

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 1 of 105

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Lake Region Marching Festival](#)
- [6- Christian Faith Publishing Ad](#)
- [7- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [10- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [11- October 9th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [15- South Dakota COVID-19 Numbers](#)
- [16- Brown County COVID-19 Numbers](#)
- [17- Day County COVID-19 Numbers](#)
- [18- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [19- Weather Pages](#)
- [22- Daily Devotional](#)
- [23- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [24- News from the Associated Press](#)



## Monday, Oct. 12

Groton School Instructional Planning Day (No school for students)

Volleyball hosts Waubay-Summit (one combined junior high match at 5 p.m., junior varsity match at 6 p.m. with varsity match to follow.

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

## Tuesday, Oct. 13

Volleyball hosts Tiospa Zina (junior high matches in GHS Gym - 7th grade at 5 p.m., 8th grade at 6 p.m.) (Matches in the Arena: C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. with varsity to follow)

## Wednesday, Oct. 14:

LifeTouch Pictures at Elementary School

## Thursday, Oct. 15

LifeTouch Pictures at MS/HS

3:30 p.m.: Region Cross Country meet at Webster

4:30 p.m.: Junior High Football hosts Webster Area (7th grade at 4:30 p.m., 8th grade at 5:30 p.m.)

Volleyball at Milbank (7th and 8th grade matches at 4:30 p.m., C/JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match)

## Friday, Oct. 16

End of First Quarter

7 p.m.: Football hosts Stanley County



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

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

## Lake Region Marching Festival held Friday in Groton



The judges for the Lake Region Marching Festival were John Patzlaff, Aberdeen Central (in back with hat) and Jerry Letcher from Northern State University. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Lake Region Marching Festival was held Friday in Groton. Bands receiving gold ratings were Leola, Langford, Northwestern, Ipswich, Aberdeen Roncalli, Sully Buttes, Pierre T.F. Riggs Emerald Regiment, Great Plains Lutheran and Warner. Simmons/Holgate Middle School received a silver.

Best Winds/Best Drumline award went to Ipswich. Best Colorguard went to Aberdeen Roncalli. Groton Area High School Band was the exhibition band so they did not qualify for any awards.



**Groton Area High School Marching band started off the marching festival.** (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 3 of 105



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 4 of 105



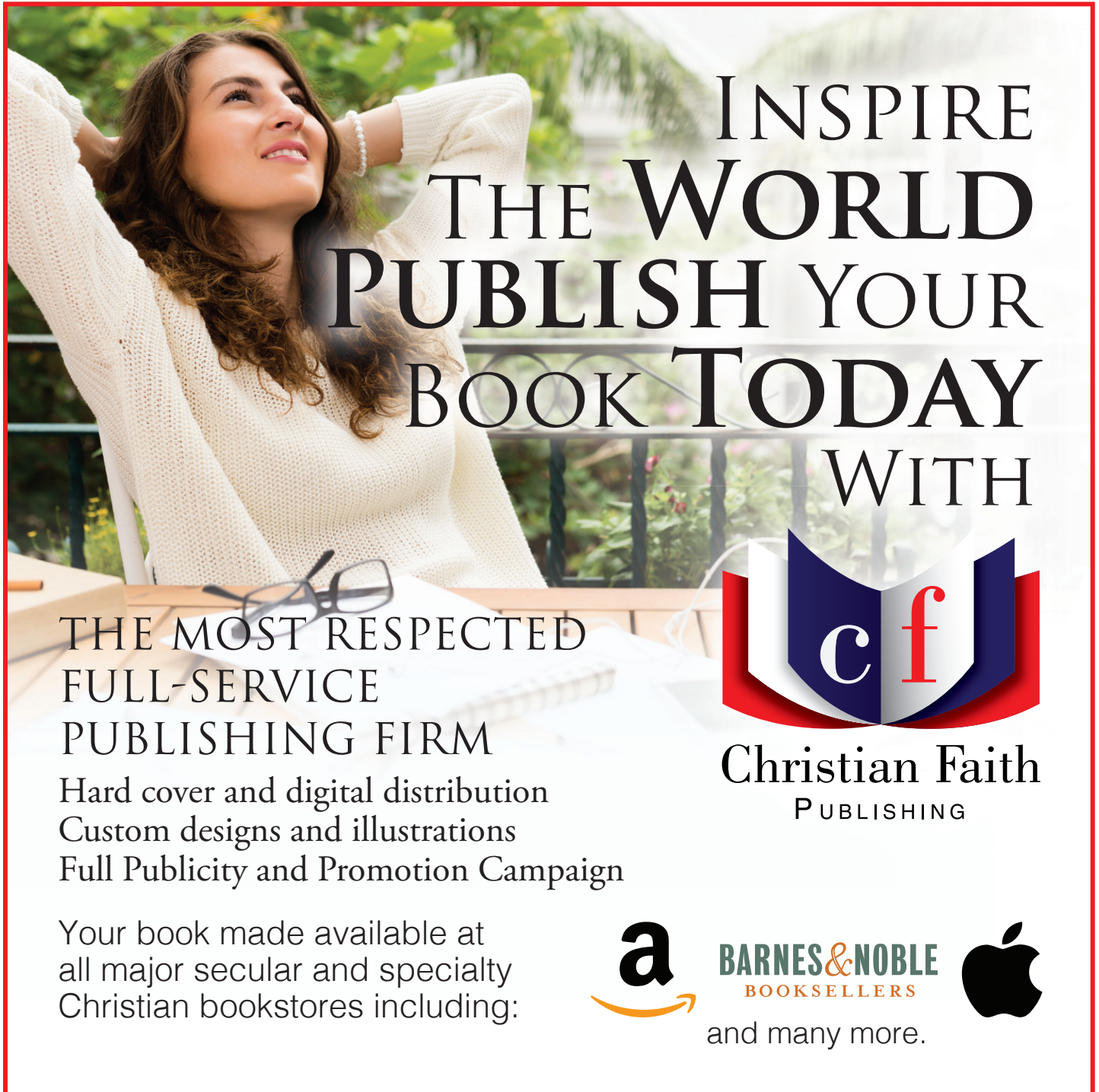
# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 5 of 105



**T.F. Riggs Emerald Regiment**





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# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 7 of 105

**#229 in a series**

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

We're still in a lot of trouble: As I mentioned last night, three days makes a trend. We're over 50,000 new cases again today at 57,700, this is the highest we've had in two months and a 0.8% increase to 7,693,700. That percentage increase in total cases is concerning; five days ago it was at 0.5%, and today it's at 0.8%. This is a 60% increase in the rate of growth over just a few days. Our rolling average for new cases has set records every day for over a week. This is looking very much like that fall wave we were warned to expect in mid-October. Six states—Utah, Montana, North Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa—reported record hospitalizations although the country as a whole is far from setting records yet. And the death toll has risen to 213,500. There were 877 deaths reported today, a 0.4% increase. This is Day 4 over 500 deaths when we've had more than one day over 1000 deaths recently; I had been hoping we could stay below that 500 number, but nope.

There was a time when the total cases per 100,000 residents was owned by New York and New Jersey, followed by a bunch of other northeastern states. Not so much anymore. It is important to realize that statistics based on total anything since the pandemic began are harder to move the longer this goes on. But we've had states trending so badly that New York and New Jersey have moved down to #21 and #22, respectively, on the list for per capita case reports. Who's taking their place? You already know: North Dakota at #2, Iowa at #5, South Dakota at #7, Tennessee at #8, Arkansas at #9. Wisconsin follows up at #15. While I am seeing worrying trends in the Northeast as case reporting jumps back up, the Midwest and Plains have stolen the spotlight and don't look to be ready to give it up anytime soon.

I see 38 states showing increases in new cases that are concerning. In the red zone with 25+ daily new cases per 100,000 residents, indicating unchecked community spread, are 13 states and territories: Guam, Montana, Idaho, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Tennessee. In the orange zone with 10-24 daily new cases per 100,000 residents, indicating escalating community spread, are 25 states and territories: Arkansas, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Texas, Minnesota, Louisiana, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico. In the yellow zone with 1-9 daily new cases per 100,000 residents, indicating potential community spread, are 15 states and territories: Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and District of the Columbia. And in the blue zone with less than 1 daily new case per 100,000 residents, indicating they're close to containment, are just three territories: the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the US Virgin Islands. This is not great.

I realize with testing still so limited, it's difficult in many places to get one when you need it; but let's talk about when you should seek one. If you've been exposed to someone with Covid-19, the first thing you should do is to quarantine yourself. Stay home, and stay away from other people. Don't go to work, don't go to the store, don't go out with friends. Don't have friends over either. If you live with others, wear a mask all of the time at home, and keep to one room of the house as much as possible. Increase ventilation by opening a window if at all possible. Don't speak more than necessary, and do so quietly; we know you expel far less virus if you refrain from talking, especially loud talking. I know quarantine would be boring, but I've understood boring is preferable to hospitalized with no visitors, which is where you could put one of your friends or family members if you transmit the infection to them. Stay in quarantine for 14 days from your exposure, no matter what the test results show; false negatives happen with some frequency, so you cannot completely trust that your negative result means you are not infected.

It's most likely going to take a few days for the virus to replicate enough to be easily detectable. We're not sure exactly when you begin to shed virus, so it's really not safe to expose others at any point; but hold off on getting a test for five to seven days after you were exposed. This increases the likelihood of detecting an infection if you have one. If your first test is negative, it is recommended you repeat it at around 12 days, just in case the virus took longer to replicate in you. Remember that rapid tests give more

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 8 of 105

false negatives, so they're not foolproof. The lab test (RT-PCR) is more accurate, but still misses some cases as well. Keep in mind most folks transmit best for a couple of days before they develop symptoms, so feeling fine is no guarantee you're not infectious. It is best to wait for a negative test after 14 days before ending your quarantine.

Most people take four to five days to develop symptoms, but it could happen as soon as within two days and it could take as long as 14 days. Both extremes are fairly uncommon, but it happens. That possible 14-day incubation period is why you must quarantine for a full two weeks. Some people never develop symptoms, yet are infectious to others. Some 40% of transmissions are thought to occur from asymptomatic individuals, so even if you're feeling great, you need to wait out the entire period.

We've heard about fairly rare cases of Covid-19 in animals, primarily a few pet dogs and cats and then a small number of big cats in zoos. For the most part, those animals haven't shown symptoms at all or have been only mildly ill. There is one animal, however, that can acquire infection from humans and becomes seriously ill, and that is the mink. There was an outbreak on mink farms in Europe earlier this year, and now there have been two fairly large ones in the US. The cases have occurred in Utah, where nearly 10,000 animals have died on nine farms so far, and in Wisconsin, where more than 2000 mink have died on one farm; these have not yet been contained. The animals show difficulty breathing and crusting around the eyes; the disease progresses rapidly with the infected animals dead by the next day. We do not know what it is about mink that makes them so susceptible, but clearly they are. The affected farms are under quarantine with only essential workers permitted. The mink have acquired the infection from infected farm workers in Utah, and the source appears to be the same in Wisconsin. There have been no cases of transmission from mink to humans. This appears to be a one-way thing. I would guess this outbreak has the potential to cause significant economic loss; pelts from animals that have died have to be destroyed, and deaths of breeding animals would constitute a particular loss.

The final results of a study of remdesivir, the replication-blocking antiviral which has been available on an emergency use authorization (EUA) since May, were published in the New England Journal of Medicine today, and the news is good. This was a randomized controlled study, which is the gold standard for these things. These data support the earlier study which led to the EUA. Median recovery with remdesivir was 10 days versus 15 days with placebo, and patients were more likely to improve by day 15.

Evelyn Nomayo's family emigrated from Nigeria, and she ended up in Ireland where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in computer science and statistics. About this experience, she says, "I found that most of the time, I was either the only girl in class or the only black person or person of color. Whether I'm working or being educated, it's so obvious that there's a shortage of women in this space. So I just felt it: There was a need to bring more girls and people of color into that space." Now, I remember my days as a Ph.D. student, and so I'm not sure how, exactly, she managed it, but Nomayo made the time to found Phase Innovate, an organization that trains and mentors underrepresented minorities and women in tech, and to mentor a team of Afro-Irish girls as they developed a project for Technovation Girls, an international technology competition for young women. The challenge was to develop over a 12-week period an app that solves a problem in their community, and the competition is stiff: more than 1500 submissions from 63 countries.

Her team of Rachael Akano, 16, Margaret Akano, 17, and Joy Njekwe, 17, took on the problem of the needs of individuals with dementia: memory loss and difficulty with speech and recognizing people. They were inspired by hearing about Nomayo's mother who died earlier this year with dementia. The app they developed is called Memory Haven, and it has six features: a health check; a photo wallet with tagged pictures and voices of loved ones; a music playlist to draw on music memories, which are often least affected; reminder alerts to the patient and caregiver for medications and such; "Reach Out" for contacting family, friends, doctors, and emergency services; and a memory game to stimulate and strengthen focus and speed in an entertaining way.

The tech world is notorious for its hostility to women and people of color, and things were no different for these women. Asked about prejudices they've faced, Nomayo talked about how her male peers would doubt her intelligence, asking, "Can she do this?" Rachel Akano said, "I think the most negative reaction



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 9 of 105**

we received was when the "Irish Times" announced that we made it to the finals. . . . People said we weren't Irish and that we didn't deserve to represent the country. They put a monkey face (to represent a black girl's face). Just crazy, crazy oceans of racism." She added, "I think the most surprising part was that our parents weren't really surprised. I remember running to my parents and saying, 'Mom, dad: Look what they are saying about us.' And my dad said, 'Guess you better get used to it.'" I guess the US is not the only country facing this sort of built-in racism, although I don't know that I feel better knowing this.

After the pandemic hit, they were having to meet with one another and with their mentor, Nomayo, using WhatsApp, which added layers of difficulty to the challenge. They said it was another obstacle to face, but they managed it. The team was proud of their work, saying, "Our aim is to just help as many people as possible." They have a goal to put their app into the hands of families across the world in order to help "families, individuals, and communities . . . and to inspire other young people" to get into the world of tech. The team won the People's Choice Award and are the Grand Champions in the Senior Division of Technovation Girls.

What do they do for an encore? Just be normal teenaged girls, I guess. Margaret, who was the project manager for the team, is in medical school, hoping to specialize in precision medicine. Rachel, the financial manager, loved the business aspect of the project. She wants to take a background in IT into international business. And Joy is still in high school, getting ready for college and considering computer science and engineering. Looks to me as if a little mentoring in the right places really can change at least some corner of the world. Each of us has something to offer somewhere where we can leverage it to change things for the better. Might as well go find that something and get started.

Take care. We'll talk again.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 10 of 105

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10
Minnesota	105,740	106,651	107,922	109,312
Nebraska	48,757	49,396	50,059	50,059
Montana	15,347	16,063	16,677	17,399
Colorado	74,191	74,922	75,785	76,619
Wyoming	5,751	5,866	6,031	6,226
North Dakota	24,364	24,857	25,384	26,040
South Dakota	24,876	25,433	26,441	27,215
United States	7,501,847	7,551,257	7,607,890	7,667,640
US Deaths	210,918	211,844	212,789	213,816

Minnesota	+941	+911	+1271	+1,390
Nebraska	+950	+639	+663	----
Montana	+500	+716	+614	+722
Colorado	+654	+731	+863	+834
Wyoming	+91	+115	+165	+195
North Dakota	+502	+493	+527	+656
South Dakota	+278	+557	+528	+774
United States	+48,018	+49,410	+56,633	+59,750
US Deaths	+791	+926	+945	+1,027

	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6
Minnesota	98,447	99,134	100,200	101,366	102,787	103,826	104,799
Nebraska	45,044	45,564	46,185	46,977	47,403	47,807	47,807
Montana	12,724	13,071	13,500	13,855	14,356	14,635	14,847
Colorado	70,025	70,536	71,218	71,898	72,555	73,036	73,537
Wyoming	4,948	5,046	5,170	5,289	5,415	5,546	5,660
North Dakota	21,401	21,846	22,218	22,694	23,134	23,550	23,862
South Dakota	21,997	22,389	23,136	23,522	23,986	24,418	24,598
United States	7,191,349	7,234,257	7,279,065	7,335,946	7,379,614	7,420,476	7,453,829
US Deaths	206,005	206,963	207,816	208,739	209,335	209,820	210,127

Minnesota	+809	+687	+1,066	1,166	+1,421	+1,039	+973
Nebraska	+466	+520	+621	+792	+426	+404	NA
Montana	+311	+347	+429	+355	+501	+279	+212
Colorado	+535	+511	+682	+680	+657	+481	+501
Wyoming	+51	+98	+124	+119	+126	+131	+114
North Dakota	+418	+445	+372	+476	+440	+416	+312
South Dakota	+259	+392	+747	+386	+464	+434	+180
United States	+41,232	+42,909	+44,808	+56,881	+43,668	+40,862	+33,353
US Deaths	+914	+958	+853	+923	+596	+485	+307

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 11 of 105

## October 9th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

We're getting close to that 1,000 new case mark as today we've seen a jump to 772 new cases. Those currently in the hospital did drop by 17 to 267. The positivity rate in South Dakota is 13.2 percent today.

Five new deaths were recorded with two in Lincoln County and one each in Bennett, Grant and Yankton county. There were two females and three males with one in their 60s, one in their 70s and three in the 80+ age group. There were 11 deaths in North Dakota.

Counties seeing double digit increases were Beadle 20, Bon Homme 15, Brookings 33, Brown 62, Clay 13, Codington 27, Davison 31, Hughes 15, Lincoln 48, Meade 15, Minnehaha 158, Oglala Lakota 25, Pennington 80, Turner 15, Union 12, Walworth 19 and Yankton 16.

Locally, Brown seen its largest increase of 61 positive cases, Day had one, Marshall two, McPherson one and Spink seven. So what age group is getting hit? They all are pretty equal. Positive cases in the under 18 group was 18, those in the teens was 100, 20s was 129, 30s was 120, 40s was 106, 50s was 109, 60s was 92, 70s was 60 and 80+ was 40.

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +61 (1,488) Positivity Rate: 19.5%  
Total Tests: +313 (13,288)  
Recovered: +11 (1,218)  
Active Cases: +50 (266)  
Ever Hospitalized: +9 (66)  
Deaths: +0 (4)  
Percent Recovered: 81.9

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +772 (27,215 total) Positivity Rates: 13.2%  
Total Tests: 5,864 (322,126 total)  
Hospitalized: +65 (1,782 total). 267 currently hospitalized -17)  
Deaths: +5 (277 total)  
Recovered: +254 (21,750 total)  
Active Cases: +515 (5,188)  
Percent Recovered: 79.9%  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 11% Covid, 51% Non-Covid, 38% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 20% Covid, 53% Non-Covid, 27% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 8% Covid, 13% Non-Covid, 79% 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: +1 positive, +2 recovered (48 active cases)

Beadle (11): +20 positive, +5 recovered (111 active cases)

Bennett (4): +8 positive, +0 recovered (30 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +15 positive, +1 recovered (55 active cases)

Brookings (2): +33 positive, +8 recovered (117 active cases)

Brown (4): +62 positive, +11 recovered (266 active cases)

Brule (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (31 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +7 positive, +2 recovered (24 active cases)

Butte (3): +4 positive, +0 recovered (43 active cases)

Campbell: +5 positive, +1 recovered (21 active cases)

Charles Mix: +9 positive, +2 recovered (84 active cases)

Clark: +1 positive, +2 recovered (10 active cases)

Clay (7) +13 positive, +3 recovered (64 active cases)

Codington (9): +27 positive, +4 recovered (194 active cases)

Corson (1): +3 positive, +0 recovered (15 active cases)

Custer (3): +3 positive, +4 recovered (32 active case)

Davison (3): +31 positive, +10 recovered (189 active cases)

Day: +1 positive, +4 recovered (27 active cases)

Deuel: +6 positive, +1 recovered (26 active cases)

Dewey: +6 positive, +4 recovered (81 active cases)

Douglas (1): +4 positive, +2 recovered (42 active cases)

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

Fall River (5): +2 positive, +0 recovered (30 active cases)

Faulk (1): +5 positive, +1 recovered (24 active cases)

# Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 12 of 105

Grant (2): +9 positive, +9 recovered (60 active cases)  
 Gregory (7): +2 positive, +2 recovered (27 active cases)  
 Haakon (1): +4 positive, +0 recovered (14 active case)  
 Hamlin: +3 positive, +0 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Hand (1): +4 positive, +3 recovered (21 active cases)  
 Hanson (1): +2 positive, +0 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Harding: +0 positive, +0 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Hughes (5): +15 positive, +12 recovered (137 active cases)  
 Hutchinson (2): +7 positive, +2 recovered (56 active cases)  
 Hyde: +0 positive, +0 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Jackson (1): +4 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Jerauld (4): +1 positive, +4 recovered (23 active cases)  
 Jones: +0 positive, +0 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Kingsbury: +5 positive, +0 recovered (19 active cases)  
 Lake (8): +9 positive, +1 recovered (36 active cases)  
 Lawrence (5): +8 positive, +8 recovered (109 active cases)  
 Lincoln (8): +48 positive, +18 recovered (364 active cases)

Lyman (4): +2 positive, +3 recovered (26 active cases)  
 Marshall: +2 positive, +0 recovered (13 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +3 positive, +4 recovered (44 active cases)  
 McPherson: +1 positive, +1 recovery (8 active case)  
 Meade (6): +15 positive, +3 recovered (133 active cases)  
 Mellette: +2 positive, +0 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Miner: +7 positive, +2 recovered (22 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (87): +158 positive, +47 recovered (1088 active cases)  
 Moody: +7 positive, +4 recovered (45 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (4): +25 positive, +3 recovered (107 active cases)  
 Pennington (39): +80 positive, +30 recovered (586 active cases)  
 Perkins: +0 positive, +0 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Potter: +3 positive, +1 recovered (19 active cases)  
 Roberts (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (37 active cases)  
 Sanborn: +3 positive, +0 recovered (21 active cases)  
 Spink: +7 positive, +1 recovered (35 active cases)  
 Stanley: +1 positive, +0 recovery (8 active cases)  
 Sully: +2 positive, +0 recovered (7 active cases)  
 Todd (5): +8 positive, +5 recovered (74 active cases)  
 Tripp (1): +4 positive, +7 recovered (39 active cases)  
 Turner (7): +15 positive, +1 recovered (64 active cases)  
 Union (10): +12 positive, +6 recovered (108 active cases)  
 Walworth (1): +19 positive, +2 recovered (52 active cases)  
 Yankton (5): +16 positive, +5 recovered (116 active cases)  
 Ziebach (1): +0 positive, +0 recovered (10 active case)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	851	0
10-19 years	3074	0
20-29 years	6014	2
30-39 years	4629	7
40-49 years	3730	10
50-59 years	3722	22
60-69 years	2756	44
70-79 years	1413	53
80+ years	1026	139

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	14275	123
Male	12940	154

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, October 9:

- 7.5% rolling 14-day positivity
  - 7.4% daily positivity
  - 651 new positives
  - 8,800 susceptible test encounters
  - 132 currently hospitalized (+7)
  - 3,964 active cases (+132)
- Total Deaths: +11 (321)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 13 of 105

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Aurora	116	68	642	0	Substantial	17.33%
Beadle	919	797	3232	11	Substantial	8.33%
Bennett	97	63	829	4	Moderate	9.45%
Bon Homme	140	84	1296	1	Substantial	10.82%
Brookings	907	788	5293	2	Substantial	13.45%
Brown	1488	1218	7829	4	Substantial	14.83%
Brule	163	131	1281	1	Substantial	8.41%
Buffalo	171	144	795	3	Substantial	10.19%
Butte	153	107	1840	3	Substantial	13.04%
Campbell	49	28	159	0	Substantial	17.91%
Charles Mix	248	164	2604	0	Substantial	9.34%
Clark	50	40	621	0	Moderate	15.63%
Clay	619	548	2835	7	Substantial	7.33%
Codington	1080	877	5564	9	Substantial	17.45%
Corson	112	96	755	1	Moderate	5.88%
Custer	210	175	1479	3	Substantial	8.67%
Davison	505	313	3894	3	Substantial	17.08%
Day	109	82	1032	0	Substantial	24.75%
Deuel	115	89	690	0	Substantial	15.38%
Dewey	202	121	3041	0	Substantial	11.67%
Douglas	119	76	640	1	Substantial	14.49%
Edmunds	104	99	660	0	Substantial	5.29%
Fall River	124	89	1601	5	Moderate	7.53%
Faulk	114	89	485	1	Substantial	12.00%
Grant	206	144	1332	2	Substantial	14.20%
Gregory	153	119	702	7	Substantial	18.38%
Haakon	41	26	401	1	Moderate	3.64%
Hamlin	120	102	1080	0	Substantial	4.76%
Hand	72	50	520	1	Substantial	14.48%
Hanson	52	33	385	1	Moderate	16.67%
Harding	6	4	97	0	Minimal	14.29%
Hughes	611	469	3205	5	Substantial	17.32%
Hutchinson	148	90	1370	2	Substantial	9.29%

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 14 of 105

Hyde	25	21	282	0	Minimal	3.70%
Jackson	50	36	662	1	Moderate	4.44%
Jerauld	147	120	356	4	Substantial	19.23%
Jones	20	16	109	0	Moderate	21.43%
Kingsbury	87	68	907	0	Substantial	11.21%
Lake	238	194	1626	8	Substantial	12.90%
Lawrence	533	419	4766	5	Substantial	11.28%
Lincoln	1740	1368	11639	8	Substantial	15.45%
Lyman	197	167	1315	4	Substantial	13.91%
Marshall	51	38	683	0	Moderate	22.73%
McCook	142	97	994	1	Substantial	12.82%
McPherson	43	35	358	0	Moderate	9.28%
Meade	684	545	4285	6	Substantial	13.08%
Mellette	42	31	528	0	Moderate	14.00%
Miner	54	32	383	0	Moderate	15.22%
Minnehaha	7708	6532	45456	88	Substantial	8.91%
Moody	135	90	939	0	Substantial	21.92%
Oglala Lakota	384	273	4858	4	Substantial	8.18%
Pennington	3001	2376	21286	39	Substantial	10.31%
Perkins	47	38	394	0	Moderate	15.91%
Potter	69	50	545	0	Substantial	8.60%
Roberts	247	209	2846	1	Substantial	11.51%
Sanborn	53	32	376	0	Substantial	19.61%
Spink	172	137	1547	0	Substantial	5.90%
Stanley	50	42	470	0	Moderate	8.33%
Sully	21	14	144	0	Moderate	31.58%
Todd	209	130	3035	5	Substantial	12.50%
Tripp	200	157	1012	1	Substantial	18.67%
Turner	259	179	1650	7	Substantial	7.79%
Union	526	408	3393	10	Substantial	16.22%
Walworth	171	118	1197	1	Substantial	9.02%
Yankton	517	396	5258	5	Substantial	5.54%
Ziebach	70	59	539	1	Moderate	13.33%
Unassigned	0	0	4911	0		

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 15 of 105

## South Dakota

New Total Cases Today 772	New Confirmed Cases 748	New Probable Cases 24
Currently Hospitalized 267	Active Cases 5,188	Recovered Cases 21,750
Total Cases 27,215	Total Confirmed Cases 26,711	Total Probable Cases 504
Ever Hospitalized 1,782	Total Persons Tested 214,153	Total Tests 322,126
Deaths 277	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests) 216%	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests) 73%

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 16 of 105

## Brown County

New Total Cases Today	New Confirmed Cases	New Probable Cases
61	61	0
Currently Hospitalized	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
267	266	1,218
Total Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Probable Cases
1,488	1,485	3
Ever Hospitalized	Total Persons Tested	Total Tests
66	9,317	13,288
Deaths	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests)	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests)
4	216%	73%



