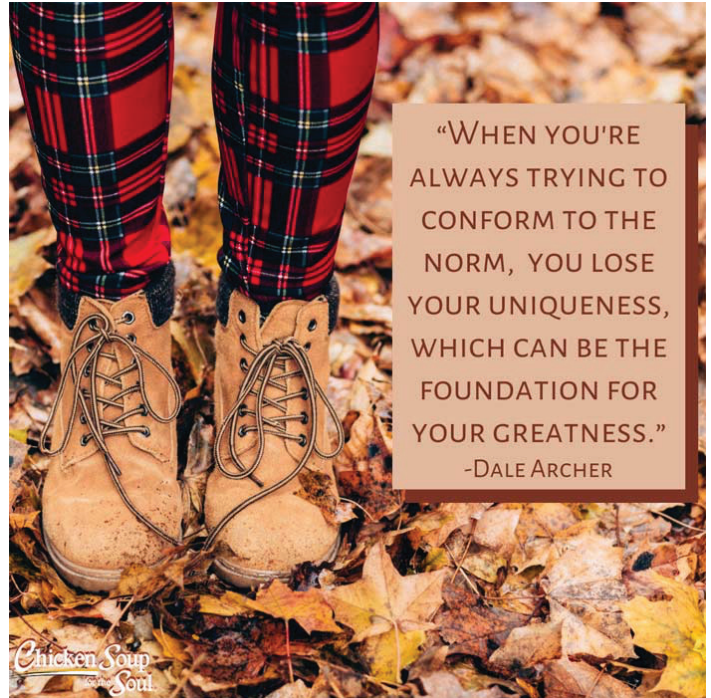


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## Monday, October 5, 2020

State Boys Golf Meet at Southern Hills Golf Course, Hot Springs  
4 p.m.: Combined Junior High Football game at Aberdeen Roncalli (7th graders MIGHT play a 5th quarter). Junior Varsity football game to follow JH game.

## Tuesday, October 6, 2020

State Boys Golf Meet at Southern Hills Golf Course, Hot Springs  
6:30 p.m.: Volleyball vs. Leola-Frederick at Frederick. JV starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity match. There is no C match.  
7:00 p.m.: City Council meeting at Groton Community Center

## Thursday, October 8, 2020

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



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

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

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The Minnesota Vikings (1-3) traveled to Houston (0-4) and left with their first victory of the season after taking down the Texans 31-23. It was a hard-fought battle all day, coming down to the final minute and a failed 4th-and-goal attempt Deshaun Watson. Minnesota held strong and won the day. It is possible the team has weathered the early-season storm?



By Jordan Wright

The offense continued to show signs of life, picking up 410 total yards on Sunday. Kirk Cousins had a good, albeit inefficient game, completing 16 of 22 passes for 260 yards and a touchdown. Dalvin Cook was clearly the focal point for the offense, carrying the ball 27 times for 130 yards (4.8ypc) and two touchdowns. The Vikings had 40 total rushes against the Texans, which led to them dominating the time of possession battle. Adam Thielen led the team in receptions and yards, catching 8 passes for 114 yards and a touchdown. Justin Jefferson had his second consecutive game with over 100 yards (103), this time doing it on only four catches. Fun fact: last week, Jefferson showed off his touchdown dance; this week, Thielen tried to copy... it did not go well.

With both Mike Hughes and Kris Boyd sitting this game out with injuries, the Vikings entered this game with only four active cornerbacks. The secondary took another hit in the first half when their best player, Harrison Smith, was wrongfully ejected from the game after an accidental helmet-to-helmet collision. Overall, the Vikings' defense gave up 386 yards but were able to stiffen up when they needed to, holding Houston out of the endzone on their three red-zone trips. Eric Kendricks had a great game, leading the team with 12 tackles and adding one very impressive pass breakup. Yannick Ngakoue is starting to make his presence known, getting his third sack in as many weeks.

The player of the game on Sunday was running back Dalvin Cook. The Texans had the worst run defense entering the game, so it's no surprise that Dalvin ran for 130 yards and two touchdowns against them. The reason why he's the player of the game is the manner in which he was running the ball. He knew he had to perform against Houston, and you could tell it became personal to him. He wants to be considered one of the best backs in the league, so every time he ran the ball on Sunday, he ran with authority. He also refused to be tackled, racking up nine missed tackles, which according to Pro Football Focus is the second-most by any running back this season.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Seattle to try and tame the red-hot Seahawks. Russell Wilson has been one of the best players in the NFL through the first four games, throwing 14 touchdown passes and only one interception so far this season. Seattle has averaged 35.5 points per game, good for second-best in the league. The Seahawks are always a challenge for the Vikings, even when they are playing well, so it's no surprise the Vikings will be huge underdogs entering this game. Luckily for us, the Vikings always seem to play better when they are being counted out. Skol!

## The First Goodbye

When you ask a physician why they became a doctor there is often a pattern that emerges. It is usually one of three things: they have family members who were doctors, they went through a significant health issue of their own, or they had a family member or close friend who went through a serious health issue. In my case, it was the latter. Sadly, there have been many such experiences with people I love but let me share with you the first I can remember.

I was five years old. She was my neighbor, the only person who could over-rule my mother on how long I could stay at her home playing or how many cookies I could eat when we had tea parties. She was the first grown up who treated me like an adult. When she was admitted to the hospital on hospice, my mother tried to prepare me for what I would see, telling me that our friend no longer had hair. I told her that I didn't care, I missed her, and I just wanted to see her.

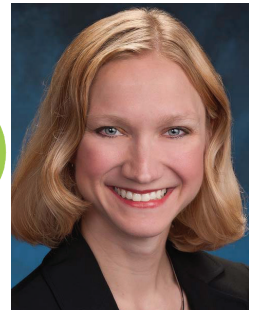
The memory is so strong that I can still smell the faint antiseptic in the air from the tile floors. The room was dimly lit with a fluorescent light over the head of the bed. My neighbor sat in the bed, her gown hanging on her frame that was now gaunt and her beautiful hair now just a memory, robbed by the chemotherapy.

We could not stay long, children under twelve years old were not technically permitted into patient rooms at that time. I said "Hi" and gave a shy wave not knowing what else to do or say. It was enough to just be there together. My friend, that powerful woman, looked so small and frail in her bed. The woman who I knew to be so full of life was now living in the shadow of death. I did not know it at that time, but that would be the last time I saw her alive.

Pancreatic cancer took her away from me just a few months after the diagnosis was given. I had so many questions. Most of them started with "Why?" That was the first time I had ever been in a hospital, but it would be just one of many times throughout my life where I would be a concerned loved one visiting a sick friend or family member. The death of my neighbor started my journey to become a doctor, a journey to find answers, only to learn that there is always another patient and another question, yet I persist. This is how I honor her memory.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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By Jill Kruse, DO ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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**#224 in a series**

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

This is the lightest news day since I began this work way back in late February. Between the weekend and the political events, there doesn't seem to be much room for virus news. As a result, this is going to be very brief.

We have Sunday numbers today, then low-ish Monday numbers tomorrow, and back to "normal" on Tuesday. Things are still not great, although they're not, overall, a great deal worse either. We had 34,200 new cases reported today, a 0.5% increase to 7,443,500 cases. We're now averaging 43,643 new cases per day over the past week and 44,164 over the past two weeks; the two-week average has increased from last week's figures. This is the third consecutive week of increase after 11 weeks of decline, not a good thing.

Here is our Sunday two-week summary: Growth rates are in a slight decline from last week, but it's not much. We are seeing increasing rates of growth in many states. One-week increase in total cases was 312,800 (4.6%) last week and is 305,500 (4.3%) this week. Two-week increase was 600,300 (9.2%) last week and is 618,300 (9.1%) this week, so we are not really making progress. We do need these numbers lower before it gets cold; I don't see it happening so far, and the cold weather is now arriving. I don't seem a great deal of cause for optimism.

I track 54 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and we still have four of these showing two-week rates of increase greater than 25%. Here are the states with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: Montana (42.74% - big increase), Wyoming (33.52% - an increase), North Dakota (31.13%), and Wisconsin (30.37%). These are the same states which were on the list last week. Close behind these are Utah, Puerto Rico, Alaska, and South Dakota; all are showing signs of trouble. We still have 32 states and territories with growth rates above the US growth rate, which means we have a lot of community spread in a lot of places, and the situation is not really improving at all.

Highest per capita new-case numbers in the past week are in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Utah, Iowa, and Nebraska. None of these are slowing down. Only three states are showing a decline in new cases, Texas, Missouri, and South Carolina. Ten hit new-case records this week. Friday was the biggest new-case total nationwide since mid-August. Average new cases per day is also the highest we've seen since mid-August. We really are not moving in the right direction, and we're not likely to until we serious up about mitigation measures. You are well aware by now that I believe we have failed miserably on testing, and yet testing is not going to replace safety measures like consistently using masks, physical distancing, and hand washing. And we are not doing these things.

The 14-day new-case average has increased again today. States and territories with the highest numbers of new cases per capita over 14 days are Guam, Montana, Idaho, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa, Arkansas, and Wisconsin. The middle of the country continues to experience uncontrolled transmission, increasing numbers of cases, increases in hospitalizations, and growing numbers of deaths. Hospitalizations are rising for the first time since July, our first jump after eight weeks of decline. The decline in daily deaths has slowed and, in light of the growth in new cases, is expected to rise again soon. None of this is good. We are failing on containment in every parameter.

Bears hibernate through the winter. This means they do not eat or eliminate or move around for months during the cold season. They den up and sleep, which I have to say sounds appealing for this particular winter—alas, not an option for you and me. For bears, however, all of that means they need to store a lot of body fat to get through the long months without waking because, even with a significantly slowed metabolism, that's a long time without food; and so they eat their heads off this time of year.

Which leads us to a unique event in the Katmai National Park and Preserve, where live around 2000 bears. Winters are particularly harsh up in Southwest Alaska, so the bears spend the entire summer gaining as much weight as they can to prepare for the months without food. The Preserve holds an annual Fat Bear Week, and that's this week.

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The competitors are coastal brown bears that forage along the Brooks River, dining on salmon during their run. There is a bracket of 12 contenders. Rangers present before (skinny) and after (fat) photos of each one. According to WBUR's Tom Goldman, you should think of "kind of a reverse infomercial." Rangers select bears people outside the park have gotten to know after watching them on remote bear cams over the summer and also those the rangers have particularly come to like.

Four had first-round byes. (Yes, this is a little like March Madness, but the games will not be cancelled on account of the coronavirus.) So voters can choose their favorites from the first round match-ups, and the winners will be pitted against the bears who had byes in the first round. The choices will narrow to finals in which the winner will be chosen. Last year, there were nearly 56,000 votes; this year, the park hit that number in the first two days. Pandemic effect, I'm guessing.

Rangers don't like to give bears names—too much chance people will start to think of them like pets, and that leads to bad outcomes for those who visit the park over the summer; but voters do give them names. So while they're listed as #480 and #854, voters might be calling them Chunk, Otis, or Lefty. Or Holly, last year's champ, and experienced mother, who got knocked out by Chunk in the quarter finals. Monday, October 5, the semifinal match between Chunk and Grazer will be decided, and then the finals on Tuesday, October 6, will be between this winner and #747, described by park ranger, Mike Fitz, as "A real tank. A giant among bears. He's the largest bear I've ever seen, and likely one of the largest bears alive on Earth." You have to admire a contest like that one and its winner. Check in and vote for your favorite at <https://explore.org/fat-bear-week>. We need the distraction these days.

And stay well. We'll talk again.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29
Minnesota	91,422	92,100	93,012	94,189	95,659	96,734	97,638
Nebraska	41,785	42,278	42,731	43,162	43,596	44,063	44,578
Montana	10,700	10,912	11,242	11,564	11,907	12,107	12,413
Colorado	66,053	66,669	67,217	67,926	68,510	69,079	69,490
Wyoming	4,231	4,368	4,488	4,585	4,618	4,780	4,897
North Dakota	18,508	18,981	19,451	19,885	20,380	20,724	20,983
South Dakota	19,189	19,634	20,097	20,544	21,133	21,541	21,738
United States	6,897,495	6,935,415	6,978,874	7,034,824	7,079,689	7,113,666	7,150,117
US Deaths	200,818	201,920	202,819	203,789	204,499	204,750	205,091
Minnesota	+480	+678	+912	+1,177	+1,460	+1,075	+904
Nebraska	+397	+493	+453	+431	+434	+467	+515
Montana	+271	+212	+330	+323	+343	+200	+306
Colorado	+654	+616	+548	+709	+584	+569	+411
Wyoming	+42	+137	+120	+97	+33	+162	+117
North Dakota	+264	+473	+470	+434	+495	+344	+259
South Dakota	+320	+445	+463	+457	+579	+412	+198
United States	+39,357	37,920	+43,459	+55,950	+44,865	+33,977	+38,451
US Deaths	+928	+1,102	+899	+970	+710	+251	+341
	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	
Minnesota	98,447	99,134	100,200	101,366	102,787	103,826	
Nebraska	45,044	45,564	46,185	46,977	47,403	47,807	
Montana	12,724	13,071	13,500	13,855	14,356	14,635	
Colorado	70,025	70,536	71,218	71,898	72,555	73,036	
Wyoming	4,948	5,046	5,170	5,289	5,415	5,546	
North Dakota	21,401	21,846	22,218	22,694	23,134	23,550	
South Dakota	21,997	22,389	23,136	23,522	23,986	24,418	
United States	7,191,349	7,234,257	7,279,065	7,335,946	7,379,614	7,420,476	
US Deaths	206,005	206,963	207,816	208,739	209,335	209,820	
Minnesota	+809	+687	+1,066	1,166	+1,421	+1,039	
Nebraska	+466	+520	+621	+792	+426	+404	
Montana	+311	+347	+429	+355	+501	+279	
Colorado	+535	+511	+682	+680	+657	+481	
Wyoming	+51	+98	+124	+119	+126	+131	
North Dakota	+418	+445	+372	+476	+440	+416	
South Dakota	+259	+392	+747	+386	+464	+434	
United States	+41,232	+42,909	+44,808	+56,881	+43,668	+40,862	
US Deaths	+914	+958	+853	+923	+596	+485	

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## October 4th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Those currently hospitalized in South Dakota jumped by 17 today to 232. The state's positive cases were 434 with those being recovered at 276. No deaths in South Dakota but three were recorded in North Dakota

Brown County had 30 positive cases and 10 recovered leaving 231 active cases. Three positive cases have been reported at the Groton Area MS/HS over the weekend. Day had 5 positive and 2 recovered leaving 32 active cases. Edmunds had 2 positive, 4 recovered leaving 11 active cases. Marshall had 1 positive, 1 recovered, leaving 12 active cases. McPherson had 2 positive and 0 recovered leaving 10 active cases. Spink had 2 positive, 2 recovered leaving 27 active cases. The state's positive rate was 11.3 percent for today.

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +30 (1,356) Positivity Rate: 15.8%  
Total Tests: +190 (11,653)

Recovered: +10 (1,121)  
Active Cases: +20 (231)  
Ever Hospitalized: +1 (56)  
Deaths: +0 (4)  
Percent Recovered: 82.7

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +434 (24,418 total) Positivity Rates: 11.3%  
Total Tests: 3,829 (286,134 total)  
Hospitalized: +17 (1,632 total). 232 currently hospitalized +17)  
Deaths: +0 (248 total)  
Recovered: +276 (19,626 total)  
Active Cases: +156 (4,268)  
Percent Recovered: 81.5%  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 10% Covid, 48% Non-Covid, 43% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 16% Covid, 58% Non-Covid, 26% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 4% Covid, 15% Non-Covid, 81% Available

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

Aurora: +3 positive, +1 recovered (22 active cases)  
Beadle (10): +6 positive, +6 recovered (95 active cases)  
Bennett (3): +3 positive, +1 recovered (15 active cases)  
Bon Homme (1): +6 positive, +1 recovered (40 active

cases)

Brookings (2): +9 positive, +11 recovered (102 active cases)

Brown (4): +30 positive, +10 recovered (231 active cases)

Brule (1): +1 positive, +3 recovered (32 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +1 positive, +10 recovered (15 active cases)

Butte (3): +5 positive, +4 recovered (38 active cases)

Campbell: +2 positive, +3 recovered (17 active cases)

Charles Mix: +7 positive, +7 recovered (63 active cases)

Clark: +3 positive, +0 recovered (14 active cases)

Clay (7) +4 positive, +0 recovered (46 active cases)

Codington (7): +19 positive, +7 recovered (195 active cases)

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

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

Davison (2): +16 positive, +7 recovered (163 active cases)

Day: +5 positive, +2 recovered (32 active cases)

Deuel: +4 positive, +0 recovered (19 active cases)

Dewey: +5 positive, +0 recovered (67 active cases)

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

Edmunds: +2 positive, +4 recovered (11 active cases)

Fall River (5): +2 positive, +3 recovered (14 active cases)

Faulk (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (9 active cases)

Grant (1): +8 positive, +3 recovered (70 active cases)

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

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

Hamlin: +0 positive, +0 recovered (19 active cases)

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Hand (1): +2 positive, +0 recovered (23 active cases)  
 Hanson (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (14 active cases)  
 Harding: +1 positive, +0 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Hughes (5): +8 positive, +10 recovered (143 active cases)  
 Hutchinson (2): +10 positive, +0 recovered (50 active cases)  
 Hyde: Fully Recovered  
 Jackson (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (8 active cases)  
 Jerauld (3): +1 positive, +2 recovered (27 active cases)  
 Jones: +0 positive, +2 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Kingsbury: +4 positive, +2 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Lake (7): +3 positive, +6 recovered (26 active cases)  
 Lawrence (5): +9 positive, +9 recovered (96 active cases)  
 Lincoln (3): +26 positive, +11 recovered (292 active cases)  
 Lyman (3): +4 positive, +7 recovered (36 active cases)  
 Marshall: +1 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +7 positive, +3 recovered (41 active cases)  
 McPherson: +2 positive, +0 recovery (10 active case)  
 Meade (5): +19 positive, +11 recovered (124 active

cases)  
 Mellette: +0 recovery (7 active cases)  
 Miner: +2 positive (9 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (84): +90 positive, +33 recovered (813 active cases)  
 Moody: +1 positive, +0 recovered (31 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (4): +6 positive, +12 recovered (101 active cases)  
 Pennington (37): +39 positive, +36 recovered (449 active cases)  
 Perkins: +2 positive, +2 recovered (8 active cases)  
 Potter: +2 positive, +1 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Roberts (1): +1 positive, +8 recovered (55 active cases)  
 Sanborn: +1 positive, +0 recovered (15 active cases)  
 Spink: +3 positive, +2 recovered (27 active cases)  
 Stanley: -1 positive, +0 recovery (7 active cases)  
 Sully: +2 positive, +2 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Todd (5): +7 positive, +4 recovered (46 active cases)  
 Tripp (1): +3 positive, +4 recovered (54 active cases)  
 Turner (4): +4 positive, +5 recovered (35 active cases)  
 Union (9): +4 positive, +4 recovered (79 active cases)  
 Walworth (1): +5 positive, +2 recovered (38 active cases)  
 Yankton (4): +14 positive, +8 recovered (107 active cases)  
 Ziebach (1): +2 positive (8 active case)

