It's time that we as a community take the time to fully understand our shared history," said Karen Mortimer, who founded a conciliation organization called the Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi, or Rapid City Circle of Friends. "Only then can we make the best path forward together."

The researchers canvassed members of the Rapid City Native community to find out their priorities for any potential negotiation with the city. The overwhelming choice? An urban Indian community center. So that became the goal in the later stages of negotiations that both Native leaders and city officials say may be coming to fruition.

"It's a shame that our people were kept from benefiting from all the wealth generated by the boarding school lands," said LaFawn Janis, Oglala Lakota, of Rapid City. "It's also a shame that this town has so many Lakota citizens and no Indian center. Maybe we can take a positive step on two fronts here."

But even as the work on the disputed land ownership proceeded, Thompson and her team never forgot their original mission: to locate the children who perished at the boarding school. They were able to identify a hillside near the main campus that contains possibly scores of unmarked graves. The land is now in federal trust for the three area tribes, and a groundbreaking ceremony for a memorial at the site is scheduled for Native American Day next month.

"When this first started, we made a promise to those children that we wouldn't forget them and that we would find out where they are buried and help reunite them with their families," said Kibbe McGaa Conti, Oglala Lakota, who helped identify some 50 students who died and were buried in anonymity at the boarding school or area cemeteries.

One of those children was Mabel Holy, a Cheyenne River girl who died at the school in 1901. Thompson and Conti found her grave two years ago in a city cemetery with a small placeholder marker with her name misspelled.

As a little girl in 1890, Mabel survived the Wounded Knee Massacre when Chief Big Foot's band was all but wiped out by U.S. troops.

In 1898, she was plucked from her family and put in the first class of the Rapid City Indian Boarding School. She died there in 1901 before word could get to her family. They had been searching for her for more than a century before the researchers alerted them to Mabel's humble grave.

Mabel's great-niece, Violet Catches, Cheyenne River, teared up when she first visited the gravesite in 2017. "A lot of the members of the Big Foot Tribe always say that we're forgotten people," she said. "So I imagine that (Mabel) may have thought that she was forgotten."

Catches said she told Mabel at her gravesite: "You're not forgotten. They found you. We found you. We're here. We're going to do all we can to remember you from now on."

And they'll perhaps remember, too, that the search for her grave possibly led to the birth of an urban Indian center in Rapid City.

"I think whatever happened, happened in the past," said Bear Shield, who took part in early talks with city officials. "I don't know that there's any changing that. All I know is that at some point, you can right a wrong."

Information from: Indian Country Today, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/>

UK's Johnson defends virus strategy as infections soar

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson defended his handling of the coronavirus pandemic on Sunday despite weeks of rising infections, but warned that the country faced a "bumpy" winter ahead.

Britain has Europe's highest coronavirus death toll, at more than 42,400, and Johnson's Conservative government is facing criticism from all sides. Opponents say tougher social restrictions are needed to

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 53 of 90

suppress a second wave of COVID-19 that is already sweeping the country. But many in Johnson's right-of-center party argue that restrictions must be eased to save the battered economy.

Johnson told the BBC the government had to strike a difficult balance and he couldn't "take a course that could expose us to tens of thousands more deaths in very short order."

"It is a moral imperative to save lives ... but on the other hand, we have to keep our economy moving. That is the balance that we are trying to strike," he said.

Britain went into a national lockdown in March, with most businesses closed and all but essential travel barred. Restrictions began to be lifted in June as the pandemic tide receded. But like other European countries, daily new coronavirus infections began to rise again when pubs and restaurants reopened, children went back to school and students returned to university.

The U.K. is now under national restrictions on socializing, including a 10 p.m. curfew for bars and restaurants, and groups limited to six, with areas of high infection facing stricter local measures, which Johnson and other ministers have sometimes struggled to explain clearly. Critics say months of mixed messages and changes of advice on everything from wearing masks to whether or not to work from home has left people confused and exhausted.

A national test-and-trace program to find people who have been exposed to the virus has also had persistent problems, and is failing to reach more than a quarter of infected people's contacts.

Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, accused the government of "serial incompetence."

"The prime minister is governing in hindsight," Starmer told the Observer newspaper. "So he charges forward, not recognizing the problem, has a car crash, looks in the rear mirror and says: 'What's all that about?'"

Britain recorded 12,872 new coronavirus infections on Saturday, by far the highest daily total since the outbreak began, although the figure includes a backlog of previously unreported cases. The daily number can't directly be compared to U.K.'s peak in April because many more tests are being performed now.

The number of hospitalizations and deaths in Britain is also rising, but remains far below the U.K.'s springtime peak. Another 49 COVID-19 deaths were reported on Saturday, compared to almost 1,000 a day at the height of the outbreak.

Johnson acknowledged that many people feel "fatigue" after months of restrictions and expressed hope that progress on vaccines and testing would "change the scientific equation" in the next few months, allowing a return to normality.

But he warned "it's going to continue to be bumpy through to Christmas. It may even be bumpy beyond."

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

France: New Caledonia voters support staying part of France

By CHARLOTTE ANTOINE-PERRON Associated Press

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (AP) — French authorities say a majority of voters in New Caledonia, an archipelago in the South Pacific, have chosen to remain part of France.

The overseas ministry said results show 53.3% of the voters who participated in the referendum on Sunday have chosen to maintain ties with France, while 46.7% supported independence.

Sunday's independence referendum is part of a three-decade decolonization effort aimed at settling tensions on the archipelago between native Kanaks seeking independence and residents willing to remain in France. The South Pacific archipelago has been part of France since 1853.

French President Emmanuel Macron was scheduled to make a televised address later Sunday from Paris.

More than 180,000 voters were invited to answer the question: "Do you want New Caledonia to gain full sovereignty and become independent?"

"Today is not a day like any other. Everyone woke up with the will to express oneself (through the vote). This is a historic day," Robert Wayaridri, 60, told The Associated Press.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 54 of 90

In Noumea, the capital, large lines of people waited to vote under the hot sun, sometimes for hours. Almost 80% of voters had already casted their ballots one hour before poll stations closed, according to the French ministry of the Overseas. Some polling stations in Noumea closed an hour late because people were still waiting to vote at the planned closing time.

Across the archipelago, horns and cheers could be heard all day in the streets, and some people waved pro-independence flags in a relaxed atmosphere.

The FLNKS movement leading the independence campaign called on its supporters to stay "calm and respectful."

Corine Florentin, who was born in Noumea 52 years ago, said she voted against independence because she wants to "remain French."

"We can live together, all races together, and design our common future," she said.

A student at the University of New Caledonia, Guillaume Paul, 18, also voted "no" because he wants the archipelago to keep its ties with France.

"What would the country become if it was independent? There is a real danger that without the financing brought by France, the university would disappear," he said.

But Joachim Neimbo, 22, was in favor of independence.

"I voted yes, because that's my people's combat. We want the recognition of our identity, our culture. I think we are able to manage ourselves," he said.

Taguy Wayenece, 25, also voted "yes" to independence.

"We need to return to tradition, to working in the fields, to stay with the tribe. Modern life is too complicated for us," he said.

Two years ago, 56.4% of voters who participated in a similar referendum chose to keep the region's ties with Paris.

The archipelago now counts 270,000 inhabitants, including both native Kanaks, who once suffered from strict segregation policies and widespread discrimination, and descendants of European colonizers.

New Caledonia became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III — Napoleon's nephew and heir — and was used for decades as a prison colony. It became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957.

He's fought COVID-19 for months. Can he ever really beat it?

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Larry Brown had been on a ventilator for 37 days. Nurses periodically turned the 45-year-old former Indiana State football player onto his stomach to help him breathe. Though sedated, he had tried to pull off the equipment keeping him alive, so his arms were strapped down.

But Brown's lungs were filling with fluid, and doctors didn't expect him to last much longer. As visitors weren't allowed in the intensive care unit, a nurse placed a phone next to his ear.

"Thank you for fighting so hard, Larry," his sister-in-law, Ellie Brown, told him. She was careful not to say goodbye. If he could hear her, that might scare him.

Like millions of COVID-19 cases, Brown's had started with minor symptoms — fatigue, loss of appetite. When he fell ill in mid-March, people in the United States were becoming familiar with the novel coronavirus. Mask use wasn't widespread outside hospitals. Around Brown's hometown, Indianapolis, fewer than 10 new cases were reported each day, on average. Businesses were just starting to shutter around him in response to state orders — but only until the country could flatten the curve, nearly everyone thought. And the vast majority of cases weren't severe, officials said.

Yet Brown spiraled quickly. His doctors were stumped as they scoured medical texts for treatments. His close-knit family watched him deteriorate in the hospital, even as others recovered from the virus.

They feared they would lose him but wouldn't call it quits. "People weren't ready to go there," Ellie Brown said.

Turns out, neither was Larry.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 55 of 90

After that phone call, Brown slowly started to improve. He would remain on the ventilator for nearly two more weeks, for a total of about 50 days. But coming out of the medically induced coma was only the beginning of Brown's recovery.

When Brown entered the hospital, there were about 75,000 COVID-19 cases recorded nationwide. By the time he left, that figure had topped 2 million. Month by month, the number of fatalities ticked up by tens of thousands, surpassing 200,000 dead in September. And yet, Americans who'd grown tired of quarantines were pushing a return to "life as normal."

That's not possible for Brown. At least not yet. There is no end in sight to a rehabilitation that already has lasted months. His hands — which helped make him Indiana State's eighth all-time receiving leader — can't even open a can of Pepsi. He didn't die of the virus, but he's coming to terms with the fact that his life might never be the same.

Brown doesn't know exactly when he first felt symptoms. Around March 15, he noticed he was struggling to focus at work and taking naps. He didn't have a cough like many coronavirus patients, but he did lose his appetite.

He knew that was a sign: "I'm always hungry," the 5-foot-9-inch, 240-pound man said.

He was hearing more about the virus. Schools and sports leagues began shutting down. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb would soon order residents to stay home unless they had to go to work, the doctor or an essential business.

Brown called his doctor, who told him to quarantine. He hunkered down, and his mom sometimes dropped off meals. She, too, was growing more nervous about the virus. A couple days earlier, she went to her Friday night bowling league to tell them she wouldn't be back; she was concerned about spreading risk in her family. She walked out of the bowling alley that night with a friend who would later die of COVID-19.

Brown's symptoms worsened. Nightmares arrived with hot and cold flashes. He dreamed something was chasing him, and he'd wake up drenched in sweat right before it caught him. He struggled to draw deep breaths.

On March 25, an exhausted Brown called his mom for help. Marilyn Brown dialed 911, and an ambulance took her son to Community Hospital North.

Larry Brown was admitted. His spirits rose over the prospect of getting help.

"I thought I would be here about a couple days," he said. "Some medicine, some IVs, then I'd be back home."

He remained unfazed even as he saw his 66-year-old father wheeled past him in the emergency department. They waved at each other.

John Brown thought he had the flu, but the retired Army master sergeant had grown so weak he could barely walk from his bed to the bathroom. That forced Marilyn Brown — who would wind up with a mild case herself, though she didn't suspect anything at the time — to dial 911 again that day.

Larry Brown eventually settled into a patient room and rested while watching his favorite show, "48 Hours."

Soon, though, he was moved to another room — he wasn't quite sure why.

It's the last thing he really remembers.

Doctors moved Brown to the ICU and started him on the ventilator while grappling with how to treat him. We were "all learning on the job," said Dr. Rajat Narang, a critical care doctor and lung specialist.

They tried the common antibiotic azithromycin, but Brown's pneumonia grew worse. They administered the malaria treatment touted by President Donald Trump, hydroxychloroquine, but saw no progress.

They put him in a medically induced coma, and attached him to an ECMO machine, which essentially did the job of his lungs by transferring oxygen into his blood.

As April ended, Brown's condition grew worse. A MRSA infection set in and led to the life-threatening condition sepsis, which can cause organ failure. Despite the no-visitors rule, staff feared Brown had little time left and let his mom and one of his daughters see him.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 56 of 90

Brown wouldn't recall that emotional visit, or the phone call with his sister-in-law. The weeks seem like a black hole, lost time where all he remembers is nightmares: He was in a different hospital, and staff there wanted to kill him.

Doctors aren't sure why Brown started to improve. Narang suspects the ECMO machine saved his life by giving his lungs time to recover. Doctors also had consulted with an infectious disease expert and adjusted his antibiotics.

Whatever the reason, Brown woke up May 10, a day before his 46th birthday, with a tracheotomy tube helping him breathe.

At first, Brown couldn't walk. He could barely scribble and couldn't speak, even to tell the hospital staff to turn down the volume on the room's TV.

Hospital rehabilitation started quickly. He had to build strength in his legs first to stand. Once he could do that, he could try a few steps. And then, climbing stairs — about 20 of them. He was out of breath all the time, and finally making it to the top felt like he'd climbed Mount Everest.

The work made him sore and reminded him of football training camp, when his body had to adjust to being hit. But that soreness used to fade as the season progressed.

On June 12, a local TV station shot video of him leaving the hospital's rehabilitation center — ending a total stay of nearly 80 days. He ambled through a group of applauding employees and into a foreign world.

Everywhere he went, people wore masks. Businesses closed early if they opened at all. He was surprised by the traffic pattern at Walmart, where customers could enter through only one door, and walk in one direction. Grocery prices had jumped; he noted an increase of \$2 per pound of ground beef.

Life became a large list of unknowns.

He doesn't know how he got the coronavirus.