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 17 of 105

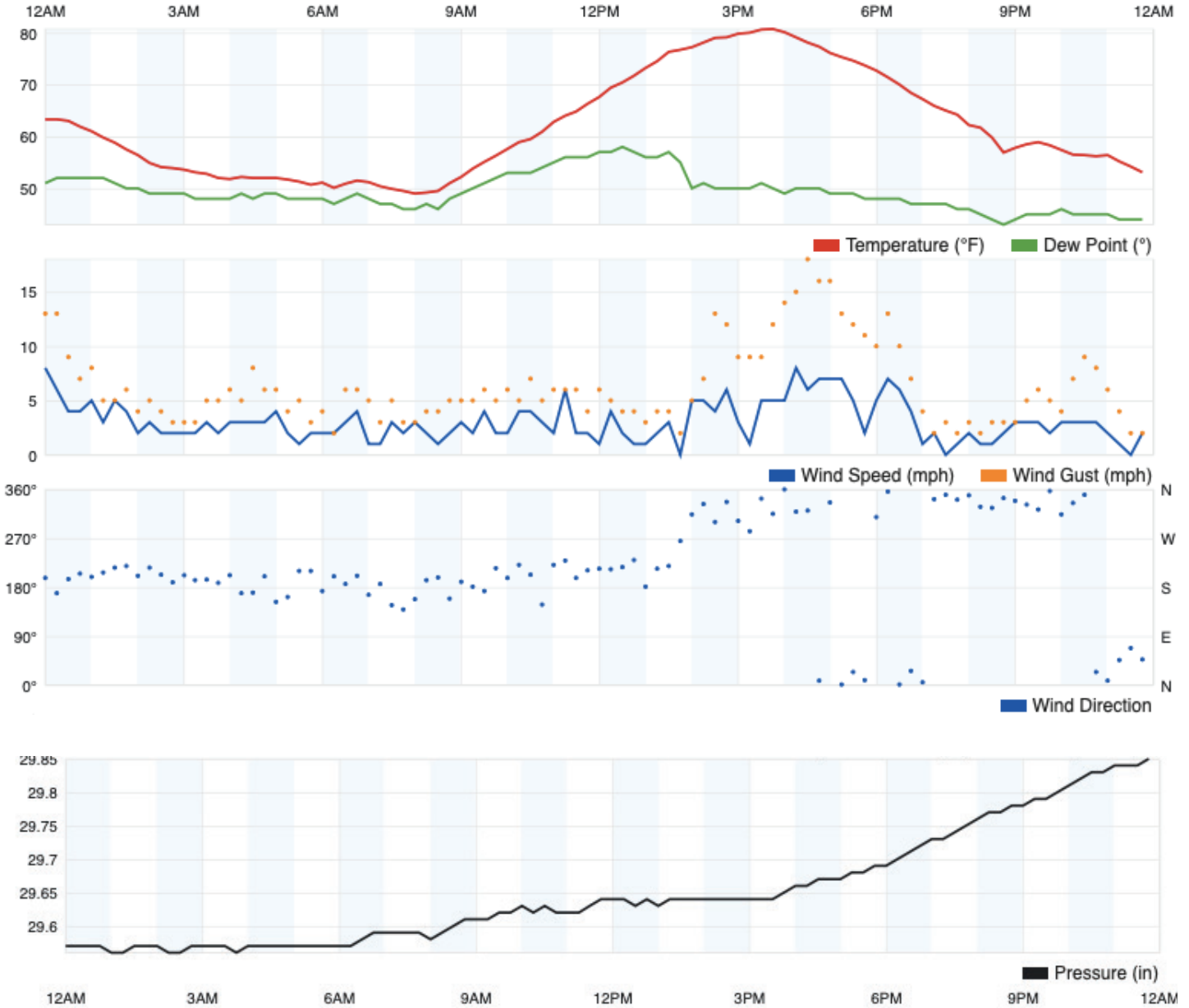
## Day County

New Total Cases Today	New Confirmed Cases	New Probable Cases
1	1	0
Currently Hospitalized	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
267	27	82
Total Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Probable Cases
109	109	0
Ever Hospitalized	Total Persons Tested	Total Tests
13	1,141	1,621
Deaths	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests)	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests)
0	216%	73%

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 18 of 105

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 19 of 105

Today



Sunny

High: 73 °F

Tonight



Increasing  
Clouds and  
Breezy

Low: 55 °F

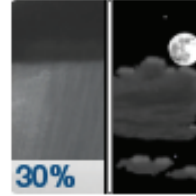
Sunday



Chance  
Showers and  
Breezy

High: 75 °F

Sunday  
Night



Chance  
Showers and  
Breezy then  
Partly Cloudy

Low: 41 °F

Columbus  
Day



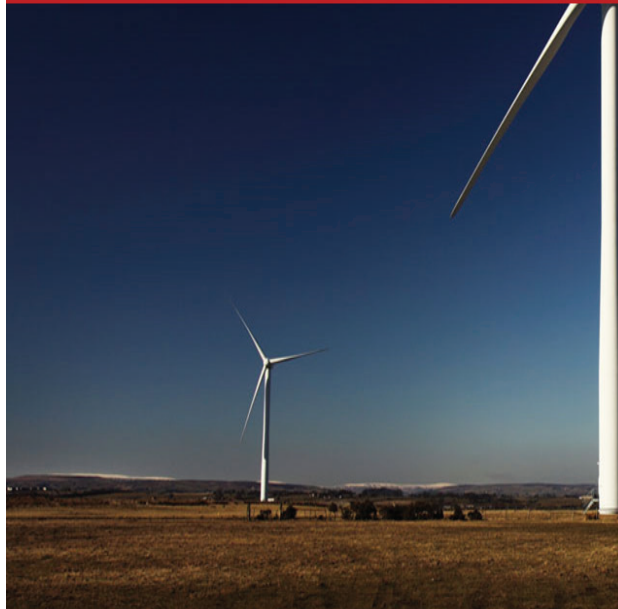
Sunny then  
Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 65 °F

## Today

Dry and Mild with Elevated Fire Danger.  
Gusty Southerly Winds Developing.

HIGHS: Upper 60s to Lower 80s



## Sunday

Showers and Thunderstorms  
Developing by Afternoon  
Gusty Winds 25-40 MPH

HIGHS: Mid 60s to Upper 70s



Southerly winds will become breezy ahead of a front slated to move through on Sunday. Dry and breezy conditions will bring elevated fire danger today across central SD. Light showers will develop with the front on Sunday. A few strong thunderstorms will be possible east of I-29 late Sunday afternoon.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 20 of 105

## Today in Weather History

October 10, 1928: The temperature reached 90 degrees at Minneapolis, Minnesota, the latest such reading on record.

October 10, 1982: October 8th through October 10th, 1982, record amounts of snow piled up in the northern Black Hills. Not only was the storm an unprecedented breaker because it came so early in the season, but it was also a record snowfall producer for any time of year. Amounts of three to six feet were typical across the northern hills. On October 9th, 1982, thirty-two inches of snow buried Lead. The thirty-two inches that day is the most on record for 24 hours in South Dakota.

1780: The Great Hurricane of 1780 made landfall on the island of Barbados on this day with estimated wind gusts of 200 mph. This hurricane went on to affect the islands of St. Vincent, where only 14 of 600 homes stood at Kings Town. St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, and Puerto Rico were all impacted by this hurricane. This storm is the deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record, with between 20,000 and 22,000 deaths.

1846: A major hurricane, likely a Category 5, moved through the Caribbean Sea. This Great Havana Hurricane struck western Cuba on 10 October. It hit the Florida Keys on 11 October, destroying the old Key West Lighthouse and Fort Zachary Taylor.

1949: A rapidly deepening area of low pressure produced gale to hurricane-force winds across much of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Michigan, and the Dakotas. Sustained 1-minute winds reached 85 mph at Rochester, MN, and 79 mph at La Crosse, WI, during the early afternoon. Winds gusts were as high as 100 mph. This storm produced extensive damage to buildings and power lines. Also, many corn crops were flattened.

1970: A slow-moving tropical depression produced 41.68 inches of rain in Jayuya, Puerto Rico from October 2-10th, 1970.

2009: Nome, Alaska, experiences its first-ever October thunderstorm with five lightning strikes between 8 and 9 PM ADT.

2009: A band of snow dropped a dusting to over 6 inches of snow in central to western Iowa, into central Nebraska.

1804 - A famous snow hurricane occurred. The unusual coastal storm caused northerly gales from Maine to New Jersey. Heavy snow fell across New England, with three feet reported at the crest of the Green Mountains. A foot of snow was reported in the Berkshires of southern New England, at Goshen CT. (David Ludlum)

1928 - The temperature at Minneapolis, MN, reached 90 degrees, their latest such reading of record. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - Fifteen to 20 inch rains deluged north central Oklahoma in thirteen hours producing record flooding. Enid was drenched with 15.68 inches of rain from the nearly stationary thunderstorms, which established a state 24 hour rainfall record. Dover OK reported 125 of 150 homes damaged by flooding. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1979 - A storm blanketed Worcester, MA, with 7.5 inches of snow, a record snowfall total for so early in the season for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Eleven cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Colorado Springs CO with a reading of 23 degrees, and Havre MT with a low of 11 degrees above zero. Light snow was reported as far south as Kansas. Omaha NE reported their third earliest snow of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Sunny and mild weather prevailed across the nation for Columbus Day. The afternoon high of 77 degrees at Kalispell MT was the warmest reading of record for so late in the autumn season. Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced wind gusts to 56 mph at Lorain OH. Snowflakes were observed at Milwaukee WI around Noon, but quickly changed to rain as temperature readings were in the lower 60s. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

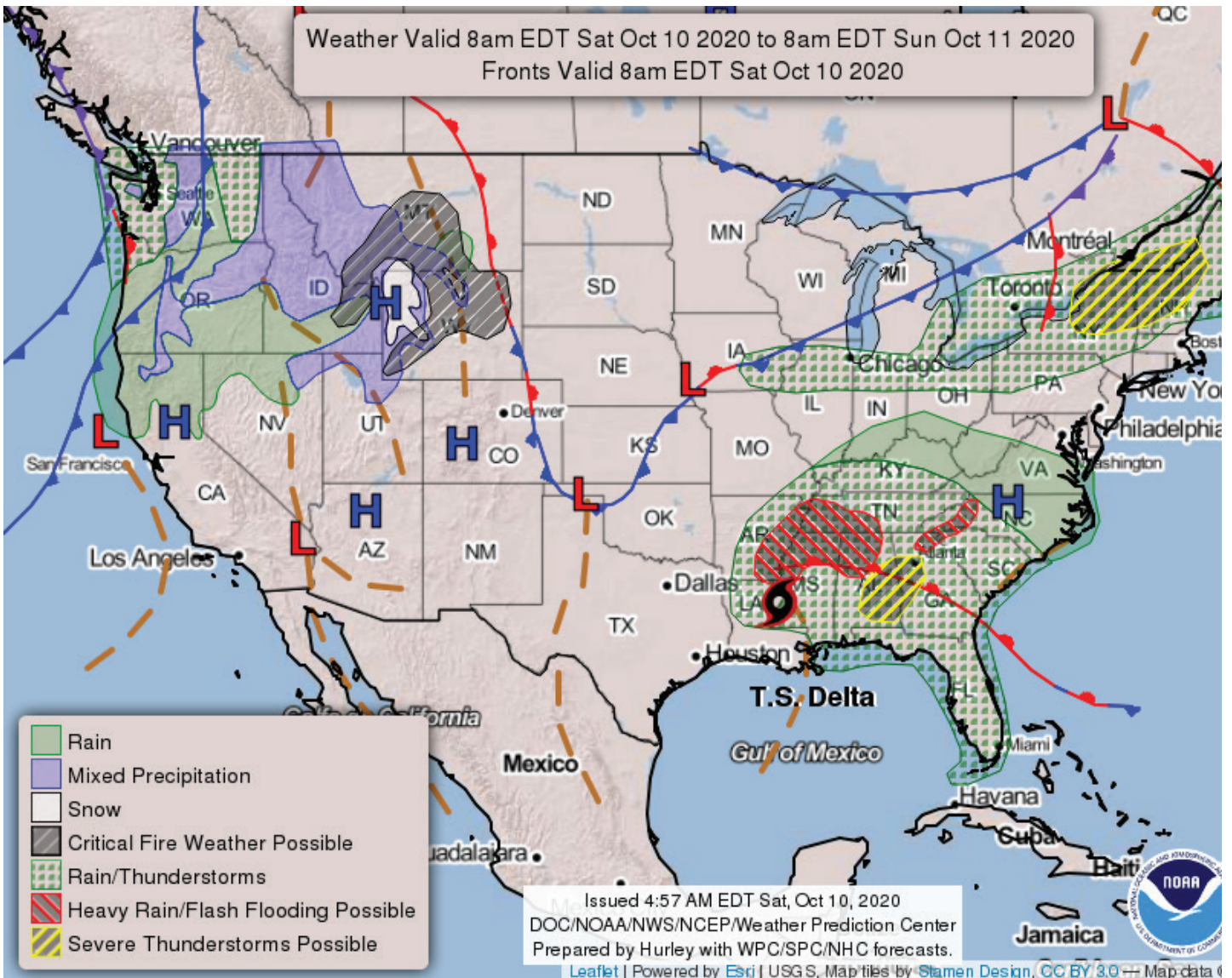
Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 21 of 105

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 81 °F at 3:32 PM**  
**Low Temp: 49 °F at 7:58 AM**  
**Wind: 18 mph at 4:02 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 93° in 1915**  
**Record Low: 10° in 1919**  
**Average High: 61°F**  
**Average Low: 35°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 0.67**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 19.15**  
**Precip Year to Date: 15.15**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:56 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:45 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 22 of 105



## BE WHO GOD WANTS YOU TO BE

When Bill Robinson joined the New York Yankees, he was introduced as the "new Mickey Mantle." He tried desperately to live up to that title, and in the process, he failed.

After being traded from one team to another, he ended up with the Pittsburgh Pirates. The coach came to him one day and said, "Bill, stop trying to be Mickey Mantle. Be yourself!"

When he did, he became a star.

Paul wrote, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

In His infinite wisdom, God created each of us to be different from every other person who has ever lived. So, when we try to act, be like, or think like another person, we limit ourselves and abandon the plan that He has designed especially for us.

When we accept the fact that God has "transformed" us into new persons that makes life so very exciting for the Christian. Imagine, in you can, the limitless possibilities that become ours as a result of allowing God to change the way we think! New thoughts will result in our eyes being opened to see the limitless opportunities and possibilities that God has designed for each of us that only we can do.

We limit God's power in our lives when we refuse to allow Him to transform our minds. Transformed minds always result in transformed lives that are truly unique.

Prayer: Father, we pause in a moment of humility to consider the fact that You have a special plan for each of us. May we willingly change our minds and follow You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Romans 12:2

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 23 of 105

## 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
- 10/30/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., church parking lot
- **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

### Apartment boom convinces Sioux Falls developers to go big

By PATRICK ANDERSON Sioux Falls Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D., (AP) — There was a chance to postpone the project.

Railyard Flats is set to be a touchstone of downtown Sioux Falls when it's finished, as the city's first step in transforming the banana-shaped stretch of land that cuts through its core, for so many years serving the crews and trains of BNSF Railway.

But the COVID-19 pandemic created a new set of data points for any developer to consider, as consumers stayed home, businesses closed and thousands lost jobs, the Argus Leader reported.

They could have pulled the plug, said Anne Haber, partner for developer Pendar Properties.

"There was a point in there where we had to say, 'OK, are we going to do this or are we content to hold off until next year?'" Haber said. "The consensus among the ownership group and the development group and our tenants in the building said, 'Let's do this. We believe in Sioux Falls, and we believe in downtown.'"

Railyard Flats is a mixed-use project with retail and office space planned, but it also represents a significant boost to apartment living downtown, with 41 units planned.

Sioux Falls developers are showing a lot of faith in multi-family housing in 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic continues to wreak havoc in the private sector, hurting retailers and restaurants and contributing to what is shaping up to be a down year for commercial development.

Apartment construction is already outpacing last year, and developers and city planners expect a strong end to the year leading into the start of 2021.

The city's permitting office has logged an estimated \$65.8 million in apartment projects so far this year, already jumping ahead of the 2019 total of \$65.3 million. The increase in apartment construction doesn't necessarily represent a complete pivot away from institutional or retail construction, but the virus is causing developers to internally shift their focus as they consider current economic forces, Sioux Falls planning director Jeff Eckhoff said.

"I think the developers are staying in the space that they've always been," Eckhoff said. "We have developers who do both; they've probably focused more on apartments."

Momentum should continue to increase as the rest of the year continues, pending any problems caused by weather or unforeseen circumstances, Eckhoff said.

In the first half of September alone, contractors had been issued permits for a combined \$14.9 million for new apartments. Projects approved last month included a 60-unit addition of to the nonprofit Sunnycrest Village senior living complex in southwestern Sioux Falls and an addition to the Locale Apartments in the southeastern corner of the city, including multiple buildings and a clubhouse and pool area.

Apartments have also proven to be a favored option for property investors so far this year, with multi-family property sales approaching \$80 million, according to the Mid-2020 Market Outlook Report from Bender Commercial Real Estate.

Values have consistently gone up in the past few years and "radically low" interest rates this year have helped balance the scales for both buyers and sellers, said Nick Gustafson, a broker for Bender.

Gustafson helps clients to find investment properties and considers new construction apartments to be a supply input for the market.

Builders easing off on new construction of multi-family units has helped contribute to a stronger outlook this year, Gustafson said.

Vacancy rates are hovering around 7% or 8%, compared to rates of as high as 15% after a jump in new construction.

"Developers have really exercised a lot of discipline," he said. "Tapering off large projects to make sure vacancies and these large projects stabilize."

The large projects may soon return.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 25 of 105

Developers look at vacancy rates when it comes time to build. More people paying rent means more value for the investor.

Economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic sparked early concerns over how it would affect renters ability to pay their bills. However, Sioux Falls has appeared immune from some of the trends unfolding in other cities, said Daren Ketcham, vice president of Legacy Development.

"We've seen in the Sioux Falls market a really strong tenant base and strong occupancy across the multi-family sector," Ketcham said. "Residents in Sioux Falls have continued to pay their rent at much higher rates than national averages."

Legacy started construction this summer on a 253-unit apartment complex on 10 acres of land in western Sioux Falls. The Westview Heights campus will cost an estimated \$27.4 million to build, with the first building and amenities expected to be up and running in early summer 2021.

Multi-family housing is cyclical when it comes to property sales or construction of new apartments, with developers looking at supply and demand. In the case of multi-family housing, it comes down to a number of different factors such as how many units have been added in past years and the current vacancy rate.

"Vacancy gets low, that sparks building, lots of them come on line and then it sort of slows down for a few years," Eckhoff said.

Apartments in Sioux Falls have demonstrated in the last few years that even an abundant amount of growth can be quickly absorbed by the number of new families moving to town.

Apartment construction has ebbed in the last couple of years but only because of massive influxes of new rental units during previous years, with Sioux Falls adding 1,589 apartments in 2016 and 1,215 apartments in 2017.

The quick drop in vacancies speaks to what market analysts call "absorption," or basically the rate at which new apartments are leased.

## Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Aberdeen Central 35, Rapid City Stevens 0

Alcester-Hudson 48, Elkton-Lake Benton 36

Baltic 34, Parker 28

Belle Fourche 31, Spearfish 6

Bridgewater-Emery 41, Garretson 9

Brookings 21, Pierre 14

Canistota 48, Bon Homme 8

Canton 34, Tri-Valley 14

Castlewood 55, Great Plains Lutheran 0

Chester 53, Britton-Hecla 6

Clark/Willow Lake 50, Dakota Hills 8

Custer 42, Lead-Deadwood 0

Dakota Valley 38, Lennox 21

Elk Point-Jefferson 48, McCook Central/Montrose 44

Faith 60, Hill City 6

Faulkton 58, Sully Buttes 50, 2OT

Florence/Henry 50, Waverly-South Shore 0

Gayville-Volin 56, Centerville 6

Hamlin 36, Arlington/Lake Preston 6

Harding County 58, Newell 6

Harrisburg 46, Sioux Falls Lincoln 42

Herreid/Selby Area 34, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 16

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 26 of 105

Hitchcock-Tulare 34, Potter County 14  
Howard 68, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 18  
Irene-Wakonda 33, Avon 26  
Kadoka Area 23, Philip 6  
Kimball/White Lake 28, Burke 22  
Langford 48, Estelline/Hendricks 6  
Lemmon/McIntosh 62, Dupree 12  
Lyman 28, New Underwood 0  
Mobridge-Pollock 48, Redfield 6  
North Border 28, Northwestern 8  
O Gorman 31, Watertown 29  
Platte-Geddes 42, Gregory 6  
Rapid City Christian 80, Bison 0  
Sioux Valley 42, Beresford 20  
Sisseton 48, Aberdeen Roncalli 26  
St. Thomas More 45, Douglas 18  
Sturgis Brown 42, Mitchell 20  
Tea Area 30, Sioux Falls Christian 9  
Viborg-Hurley 34, Hanson 26  
Wall 50, Jones County/White River 0  
Webster 12, Flandreau 6  
West Central 33, Madison 14  
Winner 50, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 0  
Wolsey-Wessington 46, Colome 0  
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 19, Chamberlain 0  
Yankton 44, Huron 3  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt vs. Rapid City Central, ccd.

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined  
PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:  
Mega Millions  
05-11-25-27-64, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 2  
(five, eleven, twenty-five, twenty-seven, sixty-four; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$60 million  
Powerball  
Estimated jackpot: \$62 million

## Governor launches coronavirus economic relief program

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Friday announced the launch of a program to send up to \$580 million in federal coronavirus aid to small businesses, health care providers and non-profit organizations.

The Legislature earlier this week offered its support to the plan to spend much of the \$1.25 billion the state received to address the coronavirus crisis and the economic fallout.

Under the plan, small businesses impacted by the pandemic will be able to apply for grants from a pool of \$400 million. Another \$115 million will go to health care programs that provide services through Medicaid

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 27 of 105

and other state or federal funding. The remaining \$65 million will be divided between grants for start-up businesses, hospitals that provide acute medical care and small non-profit organizations.

"These folks are the lifeblood of our communities and economy, and it's our turn to give back to them," Noem said in a statement.

The organizations and businesses will have 10 days to apply for the grants, starting on Oct. 13.

## South Dakota posts new high in daily COVID-19 case, 5 deaths

Sioux Falls, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota continued to struggle to contain the coronavirus as health officials on Friday reported an all-time new high for new coronavirus cases, with 772.

Another five people have also died from COVID-19, bringing the state's death toll to 277 people, according to the Department of Health. September was the deadliest month of the pandemic in South Dakota, with 56 deaths. But the state has already recorded 54 deaths in the first nine days of October.

South Dakota has seen the nation's second-highest number of new cases per capita in the last two weeks. According to Johns Hopkins researchers, there were 719 new cases per 100,000 people.

Hospitalizations from the virus statewide decreased for the first time in recent days, with 267 people in the hospital with COVID-19. The Department of Health reported that 38% of hospital beds and 27% of Intensive Care Units in the state are currently open.

Over the course of the pandemic, 27,215 people across South Dakota have been confirmed to be infected with the coronavirus. About 81% of them have recovered to a point where they are no longer contagious, but 5,188 people have active infections.

## Kansas State to open season as host of Little Apple Classic

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Kansas State will open the season by hosting the inaugural Little Apple Classic, a four-team event featuring Colorado, Drake and South Dakota State.

The school announced the event Friday, with doubleheaders taking place Nov. 25 and Nov. 27 at Bramlage Coliseum.

The Wildcats will face Drake on the first day while Colorado will meet South Dakota State. On the second day, Kansas State faces Colorado and Drake plays South Dakota State.

The Kansas State-Colorado matchup reunites programs that were in the same conference from 1948 to 2011, most recently in the Big 12 before the Buffaloes moved to the Pac-12.

The NCAA has delayed the start of the season to Nov. 25 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Little Apple Classic replaces the canceled Cayman Islands Classic on the Wildcats' schedule.

More AP college basketball: <http://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Drivers killed in fiery highway crash near Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two men have died in a fiery highway crash between two pickup trucks west of Sioux Falls.

Both drivers of the trucks, ages 24 and 59, were killed Thursday when their vehicles collided head-on on Highway 42, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

The 59-year-old victim was westbound and pulling a trailer with a tractor on it when he collided with an eastbound pickup driven by the 24-year-old man near Wall Lake, the patrol said.

Both vehicles started on fire after crashing, according to officials. Both drivers, the lone occupants, died at the scene.

The victims have not yet been identified.

## Training center for Native American officers ready to open

DEVILS LAKE, N.D. (AP) — A new federal law enforcement training center for Native American officers in

northeastern North Dakota should be starting classes in the next month, U.S. Sen John Hoeven said Friday.

The U.S. Indian Police Academy Advanced Training Center is located at Camp Grafton, the North Dakota National Guard facility near Devils Lake. It includes classroom space, dorms, and a cafeteria that will be used by Bureau of Indian Affairs trainees.

The center will receive recruits from tribes throughout the Great Plains. Most tribes currently send their officers to the federal site in Artesia, New Mexico. The Navajo Nation has its own police academy.

"A lot of them don't want to go to New Mexico for training," said Hoeven, who helped convince Congress to authorize \$2.5 million for the project. "Now they can stay close to home."

Hoeven, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said the facility should help alleviate a shortage of officers in Indian Country, where crimes involving drugs and missing and murdered women and children are particularly prevalent.

The federal government will fund the program and provide instructors.

"Working with the state on the facility is a cost effective win-win," Hoeven said before Friday's signing of the deal before state, federal and tribal leaders.

## Whitmer plot a new twist in fight for battleground Michigan

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and CLAIRE GALOFARO Associated Press

Gretchen Whitmer knew she'd have the spotlight Thursday. And she decided not to waste it.

Hours after the FBI revealed a group of anti-government vigilantes had plotted to kidnap her, the Democratic governor of Michigan addressed her state — and the nation — with a message that didn't mince words about whom she blamed for the threat: President Donald Trump was complicit for "giving comfort to those who spread fear and hatred and division."

It was a familiar move for a governor who has repeatedly drawn the president into heated public battles that may only hurt him in a pivotal state against Democrat Joe Biden. While she risked politicizing the moment, the governor said Friday that she didn't think twice about calling out the president.

"I am raising two daughters who I want to be bold, too, you know, and to speak truth to power," Whitmer said in an Associated Press interview.

Whitmer's speech had the expected impact. Rather than express concern for her safety or health, Trump said she had "done a terrible job as governor" and "rather than say thank you, she calls me a white supremacist," reminding voters in the state of the president's defense of far-right groups.

Some Republicans on Friday worried Trump's reaction would hurt him in a state he's trying desperately to win on Nov. 3. And Michigan Republicans critical of Trump expressed disbelief at state GOP leaders' failure to call out, or even mildly chide, Trump.

"I'm astounded in the last 24 hours no new Republican has come out and renounced Trump's rhetoric," said Jeff Timmer, a onetime Republican strategist who has distanced himself from the party since Trump's election. "Nobody has dared stick their head out."

After offering a statement Thursday offering "thoughts and prayers" to the governor and her family, GOP Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey attended a demonstration to advocate for lifting Whitmer's restrictions on state businesses.

Whitmer's remarks were aimed at appealing to Michigan Republicans unhappy with the state of their party. She quoted President Ronald Reagan's 1981 address to the NAACP in which he condemned Americans "who still hold perverted notions about what America is all about."

Whitmer said Friday she pulled the quote to highlight that "being a good American leader isn't a partisan thing. It's about recognizing that there's no room for hate and prejudice and violence in America. ... And every one of us should stand against that."

As a former Senate minority leader and lead negotiator for Democrats under Republican Gov. Rick Scott, Whitmer "is not going to shy away from a fight," said John Anzalone, a pollster and senior aide during her 2018 campaign for governor. "That's a big part of her personality."

Fighting back has been good politics for the governor.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 29 of 105

Whitmer's approval rating has been running well ahead of Trump's in the state. A majority in Michigan approve of her performance, a measure that has increased steadily with her handling of the pandemic. Meanwhile, Trump's has been stuck well under 50%, while his campaign has signaled worry about carrying the state a second time, campaign aides have said privately.

Trump won Michigan by less than a percentage point in 2016, and must win it again, along with Wisconsin or Pennsylvania and every other state he carried then, to get the 270 Electoral College votes he needs to win reelection.

Trump is facing strong headwinds in Oakland County, once the GOP stronghold and childhood home of mainstream Republicans such as Mitt Romney. But the flow of younger, more racially diverse families into the county has changed its political complexion. In 2016, Democrat Hillary Clinton carried the county, an upscale suburb neighboring Detroit to the northwest.

Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel, a fellow Michigander, through a spokesperson, had no response for the appropriateness of Trump's response, but asked, "Why isn't anyone asking (whether) Governor Whitmer's baseless attack on the president was appropriate"?

Whitmer put major restrictions on personal movement and the economy to stop the spread of the virus, though many of those limits have been lifted since spring. The governor has exchanged barbs with Trump on social media, with the president declaring in April, "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!"

Opponents of Whitmer's orders demonstrated at the Michigan Capitol the following month, some of them armed with semiautomatic assault rifles. However, there was no indication in the criminal complaint that the men in the kidnapping plot were inspired by Trump.

Authorities also have not publicly said whether the men were angry about Whitmer's coronavirus orders.

Last week in a debate with Biden, Trump did not clearly denounce white supremacist groups and instead told one right-wing group, the Proud Boys, who are active throughout Michigan: "Stand back and stand by."

Michigan Republican John Sellek, who ran Romney's 2012 Michigan campaign, said soft Republicans looking for a final reason to support Biden are finding one in Trump's response to Whitmer.

"Just as in the first debate, what the president could have done when he was asked, he could have clearly put down white supremacists," Sellek said. "And he clearly didn't do it."

This story has been updated to correct the spelling of the last name of Michigan Republican John Sellek, from Selleck

## North Korea unveils new weapons at military parade

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned Saturday that his country would "fully mobilize" its nuclear force if threatened as he took center stage at a military parade in which the country unveiled what appeared to be a new intercontinental ballistic missile and other additions to its growing weapons arsenal.

Kim, however, avoided direct criticism of Washington during the event, which celebrated the 75th anniversary of the country's ruling party and took place less than four weeks before the U.S. presidential election. Instead, he focused on a domestic message urging his people to remain firm in the face of "tremendous challenges" posed by the coronavirus pandemic and crippling U.S.-led sanctions over his nuclear program.

Kim described the North's continuing efforts to develop its nuclear deterrent as necessary for its defense and said it wasn't targeting any specific country with its military force.

But "if any force harms the safety of our nation, we will fully mobilize the strongest offensive might in a pre-emptive manner to punish them," he said.

Kim's speech was punctuated by thousands of goose-stepping troops, tanks, armored vehicles, rocket launchers and a broad range of ballistic missiles rolled out in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square.

The weapons included what was possibly the North's biggest-yet ICBM, which was mounted on an 11-axle launch vehicle that was also seen for the first time. The North also displayed a variety of solid-fuel weapon

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 30 of 105

systems, including what could be an advanced version of its Pukguksong family of missiles designed to be fired from submarines or land mobile launchers.

The missiles highlighted how the North has continued to expand its military capabilities amid a stalemate in nuclear negotiations with the Trump administration.

Kim had previously expressed frustration over the slow diplomacy, pledging in December that he would continue to bolster his nuclear arsenal in the face of U.S. pressure and soon unveil a "new strategic weapon to the world." He then said the North was no longer obligated to maintain a self-imposed suspension on nuclear weapon and ICBM tests, which President Donald Trump touted as a major foreign policy achievement.

The probable ICBM paraded Saturday was clearly the new strategic weapon Kim had promised to show, said Melissa Hanham, deputy director of the Austria-based Open Nuclear Network. North Korea had already demonstrated a potential ability to reach deep into the U.S. mainland with a flight test of its Hwasong-15 ICBM in 2017, and developing a larger missile possibly means the country is trying to arm its long-range weapons with more warheads, she said.

"North Korea is pushing ahead with its nuclear strategy regardless of the tough year that it has had with regard to diplomatic talks, flooding from typhoons and COVID-19," Hanham said in a telephone interview. "I also think that this is a message to the United States — he has already declared he no longer holds himself to the moratorium and he has something new as well he may wish to test."

The celebratory event, which began late Friday, was not broadcast by North Korean state television until Saturday evening, when it aired a taped broadcast.

Goose-stepping troops were seen marching in the streets in front of a brightly illuminated Kim Il Sung Square, as a military band performed while moving in formation, shaping "10.10," "1945," and "2020" in honor of the party anniversary.

The performers and tens of thousands of spectators roared as Kim, dressed in a gray suit and tie, appeared from a building as the clock struck midnight. Kim, flanked with senior officials and smiling widely, waved to the crowd and kissed children who presented him with flowers before taking his spot on a balcony.

During his speech, Kim repeatedly thanked his "great people" for overcoming "unexpected" burdens and thoroughly abiding by the anti-virus measures imposed by the ruling party and government to keep the country COVID-19-free, a claim that has been widely questioned by outside observers. He also extended an olive branch to rival South Korea, expressing hope that the countries could repair bilateral ties once the threat of the pandemic is over. The North had suspended virtually all cooperation with the South amid the stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations with the United States.

After his speech, Kim waved and watched with binoculars as the military hardware was rolled out in the square. He saluted as fighter jets flew in formation above head, using fireworks to form the Workers' Party's symbol — a hammer, brush and sickle — and the number 75 in the sky.

Earlier Saturday, masked citizens lined up to lay flowers at the statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, the father of the current ruler, at Pyongyang's Mansu Hill. A huge street poster read "Best glory to our great party."

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said residents in Kaesong and other regions who had lost their homes to recent natural disasters marked the party anniversary by moving into newly built houses and that they praised Kim Jong Un for looking after them as "their father."

This year's anniversary comes amid deadlocked nuclear negotiations with the Trump administration and deepening economic woes that analysts say are shaping up as one of the biggest tests of Kim's leadership since he took power in 2011.

But many analysts believe North Korea will avoid serious negotiations or provocations before the U.S. presidential election because of the chance that the U.S. government could change.

Authoritarian North Korea is keen about anniversaries, and this week's festivities were earmarked for years in advance as a major event to glorify Kim's achievements as leader.

But there hasn't been much to celebrate lately as Kim struggles to keep afloat an economy crippled by

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 31 of 105

years of stringent U.S.-led sanctions over his nuclear program and ravaged further this year by border closures amid the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating summer floods and typhoons that will likely worsen chronic food shortages.

The problems, combined with North Korea's depleting foreign currency reserves, are possibly setting conditions for a "perfect storm" that shocks food prices and exchange rates and triggers economic panic in the coming months, said Lim Soo-ho, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for National Security Strategy.

Kim and Trump have met three times since embarking on high-stakes nuclear diplomacy in 2018. But talks have faltered over disagreements on disarmament steps and the removal of sanctions imposed on North Korea.

## Poland's Iga Swiatek beats Sofia Kenin for French Open title

By HOWARD FENDRICH and JEROME PUGMIRE AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — With the poise of a veteran and the shots of a champion, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek picked the perfect place for her first tour-level title: the French Open.

Unseeded and ranked merely 54th, Swiatek grabbed the last six games to beat Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the final at Roland Garros on Saturday, becoming the first Polish tennis player to win a Grand Slam singles trophy.

When she smacked one last forehand winner to the corner to end things, Swiatek placed her right hand over her mouth then crouched, shaking her head.

"It's crazy. Two years ago, I won a junior Grand Slam, and right now I'm here. It feels like such a short time," Swiatek said, her voice cracking. "I'm just overwhelmed."

Hard to believe? Maybe. This was, after all, only her seventh major tournament; she'd never been past the fourth round.

But the way she played these two weeks made this outcome less of a surprise.

Swiatek is the first woman to triumph in Paris without ceding a set since Justine Henin in 2007. She lost only 28 games across seven matches, too.

She is the first teen to win the women's title at the French Open since Iva Majoli in 1997.

And Swiatek did it with victories over such opponents as 2018 champion Simona Halep and 2019 runner-up Marketa Vondrousova, both by scores of 6-1, 6-2.

So it made sense that Swiatek would be able to get past Kenin, a 21-year-old American who was trying to claim her second major title of 2020 after winning the Australian Open in February.

"A great tournament. A great match," Kenin told Swiatek during the trophy ceremony.

Kenin was 16-1 in Grand Slam matches until Saturday. But she dealt with a leg issue in the second set and showed frustration by kicking her red-white-and-blue racket after lost points.

And then there was this: She ran into the composed Swiatek, who only recently completed her high school studies, listens to "Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns N' Roses before walking on court, travels with a sports psychologist and meditates during changeovers, breathing slowly with her eyes closed.

"I was just mentally consistent," Swiatek said. "I felt like today was really stressful for me, so it was kind of hard."

This weekend is the culmination of an unusual two weeks, to say the least. The tournament was postponed from May-June to September-October because of the coronavirus pandemic; the recently rising number of COVID-19 cases in France led the government to limit the number of spectators allowed on the grounds to 1,000 each day.

Some top women, including 2019 champion Ash Barty and three-time major champ Naomi Osaka didn't enter the event; 23-time Slam winner Serena Williams withdrew before the second round with an injury.

The temperature was in the mid-50s (low teens Celsius), with a slight breeze, and the hundreds of fans scattered in Court Philippe Chatrier were mostly subdued — other than a group that would shout out Swiatek's first name, stretching it out over several seconds each time to sound like "Eeeeeeeeeee-gah."

At the changeover after the third game of the second set, Kenin was visited by a trainer and went off

the court for a medical timeout, then returned with her left thigh wrapped.

Kenin said after her fourth-round match Monday that she had slipped and maybe pulled something during practice the day before.

While Kenin was gone, Swiatek tried to stay warm by pulling on a white jacket and hitting some serves, earning applause from spectators.

When play resumed, Swiatek needed only 12 more minutes to wrap up the victory, finishing with a 25-10 edge in winners.

AP Tennis Writer Fendrich reported from Washington; AP Sports Writer Pugmire reported from Paris.

More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## The Latest: Swiatek beats Kenin to win French Open title

PARIS (AP) — The Latest from the French Open (all times local):

Teen Iga Swiatek has become the first Polish player to win a Grand Slam title after beating fourth-seeded Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the French Open final.

The 19-year-old Swiatek did so without dropping a set.

Kenin was looking to win her second major title of the year after winning the Australian Open. She left the court for a few minutes to take a medical timeout at 2-1 down and came back with her left thigh heavily strapped.

Swiatek broke her for a 3-1 lead and secured a love hold for 4-1.

She won on her first match point with a forehand winner down the left of court which flew past Kenin.

4 p.m.

Polish teen Iga Swiatek won the first set 6-4 against fourth-seeded Sofia Kenin in the French Open final.

The 19-year-old Swiatek raced into a 3-0 lead in sunny but somewhat chilly conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier before Kenin rallied back for 3-3.

Both are in the final at Roland Garros for the first time.

Kenin is looking to win her second major title of the year after winning the Australian Open.

Swiatek is bidding to become the first Polish player to win a Grand Slam title.

One of her drop shots in the seventh game was so good that Kenin turned her back and didn't even bother chasing it.

3:15 p.m.

The women's French Open final between fourth-seeded American Sofia Kenin and unseeded teen Iga Swiatek has begun on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Kenin is looking to win her second major title of the year after winning the Australian Open.

The 19-year-old Swiatek is bidding to become the first Polish player to win a Grand Slam title.

The 54th-ranked Swiatek is the second lowest-ranked woman to reach the final in Paris since the WTA rankings were introduced in 1975.

3 p.m.

Third-seeded Elsa Jacquemot beat Alina Charaeva 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 to win the girls' title at the French Open.

The 17-year-old Jacquemot is the first French girl to win a junior title since Kristina Mladenovic also won at Roland Garros in 2009.

Jacquemot sealed victory on her first match point after a double fault from the unseeded Russian.

"To win Roland Garros as a French player is something crazy. I don't have the words," Jacquemot said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 33 of 105

Charaeva's voice cracked with emotion when she spoke after the match.  
"I hope next year I can come back as a professional," she said.

2 p.m.

Britain's Alfie Hewett beat Joachim Gerard of Belgium 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 to win the French Open wheelchair title for the second time.

The 22-year-old Hewett now has four major titles after twice winning the U.S. Open.

"I'd like to say congratulations to Jo and your team. I know it wasn't to be today but congrats. It was a tough final," Hewett said after winning in 2 hours, 36 minutes on Court Suzanne Lenglen. "I hope to get a good pizza tonight to celebrate ... I think me and my left shoulder are ready for a break."

The top-ranked Hewett has reached the semifinals at both the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

The 31-year-old Gerard was playing in his second major final after losing in the Australian Open final four years ago.

1:30 p.m.

Dominic Stephan Stricker beat Leandro Riedi in an all-Swiss final to win the boys' title at the French Open. He is the first Swiss player to win a boys' title at any major tournament since three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka at Roland Garros in 2003.

The seventh-seeded Stricker broke No. 8 seed Riedi's serve five times.

The 18-year-old left hander is on line for a double triumph.

He is playing the boys' doubles final alongside Flavio Cobolli of Italy later Saturday.

They are seeded third against eighth-seeded Bruno Oliveria and Natan Rodrigues of Brazil.

More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Ex-NJ governor Chris Christie says he's out of the hospital

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said Saturday he has been discharged from a New Jersey hospital where he spent a week, following his announcement that he had contracted the coronavirus.

"I am happy to let you know that this morning I was released from Morristown Medical Center," Christie said in a Saturday morning post on Twitter. "I want to thank the extraordinary doctors & nurses who cared for me for the last week. Thanks to my family & friends for their prayers. I will have more to say about all of this next week."

Christie announced Oct. 3 that he had tested positive and said hours later that he had checked himself into the hospital after deciding with his doctors that doing so would be "an important precautionary measure," given his history of asthma.

Christie was part of a string of virus cases connected to President Donald Trump's inner circle. In addition to Trump and first lady Melania Trump, multiple people who had traveled with the president or attended events with him recently contracted the virus.

Trump's former 2016 rival told The Associated Press on Oct. 2 that the last time he was with the president was Sept. 29 in Cleveland during preparations for his debate with former Vice President Joe Biden. He tweeted the morning of Oct. 2 that he had last tested negative ahead of that first presidential debate and was not having any symptoms then.

In 2013, during Christie's first term as New Jersey governor, he underwent lap-band surgery and lost a significant amount of weight. Two years before that, he was hospitalized for difficulty breathing. The 58-year-old, who uses an inhaler, once called himself "the healthiest fat guy you've ever seen."

## No 'dogma': Democrats walk tightrope on Barrett's faith

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 34 of 105

WASHINGTON (AP) — “The dogma lives loudly within you.”

It’s that utterance from California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, that’s on the minds of Democrats and Republicans preparing for this coming week’s hearings with Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett.

Feinstein’s 2017 remarks as she questioned Barrett — then a nominee for an appeals court — about the influence of Barrett’s Catholic faith on her judicial views sparked bipartisan backlash, contributing to the former law professor’s quick rise as a conservative judicial star.

Three years later, Barrett is back before senators as President Donald Trump’s nominee to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The nomination poses a politically risky test for lawmakers as they try to probe Barrett’s views on issues of abortion, health care access and gay marriage without running afoul of the Constitution’s prohibition against a religious test for public officials.

“Her religion is immaterial,” said Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, but it’s not out of bounds to question “the views themselves that she has articulated.”

At hearings that begin Monday, Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said he will focus on Barrett’s “public statements, on her judicial philosophy, on the ways in which her judicial views as publicly expressed leave me gravely concerned about how she might rule as a justice.”

Republicans are gleeful, predicting that Democrats will overreach and alienate key voters just weeks before the Nov. 3 election. Democrats are determined to avoid the trap, recognizing the political danger as their presidential nominee, Joe Biden, himself a lifelong Catholic, courts voters of faith.

“God forbid a Democratic senator did go after this candidate on the grounds of her religious belief,” said Stephen Schneck, a national co-chair of Catholics for Biden. “I think it would create a huge backlash that would certainly hurt the Biden campaign.”

It’s all the more daunting because Barrett’s faith has drawn much scrutiny thanks to her previous role as a “handmaiden” in People of Praise, a charismatic Christian community that views men as household leaders and, some ex-members say, women as subservient. She and her husband lived in a home owned by co-founders of the group when they were in law school, according to public records.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., says any attacks on Barrett’s faith are a “disgrace.” Democrats, he said, are “so disconnected from their own country that they treat religious Americans like strange animals in a menagerie.”

Democratic leaders have pledged to focus their questioning elsewhere — particularly on the Affordable Care Act, which is being challenged before the court next month, and Barrett’s stance on the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion ruling.

“I don’t intend to question her about her personal views or private religious faith or views,” Coons, a key Biden ally, said this past week. “I don’t expect my colleagues will either.”

Feinstein spokesman Adam Russell said Feinstein “plans on focusing on the issues and what’s at stake for millions of American families if this process continues.”

The balancing act could prove difficult.

Fearful of losing the high court for a generation, the left is demanding that Democrats resist Barrett’s nomination with everything they have. But with the election so close, Democrats are wary of missteps that could hurt their bid to wrest back control of the White House and the Senate majority.

Republicans have preemptively declared any discussion of Barrett’s faith out of bounds.

A Republican on the committee, Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, asked Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York to ensure Democrats don’t give oxygen to what Hawley said is a “a long history of anti-Catholic hatred by some in this country.”

Several Democrats on the committee said this past week that asking about religion would be inappropriate, yet avoiding faith completely could constrain their ability to sharply question Barrett on issues that she herself explored in rulings and legal writings. Biden’s running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, will be among the Democratic questioners walking the tightrope.

In 1998, Barrett co-wrote a law review article that said Catholic judges must “adhere to their church’s

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 35 of 105

teaching on moral matters," suggesting they might have to recuse themselves in certain death penalty cases. In 2015, she signed a letter with other Catholic women describing "the teachings of the Church as truth," including "the value of human life" beginning at conception and marriage "founded on the indissoluble commitment of a man and a woman."

Columbia University law professor Katherine Franke said that asking Barrett how she would handle "an irreconcilable conflict between the commitment she's made to religious law and the commitment she's made to secular law" would be acceptable. But specifics about Barrett's faith, such as broaching People of Praise, would have "a bad odor," Franke said.

At the 2017 hearing, Feinstein told Barrett that there was an "uncomfortable feeling" on the Democratic side and "that dogma and law are two different things." In Barrett's case, she said, "when you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you."

"And that's a concern when you come to big issues," Feinstein added.

Democrats weren't alone in broaching faith. Republicans, too, asked questions related to her Catholicism. Barrett's declaration that it is "never" appropriate for judges to apply their personal convictions came in response to the committee's then-chairman, Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who said she had been "outspoken about your role and your Catholic faith." He asked her about the propriety of a judge putting "their religious views above applying the law."

Both Grassley and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, asked Barrett about the 1998 article on faith and the death penalty. Cruz said it was "obviously of relevance."

Barrett said she had written the article two decades earlier, as a law student, and had no intention of withdrawing from death penalty cases because of her religion. She said it is "never appropriate for a judge to impose that judge's personal convictions, whether they derive from faith or anywhere else on the law."

John Gehring, Catholic program director at the liberal-leaning group Faith in Public Life, warned Democrats against making the sort of "unforced error" that Feinstein did.

To even attempt "to refute a charge of being anti-Catholic," as Republicans have alleged, "is playing on their turf," Gehring said. He urged Democrats to "stay laser-focused on the judicial issues and the real moral issues at stake."

## A senior warning sign for Trump: 'Go Biden' cry at Villages

By TAMARA LUSH Associated Press

THE VILLAGES, Fla. (AP) — Sara Branscome's golf cart whizzed down the smooth asphalt path that winds through The Villages, the nation's largest retirement community, an expanse of beautiful homes, shops and entertainment venues that bills itself as "Florida's Friendliest Hometown."

Branscome's cart was festooned with two American flags that flapped in the warm afternoon breeze. A line of oncoming carts bedecked with balloons and patriotic streamers chugged past while honking. Branscome jabbed her left foot on the horn pedal, then gave a thumbs-up.

"This gets you rejuvenated and ready for the next month or so, so we can do this and win. It gives you hope," the 60-year-old retiree said.

Then she let out a whoop and two surprising words: "Go Biden!"

It's not a cry that might be expected to resound in The Villages, and it's certainly not one that is encouraging to President Donald Trump. Older voters helped propel him to the White House — the Pew Research Center estimates Trump led among voters 65 and older by 9 percentage points in 2016 — and his campaign hoped they would be a bulwark to cement a second term.

They remain a huge chunk of the electorate. Pew estimates that nationwide, nearly 1 in 4 eligible voters will be 65 and older. It's the highest level on record, going back to 1970.

But there have been warnings that older voters are in play. To be sure, Trump has solid support among older adults, but his campaign has seen a drop-off in its internal research, according to campaign aides, and some public polls suggest Democrat Joe Biden is running ahead or just even with Trump.

Mostly, it seems, older voters have been put off by Trump's handling of the coronavirus, which affects

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 36 of 105

these voters more acutely than others. They were particularly alarmed by Trump's performances at daily task force briefings in the spring because his remarks showed an uneven handling of the crisis and inspired little confidence.

The president has tried to shore up his popularity with older adults. He has emphasized themes of law and order, and has warned that Democrats would preside over a sundering of the suburbs. He has promoted his prescription drug policy. And he has kept up steady visits to Florida — after Maine, the state with the oldest population — and advertised heavily there.

But whatever improvement he saw is now in jeopardy. The president's own COVID-19 infection has refocused attention on the virus and his handling of it. If the 74-year-old Trump can't safeguard his own health, some wonder, how can he be trusted to protect other older adults who are far more vulnerable?

In few places could any significant drop-off spell doom more profoundly than Florida, a state Trump almost certainly must win. Older adults historically are the most reliable voters, and Florida is infamous for its tight races. So even a modest drop in support could send Trump back to private life.

The Villages, where the median age is 66, is built on the American dream of a golden retirement. "We've created the backdrop of possibilities for you to write the next chapter in your story," its website says.

Retirees can enjoy everything from golf to seminars on Mark Twain to drinking a cold beverage in the town square while listening to a "jamgrass" band (progressive bluegrass in the vein of Phish).

Politically, it long has been considered a conservative redoubt, so entrenched that it's a must-stop for any national or statewide Republican running for office. One clear measure of its importance: Vice President Mike Pence's scheduled visit Saturday.

The Morse family, which developed the community northwest of Orlando, has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to Republican campaigns over the years. During the 2008 presidential race, GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin drew a stadium-sized crowd with 60,000 residents flocking to see her in one of the community's town squares.

Last fall, Trump picked The Villages to promote his support for Medicare and its private insurance option.

But on Wednesday, the scene told a markedly different story. An armada of as many as 500 golf carts gathered at the Sea Breeze Recreation Center to caravan to the nearby elections office, so folks could drop off ballots for Biden.

As each cart rolled into the parking lot and slid a ballot into a locked box under the watchful eye of elections supervisors, dozens lined the sidewalk, cheering and clapping every time a vote was cast.

"I think we all came out of the closet for this election," said Branscome.

It's not that there weren't Hillary Clinton supporters in The Villages in 2016, said Chris Stanley, president of the community's Democratic Club. There were.

But there was also "an overwhelming sense in 2016 of 'we've got this in the bag.' There was a level of complacency that she'd win," said Stanley. "Now there's a heightened sense of urgency, and in many ways, Trump has been our best recruiting tool ever."

If the slow moving, four-wheel, golf cart show of force is an indication of growing allegiance to the Democrat among the retiree set, it would represent a substantial shift. In Florida, 29% of registered voters are 65 and older. As of Oct. 1, 43% were Republican, 37% were Democrats and 17% were nonpartisan.

Susan MacManus, a University of South Florida distinguished professor of government and international affairs, said The Villages and its powerful voting demographic have become less Republican over the years because of an influx of more liberal people from the Northeast.

She's seen research that shows a softening in Trump's older base, both nationally and in Florida — especially with women.

"That's the group that's leaving Trump," she said. "And it's because of his demeanor, more than his policies. For older women, especially. They went through the battles. They frankly do not appreciate the demeaning of women. More than that, they're thinking of their children and their grandchildren."

Indeed, at The Villages, many of the people riding in golf carts are women like Joan Morrill, a 76-year-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 37 of 105

old former Republican. The pandemic has weighed heavily on her, especially when she considers her four children and seven grandchildren. "We can't live like this ..." she said. "I want a better world for them."

Jeff Johnson, the state director for the Florida AARP, believes voters over 65 are more "in play" in this year's presidential race, largely because of Trump's handling of the pandemic. In recent weeks, Democrats have seized on this softening of support and have rolled out six ads targeting older voters.

In 2018, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for The Associated Press, older Republicans thought immigration was the nation's most important issue, while older Democrats said health care was. But this year, with the pandemic, concern about health care has become a top issue for both.

The Trump campaign seems to be paying attention. On Thursday, the president released a video of himself standing on the White House lawn in which he called older adults "my favorite people." Noting that they are vulnerable to the virus, he asserted with no basis in fact that a medicine he said he was given in the hospital would be free to older people.

"The seniors are going to be taken care of," he said.

That is not how it has played out so far. Not only has Florida been slammed by the virus, but also no other demographic has been affected more than older people. About 93% of Florida's 15,100 deaths from the virus have been people 55 and older, and many are scared — and enraged.

"The whole virus thing has hit really hard here," said Branscome, who pointed out that almost everyone in The Villages moved there from somewhere else. "We can't go see our families because of COVID. I'm not seeing an end to it. There is no plan. Biden has a plan. He wears a mask. It gives us hope."

In recent weeks, Morrill watched as Trump announced he was infected with COVID-19, left the hospital days later and dramatically removed his mask upon his return to the White House.

She seethed.

"I was angry," she said, her voice shaking. "He's showing a bad example. He thinks that nothing's going to affect him. It feels like one lie after another."

For the golf cart caravan, she wore a T-shirt that said "Team Fauci," referring to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious-disease expert. "I trust the scientists and the doctors. I don't trust Trump."

Those sentiments extend well beyond the well-tended streets of The Villages. Ron Hood, 78, a retired college biology professor, lives on the Atlantic coast in Jacksonville. Hood, a Democrat, is voting for Biden. He, too, feels that Trump has left older adults behind.

"I do think there has been an attitude: 'Well, it's not that important to keep them alive and well. If we can't, well, that's too bad. Nice knowing you, bye,'" he said. "I just try not to dwell on things like that, though."

In rural Alachua County, which Clinton carried easily in 2016, 69-year-old Maxie Hicks is deeply troubled by the country's direction and Trump's leadership. Hood, who is Black, said he's been thinking a lot about the civil rights movement, when he was a teenager.

"I've never seen this type of cold-blooded hate, not even back then," he said. "This is a Donald Trump funk. I've never seen this much hostility."

The retired state transportation department worker often thinks about how he and Trump are similar in age. "I don't know how he could come through our generation and be so mean. So heartless. So insensitive. So indecent. So ungentlemanly."

The hostility that Hood bemoans has played out even in "the friendliest town," where Villagers who are Trump enthusiasts have held their own golf cart parades.

In June, a fight broke out between Trump and Biden supporters in front of the Panera Bread shop, and one Trump supporter was captured on video yelling, "White power!"

People still talk about that, and there appear to be some lingering hurt feelings. On Wednesday, during the Biden rally, one woman in her golf cart decked out with Biden signs smiled and said good morning to a man coming from the other direction in a cart with a Trump sign.

"Shove it!" he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 38 of 105

Judy Wise, a 75-year-old retiree in Plant City, a town east of Tampa on the Interstate 4 corridor, said her niece hasn't spoken to her in years, since a fight over Trump. Wise is a stalwart supporter, and her niece is not.

"It's not so much about the man, but the ideology," Wise explained. She's convinced that Biden and the Democrats have a "plan to unseat capitalism" and that he will be a "puppet" of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, progressive Democrat Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Biden's running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris.

Wise believes in small government and lower taxes, and she's worried about the summer's recent nationwide protests, a few of which have turned violent. She recognizes that Trump can be abrasive, but it doesn't bother her, and she questions media reports that Trump had called servicemen and women "losers." Trump wouldn't do that, she said.

Pamela Allen, 72, supported Trump from the time he came down the escalator in Trump Tower in 2015 to announce his candidacy. Every few weeks, she waves Trump flags on the roadside of her Tampa suburb of Holiday with a group of other Republicans.

"I love him. I think he's doing a great job. He's addressing the situations of everyday people's normal everyday concerns," she said. "He's keeping his promises, with little to no help from the media or the Democrats. There is no positivity on anything he does."