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, October 4:

- 7.4% rolling 14-day positivity
- 6.9% daily positivity
- 416 new positives
- 6,043 susceptible test encounters
- 100 currently hospitalized (-0)
- 3,779 active cases (-5)

Total Deaths: +3 (274)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	766	0
10-19 years	2745	0
20-29 years	5568	2
30-39 years	4194	7
40-49 years	3330	10
50-59 years	3316	22
60-69 years	2400	38
70-79 years	1205	48
80+ years	894	121

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	12742	110
Male	11676	138



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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	71	49	574	0	Moderate
Beadle	847	742	2932	10	Substantial
Bennett	77	59	799	3	Substantial
Bon Homme	114	73	1232	1	Moderate
Brookings	842	738	4965	2	Substantial
Brown	1356	1121	7402	4	Substantial
Brule	147	114	1241	1	Substantial
Buffalo	152	134	824	3	Substantial
Butte	127	86	1684	3	Substantial
Campbell	39	22	158	0	Substantial
Charles Mix	213	150	2437	0	Substantial
Clark	49	35	576	0	Moderate
Clay	585	532	2672	7	Substantial
Codington	989	787	5210	7	Substantial
Corson	94	84	749	1	Moderate
Custer	198	167	1375	3	Substantial
Davison	412	247	3638	2	Substantial
Day	100	68	976	0	Substantial
Deuel	97	78	652	0	Moderate
Dewey	179	112	2964	0	Substantial
Douglas	100	68	581	1	Substantial
Edmunds	104	93	628	0	Substantial
Fall River	105	86	1500	5	Moderate
Faulk	78	68	320	1	Substantial
Grant	180	109	1223	1	Substantial
Gregory	147	107	680	4	Substantial
Haakon	33	23	386	1	Moderate
Hamlin	108	89	1035	0	Substantial
Hand	58	34	498	1	Substantial
Hanson	47	32	358	1	Moderate
Harding	5	3	91	0	Minimal
Hughes	538	390	3076	5	Substantial
Hutchinson	129	77	1286	2	Substantial

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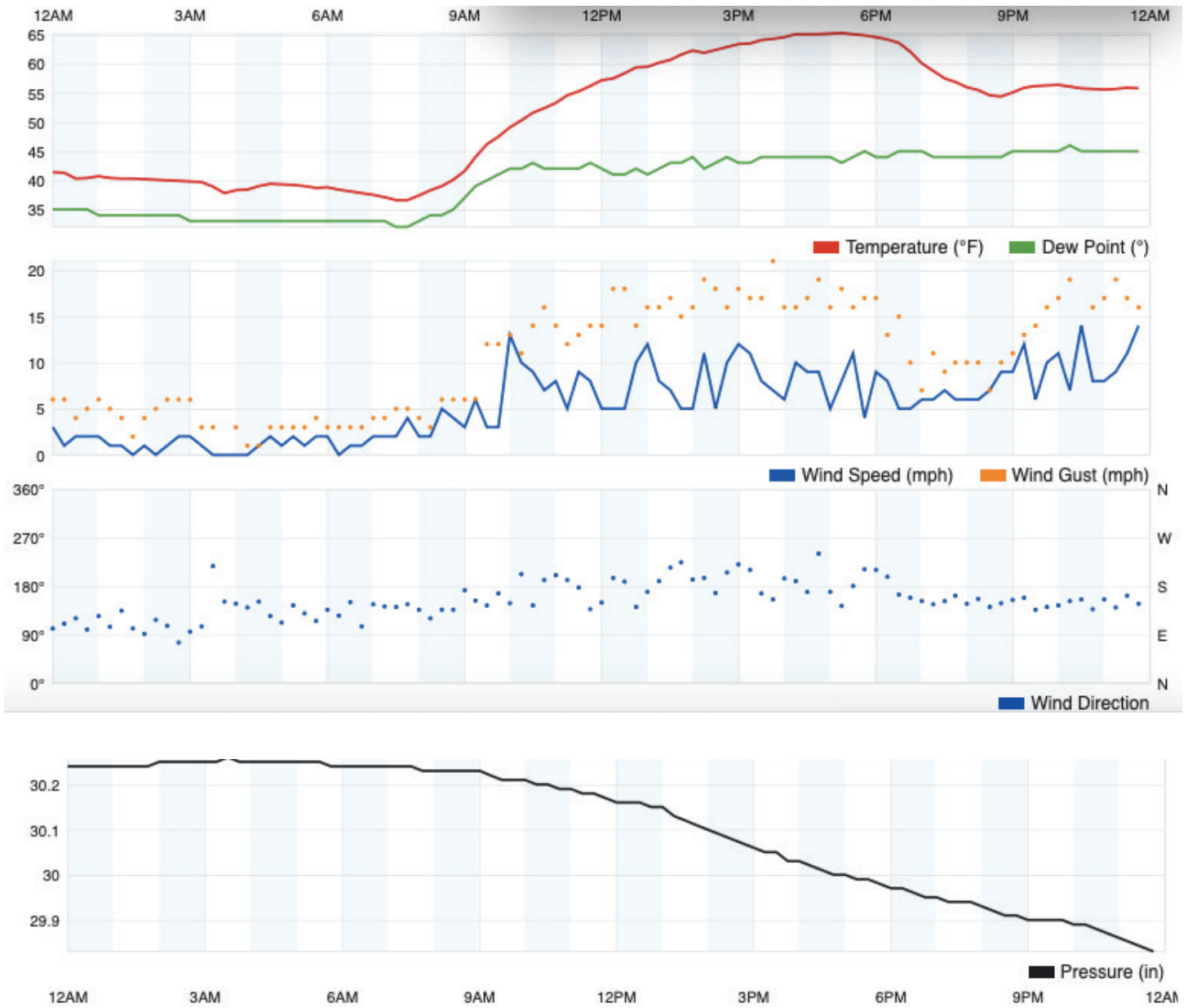
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Hyde	20	20	225	0	Moderate
Jackson	38	29	649	1	Moderate
Jerauld	100	70	344	3	Substantial
Jones	18	14	101	0	Minimal
Kingsbury	67	51	837	0	Substantial
Lake	215	182	1485	7	Substantial
Lawrence	466	365	4348	5	Substantial
Lincoln	1557	1262	11001	3	Substantial
Lyman	183	144	1286	3	Substantial
Marshall	47	35	669	0	Moderate
McCook	127	85	934	1	Substantial
McPherson	42	32	336	0	Moderate
Meade	627	498	3929	5	Substantial
Mellette	36	29	507	0	Minimal
Miner	30	21	358	0	Minimal
Minnehaha	7199	6302	43064	84	Substantial
Moody	112	81	898	0	Substantial
Oglala Lakota	339	234	4602	4	Substantial
Pennington	2607	2121	18996	37	Substantial
Perkins	44	36	375	0	Moderate
Potter	53	44	493	0	Moderate
Roberts	236	180	2805	1	Substantial
Sanborn	40	25	342	0	Moderate
Spink	153	126	1515	0	Substantial
Stanley	47	40	451	0	Moderate
Sully	16	12	137	0	Minimal
Todd	158	107	2917	5	Substantial
Tripp	188	133	957	1	Substantial
Turner	185	146	1440	4	Substantial
Union	458	370	3196	9	Substantial
Walworth	145	106	1184	1	Substantial
Yankton	478	367	4990	4	Substantial
Ziebach	67	58	519	1	Minimal
Unassigned	0	0	4745	0	

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today

Tonight

Tuesday

Tuesday  
Night

Wednesday



Sunny then  
Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy

Mostly Clear

Sunny then  
Sunny and  
Breezy

Mostly Clear

Sunny

High: 74 °F

Low: 44 °F

High: 79 °F

Low: 46 °F

High: 67 °F

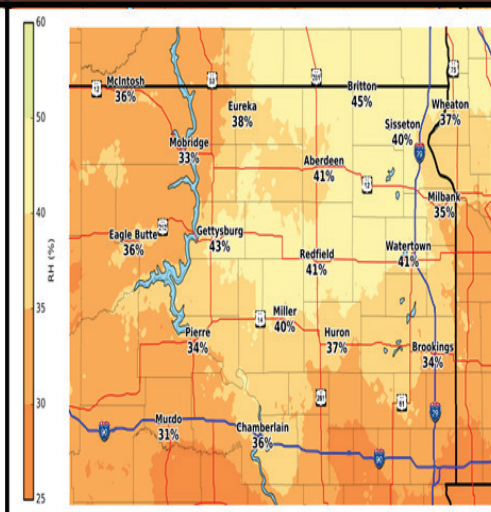
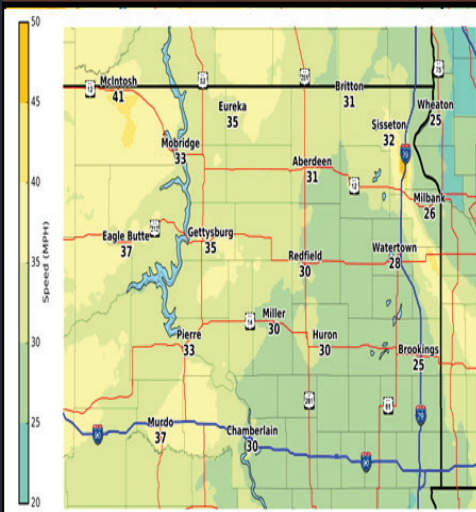
## Elevated Fire Danger This Afternoon And Tuesday

- Dry air mass in place.
- Gusty northwest winds this afternoon and Tuesday.



Highest Forecast Afternoon Wind Gusts (mph)

Lowest Forecast Afternoon Humidity



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 10/5/2020 5:37 AM Central

Conditions today showcase more warm and windy weather. The combination of dry and warm and windy will increase the fire danger across the region today and Tuesday.

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## Today in Weather History

October 5, 1982: Strong thunderstorms developed across central South Dakota and raced into portions of southwest Minnesota. The storms were prolific lightning producers in South Dakota, setting several structures on fire. An electrical substation was damaged near Salem, an elementary school was set ablaze in Aberdeen, and several homes in Sioux Falls were struck. One house in Sioux Falls had a hole knocked in a wall by a lightning strike.

Numerous fires were also started in southern Minnesota by the same line of storms. Strong thunderstorm winds leveled several buildings, damaged a house, and moved a hog shed off its foundation on three separate farms near Worthington. The winds also turned over railroad cars near Pipestone. Worthington narrowly escaped damage as a small tornado touched down two miles southwest of town and moved southeast. Fortunately, the tornado's damage was confined to trees and crops.

October 5, 2013: A historic blizzard pounded western South Dakota with record-setting snowfall and high winds for almost 48 hours from October 3 through the afternoon of October 5. One to two feet of snow was reported over the plains of western South Dakota, with three to five feet of snow falling over the northern and central Black Hills. Wind gusts to 70 mph across the plains produced significant blowing and drifting snow, with visibilities near zero for much of the day on October 4. The heavy wet snow and strong winds downed trees and power lines, causing prolonged outages and impassable highways. The roofs of several businesses, a middle school, and a community center collapsed from the heavy snow. Thousands of livestock were killed from hypothermia, suffocation, or drowning. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board received over 21,000 cattle; over 1300 sheep; 400 horses; and 40 bison deaths from the storm. Tree and debris removal costs were several million dollars. An unyielding low-pressure area moving across the region brought an early fall blizzard to most of the counties west of Missouri River on October 4th and 5th. The snowfall and blizzard conditions occurred mainly along with the western parts of the counties. The snowfall amounts varied broadly from 1 to 2 inches to as much as 22 inches in far western Corson County. Very strong northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 mph brought blizzard conditions and significant travel problems. Interstate-90 was closed from Murdo to the Wyoming border from 7 pm on October 4th to October 8th. No travel was advised on all roads west of the Missouri River. Many cattle were also lost in western Corson County due to the storm. The heavy snow, along with strong winds, resulted in some power outages and some downed tree branches. The snowfall began in the late morning hours of the 4th and ended in the early afternoon hours of the 5th. Some snowfall amounts that occurred were 1 inch at Murdo; 2 inches at Timber Lake and 5 miles west of Hayes; 4 inches at McIntosh; 16 inches southeast of Morrystown; and 22 inches southwest of Keldron.

1786: The famous "Pumpkin Flood" occurred on the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. Harrisburg, PA, reported a river stage of twenty-two feet.

1864: A tropical cyclone hit India near Calcutta, devastating the city and killing about 60,000 people.

1972: Tropical Storm Joanne, earlier a hurricane, moved across the Baja California peninsula and came ashore in western Mexico south of Ajo. The storm brought heavy rain and flooding to much of Arizona. This storm is the first documented tropical storm to reach Arizona, with its cyclonic circulation intact. Over 5 inches of rain was reported on the Mogollon rim southeast of Flagstaff. Additional rainfall amounts included 4.44 at Flagstaff, 3.80 at Prescott, 2.21 at Yuma, 1.95 at Phoenix, 1.63 at Nogales, and 1.63 at Tucson.

2010: Large hail pounded Phoenix, Arizona, causing nearly \$3 billion in damage.

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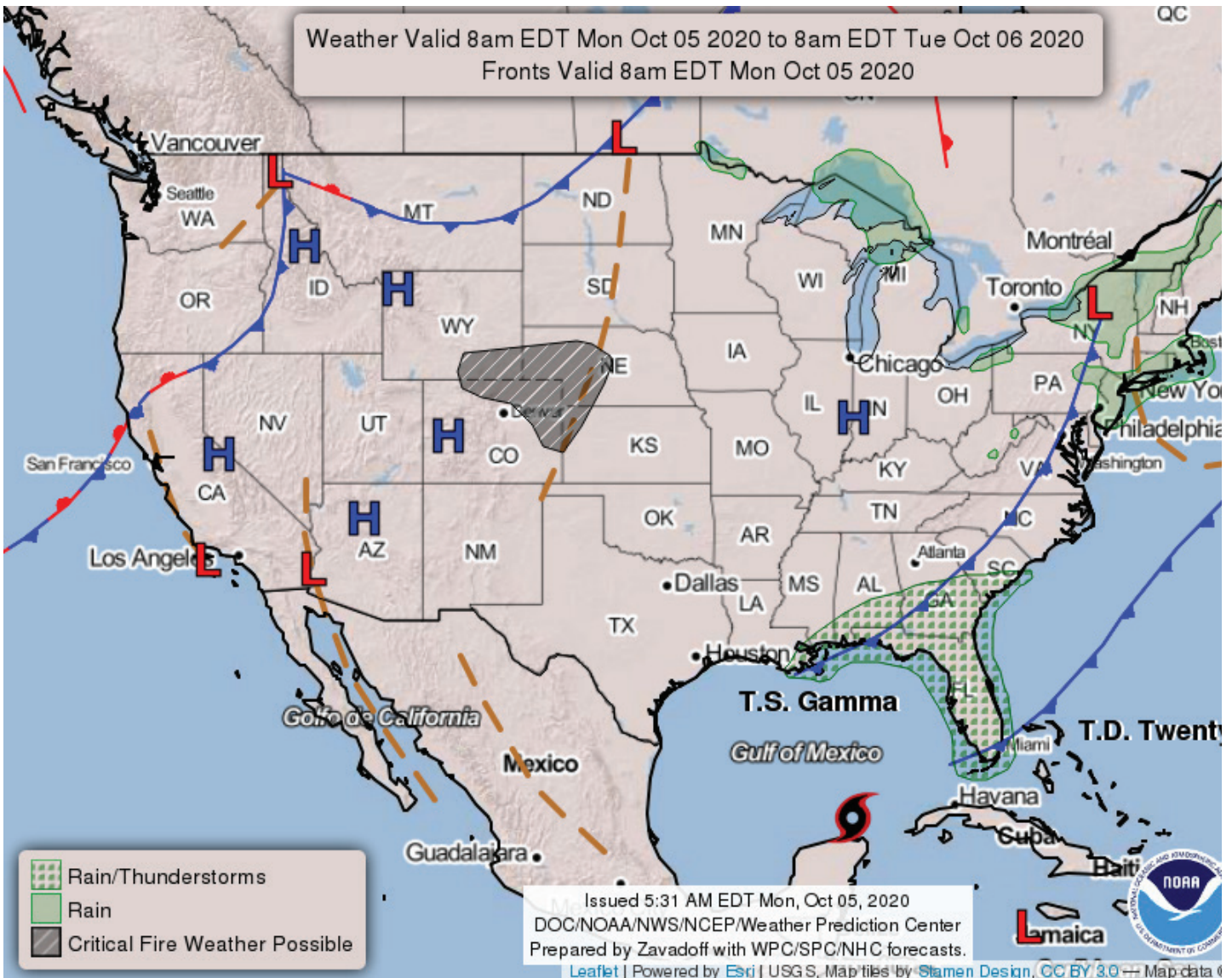
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 66 °F at 4:54 PM**  
**Low Temp: 36 °F at 7:32 AM**  
**Wind: 21 mph at 3:37 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 96° in 1963**  
**Record Low: 19° in 1935**  
**Average High: 63°F**  
**Average Low: 37°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 0.32**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 18.80**  
**Precip Year to Date: 15.15**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:05 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:39 a.m.**



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## **SOMEONE IS ALWAYS LISTENING**

It was a luncheon designed to impress her friends from the neighborhood. Wanting to impress them, she asked her five-year-old son, Jamie, to return thanks.

"Jamie," she said politely, "will you please say grace?"

"Mommy, please, I don't really know what to say," he replied cautiously.

"Well, dear," she said encouragingly, "just say what you heard Mommy say this morning."

Bowing his head and folding his hands, he began, "Good Lord, why did I invite all these dumb people to lunch today."

Words can be a sword or a source of comfort or even a weapon that can leave a wound. Words once spoken can never be retrieved or marked "Void." Words take on a life of their own and will leave another person better or bruised, helped or hurt, encouraged or empty.

King David wrote, "May the words of my mouth...be pleasing to you, O Lord..." Another part of that verse states: "may...the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you." David wanted his words to be sincere, appropriate, and approved by God as coming from the depths of his heart. He realized that if his thoughts were acceptable to God, they would be suitable as an offering to God that was worthy of sacrifice on His altar.

What a great prayer for us to offer to God each day!

Prayer: Father, "may the words of our mouths and the thoughts in our minds and the attitudes of our hearts be pleasing to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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



## News from the Associated Press

### **Businesses creating dream wedding for bride with cancer**

By TANYA MANUS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Nicole Weiss and David Rhoades' wedding plans took an abrupt turn on July 31 when Weiss was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

In the midst of mounting medical bills and Weiss' radiation and chemotherapy, Black Hills businesses are teaming up to give the Rapid City couple a wedding celebration on Oct. 18.