He doesn't know why his father's case was comparatively mild, as John Brown spent seven days on a ventilator — about 40 less than his son.

He doesn't know if the tingling sensation in every finger except his pinkies will ever go away and allow him to type without shooting pain up his wrists.

He doesn't know when he'll be able to return to his job as a business analyst with the health insurer Anthem — a position that's about 60%

He doesn't know if he'll play basketball with his kids again or if he'll live with a permanent disability, which doctors believe can happen in cases like Brown's.

"Right now, I'm just trying to understand the new normal," said Brown, wearing a blue-and-white "COVID-19 survivor" T-shirt at home with his family.

He says he's blessed to be alive but estimates he's at 40% of his pre-coronavirus self.

Brown's doctors have unanswered questions, too. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected African Americans like Brown; what role might that have played? Brown isn't diabetic; he doesn't smoke. His weight may have been a factor, but plenty of people who check all those boxes bounce back quickly. Why did his case grow so severe — why did he become what some call a "COVID long-hauler"?

Brown calls it "the hundred-dollar question."

Narang, the lung specialist and critical care doctor, says simply: "It is still unclear why COVID-19 affects different patients in different ways."

Winter is coming, along with flu season. A national election looms. Then come Thanksgiving and Christmas, with some families unsure whether or how they'll celebrate safely, and others determined to have a "normal" holiday.

Some states have fully reopened restaurants, bars and other businesses. Thousands of self-identified long-haulers are sharing their stories and getting informal advice via social media — how many more would come from a second wave of the virus?

Brown doesn't wish a case like his on anyone.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 57 of 90

He fills his days watching his daughter's soccer games, taking walks, or driving a bit to see his parents or girlfriend. Then there are the medical appointments.

Hand therapy is twice a week. His hands, once making savvy plays on game days, are now shaky when he snags a medicine ball bounced off a trampoline.

And there are neurology appointments. Recently, that doctor — who remembered Brown from their high-school football days, and teased him about a fumble at homecoming — attached electrodes to his arms and sent mild pulses to gauge nerve responses. The doctor is still adjusting medications, hoping to make Brown's nerves function normally and eliminate the fingertip tingling.

At home, Brown worries about his three daughters catching the virus, but says he's not "walking around on eggshells." Still, masks are like car keys, picked up as soon as anyone walks out the door.

He left the hospital nearly four months ago, yet he still has to stretch his hands and legs, which stiffen up frequently. He avoids the deep, L-shaped sofa in the living room unless someone is around to help him get out of it. He grabs one of the chairs surrounding his poker table to scoot around the first floor of his home when he can't walk much. His 12-year-old daughter, Justys, lifts the tab on his Pepsi can when he wants a fresh drink.

His kids — Brown's "little sous chefs" — chop ingredients so he can make favorite meals, meatloaf or baked mac and cheese. He's not yet comfortable gripping a knife, or holding a pen as he used to.

That means he makes phone calls or sends quick emails instead of writing thank-you cards for the mountain of well wishes he received. Many came from people who read a public account of his hospital stay his sister-in-law posted on Facebook.

He can't bring himself to read all those posts. He says he will eventually, but he's in a good place and not interested in reliving the past.

Medical bills are trickling in. The hospital has written off many expenses, and Brown says he's not worried about the rest. Nor should he be, his mom tells him: "Your goal is to get better. The rest of that, we'll deal with it when we get there."

Brown isn't sure how far recovery will take him. His kids giggled and thumped around upstairs as he searched for the right words to describe where he's heading.

"My expectations are ... they're, I don't know," he said, glancing down briefly. "I haven't set the bar high, and I haven't set the bar low.

"I just accept, you know, making progress."

Follow Tom Murphy on Twitter: @thpmurphy.

Doctor: Trump improving, but not 'out of the woods' yet

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JILL COLVIN and ZEKÉ MILLER Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — President Donald Trump went through a "very concerning" period Friday and faces a "critical" next two days in his fight against COVID-19 at a military hospital, his chief of staff said Saturday — in contrast to a rosier assessment moments earlier by Trump doctors, who took pains not to reveal the president had received supplemental oxygen at the White House before his hospital admission.

Trump remained at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Sunday. He offered his own assessment of his status Saturday evening in a video from his hospital suite, saying he was beginning to feel better and hoped to "be back soon."

Hours earlier, chief of staff Mark Meadows told reporters outside the hospital, "We're still not on a clear path yet to a full recovery." In an update Saturday night, Trump's chief doctor expressed cautious optimism but added that the president was "not yet out of the woods."

The changing, and at times contradictory, accounts created a credibility crisis for the White House at a crucial moment, with the president's health and the nation's leadership on the line. With Trump expected to remain hospitalized several more days and the presidential election looming, his condition is being anxiously watched by Americans.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 58 of 90

Moreover, the president's health represents a national security issue of paramount importance not only to the functions of the U.S. government but also to countries around the world, friendly and otherwise.

Saturday's briefing by Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley and other doctors raised more questions than it answered. Conley repeatedly refused to say whether the president ever needed supplemental oxygen, despite repeated questioning, and declined to share key details, including how high a fever Trump had been running before it came back down to a normal range. Conley also revealed that Trump had begun exhibiting "clinical indications" of COVID-19 on Thursday afternoon, earlier than previously known.

Conley spent much of the briefing dodging reporters' questions as he was pressed for details.

"Thursday, no oxygen. None at this moment. And yesterday with the team, while we were all here, he was not on oxygen," Conley said.

But according to a person familiar with Trump's condition, Trump was administered oxygen at the White House on Friday morning, before he was transported to the military hospital by helicopter that evening. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity,

Conley said that Trump's symptoms, including a mild cough, nasal congestion and fatigue, "are now resolving and improving," and that the president had been fever-free for 24 hours. But Trump also is taking aspirin, which lowers body temperature and could mask or mitigate that symptom.

"He's in exceptionally good spirits," said another doctor, Sean Dooley. He said Trump's heart, kidney and liver functions were normal and he was not having trouble breathing or walking around.

In an evening health update, Conley said Trump had been up and moving around his medical suite without difficulty and conducting business. "While not yet out of the woods, the team remains cautiously optimistic," he said.

In the hospital video, Trump defended his decision to continue campaigning and holding large events during a pandemic.

"I had no choice," said Trump, who refused to abide by basic public health recommendations, including mask-wearing. "I had to be out front. ... I can't be locked up in a room upstairs and totally safe. ... As a leader, you have to confront problems."

Trump also thanked his medical team and hailed the state-of-the-art treatments he was receiving, comparing them to "miracles coming down from God." Trump's medical care is far superior to the average American's, with around-the-clock attention and experimental treatments.

The president was angry at Meadows' public assessment of his health and, in an effort to prove his vitality, Trump ordered up the video and authorized longtime confidant Rudy Giuliani to release a statement on his behalf that he was feeling well, according to a Republican close to the White House not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

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 and killed more than 209,000 people in the U.S.

First lady Melania Trump remained at the White House to recover from her own bout with the virus. She was "really handling it very nicely," Trump said in the video, noting with a touch of humor that she was "just a little tiny bit younger" — in fact, 24 years younger.

Meadows himself had insisted Friday morning that Trump had only "mild symptoms" as the White House tried to project an image of normalcy. It was unclear whether Trump already had received oxygen when Meadows spoke.

"President Trump remains in good spirits, has mild symptoms and has been working throughout the day," press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said late Friday. She said Trump had only been sent to Walter Reed as a precaution.

Trump's administration has been less than transparent with the public throughout the pandemic, both about the president's health and the virus's spread inside the White House. The first word that a close aide to Trump had been infected came from the media, not the White House. And aides have repeatedly declined to share basic health information, including a full accounting of the president's symptoms, what tests he's undertaken and the results.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 59 of 90

In a memo released late Friday, Conley did report that Trump had been treated at the hospital with remdesivir, an antiviral medication, after sharing that he'd taking another experimental drug at the White House.

Conley declined to say when Trump had last been tested before he was confirmed to have COVID-19 late Thursday. He initially suggested that Trump was 72 hours into the diagnosis — which would mean that he was confirmed infected Wednesday. Conley later clarified that Trump was administered an accurate test for the virus on Thursday afternoon, after White House aide Hope Hicks was confirmed to be positive and Trump exhibited "clinical indications" of the virus.

The White House has said Trump was expected to stay at the hospital for "a few days" and would continue to work from its presidential suite, which is equipped to allow him to keep up his official duties. In addition to accessibility to tests and equipment, the decision to move to the hospital on Friday was made, at least in part, with the understanding that hurrying there later could send a worrying signal if he took a turn for the worse.

On Saturday, Conley said Trump's blood oxygen level was 96%, which is in the normal range. The two experimental drugs he has received, given through an IV, have shown some promise against COVID-19. On Friday, he was given a single dose of a drug Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. is testing to supply antibodies to help his immune system fight the virus.

On Friday night, he began a five-day course of remdesivir, a Gilead Sciences drug currently used for moderately and severely ill patients. The drugs work in different ways — the antibodies help the immune system rid the body of virus and remdesivir curbs the virus's ability to multiply.

"We're maximizing all aspects of his care," attacking the virus in multiple ways, Conley said. "I didn't want to hold anything back if there was any possibility it would add value to his care."

He noted that in many cases, COVID-19 can become more dangerous as the body responds. "The first week of COVID, and in particular day seven to 10, are the most critical in determining the likely course of this illness," he said.

At the same time, the White House has been working to trace a flurry of new infections of close Trump aides and allies. Attention is focused in particular on the Sept. 26 White House event introducing Trump's Supreme Court nominee. That day, Trump gathered more than 150 people in the Rose Garden, where they mingled, hugged and shook hands — overwhelmingly without masks. There were also several indoor receptions, where Trump's Supreme Court pick, Amy Coney Barrett, her family, senators and others spent time in the close quarters of the White House, photographs show.

Among those who attended and have now tested positive: former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, 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 president's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, and the head of the Republican National Committee, Ronna McDaniel, have also tested positive, though they were not at the event. Another prominent Republican who has tested positive: Sen. Ron Johnson. R-Wis.

One of the president's personal assistants, Nick Luna, tested positive after having traveled with Trump several times recently, a White House official said Saturday night. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Colvin and Miller reported from Washington. Associated Press chief medical writer Marilyn Marchione in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

Pope: Market capitalism has failed in pandemic, needs reform

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis says the coronavirus pandemic has proven that the "magic theories" of market capitalism have failed and that the world needs a new type of politics that promotes dialogue and solidarity and rejects war at all costs.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 60 of 90

Francis on Sunday laid out his vision for a post-COVID world by uniting the core elements of his social teachings into a new encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti" (Brothers All), which was released on the feast day of his namesake, the peace-loving St. Francis of Assisi.

The document draws its inspiration from the teachings of St. Francis and the pope's previous preaching on the injustices of the global economy and its destruction of the planet and pairs them with his call for greater human solidarity to address today's problems.

In the encyclical, Francis rejected even the Catholic Church's own doctrine justifying war as a means of legitimate defense, saying it had been too broadly applied over the centuries and was no longer viable.

"It is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a 'just war,'" Francis wrote in the most controversial new element of the encyclical.

Francis had started writing the encyclical, the third of his pontificate, before the coronavirus struck and upended everything from the global economy to everyday life. He said the pandemic, however, had confirmed his belief that current political and economic institutions must be reformed to address the legitimate needs of the people most harmed by the coronavirus.

"Aside from the differing ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident," Francis wrote. "Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality."

He cited the grave loss of millions of jobs as a result of the virus as evidence of the need for politicians to listen to popular movements, unions and marginalized groups and to craft more just social and economic policies.

"The fragility of world systems in the face of the pandemic has demonstrated that not everything can be resolved by market freedom," he wrote. "It is imperative to have a proactive economic policy directed at 'promoting an economy that favours productive diversity and business creativity' and makes it possible for jobs to be created, and not cut."

He denounced populist politics that seek to demonize and isolate, and called for a "culture of encounter" that promotes dialogue, solidarity and a sincere effort at working for the common good.

As an outgrowth of that, Francis repeated his criticism of the "perverse" global economic system, which he said consistently keeps the poor on the margins while enriching the few. Francis rejected the concept of an absolute right to property for individuals, stressing instead the "social purpose" and common good that must come from sharing the Earth's resources.

Francis once again rejected "trickle-down" economic theory as he did in the first major mission statement of his papacy, the 2013 *Evangelii Gaudium*, (The Joy of the Gospel), saying it simply doesn't achieve what it claims.

"Neo-liberalism simply reproduces itself by resorting to magic theories of 'spillover' or 'trickle' — without using the name — as the only solution to societal problems," he wrote. "There is little appreciation of the fact that the alleged 'spillover' does not resolve the inequality that gives rise to new forms of violence threatening the fabric of society."

Much of the new encyclical repeats Francis' well-known preaching about the need to welcome and value migrants and his rejection of the nationalistic, isolationist policies of many of today's political leaders.

He dedicated an entire chapter to the parable of the Good Samaritan, saying its lesson of charity, kindness and looking out for strangers was "the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world."

He enshrined in the encyclical his previous rejection of both the nuclear arms race and the death penalty, which he said was "inadmissible" in all cases.

"All Christians and people of good will are today called to work not only for the abolition of the death penalty, legal or illegal, in all its forms," he said.