As for the pandemic, she does think it's serious for older people, but "it may be blown out of proportion."

"I don't believe the numbers they're posting about deaths. I wash my hands. I wear my mask. I avoid getting very close to people I don't know," she said.

Professor MacManus cautions that while some older voters have gravitated toward Biden, there are many others like Allen and Wise who are firmly in Trump's corner. But that might not be enough for Trump.

"They're still probably leaning more towards Trump. But in Florida, you look at margins," she said. "He won the senior vote in Florida by double digits in 2016. And now we're showing single digits in polls. ... Any bleeding of any cohort is a red flag for that candidate."

And in this week's golf cart caravan, the Biden flags were blue.

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Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire, Josh Boak and Michael Schneider contributed to this report.

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This story has been updated to correct the spelling of Sara Branscom's last name to Branscome.

## **The Latest: Dr. Fauci: Avoid large gatherings without masks**

By The Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON -- Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious-disease expert, is again cautioning against large-scale gatherings of people without masks.

President Donald Trump is planning to convene another large crowd outside the White House on Saturday. Trump's Rose Garden event announcing Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his Supreme Court nominee on Sept. 26 has been labeled a "super-spreader" for the coronavirus.

Fauci said of the Rose Garden event in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday: "I was not surprised to see a super-spreader event given the circumstances. Crowded, congregate setting, not wearing masks. It is not surprising to see an outbreak."

Fauci says the CDC guideline for getting people back into society generally "is 10 days from the onset of your symptoms."

That onset for Trump was Oct. 1, according to his doctors. The president's White House doctor, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said Trump could return to holding events on Saturday. Organizers says attendees are required to bring masks or masks will be provided for the outdoor White House event.

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

— Dr. Fauci cautions against large gatherings without masks, social distancing ahead of President Trump's White House event

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 39 of 105**

- India coronavirus cases approach 7 million; averaging more than 70,000 daily cases this month
  - Czech Republic sees surge in new daily infections at nearly 9,000
  - Queen Elizabeth II honored the work of doctors and nurses, delivery drivers, fundraisers and volunteers during the coronavirus pandemic.
  - China's first classical music festival since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic is featuring musicians from the former epicenter of Wuhan.
  - The NFL's Tennessee Titans and the New England Patriots had no positive coronavirus tests Saturday and both teams will be allowed to go back to their facilities.
- Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

**TRENTON, N.J.** — Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says he's been discharged from a New Jersey hospital where he spent a week after contracting the coronavirus.

Christie says in a Saturday post on Twitter that he'd been released from the Morristown Medical Center. He tweeted his thanks to hospital staff and says he'd "have more to say about all of this next week."

Christie announced Oct. 3 he had tested positive and checked himself into the hospital as "an important precautionary measure," given his history of asthma.

Christie was among several coronavirus cases connected to President Donald Trump's inner circle. Along with Trump and first lady Melania Trump, multiple people who traveled with the president or attended his events recently contracted the virus.

**PRAGUE** — The Czech Republic and neighboring Slovakia have registered big jumps in new coronavirus infections, setting a new record for the fourth straight day.

The Health Ministry says the day-to-day increase reached 8,618 confirmed cases on Friday, over 3,000 more than the previous record set a day earlier in the nation of over 10 million.

The Czech Republic has had a total of 109,374 cases since the beginning of the pandemic with 905 deaths. Of those, almost 27,000 have tested positive in the first five days of this week while 146 have died this week, according to Saturday's figures.

The government has responded to the record surge by imposing a series of new restrictive measures. Prime Minister Andrej Babis said on Friday he cannot rule out a lockdown of the entire country.

In Slovakia, the health ministry reported 1,887 new cases of infection on Friday, over 700 more than the day before.

Prime Minister Igor Matovic says the government is preparing further restrictive measures that will be announced on Sunday.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 40 of 105

announced on Sunday.

**DELHI** — India's confirmed coronavirus cases are nearing 7 million with another 73,272 reported in the past 24 hours.

The Health Ministry on Saturday also reported 926 additional deaths, taking total fatalities to 107,416. The deaths have remained below 1,000 for the seventh straight day.

India is seeing a slower pace of coronavirus spread since mid-September when the daily infections touched a record of 97,894 cases. It's averaging more than 70,000 cases daily so far this month, while the recovery rate has exceeded 85%.

But health experts have warned that congregations during major festivals later this month and in November have the potential for the virus to spread.

"We have to work aggressively to make sure that during winter months and during the festive season coronavirus cases don't rise dramatically," said Dr. Randeep Guleria, a government health expert.

Experts say India's fragile health system has been bolstered in recent months but could still be overwhelmed by an exponential rise in cases.

Consumer activity is gradually rebounding and millions of factory workers who had fled cities when India imposed a 2-month-long rigorous lockdown on March 25 are returning.

**SANTA FE, N.M.** — New Mexico is losing ground in efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 as newly reported daily infections hit a record of 488 cases.

Three additional deaths from the pandemic also were disclosed Friday by state health officials as fatalities from the pandemic surpassed 900.

Bernalillo County, with the state's most populous urban area, accounted for 135 new cases, while Dona Ana had 81. Lea and Chaves counties together accounted for 77 new cases.

The state's infection and positivity rates for the spread of the virus are climbing as the administration of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham holds the line on emergency public health restrictions.

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Enrolled members of the Navajo Nation will be eligible for payments of up to \$1,500 as part of the tribe's response to the coronavirus.

President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer on Friday approved the \$49 million plan adopted by the tribal council. The funding comes from the tribe's share of federal coronavirus relief funding.

Adults will be eligible for payments of \$1,500 while minors are eligible for \$500.

Nez said in a statement that there isn't enough funding to cover payments for all enrolled members of the tribe, so the money should be directed to elders and those most in need.

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** —The University of Rhode Island has issued a two-week shelter-in-place order for fraternity and sorority houses because of a high number of coronavirus cases.

The school sent the notice Friday in tandem with its Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association.

Students may leave Greek housing only for medical visits and other essential services, such as grocery shopping and essential employment. The students will take classes virtually while sheltering.

Students and chapters that don't follow guidelines could be suspended or dismissed.

The school says it based its decision on statistics showing a much higher rate of coronavirus positivity among students in Greek housing at over 11% than in total off-campus housing at under 4% or in the total on-campus population at 0.65%.

**ALBANY, N.Y.** — A federal judge has refused to block New York's plan to temporarily limit the size of religious gatherings in COVID-19 hot spots.

U.S. District Judge Kiyo Matsumoto issued the ruling Friday after an emergency hearing in a lawsuit brought by rabbis and synagogues who said the restrictions were unconstitutional.

They had sought to have enforcement delayed until at least after Jewish holy days this weekend. The



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 41 of 105

rules limit indoor prayer services in certain areas to no more than 10 people.

The judge said the state had an interest in protecting public safety.

**RENO, Nev.** — A recent spike in COVID-19 cases at the University of Nevada, Reno is prompting the school to suspend all in-class instruction effective Nov. 30.

UNR officials also are telling most students not to return to residence halls after Thanksgiving.

School officials said Friday they plan for students to return to dormitories for the spring semester and resume a combination of remote and in-class instruction Jan. 25. But during the period in between, all classes will be conducted remotely.

Only students facing extenuating circumstance will be allowed to live in campus housing. In recent weeks, one-out-of-nine of the county's new cases have been tied to UNR.

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** — Health officials in Alaska's largest city on Friday recommended up to 300 people associated with a youth hockey tournament quarantine or isolate after "a cluster" of COVID-19 cases were identified.

The Anchorage Health Department said players, coaches and fans from parts of south-central Alaska and Juneau attended the tournament, which was held Oct. 2-4.

The department said it encouraged everyone who attended who does not have symptoms to quarantine for 14 days, except to get tested, and encouraged those with symptoms to isolate for 10 days, except to get tested.

Dr. Janet Johnston, the department's epidemiologist, said that means the department is recommending up to 300 isolate or quarantine.

Heather Harris, the department's director, could not provide "concrete" numbers of positive cases associated with the tournament. She said the tournament organizers said they tried to enforce masking guidelines and kept a contact log of participants.

Contact trace investigations indicated "significant close contact in indoor spaces, including locker rooms, with inconsistent use of face coverings," the city health department said in a release.

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — Gov. Jim Justice announced Friday that bars around West Virginia University in Morgantown can reopen next Tuesday, a month after images of maskless college students packing bars led them to be shut down.

Police and state alcohol regulators will step up enforcement in the college town, Justice said at a coronavirus press briefing. The Republican governor abruptly ordered Monongalia County bars to close indefinitely on Sept. 2 — just two days after allowing them to reopen — as many patrons lined up without social distancing.

The owners of 12 restaurants and bars sued the governor and local officials in Morgantown last month in federal court over the shutdown.

"Bars that don't enforce these guidelines, where we see a bunch of people packed in with no mask wearing ... you will be shut down again," Justice said, adding establishments risk having their licenses suspended.

County officials previously required bars to cut indoor seating occupancy by half, close dance floors and discontinue live performances and entertainment. Restaurants in the county had been able to continue dine-in service without operating their bars. Morgantown city officials did not immediately return a request for comment.

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — The number of people hospitalized in Oklahoma due to the coronavirus surged to a record one-day high of 749 on Friday, according to the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

The number hospitalized either with the virus or under investigation for infection surpassed the previous high of 738 reported on Wednesday.

The department also reported 1,524 newly confirmed cases of the virus, the second highest daily increase since 1,714 new cases were reported on July 21, and 97,088 total cases. There are six additional deaths

due to COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, bringing the total to 1,091. There were 13,515 active cases of the virus on Thursday, and 82,482 people have recovered, according to the health department.

## Kyrgyzstan bans rallies, imposes curfew to end turmoil

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Authorities in Kyrgyzstan on Saturday arrested a former president, banned rallies and imposed a curfew in the Central Asian nation's capital, seeking to end a week of turmoil sparked by a disputed parliamentary election.

The declaration of the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. curfew in Bishkek followed President Sooronbai Jeenbekov's decree on Friday announcing a state of emergency in the city until Oct. 21. He also ordered the military to deploy troops to the capital to enforce the measure.

Convoys of military trucks were seen driving into the city.

Jeenbekov has faced calls to step down from thousands of protesters who stormed government buildings a night after pro-government parties reportedly swept parliamentary seats in last Sunday's vote. The demonstrators also freed former President Almazbek Atambayev, who was sentenced to 11 years in prison in June on charges of corruption and abuse of office that he and his supporters described as a political vendetta by Jeenbekov.

Atambayev was arrested again on Saturday on charges of organizing riots, the State Security Committee said in a statement.

The turmoil marks the third time in 15 years that protesters have moved to topple a government in Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian nation of 6.5 million people that is one of the poorest to emerge from the former Soviet Union.

As in the uprisings that ousted Kyrgyz presidents in 2005 and 2010, the current protests have been driven by clan rivalries that play a dominant role in the country's politics.

After an initial attempt to break up protesters in the hours after the vote, police have pulled back and refrained from intervening with the demonstrations. Residents of the capital began forming vigilante groups to prevent looting that accompanied previous uprisings in the country.

Under pressure from protesters, the Central Election Commission has overturned the parliamentary vote results and protest leaders have moved quickly to form a new government. An emergency parliament session on Tuesday nominated lawmaker Sadyr Zhaparov as new prime minister, but the move was immediately contested by other protest groups, plunging the country into chaos.

Lawmakers voted again Saturday to seal Zhaparov's appointment, using proxy votes by those who weren't absent in the hall to achieve the necessary quorum.

On Friday, supporters of Zhaparov assailed pro-Atambayev demonstrators on Bishkek's central square, hurling stones and bottles. A man with a pistol fired several shots at Atambayev's car as it sped away, but the former president was unhurt. Two other politicians affiliated with Atambayev also had their cars shot at as they left the square, their party said. They weren't injured.

Another politician was badly injured amid the clashes on the square, and several other people were also hurt.

Jeenbekov, who kept a low profile for most of the past week, used the infighting between his foes to dig in. He met with the new chief of the military General Staff on Friday, saying that he relies on the armed forces to help restore order.

"We are witnessing a real threat to the existence of our state," Jeenbekov said in a statement late Friday. "The peaceful life of our citizens mustn't be sacrificed to political passions."

Kyrgyzstan is strategically located on the border with China and once was home to a U.S. air base used for refueling and logistics for the war in Afghanistan. The country is a member of Russia-dominated economic and security alliances, hosts a Russian air base and depends on Moscow's economic support.

The Kremlin voiced concern about the turmoil in Kyrgyzstan, emphasizing the need to quickly stabilize

the situation to prevent chaos.

## Delta adds insult to injury in hurricane-ravaged Louisiana

By REBECCA SANTANA and STACEY PLAISANCE Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — Ripping tarps off damaged roofs and scattering massive piles of storm debris in the wind and water, Hurricane Delta inflicted fresh damage in Louisiana along the same path of destruction Hurricane Laura carved just six weeks earlier.

Delta hit as a Category 2 hurricane with top winds of 100 mph (155 kph) before rapidly weakening over land on Saturday. Flash floods remained a risk from parts of Texas to Mississippi, where forecasters said up to 10 inches of rain could fall by day's end.

Delta made landfall Friday evening near the town of Creole, a few miles east of where Laura hit in August, and then moved directly over Lake Charles, a waterfront city where nearly every home was already damaged.

Debris piles went airborne as Delta blew through, and some of the wreckage floated around in the storm surge. The damage reached far inland, with trees shorn of leaves and falling onto streets in Louisiana's capital of Baton Rouge.

Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter said tarps flew off homes across the city, and in the building where he rode out the storm, a tarp flapping sounded "like someone pounding with a sledgehammer."

The wind tore at the roof of L'Banca Albergo, an eight-room boutique hotel in Lake Arthur. "I probably don't have a shingle left on the top of this hotel," owner Roberta Palermo said as the winds howled outside.

Palermo said pieces of metal were coming off the roof of a 100-year-old building across the street, and trash cans were flying around. Power lines were down and the water rose to strand parked cars, her guest Johnny Weaver said.

About 740,000 customers lost power in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, according to the tracking website PowerOutage.us.

"Rising water with all the rain is the biggest problem," Calcasieu Sheriff Tony Mancuso told KPLC-TV on Saturday. "It's still dangerous out there, and we're just going to have to start over from a few weeks ago."

He said vehicles were overturned on Interstate-10 — a harsh lesson for anyone hoping to rush back into the disaster area.

"I just think people need to use some good common sense," Mancuso said.

The governor's office said it had no reports of deaths early Saturday, but a hurricane's wake can be treacherous. Only seven of the 32 deaths in Louisiana and Texas attributed to Laura came the day that hurricane struck. A leading cause of the others was carbon monoxide poisoning from generators used in places without electricity. Others died in accidents while cleaning up.

Delta has swirled over a wide swath of the United States, kicking up large swells and rip currents that closed beaches down to the Mexican border. Two homes under construction were blown down in Galveston, Texas. The steeple of the Mount Triumph Baptist Church was toppled in Jennings, Louisiana. A tree fell on the vehicle of Jackson-based WLBT-TV with its news crew inside. No one was injured.

By 7 a.m. local time, Delta was centered near the Louisiana-Mississippi state line and barely a tropical storm. Forecasters said remnants could spawn tornadoes in Tennessee Valley into Sunday, and flash floods could hit the southern Appalachians.

Delta, the 25th named storm of an unprecedented Atlantic hurricane season, is the first Greek-alphabet-named hurricane to hit the continental U.S., and the 10th named storm to hit the mainland U.S. this year, breaking a record set in 1916, said Colorado State University researcher Phil Klotzbach. It was Louisiana's fourth named storm in 2020, after Cristobal, Laura and Marco.

Some were determined to keep riding out these storms.

Jeanne-Marie Gove could hear debris hitting her door in Lafayette, and watched the roof from a trailer behind her apartment fly down the sidewalk.

"The wind gusts are making the glass from our windows bow inward," Gove tweeted. "It's pretty scary."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 44 of 105

Hunter said he thought more people evacuated for Delta than Laura, reducing emergency calls. He worried about the flooding, and the aftermath.

"We really just need people not to forget about us," Hunter said. "We are going to be in the recovery mode for months and probably years from these two hurricanes. It's just unprecedented and historic what has happened to us."

Associated Press contributors include Rebecca Santana in Jennings, Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge; Gerald Herbert in Lake Charles; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland; and Sophia Tulp in Atlanta.

## AP FACT CHECK: Debate week's twisted tales on virus, climate

By HOPE YEN, CALVIN WOODWARD and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sidelined but not silenced, President Donald Trump demonstrated anew this past week he can't be relied on to give a straight account of the disease that has afflicted millions, now including him. He heralded the arrival of a COVID-19 cure, which did not happen, and likened the coronavirus to the common flu even while knowing better.

The week featured the only vice presidential debate of the 2020 campaign and an emphasis on policy lacking in the virulent Trump vs. Joe Biden showdown of the week before.

Vice President Mike Pence asserted Trump respects the science on climate change when actually the president mocks it, and Pence defended a White House gathering that the government's infectious disease chief branded a super-spreader event. His Democratic rival, California Sen. Kamala Harris, tripped on tax policy while wrongly accusing Trump of dismissing the pandemic as a hoax.

A review:

CORONAVIRUS

TRUMP, on those who get COVID-19. "Now what happens is you get better. That's what happens, you get better." — to Fox Business on Thursday.

THE FACTS: As a blanket assurance, that is obviously false. Most people get better. But more than 1 million people worldwide have died from the disease, more than 212,000 of them in the U.S. The disease also may leave many people with long-term harm that is not fully understood.

Trump's doctor, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said Friday that Trump was showing no evidence of his illness progressing or adverse reactions to the aggressive course of therapy prescribed by his doctors. That doesn't mean he is over it.

TRUMP, on the experimental antibodies he was administered: "We have a cure. ... I can tell you, it's a cure and I'm talking to you today because of it." — speaking to Rush Limbaugh's radio show by phone Friday.

THE FACTS: We don't have a cure. His statement is premature at best and may raise false hope. And his present condition cannot be pinned on a particular medicine in the combination of drugs he has been given.

Antibody drugs like the one Trump was given are among the most promising therapies being tested for treating and preventing coronavirus infections. But the medicines are still in testing; their safety and effectiveness are not yet known.

Trump was among fewer than 10 people who were able to access the Regeneron Pharmaceuticals drug without having to enroll in a study. Eli Lilly and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. are both asking the U.S. government to allow emergency use of their antibody drugs, which aim to help the immune system clear the virus.

Trump has routinely made too much of promising developments in the pandemic and given weight to bogus theories about how to prevent and treat the disease while dismissing the importance of true preventives such as wearing a mask and staying away from groups of people.

TRUMP: "Flu season is coming up! Many people every year, sometimes over 100,000, and despite the vaccine, die from the flu. Are we going to close down our country? No, we have learned to live with it,

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 45 of 105

just like we are learning to live with Covid, in most populations far less lethal!!!” — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: He’s contradicting science and himself.

First, he’s overstating the U.S. death toll from the seasonal flu. The flu has killed 12,000 to 61,000 Americans annually since 2010, not 100,000, a benchmark rarely reached in U.S. history. More than 212,000 Americans have died of COVID-19.

Second, health officials widely agree that the coronavirus seems to be at least several times more lethal than seasonal flu. At one point, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health told Congress it could be as much as 10 times more lethal.

“There’s absolutely no doubt, no doubt at all, that this COVID-19 ... is far more serious than a seasonal flu, no doubt about that,” Fauci told MSNBC this past week.

Trump’s tweet also flies in the face of what he told author Bob Woodward in February, that the virus was even more deadly than “your strenuous flus,” even while suggesting publicly that the pandemic was akin to the flu season. “This is deadly stuff,” he told the author.

## FRACKING

TRUMP on Biden: “He gets up and he says, we’re not fracking. We’re not fracking. He was fracking. For six months he was fracking. He was raising his -- his very thin hand and he was fracking. And now all of a sudden he’s not fracking. ... It’s ridiculous. He said he’s not fracking.” — Thursday to Fox News.

THE FACTS: It’s OK to be very confused by this.

What Trump was trying to say is that Biden flip-flopped on whether he would ban fracking, though the president skipped the part about banning in his remark. Biden in a 2019 Democratic primary debate said he would ban fracking, but his campaign quickly said he misspoke and corrected the record. Biden supports banning new oil and gas leases on public lands but says he does not want a fracking ban and consider such a ban probably impossible.

Trump did add at the end of more fracking accusations, “They’re going to stop fracking the minute they get into office.” That’s false, but it is the accusation Trump was trying to make before.

Biden did not flip-flop but rather flubbed his position at one event, his campaign said.

Democrats are divided on fracking and not all of them appreciated the clarity that Harris brought to the issue in the vice presidential debate, when she stoutly declared a Biden administration would not ban fracking.

“Fracking is bad, actually,” tweeted Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.

## FROM THE DEBATE CLIMATE CHANGE

PENCE: “The both of you repeatedly committed to abolishing fossil fuel and banning fracking. ... President Trump has made clear we’re going to continue to listen to the science” on climate change.

THE FACTS: In addition to being wrong about Biden’s position on fracking, Pence is wrong to say Trump follows the science on climate change. He conspicuously doesn’t.

Trump’s public comments as president all dismiss the science on climate change — that it’s caused by people burning fossil fuels and it’s worsening sharply. As recently as last month, Trump said, “I don’t think science knows” what it’s talking about regarding global warming and the resulting worsening of wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters. He’s ridiculed the science in many public comments and tweets.

As for his actions, his regulation-cutting has eliminated key Obama-era efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.

Pence is correct when he says Harris supported banning fracking. That was when she was running for president.

At a CNN climate change town hall for Democratic presidential candidates last year, Harris said, “There’s no question I’m in favor of banning fracking. Starting with what we can do from Day One on public lands.” Now, as Biden’s running mate, she is bound to his agenda, which is different.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 46 of 105

PENCE: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "tells us that, actually, as difficult as they are, there are no more hurricanes today than there were 100 years ago, but many of the climate alarmists use hurricanes and wildfires to try and sell a bill of goods."

THE FACTS: He's evading what science actually says about climate change and hurricanes. The main studies don't assert Earth is seeing more hurricanes than a century ago. They find that today's hurricanes are worse because of the warming climate.

Research shows that intensification of the storms has increased tremendously since the 1980s in the Atlantic and the only explanation is human-caused climate change.

An analysis of 167 years of federal storm data by The Associated Press in 2017 found that no 30-year period in history has seen this many major hurricanes, with winds greater than 110 mph, this many days of those whoppers spinning in the Atlantic, or this much overall energy generated by those powerful storms.

Such findings are what alarm scientists and part of what Pence calls alarmist.

PENCE: "You know, what's remarkable is the United States has reduced CO2 more than the countries that are still in the Paris climate accord."

FACTS: True but hardly remarkable. With its giant economy, the U.S. has far more raw emissions of climate-damaging carbon dioxide to cut than any other country except China.

A more telling measure of progress in various countries is to look at what percentage of emissions they have cut. Since 2005, the United States hasn't been even in the top 10 in percentage of greenhouse gas emission reductions.

## ECONOMY

PENCE: "Joe Biden wants to go back to the economic surrender to China, that when we took office, half of our international trade deficit was with China alone. And Joe Biden wants to repeal all of the tariffs that President Trump put into effect to fight for American jobs and American workers."

THE FACTS: The tariffs were not the win claimed by Pence.

For starters, tariffs are taxes that consumers and businesses pay through higher prices. So Pence is defending tax increases. The tariffs against China did cause the trade deficit in goods with China to fall in 2019. But that's a Pyrrhic victory at best as overall U.S. economic growth slowed from 3% to 2.2% because of the trade uncertainty.

More important, the Trump administration has not decreased the overall trade imbalance. For all trading partners, the government said the trade deficit was \$576.9 billion last year, nearly \$100 billion higher than during the last year of Barack Obama's presidency.

HARRIS, on Trump's tax cuts: "On Day 1, Joe Biden will repeal that tax bill."

THE FACTS: No, that's not what Biden proposes. He would repeal some of it. Nor can he repeal a law on his own, much less on his first day in office. Harris also said Biden will not raise taxes on people making under \$400,000. If he were to repeal the Trump tax cuts across the board, he would be breaking that promise.

## MORE ON CORONAVIRUS

PENCE, on the Sept. 26 Rose Garden event after which more than 11 attendees tested positive for COVID-19: "It was an outdoor event, which all of our scientists regularly and routinely advise."

THE FACTS: His suggestion that the event followed public health safety recommendations is false. The event, introducing Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, drew more than 150 people and flouted safety recommendations in multiple ways. And it was not all outside.

"We had a super-spreader event in the White House," Fauci told CBS Radio News. "And it was in a situation where people were crowded together, were not wearing masks."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says large gatherings of people who have traveled

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 47 of 105

from outside the area and aren't spaced at least 6 feet apart pose the greatest risk for spreading the virus.

That's exactly the type of high-risk event the White House hosted.

Guests were seated close together, not 6 feet apart, in rows of chairs outside. Many were captured on camera clapping backs, shaking hands and talking, barely at arm's length.

The CDC also "strongly encourages" people to wear masks, but few in the Rose Garden wore them. There was also a private reception inside the White House after the Rose Garden ceremony, where some politicians, including North Carolina Republican Sen. Thom Tillis, who has since tested positive, were pictured not wearing masks.

**HARRIS** on the virus: "The president said it was a hoax."

**THE FACTS:** That's misleading.

She's referring to a Feb. 28 campaign rally in South Carolina in which Trump said the phrases "the coronavirus" and "this is their new hoax" at separate points. Although his meaning is difficult to discern, the broader context of his words shows he was railing against Democrats for their denunciations of his administration's coronavirus response.

"Now the Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus," he said at the rally. "You know that, right? Coronavirus. They're politicizing it." He meandered briefly to the subject of the messy Democratic primary in Iowa, then the Russia investigation before returning to the pandemic. "They tried the impeachment hoax. ... And this is their new hoax."

Asked at a news conference the day after the rally to clarify his remarks, Trump said he was not referring to the coronavirus itself as a hoax.

"No, no, no." he said. "'Hoax' referring to the action that they take to try and pin this on somebody, because we've done such a good job. The hoax is on them, not — I'm not talking about what's happening here. I'm talking what they're doing. That's the hoax."

## HEALTH CARE

**PENCE:** "President Trump and I have a plan to improve health care and to protect preexisting conditions for all Americans."

**THE FACTS:** No, there is no clear plan. People with preexisting conditions are already protected by the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, and if the Trump administration succeeds in persuading the Supreme Court to overturn it, those protections will be in jeopardy.

Trump has signed an executive order declaring it the policy of the U.S. government to protect people with preexisting conditions, but he would have to go back to Congress to work out legislation to replace those "Obamacare" provisions.

Various Republican approaches offered in 2017 would have undermined the protections in the ACA, and Trump has not offered details of how his plan would work. Although Trump has been in office nearly four years, he has yet to roll out the comprehensive health care proposal he once promised.

## PANDEMIC

**PENCE:** "He suspended all travel from China, the second-largest economy in the world. Joe Biden opposed that decision, he said it was xenophobic and hysterical."

**THE FACTS:** Trump's order did not suspend "all travel from China." He restricted it, and Biden never branded the decision "xenophobic." Dozens of countries took similar steps to control travel from hot spots before or around the same time the U.S. did.

The U.S. restrictions that took effect Feb. 2 continued to allow travel to the U.S. from China's Hong Kong and Macao territories for months. The Associated Press reported that more than 8,000 Chinese and foreign nationals based in those territories entered the U.S. in the first three months after the travel restrictions were imposed.

Additionally, more than 27,000 Americans returned from mainland China in the first month after the restrictions took effect. U.S. officials lost track of more than 1,600 of them who were supposed to be

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 48 of 105

monitored for virus exposure.

Biden has accused Trump of having a record of xenophobia but not explicitly in the context of the president's decision to limit travel from China during the pandemic. Trump took to calling the virus the "China virus" and the "foreign virus" at one point, prompting Biden to urge the country not to take a turn toward xenophobia or racism in the pandemic.

HARRIS, on the effects of the pandemic: "One in 5 businesses, closed."

THE FACTS: That's not accurate, as of now. We don't know yet how many businesses have permanently closed — or could do so in the months ahead.