Weiss is battling stage 4 glioma, a rare mutation of a cancerous tumor. Though it isn't curable, doctors hope to slow its progression. Weiss is undergoing treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. High school sweethearts Weiss, 28, and Rhoades, 29, had been planning to marry in spring 2021, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"When we found out about my diagnosis, I thought, 'Why have we waited so long? Let's just get married.' We've been together 11 years," Weiss said.

Sandra Nichols of IndigoBlue Photography in Hot Springs took the couple's engagement photos. When she heard about Weiss' health crisis, she and Rapid City wedding designer Justin Straw of Justin Straw Designs collaborated to organize and plan an intimate ceremony, dinner and dance for Weiss and Rhoades. The couple will celebrate with about two dozen family members and close friends.

"It's about giving the families a day to breathe and just be, and David and Nicole having an outpouring of love," Nichols said.

"We're doing this in about six weeks start to finish, but that's the advantage to being in the field we're in and knowing the people we know. I don't recommend to any bride to try to pull off a wedding in six weeks," she said, laughing.

Weiss created a Pinterest wedding board as inspiration for Nichols and Straw to share with other vendors. Straw is designing the vintage boho romantic-themed décor that's personalized to the couple.

"I decided to go (with fall colors) so it's primarily burgundy and sage green with gold and blush accents," Weiss said. "Whatever they do is going to be perfect."

"We keep thinking up new creative things to do," Straw said. "We've filled Nikki in as much as we feel like she needs to know, and the rest we'll try to make as big a surprise as possible."

Nichols and Straw said they were thrilled every vendor they approached agreed to help.

"With COVID-19 for so many businesses in the wedding industry, it's been a hard year for us. To ask people to even give a little bit more (is a lot) but honest to goodness, there was no hesitancy," Nichols said. "It's been like a little bit of magic and a real feel-good experience. Without even knowing the couple, the people that have stepped up to the plate for this is incredible."

"I felt like this is something I wanted to be involved with, and every vendor I've talked to has been amazing. They all said, 'Yes, I'm on board. I'd love to help this couple out,'" Straw said.

Between chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Weiss went to a David's Bridal location in Minnesota and found a wedding dress she liked. The David's Bridal shop in Rapid City obtained the dress Weiss wanted and is donating it to her. Main Street Menswear in Rapid City is donating suits for Rhoades and his best man, Jimmy Belmonte.

Weiss said she always dreamed of getting married at Prairie Berry Winery in Hill City. Prairie Berry has donated the use of its Homestead venue, and Weiss' family is paying for a meal catered by Prairie Berry. The Country Cookie in Newell is donating custom cookie favors, and Sweet Secrets Bakery in Rapid City is donating the carrot cake wedding cake.

Although Weiss has switched to a Keto diet based on nutritionists' recommendations, she's going to splurge on her wedding day.

"I love Prairie Berry's food. We picked a menu of beer-braised beef with garlic mashed potatoes and rice pilaf and seasonal salad," she said. "During this (cancer treatment) I've cut out all carbs and sugar, but I

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said, 'It's my wedding day. I'm going to eat whatever I want.' I'm going to eat the cake!"

Rapid City-based Complete Weddings + Events will deejay a dance after dinner. To keep herself mentally and physically strong for her medical treatments and wedding day, Weiss does yoga, walks, meditates, journals and reads the Bible, she said.

"I'm not sure how I'm going to feel (physically), but I'm planning on doing some dancing, as much as I can," Weiss said.

Jenny's Floral in Custer is donating the bridal bouquet, boutonnieres and flowers for centerpieces and décor. Nichols and Barbara Downen of Mist and Moonlight Photography are taking wedding photos, and Finer Details Artistry will be the videographer.

Weiss' close friend Hannah Manzano will be the maid of honor. Amanda Wilson is donating hair and makeup styling for Weiss and Manzano.

Weiss' niece Rosie Weiss and Rhoades' niece Lizzie Blomberg will be flower girls. Weiss' younger brother Brennan Weiss and nephew Leelan Weiss will be ring bearers. Officiant KC Bunch will perform the ceremony.

Lowe & Co. is providing keepsake invitations for the wedding guests.

Even the weather is cooperating for the couple's late-afternoon celebration. The long-range forecast for Oct. 18 is mild and sunny.

"Everything people have done for me has really restored my faith in humanity right now," Weiss said. "I'm really grateful for all the work everyone's put into it. I'm really excited for the day."

## Active COVID-19 cases reach record high in South Dakota

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials on Sunday confirmed 432 new cases of the coronavirus and a record high of 4,248 active cases.

The state processed 1,756 tests in the last day, for a positivity rate of 24.6%. Figures compiled Saturday by The COVID Tracking Project rank South Dakota second in the country for the number of new cases per capita in the last two weeks.

Officials have confirmed a total of 24,418 cases since the start of the pandemic. The death toll stands at 248, with no new fatalities reported Sunday. However, hospitalizations rose by 17, to a total of 232.

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.

## Asia Today: Remote learning begins in virus-hit Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Grade school and high school students in the Philippines began classes at home Monday after the coronavirus pandemic forced remote-learning onto an educational system already struggling to fund schools.

The shift to distance learning has been a logistical nightmare for the poverty-stricken Southeast Asian country that has long lacked enough classrooms, teachers and educational equipment. Nearly 25 million students enrolled this year, mostly in 47,000 public schools nationwide that would have to be replicated in homes and enlist the help of parents and guardians as co-teachers.

A majority of families, especially from poor and rural communities, opted to use government-provided digital or printed learning materials or "modules," which students will read at home with the guidance of their elders before carrying out specified activities. Most lack computers and reliable internet connections. Teachers can answer questions by telephone.

Other families preferred for their children to get lessons online or through regional radio and TV educational broadcasts.

"The system may not be perfect and there may be issues as we shift to flexible learning ... but we are confident that the Department of Education would address these challenges," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said.

The students have been out of school since classes were suspended in mid-March.

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President Rodrigo Duterte has said classes should resume only when a COVID-19 vaccine has been made available, fearing classrooms could become infection hotspots.

The Philippines has reported more than 322,400 infections, the highest in Southeast Asia, with more than 5,700 deaths.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said he will self-quarantine after a Cabinet minister he was in contact with tested positive for the coronavirus. Muhyiddin chaired an Oct. 3 meeting attended by Religious Minister Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri, who confirmed Monday he has been hospitalized for treatment. Cases in the country have soared in recent days, hitting a record high of 432 new cases on Monday. Muhyiddin said he tested negative for the virus in the past three weeks, after returning from campaigning in eastern Sabah state on Borneo island, which is a hotspot zone. But he said in a statement he will observe the quarantine and work from home until Oct. 16. All those at the meeting will also self-isolate. Local reports said the attendees included several ministers, the national police chief, the armed forces chief and the health director-general.

— Chinese tourists took 425 million domestic trips in the first half of the eight-day National Day holiday, generating \$45.9 billion in tourism revenue, according to China's ministry of culture and tourism. The holiday this year, which coincides with the Mid-Autumn Festival, will be a litmus test of whether China's tourism industry can bounce back after being battered by COVID-19. Now, local governments across China are offering travel subsidies to domestic tourists, and over 1,000 tourist attractions are offering free admission or discounted tickets to visitors. The travel rush comes after China has reported no new locally transmitted coronavirus infections since mid-August.

— Sri Lankan authorities closed a university and imposed restrictions on buses and trains on Monday, a day after a COVID-19 patient was reported from the community for the first time in two months. A curfew was imposed Sunday in the Colombo suburbs where the patient lived, and about 15 hospital staff and 40 co-workers have been quarantined. The state-run University of Kelaniya in the area was also closed down for a week starting from Monday. Buses and trains must transport passengers according to the number of seats, and commuters must wear masks. Schools countrywide have been closed down. For more than two months, health officials have been saying that they have prevented the community spread of the virus. The country has reported 3,388 confirmed cases, including 13 deaths. Of the total, 3,254 have recovered.

— India registered 74,442 new coronavirus cases, driving the country's tally to 6.6 million. The Health Ministry on Monday also reported 903 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities to 102,685. India, the second worst-affected nation in the world after the United States, is witnessing a sustained decline in new coronavirus infections and active virus cases have remained below the million mark for 14 consecutive days. It still is registering the highest number of daily cases globally and is soon expected to cross the U.S. which has 7.4 million confirmed coronavirus cases.

— South Korea reported 73 new cases of the coronavirus, although officials worry of a potential rise after the five-day holiday period that ended Sunday. Health Minister Park Neung-hoo during a virus briefing Monday urged people who experience fever or other symptoms after traveling during the holiday to get tested immediately. A recent decline in new infections may be related to fewer tests being conducted during the Chuseok harvest holiday. The updated figures by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency brought the caseload to 24,164, including 422 deaths. The newest cluster in the capital region is an army unit in Pocheon, where more than 30 troops have tested positive.

## 3 win Nobel medicine prize for discovering hepatitis C virus

By DAVID KEYTON and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Americans Harvey J. Alter and Charles M. Rice and British-born scientist Michael Houghton won the Nobel Prize for medicine on Monday for their discovery of the hepatitis C virus, a major source of liver disease that affects millions worldwide.

Announcing the prize in Stockholm, the Nobel Committee noted that the trio's work identified a major

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source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the previously discovered hepatitis A and B viruses. Their work, dating back to the 1970s and 1980s, has helped saved millions of lives, the committee said.

"Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health," the committee said.

"Their discovery also allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C," it added. "For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population."

The World Health Organization estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis C worldwide and 400,000 deaths from it each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis requiring liver transplants.

The medicine prize carried particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world.

Will Irving, a virologist at the University of Nottingham, said that identifying hepatitis C had been the "holy grail" in medicine.

"After hepatitis A and B were discovered in the 1970s, it was clear there was still at least one other virus or more that were causing liver damage," he said.

"We knew there was a virus in the blood supply, because when people had blood transfusion they would get liver damage," Irving said. "It was recognized as a risk but there was nothing we could do. We didn't know what the virus was and we couldn't test for it."

Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors drew a parallel between this year's prize and the current rush by millions of scientists around the world to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

"The first thing you need to do is to identify the causing virus," he told reporters. "And once that has been done, that is, in itself, the starting point for development of drugs to treat the disease and also to develop vaccines against the disorder."

"So the actual discovery, viral discovery itself, is a critical moment," said Ernfors.

Unlike hepatitis A, which is transmitted via food or water and causes an acute infection that can last a few weeks, hepatitis B and C are transmitted through blood.

American scientist Baruch Blumberg discovered the hepatitis B virus in 1967 and received the 1976 Nobel Prize in medicine, but this did not explain all cases of chronic hepatitis, a disease that was becoming more common even in apparently healthy people who had received or given blood.

"Before the discovery of the hepatitis C virus, it was a bit like Russian roulette to get a blood transfusion," said Nobel Committee member Nils-Goran Larsson.

Alter, who was born in 1935 in New York, was working at the U.S. National Institutes of Health in Bethesda when he discovered that plasma from patients who didn't have hepatitis B could also transfer the disease.

"The breakthrough came in 1989, when Michael Houghton and colleagues working at Chiron Corporation used a combination of molecular biology and immunology-based techniques to clone the virus," said Nobel Committee member Gunilla Karlsson-Hedestam.

Later, Nobel winner Rice confirmed that a cloned hepatitis virus alone could cause persistent infection in chimpanzees and reproduce the disease observed in humans.

The hepatitis C virus belongs to a group known as flaviviruses that also includes West Nile virus, dengue virus and yellow fever virus.

Thomas Perlmann, the Secretary-General of the Nobel Committee, said he managed to reach two of the winners, Alter and Rice.

"I had to call a couple of times before they answered," he said. "They seemed very surprised and very, very happy."

The prestigious Nobel award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (over

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\$1,118,000), courtesy of a bequest left 124 years ago by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel.

Graham Foster, professor of hepatology at Queen Mary University, said the discovery of hepatitis C had prevented millions from getting sick or dying of the disease or other liver problems and that the awarding of the Nobel to Alter, Houghton and Rice was very well deserved.

Foster said the discovery has had significant impacts in both developing countries, like Egypt and Pakistan, where millions were infected by the disease via contaminated medical equipment or procedures, and in developed countries like the U.S., where the blood supply itself was often contaminated.

"This discovery allowed for safe blood transfusion and it allowed the rapid development of treatments for hepatitis C," Foster said. "We are now in a position where we have drugs that are 96% effective if you take a pill for eight weeks."

He said Egypt had implemented a massive screening program to detect hepatitis C and virtually eliminated the disease.

Foster estimated in recent years, tens of millions of people have been infected with hepatitis C.

"Identifying the virus has allowed us to protect the majority of those people."

The Nobel Committee often recognizes basic science that has laid the foundations for practical applications in common use today.

"It takes time before it's fully apparent how beneficial a discovery is," said Perlmann. "Of course these serological tests have been around for quite a while, but the antiviral drugs that emerged as a consequence of this significant discovery have been much more recent."

Monday's medicine award is the first of six prizes in 2020 being announced through Oct. 12. The other prizes are for outstanding work in the fields of physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics.

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Jordans reported from Berlin. Maria Cheng in London contributed to this report.

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Read more stories about Nobel Prizes past and present by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/NobelPrizes>

## Floods that hit Italy, France leave 9 dead, several missing

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A woman's body was discovered Monday in the Mediterranean Sea, bringing to at least nine the number of people killed in severe mountain flooding at the border between France and Italy. Up to 20 others were feared missing in the devastation.

In Italy, rescuers recovered her body in the sea by the Ligurian province of Imperia. Five other bodies, all men, were found Sunday in the sea near San Remo, on the beach in the Italian border town of Ventimiglia and along the Imperia coast.

The identities of the latest victims and the circumstances of their disappearances were not known.

Flooding has devastated mountainous areas in France's southeastern region of Alpes-Maritimes and Italy's northwestern regions of Liguria and Piedmont, after a storm swept through the two countries on Friday and Saturday.

In France, firefighters in the Alpes-Maritimes region were still searching Monday for at least eight people missing who witnesses described as possibly being carried off by floodwaters. They include two firefighters whose vehicle fell into the water as the road collapsed.

In addition, French rescuers are seeking to locate 12 other people whose families have not heard of them since the storm, which blocked roads and cut off communications.

French rescuers on Sunday found the body of a man whose car had been washed away by a torrent in Saint-Martin-Vesubie, one of the hardest-hit villages, where several houses and a bridge were destroyed by raging water.

Authorities also found the body of a shepherd who had disappeared in the mountains between France and Italy. A firefighter also died last week in the border region of Valle d'Aosta.

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The flooding has put additional stress on regions coping with the coronavirus pandemic. The governors of both Liguria and Piedmont have asked the Italian government for emergency aid.

Floods in Italy have often turned into emergencies in recent years due to the lack of routine maintenance in clearing rivers and waterways due to budget cuts.

Italy's finance minister, Roberto Gualtieri, told RAI state television that recovery funds for economic damage from the pandemic should also go to the environment, adding "there will be additional investments."

Colleen Barry in Milan, Italy contributed to the story.

## Armenia, Azerbaijan clashes resume over separatist region

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — The fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh resumed Monday morning, with both sides accusing each other of launching attacks.

Armenian military officials on Monday reported missile strikes hitting Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994.

Firefights of varying intensity "continue to rage" in the conflict zone, Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian said on Facebook.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, in turn, accused Armenian forces of shelling the towns of Tartar, Barda and Beylagan. Ganja, Azerbaijan's second-largest city far outside of the conflict zone, is also "under fire," officials said.

Armenia's Foreign Ministry in a statement dismissed allegations of the attacks being launched from the Armenia's territory as a "disinformation campaign" waged by Azerbaijan.

Vahram Poghosyan, spokesman for Nagorno-Karabakh's leader, on Monday warned in a Facebook post that the territory's forces would target military facilities in Azerbaijani cities in response to strikes on Stepanakert and Shushi, a town in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The fighting erupted Sept. 27 and has killed dozens, marking the biggest escalation in the decades-old conflict over the region. Both sides have accused each other of expanding the hostilities beyond the conflict zone in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nagorno-Karabakh officials have said nearly 200 servicemen on their side have died in the clashes so far. Eighteen civilians have been killed and more than 90 others wounded. Azerbaijani authorities haven't given details about their military casualties, but said 24 civilians were killed and 121 others were wounded.

Nagorno-Karabakh was a designated autonomous region within Azerbaijan during the Soviet era. It claimed independence from Azerbaijan in 1991, about three months before the Soviet Union's collapse. A full-scale war that broke out in 1992 killed an estimated 30,000 people.

By the time the war ended in 1994, Armenian forces not only held Nagorno-Karabakh itself but substantial areas outside the territory's formal borders.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly said that Armenia's withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh is the sole condition to end the fighting.

Armenian officials allege that Turkey is involved in the conflict on the side of Azerbaijan and is sending fighters from Syria to the region. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian said that "a cease-fire can be established only if Turkey is removed from the South Caucasus."

Turkey's government has denied sending arms or foreign fighters, while publicly siding with Azerbaijan in the dispute.

## The Latest: Spanish groups urge scientific response to virus

By The Associated Press undefined

MADRID — Groups representing more than 170,000 health workers are urging Spanish politicians to base their response to the pandemic on scientific grounds rather than politics.

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A 10-point manifesto by 55 scientific societies published Sunday in all the major newspapers said "decisions must be based on the best available scientific evidence, completely detached from the continuous political confrontation."

The campaign comes after a dispute between the left-wing national government and the conservative regional authorities of the Madrid region led to weeks of back and forth before partially locking down the Spanish capital late Friday amid a surge of infections.

The manifesto also calls for less red-tape in adopting measures against virus outbreaks, for authorities in Spain's 19 regions to abide by a set of national scientific standards that would dictate the response, and calls for stopping interference in medical decisions.

Addressing "politicians" in general, the scientists write: "On behalf of more than 47 million Spaniards, including you and your families, we have to change so much political, professional and human inconsistency."

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

- Trump takes a brief car ride outside hospital, ignoring own COVID infection
- Biden campaign says Democratic presidential nominee tested negative for virus
- Asian shares rise as investors are optimistic about Trump's recovery from virus

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

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

**BRUSSELS** — Authorities in Belgium are warning that the number of virus cases is rising sharply and is likely to do so for several more months.

A spokesman for Belgium's COVID-19 crisis center says that "unfortunately, the stabilization that we had hoped for has not happened. On the contrary, we see a clear increase in the number of cases in every region and age group."

The number of new cases reported daily over the last week climbed by 32% to around 2,100, as of Monday. Those aged 20-29 are seeing most new infections, but authorities are particularly concerned for the very elderly, with a tenfold increase in new cases among people aged over 90.

Since the start of the pandemic, more than 130,200 people have been infected with the virus in the country, which has around 11.5 million residents. As of Monday, 10,064 people were reported to have died from the disease.