Francis' call for greater "human fraternity," particularly to promote peace, is derived from his 2019 joint appeal with the grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar, the revered 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni Islam. Their "Human Fraternity" document established the relationship between Catholics and Muslims as brothers, with a common mission to promote peace.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 61 of 90

The fact that he has now integrated that Catholic-Muslim document into an encyclical is significant, given Francis' conservative critics had already blasted the "Human Fraternity" document as heretical, given it stated that God had willed the "pluralism and diversity of religions."

Vatican encyclicals are the most authoritative form of papal teaching and they traditionally take their titles from the first two words of the document. In this case, "Fratelli Tutti" is a quote from the "Admonitions," the guidelines penned by St. Francis in the 13th century.

The title of the encyclical had sparked controversy in the English-speaking world, with critics noting that a straight translation of the word "fratelli" (brothers) excludes women. The Vatican has insisted that the plural form of the word "fratelli" is gender-inclusive.

Francis' decision to sign the document in Assisi, where he travelled on Saturday, and release it on the saint's feast day is yet further evidence of the outsized influence St. Francis has had on the papacy of the Jesuit pope.

Francis is the first pope to name himself after the mendicant friar, who renounced a wealthy, dissolute lifestyle to embrace a life of poverty and service to the poor.

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

The Latest: UK leader: We face a "bumpy" coronavirus winter

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has defended his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, but warned that the country faces a "bumpy" winter ahead.

Britain has Europe's highest coronavirus death toll, at more than 42,000, and Johnson's Conservative government is facing criticism from all sides. Opponents say tougher social restrictions are needed to suppress a second pandemic wave, but many in Johnson's own right-of-center party argue that restrictions must be eased to save the economy.

Johnson told the BBC that the government had to strike a difficult balance and he couldn't "take a course that could expose us to tens of thousands more deaths in very short order."

Johnson expressed hope that progress on vaccines and testing would "change the scientific equation" in the next few months, allowing a return to normality.

But he said "it's going to continue to be bumpy through to Christmas. It may even be bumpy beyond."

Britain on Saturday reported a record 12,872 new coronavirus infections, by far the highest daily total since the outbreak began, though the figure included a backlog of previously unreported cases.

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

- Doctor: Trump improving, but not 'out of the woods' yet
- Analysis: Trump faces credibility crisis over health scare
- Pence ordered borders closed due to pandemic after CDC experts refused
- South Africa and India have asked the World Trade Organization to waive provisions on intellectual property rights to speed efforts to prevent, treat and contain the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Madrid, Europe's most critical coronavirus hot spot, is under a partial lockdown, with police controlling travel in and out of the city. Still some flamenco houses reopened, with precautions.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

NEW DELHI — India says it is planning to immunize at least 250 million of its 1.4 billion people by July 2021 after receiving between 400 and 500 million coronavirus vaccine doses.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 62 of 90

Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on Sunday said the government will ensure "equitable access" to the vaccine and is in the process of identifying the high-risk groups that will be the first in line, including health care workers.

India is testing three potential vaccines, including one being developed jointly by the University of Oxford and pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca.

That will be mass produced by India's Serum Institute, the world's biggest vaccine producer. The Serum Institute has said it would produce 200 million doses of coronavirus vaccines for developing countries, including India.

India has reported 6.5 million cases and more than 100,000 deaths in the pandemic.

MOSCOW — Coronavirus infections in Russia hit a new record on Sunday, with the government reporting over 10,000 new confirmed cases for the first time since mid-May.

The 10,499 new cases reported on Sunday bring the country's total to over 1.2 million. Russia currently has the fourth largest caseload in the world and has so far reported over 21,000 deaths.

The Russian authorities insist there are no plans to impose a second lockdown in the country that has lifted most of the virus-related restrictions imposed in the spring. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday another lockdown is currently not being discussed in the government.

At the same time in Moscow, which reported over 3,000 new cases on Sunday in the biggest surge in months, officials have recommended the elderly to self-isolate at home and have extended upcoming school holidays by a week.

On Thursday, Moscow mayor also ordered employers to have at least 30% of their staff work from home.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump went through a "very concerning" period Friday and faces a "critical" next two days in his fight against COVID-19 at a military hospital, his chief of staff said Saturday — in contrast to a rosier assessment moments earlier by Trump doctors, who took pains not to reveal the president had received supplemental oxygen at the White House before his hospital admission.

Trump remained at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Sunday. He offered his own assessment of his status Saturday evening in a video from his hospital suite, saying he was beginning to feel better and hoped to "be back soon."

Hours earlier, chief of staff Mark Meadows told reporters, "We're still not on a clear path yet to a full recovery." In an update Saturday night, Trump's chief doctor expressed cautious optimism but added that the president was "not yet out of the woods."

The changing, and at times contradictory, accounts created a credibility crisis for the White House at a crucial moment. With Trump expected to remain hospitalized several more days and the presidential election looming, his condition is being anxiously watched by Americans.

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — Slovakia's record surge of new confirmed coronavirus cases has not slowed down despite tough restrictive measures, surpassing 800 new daily cases for the first time.

The Health Ministry says the day-to-day increase reached a new record high of 818 on Saturday. The government has reacted to the recent spike by declaring a state of emergency accompanied by strict restrictions.

Prime Minister Igor Matovic called on fellow Slovaks on Sunday to avoid any public gatherings and not to organize any family celebrations.

"We're heading for very difficult days," Matovic said on Facebook.

Slovakia has reported 13,139 virus infections and 55 deaths, still low numbers compared with other European countries.

JERUSALEM — A member of Israel's Cabinet has tested positive for the coronavirus as the country remains under lockdown while battling a second wave of infection.

Gila Gamliel, Israel's environmental protection minister and a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 63 of 90

tanyahu's Likud party, announced on Twitter Sunday that she had tested positive. She was the fourth minister in Israel's government to test positive.

The Israeli government imposed a nationwide lockdown on Sept. 18 ahead of the Jewish High Holidays in an effort to rein in a runaway outbreak of the coronavirus. According to Health Ministry figures, Israel has recorded over 264,000 cases and almost 1,700 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. -- The Navajo Nation, which sprawls across Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, reported 17 new coronavirus cases and no new deaths Saturday.

The total number of deaths related to the virus on the huge reservation remains at 558, and the total number of cases is now 10,421.

NEW DELHI — India has registered 75,829 confirmed coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, a day after crossing 100,000 fatalities.

The Health Ministry raised India's confirmed total to more than 6.5 million on Sunday and said at least 101,782 people have died of COVID-19.

India is still registering the highest number of daily cases globally but with the recovery rate at more than 83%, the number of those cured has surpassed 5.5 million, the Health Ministry said, crediting increased testing.

India is preparing to reopen cinemas and entertainment parks with limited capacity beginning Oct. 15, in an effort to revive the economy. Health experts warn the move has the potential for the virus to spread during the upcoming religious festival and winter season.

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia —A very small, limited number of people donning the white terrycloth garment symbolic of the Muslim pilgrimage circled Islam's holiest site in Mecca after Saudi Arabia lifted coronavirus restrictions that had been in place for months.

The kingdom had taken the rare step of suspending the smaller "umrah" pilgrimage that draws millions year-round from across the world in early March as the coronavirus morphed into a global pandemic.

But as nations begin to ease those restrictions, the Saudi government on Sunday started allowing a maximum of 6,000 pilgrims a day to enter the sprawling Grand Mosque in Mecca. Only Saudi citizens and residents will be permitted to enter the mosque during this first phase of reopening, and each person has up to three hours to complete the pilgrimage.

MELBOURNE, Australia — The premier of Australia's Victoria state has called on citizens to "stay the course" after large groups flooded beaches and parks at the weekend in defiance of strict lockdown regulations.

Victoria, emerging from a major winter spike in coronavirus cases, relaxed lockdown regulations last weekend but still allowed only five people from up to two households to congregate outside.

Many ignored those regulations on Saturday and crowded parks and beaches, causing Premier Daniel Andrews to remind Victorians not to be selfish and maintain social distancing. Victoria reported only 12 new coronavirus cases and one death Sunday, well down on the peaks of winter.

Andrews said the situation in Victoria is "delicately poised" as the state moves toward further easing of lockdown rules.

"People love to go to the beach when it's sunny but there's a global pandemic on," he said. "Surely, there's a greater urge to see this thing, to defeat it and to have a normal summer and have a COVID normal Christmas and 2021."

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported 64 new cases of the coronavirus, the fourth straight day its increase came below 100, possibly reflecting the fewer number of tests conducted during one of the biggest holidays of the year.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 64 of 90

The figures released by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Sunday brought the national caseload to 24,091, including 421 deaths.

Thirty-eight of the new cases were reported from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area. Health workers have struggled to track transmissions tied to churches, hospitals, schools and offices. Seventeen of the new cases were linked to international arrivals.

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico officials have reported 298 additional known COVID-19 cases and three more deaths, increasing the statewide totals to 30,296 cases with 890 deaths.

The additional cases reported Saturday included 75 in Bernalillo County, 67 in Dona Ana County, 32 in Chaves County, 22 in Lea County and 20 in Curry County.

The three deaths occurred one each in Bernalillo, Curry and Dona Ana counties and involving people in their 70s or 80s with underlying conditions.

PHOENIX — Numerous inmates say Arizona's prison system has failed to provide necessary testing, supplies and treatment during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Arizona Republic reports that dozens of letters from inmates in recent months said the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry wasn't protecting staff and inmates during the outbreak.

The Republic reports inmates' letters describing fears and frustrations, asking for help while others provided graphic details in personal narratives of surviving the virus.

A department spokesperson denied many allegations by inmates, including that sick inmates weren't tested. Department spokesperson Judy Keane also cited health and safety protocols announced during the pandemic.

NEW YORK — New York state's daily count of new coronavirus cases is continuing to rise.

The state reported on Saturday there were more than 1,700 new confirmed cases on Friday, up slightly from the day before with case totals not seen since May. Some of the hot spots in the state included the New York City borough of Brooklyn, where more than 350 people tested positive, and in suburban Rockland County, which saw at least 120 new cases.

French rescuers search for 8 people missing after floods

Associated Press undefined

PARIS (AP) — French authorities deployed about 1,000 firefighters, four military helicopters and troops Sunday to help search for at least eight people still missing in a mountainous southeastern region after devastating floods that killed two people in neighboring Italy.

Floods washed away houses and destroyed roads and bridges surrounding the city of Nice on the French Riviera after almost a year's average rainfall fell in less than 12 hours. Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi said over 100 homes were destroyed or severely damaged.

Rescuers on Sunday were also providing emergency assistance, including food and water, to residents living in isolated villages.

The missing people include two firefighters whose vehicle was carried away by a torrent when a road collapsed south of the village of Saint-Martin-Vesubie. Authorities fear more victims as many families couldn't reach out to relatives due to cellphone services being down.

French Prime Minister Jean Castex, who flew over the area in a helicopter, expressed "grave concern" over the toll of the flooding.

About 10,500 homes were left without electricity on Sunday, French energy company Enedis said.

In Italy, a firefighter was killed during a rescue operation in the mountainous northern region of Val d'Aosta. A search team also found a body in the Piedmont region's Vercelli province, where a man had been swept away by floodwaters.

Italian firefighters also rescued 25 people trapped on the French side of a high mountain pass due to

the flooding.

Follow all AP stories on extreme weather and climate change at <https://apnews.com/hub/Climate>.

'Saturday Night Live' recreates debate in 46th season opener

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Saturday Night Live" went political with a parody of this week's presidential debate, Chris Rock's jab at President Donald Trump and Megan Thee Stallion's message supporting Black people during her performance.

The NBC late-night sketch series on Saturday night jumped into the reenactment of the recent debate between Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden. The series opened its 46th season, returning to the studio this week after the coronavirus pandemic halted production.

Alec Baldwin returned to play Trump before the president's COVID diagnosis, while Jim Carrey made his feature debut as Biden.

In the sketch, Baldwin's Trump commandeered the debate in the same fashion as on Tuesday, trying to trip up Biden by interrupting and insulting him. Meanwhile, Carrey's Biden tried to maintain his anger by breathing into a paper brown bag and talking to himself.

"Look man, I'm a nice guy, but you give anymore guff tonight, I'll rip your face off like a mad chimp," Carrey yelled before talking to himself again saying, "The country's counting on you Joe. Just stand here and look lucid."

Maya Rudolph made a cameo appearance as Sen. Kamala Harris calling for a WAP (Woman As President) — a nod to the hit song by Megan Thee Stallion and Cardi B — before Carrey's Biden pulled out a remote control to pause Trump.

"Let's bask in the Trumpleness," Carrey said.

The show was hosted by Chris Rock who stepped onstage with a mask before snatching it off to perform his monologue. He opened in front of a live audience, which included about two dozen first responders who all wore masks.

Rock joked about how the coronavirus pandemic has ruined much of 2020. The actor-comedian also sarcastically showed empathy toward Trump being hospitalized after his virus diagnosis.

"President Trump is in the hospital from COVID, and I just want to say that my heart goes out to COVID," he joked.

Rock offered his thoughts on America needing to "renegotiate their plans" with the government.

"What job do you have for 4 years no matter what? Just show me one job. If you hired a cook, and he was making people vomit every day, do you sit there and say 'Oh, he's got a 4-year deal,'" he said. "We just got to vomit for four more years."

Rock was once part of an "SNL" cast that included Chris Farley, Mike Myers, David Spade and Adam Sandler. Rock spent three years on the show before he left in 1993.