What we do know is that the National Federation of Independent Business said in August that 1 in 5 small businesses will close if economic conditions don't improve in the next six months.

Many small businesses survived in part through the forgivable loans from the Payroll Protection Program. Larger employers such as Disney and Allstate insurance have announced layoffs, as have major airlines. Restaurants that survived the pandemic with outdoor eating will soon face the challenge of cold weather. So it's too soon to tell how many businesses have closed or will.

## RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

PENCE, on the conclusions of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation: "It was found that there was no obstruction, no collusion. Case closed."

THE FACTS: That's a mischaracterization of Mueller's nearly 450-page report and its core findings.

Mueller did not absolve the president of obstructing the investigation into ties between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russia. Instead, his team examined roughly a dozen episodes in which the president sought to exert his will on the probe, including by firing his FBI director and seeking the ouster of Mueller himself. Ultimately, Mueller declined to reach a conclusion on whether Trump had committed a crime, citing Justice Department policy against indicting a sitting president. But that's different than finding "no obstruction."

Mueller also didn't quite find "no collusion." His investigation identified multiple contacts between Russians and Trump associates and outlined sweeping Russian interference that he said the Trump campaign welcomed and expected to benefit from. Mueller said that he did not have enough to establish a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia; collusion is not a precise legal term.

## VOTING

PENCE: "President Trump and I are fighting every day in courthouses to prevent Joe Biden and Kamala Harris from changing the rules and creating this universal mail-in voting that will create a massive opportunity for voter fraud."

THE FACTS: Pence is vastly overstating the potential for fraud with mail-in ballots, just as Trump frequently does.

Broadly speaking, voter fraud has proved exceedingly rare. A 2017 report from the Brennan Center for Justice ranked the risk of ballot fraud at 0.00004% to 0.0009%, based on studies of past elections. A panel commissioned by the Trump administration to explore the issue uncovered no evidence to support claims of widespread voter fraud.

Trump and his allies have tried to argue that absentee balloting is fine — when someone has to request a ballot as opposed to automatically getting one in the mail — while universal mail-in balloting is open to fraud because all the state's registered voters receive a ballot through the mail. It's true that some election studies have shown a slightly higher incidence of mail-in voting fraud compared with in-person voting, but the overall risk is extremely low.

There is ongoing litigation in several states over a host of election issues, including absentee ballots. States nationwide expect a surge in mail-in voting due to the ongoing risk posed by the coronavirus.

Five states routinely send ballots to all registered voters, allowing them to choose to vote through the mail or in person. In November, four other states — California, New Jersey, Nevada and Vermont — and the District of Columbia will be adopting that system, as will almost every county in Montana.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 49 of 105

Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Colleen Long, Amanda Seitz, Michael Balsamo and Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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

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## After coronavirus, Trump aims to get campaign back on track

By ZEKE MILLER, JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking to shove his campaign back on track, President Donald Trump and his team laid out an aggressive return to political activities, including a big White House event on Saturday and a rally in Florida on Monday, a week after his hospitalization for a virus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans.

As questions linger about his health — and Democratic opponent Joe Biden steps up his own campaigning — Trump planned to leave the Washington area for the first time since he was hospitalized. He is also increasing his radio and TV appearances with conservative interviewers, hoping to make up for lost time with just over three weeks until Election Day and millions already voting.

The president has not been seen in public — other than in White House-produced videos — since his return days ago from the military hospital where he received experimental treatments for the coronavirus.

Two weeks after his Rose Garden event that has been labeled a “superspreader” for the virus, Trump is planning to convene another large crowd outside the White House on Saturday for what his administration calls “a peaceful protest for law & order.” More than two dozen people linked to the White House have contracted COVID-19 since the president’s Sept. 26 event announcing Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his nominee to the Supreme Court.

Trump will address the Saturday group, expected to be at least several hundred supporters, from the White House balcony. All attendees are required to bring masks or will be provided with them, and also will be given temperature checks and asked to fill out a brief questionnaire. Attendees will be strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidelines, which include mask-wearing and social distancing.

Trump’s Monday rally in Sanford, Florida, was originally scheduled to be held on Oct. 2, the day after he tested positive.

Announcement of the new event came as Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government’s top infectious-disease expert, cautioned the White House again to avoid large-scale gatherings of people without masks.

He said of the Barrett event in an interview with The Associated Press, “I was not surprised to see a superspreader event given the circumstances.” That means “crowded, congregate setting, not wearing masks. It is not surprising to see an outbreak,” he said.

District of Columbia virus restrictions prohibit outdoor gatherings larger than 50 people, although that rule has not been strictly enforced. Masks are mandatory outdoors for most people, but the regulations don’t apply on federal land, and the Trump White House has openly flouted them for months.

And next week in Florida? Trump tweeted on Friday that he would be in Sanford “for a very BIG RALLY!”

Meanwhile, next Thursday’s town hall-style Trump-Biden debate was officially canceled, a few days after Trump backed away when the sponsoring commission switched it from face-to-face to virtual following Trump’s COVID-19 diagnosis.

Trump said the Commission on Presidential Debates was protecting Biden from having to take on the president in person. But Biden’s team said the one demanding protection was Trump.

“It’s shameful that Donald Trump ducked the only debate in which the voters get to ask the questions — but it’s no surprise,” said Biden spokesperson Andrew Bates. “Everyone knows that Donald Trump likes to bully reporters, but obviously he doesn’t have the guts to answer for his record to voters at the same

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 50 of 105

time as Vice President Biden.”

Trump is now making the rounds of friendly conservative media, calling in to Fox News host Sean Hannity on Thursday night and spending two hours live on air with radio host Rush Limbaugh on Friday in what his campaign billed as a “radio rally.”

Holding court on his reelection battle, his fight against the coronavirus and revived negotiations with Democrats to pass an economic stimulus bill, Trump was making a direct appeal to his base of loyal supporters, whom he needs to turn out to the polls in droves. He followed with a taped appearance on Tucker Carlson’s Fox News show Friday evening.

In that interview, Trump was asked if he has been retested for COVID-19. “I have been retested, and I haven’t even found out numbers or anything yet. But I’ve been retested, and I know I’m at either the bottom of the scale or free,” he said.

Fauci said in his AP interview, “Let me just tell you what the CDC guidelines are for getting people to be able to go back into society. It generally is 10 days from the onset of your symptoms.”

That onset for Trump was Oct. 1, according to his doctors. The president’s White House doctor, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said that means Trump, who has been surrounded by minimal staffing as he works out of the White House residence and the Oval Office, could return to holding events on Saturday.

Conley added that Trump was showing no evidence of his illness progressing or adverse reactions to the aggressive course of therapy he has received.

While reports of reinfection in COVID-19 victims are rare, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that even people who recover from the disease continue to wear masks, stay distanced and follow other precautions. It was unclear if Trump, who has refused mask wearing in most settings, would abide by that guidance.

In the interview with Limbaugh, Trump again credited the experimental antibody drug he received last week with speeding his recovery.

“I was not in the greatest of shape,” he said. “A day later I was fine.” He promised to expedite distribution of the drug to Americans in need, though that would require action by the Food and Drug Administration.

He speculated to Limbaugh that without the drug, “I might not have recovered at all.” However, there is no way to know how the drug affected his progression with the virus.

Despite public and private surveys showing him trailing Biden, Trump predicted a greater victory in 2020 than four years ago. He won a majority in the Electoral College in 2016, though he lost the national popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

As for economic aid to businesses and individuals harmed by the pandemic, he said, “I would like to see a bigger stimulus package frankly than either the Democrats or the Republicans are offering.” He made that comment just days after calling off talks with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi “until after the election” because the GOP balked at the high price tag of the aid she was calling for.

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Associated Press writer Ashraf Khalil contributed to this report.

## With Americans anxious to go out, walking tours pick up pace

By DAN SEWELL Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — With an eerily quiet and empty stadium plaza behind him, the tour guide tried to help people picture what they would have seen there more than 160 years earlier.

His audience of eight, all on foot, peered over masks at maps as he described hundreds of groceries, saloons, blacksmiths and 100,000 people living across two square miles — one of the pre-Civil War United States’ most congested areas. The area had an open secret then: It was filled with stations on the Underground Railroad for slaves trying to reach freedom. Today, they were walking those paths.

For so many Americans, this is a time of being cooped up, of being unable to interact with fellow humans and, in many cases, with the landscape itself. COVID-19 and its impact — more than 200,000 Americans dead — have kept many away from air travel, cruise ships and crowded beaches.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 51 of 105

Enter a decidedly unplugged alternative, a very concrete antidote to a suddenly more virtual life: the walking tour. Maybe not the most exciting outlet, but far better than being surrounded by the same four walls.

"Our mental health matters also, and it's very important for us ... when we're really feeling extremely alienated from each other and feeling trapped in our homes, to walk our streets, in the safest way possible," said Rebecca Manski of Social Justice Tours in New York City.

Such tours have picked up in popularity for people seeking outdoor social activity while maintaining health safety precautions and staying in small groups. The Cincinnati walking tour, for example, was among several offered in recent months by the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame & Museum. The goal: to offset a pandemic-abbreviated baseball season that didn't allow fans in the ballpark.

Normally, Bob Doherty, 61, said, his family would have been inside the stadium that Sunday afternoon, rooting for the Reds in their playoff-race game against the Chicago White Sox. The tour, which combined the roots of professional baseball and the city's abolitionist history, "is the next best thing," he said. Others concurred.

"It's refreshing to get outside and be with family," said Mack Doherty, 28. They were in a group of five including his father, his sister and her boyfriend. His girlfriend, Avery Helwig, 28, concurred: "So nice to get out."

Manski's New York group, like many tour companies, halted in-person tours as the pandemic took hold in March. She said the jarring sound of ambulance sirens as new COVID-19 victims were rushed to hospitals added to the obstacles of education-focused tours. Hers shifted quickly to virtual offerings, and other groups have been offering small, private group tours or self-guided tours with audio and GPS information provided.

"It's an interesting time to be in the travel industry," said Riley Pearce, of Berkeley, California-based Backroads Tours. "Nobody knows what people are going to want, because people don't really don't know what they want yet."

With pandemic worry reducing participants on Backroads' walking, hiking and bike tours by as much as 90% this year, they are rebuilding business with family- and private-group expeditions with a variety of approaches.

The Reds Hall of Fame Museum, in the city that pioneered professional baseball in 1869, has also done walking tours about the 1919 "Black Sox" World Series betting scandal and about the former Riverfront Stadium that hosted the "Big Red Machine" teams of the 1970s. For fall, it's launched "Brunch, Brews and Baseball" that includes a brewery tour.

But executive director Rick Walls said the nonprofit museum hasn't been able to conduct popular ballpark tours or reap the visits and merchandise purchases by fans coming to games in the adjacent stadium.

"It's been a pretty big hit," Walls said. The museum couldn't host its popular ballpark tours this summer, although they are resuming now that the Reds' season has ended.

The museum has replaced in-person autograph sessions and discussions for its 5,000-strong membership base with Zoom calls with former Reds stars Walls said have "really stepped up" to help with free or discounted autographing of items for the museum to sell. Like other visitor-dependent businesses, the museum is hoping for a normal 2021, but making contingency plans in case the pandemic continues.

"We will be better coming out of this," Walls said. "We'll have created some new ways we operate internally and ultimately, we'll have a successful season."

Pearce said his company believes there is a lot of pent-up demand for visiting places such as Grand Teton National Park because they remind people that while "modern life seems totally overwhelmed by COVID," there are still spectacular sites, some thousands of years old, that have been untouched by the pandemic.

So while the walking tours are in small groups for now, they could well become very big when the world comes back.

"I think that's the same thing that a lot of people are craving right now," Pearce said. "When everything else feels totally upside down, going into nature and going for a hike, sleeping under the stars; it's all a

reminder that there is just this incredible world out there to explore. And it's going to be waiting for us, as soon we're ready."

Follow Dan Sewell at <https://www.twitter.com/dansewell>

## Lesson not learned: Europe unprepared as 2nd virus wave hits

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Europe's second wave of coronavirus infections has struck well before flu season even started, with intensive care wards filling up again and bars shutting down. Making matters worse, authorities say, is a widespread case of "COVID-fatigue."

Record high daily infections in several eastern European countries and sharp rebounds in the hard-hit west have made clear that Europe never really crushed the COVID-19 curve as hoped, after springtime lockdowns.

Spain this week declared a state of emergency for Madrid amid increasing tensions between local and national authorities over virus containment measures. Germany offered up soldiers to help with contact tracing in newly flaring hotspots. Italy mandated masks outdoors and warned that for the first time since the country became the European epicenter of the pandemic, the health system was facing "significant critical issues" as hospitals fill up.

The Czech Republic's "Farewell Covid" party in June, when thousands of Prague residents dined outdoors at a 500-meter (yard) long table across the Charles Bridge to celebrate their victory over the virus, seems painfully naive now that the country has the highest per-capita infection rate on the continent, at 398 per 100,000 residents.

"I have to say clearly that the situation is not good," the Czech interior minister, Jan Hamacek, acknowledged this week.

Epidemiologists and residents alike are pointing the finger at governments for having failed to seize on the summertime lull in cases to prepare adequately for the expected autumn onslaught, with testing and ICU staffing still critically short. In Rome this week, people waited in line for 8-10 hours to get tested, while front-line medics from Kiev to Paris found themselves once again pulling long, short-staffed shifts in overcrowded wards.

"When the state of alarm was abandoned, it was time to invest in prevention, but that hasn't been done," lamented Margarita del Val, viral immunology expert with the Severo Ochoa Molecular Biology Center, part of Spain's top research body, CSIC.

"We are in the fall wave without having resolved the summer wave," she told an online forum this week.

Tensions are rising in cities where new restrictions have been re-imposed, with hundreds of Romanian hospitality workers protesting this week after Bucharest once again shut down the capital's indoor restaurants, theaters and dance venues.

"We were closed for six months, the restaurants didn't work and yet the number of cases still rose," said Moaghin Marius Ciprian, owner of the popular Grivita Pub n Grill who took part in the protest. "I'm not a specialist but I'm not stupid either. But from my point of view it's not us that have the responsibility for this pandemic."

As infections rise in many European countries, some — including Belgium, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Spain and France — are diagnosing more new cases every day per capita than the United States, according to the seven-day rolling averages of data kept by Johns Hopkins University. On Friday, France, with a population of about 70 million, reported a record 20,300 new infections.

Experts say Europe's high infection rate is due in large part to expanded testing that is turning up far more asymptomatic positives than during the first wave, when only the sick could get a test.

But the trend is nevertheless alarming, given the flu season hasn't even begun, schools are open for in-person learning and the cold weather hasn't yet driven Europeans indoors, where infection can spread more easily.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 53 of 105

"We're seeing 98,000 cases reported in the last 24 hours. That's a new regional record. That's very alarming," said Robb Butler, executive director of the WHO's Europe regional office. While part of that is due to increased testing, "It's also worrisome in terms of virus resurgence."

It's also worrisome given many countries still lack the testing, tracing and treating capacity to deal with a second wave of pandemic when the first wave never really ended, said Dr. Martin McKee, professor of European public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"They should have been using the time to put in place really robust 'find, test, trace, isolate' support systems. Not everybody did," McKee said. "Had they done that, then they could have identified outbreaks as they were emerging and really gone for the sources."

Even Italy is struggling, after it won international praise for having tamed the virus with a strict 10-week lockdown and instituted a careful, conservative reopening and aggressive screening and contact-tracing effort when summer vacation travelers created new clusters. Anesthesiologists have warned that without new restrictions, ICUs in Lazio around Rome and Campania around Naples could be saturated within a month.

As it is, Campania has only 671 hospital beds destined for COVID-19, and 530 are already occupied, said Campania Gov. Vincenzo De Luca. Half of Campania's 100 ICU virus beds are now in use.

For now, the situation is manageable. "But if we get to 1,000 infections a day and only 200 people cured, it's lockdown. Clear?" he warned this week.

The ICU alarm has already sounded in France, where Paris public hospital workers staged a protest this week to demand more government investment in staffing ICUs, which they said haven't significantly increased capacity even after France got slammed during the initial outbreak.

"We did not learn the lessons of the first wave," Dr. Gilles Pialoux, head of infectious diseases at the Tenon Hospital in Paris, told BFM television. "We are running after (the epidemic) instead of getting ahead of it."

There is some good news, however. Dr. Luis Izquierdo, assistant director of emergencies at the Severo Ochoa Hospital in Madrid said at least now, doctors know what therapies work. During the peak of the epidemic in March and April, doctors in hardest-hit Spain and Italy threw every drug they could think of at patients — hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir, ritonavir — with limited success.

"Now we hardly use those drugs as they hardly have any effect," he said. "So in this sense we have had a victory because we know so much more now."

But treating the virus medically is only half the battle. Public health officials are now dealing with a surge in anti-mask protests, virus negationists and residents who are simply sick and tired of being told to keep their distance and refrain from hugging their loved ones.

The WHO this week shifted gears from giving medical advice to combat infections to giving psychological advice on how to nudge virus-weary Europeans to keep up their guard amid "COVID-fatigue" that is sweeping the continent.

"Fatigue is absolutely natural. It's to be expected where we have these prolonged crises or emergencies," said the WHO's Butler.

The WHO this week put out new advice for governments to consider more social, psychological and emotional factors when deciding on lockdowns, closures or other restrictions — a nod to some in the field who say the mental health toll of lockdowns is worse than the virus itself.

That data, Butler said, "is going to become more important because we have to understand what restrictions we can put in place that will be sustained and adhered to, and acceptable to our populations."

AP reporters across Europe contributed.

## Specter of election chaos raises questions on military role

By ROBERT BURNS and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a question Americans are unaccustomed to considering in a presidential election campaign: Could voting, vote-counting or the post-vote reaction become so chaotic that the U.S.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 54 of 105

military would intervene?

The answer is yes, but only in an extreme case. There is normally no need for the military to play any role in an election. The Constitution keeps the military in a narrow lane — defending the United States from external enemies. Civil order is left largely to civilian police. But there is an obscure law, the Insurrection Act, that theoretically could thrust the active-duty military into a police-like role. And governors have the ability to use the National Guard in state emergencies if needed.

The potential use of troops, either active duty or National Guard, at the polls or in post-election unrest has been discussed by governors and military leaders. The possibilities arise as President Donald Trump asserts without evidence that mail-in balloting will create election fraud and suggests that he might not accept an election loss. Stationing troops at polling places on Election Day — even if just to protect citizens as they vote — raises worries about voter intimidation.

Here are some questions and answers about possible military involvement in the election:

## WHY WOULDN'T THE MILITARY GET INVOLVED?

Civilian control of the military is a bedrock principle of American democracy. It means that men and women in uniform answer to civilian leaders like the secretary of defense, and they stay apart from politics. They pledge their loyalty to the Constitution and the nation's laws, not to a political party or a president.

Gen. Mark Milley, who as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the nation's top military officer, has told Congress the military is committed to staying apolitical and steering clear of any election role.

"In the event of a dispute over some aspect of the elections, by law U.S. courts and the U.S. Congress are required to resolve any disputes, not the U.S. military," he said in written answers to questions from two Democratic members of the House Armed Service Committee. "I foresee no role for the U.S. armed forces in this process."

Milley said service members must not get involved in the transfer of power after an election. In other words, don't expect to see troops intervening if there is a dispute over who won.

## WHAT COULD THE NATIONAL GUARD DO?

The military is made up of active duty, National Guard and Reserves. In all but extreme cases, active-duty troops are used for war to protect the nation, not against American citizens on domestic soil. National Guard units are in every state and are controlled by the governor, not the federal government.

Governors routinely mobilize their Guard members for emergencies, such as natural disasters, and they can use them to help enforce the law during events such as riots. But usually law enforcement takes the lead, and Guard forces support it. During civil unrest this year, governors used Guard troops to tamp down violence and provide security. They could do so again.

To bolster that effort, the National Guard Bureau has designated military police units in two states to serve as rapid reaction forces to respond quickly if a governor seeks help from other states to control civil unrest.

In a national emergency, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a president can deploy the Guard in a federal status to support the active-duty military. The president has the authority to federalize the Guard for use in a domestic emergency, but there are questions about whether a state's governor can try to block such a move.

## WHAT ABOUT THE INSURRECTION ACT?

The president has the authority under the Insurrection Act of 1807 to dispatch active-duty military in states that are unable to put down an insurrection or are defying federal law. Under the law, the president can activate troops without a governor's approval as long as specific conditions are met, such as if the violence is interfering with the execution of laws there.

Would potential post-election violence amount to an insurrection? That might be open to debate. It's not clear if states could legally block any presidential use of the Insurrection Act.

In the last half-century, presidents have sent the military to Southern states to enforce school desegregation in the 1950s and 1960s, at times without gubernatorial consent. And troops were sent to Los Angeles when the California governor sought federal help during the 1992 riots. But it has not happened

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 55 of 105

in connection with a presidential election in modern times.

In June, Trump considered invoking the Insurrection Act to use active-duty forces to quell unrest following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. Defense Secretary Mark Esper opposed using military troops for law enforcement. He argued publicly that the Insurrection Act should be invoked "only in the most urgent and dire of situations," and added, "We are not in one of those situations now."

Still, it would be unprecedented for military leaders to refuse to follow a presidential order invoking the act. WHAT ABOUT SECURITY AT THE POLLS?

Democrats fear that Trump supporters will try to intimidate Democratic voters at polling places to scare them from voting. Trump added to those worries in the Sept. 29 debate, urging his supporters "to go into the polls and watch very carefully because that's what has to happen."

Several state leaders, including New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, have raised the possibility of using Guard troops for security at the polls. Others used the Guard during primary elections. At times they wore civilian clothes and filled in for poll workers who were absent because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also helped by cleaning polling places or directing traffic. But they must stay out of the polling process.

A uniformed military presence at the polls, however, raises worries.

Michele Flournoy, a Democrat who is considered a leading candidate to become the first female defense secretary if Joe Biden wins, said the Guard should be used only if police are overwhelmed. But she warned that using Guard troops at the polls could "be very intimidating to voters. ... I hope we don't get there as a nation."

## McConnell tries to salvage Senate majority with court vote

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell spent a year prepping his Republican colleagues for this moment, telling them the confirmation of a Supreme Court justice is the "most important" vote they will take as senators, the chance to make "seismic change" that will stay with the nation for generations to come.

Now, three weeks before Election Day, the GOP leader needs this moment more than ever.

Confirmation hearings are set to begin Monday for President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee giving Republicans one last chance to salvage their Senate majority by wresting attention away from the White House and its COVID-19 response and onto the GOP's longtime goal of fashioning a conservative court.

The arrival of conservative Judge Amy Coney Barrett offers a long-shot opportunity to bring wayward Republican voters back in the fold. As Trump's standing drops in internal polls, McConnell hopes to remind voters why they stuck with Trump in 2016: the promise of another conservative justice ruling on abortion access and other big issues. Democrats are within range of seizing Senate control Nov. 3.

"It's going to do what it's going to do -- energize the base," said Doug Deason, a wealthy Dallas donor who is the Northern Texas fundraising chairman for Trump and helps congressional Republicans.

That's the optimistic view. It's coming mostly from those Republicans and backers still pouring millions of dollars into campaign efforts to salvage McConnell's slim 53-47 GOP majority.

The more dour assessment is that McConnell is simply trying to grab whatever he can before he and his majority are out the door.

"To me, it just indicates a clear lack of confidence in Donald Trump and these Senate races," said Stuart Stevens, a veteran Republican strategist who helmed Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign and now is among those trying to defeat Trump.

Democrats need to gain at least three seats to win the Senate majority if presidential nominee Joe Biden is elected, or four if Trump wins a second-term, because party's vice president can vote as a tie-breaker in the Senate.

What started as an election cycle with just a handful of senators at risk has ballooned into an expanding Senate map from Alaska to inter-mountain West to the Deep South as Republicans face tough challenges,

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 56 of 105

while Democrats see few.

Alarms are flashing red throughout Republican Senate campaigns after Trump's overbearing debate performance and COVID diagnosis sent the party's poll numbers cratering, particularly among the suburban white women and moms who helped elect him in 2016.

One Republican advising in Senate and House races called it the worst presidential dive in U.S. history — one that is bringing the entire GOP ticket down with it. It's something no amount of money can fix, the person said. The strategist, like others interviewed for this story, were granted anonymity to frankly assess the situation.

In group meetings and one on one, McConnell started raising the prospect of a Supreme Court vacancy last year, according to a person close to the leader and familiar with the private conversations.

He told them legislating can bring incremental changes but as senators they have few opportunities to make the more substantial, lasting shift that comes with a lifetime appointment to the court.

"He is personally, deeply committed to getting a great Supreme Court justice on the court," said David McIntosh, president of the conservative Club for Growth who has worked with McConnell on judicial nominees for years, back to Ronald Reagan's failed nomination of Robert Bork to the court.

With the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Sept. 18, the plan was already set. Only two GOP senators balked at quick confirmation.

The hearings will spotlight Sen. Lindsey Graham, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who faces his own competitive re-election in South Carolina, where Democrat Jaime Harrison is raising millions to defeat him.

The panel includes Thom Tillis in North Carolina, who was in a tough race until opponent Cal Cunningham was caught up in a text-messaging scandal; and Texas Sen. John Cornyn, a party leader, is suddenly fielding off a challenger; and Sen. Joni Ernst, who is up for re-election in Iowa.

The confirmation battle could also bolster Sen. Martha McSally in Arizona, who is trailing former astronaut Mark Kelly, and it could help stem the sudden slide in GOP strongholds — Steve Daines in Montana, Kelly Loeffler in Georgia or in Kansas where Sen. Pat Roberts is retiring, strategists said.

On the flip side, the court battle is less helpful for Sens. Susan Collins in Maine and Cory Gardner in Colorado and Ernst in Iowa, where Trump was already less popular and now a drag on the GOP ticket.

Even far-flung races like Mike Espy's challenge to Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith in Mississippi are commanding attention and suddenly costing Republicans money to defend.

The televised hearings are likely to rake in cash for Democrats, with Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris taking her own center stage role as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

McConnell's strategy is the opposite of the one Republicans used to boost turnout in 2016 when they blocked Barack Obama's nominee nine months before the election, saying it should be up to the new president to decide. No high court confirmation in history is as close to a presidential election as this one.

This time, it's much about securing his own legacy reshaping the judiciary into what allies call the "McConnell Court" as giving his majority a landing pad after a tumultuous four years with Trump.

Republican senators linked themselves indelibly to Trump's political movement, so much so that historian Douglas Brinkley has called it the "shrinkage" of the Senate — without that big name senators Americans may recall from history.

Many of the senators expected to run alongside Trump to another term. Then COVID-19 hit, the economy crumbled and Americans' way of life ground to a halt.

The pressure was on McConnell, who is running for a seventh term in Kentucky without serious risk of defeat, not to wait until after the Nov. 3 election.

"More important to finish out the job," McIntosh said.

Having already bent Senate rules to allow 51-vote threshold to advance Supreme Court nominees, rather than 60 as was tradition, McConnell is now poised to usher a third Trump justice to confirmation.

Critics have another view.

"It's not going to be remembered as the McConnell Court," said Stevens. "His legacy is going to be



Donald Trump's enabler."

## Five things to know about court nominee Amy Coney Barrett

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Confirmation hearings begin Monday for President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett. If confirmed, the 48-year-old appeals court judge would fill the seat of liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died last month.

Ginsburg's replacement by Barrett, a conservative, would shift the balance on the court significantly right, from 5-4 in favor of conservatives to 6-3. Here are 5 things to know about her:

### EDUCATION:

Barrett was born in Louisiana and attended Rhodes College, a liberal arts school in Memphis, Tennessee, as an undergraduate. She went to law school in Indiana, at Notre Dame, on a full scholarship. She'd be the only justice on the current court not to have attended either Harvard or Yale for law school.

Barrett was a law professor at Notre Dame for 15 years before Trump nominated her to become a federal appeals court judge in 2017.

### JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY:

Barrett has said that her judicial philosophy is the same as that of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, whom she worked for after law school and has called a mentor. Scalia described himself an "originalist," interpreting laws and the Constitution based on what they were understood to mean when they were written.

"Judges must apply the law as written," Barrett said when she spoke at the announcement of her nomination in the White House Rose Garden last month. "Judges are not policy makers."