Just last Thursday, Belgium dropped rules requiring people to wear a mask outdoors but they must still do so in crowded places. The government also reduced the mandatory quarantine period from 14 days to one week for people with COVID-19 symptoms who eventually test negative for the virus.

**VILNIUS, Lithuania** — Lithuania's foreign minister will spend a week in isolation after having had contact with a person from the French delegation who was infected with the coronavirus the French president's visit to the country last week.

A spokeswoman for the Lithuanian foreign minister made the announcement.

The French Embassy in Vilnius told the Baltic News Service that two embassy staffers had tested positive for the coronavirus and they were part of the delegation.

The persons are self-isolating and the French Embassy has been closed for several days.

The French Embassy said the whole delegation from Paris was pre-tested and the results were negative before the visit.

**STOCKHOLM** — A technology institute in Sweden has found large concentrations of the coronavirus in Stockholm's sewage system, saying it "has doubled in the last weeks and is now back at the same levels as in May 2020."

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In a statement, the KTH Royal Institute of Technology said the increased number of cases of COVID-19 in recent weeks is reflected in the wastewater and thus not due to more people being tested.

"My interpretation is that this latest increase is definitely about an increased number of infected people in society," said Cecilia Williams, a professor at the institute in Stockholm.

Sweden, which has opted for a much debated COVID-19 approach of keeping large parts of the society open, has reported 94,283 cases and 5,895 deaths.

**LONDON** — Britain's opposition Labour Party is asking the government to explain the latest problem with the nation's COVID-19 tracing system after the reporting of almost 16,000 cases was delayed for days.

Public health officials said Sunday that 15,841 cases weren't tabulated from Sept. 25 to Oct. 2. While all of those who tested positive were informed of the results, authorities weren't able to trace and notify the people they had come in contact with, Public Health England said.

The government said the "technical issue" was discovered Friday night and has now been resolved. The previously unreported cases were added to the government's daily figures over the weekend, boosting new cases to 12,872 on Saturday and 22,961 on Sunday. That compares with about 7,000 cases on each of the previous four days.

The reporting error is just the latest problem with Britain's test and trace system, which is seen as crucial to slowing the spread of COVID-19 and reducing the need for further limits on social interaction. Lawmakers from all parties have previously criticized the government for a shortage of testing capacity and delays in notifying people of their test results

**NEW DELHI** — India has registered a single-day spike of 74,442 new coronavirus cases, driving the country's overall tally since the pandemic began to 6.6 million.

The Health Ministry on Monday also reported another 903 virus deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 102,685.

India has reported the second most infections globally after the United States, but its daily new infections are now on a downward trend, though still the highest in the world. The number of active virus cases in the country has also remained below 1 million for the past two weeks.

The country's recovery rate stands at 84%, the highest in the world, with more than 5.5 million people recovered from coronavirus so far, according to the Health Ministry.

**MANILA**, Philippines — Grade and high school students in the Philippines have started classes at home after the pandemic forced remote-learning onto an educational system already struggling to fund schools.

The shift to distance-learning that began Monday has been a logistical nightmare for the poverty-stricken Southeast Asian country that has long lacked enough classrooms, teachers and educational equipment. Nearly 25 million students enrolled this year in mostly 47,000 public schools nationwide that would have to be replicated in homes and enlist the help of parents and guardians as co-teachers.

A majority of families, especially from poor and rural communities, opted to use government-provided digital or printed learning materials, which students would read at home with the guidance of their elders before carrying out specified activities. Most lacked computers and reliable internet connections. Teachers could answer questions by telephone.

The rest of the families preferred for their children to get lessons online or through regional radio and TV educational broadcasts.

President Rodrigo Duterte has said school classes should resume only when a COVID-19 vaccine has been made available.

**SEOUL**, South Korea — South Korea has reported 73 new cases of the coronavirus, its fifth straight day of below 100. Nevertheless, officials are concerned about the threat from increased travel during a five-day holiday that ended Sunday.

The figures released by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Monday brought the na-



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tional caseload to 24,164, including 422 deaths.

Fifty-one of the new cases were reported from the greater capital area. The newest cluster of infections in the region is an army unit in Pocheon, north of Seoul, where more than 30 troops have so far tested positive.

The KDCA said nine of the new cases were linked to international arrivals, including passengers from the United States, Poland, Britain, Russia and Uzbekistan.

There's a possibility that the downward trend in confirmed infections is related to the fewer tests that were conducted during the five-day Chuseok harvest holiday.

Health Minister Park Neung-hoo during a virus briefing Monday said usage of express buses and rail services declined by more than 40% during the holiday break compared to last year as officials pleaded that people stay home to help slow transmissions.

## 2020 Watch: How long will Trump be quarantined?

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

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

Days to general election: 29

Days to next presidential debate: 8

### THE NARRATIVE

President Donald Trump spent the weekend in the hospital after testing positive for COVID-19, a stunning development that injected a new layer of chaos into an already turbulent 2020 contest just one month before Election Day. No first-term president has suffered such a serious health setback so close to an election.

Trump's hospitalization has refocused the election right where Democrat Joe Biden wants it: on Trump's uneven leadership throughout the pandemic. The Republican president has struggled to manage the nation's response to the health crisis. After ignoring his own health experts' recommendations for several months, now he and several senior Republicans, not to mention first lady Melania Trump, are infected.

The revelation came days after an ugly debate performance that already had Trump's allies on the defensive. While things certainly seem to be trending in Biden's direction, 29 days is plenty of time for another October surprise. Or three.

### THE BIG QUESTIONS

How long will Trump be quarantined?

There is nothing more important to the Trump campaign than having its principal healthy and back on the campaign trail. For now, no one knows when that might happen.

A best-case scenario might allow Trump to emerge just before the next presidential debate, scheduled for Oct. 15. (The CDC says infected people can see others 10 days after symptoms first appear at the earliest, so long as symptoms are improving.) Trump could leave the hospital on Monday at the earliest, his doctors said Sunday, but his health remains in flux.

This is a moment that transcends politics, yet millions of people are already voting and Election Day looms in less than a month. Campaign manager Bill Stepien, who's also infected, described Trump as the campaign's "best asset" over the weekend. Republicans want him back ASAP.

What does the Trump campaign do now?

Trump's team over the weekend announced plans to aggressively dispatch Vice President Mike Pence and Trump's family to key swing states after Wednesday's vice presidential debate to help the campaign regain momentum. It's unclear, however, how the plan dubbed "Operation MAGA" differs from the campaign's previous strategy. The president's top surrogates have been active on the campaign trail for months.

It may be too late to adjust the campaign's message, but after trying to downplay the pandemic for

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months, Republicans now have no choice but to take seriously the deadly disease and the its mounting death toll.

Is the VP debate suddenly a much bigger deal?

Pence and Sen. Kamala Harris are set to face off Wednesday night in Utah for the only vice presidential debate. Trump's health status makes the typically lower-profile affair more consequential.

Vice presidential candidates are typically quite cautious when in the spotlight, aware that their principal responsibility is to do no harm to the top of the ticket. The burden to get them to answer difficult questions falls to the moderator, Susan Page, the Washington bureau chief of USA Today.

Pence may be particularly vulnerable given his role as the head of the White House's coronavirus task force. By most standard measures, America has fared far worse than other developed countries in controlling the virus.

Can Biden keep his party focused?

This is a delicate moment for Democrats.

We saw Republicans seize on a handful of ugly social media attacks from low-profile liberals who wished the president ill — or worse — in the immediate aftermath of his diagnosis. Such comments have largely faded away, which is good for everyone involved.

Biden needs to ensure his is the dominant voice for his party through Trump's health crisis. The Democrat has been delivering an optimistic message of unity since the very beginning of his campaign, a message that meets this moment as well. He was roundly praised for pulling attack ads off the air after Trump's hospitalization, and his surrogates on Sunday largely kept up the positive tone.

The nation's attention is focused on Trump's inability to manage a crisis in public health that includes his own. His campaign desperately wants to shift the focus. And misplaced resentment or pettiness at a moment like this would help them do it.

## THE FINAL THOUGHT

We're seeing in real time the effects of Trump's well-documented, often casual association with facts. In a genuine moment of national crisis, many people don't know what to believe about the health of their leader.

Trump's medical team and advisers offered conflicting information and refused to answer key questions about his health throughout the weekend. Even before the latest round misinformation, 7 in 10 Americans did not believe what Trump says about the coronavirus, according to a recent ABC News/Ipsos poll.

At moments like these, a nation needs to be able to trust its leaders. Right now, it doesn't.

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

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

## Uganda reports blood shortages amid coronavirus pandemic

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA and PATRICK ONEN Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Health authorities in Uganda say the supply of blood has sharply declined since the start of the coronavirus pandemic as fewer people donate and schools remain closed. The consequences are sometimes deadly.

Students, especially those in secondary school, are the largest group of blood donors in the East African country but schools have been closed since March amid efforts to curb the spread of the virus.

This means the government agency charged with collecting blood is failing to meet its targets.

Dr. Emmanuel Batiibwe, the director of a hospital that looks after many of the poorest residents of the capital, Kampala, cited multiple deaths there in recent months related to blood shortages.

One victim was a woman with pregnancy complications. Children under 5 and patients going into surgery

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are also among those frequently in need of a blood transfusion, he said.

In July, Batiibwe's China-Uganda Friendship Hospital received only 18 of a requisitioned 218 units of blood. The next month 68 of 217 units came in, he said.

"There's a problem somewhere," he said, calling the shortage a "disaster."

The head of Uganda Blood Transfusion Services, Dr. Dorothy Byabazaire, told lawmakers earlier this year that her agency collected 56,850 units of a targeted 75,000 between April and July.

Facilities across the country submit blood orders to the agency, and there is a sharing mechanism among facilities in the event of emergencies. But "borrowing" blood can be time-consuming, Batiibwe said.

The Uganda Red Cross, which helps authorities to mobilize blood donors, said it hasn't been easy to recruit donors during the pandemic. The country has confirmed more than 8,600 coronavirus cases, including 79 deaths.

"People don't feed well anymore. People are stressed," said spokeswoman Irene Nakasiita, adding that some willing, potential donors are turned away because their blood levels are too low.

Similar challenges were echoed by Ariho Franco, a donor recruiter for a blood bank operated by Kampala's private Mengo Hospital, who said that while schools are closed they are focusing on public places. They have set up tents in locations such as the public square in central Kampala. Donors receive soda and cookies.

"The blood shortage is a serious problem because the few people who are out there that we are able to reach are unable to donate due to various reasons," Franco said.

He said blood collection teams are facing challenges in finding donors among communities reeling from the economic impacts of the pandemic. Some people say they are not sure where their next meal will come from, he said.

"At the end of the day some people may only survive by the mercy of God since the little blood that will have been collected will only be reserved for serious emergencies," he said.

Blood shortages have been reported elsewhere, including in parts of Europe.

Local media in Romania have cited fear of COVID-19 infections among the reasons for a decline in the number of blood donors. The cities of Iasi and Cluj face a dire situation as some cancer patients needing frequent transfusions and people needing urgent surgery have had to bring their own donors to survive.

Vadim Ghirda in Bucharest, Romania, contributed.

## Under fire over LGBT rights, Polish leader blames activist

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Bart Staszewski felt angry and hopeless when local governments in Poland started passing resolutions last year declaring themselves to be free of "LGBT ideology."

The activist and filmmaker objected to the way conservative officials were using the word "ideology" to describe what he considers a natural desire for people who love each other to be together. At least 100 municipalities or regions, mostly in conservative southeastern Poland, have passed declarations that vowed to keep out "LGBT ideology" or adopted "family charters" that backed heterosexual unions.

"I am just a normal Pole who just wants a good life with my partner and to be able to marry him one day," the 30-year-old said. "Where is the ideology?"

In response, he settled on a protest around the communities that are now widely referred to as "LGBT-free zones," a move that has enraged Poland's conservative, nationalist government as his posts have gone viral.

With Poland under mounting international criticism for its treatment of its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki accused Staszewski of carrying out a "hoax" that has led some to believe that Poland has a human rights problem.

Staszewski travels to the the areas involved, where he briefly attaches a yellow sign saying "LGBT-FREE ZONE" next to the town sign. He posts the photos on social media, sometimes including a lesbian or gay

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man from the town.

The signs, in four languages, have the look of military warnings. Staszewski calls it "performance art" aimed at "making it possible to visualize the literalness and meaning of the harmful documents."

Almost 32% of Poland's 38 million people live in such areas, according to "Atlas of Hate," an LGBT group tracking the issue.

Morawiecki singled out the activist for rebuke after 50 ambassadors to Poland and foreign representatives published an open letter of solidarity with LGBT people in Poland.

"He completely falsified reality," Morawiecki said. "To call it fake news would not do it justice. It was a deep fake."

The term "LGBT-free" is sensitive because it carries an association of language used by Nazi Germany to describe areas free of Jews — Judenrein or Judenfrei — after they had been forced out or killed during the Holocaust.

The term, however, was already being used before Staszewski began posting. A pro-government newspaper, *Gazeta Polska*, printed stickers last summer saying "LGBT-Free Zone" with a rainbow flag crossed out. The European Parliament used it in a December resolution denouncing the Polish municipalities.

Representatives of Poland's conservative ruling party, Law and Justice, which have sponsored the resolutions, argue they are trying to protect families and their Christian traditions, and say they are not discriminatory because they do not ban anyone from living in the areas.

"To the dear ambassadors, I can only say that tolerance belongs to Polish DNA," Morawiecki said.

But Staszewski and other activists say the resolutions stigmatize a minority that is already suffering from bullying, depression and homophobic violence, including attacks on pride parades. He recites the names of Polish teenagers who have died by suicide after facing homophobia.

He fears Poland could follow Russia, where regional resolutions banning "gay propaganda" preceded a 2013 national law that Human Rights Watch calls "a tool for discrimination and harassment."

Poland's culture clash has been simmering for years but intensified as LGBT activists became more visible, holding more Equality Parades and demanding same-sex unions and marriage.

A tolerance declaration signed by Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski in 2019 — itself mostly symbolic — was a key trigger for the backlash. Another was his gay deputy, Pawel Rabiej, saying that same-sex civil unions should be introduced to pave the way for marriage rights and adoption.

President Andrzej Duda made the protection of traditional families a key campaign theme during his successful re-election this summer against Trzaskowski, vowing a constitutional ban on same-sex adoptions. He called the LGBT rights movement a "neo-Bolshevism" group pushing an "aggressive sexualization" in schools.

Two towns are now suing Staszewski, while a right-wing magazine has denounced him as a "professional liar." In Warsaw where he lives, he has faced angry insults by strangers in public and death threats online, but also many expressions of support.

Staszewski accused Morawiecki of hypocrisy for blaming him for Poland's image problem.

"He is using his power to spread fake news," Staszewski said. "The problem is not the activists. It's the homophobic acts introduced by local governments."

Two days after Morawiecki lashed out at Staszewski, he appointed a new minister of education and science, Przemyslaw Czarnek, who has said that LGBT people "are not equal to normal people."

Czarnek was also sued by Staszewski for accusing the 2018 Equality Parade in Lublin, which Staszewski was co-organizing, of promoting depravity. Czarnek lost and was forced to apologize — then repeated his claim.

Protests were held in Warsaw and Wroclaw Sunday expressing outrage that a man with his views was tapped to oversee the nation's schools and universities.

In recent weeks, international pressure on Poland has intensified. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen declared "LGBT-free zones" are "humanity-free zones" that have no place in the 27-member bloc.

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The Polish towns have begun losing funding from the EU and Norway, a non-EU member which contributes millions of euros in development aid for access to the bloc's common market. Two towns have reversed their resolutions.

While U.S. President Donald Trump sees an ideological friend in Poland's government on issues like migration, his ambassador has issued a strong rebuke on this issue.

"Human rights are not an ideology," Ambassador Georgette Mosbacher tweeted, posting the letter calling for tolerance that she signed with dozens of other ambassadors. She later said Poland's government is on the "wrong side of history" on LGBT rights.

Mosbacher said Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden were united on this matter, and that U.S. companies and Congress would consider Poland's treatment of sexual minorities when making investment and military decisions. That was a strong warning to the ally on NATO's eastern flank that relies heavily on the U.S. for protection.

Mosbacher was summoned Thursday to the Foreign Ministry, where a deputy minister told her that Poland has never persecuted sexual minorities and it "has always been on the right side of history."

## Trump seizes on small election issues to spread concern

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nine ballots discarded in Pennsylvania. A mail carrier who altered a handful of affidavit ballot applications. People being sent double ballots.

In the run up to Election Day, President Donald Trump is seizing on small, potentially routine voting issues to suggest the election is rigged. But there is no evidence there is any widespread voter fraud as the president has suggested.

Nevertheless, his comments have been amplified by his campaign, supporters and allies, including Attorney General William Barr, adding heft to the claims.

"Mail ballots, they cheat," Trump said last month. During the presidential debate last week, he insisted the election had already been "rigged," adding: "As far as the ballots are concerned, it's a disaster."

But voter fraud has proved exceedingly rare. And even a panel commissioned by the Trump administration to explore the issue uncovered no evidence to support claims of widespread voter fraud.

Five states routinely send ballots to all registered voters so they can choose to vote through the mail or in person, and four other states and the District of Columbia will be adopting that system in November, as will almost every county in Montana.

Even as the president rails against mail-in voting, he has acknowledged that he voted by absentee ballot in the past. But Trump's decision to seize on the small number of issues — they occur in every election — exemplify the president's monthslong effort to sow doubt about the integrity of the election before it's even arrived and to preemptively call into question the results.

Particularly, the president has seized on an election worker's decision to discard nine military ballots in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which a state elections official said amounted to a mistake and not "intentional fraud." Still, the president brought up the case, saying it was evidence of election fraud. He mentioned it twice during Tuesday night's presidential debate.

The Justice Department has said seven of the nine ballots found discarded in a wastebasket in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, had Trump's name. The Justice Department is still investigating the matter and it was Trump, after being briefed by Barr, who first mentioned the ballots during a radio show appearance, hours before the U.S. attorney in Harrisburg announced the investigation.

At the debate, Trump also pointed to another Justice Department in West Virginia, where a mail carrier admitted to changing parts of absentee ballot applications, including changing the party affiliation on five applications from Democratic to Republican. But the president misconstrued the facts in the case and said that there were "mailmen selling the ballots."

The man, Thomas Cooper, held a postal contract to pick up mail in the three towns in which the voters live and delivered the forms in April to the Pendleton County clerk. He pleaded guilty in July to attempted

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election fraud and injury to the mail.

But there were no accusations that Cooper had ever been paid for that and he told investigators that he did it "as a joke."

Barr has previously raised the possibility that a "foreign country could print up tens of thousands of counterfeit ballots" and has argued they would be hard to detect, but that's been disputed by election experts. Multiple studies have debunked the notion of pervasive voter fraud in general and in the vote-by-mail process.