Megan Thee Stallion hit the stage as the musical guest performing her hit single "Savage." While wearing a black-and-white ensemble, the rapper delivered a message calling for the protection of Black people, in addition to the words "Protect Black Women" flashing on the screen behind her.

South African coffin-maker saw COVID-19 at work and at home

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The coffin-maker knew death too well. The boxes were stacked in his echoing workshop like the prows of ships waiting for passengers. COVID-19 was turning his business upside down.

Then it moved into his home.

Casey Pillay's wife was a midwife, delivering babies for coronavirus-positive mothers in Johannesburg, the epicenter of the pandemic in South Africa — once fifth in the world in number of cases — and on the continent.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 66 of 90

That she would be infected, they knew, was a matter of time.

When she fell ill during the country's surge in cases, she retreated to the main bedroom. Pillay withdrew to a bedroom next door. Scared, he barely slept, managing a few hours before dawn as his wife wrestled with some of the worst days of her life.

"I'd literally be on eggshells listening to what she was going through," Pillay said Tuesday. "I would go in every now and then, fully kitted up, just to check vitals, whether she needed oxygen. When she recovered, we sat down and had a chat. She was really scared because at one stage she thought she was gonna die."

It was a blessing in disguise, he said, to see someone with COVID-19 recover after so much exposure to death through his work.

Pillay, a manager at the coffin-making business, said about 10 colleagues also were infected. All are now OK. Their survival reflects the relatively low death toll from COVID-19 in South Africa, and in Africa in general, as the continent appears to defy dire predictions that the virus would cause massive numbers of deaths.

Life has edged back toward normal after a surge in infections in South Africa in June and July that threatened to overwhelm public hospitals. Many of the more than 1 million graves that Gauteng province, home of Johannesburg, once hurriedly mapped out have gone unused.

Still, the toll from COVID-19 — which has killed more than 16,000 people in South Africa, nearly half of the continent's over 35,000 deaths — has been painful, and the world surpassing 1 million confirmed deaths has again led to reflection.

"It has been a crazy, crazy, crazy couple of months," Pillay said.

The need for coffins rose and fell as South Africa's lockdown levels changed, but overall, he said, "business went down."

Under the strictest lockdown measures, so few people were driving in South Africa that the country's terrible rate of vehicle deaths plummeted. And alcohol sales were banned, "so you weren't having people fighting, murdering each other," Pillay said. "Unfortunately, our whole business thrives on people dying."

As the lockdown eased step by step and people were "not being disciplined" and going around without masks, the number of virus deaths increased. Now, a sense of normalcy is returning.

But COVID-19 changed everything. The price of basic materials shot up as "every Tom, Dick and Harry became an essential provider," Pillay said. Suddenly, a box of gloves was changing hands five times, with everyone taking a cut. What once cost 80 rand (\$4.70) became 200 rand (\$11.70) or 220 rand (\$13).

Pillay scrambled to keep his workshop open and safe as orders rolled in. "The unfortunate part is, you've got so many workers and machines and can only do so much a day," he said. The workshop bustles with people carrying raw wood, sanding it and attaching polished handles.

And the entire nature of mourning in South Africa changed. The government said COVID-19 burials should happen right away instead of waiting for the usual weekend funerals.

"You had undertakers who now needed boxes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday," Pillay said.

A body now had to fit into three body bags, then the coffin, and "go straight into the grave."

With the number of people limited at funerals and graveyards, "people went for the cheapest boxes," Pillay said. In normal times, even the poorest of the poor in South Africa "want to do the best, a kind of show-off thing, a bragging right for them" with quality coffins for their loved ones.

Now, there is little time to appreciate it, and few people to impress. Sometimes, mourners could only park on the side of the road and watch the vehicle carrying the body drive by.

Pillay believes that the beginning of the Southern Hemisphere's summer, along with South Africans' relative youth and the perceived resilience of immune systems, will help his countrymen survive the next wave of infections that health experts are expecting.

Again, it's when, not if. Pillay already is watching cases rise again in Britain, in Spain.

"Yes, it's imminent," he said. "Definitely."

Bram Janssen in Johannesburg contributed.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 67 of 90

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

Analysis: Trump faces credibility crisis over health scare

By JULIE PACE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One month from Election Day, President Donald Trump is facing a credibility crisis as yawning as his health crisis, at a moment when he needs the public's trust the most.

The president's coronavirus infection, as well as the illnesses of several aides and allies, has imperiled the highest levels of the U.S. government. The White House's efforts Saturday to project calm backfired in stunning fashion, resulting in a blizzard of confusing and contradictory information about the health and well-being of the commander in chief.

It's a moment months in the making, the collision of Trump's repeated defiance of his own administration's guidelines for staying safe during the pandemic and his well-known disregard for facts. The result: deep uncertainty for Americans over who and what to believe about the health of the nation's leader at a perilous moment in U.S. history.

"This is bigger than Donald Trump. It's about the institution of the presidency," said Robert Gibbs, who served as President Barack Obama's first White House press secretary.

For any president, credibility in a crisis is paramount — the ability to rally Americans of every political persuasion around a commonly accepted understanding of the situation. For a president on the brink of an election, particularly one held in as tumultuous a year as 2020, it could be the difference between serving one term or two.

Yet Trump has squandered widespread credibility from the very start of his presidency, spending his first full day in office disputing official tallies of the crowd size at his inauguration and asking Americans to disregard photographic evidence showing that he drew fewer people to the National Mall in Washington than his predecessor.

The episode set the tone for the rest of his administration, with Trump creating alternate realities around issues big and small, amplified by the help of friendly media outlets. He frequently touts records and milestones that don't exist. He spreads baseless rumors about his political opponents, including declaring without evidence that Joe Biden, his Democratic rival in the 2020 presidential campaign, might be on drugs in their debate.

Yet Trump's credibility has come under even greater scrutiny during the pandemic, the single biggest test of his presidency. He's repeatedly downplayed the threat of the virus in public, despite telling journalist Bob Woodward privately in February that COVID-19 was more deadly than the flu. He's floated unverified and harmful treatments, including suggesting Americans could inoculate themselves by injecting bleach.

In April, just weeks after the pandemic took hold in the U.S., only 23% of Americans said they had high levels of trust in the information the president was providing the public about the virus, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

As Election Day draws near, Trump has increasingly flouted public health guidelines and many of the scientists advising his administration, eager to make the case to voters that the worst of the pandemic that upended nearly every aspect of American life is behind them.

For weeks, Trump has been traveling across the country holding large rallies and hosting events at the White House without social distancing or requiring guests to wear masks. That includes a crowded ceremony in the Rose Garden last weekend to announce the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett. Several attendees, including two U.S. senators and first lady Melania Trump, have since announced they have tested positive for coronavirus.

They, and the president himself, are now among the more than 7 million Americans who have been infected. More than 205,000 Americans have died.

It's not clear how Trump became infected. He announced on Twitter at 1 a.m. Friday that he and Mrs. Trump had tested positive for the virus; the following afternoon, he was transported via the presidential

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 68 of 90

helicopter to a military hospital just outside of Washington. The only details the White House provided were that the hospitalization was precautionary and that Trump's symptoms were mild.

On Saturday, the White House tried to fill in the details with a televised briefing by Trump's physician, who painted a sunny picture of the president's situation, emphasizing that he was still working, walking on his own and not laboring to breath. But Dr. Sean Conley notably refused to provide some specific details, including repeatedly sidestepping questions about whether the president had at any point required oxygen.

Shortly after, and off camera, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows gave journalists a more troubling depiction. The president's situation had been "very concerning," and though his health was improving, Meadows said the next 48 hours would be critical. A person familiar with the president's treatment also confirmed that he had required supplemental oxygen Friday morning.

The conflicting information sparked an outcry, even among some Trump allies who privately wondered how the president's team could have been so unprepared for the first major disclosures about his condition. The White House tried to quell the frustrations on Saturday night, releasing a four-minute video of Trump saying his condition was improving and that he was looking forward to resuming campaign activities soon.

But to those who have grown weary of Trump's record on transparency and the truth, there was little hope that the coming days would bring a greater level of clarity.

"These are the patterns of this presidency, and for Trump, the patterns of a lifetime," said Peter Wehner, a Republican who served in President George W. Bush's administrations and a Trump critic. "There's no reason to believe he or his inner circle are going to change."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for the AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Ex-pro baseball player sought in woman's killing found dead

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — A former professional baseball player sought in the shooting death of his ex-girlfriend in a Phoenix suburb was found dead Saturday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at the Grand Canyon, police said.

The body of Charles Haeger, 37, was discovered about 4 p.m. on a trail along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon in northern Arizona, Sgt. Ben Hoster, a Scottsdale Police Department spokesman said in a statement Saturday night.

Police were seeking Haeger on suspicion of murder and aggravated assault in the fatal shooting Friday, Hoster said.

The victim was identified by police Saturday night as Danielle Breed, 34. Breed owned The Topsy Coyote Bar and Grill in Scottsdale, the Arizona Republic reported.

Earlier Saturday, Haeger's unoccupied vehicle was found near Flagstaff in northern Arizona, police said. Flagstaff is 118 miles (190 kilometers) north of Scottsdale.

According to mlb.com, Haeger was a pitcher drafted by the Chicago White Sox in 2001, and he played 83 innings in the the major leagues. His career included stints with the Boston Red Sox, Seattle Mariners and Los Angeles Dodgers organizations.

Hoster said investigators determined that a male roommate of the victim heard gunshots when he returned to the residence Friday and that moments later Haeger emerged from the victim's bedroom with a handgun.

"Haeger then pointed the handgun at the roommate. The roommate quickly escaped out of the back of the residence, and he was able to get a neighbor to call 911," Hoster said in a statement.

Responding police found the victim dead in her bedroom, Hoster said.

Trump said to be improving but next 48 hours 'critical'

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — President Donald Trump went through a "very concerning" period Friday and

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 69 of 90

faces a "critical" next two days in his fight against COVID-19 at a military hospital, his chief of staff said Saturday — in contrast to a rosier assessment moments earlier by Trump doctors, who took pains not to reveal the president had received supplemental oxygen at the White House before his hospital admission.

Trump offered his own assessment Saturday evening in a video from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, saying he was beginning to feel better and hoped to "be back soon."

Hours earlier, chief of staff Mark Meadows told reporters outside the hospital, "We're still not on a clear path yet to a full recovery." In an update on the president Saturday night, his chief doctor expressed cautious optimism but added that the president was "not yet out of the woods."

The changing, and at times contradictory, accounts created a credibility crisis for the White House at a crucial moment, with the president's health and the nation's leadership on the line. With Trump expected to remain hospitalized several more days and the presidential election looming, his condition is being anxiously watched by Americans.

Moreover, the president's health represents a national security issue of paramount importance not only to the functions of the U.S. government but to countries around the world, friendly and otherwise.

Saturday's briefing by Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley and other doctors raised more questions than it answered. Conley repeatedly refused to say whether the president ever needed supplemental oxygen, despite repeated questioning, and declined to share key details including how high a fever Trump had been running before it came back down to a normal range. Conley also revealed that Trump had begun exhibiting "clinical indications" of COVID-19 on Thursday afternoon, earlier than previously known.

Conley spent much of the briefing dodging reporters' questions, as he was pressed for details.

"Thursday no oxygen. None at this moment. And yesterday with the team, while we were all here, he was not on oxygen," Conley said.

But according to a person familiar with Trump's condition, Trump was administered oxygen at the White House on Friday morning, well before he was transported to the military hospital by helicopter that evening. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press only on condition of anonymity,

Conley said that Trump's symptoms, including a mild cough, nasal congestion and fatigue "are now resolving and improving," and said the president had been fever-free for 24 hours. But Trump also is taking aspirin, which lowers body temperature and could mask or mitigate that symptom.

"He's in exceptionally good spirits," said another doctor, Sean Dooley, who said Trump's heart, kidney, and liver functions were normal and that he was not having trouble breathing or walking around.

In an evening health update, Conley said Trump had been up and moving around his medical suite without difficulty and conducting business. "While not yet out of the woods, the team remains cautiously optimistic," he said.

In the hospital video, Trump defended his decision to continue campaigning and holding large events in the midst of a pandemic.

"I had no choice," said Trump, who refused to abide by basic public health recommendations, including mask-wearing. "I had to be out front ... I can't be locked up in a room upstairs and totally safe. ... As a leader, you have to confront problems."

Trump also thanked his medical team and hailed the state-of-the-art treatments he was receiving, comparing them to "miracles coming down from God." Trump's medical care is far superior to the average American's, with around-the-clock attention and experimental treatments.

The president was angry at Meadows' public assessment of his health and, in an effort to prove his vitality, Trump ordered up the video and authorized longtime confidant Rudy Giuliani to release a statement on his behalf that he was feeling well, according to a Republican close to the White House not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

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 and killed more than 200,000 people in the U.S.

First lady Melania Trump remained at the White House to recover from her own bout with the virus. She

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 70 of 90

was “really handling it very nicely,” Trump said in the video, noting with a touch of humor that she was “just a little tiny bit younger” — in fact, 24 years younger.

Meadows himself had insisted Friday morning that Trump had only “mild symptoms” as the White House tried to project an image of normalcy. It was unclear whether Trump already had received oxygen when Meadows spoke.

“President Trump remains in good spirits, has mild symptoms and has been working throughout the day,” press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said late in the day on Friday. She said Trump had only been sent to Walter Reed as a precaution.