### RECORD:

Barrett's short tenure as a judge on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has led to few noteworthy or controversial opinions. She has, however, signed onto several decisions that are sure to be questioned during her confirmation hearing.

In 2018, a three-judge panel ruled that Indiana laws requiring that funerals be held for fetal remains after an abortion or miscarriage and banning abortions because of the sex, race or developmental disability of a fetus were unconstitutional.

Barrett was among four judges who wanted the full court to weigh in and suggested that the laws might be constitutional. Last year, after a three-judge panel blocked an Indiana law that would make it harder for a minor to have an abortion without her parents being notified, Barrett voted to have the case reheard by the full court.

In a dissent in a 2019 gun-rights case, Barrett argued that a conviction for a nonviolent felony shouldn't automatically disqualify someone from owning a gun. Also in 2019 Barrett wrote a unanimous three-judge panel decision in making it easier for men alleged to have committed sexual assaults on campus to challenge the proceedings against them.

### FAITH:

Barrett would be the seventh member of the court to either be Catholic or have been raised Catholic. But she's been somewhat more vocal about her faith than other members, and faith became a flashpoint during her confirmation to be an appeals court judge.

At Notre Dame, a Catholic university, Barrett was a member of University Faculty for Life. And in 2006 she signed her name to a newspaper ad sponsored by an anti-abortion group in which she said she opposed "abortion on demand" and defended "the right to life from fertilization to the end of natural life." Barrett's membership in a Christian group called People of Praise has also drawn scrutiny as has a law review article she co-authored decades ago that concluded that Catholic judges are "morally precluded from enforcing the death penalty."

At Barrett's 2017 confirmation hearing, Democrats questioned whether her personal views would color her legal judgment, especially with respect to the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., at one point told Barrett she was concerned "that the dogma lives loudly

within you." That remark prompted an outcry from Catholic leaders.

#### FAMILY:

Barrett has joked that the president has asked to be the ninth justice and that she's used to being in a group of nine: her family.

"While I am a judge I'm better known back home as a room parent, carpool driver and birthday party planner," Barrett said in September.

Barrett and her husband Jesse, a lawyer, are the parents of seven young children: Emma, Vivian, Tess, John Peter, Liam, Juliet, and Benjamin. Vivian and John Peter are adopted and were born in Haiti. And Benjamin, their youngest child, has Down syndrome. Barrett has said that Benjamin's "brothers and sisters unreservedly identify him as their favorite sibling."

## White House ups virus aid offer, resumes talks with Pelosi

By ANDREW TAYLOR and BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is boosting its offer in up-and-down COVID-19 aid talks in hopes of an agreement before Election Day, even as President Donald Trump's most powerful GOP ally in the Senate said Congress is unlikely to deliver relief by then.

Trump on Friday took to Twitter to declare: "Covid Relief Negotiations are moving along. Go Big!" A top economic adviser said the Trump team was upping its offer in advance of a Friday conversation between Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The two spoke for more than 30 minutes Friday afternoon, said Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill.

A GOP aide familiar with the new offer said it is about \$1.8 trillion, with a key state and local fiscal relief component moving from \$250 billion to at least \$300 billion. The White House says its most recent prior offer was about \$1.6 trillion. The aide requested anonymity because the negotiations are private.

"I would like to see a bigger stimulus package than either the Democrats or Republicans are offering," Trump said on Rush Limbaugh's radio show Friday. Earlier this week, Trump lambasted Democrats for their demands on an aid bill.

Pelosi's most recent public offer was about \$2.2 trillion, though that included a business tax increase that Republicans won't go for.

But GOP Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told an audience in Kentucky that he doesn't see a deal coming together soon out of a "murky" situation in which the participants in the negotiations are elbowing for political advantage.

"I'd like to see us rise above that like we did in March and April but I think it's unlikely in the next three weeks," McConnell said. McConnell said later that "the first item of priority of the Senate is the Supreme Court," suggesting there isn't time to both process a COVID relief bill and the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett before the election.

He spoke after Trump apparently performed an about-face, empowering Mnuchin to resume negotiations with Pelosi, D-Calif., on a larger, comprehensive coronavirus relief package despite calling off the talks just days before.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters Friday that "developments are positive" and that "the bid and the offer have narrowed" in advance of a the telephone conversation later Friday between Pelosi and Mnuchin.

McConnell remains a skeptic that a deal can come together — and he has issued private warnings that many Senate Republicans will oppose a deal in the range that Pelosi is seeking.

"We do need another rescue package," McConnell said. "But the proximity to the election and the differences about what is need at this particular juncture are pretty vast."

Later Friday, during an appearance in Tompkinsville, Kentucky, McConnell said, "I don't know whether we'll get another (virus relief) package or not."

McConnell's remarks capped a tumultuous week in which Trump sent conflicting signals and made unworkable demands. On Tuesday, he ordered an end to the weeklong talks after being told that few

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 59 of 105

Republicans in Congress would end up voting for a possible Pelosi-Mnuchin deal.

After taking blowback for that decision, Trump sought to revive the negotiations Thursday. Yet even as Mnuchin was reengaging with Pelosi, staffers in the White House — working under chief of staff Mark Meadows, a key negotiator — were issuing demands for a smaller package stuffed with Trump's priorities.

All this comes as Trump is sliding in the polls and is sidelined by his COVID-19 infection. The White House is short-staffed and dealing with infections among its employees. And the president and Pelosi are attacking each other's mental health.

That the talks were headed nowhere was an open secret among close observers in Washington, but both sides had been reluctant to declare them dead until Trump did so Tuesday, making himself a magnet for blame. The talks are still unlikely to produce results in the near term because even if there was a breakthrough, it could take weeks to process.

McConnell says he is open to resuming the negotiations in a post-election lame-duck session, but that prospect is murky as well, depending on the results.

On Friday, Pelosi issued a downbeat assessment in a letter to her colleagues but expressed some optimism in an appearance on MSNBC.

"I do hope that we'll have an agreement soon," Pelosi said.

Schreiner contributed from Sheperdsville, Kentucky.

## Heat force Game 6, top Lakers to stave off elimination

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Jimmy Butler was slumped over a video board behind the baseline in the final seconds, exhausted, gasping for air.

He gave it all.

The Miami Heat needed nothing less.

The NBA Finals — and Miami's title chances — are not over, not after Butler and the Heat pulled off a virtuoso performance in Game 5 on Friday night. Butler had 35 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists, and the Heat held off Los Angeles 111-108 to cut the Lakers' lead in the title series to 3-2.

"That's Jimmy Butler," Heat center Bam Adebayo said. "That's our max player and that's who we go to in these moments."

With good reason. He didn't let them down, not even on a night where LeBron James — seeking a fourth title and the player with the best closeout-game record in NBA history — was masterful.

James had 40 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers. But on the possession that decided everything Friday night, the Heat forced the ball out of James' hands by basically sending three defenders at him as he drove down the right side of the lane, the Heat up by one, the Lakers only needing one basket for a title.

He found Green alone atop the key; Green's shot was well short and the Heat closed it out with a pair of free throws.

"It was a little bit of luck that Danny Green missed that shot at the top of the key," Butler said.

Game 6 is Sunday night.

"We got a hell of a look to win the game, to win the series," James said. "It didn't go down."

Duncan Robinson had 26 points for Miami, which used seven players. Kendrick Nunn had 14 points, Bam Adebayo 13, Tyler Herro 12 and Jae Crowder 11. The seventh player, Andre Iguodala, didn't score.

Anthony Davis — playing through a bruised heel — scored 28 points, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 for the Lakers.

Los Angeles broke out all the stops: Davis had shiny gold sneakers on, the hue similar to the Larry O'Brien Trophy, and the team made the decision earlier in the week to skip on the scheduled purple uniforms and wear the black ones designed and inspired by Kobe Bryant instead.

They were 4-0 in those uniforms. They're 4-1 now.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 60 of 105

But Bryant, oh, how he would have loved this fight. Drama, all the way to the end.

Robinson's 3-pointer with 3:13 left put Miami up by two, and started a stretch where the next nine scoring possessions from either side resulted in a tie or a lead change.

Back and forth they went. Butler got fouled with 46.7 seconds left, then slumped over the baseline video boards, clearly exhausted. He made both foul shots for a one-point lead; Davis' putback with 21.8 seconds left got the Lakers back on top.

"We were very close," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "I felt two bad calls at the end put Butler to the line, you know, and that's unfortunate in a game of this magnitude."

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra used his last timeout after Davis' go-ahead score, just to buy Butler a couple minutes of rest. Butler drove the lane, drew contact and made both with 16.8 seconds left for a 109-108 lead.

"Every young player coming into this league should study footage on Jimmy Butler, the definition of a two-way player competing on both ends, five steals, and then making those big plays down the stretch for us offensively," Spoelstra said.

Thanks to Butler, who played all but 38 seconds, they escaped. The season continues.

"This is the position that we're in and we like it this way," Butler said. "And we've got two more to get."

## TIP-INS

Heat: Point guard Goran Dragic (torn left plantar fascia) missed his fourth consecutive game. He was hurt in the first half of Game 1. "I pray, I hope, that we get 7 back," Butler said. ... Butler had 22 points in the first half, the second-most in Heat finals history. Dwyane Wade had 24 at halftime of Game 4 of the 2006 finals. ... Robinson made seven 3-pointers.

Lakers: James and Davis were a combined 24 for 36. The rest of the Lakers were 14 for 46. ... It was playoff game No. 259 for James, tying Derek Fisher for the most in NBA playoff history. ... The Lakers' reserves shot 5 for 22.

## BUTLER HISTORY

Butler became the sixth player in NBA Finals history to have multiple triple-doubles in the same title series: Magic Johnson and James have both done it three times, while Larry Bird, Wilt Chamberlain and Draymond Green have done it once. "He's been as close to perfect as you possibly can get," Adebayo said.

## LAKER RALLY

Miami was up 93-82 with 10:17 left when James made his sixth 3-pointer of the night — on eight tries to that point. James' 3 started a 17-3 run over the next 4:50. Caldwell-Pope hit a 3-pointer to put the Lakers up 97-96, then added a basket in transition about a minute later.

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

## Brosseau homer off Chapman lifts Rays over Yanks, into ALCS

By BERNIE WILSON AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Mike Brosseau said he wasn't seeking revenge against hard-throwing Aroldis Chapman, just the chance to keep playing.

He ended up getting both.

Brosseau hit a dramatic home run off Chapman with one out in the eighth inning, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the New York Yankees 2-1 Friday night in the decisive Game 5 to reach the AL Championship Series for the first time in 12 seasons.

The first career postseason homer for the 26-year-old utilityman came after a 10-pitch at-bat against the Yankees' vaunted, hard-throwing closer, who entered in the seventh inning. Brosseau drove a 100 mph fastball into the left field seats at Petco Park for the Rays' third hit.

Brosseau and Chapman have a history: Chapman threw a 101 mph fastball near Brosseau's head Sept. 1 in the ninth inning of a Rays' 5-3 victory. Chapman likely had nothing against Brosseau personally, but the pitch was an apparent escalation of a feud between the AL East rivals, and it prompted Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash's infamous declaration that he has "a whole damn stable full of guys that throw 98

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 61 of 105

miles an hour.”

Brosseau pumped his fists and hollered “Yes!” as he began his trot. When he returned to the dugout, there were celebratory body slams and high fives with his teammates.

“No revenge, We put that in the past,” said Brosseau, who pinch-hit for Ji-Man Choi in the sixth and then stayed in at first base. “We came here to win the series. We came here to move on, to do what we do best, that’s play our game.”

Tampa Bay had a \$29 million payroll, 28th out of the 30 major league teams, this coronavirus-shortened season, while the Yankees had the third-largest, \$84 million. The Rays dominated the regular-season series with the Yankees 8-2 and were the AL’s top-seed.

About an hour after the game ended, a number of Rays came back out to the field and dugout with beverages and cigars and are trolled the Yankees by playing Frank Sinatra’s version of “New York, New York,” played at Yankee Stadium after victories, and Jay-Z’s “Empire State of Mind” featuring Alicia Keys.

After winning the AL Division Series 3-2, Tampa Bay will stay in San Diego to face the Houston Astros in the AL Championship Series starting Sunday night. The Rays are in the ALCS for the first time since they beat the Boston Red Sox in seven games in 2008 before losing to the Philadelphia Phillies in the World Series.

Tampa Bay was eliminated by the Astros in the ALDS last year.

“They’ve been the team to beat the last few years,” Brosseau said. “They knocked us out last year so it will be fun to face them again.”

Brosseau was an unlikely hero in a season that has had many twists and turns due to the coronavirus pandemic. After he went undrafted, the Rays signed him in June 2016 for \$1,000.

“That was very, like, storybook,” Tyler Glasnow said. “That was crazy. Just to go out there and have that long of an at-bat, battle that long with all the history we’ve had, that’s just nuts. I still can’t even comprehend it.”

Brosseau’s drive went 375 feet and just cleared the wall.

“Brosseau is such a good dude,” Glasnow added. “It’s just so awesome that it was him. He’s grinded all year long, kind of had sparing playing time; such a big moment like that was just phenomenal. It’s crazy. I blacked out. I was like, ‘No. No way.’ ... With the crack off the bat, there was kind of a delay and everyone didn’t even know how to comprehend it. It was pretty unbelievable. That was probably the most memorable baseball moment I’ve ever been a part of.”

Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Brosseau “just pulled off a great at-bat, and that’s the beauty sometimes of sport. You get in these situations with two great teams and two great competitors going at it. He got him on a great at-bat. Chappie continued to make pitches, and Brosseau put a great at-bat on him and snuck it out of here.”

Chapman is the only pitcher in postseason history to allow a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning or later with his team facing elimination multiple times. He gave up José Altuve’s game-ending drive in Game 6 of last year’s ALCS.

“I thought I made some good pitches in that moment,” Chapman said through a translator. “I think it was a fastball to the middle in. He put good contact on it.”

All-Star Austin Meadows also homered for the Rays, connecting off ace Gerrit Cole in the fifth. Aaron Judge tried to make a leaping catch but jammed his head into a padded overhang.

“I got to get up there and rob that one,” the 6-foot-7 right fielder said.

The Rays had 11 homers in the series and the Yankees 10.

Judge homered in the fourth. The Yankees also had only three hits.

Cole, starting on short rest for the first time in his major league career, struck out nine in 5 1/3 innings.

Winner Diego Castillo followed a hitless eighth with a 1-2-3 ninth, and the celebration was on for the Rays, who dominated the regular-season series against the Yankees 8-2. They took a 2-1 lead in the ALDS before the Yankees forced the deciding fifth game.

Cole, pitching about 100 miles south of where he grew up a Yankees fan in Newport Beach, held Tampa

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 62 of 105

Bay to one hit and one run in 5 1/3 innings while striking out nine and walking two. After winning Game 1 on Monday night, he pitched on short rest for the first time in his major league career.

"It's big disappointment," said Cole, who signed a \$324 million, nine-year free agent deal in the offseason. "Not the way we drew it up. Really hard-fought series that sometimes can make it tougher to swallow, too."

Cole had pitched 4 2/3 hitless, scoreless innings before Meadows homered to right field to tie the game at 1, and Cole reacted like he knew it was gone. It was Meadows' second homer this series.

Cole left after 37-year-old left fielder Brett Gardner leaped to rob Randy Arozarena of a home run leading off the sixth. Arozarena, who homered in each of the first three games of the series, watched the ball while taking a few steps before Gardner made his sixth career homer-robbing catch. Cole pointed at Gardner in appreciation.

Cole showed emotion throughout his outing, including hollering and glaring at the Rays' dugout after striking out Joey Wendle to get out of a bases-loaded jam in the first.

Judge homered into the right-field porch off Nick Anderson leading off the fourth. It was his second of the series and 10th for the Yankees. It was Judge's third in a winner-take-all game, tying Bill Skowron, Didi Gregorius and Yogi Berra for the most in Yankees postseason history.

Glasnow, who grew up just north of Los Angeles, started and went 2 1/3 hitless, scoreless innings, with two strikeouts and two walks. He struck out 10 in Game 2, a 7-4 Rays win.

New York seemed stunned,

"I hate this feeling," said Yankees first baseman Luke Voit, who led the majors in homers but hit .111 in the series (2 for 18). "It's the third year in a row going through it."

MILESTONE

By fanning Meadows opening the first, Cole became the fastest to 100 postseason strikeouts in 79 innings. The previous fastest was Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 80 innings.

REMEMBERING WHITEY

The Yankees wore a patch with 16 on their left sleeve in memory of Whitey Ford, the Hall of Fame pitcher who died Thursday night at 91. Additionally, there was a moment of silence before the national anthem for Ford, whose 236 wins are the most in Yankees history.

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

## WFP chief seeks million from donors, billionaires for food

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Even before COVID-19 became an issue, World Food Program chief David Beasley was warning global leaders that the world would face the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II in 2020.

He said that was because of wars in Syria, Yemen and elsewhere, locust swarms in Africa, frequent natural disasters, and economic crises including in Lebanon, Congo, Sudan and Ethiopia. Then came COVID-19 which quickly became a pandemic that has swept the world, escalating the need for food — and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says it is still not under control.

Beasley, who got COVID-19 in April, has spent the months since he recovered reaching out to world leaders and visiting stricken countries with a new warning that he delivered to the U.N. Security Council last month: millions of people are closer to starvation because of the deadly combination of conflict, climate change and the coronavirus pandemic.

He said the WFP and its partners were going all out to reach as many as 138 million people this year — "the biggest scale-up in our history."

Beasley urged donors, including governments and institutions, to help, and he made a special appeal to the more than 2,000 billionaires in the world, with a combined net worth of \$8 trillion, to open their bank accounts.

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday to the U.N. food agency is a tribute not only to its work

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 63 of 105

in the even greater humanitarian crisis than Beasley envisioned in this COVID-ravaged year, but as the Nobel committee made clear it is a plea for unity and multilateral cooperation to tackle global challenges as WFP has done in a world facing increasing nationalism and populism.

Beasley called the award "a humbling, moving recognition of the work of WFP staff who lay their lives on the line every day to bring food and assistance for close to 100 million hungry children, women and men across the world — people whose lives are often brutally torn apart by instability, insecurity and conflict."

He also paid tribute to the agency's government, organizations and private sector partners who help the hungry and vulnerable.

"Every one of the 690 million hungry people in the world today has the right to live peacefully and without hunger," Beasley said in a statement on the WFP website.

"Today, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has turned the global spotlight on them and on the devastating consequences of conflict. Climate shocks and economic pressures have further compounded their plight," he said. "And now, a global pandemic with its brutal impact on economies and communities, is pushing millions more to the brink of starvation."

While the food crisis is mainly the result of conflict, Beasley said in April that he raised the prospect of a hunger pandemic because of the economic impact of COVID-19.

He told the Security Council last month that famine has been averted because of generous donations, but "this fight is far, far, far from over — the 270 million people marching toward the brink of starvation need our help today more than ever."

And he said 30 million people who rely solely on WFP for food to survive will die without it, and WFP needs \$4.9 billion to feed them for a year.

"We're doing just about all we can do to stop the dam from bursting," Beasley said. "But, without the resources we need, a wave of hunger and famine still threatens to sweep across the globe. And if it does, it will overwhelm nations and communities already weakened by years of conflict and instability."

WFP's logistics operation is key to delivering food to tens of millions in need, and lockdowns and closed borders because of the pandemic have created immense difficulties for the agency.

Beasley has stressed that measures to contain the coronavirus must be balanced with the need to keep supply chains and trade moving across borders. And he has repeatedly expressed concern over COVID-19 shutdowns not only impeding the delivery of food but worsening other problems, such as disrupting vaccinations and treatments for other illnesses.

"There is a grave danger that many more people will die from the broader economic and social consequences of COVID-19 than from the virus itself, especially in Africa," Beasley has said, "and the last thing we need is to have the cure be worse than the disease itself."

## Hurricane Delta inflicts new damage on storm-weary Louisiana

By REBECCA SANTANA and STACEY PLAISANCE Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP) — Ripping tarps from already damaged roofs and scattering debris piled by roadsides, Hurricane Delta inflicted a new round of destruction on Louisiana as it struck communities still reeling after Hurricane Laura took a similar path just six weeks earlier.

When Delta came ashore Friday as a Category 2 hurricane, almost all homes and buildings in Lake Charles still bore battered roofs and other damage from Laura. Piles of moldy mattresses, sawed-up trees and other debris still lined the streets.

Mayor Nic Hunter said tarps were flying off homes across the city.

"I'm in a building right now with a tarp on it and just the sound of the tarp flapping on the building sounds like someone pounding with a sledgehammer on top of the building," Hunter said as he rode out the storm downtown. "It's pretty intense."

Delta crashed onshore Friday night near the coastal town of Creole — a distance of only about 15 miles (24 kilometers) from where Laura struck land in August, killing 27 people in Louisiana.

In Lake Charles, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) inland from where Delta came ashore, water leaked

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 64 of 105

through the ceiling of Ernest Jack's bedroom as he tried to sleep Friday night. Jack said the tarp covering his roof since Laura damaged his home hadn't blown off. His windows were covered to protect against flying debris.

"It's raining real hard; it's flooding; the wind is strong," Jack said Friday night. "I'm OK. I'm not worried about nothing, just praying that everything goes well."

Delta hit with top winds of 100 mph (155 kph) but rapidly grew weaker. Within two hours of hitting land, it had dwindled to a Category 1 storm with 85 mph (140 kph) winds. Still, forecasters warned of life-threatening storm surge that could reach up to 11 feet (3.4 meters). Flash flood warnings were posted for much of southwestern Louisiana and parts of neighboring Texas.

In the town of Lake Arthur, Delta's winds peeled shingles off the roof of L'Banca Albergo Hotel, an eight-room boutique hotel in what used to be a bank.

"I probably don't have a shingle left on the top of this hotel," owner Roberta Palermo said as the winds gusted outside.

Palermo said the electricity was out and she could see pieces of metal coming off the roof of a 100-year-old building across the street. Unsecured trash cans were flying around the streets.

"There is a lot of power lines down all over the place, there's ... really deep water in certain spots," said hotel guest Johnny Weaver. He had been out in the weather with his friends earlier and the friend's car was stranded in the water.

Delta's reach stretched as far west as Galveston, Texas, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from where the storm struck Louisiana. Two homes under construction were toppled by winds, as were some trees and signs in the area. Beach dunes flattened by earlier storms allowed storm surge to reach beneath some of Galveston's raised beach houses.

Power outages in Louisiana and neighboring Texas soared past 410,000 homes and businesses Friday within hours of the storm coming ashore, according to the tracking website PowerOutage.us.

Delta, the 25th named storm of an unprecedented Atlantic hurricane season, made the record books when it struck the Gulf Coast. It was the first Greek-alphabet-named hurricane to hit the continental U.S. And it became the 10th named storm to hit the mainland U.S. this year, breaking a century-old record set in 1916, according to Colorado State University researcher Phil Klotzbach.

Forecasters predicted Delta would be downgraded to a tropical storm overnight. The storm's projected path showed it moving into northern Mississippi on Saturday and then into the Tennessee Valley as a tropical depression.

Delta was the fourth named storm to strike Louisiana in 2020. Tropical Storm Marco fizzled as it hit the southeast Louisiana tip just three days before Laura struck. And Tropical Storm Cristobal caused damage in southeast Louisiana in June.

Some who rode out Laura chose to hunker down again with Delta. In Lafayette, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Lake Charles, Jeanne-Marie Gove could hear debris hitting the front door of her apartment Friday night and her patio gate banging open and shut.

"The wind is much worse than what Hurricane Laura brought," Gove said in a message on Twitter.

The roof from a trailer at the mobile home park behind her apartment was torn off and being tossed down the sidewalk.

"The wind gusts are making the glass from our windows bow inward," Gove added. "It's pretty scary."

Plaisance reported from New Iberia, Louisiana. Associated Press contributors include Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Gerald Herbert in Lake Charles, Louisiana; Kevin McGill in New Orleans; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland; Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia; Leah Willingham in Jackson, Mississippi; and Sophia Tulp in Atlanta.

## Trump restarting campaign with White House, Florida events

By ZEKE MILLER, JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 65 of 105

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking to shove his campaign back on track, President Donald Trump and his team laid out an aggressive return to political activities, including a big White House event on Saturday and a rally in Florida on Monday, a week after his hospitalization for a virus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans.

As questions linger about his health — and Democratic opponent Joe Biden steps up his own campaigning — Trump planned to leave the Washington area for the first time since he was hospitalized. He is also increasing his radio and TV appearances with conservative interviewers, hoping to make up for lost time with just over three weeks until Election Day and millions already voting.

The president has not been seen in public — other than in White House-produced videos — since his return days ago from the military hospital where he received experimental treatments for the coronavirus.

Two weeks after his Rose Garden event that has been labeled a “superspreader” for the virus, Trump is planning to convene another large crowd outside the White House on Saturday for what his administration calls “a peaceful protest for law & order.” More than two dozen people linked to the White House have contracted COVID-19 since the president’s Sept. 26 event announcing Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his nominee to the Supreme Court.

Trump will address the Saturday group, expected to be at least several hundred supporters, from the White House balcony. All attendees are required to bring masks or will be provided with them, and also will be given temperature checks and asked to fill out a brief questionnaire. Attendees will be strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidelines, which include mask-wearing and social distancing.

Trump’s Monday rally in Sanford, Florida, was originally scheduled to be held on Oct. 2, the day after he tested positive.

Announcement of the new event came as Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government’s top infectious-disease expert, cautioned the White House again to avoid large-scale gatherings of people without masks.

He said of the Barrett event in an interview with The Associated Press, “I was not surprised to see a superspreader event given the circumstances.” That means “crowded, congregate setting, not wearing masks. It is not surprising to see an outbreak,” he said.

District of Columbia virus restrictions prohibit outdoor gatherings larger than 50 people, although that rule has not been strictly enforced. Masks are mandatory outdoors for most people, but the regulations don’t apply on federal land, and the Trump White House has openly flouted them for months.

And next week in Florida? Trump tweeted on Friday that he would be in Sanford “for a very BIG RALLY!”

Meanwhile, next Thursday’s town hall-style Trump-Biden debate was officially canceled, a few days after Trump backed away when the sponsoring commission switched it from face-to-face to virtual following Trump’s COVID-19 diagnosis.

Trump said the Commission on Presidential Debates was protecting Biden from having to take on the president in person. But Biden’s team said the one demanding protection was Trump.

“It’s shameful that Donald Trump ducked the only debate in which the voters get to ask the questions — but it’s no surprise,” said Biden spokesperson Andrew Bates. “Everyone knows that Donald Trump likes to bully reporters, but obviously he doesn’t have the guts to answer for his record to voters at the same time as Vice President Biden.”

Trump is now making the rounds of friendly conservative media, calling in to Fox News host Sean Hannity on Thursday night and spending two hours live on air with radio host Rush Limbaugh on Friday in what his campaign billed as a “radio rally.”

Holding court on his reelection battle, his fight against the coronavirus and revived negotiations with Democrats to pass an economic stimulus bill, Trump was making a direct appeal to his base of loyal supporters, whom he needs to turn out to the polls in droves. He followed with a taped appearance on Tucker Carlson’s Fox News show Friday evening.

In that interview, Trump was asked if he has been retested for COVID-19. “I have been retested, and I haven’t even found out numbers or anything yet. But I’ve been retested, and I know I’m at either the bottom of the scale or free,” he said.

Fauci said in his AP interview, “Let me just tell you what the CDC guidelines are for getting people to be

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 66 of 105

able to go back into society. It generally is 10 days from the onset of your symptoms.”

That onset for Trump was Oct. 1, according to his doctors. The president’s White House doctor, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said that means Trump, who has been surrounded by minimal staffing as he works out of the White House residence and the Oval Office, could return to holding events on Saturday.

Conley added that Trump was showing no evidence of his illness progressing or adverse reactions to the aggressive course of therapy he has received.

While reports of reinfection in COVID-19 victims are rare, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that even people who recover from the disease continue to wear masks, stay distanced and follow other precautions. It was unclear if Trump, who has refused mask wearing in most settings, would abide by that guidance.

In the interview with Limbaugh, Trump again credited the experimental antibody drug he received last week with speeding his recovery.