In an interview with CNN last month, Barr said he was basing his concerns on "logic," though senior U.S. officials have said there is no intelligence to suggest that was happening.

The president has also pointed to an error in Fairfax County, Virginia, where about 1,000 voters were sent two ballots, claiming at the debate that it was evidence that "this is going to be a fraud like you've never seen." But local officials have said it is not a situation that could lead to voter fraud because those who return a ballot will be marked as having voted, preventing them from voting twice.

## Facing a conservative turn, Supreme Court opens new term

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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in 2009.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Trump's defender: Pence's campaign role grows at key moment

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence is in a familiar spot: standing by President Donald Trump. With Trump hospitalized with a virus that he spent months downplaying, his ever-loyal No. 2 will play an increasingly prominent role in the weeks ahead.

Pence will take a leading role in campaigning around the country in the final stretch before the Nov. 3 election, aiming to keep the president's supporters energized and deflecting criticism of his handling of a virus that has killed over 205,000 Americans. The president's positive diagnosis on Friday has intensified scrutiny of the administration's cavalier approach to the pandemic.

The spotlight on Pence will be especially bright on Wednesday when he will participate in the vice presidential debate with California Sen. Kamala Harris. Pence will almost certainly be pressed to explain shifting accounts of the president's health over the weekend and justify Trump's decision to hold large in-person campaign rallies during a pandemic — events that often flouted public health guidelines by congregating thousands of mostly mask-less supporters.

"Normally, the vice presidential debate is inconsequential. That is not the case in 2020," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who worked on Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential bid. "The public has so many questions about how we got here and it's an opportunity for Pence to answer some of those."

Pence has often been called upon to smooth over fallout from Trump's messy decision making and divisive policies. Since the 2016 campaign, he has served as a bridge of sorts between a brash, thrice-married former reality television star who long bragged about womanizing and the more traditional branch of the Republican Party, particularly conservative evangelicals.

The smooth diction and humble demeanor Pence brings to the role was honed in the 1990s when he was a conservative talk-radio host in Indiana, when he referred to himself as "Rush Limbaugh on decaf."

His approach hasn't always been successful. As Indiana's governor from 2013 to 2017, he was so relent-

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lessly on-message that he sometimes struggled to contain fallout from fast-moving crises.

That includes his handling of backlash over a 2015 law he signed that allowed business owners to deny service to gay people for religious reasons, which was later amended as a result of the uproar. During an interview with George Stephanopoulos on ABC when he was governor, Pence grew flustered after failing to answer direct questions about whether discrimination against gay people should be legal.

"George!" Pence protested before letting out an audible sigh. "C'mon."

The debate with Harris will be a major test. The former California prosecutor's political rise was fueled by searing exchanges with political rivals during major congressional hearings. And she is certain to press the issue of the virus and Trump's diagnoses when the two meet in Salt Lake City.

"That will be his challenge. But it is one he is well-suited for," said Cam Savage, a veteran Republican strategist from Indiana who has closely observed Pence's political career. "With Pence you get a very disciplined leader who is not likely to make mistakes."

One major uncertainty is what sort of condition Trump will be in during the weeks ahead.

His administration has offered rosy assessments of his health and said he could be released from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as early as Monday. But Trump's blood oxygen level abruptly dropped twice in recent days and he was given supplemental oxygen before his hospitalization. His doctors continued to evade basic questions about his health on Sunday.

There are also concerns that Pence could himself catch the virus while campaigning, a troubling scenario that raises serious questions about national security and the transfer of power if either he or Trump took a turn for the worse.

After the debate, Pence says, it's back to "business as usual" and the campaign has appearances planned for him, as well as Trump's children and other top surrogates in an effort billed as "Operation MAGA." Pence is slated to visit Arizona and Florida and will return to Indiana on Friday to vote early.

"We've got a campaign to run," Pence said Saturday on a call with staff. "I promise you, this president, as soon as his doctors say so, he's going to be back out there."

Pence often evokes faith when describing his approach to public office, citing the biblical concept of "servant leadership."

He has been a faithful servant to Trump since he was plucked from a difficult bid for reelection as governor to join the presidential ticket in 2016.

Though Pence has long-held presidential ambitions, his own political career was on the ropes.

The former congressman turned governor had a dismal approval rating. His enthusiastic support for religious conservative cultural issues alienated moderate Republicans and drew threats of boycott of the state. And he faced a difficult reelection battle against the same Democrat that he narrowly beat in 2012.

His selection for the Trump ticket removed him from a lackluster campaign that leaned heavily on car racing metaphors that often fell flat even though the state has a deep affinity for the sport and is home to the Indianapolis 500.

As Trump's envoy to religious conservatives, Pence quickly revitalized his political prospects. Often referencing the Supreme Court, Pence reminded fellow religious conservatives that the future makeup of the judiciary would be determined by the 2016 winner — a prediction poised to become reality with Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to replace liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

At times, Pence's defense of Trump involved few words.

After the "Access Hollywood" video emerged in 2016 of Trump talking in lewd terms about grabbing women by their genitals without consent came to light just days before a debate, Pence's mere return to the campaign trail was a signal of support.

Whether Trump secures another term or not, Pence is a likely Republican presidential contender in 2024. His handling of the challenges before him could be a determining factor in what his future will bring.

"We will find out in the next few days whether Pence will be a leading candidate in 2024," said Conant, the Republican strategist.



Associate Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

## One month out, battered Trump campaign faces big challenges

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's long-hidden tax returns leaked out. His first debate performance ignited a firestorm over white supremacy. He was hospitalized for COVID-19 after months of playing down the threat of a pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans.

And that was just this past week.

Trump's reelection team, battered on all sides, now enters the final month of the campaign grappling with deficits in the polls, a shortage of cash and a candidate who is at least temporarily sidelined.

The crises, many of Trump's own making, have come so quickly that they are hard to keep straight.

Recordings revealed that he acknowledged minimizing the dangers of the coronavirus earlier this year. A blockbuster story raised questions over whether he privately belittled members of the military. And even the first lady was captured on tape expressing disdain for having to decorate the White House for Christmas.

"Are the political gods simply saying, 'Your run is over'? That four years of chaos has caught up to you?" asked Michael Steele, former head of the Republican Party. He predicts the president's coronavirus diagnosis will overwhelm all the other massive storylines.

"We are a caring, forgiving people," Steele said of the American public. "But while they may show him empathy, they also won't forget that he didn't do all the things he needed to protect himself and the American people."

The president's team is launching what it calls "Operation MAGA" to propel his campaign forward, even as he was being treated Sunday at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Although Trump's medical team raised the possibility that he could be released as early as Monday, significant questions remained about the president's health and schedule.

The challenges facing the reelection team are enormous.

Both heads of Trump's political apparatus — campaign manager Bill Stepien and Republican National Committee head Ronna McDaniel — tested positive for COVID-19 this week. Also infected: several outside advisers who had been involved in the president's debate preparations last week, including former White House senior adviser Kellyanne Conway and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

And that comes just days after Brad Parscale, who was demoted from his campaign manager post over the summer but remained in a senior role, was hospitalized. Police were called to his Florida home after his wife said he had a firearm and was acting suicidal.

Deputy campaign manager Justin Clark is temporarily overseeing the campaign's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Stepien organized a late Saturday staff call to project an optimistic tone, even as he acknowledged the loss of the campaign's "best asset," the president.

"We built a team that's stronger than any one of us singularly," he said.

With early voting already underway in many states, Trump has consistently trailed Democrat Joe Biden in national polling even as the margins in most battleground states have been closer.

"This race is going to be super close. This is officially October. It's officially game time," Stepien said. "These are crazy times. These weeks feel like months with the amount of action and news packed into each week."

Vice President Mike Pence outlined plans to launch a new effort to ramp up campaign appearances by Trump lieutenants who haven't been infected. Pence himself will star in the new effort, in addition to Trump's children. Pence promised that he and the first family would begin fanning out across the country aggressively in person after Wednesday's vice presidential debate.

"We've got a campaign to run," Pence said. "I promise you, this president, as soon as his doctors say so, he's going to be back out there."

But Pence's "business as usual" approach faced questions.

Although Pence tested negative for the virus on Sunday, COVID-19 can have a lengthy incubation period.

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Pence attended a Sept. 26 White House event where Trump announced his Supreme Court pick. Several attendees at that event have since tested positive. Pence also has interacted with key aides since then who have also been exposed.

With Trump still not "out of the woods," in the words of his doctors, Pence plans to travel to Arizona on Thursday, Indiana on Friday and Florida on Saturday for events rather than isolating himself after potential exposure and trying to protect himself from contracting the virus anywhere else.

"We're in a campaign. We have a month to go," senior campaign adviser Jason Miller said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "We see Joe Biden and Kamala Harris out there campaigning."

The Trump campaign was already facing a significant cash deficit to Biden, and now the president has been sidelined from in-person fundraising as well as his signature rallies just as the campaign was about to ramp up his travel schedule. Plans for upcoming events in Florida, Wisconsin, Arizona and Nevada were all scrapped after his diagnosis, and it remained unclear when — or if — the president would be able to resume campaigning.

"He's losing, and the debate was a disaster, and the campaign is imploding," said Republican strategist Steve Schmidt, a vocal Trump critic.

The president's hospitalization also underscores what has long been the Trump campaign's greatest challenge: its inability to shift the national discourse away from the virus. For months, even as the campaign has tried to frame the election as a choice between Trump and Biden, the race has been perceived largely as a referendum on the president's handling of the pandemic.

And Trump's tone on the virus has changed little despite his illness. In a video released late Saturday from the hospital, he expressed no contrition for his handling of the virus and still spoke of quickly moving beyond the pandemic.

"He is a struggling incumbent, and this all makes reelection much harder. More importantly, the more the nation is discussing the pandemic, the harder the debate gets for the president," said Julian Zelizer, a presidential historian at Princeton University. Still, Zelizer said it would be premature to count Trump out, with a full month to go until Election Day.

"He has three tools still at his disposal — unyielding Republican loyalty, the Electoral College and the power of the presidency," Zelizer said. "His ability to tie up voting and spread disinformation remains formidable."

For some Democrats, burned by Trump's late surge to defeat Hillary Clinton in 2016, Nov. 3 can't come soon enough.

Veteran Democratic strategist James Carville declared: "Let's go to the polls tomorrow."

Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

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

By The Associated Press undefined

A White House physician's comments on Sunday about the health of President Donald Trump amid his coronavirus diagnosis added a new layer of confusion even as the doctor sought to clarify contradictory statements from the day before. And a brief motorcade ride outside the hospital to the cheers of supporters appeared at odds with a patient receiving COVID-19 treatments.

What we know and what we don't know:

**WHAT WE KNOW: TRUMP'S MEDICAL CONDITION**

Dr. Sean Conley, the president's physician, said Trump was given a steroid dexamethasone after his blood oxygen level had dropped suddenly twice in recent days, but he "has continued to improve" since then. Conley said Trump could be discharged from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as early as Monday.

Conley said Trump had a "high fever" and a blood oxygen level below 94% on Friday and during "another episode" on Saturday.

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Conley was evasive when asked whether Trump's blood oxygen level had dropped below 90%: "We don't have any recordings here on that." The level currently stands at 98%, Trump's medical team said.

Blood oxygen saturation is a key health marker for COVID-19 patients. A normal reading is between 95 and 100. A drop below 90 is concerning.

Trump's team said Sunday that Trump received oxygen at the White House on Friday. They were not clear on whether he received any Saturday.

The additional details emerged after White House chief of staff Mark Meadows on Saturday said some of Trump's vital signs were "very concerning" Friday. That disclosure contradicted a rosy assessment Trump's doctors had initially provided.

Along with a steroid, Trump has been treated with two experimental drugs, 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. Trump also has taken two doses of a five-day course of remdesivir, a Gilead Sciences drug currently used for moderately and severely ill patients.

Trump's team said Sunday that Trump is "up and around" and doing well — apparently so well that the president took an impromptu ride in a motorcade Sunday afternoon to wave to supporters outside the hospital. Officials said if things continue to go well, Trump will be able to return to the White House on Monday to continue his treatment.

## WHAT WE DON'T KNOW: TRUMP'S MEDICAL CONDITION

Trump's medical team continued to dodge many questions Sunday, such as the specific timing of the president's dip in oxygen and the impact of the disease on his lungs.

Asked repeatedly about what lung scan tests found and whether there have been any signs of pneumonia or other damage, Conley responded: "We're tracking all of that. There's some expected findings but nothing of any major clinical concern."

Conley also hasn't specified where Trump is in the "disease course" of COVID-19. Days seven to 10 typically are a time of higher concern, he said.

As far as the drive-by greeting to supporters, CDC guidelines say that, in general, moving a patient with COVID-19 outside his room should be limited to "medically essential purposes." The outing suggests to the common observer Trump's condition is not perilous, but medical authorities note that talk of Trump leaving the hospital for home after only a few days doesn't square with information about his treatments.

## 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 evening, the doctor said.

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

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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.

## Record-breaking California wildfires surpass 4 million acres

By JOCELYN GECKER and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a year that has already brought apocalyptic skies and smothering smoke to the West Coast, California set a grim new record Sunday when officials announced that the wildfires of 2020 have now scorched a record 4 million acres — in a fire season that is far from over.

The unprecedented figure — an area larger than the state of Connecticut — is more than double the previous record for the most land burned in a single year in California.

"The 4 million mark is unfathomable. It boggles the mind, and it takes your breath away," said Scott McLean, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire. "And that number will grow."

So far, in this year's historic fire season, more than 8,200 California wildfires have killed 31 people and scorched "well over 4 million acres in California" or 6,250 square miles, Cal Fire said Sunday in a statement. The blazes have destroyed more than 8,400 buildings.

The astonishing figure is more than double the 2018 record of 1.67 million burned acres (2,609 square miles) in California. All large fire years since Cal Fire started recording figures in 1933 have remained well below the 4 million mark — "until now," the agency said Sunday in a Tweet.

"This year is far from over and fire potential remains high. Please be cautious outdoors."

The enormity of the fires has meant that people living far from the flames experienced a degree of misery that in itself was unprecedented, with historically unhealthy air quality and smoke so dense that it blurred the skies across California and on some days even blotted out the sun. Last month, a relentless heat wave hit the state that helped fuel the fires and caused so much air pollution that it seeped indoors, prompting stores across California to sell out of air purifiers.

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

Mike Flannigan, who directs the Canadian Partnership for Wildland Fire Science at Canada's University of Alberta, says the escalation of fires in California and the U.S. West is "largely, not solely, due to human-caused climate change."

Despite Sunday's grim milestone, there were signs for optimism.

Powerful winds that had been expected to drive flames in recent days hadn't materialized, and warnings of extreme fire danger for hot, dry and gusty weather expired Saturday morning as a layer of fog rolled in. Clearer skies in some areas allowed large air tankers to drop retardant after being sidelined by smoky conditions several days earlier.

"In certain areas, we were able to get quite a bit of aircraft in. So we really pounded, a couple different areas hard with aircraft," McLean said. "If the weather does what is predicted, we're on that glide path I hope. But that doesn't diminish the amount of work that still needs to be done."

Long-range forecast models hinted at the possibility of rain early in the week.

Fire officials said the Glass Fire burning in wine country for the past week was their top priority. Easing winds over the weekend proved a mixed blessing for firefighters battling the giant blaze, which is currently 17 percent contained.

"We are seeing some relief in the weather, but it's going to be three or four days before it really makes a difference on the fire," Cal Fire meteorologist Tom Bird said at a Sunday news briefing about the Glass

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Fire. "The one good thing going forward, we're not expecting any wind events to push into the fire."

The Glass Fire began last Sunday as three fires merged and drove into vineyards and mountain areas, including part of the city of Santa Rosa. More than 30,000 people were still under evacuation orders this Sunday, down from 70,000 earlier in the week. Among those still unable to return home are the entire 5,000-plus population of Calistoga in Napa County.

Across the state about 17,000 firefighters were at work battling nearly two dozen major blazes.

Virtually all the damage has occurred since mid-August, when five of the six largest fires in state history erupted. Lightning strikes caused some of the most devastating blazes. The wildfires have incinerated hundreds of homes and killed 31 people but large parts of them are burning in largely unpopulated land.

Many of the most destructive fires sparked in Northern California, where hills and mountains dotted with many dead trees have provided plenty of fuel for fires igniting amid high temperatures and strong winds fanning the flames. Thick, gray smoke from the blazes has fouled the air in many hill communities and major cities in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

Flannigan, the fire scientist, estimates the area of land burned from wildfires in California has increased fivefold since the 1970s.

"Temperature is really important to fire. Temperature is key. The warmer it is, the longer the fire season," he said.

"This is an unprecedented year and the thing is there's no vaccine for wildfires," Flannigan said. "We're going to have to learn to live with wildfires and the associate smoke."

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Associated Press writer Olga R. Rodriguez contributed to this report.

## Trump takes a brief car ride, ignoring own COVID infection

By JILL COLVIN, STEVE PEOPLES and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Infected and contagious, President Donald Trump briefly ventured out in a motorcade on Sunday to salute cheering supporters, a move that disregarded precautions meant to contain the deadly virus that has forced his hospitalization and killed more than 209,000 Americans.

Hours earlier, Trump's medical team reported that his blood oxygen level dropped suddenly twice in recent days and that they gave him a steroid typically only recommended for the very sick. Still, the doctors said Trump's health is improving and that he could be discharged as early as Monday.

With one month until Election Day, Trump was eager to project strength despite his illness. The still-infectious president surprised supporters who had gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, driving by in a black SUV with the windows rolled up. Secret Service agents inside the vehicle could be seen in masks and other protective gear.

The move capped a weekend of contradictions that fueled confusion about Trump's health, which has imperiled the leadership of the U.S. government and upended the final stages of the presidential campaign. While Trump's physician offered a rosy prognosis on his condition, his briefings lacked basic information, including the findings of lung scans, or were quickly muddled by more serious assessments of the president's health by other officials.

In a short video released by the White House on Sunday, Trump insisted he understood the gravity of the moment. But his actions moments later, by leaving the hospital and sitting inside the SUV with others, suggested otherwise.

"This is insanity," Dr. James P. Phillips, an attending physician at Walter Reed who is a critic of Trump and his handling of the pandemic. "Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary presidential 'drive-by' just now has to be quarantined for 14 days. They might get sick. They may die."

"For political theater," the doctor added. "Commanded by Trump to put their lives at risk for theater."

White House spokesman Judd Deere said Trump's trip outside the hospital "was cleared by the medical team as safe to do." He added that precautions were taken, including using personal protective equipment, to protect Trump as well as White House officials and Secret Service agents.

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Joe Biden's campaign, meanwhile, said the Democratic presidential nominee again tested negative for coronavirus Sunday. The results come five days after Biden spent more than 90 minutes on the debate stage with Trump. Biden, who has taken a far more cautious approach to in-person events, had two negative tests on Friday.

For his part, Trump still faces questions about his health.