Trump’s administration has been less than transparent with the public throughout the pandemic, both about the president’s health and the virus’ spread inside the White House. The first word that a close aide to Trump had been infected came from the media, not the White House. And aides have repeatedly declined to share basic health information, including a full accounting of the president’s symptoms, what tests he’s undertaken and the results.

In a memo released late Friday, Conley did report that Trump had been treated at the hospital with remdesivir, an antiviral medication, after sharing that he’d taking another experimental drug at the White House.

Conley declined to say when Trump had last been tested before he was confirmed to have COVID-19 late Thursday. He initially suggested that Trump was 72 hours into the diagnosis — which would mean that he was confirmed infected Wednesday. Conley later clarified that Trump was administered an accurate test for the virus on Thursday afternoon, after White House aide Hope Hicks was confirmed to be positive and Trump exhibited “clinical indications” of the virus.

The White House has said Trump was expected to stay at the hospital for “a few days” and would continue to work from its presidential suite, which is equipped to allow him to keep up his official duties. In addition to accessibility to tests and equipment, the decision to move to the hospital on Friday was made, at least in part, with the understanding that hurrying there later could send a worrying signal if he took a turn for the worse.

On Saturday, Conley said Trump’s blood oxygen level was 96%, which is in the normal range. The two experimental drugs he has received, given through an IV, have shown some promise against COVID-19. On Friday, he was given a single dose of a drug Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. is testing to supply antibodies to help his immune system fight the virus.

Friday night, he began a five-day course of remdesivir, a Gilead Sciences drug currently used for moderately and severely ill patients. The drugs work in different ways — the antibodies help the immune system rid the body of virus and remdesivir curbs the virus’ ability to multiply.

“We’re maximizing all aspects of his care,” attacking the virus in multiple ways, Conley said. “I didn’t want to hold anything back if there was any possibility it would add value to his care.”

He noted that in many cases, COVID-19 can become more dangerous as the body responds. “The first week of COVID, and in particular day seven to 10, are the most critical in determining the likely course of this illness,” he said.

At the same time, the White House has been working to trace a flurry of new infections of close Trump aides and allies. Attention is focused in particular on the Sept. 26 White House event introducing Trump’s Supreme Court nominee. That day, Trump gathered more than 150 people in the Rose Garden, where they 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 spent time in the close quarters of the White House, photographs show.

Among those who attended and have now tested positive: former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, 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 president’s campaign manager, Bill Stepien, and the head of the Republican National Committee, Ronna McDaniel, have also tested positive, though they were not at the event. Another prominent Republican who has tested posi-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 71 of 90

tive: Sen. Ron Johnson. R-Wis.,

One of the president's personal assistants, Nick Luna, tested positive after having traveled with Trump several times recently, a White House official said Saturday night. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter by name and requested anonymity.

Despite its failure to protect the president and senior staff from infection, the White House has given no indication that it intends to make any major protocol changes, such as mandating that everyone wears a mask.

Meadows, the chief of staff, accompanied the president to the hospital aboard Marine One, the kind of small, enclosed space where experts say the virus easily spreads. Those aboard did wear masks.

While Vice President Mike Pence is currently off the campaign trail preparing for the coming week's vice presidential debate, he and his staff are operating under a "business as usual" approach. He's still planning to travel to Arizona on Thursday, Indiana on Friday and Florida on Saturday for events instead of isolating himself after potential exposure and to protect himself from contracting the virus anywhere else.

Colvin and Miller reported from Washington. Associated Press chief medical writer Marilyn Marchione in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

Graham, Harrison both tout bipartisanship in 1st SC matchup

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — In their first debate in a race that has shattered fundraising records and become among the more closely watched Senate contests of this cycle, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Democratic challenger Jaime Harrison drew multiple contrasts between their campaigns but also both portrayed themselves as willing to work across the aisle to achieve legislative progress.

In his pursuit of a fourth term, Graham — chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee — also argued the case for his chief congressional goal at the moment: the confirmation of President Donald Trump's latest Supreme Court nominee.

After Harrison — an associate Democratic National Committee chairman and former lobbyist — said Saturday night that he and his wife were still paying off their student loans, Graham snapped back that, given what he's seen of Harrison's income from released tax returns, "You're a multimillionaire, and you can't pay off your student loans?"

Harrison described himself as willing to work with Republicans on a variety of issues, describing when, as state Democratic chairman, he became close friends with his GOP counterpart. He also critiqued the longtime lawmaker's previous support of 12-year term limits and added, "I do believe the ultimate term limit is in the power of the people here in South Carolina."

In response, Graham promoted himself as a conservative unafraid to work with Democrats, mentioning issues like immigration, and telling voters, "You can limit my term on Nov. 3 if you'd like."

From his opening statement and throughout nearly every answer of the hourlong debate, Graham worked in his support for a conservative judiciary and particularly Amy Coney Barrett, whom he called a "buffer to liberalism" he hoped "won't be treated like Kavanaugh" in her upcoming confirmation hearings.

It was Graham's fiery 2018 defense of Brett Kavanaugh that helped cement his now-close relationship with Trump, as well as renew support with some who hadn't seen Graham as conservative enough to represent South Carolina. That moment, Graham said Saturday, also riled up liberals he now says are pouring \$100 million into Harrison's campaign and groups supporting him, to try to oust Graham.

"Where the hell is all this money coming from?" Graham asked. "This is about liberals hating my guts when I stood up for Kavanaugh. This is about me helping President Trump."

Harrison, 44, castigated Graham, 65, for what he characterized as contradictory positions on whether it's appropriate to fill Supreme Court vacancies in a presidential election year.

"Senator, you said 'use my words against me,'" Harrison said, referencing Graham's 2018 comments on the subject. "Your promise was that no judicial nominee should be approved during the last year of an

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 72 of 90

election. ... How good is your word?"

Graham, pointing several times to his support of two of President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominees, said Barrett "is going to be confirmed because the president has the constitutional authority to do it."

The ongoing pandemic also played a role, both on stage and in debate structuring. No members of the public were allowed to attend the event at Allen University, a historically Black institution in Columbia. Media and campaign staff inside were spread out and required to complete questionnaires declaring no exposure to or symptoms of coronavirus.

After several senators announced testing positive for COVID-19, Republican leaders on Saturday announced a refrain from legislative work until Oct. 19 that leadership says won't derail Barrett's hearings, set to begin Oct. 12. With two committee members recently contracting the coronavirus, Graham said Friday that senators could attend virtually.

The candidates spoke from podiums 13 feet apart. Harrison's podium was shielded on the side closest to Graham by a plexiglass partition, something the campaign said was used in accordance with federal recommendations that anyone in close contact with someone infected with COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days.

Both candidates say they tested negative Friday, but Graham has recently met with other Senate Republicans — several of whom have tested positive for the coronavirus — as well as with Trump, currently hospitalized with COVID-19.

Of his partition, Harrison said he was taking every precaution to keep himself and his loved ones safe. "It's not just about me, it's about the people in my life that I have to take care of, as well, my two boys, my wife, my grandma," Harrison said.

Asked later about the number of public officials recently contracting COVID, Graham reiterated a commitment to keep the economy and government working amid the pandemic and noting, "The virus is a problem that came out of China, not Trump Tower."

Officials with Harrison's campaign said they raised \$340,000 during the debate and the hour that followed it. Graham's campaign said they "don't discuss those numbers." The two men are next scheduled to debate Oct. 9.

Meg Kinnard can be reached at <https://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>.

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

Winning filly: Swiss Skydiver beats Authentic in Preakness

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Those hanging around the heavily restricted stakes barn at Pimlico Race Course this week joked around that Authentic would stare down filly Swiss Skydiver whenever she walked past.

"He got a good look at her today," jockey Robby Albarado said.

Swiss Skydiver added one final memorable moment to cap off a topsy-turvy Triple Crown season, beating favored Authentic by a neck after a stretch duel in the Preakness Stakes run without fans Saturday. She became the sixth filly and first since Rachel Alexandra in 2009 to win the Preakness, which this year served as the third leg of the Triple Crown for the first time.

"She's just such a special filly," said trainer Kenny McPeck, who won the Preakness for the first time for his second Triple Crown race victory. "Just a real honor to be around a horse like this."

Jesus' Team was a distant third at 40-1 and Art Collector fourth at 2-1. The 145th running of the Preakness at a mostly empty Pimlico came four weeks after the Kentucky Derby and 3 1/2 months since the Belmont as they were held out of order for the first time since the 1930s.

At 11-1 odds, Swiss Skydiver pulled off an upset of 3-2 favorite and Kentucky Derby winner Authentic. Albarado made a powerful move around the final turn that would usually come right by revelers in the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 73 of 90

infield unable to catch a glimpse of the home stretch.

"I had an opportunity," said Albarado, who won his second Preakness after 2007 aboard Curlin. "I took advantage of the rail. Johnny stayed off the fence there, made a conscious decision to move at that time. Give or take now. If I make that move now or I wait and get smothered."

McPeck won a Triple Crown race for the first time since the 2002 Belmont with Sarava, which was the biggest upset in the history of that race. Swiss Skydiver was the first filly to run in the Preakness since 2014, when Ria Antonia finished last.

"I didn't feel that much tension really," McPeck said. "I felt like we had her well-prepared. Any horse race, things have to go your way. But every day she was happy, she was bright-eyed."

It went Swiss Skydiver's way in part because Authentic's Hall of Fame jockey, John Velazquez, abandoned the rail, giving Albarado the lane for a near-perfect trip.

"That's a good filly," said Authentic and Thousand Words trainer Bob Baffert, who was denied a record-breaking eighth Preakness victory. "He had every chance to get by her. He got beat. He just couldn't get by her. She dug in. She's tough."

Swiss Skydiver avenged her loss in her only other competition against colts, when she finished second to Art Collector in the Blue Grass Stakes on July 11. She since won the Grade 1 Alabama at Saratoga on Aug. 15 and finished second in the Kentucky Oaks on Sept. 4.

"She continues to get stronger, and it's amazing," McPeck said. "I've been doing this for 35 years and you're around horses and sometimes you run them and they come back tired. She never gets tired. If anything, she makes me tired dragging me around the barn every day."

Swiss Skydiver ran 1 3/16 miles in 1:53.28 and paid \$25.40 to win, \$8.40 to place and \$5.80 to show.

The Preakness was run with only owners, trainers and essential personnel in attendance, a far cry from the usual mid-May party with patrons in fancy hats and suits in some areas of the track and revelers in shorts and T-shirts in the infield.

Even after canceling the annual infield concert and festivities, the Maryland Jockey Club and Stronach Group that owns Pimlico hoped back in the spring that moving the race to the fall would allow for the possibility of having fans. Instead, all three Triple Crown races went on without them.

Swiss Skydiver made it so each Triple Crown race in 2020 had a different winner. McPeck said he likely wouldn't have entered her in the Preakness had Belmont winner Tiz the Law run, but trainer Barclay Tagg gave him a rest to point him to the Breeders' Cup Classic on Nov. 7.

Swiss Skydiver is a candidate to challenge them in the Breeders' Cup Classic or could face older fillies and mares in the Distaff. McPeck is leaning toward the Distaff but will give it some time to make that decision and enjoy the big victory his horse gave him in the Preakness.

"It looked like Authentic got his head in front a little bit and then she fought right back," McPeck said. "There's no guarantees in this game, and I've had some tough beats: second in the Derby, been second in a bunch of Breeders' Cup races, third here in the Preakness years back. But I'm just thrilled she fought on."

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

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 declared the confirmation process was 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 had 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 74 of 90

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 had "mild symptoms." Both said they would 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 Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham and McConnell, who want to put a third Trump nominee on the court immediately in case they lose any of their power in the election.

Democrats, many of whom have been critical of Barrett, seized on the virus 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 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. Crapo said he "recently" had a negative test and a spokeswoman said he would be getting another one as soon as it could be arranged. A spokeswoman for Hawley said he was being tested Saturday, and the senator tweeted later that his coronavirus test came back negative.

Sasse tested negative, but said in a statement that he would work remotely from his home state and undergo further testing due to his "close interaction with multiple infected individuals," his office said. He said he planned to return to Washington in time for the confirmation hearing.

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. A spokeswoman for another GOP member of the committee, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, said Saturday that he had also interacted with Lee and had also tested negative. Still, Cruz's office said he is remaining at home until the hearings out of an abundance of caution.

Confirmation hearings for Barrett, who would replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, are scheduled to last for four days. McConnell on Saturday announced that he would seek to delay floor action for the next two weeks but that the hearings would proceed. At an event in Kentucky on Friday, he said he thought remote hearings could work if some senators couldn't attend.

Graham also suggested the possibility of remote hearings, saying on Twitter that "any senator who wants to participate virtually will be allowed to do so." In a statement Saturday, Graham said there would be "no change" in the hearings even if Senate floor votes were delayed. It is not unusual for committees to meet when there is no action on the floor.

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.

After interacting with Sen. Lee, in consultation with the attending physician, Sen. Cruz is remaining at home out of an abundance of caution. He feels healthy, hasn't exhibited any COVID-19 symptoms, and has tested negative. In accordance with medical advice he will return to the Senate for the Supreme Court nomination hearings."

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., also announced Saturday that he tested positive for the virus and would not return until he was cleared by his doctor. He is not on the Judiciary panel, but his presence would likely be needed for a floor vote.

Tillis is in a competitive reelection 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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 75 of 90

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.

The president tweeted Saturday that he was "feeling well," though White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said the next 48 hours would be critical in terms of his care.