“I was not in the greatest of shape,” he said. “A day later I was fine.” He promised to expedite distribution of the drug to Americans in need, though that would require action by the Food and Drug Administration.

He speculated to Limbaugh that without the drug, “I might not have recovered at all.” However, there is no way to know how the drug affected his progression with the virus.

Despite public and private surveys showing him trailing Biden, Trump predicted a greater victory in 2020 than four years ago. He won a majority in the Electoral College in 2016, though he lost the national popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

As for economic aid to businesses and individuals harmed by the pandemic, he said, “I would like to see a bigger stimulus package frankly than either the Democrats or the Republicans are offering.” He made that comment just days after calling off talks with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi “until after the election” because the GOP balked at the high price tag of the aid she was calling for.

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Associated Press writer Ashraf Khalil contributed to this report.

## **WFP chief: Nobel Prize message to world not to forget Sahel**

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — The head of the World Food Program said winning the Nobel Peace Prize while he was visiting the impoverished and war-weakened Sahel was a message to the world that it should not forget the region.

WFP Executive Director David Beasley spoke to reporters during a brief stop in Burkina Faso Friday, shortly after the agency won the Peace Prize for fighting hunger at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has driven millions more people to the brink of starvation.

“The fact that I was in the Sahel when we received the announcement is really a message from above that, hey world with all the things going on around the world today please don’t forget about the people in the Sahel!” said Beasley, who was in neighbouring Niger when he heard the news. “Please don’t forget about the people that are struggling and dying from starvation.”

Beasley said he was particularly concerned about Burkina Faso, which has faced a violent Islamic insurgency that’s cut off swaths of land and pushed millions of people to hunger. More than 3 million people in Burkina Faso are in need of emergency food aid, and some 11,000 people are facing famine conditions, according to the latest security report by the government and U.N. agencies.

“We can avert famine in Burkina Faso but we’ve got to have two things, money and access. Without both there’ll be famine,” he said.

He’s hoping the prize will propel donors, billionaires and people around the world to alleviate suffering, especially in the face of the coronavirus, which will have a “catastrophic” impact on next year’s funding, he said.

“2021 is screaming around the corner, there are no reserves, the economic downturn is taking place, the ripple effect to poor countries is devastating,” said Beasley.

Aid workers say the Peace Prize is a "timely recognition" of the importance of the WFP's role in fragile countries like Burkina Faso, said Donald Brooks, chief executive officer for Initiative: Eau, a U.S. aid group focused on increasing the safety of drinking water in crisis zones.

Meanwhile, Burkina Faso's government says it doesn't have enough money to feed the more than 1 million internally displaced people. Boukare Ouedraogo, the mayor of Kaya town, which hosts nearly 500,000 displaced people, said the situation is so devastating it keeps him up at night.

"What makes me cry, what makes me not sleep, is to see these women, these children who are moving around and who come to knock on my door with a starving look saying that they have nothing to eat," he said.

## Anti-government groups shift focus from Washington to states

By JOHN FLESHER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — The alleged foiled plot to kidnap Michigan's governor is a jarring example of how the anti-government movement in the U.S. has become an internet-driven hodgepodge of conspiracy theorists who have redirected their rage from Washington toward state capitols.

That's in contrast to the self-styled "militia" movement that took shape in the 1990s — loosely connected groups whose primary target was the federal government, which they considered a tyrannical force bent on seizing guns and imposing a socialist "new world order."

Deadly standoffs between FBI agents and extremists at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and Waco, Texas, stoked those groups' anger. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, convicted in the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building that killed 168 people, were reported to have met with Michigan paramilitary activists.

Public revulsion over that massacre damaged the movement, which largely faded from public view. But recent protests over racial injustice, the coronavirus and other turmoil during the Trump administration have fueled a resurgence, with paramilitary groups blending into a mishmash of far-right factions that spread their messages on websites and social media.

In many ways, their focus is unchanged, including contempt for authority, reverence for the Second Amendment and backwoods military-style training exercises.

But the plot targeting Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer illustrates one stark difference: Nowadays, much of the anger focuses on state officials whom extremists accuse of denying rights and freedoms.

"And this is largely due to the fact that Donald Trump, who the militia movement supports, is at the head of the federal government," said Mark Pitcavage, a senior research fellow at the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism.

"But they can much more easily be angry at state governors, especially Democratic ones, but sometimes even Republican ones, who are involved with gun-control efforts or lockdown or anti-pandemic measures," he added.

Whitmer told The Associated Press in an interview Friday that extremism targeted at state officials is "a very real threat to democracy."

"There's no question that these hate groups are domestic terrorists and I think we need to call them that," Whitmer said while greeting voters in Traverse City. "We need leadership who steps up and takes it on. We need it coming out of the White House, we need it coming out of all of our statehouses as well."

Six men were charged in federal court Thursday with conspiring to kidnap the governor in retaliation for what they viewed as her "uncontrolled power," according to a criminal complaint. Seven others, charged in state court for allegedly seeking to storm the Michigan Capitol, are linked to a paramilitary group called the Wolverine Watchmen, a state affidavit said.

The Wolverine Watchmen used Facebook to recruit members and communicated on an encrypted messaging platform, the affidavit said.

Joseph Morrison, 42, a founding member, used the screen name "Boogaloo Bunyan." Group members gathered for training and drills as they prepared for the "boogaloo," an anti-government, pro-gun extremist movement that has been linked to a recent string of domestic terrorism plots, the affidavit said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 68 of 105

Supporters have shown up at protests over COVID-19 lockdown orders and demonstrations over racial injustice, carrying rifles and wearing tactical gear.

The kidnapping plot wasn't the only violence planned by Wolverine Watchmen members, according to investigators. The State Police affidavit says the group was training for an attack on the Michigan state Capitol, targeting police officers and threatening violence "to instigate a civil war leading to societal collapse."

The group's other founder, Pete Musico, posted a warning on YouTube that thousands of people were willing to arm themselves and march to Washington, "to take our country back and hang every one of you traitors for treason," the ADL said.

Brandon Caserta, one of the suspects arrested on federal charges, posted on Facebook that the COVID-19 pandemic is "a lie," the ADL said. It said another suspect, Eric Molitor, posted an image associated with the Three Percenter anti-government movement on his Facebook page and wrote, "When tyranny becomes law, resistance becomes duty."

Molitor also reportedly used Facebook to promote the baseless QAnon conspiracy theory that Trump is waging a secret campaign against "deep state" enemies and a child sex-trafficking ring run by Satan-worshipping Democrats.

"We proactively reached out and cooperated with the FBI early in this ongoing investigation," a Facebook spokesperson said Friday.

The ADL said it wasn't immediately clear if the suspects had extensive ties to other self-styled militia groups.

"This appears to have been a sort of a more informal group or you might call it a militia cell" that formed recently and was not "outward or public-facing," Pitcavage said.

But its alleged ties to those charged in the kidnapping plot illustrate how modern extremist organizations can make connections online and in person, said J.J. MacNab, a fellow at George Washington University's Program on Extremism. Some of those charged with joining the plot met at a Second Amendment rally at the state Capitol in Lansing, a federal affidavit said.

Such gatherings are "great recruiting events" for paramilitary groups, MacNab said. "People get off their computers, go to the Capitol, carry guns, protest and have their voices heard in person."

Greg Stejskal, a retired FBI agent who investigated Michigan militia groups in the 1990s, said their ire was directed largely at the federal government because members considered its authority illegitimate and dictatorial. White nationalism also was a strong influence, he said.

Their more recent focus on state governments makes the job of monitoring them and preventing terrorist activities harder, he said.

"It's like being a goalie on the hockey team," Stejskal said. "We can't afford to miss any of these and all they have to do is get one through and into the net."

Trump could help by giving stronger support to governors facing threats and protests for trying to control the coronavirus, he said.

"He knows the people vote for him," Stejskal said. "When he demurs from denouncing them, he encourages them."

Whitmer said Trump and other Republicans should do more.

"I think that the president has given safe harbor to hate organizations and domestic terror organizations. He has done it in the middle of debates," Whitmer said.

"I have asked specifically from this White House to bring the heat down. I have asked the Republican leaders in our state legislature to bring the heat down. I have asked for their help and none of them have done a darn thing."

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Kunzelman reported from College Park, Maryland. Associated Press writer Angie Wang contributed from Atlanta. AP researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed from New York.

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This story has been corrected to clarify that that only six charged in federal court in alleged kidnap plot and seven charged in state court on other charges, rather than all 13 charged in the kidnapping plot.

## Plot puts focus on governors' safety amid threats, protests

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

A plot to kidnap Michigan's governor has put a focus on the security of governors who have faced protests and threats over their handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

While the alleged plot against Gretchen Whitmer is the most specific and highest-profile to come to light, it's far from the first threat against state officials, particularly Democrats who imposed business closures and restrictions on social gatherings.

In New Mexico, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said this week that news of the arrest of 13 men accused of planning the overthrow of Michigan's government rattled members of her family.

"I started to get calls from both my daughters who were terrified and who were often included in some of the negative messaging," Lujan Grisham said this week. "Early on in this pandemic, one of the threats that we got was 'I hope your grandchildren get COVID.'"

In August, a man pleaded guilty to making threats against the Democratic governor on social media and was sentenced to 14 months in prison.

During the pandemic, the state Capitol that houses her office has been closed to the public. But its grounds have been the site of protests, including some who carried weapons and are militia members.

Even with the glass doors locked, State Police have at times deployed additional security measures, such as putting up opaque screens inside the doors to hide their exact location from protesters.

Across the country, armed protesters have rallied this year against coronavirus-related shutdowns. In Michigan, some protesters with guns were allowed inside the statehouse in April after passing temperature screenings. Some lawmakers wore bulletproof vests.

Protests both against virus restrictions and racial injustice this year have targeted not just the offices but also the homes of government executives. Fourteen unarmed protesters calling for the release of prison inmates, for instance, were arrested outside the gates of the residence of California Gov. Gavin Newsom in July.

The offices of governors and those in charge of protecting them have declined to say how security has changed because of specific threats they face or the Michigan case. Several praised the security efforts around them.

But some governors are linking the threats to President Donald Trump, who on Twitter late Thursday condemned "extreme violence" while also blasting Whitmer, saying she has done a "terrible job."

At a briefing Friday, Vermont Gov. Phil Scott, a Republican, said elected officials "but especially at the top, must realize that words matter" and that rhetoric can lead to violence.

"We are reaching a boiling point in this country," he said. "So it's up to all of us to lower the temperature."

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee singled out the president, who has often criticized Whitmer, for responsibility.

"It is very unfortunate that she has been troubled not just directly by these threats, but a constant barrage of, frankly, incendiary criticism from the president, and I think that's been very unfortunate," Inslee said.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, who also serves as chairman of the Democratic Governors Association, called on Trump to denounce extremist groups.

"This shocking development is the most disturbing of the increasingly violent threats being made against Democratic governors by some of the most extreme and violent fringes of the right," Murphy said in a statement. "Unless and until President Trump openly denounces such right-wing extremism, groups like the Michigan Militia will continue to act as if they hold a permission slip from him to openly engage in such terrorist plots."

The threat this year against public employees has risen enough that the bipartisan National Governors Association sent its members a memo in August laying out ways to try to discourage and deal with threats. Among them: Encouraging civil discourse with protesters, personally complying with mask and social distancing orders and prosecuting threats.

Over the nation's history, violence against governors has been rare. The only time a U.S. state governor

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 70 of 105

died of assassination was in Kentucky in 1900, when Kentucky Gov. William Goebel was shot in the chest near the old state Capitol days before he was sworn in after a disputed election. He died shortly after he took office.

In the same city this spring, current Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, a Democrat, was hanged in effigy from a tree on the state Capitol grounds in Frankfort in a protest of his coronavirus restrictions. In April, a man was charged after being accused of making threats against Beshear and Kentucky State Police troopers online.

This week, a fence began going up around the state's executive mansion.

Associated Press reporters Cedar Attanasio in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Mike Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey; Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington; Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont; and Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this article.

Follow Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>

Thurs article has been updated to show that former Kentucky Gov. William Goebel was shot before he was sworn in but died after.

## Whitey Ford, Hall of Fame ace for mighty Yankees, died at 91

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — During an era when the Yankees won the World Series so routinely it was joked that rooting for them was like rooting for General Motors, their ace pitcher owned the most fitting nickname: "The Chairman of the Board."

Whitey Ford, the street-smart New Yorker who had the best winning percentage of any pitcher in the 20th century and helped the Yankees become baseball's perennial champions in the 1950s and '60s, died Thursday night. He was 91.

The team said Friday the Hall of Famer died at his Long Island home in Lake Success, New York, while watching the Yankees in a playoff game. His wife of 69 years, Joan, and family members were with him.

Ford had suffered from the effects of Alzheimer's disease in recent years. His death was the latest this year of a number of baseball greats — Al Kaline, Tom Seaver, Lou Brock and Bob Gibson.

On a franchise long defined by power hitters, Ford was considered its greatest starting pitcher. He posted the most wins in Yankees history and still owns the record for World Series victories.

Not big and not overpowering, the wily left-hander played in the majors from 1950-67, all with the Yankees, and teamed with the likes of Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio and Yogi Berra to win six championships.

"If you were a betting man, and if he was out there pitching for you, you'd figure it was your day," former teammate and World Series MVP Bobby Richardson told The Associated Press on Friday.

Ford won 236 games and lost just 106, a winning percentage of .690. He would help symbolize the almost machinelike efficiency of the Yankees in the mid-20th century, when only twice between Ford's rookie year and 1964 did they fail to make the World Series.

"This is one of the guys that's a Mount Rushmore guy in the Yankee organization," manager Aaron Boone said.

The blond-haired Ford was nicknamed "Whitey" while still in the minor leagues, and quickly reached the mound at Yankee Stadium.

His death occurred in a month when he for so long soared on baseball's biggest stage, and hours before his former team played Tampa Bay in a decisive Game 5 of the AL Division Series. The Yankees planned a patch with Ford's No. 16 on their uniforms.

"He would have been the starting pitcher in this game for the Yankees in years past," Richardson said.

The World Series record book is crowded with Ford's accomplishments. His string of 33 consecutive scoreless innings from 1960-62 broke a record of 29 2-3 innings set by Babe Ruth. Ford holds records for World Series wins (10), games and starts (22), innings pitched (146) and strikeouts (94).

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 71 of 105

"I saw him plenty from the other side," said 93-year-old Carl Erskine, whose Brooklyn Dodgers often faced the Yankees in October. "Too bad for us, Whitey and those guys won most of the games."

Yankees reliever Mariano Rivera, the only player unanimously elected to the Hall, set the postseason record for consecutive innings — a majority of them in the AL playoffs.

"Whitey earned his status as the ace of some of the most memorable teams in our sport's rich history," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "Beyond the Chairman of the Board's excellence on the mound, he was a distinguished ambassador for our national pastime throughout his life."

Ford died on the 64th anniversary of the single greatest pitching performance in Yankees lore — Don Larsen's perfect game in the 1956 World Series. Larsen died on New Year's Day this year.

Ford also made Oct. 8 a special day, surpassing Ruth's mark for consecutive shutout innings on that date in the 1961 Series. Ford was the MVP of that Fall Classic, twice beating Cincinnati.

"Mickey was hurt and we had a lot of backups in there against the Reds," teammate Tony Kubek told The Associated Press. "We won that because of Whitey's pitching."

Ford was in his mid-20s when he became the go-to guy in manager Casey Stengel's rotation, the pitcher Stengel said he would always turn to if he absolutely needed to win one game. Ford was Stengel's choice to pitch World Series openers eight times, another record.

Ford's best seasons came in 1961 and 1963, in the midst of a stretch of five straight AL pennants for the Yankees, when new manager Ralph Houk began using a four-man rotation instead of five. Ford led the league in victories with 25 in 1961, won the Cy Young Award and starred in the World Series. In 1963, he went 24-7, again leading the league in wins. Eight of his victories that season came in June.

He also led the AL in earned run average in 1956 (2.47) and 1958 (2.01) and was an All-Star in eight seasons.

Ford did have his World Series disappointments. He spoke bitterly of the 1960 championship, when he shut out Pittsburgh twice but was used by Stengel in Game 3 and Game 6 and so was unavailable for the finale, won 10-9 by the Pirates on Bill Mazeroski's home run in the bottom of the ninth. In 1963, Ford was outmatched twice by Sandy Koufax as the Los Angeles Dodgers swept the Yankees.

Ford was 10-8 with a 2.71 ERA overall in the World Series. His final appearance there came in the 1964 opener when he lost to the St. Louis Cardinals, who went on to take the title behind Gibson.

Unlike Gibson and Koufax, Ford was not a power pitcher. Instead he depended on guile and guts, rarely giving hitters the same look on consecutive pitches. He'd throw overhand sometimes, three-quarters other times, mixing curves and sliders in with his fastball and changeup.

Ford would also acknowledge using some special methods to add movement to his pitches, including saliva, mud and dirt and cutting the ball with a ring.

"If there are some pitchers doing it and getting away with it, that's fine by me," Ford told sports writer Phil Pepe, in 1987. "If it were me and I needed to cheat to be able to throw the good stuff that would keep me in the major leagues at a salary of about \$800,000 a year, I'd do whatever I had to do"

After his retirement, Ford briefly worked as a broadcaster and opened a restaurant in Garden City, "Whitey Ford's Cafe," that closed within a year. In 2001, actor Anthony Michael Hall played Ford in the Billy Crystal-directed HBO movie "61(asterisk)," about the 1961 season and the quest of Mantle and Roger Maris to break Ruth's single-year home run record.

Ford and Mantle were cultural opposites, an odd couple who became inseparable off the field, Ford the fast-talking city kid, Mantle the shy country boy from Oklahoma. They enjoyed the attraction of New York nightlife along with rowdy, wise-cracking infielder Billy Martin and Stengel called the trio "whiskey slick."

Mantle shortened that to just "Slick" for Ford, who proudly used the nickname as the title of his 1987 autobiography, co-written by Pepe. (Ford in turn would coin one of baseball's most famous nicknames, "Charlie Hustle," for Pete Rose).

Typical of their adventures was an episode during a trip to Japan where they hooked up with a 400-pound sumo wrestler, who was accompanied by a translator. Through the evening, the wrestler never spoke, just smiling and nodding.

Then it occurred to Martin that it might be fun to sling some insults at the wrestler. Their new friend

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 72 of 105

continued to nod and smile. Then, when the evening was over Martin said good night in Japanese and the wrestler nodded and said, "Thank you very much for a nice evening," in perfect English.

It was a lesson in international diplomacy.

Ford's son, Eddie, played shortstop when Richardson was the head coach at the University of South Carolina.

"Sometimes if we were in a slump, Whitey would offer to come down and take the boys out and get them nice and relaxed," Richardson remembered with a chuckle. "I was like, 'Oh, Whitey, we can't be having any of that.'"

Kubek recalled in his rookie season in 1957, on the Yankees' first trip to Chicago, he was invited go out with Ford, Mantle and Martin to a nightspot on rollicking Rush Street. After dinner, the three Yankees veterans all excused themselves from the table for various reasons.

"The maitre d' comes over and hands me the bill. It was over \$100. I was embarrassed, I had to tell him that I didn't have the money," Kubek said. "Then Whitey comes back and is laughing, he'd set the whole thing up."

"He was like a little gremlin. He had a little Irish in him. He had a pixie-ish humor," he said. "But on the mound, he was all business. And if you ever made an error behind him, he wouldn't give you that look like some pitchers do. He'd just go out and get the next batter."

After Martin was traded in the aftermath of a 1957 brawl at the Copacabana night club, Ford and Mantle remained centerpieces in the Yankees dynasty and were elected together to the Hall of Fame in 1974.

Ford often called his election the highlight of his career, made more meaningful because he was inducted with Mantle, who died in 1995.

"It never was anything I imagined was possible or anything I dared dream about when I was a kid growing up on the sidewalks of New York," he wrote in his autobiography. "I never really thought I would make it as a kid because I always was too small."

The Yankees retired his No. 16 the month Ford was inducted into the Hall. He wore No. 19 as a rookie, then changed it.

Edward Charles Ford was born on the East Side of Manhattan, about 100 blocks south of Yankee Stadium. He grew up playing sandlot ball in Astoria, Queens, a section of the city that produced major leaguers Sam Mele and Tony Cuccinello and singer Tony Bennett.

The Yankees signed Ford in 1947 and three years later he was called up in midseason. At just 5-foot-10 and 180 pounds, Ford was viewed as a marginal prospect. But he won nine straight games and nailed down the 1950 World Series sweep of Philadelphia by winning the fourth game, coming within one out of a complete game.

After two years away for military service during the Korean War — he remained stateside in the Army — Ford returned to the Yankees in 1953 and, along with Mantle became the core of a team that won 10 American League pennants and five World Series in the next 12 years. Ford won 18 games in his first season back and never won fewer than 11 for 13 straight seasons.

Mantle summed it up: "He was the best pitcher I ever saw and the greatest competitor. Whitey won seven out of every 10 decisions and nobody in the history of baseball has ever done better than that."

Ford's death leaves Bobby Brown, who won four Series titles with the Yankees in the 1940s and '50s, as the last living link to prominent Yankees who played with both DiMaggio and Ford. Brown is 95.

In addition to his wife and son Eddie, Ford is survived by a daughter, Sally Ann; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Ford's other son, Thomas, died in 1999.

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This story was principally written by former AP Sports Writer Hal Bock. AP National Writer Hillel Italie contributed.

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## World Food Program wins Nobel Peace Prize for hunger fight

By DALATOU MAMANE, FRANK JORDANS and VANESSA GERA Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — The World Food Program won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for fighting hunger and seeking to end its use as “a weapon of war and conflict” at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has driven millions more people to the brink of starvation.

Announcing the prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said it wished “to turn the eyes of the world towards the millions of people who suffer from or face the threat of hunger.”

The committee also said it hoped that bestowing the prize on the U.N. agency would highlight the need to strengthen global solidarity and cooperation in an era of go-it-alone nationalism.

“We are sending a signal to every nation who raises objections to international cooperation,” committee chair Berit Reiss-Andersen said. “We are sending a signal to this type of nationalism where the responsibility for global affairs is not being faced.”

The Rome-based agency was established in 1961 at the behest of U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower and has brought aid to multiple crises, including Ethiopia’s famine of 1984, the Asian tsunami of 2004 and the Haiti earthquake of 2010.

It continues to bring assistance to the world’s most dangerous and precarious places, from air-dropping food in South Sudan and Syria to creating an emergency delivery service that kept aid flowing even as pandemic restrictions grounded commercial flights.

In bestowing what is arguably the world’s most prestigious prize on the World Food Program, the Norwegian committee is honoring an organization headed by David Beasley, a Republican former South Carolina governor nominated for the job by President Donald Trump.

Beasley said the prize rightly goes to his entire team.

“I know I’m not deserving of an award like this — but all the men and women around the world in the World Food Program and our partners who put their lives on the line every day to help those in need, that is inspiring and encouraging,” he told The Associated Press by phone from Niger.

WFP staffers in Niger greeted Beasley with cheers and applause as he emerged to address a crowd after the announcement. “I didn’t win it, you won it,” he told them.

The award comes as Trump has pulled the United States out of several U.N. bodies, including the Human Rights Council and UNESCO, the cultural agency. He has also repeatedly criticized the U.N.’s World Health Organization over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic, and his administration has said the United States will leave it in July.

In light of that pullback, the choice of the World Food Program was particularly notable because the U.S. remains by far its biggest donor, the agency has been run by an American for nearly 40 years, and Beasley has been a rare recent example of U.S.-led internationalism.

The Nobel Committee said the problem of hunger has again become more acute in recent years, not least because the pandemic has added to the hardship already faced by millions.

WFP estimates that 690 million people worldwide suffer some form of hunger today.

“Where there is conflict, there is hunger. And where there is hunger, there is often conflict,” Beasley said in a statement on the agency’s website. “Today is a reminder that food security, peace and stability go together.”

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was delighted the award went to “the world’s first responder on the front lines of food insecurity.” It was the ninth award for the U.N. or one of its agencies.

“In a world of plenty, it is unconscionable that hundreds of millions go to bed each night hungry,” Guterres said. “Millions more are now on the precipice of famine due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The Nobel Committee called on governments to ensure that WFP and other aid organizations receive the financial support needed to feed millions in countries such as Yemen, Congo, Nigeria and South Sudan.

When the award was announced, Beasley was in Niger, following a visit to neighboring Burkina Faso — two countries in the Sahel region of Africa that he said is “under attack by extremists and climate extremes” and going through “a devastating” time.

A logistics juggernaut, WFP this year created a global emergency delivery service for humanitarian aid.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 74 of 105

Officials said the unprecedented effort involved nearly 130 countries and was key in ensuring that aid for the pandemic kept flowing in addition to other assistance, like the drugs and vaccines needed to combat other diseases.

As recently as this week, a WFP humanitarian convoy was attacked in South Sudan, drawing condemnation from the U.S. State Department.

There was no shortage of causes or candidates on this year's Nobel list, with 211 individuals and 107 organizations nominated.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee maintains absolute secrecy about whom it favors before the announcement, but WFP had been on the short list of Dan Smith, the director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

"The global problem of hunger is increasing and so is the global problem of violent conflict," Smith said. "The World Food Program works at the intersection of those two problems (and) it's going to face an increasing workload in the coming years."

Some, however, noted that the World Food Program's top donors are also major food exporters and often involved in the sale of arms to conflict zones where the agency works, from Afghanistan to Yemen.

"This Nobel Prize is important to celebrate multilateral cooperation, to show solidarity between nations," said Frederic Mousseau, policy director at The Oakland Institute, a progressive think tank based in California. "But we should not ignore the hypocrisy of the richest nations engaged in and profiteering from the wars where they finance WFP interventions."

The award comes with a gold medal and a 10-million krona (\$1.1 million) cash prize that is dwarfed by the funding that WFP requires for its work. So far in 2020, the organization has received almost \$6.4 billion in cash or goods, with over \$2.7 billion coming from the U.S.

On Monday, the Nobel Committee awarded the prize for physiology and medicine for discovering the liver-ravaging hepatitis C virus. Tuesday's prize for physics honored breakthroughs in understanding the mysteries of cosmic black holes, and the chemistry prize on Wednesday went to scientists behind a powerful gene-editing tool. The literature prize was awarded to American poet Louise Glück on Thursday for her "candid and uncompromising" work.

The Nobel Memorial Prize for economics, which was only established in 1968, will be awarded Monday.

Jordans reported from Berlin and Gera from Warsaw, Poland. Associated Press journalists David Keyton in Stockholm; Karl Ritter, Nicole Winfield and Patricia Thomas in Rome; Cara Anna in Johannesburg; and Jamey Keaten in Geneva contributed.

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

## White House ups virus aid offer, resumes talks with Pelosi

By ANDREW TAYLOR and BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is boosting its offer in up-and-down COVID-19 aid talks Friday in hopes of an agreement before Election Day, even as President Donald Trump's most powerful GOP ally in the Senate said Congress is unlikely to deliver relief by then.

Trump on Friday took to Twitter to declare: "Covid Relief Negotiations are moving along. Go Big!" A top economic adviser said the Trump team was upping its offer in advance of a Friday conversation between Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The two spoke for more than 30 minutes Friday afternoon, said Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill.

A GOP aide familiar with the new offer said it is about \$1.8 trillion, with a key state and local fiscal relief component moving from \$250 billion to at least \$300 billion. The White House says its most recent prior offer was about \$1.6 trillion. The aide requested anonymity because the negotiations are private.

"I would like to see a bigger stimulus package than either the Democrats or Republicans are offering,"

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 75 of 105

Trump said on Rush Limbaugh's radio show Friday. Earlier this week, Trump lambasted Democrats for their demands on an aid bill.

Pelosi's most recent public offer was about \$2.2 trillion, though that included a business tax increase that Republicans won't go for.

But GOP Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told an audience in Kentucky that he doesn't see a deal coming together soon out of a "murky" situation in which the participants in the negotiations are elbowing for political advantage.

"I'd like to see us rise above that like we did in March and April but I think it's unlikely in the next three weeks," McConnell said. McConnell said later that "the first item of priority of the Senate is the Supreme Court," suggesting there isn't time to both process a COVID relief bill and the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett before the election.