His doctors sidestepped questions on Sunday about exactly when Trump's blood oxygen dropped — an episode they neglected to mention in multiple statements the day before — or whether lung scans showed any damage.

It was the second straight day of obfuscation from a White House already suffering from a credibility crisis. And it raised more doubts about whether the doctors treating the president were sharing accurate, timely information with the American public about the severity of his condition.

Pressed about conflicting information he and the White House released on Saturday, Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley acknowledged that he had tried to present a sunnier description of the president's condition.

"I was trying to reflect the upbeat attitude that the team, the president, that his course of illness has had. Didn't want to give any information that might steer the course of illness in another direction," Conley said. "And in doing so, you know, it came off that we were trying to hide something, which wasn't necessarily true. The fact of the matter is that he's doing really well."

Medical experts said Conley's revelations were hard to square with his positive assessment and talk of a discharge.

"There's a little bit of a disconnect," said Dr. Steven Shapiro, chief medical and scientific officer at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

According to CDC guidelines, "In general, transport and movement of a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection outside of their room should be limited to medically essential purposes."

Even before Trump's motorcade outing on Sunday, some Secret Service agents have expressed concern about the lackadaisical attitude toward masks and social distancing inside the White House, but there isn't much they can do, according to agents and officials who spoke to The Associated Press. This close to the election, thousands of agents are engaged on protective duty so they can be subbed out quickly should someone test positive.

The disclosures about Trump's oxygen levels and steroid treatment suggested the president is enduring more than a mild case of COVID-19.

Blood oxygen saturation is a key health marker for COVID-19 patients. A normal reading is between 95 and 100. Conley said the president had a "high fever" and a blood oxygen level below 94% on Friday and during "another episode" on Saturday.

He was evasive about the timing of Trump oxygen drops. ("It was over the course of the day, yeah, yesterday morning," he said) and asked whether Trump's level had dropped below 90%, into concerning territory. ("We don't have any recordings here on that.") But he revealed that Trump was given a dose of the steroid dexamethasone in response.

At the time of the briefing, Trump's blood oxygen level was 98% — within normal range, Trump's medical team said.

Signs of pneumonia or other lung damage could be detected in scans before a patient feels short of breath, but the president's doctors declined to say what those scans have revealed.

"There's some expected findings, but nothing of any major clinical concern," Conley said. He declined to outline those "expected findings."

Asked about Conley's lack of transparency, White House aide Alyssa Farah suggested the doctors were speaking as much to the president as to the American public, "when you're treating a patient, you want to project confidence, you want to lift their spirits, and that was the intent."

In all, nearly 7.4 million people have been infected in the United States, and few have access to the kind of around-the-clock attention and experimental treatments as Trump.

Trump's treatment with the steroid dexamethasone is in addition to the single dose he was given Friday of an experimental drug from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. that supplies antibodies to help the immune

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system fight the virus. Trump on Friday also 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.

Garibaldi, a specialist in pulmonary critical care, said the president was not showing any side effects of the drugs "that we can tell."

The National Institutes of Health COVID-19 treatment guidelines recommend against using dexamethasone in patients who do not require oxygen. It has only been proven to help in more serious cases. Among the concerns with earlier use is that steroids tamp down certain immune cells, hindering the body's own ability to fight off infection.

Trump is 74 years old and clinically obese, putting him at higher risk of serious complications.

First lady Melania Trump has remained at the White House as she recovers from her own bout with the virus.

Several White House officials this weekend expressed frustration with the level of transparency and public disclosure since the president announced his diagnosis early Friday.

They were particularly upset by the whiplash between Conley's upbeat assessment Saturday and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows' more concerned outlook. They privately acknowledge that the administration has little credibility on COVID-19 and that they have unnecessarily squandered what remains of it with the lack of clear, accurate updates on Trump's condition.

Many in the White House are also shaken and scared — nervous that they have been exposed to the virus and confronting the reality that what seemed like a bubble of safety has become a COVID-19 hot spot. It took until late Sunday for the White House to send a generic note to staffers suggesting they not come to the building if they do not feel well.

Peoples reported from New York. Miller reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Lauran Neergaard, Jonathan Lemire and Amer Madhani in Washington, and Bill Barrow in Wilmington, Del., and Marilynn Marchione in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

## Trump greets supporters following new details of his illness

By JILL COLVIN, STEVE PEOPLES and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

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By JONATHAN LEMIRE and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

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And that was just this past week.

Trump’s reelection team, battered on all sides, now enters the final month of the campaign grappling with deficits in the polls, a shortage of cash and a candidate who is at least temporarily sidelined.

The crises, many of Trump’s own making, have come so quickly that they are hard to keep straight.

Recordings revealed that he acknowledged minimizing the dangers of the coronavirus earlier this year. A blockbuster story raised questions over whether he privately belittled members of the military. And even the first lady was captured on tape expressing disdain for having to decorate the White House for Christmas.

“Are the political gods simply saying, ‘Your run is over’? That four years of chaos has caught up to you?” asked Michael Steele, former head of the Republican Party. He predicts the president’s coronavirus diagnosis will overwhelm all the other massive storylines.

“We are a caring, forgiving people,” Steele said of the American public. “But while they may show him empathy, they also won’t forget that he didn’t do all the things he needed to protect himself and the American people.”

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The president's team is launching what it calls "Operation MAGA" to propel his campaign forward, even as he was being treated Sunday at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Although Trump's medical team raised the possibility that he could be released as early as Monday, significant questions remained about the president's health and schedule.

The challenges facing the reelection team are enormous.

Both heads of Trump's political apparatus — campaign manager Bill Stepien and Republican National Committee head Ronna McDaniel — tested positive for COVID-19 this week. Also infected: several outside advisers who had been involved in the president's debate preparations last week, including former White House senior adviser Kellyanne Conway and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

And that comes just days after Brad Parscale, who was demoted from his campaign manager post over the summer but remained in a senior role, was hospitalized. Police were called to his Florida home after his wife said he had a firearm and was acting suicidal.

Deputy campaign manager Justin Clark is temporarily overseeing the campaign's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Stepien organized a late Saturday staff call to project an optimistic tone, even as he acknowledged the loss of the campaign's "best asset," the president.

"We built a team that's stronger than any one of us singularly," he said.

With early voting already underway in many states, Trump has consistently trailed Democrat Joe Biden in national polling even as the margins in most battleground states have been closer.

"This race is going to be super close. This is officially October. It's officially game time," Stepien said. "These are crazy times. These weeks feel like months with the amount of action and news packed into each week."

Vice President Mike Pence outlined plans to launch a new effort to ramp up campaign appearances by Trump lieutenants who haven't been infected. Pence himself will star in the new effort, in addition to Trump's children. Pence promised that he and the first family would begin fanning out across the country aggressively in person after Wednesday's vice presidential debate.

"We've got a campaign to run," Pence said. "I promise you, this president, as soon as his doctors say so, he's going to be back out there."

But Pence's "business as usual" approach faced questions.

Although Pence tested negative for the virus on Sunday, COVID-19 can have a lengthy incubation period. Pence attended a Sept. 26 White House event where Trump announced his Supreme Court pick. Several attendees at that event have since tested positive. Pence also has interacted with key aides since then who have also been exposed.

With Trump still not "out of the woods," in the words of his doctors, Pence plans to travel to Arizona on Thursday, Indiana on Friday and Florida on Saturday for events rather than isolating himself after potential exposure and trying to protect himself from contracting the virus anywhere else.

"We're in a campaign. We have a month to go," senior campaign adviser Jason Miller said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "We see Joe Biden and Kamala Harris out there campaigning."

The Trump campaign was already facing a significant cash deficit to Biden, and now the president has been sidelined from in-person fundraising as well as his signature rallies just as the campaign was about to ramp up his travel schedule. Plans for upcoming events in Florida, Wisconsin, Arizona and Nevada were all scrapped after his diagnosis, and it remained unclear when — or if — the president would be able to resume campaigning.

"He's losing, and the debate was a disaster, and the campaign is imploding," said Republican strategist Steve Schmidt, a vocal Trump critic.

The president's hospitalization also underscores what has long been the Trump campaign's greatest challenge: its inability to shift the national discourse away from the virus. For months, even as the campaign has tried to frame the election as a choice between Trump and Biden, the race has been perceived largely as a referendum on the president's handling of the pandemic.

And Trump's tone on the virus has changed little despite his illness. In a video released late Saturday

from the hospital, he expressed no contrition for his handling of the virus and still spoke of quickly moving beyond the pandemic.

"He is a struggling incumbent, and this all makes reelection much harder. More importantly, the more the nation is discussing the pandemic, the harder the debate gets for the president," said Julian Zelizer, a presidential historian at Princeton University. Still, Zelizer said it would be premature to count Trump out, with a full month to go until Election Day.

"He has three tools still at his disposal — unyielding Republican loyalty, the Electoral College and the power of the presidency," Zelizer said. "His ability to tie up voting and spread disinformation remains formidable."

For some Democrats, burned by Trump's late surge to defeat Hillary Clinton in 2016, Nov. 3 can't come soon enough.

Veteran Democratic strategist James Carville declared: "Let's go to the polls tomorrow."

Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Long-term jobless caught in a squeeze that imperils recovery

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and ALEXANDRA OLSON Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — This spring, Magdalena Valiente was expecting her best year as a Florida-based concert promoter. Now, she wonders if the career she built over three decades is over.

Back in March, Valiente had been planning five tours for Latin Grammy winners Fonseca and Andrés Cepeda and more than 20 for Miami Latin pop band Bacilos. Earning well into six figures during good years, Valiente was hoping to help her youngest son, a high school junior, pay his way through college.

But with live events canceled, things have turned bleak. She is relying on unemployment benefits and Medicaid and has applied for food stamps. She has lost hope that the crisis will end soon.

"I worked up from the very bottom when I started in this business in my twenties," said Valiente, a single mother in Fort Lauderdale. "There weren't many other women, and it was hard. It's not easy to let it go."

Millions of Americans in the industries hit hardest by the viral pandemic face a similar plight. Their unemployment has stretched from weeks into months, and it's become painfully unclear when, if ever, their jobs will come back. In the entertainment field where Valiente worked and in other sectors that absorbed heavy job losses — from restaurants and hotels to energy, higher education and advertising — employment remains far below pre-pandemic levels.

These trends have raised the specter of a period of widespread long-term unemployment that could turn the viral recession into a more painful, extended downturn. People who have been jobless for six months or longer — one definition of long-term unemployment — typically suffer an erosion of skills and professional networks that makes it harder to find a new job. Many will need training or education to find work with a new company or in a new occupation, which can delay their re-entry into the job market.

On Friday, the government reported that employers added 661,000 jobs in September, normally a healthy gain. Yet it marked the third straight monthly slowdown in hiring. The nation has regained barely half the 22 million jobs that were lost to the pandemic and the widespread business shutdowns it caused in March and April.

In a worrisome trend, a rising proportion of job losses appear to be permanently gone. When the virus erupted in March and paralyzed the economy, nearly 90% of layoffs were considered temporary, and a quick rebound seemed possible. No longer. In September, the number of Americans classified as permanently laid off rose 12% to 3.8 million. And the number of long-term unemployed rose by 781,000 — the largest increase on record — to 2.4 million.

"We have a real chance of there being massive long-term unemployment," said Till Von Wachter, an economics professor at UCLA.

The nation now has 7% fewer jobs than in February. Yet the damage is far deeper in some sectors. The performing arts and spectator sports category, which includes Valiente's industry, has lost 47% of its jobs.

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It hasn't added any net jobs since the coronavirus struck.

Hotels are down 35%, restaurants and bars 19%, transportation 18%. Advertising, one of the first expenses that companies cut in a downturn, is down 9%.

Higher education has lost 9% of its jobs. Many classes have been delayed or moved online, reducing the need for janitors, cafeteria workers and other administrators. Normally during recessions, the education sector adds jobs to accommodate people returning to school to seek marketable skills or education. Not this time.

Ashley Broshious took years to develop skills that now seem much less in demand. A manager and sommelier at a Charleston restaurant, Broshious is one of just six certified advanced sommeliers in South Carolina. Still, she was laid off in March. And when the restaurant owner reopened one of his two establishments, she wasn't rehired.

Now, Broshious receives about \$326 a week in unemployment benefits. That's not nearly enough to pay the \$2,400 monthly rent on her home, as well as student loans, car insurance and credit card debt from a trip to Hawaii she took while still working.

"When you spend your entire life building this career," Broshious said, "it's hard to start over."

Some economists note hopefully that this recovery has progressed faster than many analysts expected and may keep doing so. Matthew Notowidigdo, an economist at the University of Chicago's Booth School, and three colleagues predicted in a research paper that the rapid recall of temporary workers will lower unemployment to 4.6% a year from now. That would suggest a much faster recovery than the previous recession.

Three-quarters of the temporarily laid off aren't bothering to look for work, Notowidigdo said, based on an analysis of government data, apparently because they're confident of being recalled. And while the number of job openings has declined by about 17% compared with a year earlier, according to Glassdoor, it remains far higher than during the Great Recession.

In July, the most recent month for which government data is available, there were 2.5 unemployed workers, on average, for each job opening. That's much better than the six unemployed per job opening during the depths of the Great Recession.

"There are still a lot of people finding jobs fairly rapidly," Notowidigdo said.

Still, more than one-third of workers who have been laid off or furloughed now regard their job loss as permanent, according to a survey by Morning Consult. That's up from just 15% in April.

Some economists, like Sophia Koropecyk of Moody's Analytics, see rising cause for concern. Koropecyk estimates that 5 million people will struggle to find work even after the virus has been controlled. Jobs likely won't return to pre-pandemic levels until late in 2023, she said in a research note.

Even among some people who have managed to land new jobs, the pandemic recession has upended their financial lives.

Angela Grimley worked her way up through several Marriott Hotels in Philadelphia to become an event manager, only to have the recession kick her back down the ladder. After months of unemployment, Grimley, 38, found a part-time job answering customers' calls and emails for the Pennsylvania General Store, which sells food and souvenirs found only in Pennsylvania.

She loves the work. And she feels fortunate that her boyfriend, whom she lives with, is still working. But before the pandemic Grimley had received a new job offer as a conference and event manager at a marketing company involved in healthy parenting products. The job would have paid much more and provided health and retirement benefits, which her part-time job doesn't. But the offer vanished in the pandemic.

The damage to her finances "keeps me up at night," Grimley said. Having had to buy health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, she's discovered that some of her doctors won't accept her new insurance.

For Valiente, no concerts are scheduled until August 2021. Yet she's no longer confident that the public will be ready even then for packed concerts of thousands of people.

At 52, she said, it's hard to contemplate a career change.

"By the end of the year, if things look worse, I'll have to come up with a plan B, but I don't know what

that will be in the music business," Valiente said. "I don't want to go into debt because I'm not young, and I don't have another 30 years of working."

Olson reported from New York.

## French-Japanese designer Kenzo Takada dies from COVID-19

By THOMAS ADAMSON AP Fashion Writer

PARIS (AP) — Kenzo Takada, the iconic French-Japanese fashion designer famed for his jungle-infused designs and free-spirited aesthetic that channeled global travel, has died. He was 81.

The family said in a statement to French media Sunday that Takada died from complications from COVID-19 in a hospital in Neuilly-sur-Seine, near Paris. A public relations officer for Kenzo's brand confirmed that Takada died, but didn't give a cause of death.

"It is with immense sadness that KENZO has learned of the passing of our founder," the fashion house said in a statement. "For half a century, Mr. Takada has been an emblematic personality in the fashion industry — always infusing creativity and color into the world."

Takada's death came at the tail end of Paris Fashion Week, whose nine-day calendar is undertaking an unusual fashion season for spring-summer 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. It was only days ago that the Kenzo fashion house unveiled its bee-themed collection here.

Though Takada had been retired from his house since 1999 to pursue a career in art, Kenzo remains one of the most respected fixtures of high Paris fashion. Since 1993, the Kenzo brand has been owned by the French luxury goods company LVMH.

"His amazing energy, kindness, talent and smile were contagious," said Kenzo artistic director Felipe Oliveira Baptista, who unveiled the bee-themed collection to fashion editors Wednesday. "His kindred spirit will live forever."

Kenzo's styles used bold color, clashing prints and were inspired by travels all over the world.

"Kenzo Takada has, from the 1970s, infused into fashion a tone of poetic lightness and sweet freedom which inspired many designers after him," said Bernard Arnault, chairman and chief executive of LVMH.

Takada was born on Feb. 27, 1939, in Himeji, in the Hyogo Prefecture in Japan to hoteliers, but after reading his sisters' fashion magazines his love of fashion began.

Studying at the Bunka College of Fashion in Tokyo, Kenzo Takada had a brief stint working in Japan, before relocating to Paris in 1965, to work as a freelance designer.

In Paris, he took over a boutique in 1970 and crystallized his future ready-to-wear aesthetic inspired in its decoration by the jungle scenes of painter Henri Rousseau, which he merged with Asian styles. It became influential.

But it was lowly beginnings: Takada's first collection at the store called was made entirely out of cotton because he had little money. But the clothes spoke for themselves and a model of his was put on the cover of Elle magazine. A short time after, pioneering shoulder forms, large armholes, dungarees, smock tent dresses, innovative shoulder shapes, and his store was featured in US Vogue. Kenzo showed collections in New York and Tokyo in 1971.

Yves Saint Laurent was an important inspiration, in his work, Takada has said. Takada shared Saint Laurent's penchant for theatrics. In 1978 and 1979, he showed in a circus tent, and it featured himself riding an elephant, and performers rode horses wearing see-through uniforms.

Takada's love of travel and use of ethnic influences were strong features in his three decades atop his house.

His contribution to style was significant. He championed a youthful aesthetic and unstructured form, and did away with zippers to liberate silhouettes. His signatures were of wider sleeves and arm holes, that harked to historic styles in his home continent of Asia.

## The Latest: Campaign says Biden tests negative for virus

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

7:30 p.m.

Joe Biden's campaign says the Democratic presidential nominee tested negative for coronavirus Sunday. The results come five days after Biden spent more than 90 minutes on the debate stage with President Donald Trump. The president was diagnosed with COVID-19 days after the debate, and he remains hospitalized.

Biden had two negative tests on Friday, as well.

Biden is scheduled to travel Monday to Florida. His campaign said it will continue to observe public health guidelines on masks, social distancing and crowd sizes.

6:25 p.m.

Attorney General William Barr will self-quarantine out of caution after President Donald Trump and several other lawmakers and aides tested positive for the coronavirus.

Justice Department spokesperson Kerri Kupec said Sunday that Barr has had four COVID-19 tests since Friday, and all have come back negative. She says he will self-quarantine for several days out of an abundance of caution.

Barr attended one meeting at Justice Department headquarters on Friday and stayed home during the weekend, except to be tested. He plans to remain home for several days.

Barr attended the White House event for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett last weekend and was seen on video having a conversation with former Trump aide Kellyanne Conway, who has tested positive for coronavirus. Neither was wearing a mask.