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

Many in migrant caravan bused back to Honduran border

By SONIA PÉREZ D. Associated Press

POPTUN, Guatemala (AP) — Hundreds of U.S.-bound Honduran migrants who had entered Guatemala this week without registering were being bused back to their country's border Saturday by authorities who met them with a large roadblock.

By 5 a.m. Saturday, none of 1,000 or so migrants who had been stalled by police and soldiers remained along a stretch of rural highway. Police said that hours earlier, migrants had boarded buses and army trucks to be taken back to the border.

Small groups of fewer than 10 migrants each could still be found walking along the highway before the roadblock Saturday morning.

Olvin Suazo, 21, was walking with three friends, all from Santa Barbara, Honduras.

"We're going to continue," he said. "We were resting and the bigger group continued. We didn't know what happened to them."

The four, all in their early 20s, are farmworkers. They heard about the caravan that formed earlier this week in San Pedro Sula via WhatsApp and Facebook.

Late Friday, hundreds of migrants headed for the United States had become increasingly desperate after running into the roadblock.

Seldom since 2018 had the prospects for a migrant caravan been so discouraging. Guatemala's president saw them as a contagion risk amid the coronavirus pandemic and vowed to deport them. Mexico's president speculated that the caravan was a plot to influence the U.S. elections. And newly formed Tropical Storm Gamma threatened to dump torrential rain on their planned route through southern Mexico.

The senior U.S. diplomat for the Americas on Saturday praised Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei "for the sustained efforts to mitigate the spread of #Covid19 and stop irregular migration."

"The U.S. is committed to continuing to work with our partners to save lives and protect health," tweeted Michael G. Kozak, acting assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

On Friday, over 100 Guatemalan soldiers and police blocked the migrants, who became increasingly frustrated with the lack of food and forward movement after walking from Honduras earlier this week.

Migrants' voices rang out on the rural highway, demanding authorities either let them through or provide them food.

Guatemala immigration authorities said some of the original group of about 2,000 migrants had agreed to return to Honduras, though Guatemala's vice minister of foreign relations, Eduardo Hernández, issued a video Saturday complaining that Honduras was refusing to receive at least some of them.

The others had split between two routes: Some traveled north to Peten, where the roadblock was, and others walked, hitched rides took buses west toward the capital, Guatemala City.

Some had hitched rides aboard passing trucks. Wilmer Chávez, 35, got aboard the bed of one truck in his wheelchair with the help of fellow Honduran migrants.

In Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador suggested Friday that the estimated 2,000 migrants who set out from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, had perhaps been organized with U.S. politics in mind.

"I think it has to do with the election in the United States," López Obrador said. "I don't have all the elements, but there are indications that it formed with that purpose. I don't know to whose benefit, but

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 76 of 90

we're not naive."

The new group was reminiscent of a migrant caravan that formed two years ago shortly before U.S. midterm elections. It became an issue in the campaign, fueling anti-immigrant rhetoric.

But on Friday, Mexico's point man on the coronavirus pandemic, Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell, sounded more conciliatory, saying the migrants didn't represent a health threat and that Mexico was "morally, legally and politically obliged to help them."

On Thursday, Guatemalan President Giammattei vowed to return the migrants to Honduras, citing efforts to contain the pandemic.

Migrant caravans from Central America gained popularity in recent years because they provided some degree of safety in numbers and allowed those who couldn't afford to pay a smuggler to attempt the trip to the United States.

At first, they received generous support from the communities they passed, especially in southern Mexico. Last year, however, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened crippling tariffs on Mexican imports if it didn't slow the flow of migrants to the U.S. border. Mexico responded by deploying the National Guard and more immigration agents to intercept large groups of migrants.

The last attempted caravan was broken up by Mexican guardsmen in January.

This week, Mexico has been warning that it will enforce its immigration laws and even prosecute people who knowingly put public health at risk.

The U.S. has essentially closed its border to legal immigration and entering illegally is as difficult as ever.

Associated Press writer Christopher Sherman in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Black singer of regional Mexican music sparks buzz, emotion

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

RIO RANCHO, N.M. (AP) — Before clicking the Instagram video, the sight intrigued most. Sarah Palafox, a Black woman, held an iPhone while standing in front of mariachis. When users turned on the volume, they heard a woman belting out a heartbreak interpretation of Jenni Rivera's "Que Me Vas A Dar" in perfect Spanish of Mexico's Zacatecas. Instagram users said the short clip made them cry. Others demanded more.

But most wondered: Who was this woman with a voice like the late Tejano star Selena? And what's her story?

Palafox, an African American woman raised by a Mexican immigrant family, has generated excitement online with her versions of regional Mexican music.

Born in Southern California but raised in the Mexican state of Zacatecas, 23-year-old Palafox, who goes by the stage name Sarah La Morena, has sparked emotions following a series of viral videos on social media. The clip of Palafox singing with mariachis spawned a half of million views on Instagram and another 200,000 on Twitter. Other videos of her singing banda — another form of regional music from Mexico's southwest coast — also have been shared thousands of times. (She is working on an album.)

However, as Palafox has been stroking a frenzy with her voice, she's also been to the target of a racist backlash online over her love of Mexican music. A few Black social media users accuse of her being ashamed of her Blackness. Some Latino users sling racist slurs and accused her of appropriation. The insults come in English and Spanish.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Palafox said the scorn is similar to what she faced after her family returned to Southern California when she was in middle school. That has led to bouts of depression and a suicide attempt in 2018, she said.

"Just the fact of how I was brought up, and what I was born into, and what I got raised in, I mean, I have like the best of both worlds," said Palafox, who sports a Selena tattoo.

On social media, Palafox has shared her story of being born addicted to drugs and thrust into a foster care system after authorities took her away from her biological mother, an African American woman. A devout Christian family from Mexico offered to foster her but soon fell in love with her. They officially ad-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 77 of 90

opted her and moved to Zacatecas, where Palafox learned to milk cows and care for horses.

When the family returned to the U.S., kids in school didn't know what to make of Palafox, a Black girl who spoke no English and saw herself as Mexican. Palafox, who began singing in church, threw herself in music, specifically, the music of her parent's homeland. "That kind of music just brings back a lot of memories," said Palafox, of Moreno Valley, California.

Today, as a mother of two and a recently signed artist to California-based Silent Giant Entertainment, Palafox is focusing on the positive responses to her music as the U.S. faces a racial reckoning over police shootings and systemic racism.

For years, a few African American artists have tried to sing in Spanish to reach Latino fans in the U.S. and abroad. For example, Nat King Cole recorded three Spanish-language studio albums in the late 1950s and early 1960s. His Cole Español album used orchestral music recorded in Havana and he added his vocals out of California, but it was clear that Spanish wasn't his first language.

Other Black artists, such as Beyoncé, have recorded Spanish versions of their popular hits at the time. Her 2006 "Irreplaceable" called "Irreemplazable" is sung entirely in Spanish. Michael Jackson also recorded a Spanish-language version of "I Just Can't Stop Loving You" called "Todo Mi Amor Eres Tú."

But rarely has a Black artist embraced and authentically captured Mexican regional music like Palafox, according to Alexandro Jose, a Chicana and Chicano Studies professor at California State University, Fullerton.

"She takes authenticity to a whole new level. Not only is her Spanish better than most Latinos, she identifies with a village in Zacatecas. She is Mexican and this music is hers," Gradilla said.

Gradilla said she is facing a backlash from some because her music represents "Black-Brown love" and highlights how close Mexican American and African American communities have been living together for decades. "And if you focus on Black-Brown love, it destroys how we look at race in the U.S.," Gradilla said. "That's why her music brings some of us to tears."

Palafox said she had more music projects but declined to give details. She would only say the music will be different and she's not listening to critics who tell her she's shouldn't be singing regional Mexican music.

"I was told you can't wear braids, you can't wear your Afro and go on stage and sing Mexican music," Palafox said. "And to me, I'm like, why not?"

Russell Contreras is a member of The Associated Press' Race and Ethnicity Team. Follow him on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

Trump's whirlwind week, disdain for masks, ended with COVID

By CALVIN WOODWARD and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The scene at the White House a week ago was one of normalcy in these most abnormal times: a crowd of revelers gathered in the Rose Garden, a band playing, the mingling of the elite, good cheer everywhere, handshakes and hugs left and right.

Now it's a suspected petri dish of coronavirus infection, prominent among the numerous occasions over a week or more where President Donald Trump might have caught — or spread — the virus that has now landed him in the hospital

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 while knowing he'd been close to someone sick with COVID-19.

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

A look at days leading up to it:

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26:

More than 150 people gathered in the Rose Garden for Trump's introduction of Judge Amy Coney Barrett

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 78 of 90

as his nominee for the Supreme Court. The event was highly social, but not distanced.

Few in the crowd wore masks; in fact, some guests were told it was safe to take them off after they received tests upon arrival, said Rev. John Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, one of the attendees.

COVID-19 tests are not 100% reliable and do not rule out the possibility that someone might have an infection that is not yet detectable. The virus can incubate for days before a test will uncover it.

In the days that followed, a succession of attendees reported they had contracted COVID-19, among them Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Thom Tillis of North Carolina and former counselor to the president, Kellyanne Conway. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, seen in an AP photo with his arm around another guest while chatting up several face to face, announced his positive virus test this weekend.

Jenkins contracted COVID-19, too.

"I regret my error of judgment in not wearing a mask during the ceremony and by shaking hands with a number of people in the Rose Garden," he said in a message to the Notre Dame community.

"I failed to lead by example, at a time when I've asked everyone else in the Notre Dame community to do so."

Public-health experts say Trump failed to lead by example, too.

That night he headed to Pennsylvania for a rally, followed Sunday by an outing to the golf course, a reception with Gold Star families, and a press conference during which he made not a single reference to the virus.

TUESDAY

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

Everyone admitted to the hall was supposed to have been tested in advance and come up negative, the Cleveland Clinic officials who served as the debate's health advisers 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."

But most in Trump's contingent — his adult children, senior staff and other VIPs — 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. Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, who attended the debate and helped him prepare with Christie, has tested positive for COVID-19.

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 79 of 90

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.

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.

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."

Charlie Kolean, 25, of Dallas also attended the event, and described getting a nasal swab and negative results in 15 minutes, after which he joined a cocktail party of some 60 people. Staff at the event were masked but the guests weren't, he told AP. VIPs had their pictures taken with Trump in another room, standing six feet from the president with no handshakes.

Hours after the Bedminster fund-raiser, Trump publicly confirmed Hicks had tested positive and told Fox News he and his wife had been tested and were prepared to quarantine if necessary.

This chain of events during the week 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.

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.

Hours after that, Kolean got a "Dear Supporter" letter from the Trump campaign team saying: "We unfortunately write today to notify you that, as you have probably seen, President Trump confirmed late last night that he and the First Lady were tested for COVID-19 and produced positive test results." The email urged attendees to contact their doctor if they developed symptoms.

Well wishes for the Trumps 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."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 80 of 90

Before the day was out, Trump was admitted to a military hospital for a stay expected to last at least several days, in what White House officials initially said was merely a precaution. But his chief of staff, Mark Meadows, said Saturday that Trump went through a "very concerning" period Friday and it was revealed that he had been given supplementary oxygen at the White House Friday.

The next 48 hours would be critical to his care, Meadows said.

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 Christina Paciolla in Philadelphia, Thalia Beaty in New York and Zeke Miller and Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report.

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

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some answers emerged Saturday on President Donald Trump's condition as he battles the coronavirus, but Trump's medical team withheld some key information in their first full, televised update.

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

WHAT WE KNOW: TRUMP'S MEDICAL CONDITION

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said some of Trump's vital signs were "very concerning" Friday and that the next 48 hours would be critical in his care.

That was a much more cautious assessment than Trump's doctors gave. Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley said at a briefing outside a military hospital that Trump had been fever-free for 24 hours and that his symptoms, including a cough and nasal congestion, "are now resolving and improving."

Conley revealed that Trump began exhibiting "clinical indications" of COVID-19 on Thursday afternoon, earlier than previously known.

Trump has been treated with two experimental drugs, given through an IV, that have shown some promise against COVID-19, doctors said.

On Friday, Trump was given a single dose of a drug that Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. is testing to supply antibodies to help his immune system fight the virus. That night, he began a five-day course of remdesivir, a Gilead Sciences drug currently used for moderately and severely ill patients.

Trump also received supplemental oxygen at the White House on Friday before he was taken to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, a person familiar with the president's condition person revealed Saturday. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW: TRUMP'S MEDICAL CONDITION

Trump's medical team dodged questions seeking specifics about the president's condition, raising questions about whether the White House and his medical team were providing a full and factual account of the president's health.

Conley repeatedly refused to answer whether the president had needed supplemental oxygen at any point.

Asked for the president's vital signs, Conley failed to provide any of Trump's temperature readings. Those could indicate the seriousness of the president's condition, a measurement the public didn't get as Trump spent his first full day at Walter Reed.

Conley added that doctors aren't sure where Trump is in the "disease course" of COVID-19. Days seven to 10 typically are a time of higher concern, he said.

WHAT WE KNOW: WHEN TRUMP FELL ILL

Trump started showing symptoms by Thursday, a full day before the White House announced what were initially called "mild symptoms."