6:20 p.m.

President Donald Trump is itching to get back out onto the campaign trail — and even attend the second presidential debate — if his doctors clear him to travel.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said on Fox News that Trump is "very hopeful about getting out there in short order when the doctors deem it appropriate."

Trump tested positive for the coronavirus late Thursday, two days after debating Democratic nominee Joe Biden in Cleveland and two weeks to the day before their next scheduled face-off in Miami.

He has been hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center since Friday afternoon. He briefly left the hospital Sunday, riding in a vehicle to greet supporters gathered outside.

5:40 p.m.

President Donald Trump briefly left the military hospital where he is being treated for COVID-19, riding in a vehicle to greet supporters gathered outside.

Trump departed the hospital in an armored SUV and remained in the vehicle as he drove past a flag-waving and cheering crowd outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Trump teased his surprise departure in a brief video posted to his Twitter page.

"I also think we're going to pay a little surprise to some of the great patriots that we have out on the street," he said, after thanking the doctors at the facility.

Trump did not alert the pool of reporters who are supposed to travel with him before leaving the hospital.

More than seven months into the coronavirus pandemic, in which he has faced bipartisan criticism for playing down the disease, Trump said in the video that he had "learned a lot" about the virus getting it himself.

"I learned it by really going to school," he said. "This is the real school, this isn't the 'let's read the books' school. And I get it and I understand it. And it's a very interesting thing."

State and county officials in New Jersey are contacting more than 200 people who were at President

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Donald Trump's Bedminster golf club for Thursday's campaign fundraiser and asking them to monitor for possible coronavirus symptoms.

If they were in close contact with the president or his staff, they are being asked to quarantine for 14 days. Officials recommend waiting five to seven days from the event to get a COVID-19 test to prevent false negatives.

Trump announced early Friday that he and his wife had tested positive for the novel coronavirus. According to a statement issued Sunday, the White House sent the New Jersey officials a list of 206 attendees.

Meanwhile, Somerset County officials are contacting employees who worked the event, most of whom live in the county.

State and county officials said the federal government is also conducting contact tracing.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement that a full contact tracing, consistent with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was completed for the president's Bedminster trip. Trump did not have any interactions with Bedminster staff or guests that would be considered to be "close" based on the guidelines, Deere said.

All White House staff considered to be in close contact during the trip have been identified, contacted and recommended to quarantine, Deere said.

1:30 p.m.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the doctors treating President Donald Trump for the coronavirus must provide trustworthy information to the public.

Pelosi said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation": "We need to have trust that what they're telling us about the President's condition is real."

Her interview aired before the president's medical team held a news conference at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he is receiving treatment.

Pressed about the conflicting information he and the White House released the day before, Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley acknowledged Sunday that he had tried to present a rosy description of the president's condition. The doctor also said Trump's blood oxygen level dropped suddenly twice in recent days, but he "has continued to improve" since then.

Pelosi says she's worried that the information the doctors are relaying to the public "has to be approved by the president. That's not very scientific."

1:10 p.m.

Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, have tested negative again for the coronavirus days after President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump were diagnosed with COVID-19.

A Pence spokesperson confirmed Sunday's negative tests.

Despite the president's hospitalization, Pence is expected to resume regular campaigning this week with no changes to protocols meant to keep him from getting infected.

Pence is set to debate Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris on Wednesday night in Salt Lake City.

Noon

President Donald Trump's physician says he was trying to "reflect the upbeat attitude" of the president and his medical team when he declined to share Saturday that Trump was placed on oxygen the day before.

Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley was pressed Sunday on why his rosy picture of the president's health was contradicted moments later by White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, who expressed that the medical team was very concerned with the president's health Friday morning when he experienced a drop in his blood oxygen levels and had a high fever.

Said Conley: "I was trying to reflect the upbeat attitude of the team, that the president, that his course of illness has had."

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He added that he "didn't want to give any information that might steer the course of illness in another direction. And in doing so, came off like we're trying to hide something, which wasn't necessarily true."

11:55 a.m.

President Donald Trump's team of doctors says he is doing well after his COVID-19 diagnosis and could be discharged as early as Monday to continue his treatment.

Dr. Brian Garibaldi, a specialist in pulmonary critical care, said Trump received a second dose of the experimental drug remdesivir along with a first dose of dexamethasone Saturday and isn't showing any side effects "that we can tell."

He said Sunday that Trump is "up and well" and the plan was to have him "out of bed" Sunday as much as possible.

Garibaldi and Trump's doctor, Dr. Sean Conley, said if things continue to go well, Trump will be able to return to the White House on Monday to continue his five-day course of remdesivir treatment and other appropriate therapy.

11:50 a.m.

The president's physician says President Donald Trump was treated with a steroid after a drop in oxygen levels on Saturday.

Dr. Sean Conley said at a news conference on Sunday that he was given the steroid dexamethasone while he was hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Conley said the president's oxygen level had dropped down to 93% on Saturday. He says the president did not feel short of breath.

He says the president's medical team is hoping Trump will be up and about, out of bed and eating and drinking throughout the day.

11:15 a.m.

President Donald Trump's doctors are set to brief the public on his condition late Sunday morning after he spent a second night hospitalized with COVID-19.

Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley, the president's physician, and the rest of his medical team are expected to provide an update on Trump's treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The briefing is expected to begin at 11:30 am.

Saturday's briefing featured mixed messages, as Conley painted a rosy picture of the president's health, only to see White House chief of staff Mark Meadows later say officials were very concerned with the president's condition before he was hospitalized.

A small group of Trump supporters gathered outside the hospital on Sunday, some waving large blue Trump flags and others holding smaller American flags and Trump-Pence reelection signs. The song "God Bless the U.S.A." played in the background, occasionally interrupted by the supportive honking of a car horn, as the group waved the flags and paced back-and-forth outside the entrance to the military installation. A much larger group had gathered Saturday night cheering for the president.

## Trump's doctor's comments on symptoms, care spark confusion

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

For the second day in a row, the Navy commander in charge of President Donald Trump's care left the world wondering: Just how sick is the president?

Dr. Sean Conley is trained in emergency medicine, not infectious disease, but he has a long list of specialists helping determine Trump's treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Conley said Sunday that Trump is doing well enough that he might be sent back to the White House in another day -- even as he announced the president was given a steroid drug that's only recommended for the very sick.



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Worse, steroids like dexamethasone tamp down important immune cells, raising concern about whether the treatment choice might hamper the ability of the president's body to fight the virus.

Then there's the question of public trust: Conley acknowledged that that he had tried to present a rosy description of the president's condition in his first briefing of the weekend "and in doing so, came off like we're trying to hide something, which wasn't necessarily true."

In fact, Conley refused to directly answer on Saturday whether the president had been given any oxygen -- only to admit the next day that he had ordered oxygen for Trump on Friday morning.

It's puzzling even for outside specialists.

"It's a little unusual to have to guess what's really going on because the clinical descriptions are so vague," said Dr. Steven Shapiro, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's chief medical and science officer. With the steroid news, "there's a little bit of a disconnect."

Conley has been Trump's physician since 2018 -- and already has experienced some criticism about his decisions. In May, Conley prescribed Trump a two-week course of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine to protect against the coronavirus after two White House staffers had tested positive. Rigorous studies have made clear that hydroxychloroquine, which Trump long championed, does no good in either treating or preventing COVID-19.

This time around, Conley is being put to an even greater test, trying to balance informing a public that needs honesty about the condition of the president with a patient who dislikes appearing vulnerable.

Dr. Stephen Xenakis, a psychiatrist who retired from the Army medical corps as a brigadier general, said Conley would be obliged to follow Trump's wishes regarding what information about his condition is released publicly, as is true in any doctor-patient relationship.

But Conley as a military medical officer is bound to adhere to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which prohibits lying, he said.

A number of current and former military officials declined to comment on the record, referring all questions to the White House. But several said they were concerned that Conley's efforts to spin a more upbeat characterization of the president's current health condition is raising flags within the Navy about his credibility and the reputation of the Navy's medical team. They said his admission that he tried to give an optimistic description of Trump's condition may lead the public to question future information he or the other doctors provide.

They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations or because they are not part of the president's medical team and therefore do not have details on his condition.

According to medical licensing records from Virginia, Conley graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2006. Rather than having an M.D. degree, Conley is a D.O., or doctor of osteopathic medicine -- a fully licensed physician but one that, according to the American Osteopathic Association, focuses more holistically on treating the "whole person."

Conley went on to a residency in emergency medicine at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, and served at a NATO trauma hospital at Kandahar airfield in Afghanistan.

A trauma expert isn't required to be up to speed on respiratory viruses -- but deciding to move Trump to Walter Reed meant Conley would be backed up by a team of critical care experts who specialize in pulmonary and infectious disease.

Several are Walter Reed staff, but the team also brought in Dr. Brian Garibaldi from nearby Johns Hopkins University, a well-known expert in acute lung injury who has cared for COVID-19 patients.

Garibaldi told a Hopkins publication over the summer that he had enrolled in a study testing if hydroxychloroquine could protect health workers -- even as he said doctors must "resist the urge to give this medicine to everyone. We all want to do something to help our patients but sometimes doing something can be more harmful than doing nothing and I think we need to keep that in mind."

What's known about Trump's current treatment: He was given an experimental antibody drug that most people could get only in a research study -- along with a course of remdesivir, an antiviral, earlier than most patients.

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Pittsburgh's Shapiro, who is both a lung and critical care specialist, called those reasonable decisions: The idea is to help the body fight the virus early, before it triggers a lung-damaging inflammatory overreaction.

What Trump's medical team hasn't mentioned: Whether he's getting blood thinners, which are being given to nearly all hospitalized COVID-19 patients to prevent virus-triggered blood clots that in turn harm the lungs and other organs.

And giving the steroid drug to a mildly sick patient disregards treatment guidelines from the National Institutes of Health and World Health Organization that say it's only for people ill enough to need oxygen. For seriously ill people, research shows that once the virus has escaped the immune system, dexamethasone can tamp down the resulting inflammation and save lives.

"If they're really talking about discharge tomorrow, and he really isn't on oxygen," Shapiro said, "then it's more likely that the dexamethasone is just thrown in there as more one more thing that probably isn't necessary and might not even be helpful."

"The next few days are going to be key," Shapiro noted.

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AP reporters Lolita C. Baldor and Brian Witte contributed to this report.

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## Parents: Online learning program has racist, sexist content

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Zan Timtim doesn't think it's safe for her eighth-grade daughter to return to school in person during the coronavirus pandemic but also doesn't want her exposed to a remote learning program that misspelled and mispronounced the name of Queen Lili'uokalani, the last monarch to rule the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Timtim's daughter is Native Hawaiian and speaks Hawaiian fluently, "so to see that inaccuracy with the Hawaiian history side was really upsetting," she said.

Even before the school year started, Timtim said she heard from other parents about racist, sexist and other concerning content on Acellus, an online program some students use to learn from home.

Parents have called out "towelban" as a multiple-choice answer for a question about a terrorist group and Grumpy from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" described as a "woman hater." Some also say the program isn't as rigorous as it should be.

As parents help their children navigate remote classes, they're more aware of what's being taught, and it's often not simply coming from an educator on Zoom. Some schools have turned to programs like Acellus to supplement online classes by teachers, while others use it for students who choose to learn from home as campuses reopen. And because of the scramble to keep classes running during a health crisis, vetting the curriculum may not have been as thorough as it should have been, experts say.

Thousands of schools nationwide use Acellus, according to the company, and parents' complaints are leading some districts to reconsider or stop using the program.

"We wouldn't have had this visibility if it weren't for all of us at home, often sitting side by side and making sure: 'Is this working for you?'" said Adrienne Robillard, who withdrew her seventh-grade daughter from Kailua Intermediate School after concluding Acellus lacked substance and featured racist content.

When school officials said her daughter could do distance learning without Acellus, Robillard reenrolled her.

Acellus officials didn't respond to multiple calls from The Associated Press seeking comment. In an online message to parents, founder Roger Billings called the controversy "an organized attack" and said "they have not found anything in our content that is really racist or sexist." An automated closed-captioning system misinterpreted some words, he said.

Kansas City, Missouri-based Acellus was created in 2001, according to its website, which says it "delivers online instruction, compliant with the latest standards, through high-definition video lessons made more

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engaging with multimedia and animation.”

In a video on his website, Billings responds to criticism about his credentials by saying he earned a bachelor’s degree in “composite fields” of chemistry, physics, engineering and other subjects from a university he doesn’t name. He says he started a company focused on hydrogen energy technology and that he later earned a “doctor of research and innovation” degree at the International Academy of Science, the nonprofit that develops Acellus courses.

Hawaii selected Acellus based on an “implementation timeline” as well as “cost effectiveness” and other factors, Superintendent Christina Kishimoto said in a memo.

“I don’t think it’s unreasonable to think that price was the main factor,” said Charles Lang, visiting assistant professor of learning analytics at Columbia University’s Teachers College in New York City. “And to some extent, you do get what you pay for in terms of content.”

Vetting educational programs takes time, but with the pandemic, districts needed to quickly find remote learning platforms, said Eric Hirsch, executive director of EdReports, which helps schools review instructional materials.

“So this spring, we saw a scramble, a dash,” he said.

And evaluating curriculum is like the “Wild West” — it varies across school systems, Lang said.

“We were in some serious situations with the pandemic, and we had to figure something out,” Hawaii school board member Kili Namau’u said at a recent meeting. “And I think schools made some pretty quick decisions. Maybe they weren’t the most accurate decisions.”

She later said in an interview that it would be more problematic to pull Acellus in the middle of the quarter.

But as a Native Hawaiian, she wants to ensure Acellus has corrected “appalling” and inaccurate information about Hawaiian history: “I’m particularly dismayed with that particular module.”

Seeing the queen’s name misspelled and information that the Hawaiian islands were “discovered” by Europeans was enough for Timtim and her husband to decide their daughter should join Waipahu Intermediate School’s hybrid remote and in-person program despite their concerns about COVID-19.

Then most of Hawaii’s public schools, which began virtually on Aug. 17, extended remote learning until mid-October.

“I just pray we figure out what to do if she does have to go to school once or twice a week,” Timtim said.

The Hawaii Department of Education, the nation’s only statewide school district, is considering what to do about Acellus, but some schools decided on their own to stop using it. Other U.S. districts, like Alameda Unified in California, quickly dropped the program after complaints surfaced.

In a recent memo, the California Department of Education said it “has learned through examples shared that Acellus lessons may contain highly inappropriate content and may not meet state legal requirements surrounding instructional materials.” The memo to superintendents and school administrators cited “racist depictions of Black Americans” and “at least one question that perpetuates Islamophobic stereotypes.”

A Sept. 17 memo Hawaii’s superintendent sent to the school board said education officials were working with Acellus to address inappropriate content.

Mariko Honda-Oliver heard concerning things from other parents but didn’t find anything she considered racist. She was troubled, however, that her son, a second-grader at Makalapa Elementary, blew through more than a week of material on his first day.

Similarly, Cassie Favreau-Chung said her son, a freshman at Mililani High School, was looking forward to the independence of remote learning but found he wasn’t getting a quality education because the program had no writing assignments.

“He hasn’t found anything on his own that he thought was racist or sexist,” she said. “However, I will also say that a lot of kids, it’ll go over their heads.”

For example, “towelban,” Favreau-Chung said.

She switched her son to the hybrid program next quarter to avoid Acellus, hoping the school will let him keep learning from home.

The experience has made Favreau-Chung lose faith: “It’s the first time that I have not been proud to

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have my kid in public school.”

Honda-Oliver, whose military family has experienced schools worldwide, also is disappointed.

“This experience of having to see how other districts and other states are doing distance learning compared to Hawaii has kind of reinforced that Hawaii really is not the place to come if you want to give your children a good education,” she said.

## 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. A cleanup effort on Sunday did little to increase confidence, with Trump’s doctor saying he was trying to project an “upbeat attitude” while also revealing new details about the president’s condition that he had not previously disclosed.

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 whom 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

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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 evening, he was transported via the presidential 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 breathe. 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. After describing Trump's symptoms as "mild" the previous day, Meadows now said the president's situation had been "very concerning." Though his health was improving, Meadows said the next 48 hours would be critical.

On Sunday, Conley conceded that he had been trying to be "upbeat" in his assessments. But his second briefing revealed how much he had withheld: the fact that the president had required supplemental oxygen on Friday morning and that the president was given steroids because of a second drop in oxygen levels on Saturday. Conley said Sunday that he didn't know whether Trump required supplemental oxygen on Saturday and that he would have to ask the nurses. He also sidestepped questions about the results of Trump's lung scans.

Still, Conley said the president could be discharged from Walter Reed as soon as Monday.

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>

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

By The Associated Press undefined

A White House physician's comments on Sunday about the health of President Donald Trump amid his coronavirus diagnosis added a new layer of confusion even as the doctor sought to clarify contradictory statements from the day before.

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

WHAT WE KNOW: TRUMP'S MEDICAL CONDITION

Dr. Sean Conley, the president's physician, said Trump was given a steroid dexamethasone after his blood oxygen level had dropped suddenly twice in recent days, but he "has continued to improve" since then. Conley said Trump could be discharged from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as early as Monday.

Conley said Trump had a "high fever" and a blood oxygen level below 94% on Friday and during "another episode" on Saturday.

Conley was evasive when asked whether Trump's blood oxygen level had dropped below 90%: "We don't have any recordings here on that." The level currently stands at 98%, Trump's medical team said.

Blood oxygen saturation is a key health marker for COVID-19 patients. A normal reading is between 95 and 100. A drop below 90 is concerning.

Trump's team said Sunday that Trump received oxygen at the White House on Friday. They were not clear on whether he received any Saturday.

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The additional details emerged after White House chief of staff Mark Meadows on Saturday said some of Trump's vital signs were "very concerning" Friday. That disclosure contradicted a rosy assessment Trump's doctors had initially provided.

Along with a steroid, Trump has been treated with two experimental drugs, 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. Trump also has taken two doses of a five-day course of remdesivir, a Gilead Sciences drug currently used for moderately and severely ill patients.

Trump's team said Sunday that Trump is "up and around" and doing well. They said if things continue to go well, Trump will be able to return to the White House on Monday to continue his treatment.

**WHAT WE DON'T KNOW: TRUMP'S MEDICAL CONDITION**

Trump's medical team continued to dodge many questions Sunday, such as the specific timing of the president's dip in oxygen and the impact of the disease on his lungs.

Asked repeatedly about what lung scan tests found and whether there have been any signs of pneumonia or other damage, Conley responded: "We're tracking all of that. There's some expected findings but nothing of any major clinical concern."

Conley also hasn't specified 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 evening, the doctor said.

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.

## 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.

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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.

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.

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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

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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.

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% typing.

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



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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."

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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.

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."

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Follow Tom Murphy on Twitter: @thpmurphy.