Conley said Trump showed some common signs of COVID-19 on Thursday — a mild cough, stuffy nose and fatigue. The president tested positive that afternoon, the doctor said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 81 of 90

The timeline matters as an indication of how transparent Trump, his staffers and doctors are being about the president's health and whether Trump should have known he may have been spreading the virus as he mingled with campaign donors, staffers and others Thursday.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW: WHEN TRUMP FELL ILL

Conley declined to say when Trump had last been tested before Thursday's test confirmed COVID-19.

WHAT WE KNOW: HOW TRUMP WAS INFECTED

It's not clear, but attention is focusing on a White House event Sept. 26 introducing Trump's Supreme Court nominee. Trump gathered more than 150 people in the Rose Garden, where they mingled, hugged and shook hands — overwhelmingly without masks. Photos also show several indoor receptions, where Trump's nominee, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, her family, senators and others gathered in the close quarters in the White House.

Among those who attended who have now tested positive: former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, 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.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW: HOW TRUMP WAS INFECTED

There's no way to know for sure if the Rose Garden event was where Trump — who typically shuns a mask and has kept holding big public gatherings during the pandemic — was exposed. The president had a full week of official and campaign events before his hospitalization Friday.

A third Republican senator, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, announced his positive test Saturday, and he had not attended Barrett's nomination kickoff.

The administration says a White House medical team is tracing contacts.

Trump's diagnosis shows US vulnerability to the coronavirus

By CARLA K. JOHNSON and JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (AP) — 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 became one of the tens of thousands of Americans who test positive each day. He went through a "very concerning" period Friday and the next 48 hours "will be critical" in his care, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Saturday.

That differed dramatically from the rosy assessment by Trump's staff and doctors, who took pains not to reveal the president had received supplemental oxygen at the White House before he went to a military hospital. Some of Trump's 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 reached the United States, worrying signals mounted of what's ahead this fall. The NFL has postponed two games after players on three teams tested positive. 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."

Wallace Clark, 50, of Springfield, Illinois, said he was flummoxed by the president's diagnosis but hopes it makes people realize they need to take the pandemic seriously.

"Some people probably think they're immune or can't get it, but it is possible. It does send a message," Clark said Saturday.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 82 of 90

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, and many loosened restrictions this week.

Mississippi's governor ended a mask requirement, South Carolina's governor said he would ease capacity restrictions on restaurants and New Orleans bars got 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 used 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, but the governor said bars in the two largest college towns could reopen Monday after a five-week closure. South Dakota officials reported record highs in deaths and cases Thursday.

In Missouri, several people waving Trump signs and American flags at drivers in the St. Louis suburb of St. Charles on Saturday said the president and Republican Gov. Mike Parson getting infected recently won't change their behavior. Of the roughly two dozen Trump supporters who gathered, most didn't wear masks.

Vince Kuhn, a 72-year-old retiree and Vietnam War veteran, called Trump "a brave man" who likely caught the virus because he was willing to be out with people. Kuhn said he opposed restrictions like mask mandates before the president got sick and still does.

"I fought for freedom in 'Nam," Kuhn said. "I really didn't like it when they stopped us from going to church and assembling. But people are coming back. Everything's coming back. People want the real America we fought for."

Carol Schutz, 54, who had a lung transplant last year and often wears a mask but didn't Saturday, doesn't believe Trump's illness will sway many people but will be "more fuel for the fire" for those who don't like him.

The mood was far different in St. Louis.

Arlene Mathis, 65, was one of several Black volunteers at voter registration event where nearly everyone wore masks.

"I don't know that we would have to have the president affected by this to be awakened by it, because so many people have died and continue to die every day," Mathis said.

She was hopeful, however, that Trump's illness would change behavior.

"It's an indication that nobody is immune," Mathis said. "It goes high, it goes low, it goes everywhere. So hopefully, them being affected by it will have an impact."

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 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.

It has George George, 63, worried.

"I'm nervous this process could last another couple of years," George said outside a coffee shop in the Cleveland suburb of Cleveland Heights. "People in March and April were terrified of the unknown. But now restaurants are filling up. People are tired of being isolated."

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 83 of 90

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 see more transmission in the U.S., not less, in the coming weeks and months."

Johnson reported from Washington state. Associated Press writer John O'Connor in Springfield, Illinois, and Mark Gillespie in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, contributed to this report.

Chiefs-Patriots game off after Newton positive for COVID-19

By JIMMY GOLEN and KYLE HIGHTOWER AP Sports Writer

The NFL postponed this week's game between New England and the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs after "positive COVID-19 tests on both teams." Patriots starting quarterback Cam Newton and Chiefs practice squad quarterback Jordan Ta'amu were both added to the NFL's COVID-19 reserve list released on Saturday afternoon.

The NFL said Saturday that the game, originally scheduled for 4:25 p.m. EDT on Sunday, will be played Monday or Tuesday, a move that would be possible only if there is no wider spread of the disease on the rosters.

Newton has started all three games for New England. Ta'amu has not appeared in a game but would have spent time in meetings with Super Bowl MVP Pat Mahomes and the team's other QBs.

Newton's agent did not immediately respond to a message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

It is the second game this weekend that has been affected by COVID-19. After an outbreak on the Titans, the matchup between Pittsburgh and Tennessee was postponed — originally for a day or two, and then until Oct. 25 as the positive tests accumulated.

To fit it in, the Steelers' game against Baltimore that day was pushed back to Nov. 1.

The Patriots had been planning to fly to Kansas City on Saturday afternoon. Instead, players left the facility to await further instructions. The team said in a statement that the COVID-positive player has entered self-quarantine and that players, coaches and staff who were in close contact with him were tested Saturday morning and all were negative.

With Newton now unavailable while he quarantines, Brian Hoyer is expected to start in his place. He has been Newton's backup in each of the Patriots' previous three games.

How long Newton is sidelined is to be determined.

According to NFL guidelines, for players who test positive and are showing symptoms at least 10 days must pass between when symptoms first occurred and 72 hours since symptoms last occurred. In that scenario a player would likely miss a minimum of two games.

But if a player tests positive and is asymptomatic, he can return 10 days after the initial positive test or just five days if he has two consecutive negative tests.

Earlier this week, Patriots defensive back Devin McCourty said the league might have grown overconfident after making it through training camps and the first two weeks of the season without a major outbreak.

"But at the end of the day, we are in a pandemic," he said. "So what happened in Tennessee, although it kind of shocks us, it's not really surprising. I think we all knew at some point we might get some positive tests.

"So it's like, 'We got this,'" he said. "I think this is just a little shocker, but it's also a wakeup call, like 'Hey, the virus is still here and it will affect any and everybody. It doesn't care that we're trying to play football.'"

If the game is played Tuesday night, it puts the Chiefs in a considerable bind. They are scheduled to play the Las Vegas Raiders the following Sunday, then have a Thursday night matchup in Buffalo four days later. That means the defending Super Bowl champions could face the prospect of playing three games in just nine days.

It's also possible the NFL could reschedule the Bills-Chiefs game, giving Kansas City a bit of a reprieve.

"I honestly feel like us as an organization has done a great job. It's holding each other accountable,"

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 84 of 90

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said this week of team's effort to keep players healthy. "I mean, it's something that can happen to anybody. You don't look down on anybody that it's happening to, but it's kind of the way 2020 in the world has been."

Mahomes praised Chiefs trainer Rick Burkholder, who was instrumental in helping the NFL develop its testing and protocol before the start of training camp, with creating an environment where players, coaches and staff felt safe.

"Rick and his staff and the whole organization has done a great job of keeping us socially distant, making us wear masks — even when people try to slip and not wear them, making sure that they're wearing masks and we hold each other accountable," Mahomes said. "Then you kind of accept what happens. I'm just going to make sure that we keep emphasizing that. Make sure that we continue to wear our masks, socially distance and try to prepare ourselves so that we're not harming anyone else or ourselves."

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

GOP seeks to call off Senate work, but not Barrett hearings

By LAURIE KELLMAN and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The coronavirus reached further into Republican ranks on Saturday, forcing the Senate to call off lawmaking as a third GOP senator tested positive for COVID-19. Even so, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared he would push President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee toward confirmation in the shadow of the November election.

Trump and Senate Republicans had hoped the confirmation hearings of Judge Amy Coney Barrett's would make the final case to voters of the party's commitment to remake the court with a muscular conservative majority. But the hospitalization of Trump, and the infection of a trio of GOP senators, shattered any notion of changing the subject entirely from the virus that's killed more than 205,000 Americans.

So great was the threat posed by COVID-19 that McConnell called off floor proceedings but not Barrett's hearings, slated to begin Oct. 12. The Kentucky Republican, who is battling to save the GOP majority and running for reelection himself, was not about to give them up.

"The Senate's floor schedule will not interrupt the thorough, fair and historically supported confirmation process," McConnell wrote Saturday. Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who like McConnell is running for reelection, added that senators can attend the hearings remotely.

"Certainly," McConnell said, "all Republican members of the committee will participate in these important hearings."

But by weeks' end, the relentless virus made clear it wouldn't cede the national stage to anyone.

It had sidelined the president of the United States after a busy week of ceremonies and other events where few attendees wore masks, including on Air Force One. In the wee hours of Friday, Trump announced that he and first lady Melania Trump had been infected. Hours later, Trump was given supplemental oxygen and flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Republicans in the Senate who had attended GOP events began announcing that they too had tested positive. First was Utah Sen. Mike Lee, then North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis. On Saturday, Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin announced he too had been infected. Several other Republicans announced they were awaiting test results or quarantining at home just to be safe.

Members of the House and Senate, meanwhile, increasingly demanded that Congress adopt uniform testing and tracing plans for anyone in the warren of the Capitol.

McConnell, who advocates often for mask-wearing, bowed to the concerns by pushing Senate business to Oct. 19. But he made clear that the Barrett nomination would open Oct. 12 as planned.

"Just had another great call with @POTUS," McConnell tweeted Saturday afternoon. "He sounds well and says he's feeling good. We talked about the people's business — fighting the pandemic, confirming Judge Barrett, and strengthening the economy for American families."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer took aim at McConnell's plan, saying that if the COVID threat

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 85 of 90

is too great for Senate sessions, it makes Barrett's confirmation perilous, too.

The Republicans' "monomaniacal drive to confirm Judge Barrett at all costs needlessly threatens the health and safety of Senators, staff, and all those who work in the Capitol complex," Schumer said in a statement.

Schumer notably did not say Democrats would block McConnell's plan. Doing so could force the Senate back into the confines of the Capitol, where no one wants to be, without the mandatory testing of lawmakers and their aides.

McConnell had led the Senate this spring in an early return to the Capitol, as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi put in place a new system that allows lawmakers in the much larger chamber to vote by proxy rather than trek to Washington.

But even McConnell's efforts at creating a semblance of normalcy in the Senate splintered with the quick-moving developments following the president's hospitalization. The news about Covid's march into the White House didn't let up and wasn't flattering after months of complaints that Republicans weren't approaching the pandemic in a serious or organized way.

For example, Trump's doctors on Saturday painted a rosy picture of the president's health during a press conference. Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley refused to say whether the president had ever needed supplemental oxygen and declined to discuss exactly when Trump fell ill. Conley also revealed that Trump began exhibiting "clinical indications" of COVID-19 on Thursday afternoon, earlier than previously known.

According to a person familiar with Trump's condition, Trump was administered oxygen at the White House on Friday before he was transported to the military hospital. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity,

Concern began with the White House Rose Garden ceremony last Saturday where Trump introduced Barrett. In the audience, where few people wore masks, were members of the Judiciary Committee that will handle confirmation hearings. Trump also traveled to Minnesota for a rally, after which a top aide, Hope Hicks, fell ill and was diagnosed with the disease.

The Trumps were diagnosed on Thursday, the White House said. The next day, Tillis and Lee, two members of the Judiciary Committee that will handle Barrett's confirmation, announced that like Trump, they had tested positive for the virus. A cascade of others in the president's circle followed with similar news.

With three Republican senators infected and others awaiting results, McConnell is without a fully working majority of 50 senators. He would need to rely on Vice President Mike Pence to be on hand to break any tie votes.

Amid the outbreak, members of both chambers of Congress called for a comprehensive testing plan for Capitol Hill. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and McConnell have resisted doing so because universal testing is not available to everyone in America.

Some senators called for a more stringent protocol and contact tracing for Congress. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., called on McConnell to require immediate tests for every senator and staff member who has visited the White House over the past two weeks.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

Colliding crises shake already chaotic campaign's last month

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The closing days of the presidential campaign were already dominated by the worst public health crisis in a century, millions of jobless Americans, a reckoning on civil rights, the death of a Supreme Court justice and uncertainty about President Donald Trump's willingness to accept the election outcome.

And that was before the president woke up in a military hospital on Saturday — the most powerful man in the world unable to escape a virus that has so far killed more than 200,000 Americans.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 86 of 90

One month before Election Day and with ballots already being cast in some states, there are few parallels in American history to such a stunning collision of crises in the late stage of a campaign. But beneath the volatility, the broad contours of the 2020 contest are remarkably stable.

The election began as, and remains, a referendum on Trump's turbulent presidency.

The Republican president has trailed Democratic challenger Joe Biden in polls for most of the year. Trump's approval ratings barely budge, consistently ranking him as among the weakest first-term presidents in living history. And for five consecutive months, no more than roughly 3 in 10 voters have believed the nation is moving in the right direction.

"You have all these events, but the basic structure of everything has stayed fairly intact," said veteran Democratic strategist James Carville.

Even before Trump's hospitalization, Republicans were growing increasingly concerned about the direction of the election. Trump's allies were particularly worried that his troubling debate performance on Tuesday might further alienate key groups of swing voters: women and college-educated voters, among them.

Still, it is hard to underestimate the weight of the uncertainty looming over the next four weeks.

Beyond Trump's health or the economy, the pillars of American democracy — an independent judiciary, a strong legislative branch and a fair and free electoral system — are under stress.

"Never in modern American history have more institutions and more people been at the breaking point than right now," said longtime Republican pollster Frank Luntz.

He noted, however, that an incredibly small slice of voters are truly undecided.

"It's good news for Joe Biden, because he's established a lead that Trump has to somehow break, and as you get closer to the election it's harder to change peoples' minds," Luntz said.

Trump's challenge becomes exponentially more difficult after his positive coronavirus diagnosis.

Even if he recovers quickly, the president will be physically unable — at least for two weeks or so — to lead the large, in-person rallies that have long served as the lifeblood of his political operation. The outbreak has also hit his senior political team. Campaign manager Bill Stepien, GOP chair Ronna McDaniel, first lady Melania Trump and a handful of other advisers have been infected in recent days.

In an effort to show the reelection effort is not frozen, the Trump campaign on Saturday announced "Operation MAGA" to call on top surrogates, coalitions and Trump supporters to "carry the campaign forward until the President returns to the trail." Virtual events were planned ahead of Wednesday's vice presidential debate, followed by in-person events, to keep the campaign "at full speed," a statement said.

It's rare for a president to confront such a significant personal health crisis so close to Election Day. Ronald Reagan was shot shortly after taking office in 1981, while Dwight Eisenhower suffered a serious heart attack more than a year before his 1956 reelection.

As Trump recovers in the hospital, the election is further complicated by his attempts to undermine the integrity of the election.

In Tuesday's debate, he repeated his baseless claims of voter fraud and refused to say he would accept the election outcome if he lost. He also declined to condemn white supremacists and called on his supporters to closely monitor voting places, which critics fear may lead to widespread voter intimidation.

Not since perhaps Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 has there been such doubt about the peaceful transfer of power in the United States, said Republican strategist Steve Schmidt.

Schmidt, co-founder of the anti-Trump Lincoln Project, is no stranger to final-weeks political drama, having led John McCain's presidential campaign in 2008. A global financial meltdown rocked the contest that fall.

"You have an American president threatening political instability ... and at the same time making wild accusations and spreading conspiracy theories about the legitimacy of an American election," Schmidt said.

"Not only is there no comparison to the 2008 election, there's no comparison to any election," he continued. "There's nothing between us and the edge of the cliff."

At the same time, local election officials in key states are wading through a blizzard of legal challenges. As Democrats work to make voting easier during the pandemic, Trump's team and its GOP allies have used a combination of threatening letters, lawsuits, viral videos and presidential misinformation to fight

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 87 of 90

election procedures on a county-by-county basis.

Amid legal and health concerns, it's difficult for pollsters and campaigns to predict how many voters will ultimately cast ballots.

Stacey Abrams, a former Democratic gubernatorial candidate in Georgia now focused on voting rights, said she fears that the Republican tactics will roil elections up and down the ballot. She's encouraging people to make a specific plan to vote.

"We're doing the right thing, which is telling people not to panic," Abrams said.

Of presidents and health, history replete with secrecy, lies

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Throughout American history, an uncomfortable truth has been evident: Presidents have lied about their health.

In some cases, the issues were minor, in others quite grave. And sometimes it took decades for the public to learn the truth.

Now President Donald Trump has been diagnosed with the COVID-19 disease. The White House initially said he had "mild symptoms." By Friday evening, he was admitted to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. After a rosy press conference by the president's medical team, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Saturday that Trump had gone through a "very concerning" period Friday and that the next 48 hours would be critical in terms of his care.

Pandemics have cursed the presidencies of both Trump and Woodrow Wilson. Each played down the viruses that killed hundreds of thousands of Americans. Both presidents got sick — and each had to decide how much to tell the public.

Like many administrations before, Wilson's White House tried to keep his sickness secret.

He was at talks in Paris on ending World War I when he fell ill in April 1919. His symptoms were so severe and surfaced so suddenly that his personal physician, Cary Grayson, thought he had been poisoned. After a fitful night caring for Wilson, Grayson wrote a letter back to Washington to inform the White House that the president was very sick.

Flash forward 100 years. In a tweet at 12:54 a.m. Friday, Trump told the world that he and first lady Melania Trump had contracted COVID-19.

The White House initially shared few details about his condition. White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said he was taken to Walter Reed many hours later "out of an abundance of caution."

However sick he was or wasn't, his COVID-19 was startling since Trump had been declaring almost daily that the nation had turned the corner on the disease, which has killed 208,000 people in the United States.

Trump has said he has played down the pandemic so as not to create panic, but there were political reasons for doing so. Seeking another four years in office, Trump did not want the U.S. economy to tank before the Nov. 3 election.

"The Wilson administration, for a very different reason, completely downplayed the pandemic," said John Barry, an adjunct professor in public health at Tulane University whose book "The Great Influenza" chronicles the 1918-19 pandemic that sickened Wilson and killed 675,000 Americans. "Wilson was concerned that any negative news about anything would detract from the war effort — decrease the energy that people would put into winning the war. In this case, there are more strictly political benefits."

William Howell, professor of American politics at the University of Chicago, wonders how transparent the White House will be about Trump's case of COVID-19.

"He is obviously going to be eager to get back onto the campaign trail," Howell said. "He has all kinds of incentives to signal strength and to get back into the mix. He's going to want to."

But he added: "This is a president who's been less than straightforward over the course of his presidency about all manner of factual issues. And so, is he to be believed is a good cause of real concern."

He said the pathology of COVID-19 and the virus in 1918 are "very similar, and that's a little scary."

History is replete with examples of how presidents have kept the American public in the dark about their

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 88 of 90

ailments and medical conditions.

President Grover Cleveland, fearing poor health would be a political weakness, underwent secret oral surgery late at night in a private yacht in Long Island Sound. The cancerous lesion taken from his mouth was displayed in 2000 in an exhibit by the College of Physicians, a Philadelphia-based medical society.

President Lyndon B. Johnson secretly underwent surgery for removal of a skin lesion on his hand in 1967.

After leading the nation through a decade of war and depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt was diagnosed early in 1944 as suffering from high blood pressure, hypertensive heart disease, cardiac failure and acute bronchitis.

The problems also betrayed an underlying arteriosclerosis - hardening of the arteries. Roosevelt was put on a low-salt diet and ordered to cut down on smoking. But with an election coming on, Roosevelt and the White House staff issued a statement saying the problem was far less serious.

"The stories that he's in bad health are understandable enough around election time, but they are not true," his doctor told a reporter. Historians now believe his doctors concealed all the facts from their patient and the public.

Roosevelt won reelection. Only months later, on April 12, 1945, he died of a stroke.

According to historian Robert Dallek, President John F. Kennedy suffered more pain and illness than most people knew and took as many as eight medications a day, including painkillers, stimulants, sleeping pills and hormones to keep him alive. Dallek, who wrote a biography on Kennedy, examined medical files from the last eight years of Kennedy's life before Kennedy was assassinated.

As president, Kennedy was known for having a bad back, and since his death, biographers have pieced together details of other illnesses, including persistent digestive problems and Addison's disease, a life-threatening lack of adrenal function. Kennedy went to great lengths to conceal his ailments, even denying to reporters that he had Addison's disease.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower had a serious heart attack in 1955, while vacationing in Colorado. He was hospitalized for six weeks. Instead of advising Eisenhower not to run for a second term, his doctor recommended that more time in office would aid his recovery.

In 1841, William Henry Harrison became ill with what doctors thought was pneumonia caused by cold weather during his inauguration, where he rode horseback sans topcoat. The White House did not tell the public that Harrison was sick. Harrison died just nine days after becoming ill and only one month after taking the oath of office.

After pools of reporters began to cover nearly every moment that a president is in public, it became harder for commanders-in-chief to keep their medical conditions private.

The first known instance of a so-called pool reporter inside the White House was in 1881 when James A. Garfield was shot. As he lay in bed, Associated Press reporter Franklin Trusdell sat outside the president's sick room, listening to him breathe and sharing updates with other correspondents.

"I listen for every sound," Trusdell wrote to his wife in a note about his overnight Garfield watch at the White House. "A dog barking in the distance is heard. A fountain splashes on the lawn. Not a step is heard in the mansion. The president sleeps."

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 4, the 278th day of 2020. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Space Age began as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

On this date:

In 1861, during the Civil War, the United States Navy authorized construction of the first ironclad ship, the USS Monitor.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 89 of 90

In 1951, the MGM movie musical "An American in Paris," starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron (ka-ROHN'), had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 1957, James R. Hoffa was elected president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The family comedy series "Leave It to Beaver" premiered on CBS.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI, making the first-ever papal visit to the Western Hemisphere, addressed the U.N. General Assembly, where he urged delegates to adopt as their solemn oath: "No more war, war never again."

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin, 27, was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room.

In 1990, for the first time in nearly six decades, German lawmakers met in the Reichstag for the first meeting of reunified Germany's parliament.

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

In 2001, a Russian airliner flying from Israel to Siberia was accidentally downed by a Ukrainian anti-aircraft missile over the Black Sea, killing all 78 people aboard. Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants hit his 70th home run to tie Mark McGwire's 1998 record in a 10-2 victory over the Houston Astros.

In 2002, "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh received a 20-year sentence after a sobbing plea for forgiveness before a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia. He was released from prison in May, 2019. In a federal court in Boston, a laughing Richard Reid pleaded guilty to trying to blow up a trans-Atlantic flight with explosives in his shoes (the British citizen was later sentenced to life in prison).

In 2004, the SpaceShipOne rocket plane broke through Earth's atmosphere to the edge of space for the second time in five days, capturing the \$10 million Ansari X prize aimed at opening the final frontier to tourists. Pioneering astronaut Gordon Cooper died in Ventura, California, at age 77.

In 2017, President Donald Trump visited hospital bedsides and a police base in Las Vegas in the aftermath of the shooting rampage three nights earlier that left 58 people dead.

Ten years ago: The Supreme Court began a new era with three women serving together for the first time as Elena Kagan took her place at the end of the bench. The Nobel Prize in medicine went to Robert Edwards of Britain, whose work led to the first test tube baby. The Europeans reclaimed the Ryder Cup, winning 14 1/2-13 1/2.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama paid tribute to firefighters who had died in the line of duty and cited the sacrifices they'd made in service to a grateful nation during an annual memorial service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Pope Francis opened a divisive meeting of the world's bishops on family issues by forcefully asserting that marriage was an indissoluble bond between man and woman, but saying the church had to "seek out and care for hurting couples with the balm of acceptance and mercy."

One year ago: The impeachment probe reached directly into the White House as House Democrats subpoenaed officials about contacts with Ukraine; President Donald Trump signaled that his administration would not cooperate. Faced with months of pro-democracy protests that had spiraled into violence, Hong Kong's government invoked emergency powers to ban masks from public gatherings. Security forces in central Baghdad opened fire directly at hundreds of anti-government demonstrators, killing at least 17 protesters and injuring dozens. Bernie Sanders was discharged from a Las Vegas hospital; his presidential campaign confirmed that Sanders had a heart attack earlier in the week. Diahann Carroll died in Los Angeles at the age of 84 after a bout with breast cancer; she'd been the first Black woman to star as a non-servant in her own television show with the series "Julia," which ran from 1968 to 1973.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Leroy Van Dyke is 91. Actor Felicia Farr is 88. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Sam Huff is 86. Author Roy Blount Jr. is 79. Author Anne Rice is 79. Actor Lori Saunders (TV: "Petticoat Junction") is 79. Baseball Hall of Famer Tony La Russa is 76. Actor Clifton Davis is 75. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, is 74. Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is 74. Actor Susan Sarandon is 74. Blues musician Duke Robillard is 72. Playwright Lee Blessing is 71. Actor Armand Assante is 71. Actor Alan Rosenberg is 70. Actor Christoph Waltz is 64. Actor Bill Fagerbakke is 63. Music producer Russell Simmons is 63. Actor Kyra Schon (Film: "Night of the Living Dead")

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 093 ~ 90 of 90

is 63. Actor-singer Wendy Makkena is 62. Musician Chris Lowe (The Pet Shop Boys) is 61. Country musician Gregg "Hobie" Hubbard (Sawyer Brown) is 60. Actor David W. Harper is 59. Singer Jon Secada is 59. TV personality John Melendez is 55. Actor-comedian Jerry Minor is 53. Actor Liev Schreiber is 53. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 51. Country singer-musician Heidi Newfield is 50. Singer-guitarist M. Ward (She & Him) is 47. Actor Alicia Silverstone is 44. Actor Dana Davis is 42. Rock musician Robbie Bennett (The War on Drugs) is 42. Actor Phillip Glasser is 42. Rock singer-musician Marc Roberge (O.A.R.) is 42. Actor Brandon Barash is 41. Actor Rachael Leigh Cook is 41. Actor Tim Peper is 40. Actor Jimmy Workman is 40. Bassist Cubbie Fink is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Benson (3lw) is 33. Actor Michael Charles Roman is 33. Actor Melissa Benoist is 32. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 32. Actor Dakota Johnson is 31. Figure skater Kimmie Meisner is 31. Actor Leigh-Anne Pinnoch (Little Mix) is 29. Actor Ryan Scott Lee is 24.