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

## **AP EXPLAINS: What happens if a candidate for president dies?**

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a month before Election Day and President Donald Trump is in the hospital, infected with a virus that has killed more than 209,000 Americans. What happens in the election — already well underway — should his condition take a turn for the worse?

If the president is unable to serve, through illness or death, the 25th Amendment makes clear the powers of the presidency transfer to Vice President Mike Pence until the president regains the ability to perform his duties.

But what happens if a candidate for president dies before Election Day? Or right after? What happens if the winning candidate dies before Inauguration Day?

It's never happened in a country with a long transition between Election Day at the start of November and the start of a president's new term on Jan. 20. The Constitution, as well as state and federal election laws, would help guide the country through the process. But with no precedent, the outcome is far from certain.

The House of Representatives has the final say on who wins the presidency. Before the House might have to take charge, there are roles for political parties, state legislatures, the Electoral College, the courts and, most importantly, voters.

Here are some questions and answers about what might happen if a presidential candidate dies, before or after the election:

### **CAN POLITICAL PARTIES REPLACE A CANDIDATE WHO DIES?**

Yes, but not this close to Election Day. Nearly 63 million ballots have already been sent to voters, with nearly 3 million votes already cast. The deadline for candidates to withdraw has passed in all but two states — South Carolina and Connecticut — and their deadlines are a few days away.

The date of the election is set by federal law — the Tuesday after the first Monday in November — which falls this year on Nov. 3. Only Congress can change the date of the election.

"It would be impossible to change ballots at this time without delaying the election and starting the voting process over again," said Richard Hasen, a law professor at the University of California–Irvine School of Law. "I don't think Congress is going to do that."

But it's important to remember that in a presidential election, voters aren't actually casting ballots for candidates. Instead, they are voting for slates of electors who will pick the president and vice president as members of the Electoral College. To win the presidency, a candidate must win the backing of a majority of electors — 270 — in the Electoral College.

In modern U.S. elections, the meeting of the Electoral College is essentially a ceremonial confirmation of the choice made by voters. This year, it will take place on Dec. 14. But if the winning candidate is no longer alive, it would be anything but routine.

"The question is, Who would the electors support?" said Richard Pildes, a constitutional law professor at New York University.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE WINNING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DIES AFTER THE ELECTION?**

The 20th Amendment says the term of the current president and vice president ends at noon on Jan. 20. There is no provision to extend it. The amendment also says if the president-elect dies, the vice president-elect shall be sworn in as president at the start of the new term.

However, the winning candidate doesn't become president-elect until a joint session of Congress counts the votes from the Electoral College and declares a winner, Pildes said.

By law, Congress is scheduled to formally receive the votes from the Electoral College on Jan. 6. The new Congress, which will be elected in November and sworn into office on Jan. 3, will preside.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE WINNING CANDIDATE DIES BEFORE CONGRESS DECLARES A WINNER?**

"That's the worst, most confusing time," said John Fortier, director of governmental studies at the Bi-partisan Policy Center. "They are going to have to figure out what to do with (Electoral College) votes cast

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for a candidate who has died.”

If the winning candidate dies before the Electoral College meets, the electors could coalesce around a replacement candidate recommended by the party, perhaps the vice presidential candidate.

“For the most part, these people are picked because they are loyal party people,” Fortier said. “You could have a few stray here or there, but they are not rebels.”

A party’s electors would have an incentive to coalesce around one candidate, he said, because they wouldn’t want to risk throwing the election to the other party. But there is no guarantee they would all agree on a replacement candidate.

Some states have laws that require electors to vote for the presidential candidate who won the state-wide vote; other states could quickly pass laws governing the electors in the event that a candidate dies.

“The party can say what the party wants, but the states would decide what to do with those electors,” Hasen said.

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in July that states may require electors to support the candidate picked by voters in the election. However, the court left open what would happen if the candidate dies.

“Nothing in this opinion should be taken to permit the states to bind electors to a deceased candidate,” Justice Elena Kagan wrote in a footnote to her majority opinion.

If this happens, expect litigation.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CONGRESS?

The 12th Amendment to the Constitution gives Congress the final say on who is elected president and vice president. Congress decides whether to accept or reject slates of electors from the Electoral College and to determine whether a candidate has won the required 270 electoral votes to become president.

As a check on this power, both the House and Senate must agree to reject a slate of electors. If the two chambers don’t agree, the electors get counted under federal law, said Michael Morley, an assistant law professor at Florida State University.

If no candidate reaches 270 electoral votes, the House chooses the president and the Senate chooses the vice president, in a process spelled out in the Constitution.

In the House, each state delegation gets one vote for president, and they must choose among the three candidates who received the most votes in the Electoral College. Currently, Republicans have a majority in 26 state delegations, but the numbers could change after the November elections and a new Congress takes office.

The Senate would choose the vice president by a simple majority vote.

Election experts said they wouldn’t expect the courts to play a role at this point because the Constitution clearly grants Congress the authority to resolve a disputed election for president.

The Supreme Court did effectively decide the 2000 presidential election in favor of Republican George W. Bush by ending the recount in Florida. But the court’s ruling came before the Electoral College votes were presented to Congress.

“It is really in Congress’ hands after the electors have voted,” Fortier said.

## HAS CONGRESS EVER HAD TO DECIDE THE OUTCOME?

Congress has decided three presidential elections, but it’s been almost 150 years, according to a history of the House published by the chamber.

In 1800, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr tied in the Electoral College vote, with 73 electors apiece. After six days of debate and 36 ballots, the House chose Jefferson as the nation’s third president.

In 1824, Andrew Jackson won a plurality of the popular vote and the most Electoral College votes. But he failed to reach a majority in a four-candidate race, and the House chose one of his opponents, John Quincy Adams, to become the nation’s sixth president. Jackson won the presidency four years later.

Congress also helped choose the president following the election in 1876 between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel Tilden. Tilden won the popular vote and the electoral count. But Republicans challenged the results in three Southern states, which had submitted slates of electors for both candidates, according to the House history.

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To resolve the dispute, Congress set up a bipartisan commission of House members, senators and Supreme Court justices. After cutting a deal to remove federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction following the Civil War, the commission voted along party lines to award the presidency to Hayes.

Stephen Ohlemacher is the Election Decision Editor for The Associated Press.

This story has been updated to correct the spelling of the surname of a law professor at the University of California–Irvine School of Law to Hasen, not Hasan.

## Delays in verifying mail-in ballots will slow election tally

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

Voters awaiting results in some of the key presidential battleground states on election night should be prepared to keep waiting, thanks to obstacles that will slow the count for what is expected to be a crush of mailed-in ballots amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Many states allow local officials to start processing those ballots weeks before Election Day or even as they arrive. But in some of the most crucial states on the electoral map, rules prevent or give clerks little time to begin sorting ballots and verifying signatures before the election.

That's priming a scenario in which results may come in days — or even weeks — later.

In an election cycle that has seen President Donald Trump baselessly cast doubt on the legitimacy of mail voting, many fear that any delay in results could give the president more room to continue his attacks.

Democrats are requesting mail-in ballots at higher rates than Republicans in many states, giving rise to the notion that Trump could enjoy election night leads — a so-called "red mirage" — only to see that edge slowly vanish as mail-in ballots are tallied over the days that follow.

Potential problems are looming most acutely in Pennsylvania, which is being hotly contested by Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden. Republican state lawmakers there have not allowed additional time to process ballots that arrive before Election Day, despite pleas from local election officials.

Pennsylvania is expected to see 3 million or more mail-in ballots — half of this year's total and a tenfold increase from 2016. Registered Democrats are applying at a rate of nearly 3 to 1 over Republicans.

"The longer it takes for the election results to be known, the greater the risk that they're going to be questioned and second-guessed, and that we're going to be that national news story that we really don't want to be," said Lisa Schaefer, executive director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

The seemingly mundane administrative task of processing ballots — verifying signatures and other voter information to ensure legitimacy, and separating them from their envelope so they are ready to be tabulated — essentially readies ballots for counting on Election Day. That helps speed up the release of results.

County officials have pushed Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and state lawmakers to set aside a larger partisan fight and let them process mail-in ballots before Election Day. They argue that doing so will speed up vote counting amid concerns that the presidential election result will hang in limbo over a drawn-out count.

During a recent rally in Pennsylvania, Trump said the only way he will lose the state is if Democrats "steal the election."

"A lot of people are worried that if it takes a long time to count, people are going to use that to say we can't trust the results, when in fact it's the exact opposite," said Lawrence Norden, director of the Brennan Center's Election Reform Program. "It's taking so long because of all these security measures to make sure the count is as accurate as possible."

In Michigan, another battleground this fall, the Republican-controlled legislature has approved a measure to let clerks begin some ballot processing in cities or townships with at least 25,000 people the day before Election Day. Democrats had asked for at least three days of processing time and for no population-based limits.

"That one day can really make a difference," said the bill sponsor, Republican Sen. Ruth Johnson, a former secretary of state.

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Johnson said allotting additional days would have been difficult because the new law will require volunteer election inspectors from both major political parties to observe the removal of ballots from their outer envelopes.

"You need to make sure that there's integrity," she said.

Still, the timing is tight. The day before Election Day already is a busy one for local election officials scrambling to get ready for in-person voters. Sonja Buffa, clerk for Warren, a city of roughly 135,000 people outside Detroit, has sent upwards of 30,000 absentee ballots so far with hundreds more going out every day.

"The day before is the worst day," Buffa said. "I wish I had three days so we could spread it out and not be so stressed."

Democrats in Wisconsin, another closely-watched state, sued in federal court to allow for absentee ballots to be tabulated before Election Day. They argued that the law, which had not been an issue before the pandemic when absentee voting was about 6% of all ballots cast, made it difficult for clerks to address problems with the ballots.

But the judge was unmoved, noting in a September ruling that state law already allows for errors made on the outside of absentee ballots to be corrected before Election Day. It is on the outside of the ballot that voters must have a witness signature, address and date, the source of most of the errors seen in absentee ballots.

The judge also said that extending the deadline for counting absentee ballots by six days -- a ruling Republicans vowed to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court — sufficiently addresses the concern about not being able to count absentee ballots before Election Day.

Andrew Hitt, chairman of the Wisconsin Republican Party, said "the earlier you start counting and the wider the time frame before you normally do it can introduce some risk into the processes and election integrity."

In a normal election, when about 5% of Georgia voters cast absentee ballots, scanning and tabulating them on Election Day isn't a problem, said Gabriel Sterling, voting system implementation manager for the secretary of state's office.

But with fears about potential coronavirus exposure, nearly 1.2 million people voted absentee in the primary, about 50% of the total turnout. With such a dramatic increase, county election officials would be overwhelmed if they had to wait until Election Day to process ballots, Sterling said.

The state election board implemented a rule before the June primary to allow county election officials to begin processing absentee ballots eight days before Election Day, as long as they aren't actually tabulated until Nov. 3. Anticipating an even greater flood of absentee ballots this fall, the board extended that to 15 days.

"If we had not done this, the system would have broken down," Sterling said. "I do genuinely feel bad for those states where there's a hard law against it."

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Izaguirre reported from Lindenhurst, New York. Associated Press writers Scott Bauer in Madison, Wis.; Kate Brumback in Atlanta; David Eggert in Lansing, Mich.; and Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pa., contributed to this report.

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## **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.

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 aimed at inspiring a revived sense of the human family. "Fratelli Tutti"

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(Brothers All) 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 confront the "dark clouds over a closed world."

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 its bleak diagnosis of a human family falling apart goes far beyond the problems posed by the outbreak. 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 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. He repeated his criticism of the "perverse" global economic system, which he said consistently keeps the poor on the margins while enriching the few — an argument he made most fully in his 2015 landmark environmental encyclical "Laudato Sii" (Praised Be).

Francis also 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."

Francis' English-language biographer, Austen Ivereigh, said with its two key predecessors, the new encyclical amounts to the final part of a triptych of papal teachings and may well be the last of the pontificate.

"There is little doubt that these three documents ... will be considered the teaching backbone of the Francis era," Ivereigh wrote in *Commonweal* magazine.

Francis made clear the text had wide circulation, printing the encyclical in the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* and distributing it free in St. Peter's Square on Sunday to mark the resumption of printed editions following a hiatus during the COVID-19 lockdown.

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."

"That a theme so ancient is spoken with such urgency now is because Pope Francis fears a detachment from the view that we are all really responsible for all, all related to all, all entitled to a just share of what

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has been given for the good of all," said Anna Rowlands, professor of Catholic social thought at Britain's University of Durham, who was on hand to present the encyclical Sunday at the Vatican.

Francis 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.

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.

The fact the 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>

## France, Italy search for missing victims after deadly floods

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French authorities deployed about 1,000 firefighters, four military helicopters and troops to search for at least eight people who were missing after devastating floods hit a mountainous border region with Italy, where at least four people were killed.

Emergency workers in Italy recovered two corpses Sunday in northern Liguria that they feared may have been washed away as a result of the storms that killed two other people on Saturday.

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 include two French 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 service 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, the body of one person reported missing on Saturday — a French citizen of Italian origin — was found in the Roia River, the ANSA and LaPresse news agencies reported. The second one washed up closer to where the Roia empties into the Mediterranean along Italy's border with France.

An Italian firefighter was killed on Saturday 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.

Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to the story

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

## **Pilgrims return to Mecca as Saudi eases virus restrictions**

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A very small, limited number of people on Sunday donned the white terycloth garment symbolic of the Muslim pilgrimage and 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 in early March of suspending the smaller "umrah" pilgrimage, which can be taken at any time of the year and draws millions from across the world, as the coronavirus morphed into a global pandemic and prompted countries to impose lockdowns and curfews to slow down transmission.

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.

The Grand Mosque, which is being sterilized and cleaned multiple times a day, houses the cube-shaped Kaaba that observant Muslims pray toward five times a day.

Before visitors can enter the mosque to pray or perform the umrah, they have to apply and reserve a specific time and date through an online application to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing. Visitors can also select their means of transportation and meeting points via the app .

State TV showed on Sunday what appeared to be fewer than 50 people circling the Kaaba at the same time and walking several meters (feet) apart. Typically, the mosque would be packed with worshippers from around the world crowded shoulder-to-shoulder at all times of the day and night.

The second phase for loosening restrictions at the Grand Mosque comes into effect on Oct. 18, allowing a maximum of 15,000 pilgrims and 40,000 for prayer from among residents and citizens based on allocated times via the app.

Muslim travelers from outside Saudi Arabia could be allowed to perform the umrah pilgrimage as early as Nov. 1, the Interior Ministry has said. Saudi Arabia recently began easing some restrictions on international flights for the first time since March.

The kingdom held a dramatically downsized, symbolic hajj pilgrimage in July due to concerns that it could easily have become a global super-spreader event for the virus. Pilgrims were selected after applying through an online portal and all were residents or citizens of Saudi Arabia. Rather than the more than 2 million pilgrims the kingdom hosts for the annual event, as little as 1,000 took part after being tested for the virus and quarantined.

Despite taking early and sweeping measures to contain the virus, Saudi Arabia has recorded nearly 336,000 cases, including 4,850 deaths.

## **'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.



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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.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 5, the 279th day of 2020. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 5, 2005, defying the White House, senators voted 90-9 to approve an amendment sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that would prohibit the use of "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" against anyone in U.S. government custody. (A reluctant President George W. Bush later signed off on the amendment.)

On this date:

In 1892, the Dalton Gang, notorious for its train robberies, was practically wiped out while attempting to rob a pair of banks in Coffeyville, Kansas.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1955, a stage adaptation of "The Diary of Anne Frank" by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett opened at the Cort Theatre in New York.

In 1958, racially-desegregated Clinton High School in Clinton, Tennessee, was mostly leveled by an early morning bombing.

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In 1983, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1988, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen lambasted Republican Dan Quayle during their vice-presidential debate, telling Quayle, "Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

In 1989, a jury in Charlotte, North Carolina, convicted former P-T-L evangelist Jim Bakker (BAY'-kur) of using his television show to defraud followers.

In 2001, tabloid photo editor Robert Stevens died from inhaled anthrax, the first of a series of anthrax cases in Florida, New York, New Jersey and Washington.

In 2011, Apple founder Steve Jobs, 56, died in Palo Alto, California.

In 2017, Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein announced that he was taking a leave of absence from his company after a New York Times article detailed decades of alleged sexual harassment against women including actor Ashley Judd.

In 2018, a jury in Chicago convicted white police officer Jason Van Dyke of second-degree murder in the 2014 shooting of Black teenager Laquan McDonald.

Ten years ago: Faisal Shahzad (FY'-sul shah-ZAHD'), the Pakistani immigrant who'd tried to detonate a car bomb in Times Square, accepted a life sentence from a federal judge in New York with a smirk and warned that Americans could expect more bloodshed at the hands of Muslims. President Barack Obama convened the first-ever White House summit on community colleges, calling them the "unsung heroes of America's education system."

Five years ago: The United States, Japan and 10 other nations in Asia and the Americas reached agreement on the landmark Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. The Coast Guard concluded that El Faro, a container ship that went missing during Hurricane Joaquin off the Bahamas, had sunk. Irish-born William Campbell, Satoshi Omura and of Japan and Tu Youyou of China won the Nobel Prize in medicine for discoveries that helped doctors fight malaria and infections caused by roundworm parasites.

One year ago: A Taliban official said a delegation from the group had met with a U.S. envoy in the Pakistani capital; it was the first such encounter since President Donald Trump announced a month earlier that a peace deal to end Afghanistan's 18-year war was dead. Iraqi protesters pressed on with anti-government rallies in the capital and across several provinces for a fifth day, setting government offices on fire; security agencies fatally shot 19 protesters and wounded more than three dozen.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Glynis Johns is 97. College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 83. Rhythm-and-blues singer Arlene Smith (The Chantels) is 79. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 77. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., is 77. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 73. Blues musician Rick Estrin is 71. Actor Karen Allen is 69. Writer-producer-director Clive Barker is 68. Rock musician David Bryson (Counting Crows) is 66. Astrophysicist-author Neil deGrasse Tyson is 62. Memorial designer Maya Lin is 61. Actor Daniel Baldwin is 60. Rock singer-musician Dave Dederer is 56. Hockey Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux is 55. Actor Guy Pearce is 53. Actor Josie Bissett is 50. Singer-actor Heather Headley is 46. Pop-rock singer Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) is 46. Rock musician Brian Mashburn (Save Ferris) is 45. Actor Parminder Nagra (pahr-MIHN'-da NAH'-grah) is 45. Actor Scott Weinger is 45. Actor Kate Winslet is 45. Rock musician James Valentine (Maroon 5) is 42. Rock musician Paul Thomas (Good Charlotte) is 40. Actor Jesse Eisenberg is 37. TV personality Nicky Hilton is 37. Actor Azure Parsons is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brooke Valentine is 35. Actor Kevin Bigley is 34. Actor Joshua Logan Moore is 26. Actor Jacob Tremblay is 14.