He spoke after Trump apparently performed an about-face, empowering Mnuchin to resume negotiations with Pelosi, D-Calif., on a larger, comprehensive coronavirus relief package despite calling off the talks just days before.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters Friday that "developments are positive" and that "the bid and the offer have narrowed" in advance of a the telephone conversation later Friday between Pelosi and Mnuchin.

McConnell remains a skeptic that a deal can come together — and he has issued private warnings that many Senate Republicans will oppose a deal in the range that Pelosi is seeking.

"We do need another rescue package," McConnell said. "But the proximity to the election and the differences about what is need at this particular juncture are pretty vast."

Later Friday, during an appearance in Tompkinsville, Kentucky, McConnell said, "I don't know whether we'll get another (virus relief) package or not."

McConnell's remarks capped a tumultuous week in which Trump sent conflicting signals and made unworkable demands. On Tuesday, he ordered an end to the weeklong talks after being told that few Republicans in Congress would end up voting for a possible Pelosi-Mnuchin deal.

After taking blowback for that decision, Trump sought to revive the negotiations Thursday. Yet even as Mnuchin was reengaging with Pelosi, staffers in the White House — working under chief of staff Mark Meadows, a key negotiator — were issuing demands for a smaller package stuffed with Trump's priorities.

All this comes as Trump is sliding in the polls and is sidelined by his COVID-19 infection. The White House is short-staffed and dealing with infections among its employees. And the president and Pelosi are attacking each other's mental health.

That the talks were headed nowhere was an open secret among close observers in Washington, but both sides had been reluctant to declare them dead until Trump did so Tuesday, making himself a magnet for blame. The talks are still unlikely to produce results in the near term because even if there was a breakthrough, it could take weeks to process.

McConnell says he is open to resuming the negotiations in a post-election lame-duck session, but that prospect is murky as well, depending on the results.

On Friday, Pelosi issued a downbeat assessment in a letter to her colleagues but expressed some optimism in an appearance on MSNBC.

"I do hope that we'll have an agreement soon," Pelosi said.

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Schreiner contributed from Sheperdsville, Kentucky.

## Trump official says vaccine expected starting in January

By MARTHA MENDOZA AND JULIET LINDERMAN Associated Press

A Trump administration official leading the response to the coronavirus pandemic says the U.S. can expect delivery of a vaccine starting in January 2021, despite statements from the president that inoculations could begin this month.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 76 of 105

And a growing, bipartisan chorus of lawmakers, experts and public health officials says the country is ill prepared for a projected winter surge of COVID-19.

Dr. Robert Kadlec said in an email Friday that the administration "is accelerating production of safe and effective vaccines ... to ensure delivery starting January 2021." Kadlec is the Department of Health and Human Services' assistant secretary of preparedness and response. HHS says a vaccine could be approved before the end of the year but will take time to distribute.

President Donald Trump has said at rallies, debates and press conferences that a vaccine could arrive within weeks. "We think we can start sometime in October," Trump said at a White House press briefing last month.

Kadlec wasn't the first health official to counter the president's optimistic timeline. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said Thursday that there could be 100 million vaccine doses available by the end of the year "pending FDA authorizations." And Dr. Moncef Slaoui, who is leading the government's vaccine effort, told Marketwatch on Friday that researchers could know "by late October, or November, or in December" whether one of the vaccines in development is effective, but that it would then take weeks to get emergency authorization to administer it.

When asked about the disparity, the White House was not specific on a date but said Trump's priority is to distribute a vaccine "as soon as possible." Kadlec said, without elaborating, that it wasn't correct to conclude that this meant the country couldn't see a vaccine sooner than January.

Kadlec was responding to a series of questions from The Associated Press and FRONTLINE about the administration's response to the pandemic and, in particular, about shortages of critical medical supplies.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This story is part of an ongoing investigation by The Associated Press, the PBS series FRONTLINE and the Global Reporting Centre that examines the deadly consequences of the fragmented worldwide medical supply chain and includes the film America's Medical Supply Crisis.

The AP and FRONTLINE reported earlier this week that a breakdown in the supply chain for critical medical equipment including masks, gloves, gowns and ventilators hobbled the U.S. response to COVID-19 and was likely a factor in the country's death rate, which is higher per capita than almost every other country in the world.

Experts say those shortages could now extend to the syringes, needles and glass vials that are vital to a future nationwide vaccination program.

Kadlec agrees that supply chain disruptions led to shortages. He said the administration needs more, consistent, flexible funding from Congress to shore up the Strategic National Stockpile of medical supplies and drugs and expand domestic manufacturing.

"There seems to be universal consensus from both sides of the aisle in Congress, from the health care sector and from the manufacturing base, that it is critical to move from a just-in-time manufacturing model to a more flexible and resilient domestic manufacturing capability," he said.

Health experts have called for the same changes but say there's a vacuum of federal leadership to implement them right now.

"Having a single national coordinated strategy would help ensure that states, hospitals, physician offices and other facilities have a single, centralized authority to work through to acquire essential personal protective equipment," American Medical Association President Dr. Susan Bailey told the AP and FRONTLINE on Thursday. "The burn rate of personal protective equipment and medical supplies has been far greater than anything that we have experienced and for a far longer time, and the need for PPE and testing supplies will continue for the foreseeable future."

The collapse of the medical supply chain wasn't unexpected: For decades, politicians and corporate officials ignored warnings about the risks associated with America's overdependence on foreign manufacturing and a lack of adequate preparation at home.

Of the hundreds of COVID-19 related bills introduced in Congress this year, only a handful seek to resolve

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 77 of 105

supply chain issues; none of those has reached the president.

"We need to claw back our medical supply chain back to the U.S.," said Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., who has sponsored bills to bolster the U.S. pharmaceutical manufacturing base.

Roughly nine months into the pandemic, health care workers and even the Government Accountability Office report there still isn't enough protective equipment for frontline workers or adequate coordination from the federal government. And although there are emergency preparedness and response plans in place, implementation has been inconsistent.

"We went into this pandemic unprepared, and we remain so months later," said Boris Lushniak, former acting surgeon general in the Obama administration. "It is time to reevaluate the complete medical supply chain in the U.S. The federal government needs to take on the leadership role here."

Across the country, public health leaders are warning about the coming months.

"A cohesive national plan for equitably distributing PPE has still not been proposed, let alone implemented," said Harvard Medical School professor Dr. Andrew T. Chan, who found Black, Hispanic and Asian health care workers had the highest risk of contracting COVID-19. "Thus, we will continue to fly by the seat of our pants with our fingers crossed for the foreseeable future."

Michael Lu, dean of University of California, Berkeley's school of public health, said one important part of the solution lies in a bipartisan bill fast tracked in the Senate that would rebuild the Strategic National Stockpile and strengthen U.S. manufacturing of medical masks, gowns and other protective gear.

"We weren't ready for the pandemic," Lu said. "And we are still not ready."

Contact AP's Global Investigative Team at [Investigative@ap.org](mailto:Investigative@ap.org). Contact the reporters on Twitter at @mendozamartha and @JulietLinderman

## Ohio county says nearly 50,000 voters received wrong ballots

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Nearly 50,000 voters received incorrect absentee ballots in the county that is home to Ohio's capital and largest city, elections officials said Friday as they promised corrected ballots would be mailed within 72 hours.

With about 240,000 ballots mailed, that meant one in five voters received a wrong ballot. The error happened Saturday afternoon when someone changed a setting on a machine that places absentee ballots into mailing envelopes, Franklin County elections officials said Thursday.

Some ballots had an incorrect congressional race, while others had the correct information but were sent to voters in a different precinct. The Franklin County Elections Board said 49,669 voters received incorrect ballots out of 237,498 that were mailed.

That represents 6% of Franklin County's approximately 880,000 registered voters, and 0.6% of the 8 million voters registered statewide in the presidential battleground.

The process to print, stuff the replacement ballots in envelopes and mail them was underway Friday, the Franklin County Elections Board announced.

The board also said it will mail postcards to all affected voters detailing the situation and highlighting voters' options moving forward. Those options include voting in-person at the board's offices on the city's north side.

The elections board said multiple checks are in place to ensure only one voter can cast a ballot, including rejecting any replacement ballots if someone went ahead and voted in person.

The news of the incorrect ballots brought renewed focus on an election seeing an unprecedented number of absentee ballot requests, spurred by the coronavirus pandemic and concerns about in-person voting.

On Tuesday, Ohio's elections chief announced that Ohio's 88 elections boards received a record number of absentee ballot applications. Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose said 2,154,235 applications had been received — more than double the 1,091,188 absentee ballots applications at the same time four years ago.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 78 of 105

LaRose said Friday that while the Franklin County board made "a serious mistake," the county was working hard to fix it. LaRose noted Ohio's elections boards are bipartisan to ensure fair elections.

"The bottom line is this: Ohioans can be assured — we will have a safe, secure, and accurate election," LaRose said in a statement.

President Donald Trump, who has alleged fraud associated with voting by mail with no evidence such fraud exists, quickly cited the Franklin County case on Twitter, calling it a "rigged election."

No such evidence exists.

"Mr. President, it certainly was a serious mistake, but a serious mistake that we're working hard to make right," the board tweeted in response to Trump. "Our board is bipartisan and our elections are fair. And every vote will be counted."

Just minutes after his tweet alleging fraud in Ohio, the president tweeted in support of Colorado, which has an all-mail balloting system.

"COLORADO! Your mail ballots are being sent out beginning TODAY! Fill them out and VOTE #TrumpPence2020!" the president tweeted.

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Associated Press writer Julie Carr Smyth contributed to this report.

## Judge lets ex-cop charged in Floyd's death live out of state

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A Minnesota judge cited safety concerns as he issued new conditions of release for an ex-Minneapolis police officer charged in the death of George Floyd that would allow him to live in a neighboring state while he awaits trial.

Derek Chauvin posted \$1 million bond on Wednesday and was allowed to walk free from the maximum security state prison where he had been held for his safety since shortly after his arrest. Floyd died after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for several minutes even after the handcuffed Black man pleaded for air before his death May 25. Chauvin was later charged with second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Chauvin's release triggered two nights of protests in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Gov. Tim Walz mobilized National Guard troops and state law enforcement officers to help keep the peace. Three other fired former officers who also face charges in the case were released on bond earlier. Their trial is set for March.

Hennepin County District Judge Peter Cahill said in an order released Friday but dated Thursday that the state Department of Corrections, which is supervising Chauvin while he's on release, presented evidence in private "supporting safety concerns that have arisen." The order did not say what that evidence entailed.

Chauvin's previous conditions prohibited him from leaving Minnesota without court permission and ordered him to sign extradition waivers if he was released. Under the new conditions, he "must establish residency somewhere in the State of Minnesota or a contiguous state as soon as possible" and report it to his supervising officer. His address will be shared with local law enforcement, but anyone who is given his address is ordered to keep it confidential.

The former officer must also carry a cellphone and keep it on, charged and in range so that the Department of Corrections can reach him at all times. He must also surrender his passport.

Cahill's order said the defense and prosecution had agreed to the new terms.

## NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By The Associated Press undefined

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

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# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 79 of 105

Video edited to remove context from Biden's comment about Black worker

CLAIM: Video shows Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden saying the reason he has been able to stay sequestered in his home is because "some Black woman was able to stack the grocery shelf."

THE FACTS: The video including that remark by Biden was shortened to remove the context in which it was said. A review of the full video taken during a Sept. 15 veterans roundtable Biden hosted at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida, shows the candidate was making a point about various groups stepping up as essential workers during the coronavirus pandemic. At least two heavily edited versions of the video were shared by public figures including Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk and Fox News analyst Gregg Jarrett. Cleveland-area pastor Darrell Scott, who co-founded Trump's National Diversity Coalition, posted one of the videos on Twitter with the caption, "What???? And Black folks STILL giving him a pass!" The videos quickly amassed millions of views on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. But they lacked important context for understanding Biden's point, which was about different groups coming together to help each other during the COVID-19 pandemic. Biden used the quote as one of multiple examples of different groups supporting each other as he explained his optimism for America's future: "And you say, 'Why in the hell would you say that, Biden? You just talked about all these difficulties,'" Biden said. "Well, I'll tell you why. Because the American public, the blinders have been taken off. They've all of a sudden seen a hell of a lot clearer. They are saying: 'Jeez, the reason I was able to stay sequestered in my home is because some Black woman was able to stack the grocery shelf, or I got a young Hispanic is out there, or these dreamers out there, 60,000 of them, acting as first responders and nurses and docs.' Or, all of a sudden people are realizing, my lord, you know, these people have done so much — not just Black, white but across the board — have done so much for me. We can do this. We can get things done."

— Associated Press writer Ali Swenson reported from Seattle.

Posts misrepresent Trump's remarks from Walter Reed

CLAIM: While hospitalized President Donald Trump said, "The doctors said they've never seen a body kill the coronavirus like my body. They tested my DNA and it wasn't DNA. It was USA."

THE FACTS: There is no evidence Trump made such a statement. The president shared an update on his condition in a video message posted to Twitter on Saturday after testing positive for the coronavirus and being transported to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. A screenshot from the video was shared online with a false caption that included the quote. The post was shared thousands of times on Twitter and Facebook. The full video of the address shows that Trump makes no references to his DNA during his speech. The false caption was also not tweeted by the president. In his address, he thanked medical professionals and the outpouring of support he has received. "I came here wasn't feeling so well," he says in the video. "I feel much better now. We're working hard to get me all the way back. I have to be back because we still have to make America great again." The false caption was made into a meme and shared in several different languages, including Vietnamese.

— Associated Press writer Beatrice Dupuy reported from New York.

CLAIM: Vice President Mike Pence tweeted after his debate with Democratic rival Kamala Harris that an Instagram page had released evidence Harris received the questions beforehand.

THE FACTS: The tweet was fabricated — it was not sent from Pence's account. At the start of the Oct. 7 debate between Pence and Harris, moderator Susan Page announced, "No one in either campaign or at the commission or anywhere else has been told in advance what topics I'll raise or what questions I'll ask." To date, there is no publicly available, credible evidence either candidate had advance notice of the questions. But an image of a fabricated tweet that purports to be from Pence's account suggests otherwise. The tweet was made to look like it was sent from @VP, one of the Twitter accounts used by the vice president, and has the same photo as Pence's actual account. It reads, "I want to thank everyone for the support for tonight's debate. I'd say it was a success. It was also brought to my attention that the Instagram page @electionleaks released evidence of Kamala receiving the questions beforehand. This is

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 80 of 105

unfair and I'd say that everyone should check out the evidence to judge for themselves." The tweet does not appear on Pence's @VP account. Nor does it appear on Politwoops, a ProPublica archive of politicians' deleted tweets.

— Associated Press writer Jude Joffe-Block reported from Phoenix.

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Barr hasn't announced that Obama launched antifa

CLAIM: Attorney General William Barr's investigation into antifa reveals that the organization was created by former President Barack Obama and liberal financier George Soros.

THE FACTS: The claim stems from a satirical article. Barr has not opened an investigation into antifa, a term for leftist militants, although he did form a task force to examine violence around nationwide protests this summer. "Barr's investigation of ANTIFA leads directly to Barack Obama," says the headline of the June 8 article on a site called Obama Watcher, which is labeled as satire. Obama Watcher is part of a network of satirical sites run by America's Last Line of Defense, a liberal site that tries to dupe Trump's supporters with false news stories. Facebook and Twitter users continue to pass around the article as real. Antifa is not considered an organized group. FBI Director Christopher Wray has told lawmakers that it is an ideology or a movement, not an organization. The Department of Justice, which is led by Barr, has opened investigations into some violence that erupted in cities during nationwide protests calling for racial justice earlier this year.

—Associated Press writer Amanda Seitz reported from Chicago.

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Video does not show pro-Trump bikers outside Walter Reed

CLAIM: Video shows bikers praying for Trump outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

THE FACTS: The video actually shows bikers in South Africa praying during an event to protest against the attacks against farmers in the area. After news broke that Trump was being taken to Walter Reed, his supporters began gathering outside the hospital to wish the president well. Social media users are misrepresenting a TikTok video to say it shows Trump's supporters outside the hospital praying for the president, who tested positive for COVID-19 last week. The clip, which shows motorcyclists kneeling in a park as they pray, was viewed more than a million times on Twitter as of Monday. Social media users shared the 8-second clip of the bikers and stills from the clip with a false caption. "Thousands of bikers gathered outside Walter Reed Hospital to pray for Trump," one post on Facebook said. The video was taken months before the president was diagnosed with COVID-19. The video actually shows a biker rally in Pretoria, South Africa, in August. The clip matches with footage taken at the time of a biker protest held against the murders of farmers. The clip was widely shared on Facebook and Twitter; the Trump War Room, the official account for the president's campaign, shared the video with the false caption on Twitter on Saturday. Trump briefly left the hospital Sunday to drive by and wave to his supporters camped outside. The president could be seen in an SUV wearing a mask inside the armored vehicle.

—Beatrice Dupuy

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Photo does not show Fox News' Chris Wallace without a mask

CLAIM: Photo shows Fox News' Chris Wallace without a face mask in public.

THE FACTS: The photo is of Jonathan Karl, chief White House correspondent for ABC News. The photo has been circulating on Twitter since May. On Oct. 4, a photo surfaced on social media showing Karl without a mask. Social media users claimed the photo showed Wallace. "Notice that the only one walking around in this public place without a mask on is the extremely biased, elitist, Chris Wallace. #ChrisWallace #Trump #TrumpCovid #MAGA #ChrisWallaceTheHack," one tweet said. The false post had over 14,000 retweets. Multiple reporters from the White House press corps recognized and pointed out Karl on social media. The photo was uploaded to Twitter in May. It shows Karl standing outside Mi Vida, a Mexican restaurant in Washington, without a mask. In May, social media users posted multiple photos of Karl outside the restaurant, criticizing him for standing in public without a mask. Wallace moderated the first debate between



Trump and Biden last week. On Oct. 2, Wallace urged Fox News viewers to "wear the damn mask."  
—Associated Press

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## Why won't White House say when Trump last tested negative?

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It is a basic, crucial question and one the White House refuses to answer: When was President Donald Trump's last negative test for the coronavirus before he tested positive last week?

"Yeah, I'm not going to give you a detailed readout with timestamps every time the president's tested," White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany told reporters last weekend.

"I can't reveal that at this time," echoed Alyssa Farah, the White House director of strategic communications. "Doctors would like to keep it private."

"I don't want to go backwards," said Dr. Sean Conley, the president's physician.

The answer could help fill in vital details about the course of the president's illness as well as when he may have been contagious and whom else he may have exposed. And the White House refusal to answer makes it hard not to wonder what they're hiding, given other details they've shared.

"At this point it's just so strange that they're unwilling to give us the information," said Michael Joseph Mina, a physician and professor of epidemiology at Harvard's school of public health. "It makes people start thinking things like, 'Was the president the super-spreader?'... If there was no nefarious activity going on, then they should have no problem answering this question."

The information is also key to tracking who else may have been exposed to the virus so their contacts can be traced to prevent new clusters of infection.

"Then you can get an idea, potentially, of when he was infected, how long his incubation period was, and also then evaluate who may have been exposed to him over that time frame," said Benjamin Pinsky, medical director of the clinical virology laboratory at Stanford Health Care. While there is considerable variability between cases, he said, Trump was most likely infectious several days before he tested positive — a period during which he traveled and had close contact with dozens of people.

Senior White House staff and those who are in direct contact with the president are tested for the virus daily. The White House originally gave the impression that Trump, too, was tested every day, with McEnany claiming in July that Trump was "the most tested man in America" and tested "multiple times a day." But Trump contradicted her, saying, "I do probably on average a test every two days, three days."

The current White House line is that Trump is tested "regularly."

Here's what is known: On Wednesday, Sept. 30, during a trip to Minnesota for a fundraiser and rally, one of the president's closest aides, Hope Hicks, began feeling ill. She isolated herself aboard Air Force One during the trip home, but the White House appears to have taken no further action.

The next morning, Hicks was again tested for the virus. This time, the results came back positive, just as the president was about to leave for a fundraiser at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey. A frantic effort was made to swap out staff who had been in close contact with Hicks, including McEnany. But Trump, who had also been with Hicks, nonetheless boarded Marine One, along with other White House staff still in the dark about Hicks' diagnosis.

After returning home from Bedminster, Trump was administered a rapid test, followed by a more accurate confirming test, which takes several hours to process. Both came back positive.

"Safe to say, his first positive test was upon return or at least after Bedminster," McEnany said.

But had Trump been tested before he made that trip to court donors in New Jersey after Hicks fell in? Had he been tested before he traveled to Minnesota?

What about the previous day, before his first debate against Democrat Joe Biden in Cleveland? The Cleve-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 82 of 105

land Clinic, which co-hosted the event, required that all attendees be tested in advance. Campaigns had to "certify" that their candidates and traveling staff had tested negative within 72 hours. "Each campaign complied with this requirement," the clinic said in a statement.

White House spokesman Brian Morgenstern, however, refused Friday to confirm that was the case in an appearance on MSNBC.

"The president's doesn't check all of his HIPAA rights at the door just when he becomes president," Morgenstern said, referring to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which was written to prevent doctors and others who bill for insurance coverage from disclosing a person's medical information without their consent.

Was Trump tested Monday, Sept. 28, before he held a photo op with a truck on the South Lawn and a Rose Garden press conference to trumpet coronavirus test efforts? What about before a debate prep session with his campaign manager, Bill Stepien, and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who have both since tested positive?

What about Sept. 27, when he visited his golf course in Sterling, Virginia, held a late afternoon news conference in the White House briefing room, and held an evening reception for Gold Star families on the White House state floor? Adm. Charles W. Ray, the vice commandant of the Coast Guard, who was in attendance, has since tested positive, forcing the nation's top military leaders, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, into self-quarantine.

What about Sept. 26, before he held a Rose Garden ceremony announcing his next pick for the Supreme Court, complete with closed-door receptions where few wore masks? Numerous attendees have since tested positive following the suspected "super-spreader" event.

Could Trump have been contagious that day? Could he have been the spreader?

Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist and department chairman at the Yale School of Public Health, noted that a small proportion of people infected contribute to the majority of infection, with about 20% of people responsible for 80% of transmission, studies show.

While it's unclear if Trump did indeed spread it, Ko said, "trying to identify people and when they could be infectious is important, especially when they are in contact with a lot of other people."

Added Saskia Popescu, an infectious disease epidemiologist at George Mason University, "There is concern that he continued to engage in public activities after his initial positive test, which is deeply worrisome and frankly unethical."

## **Nobel win reflects 'hunger for international cooperation'**

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has fractured global alliances and go-it-alone has turned ugly, some world leaders say Friday's awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the U.N. World Food Program was a commitment to the belief that only a concerted effort can save humanity from further disaster.

"This not only recognizes your tireless work for food security on our planet, but also reminds the key importance of multilateralism that delivers results," European Council President Charles Michel said in a congratulatory message.

More succinctly: "Multilateralism now more important than ever before," Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven tweeted.

Ahead of the announcement, some had speculated that the Nobel might go to a fellow United Nations body, the World Health Organization, which has promoted multilateralism in the face of criticism by President Donald Trump.

But the choice of the WFP — headed by an American, a Trump nominee — was widely seen as supporting the call to global solidarity that the U.N. and others have stressed as confirmed COVID-19 deaths climb past 1 million, and as famine becomes a danger in several countries.

Little symbolizes global connectedness more than the WFP, long the U.N.'s logistics expert, which in

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 83 of 105

responding to the pandemic launched an extraordinary emergency aid delivery service as most global flights were grounded. It involved almost 130 countries, unprecedented in scope. That's on top of its usual work feeding millions of hungry people around the world.

The Nobel Committee made it clear this year's award was a plea for unity.

"We are sending a signal to every nation (that) raises objections to international cooperation. We are sending a signal to this type of nationalism where the responsibility for global affairs is not being faced," committee head Berit Reiss-Andersen said shortly after the award was announced. She didn't name names.

She added: "Multilateral cooperation is absolutely necessary to combat global challenges. And multilateralism seems to have a lack of respect these days, and the Nobel Committee definitely wants to emphasize this aspect."

The renewed call to solidarity faces fearsome challenges.

Some rich countries have stockpiled millions of doses of potential COVID-19 vaccines, to the dismay of other nations. And some of the world's most high-profile leaders have downplayed the pandemic, including Trump, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.

All three were later infected by the virus themselves.

Alarmed by the apparent chaos, many world leaders used last month's annual U.N. gathering to issue ringing calls for a return to the multilateralism that the world body has represented for 75 years.

Even before the pandemic, populist forces were pulling unity apart. Brexit was one symbol of the turn inward, along with restrictions against migrants in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere. And trade wars among giants rumble on even as COVID-19 rocks economies around the world.

Weary of divisiveness, some on Friday leapt at the Nobel news to issue another urgent warning that unilateralism is bound to fail.

"Solidarity is precisely needed now to address not only the pandemic, but other global tests of our time," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

"There is also a hunger in our world for international cooperation," Guterres added. "The World Food Program feeds that need, too. WFP operates above the realm of politics, with humanitarian need driving its operations. The organization itself survives on voluntary contributions from U.N. member states and the public at large."

That last part was a reminder that the WHO, in the midst of arguably the worst pandemic in a century, stands to lose hundreds of millions of dollars per year if the U.S. follows on Trump's intention to withdraw from it completely. The U.S. had been the health agency's largest donor until Trump announced a halt to funding earlier this year.

The WFP chief, American David Beasley, in the glow of the Nobel win quickly turned to his cheering colleagues — representing a global collection of staffers, from Kyrgyzstan to Samoa — and said in his southern U.S. twang: "I didn't win it, you won it."

As the U.S. woke up Friday to the Nobel announcement, there was no immediate comment from Trump — who has said he would like to win the award himself.

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Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this story.

## **UN: New daily record as COVID-19 cases hit more than 350,000**

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization has announced a new daily record high in coronavirus cases confirmed worldwide, with more than 350,000 infections reported to the U.N. health agency on Friday.

The new daily high of 350,766 cases surpasses a record set earlier this week by nearly 12,000. That tally includes more than 109,000 cases from Europe alone.

In a press briefing on Friday, WHO emergencies chief Dr. Michael Ryan acknowledged that even as COVID-19 continues to surge across the world, "there are no new answers."

He said that although the agency wants countries to avoid the punishing lockdowns that have devastated economies, governments must ensure the most vulnerable people are protected and numerous measures

must be taken.

"The majority of people in the world are still susceptible to this disease," Ryan warned. He said countries should focus not just on restrictive measures, but also on bolstering their surveillance systems, testing, contact tracing and ensuring populations are engaged.

As the virus continues to surge across Europe and elsewhere, Ryan acknowledged that restrictive measures might be warranted at some point. British scientists reported this week that the COVID-19 outbreak is doubling every few weeks, French hospitals are running out of ICU beds, Germany may enlist the army to help contain its outbreak and Spain declared a state of emergency in Madrid as coronavirus cases soar.

Ryan said lockdowns "may be unavoidable where the disease has got out of control again, but we shouldn't accept that in every country, the return of cases should be seen with an immediate return of the need for lockdown restrictions."

Globally, more than 36 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including more than 1 million deaths.

Experts say the tally far underestimates the real number of cases and Ryan said on Monday that the WHO's "best estimates" were that one in 10 people worldwide — or roughly 760 million people — may have been infected.

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

## Wedding before the storm: Delta speeds up couple's nuptials

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

ABBEVILLE, La. (AP) — Hurricane Delta sped up one Louisiana couple's wedding by a few days, but judging by the smiles on the bride and groom, it certainly didn't dampen the affair.

Ian and Taylor Gaspard from Abbeville were supposed to get married Saturday, Oct. 10, with 300 people to wish them well inside the Saint Mary Magdalen Church, a scenic brick building in the town's center surrounded by green lawn and oak trees.

But Hurricane Delta had other plans.

After watching the storm slowly make its way toward Louisiana — and after a bit of what Taylor described as bridal hysterics — the couple swiftly changed gears and held the wedding at the church Thursday instead, with friends and family in attendance. Skies were gray, but the rain held off while the wedding party gathered. The streets outside were largely deserted as residents finished up last-minute storm preparations or evacuated.

"It wasn't supposed to be coming to us, and then all of a sudden it was supposed to be coming, like, right to us," Taylor said.

"So, of course, I got hysterical, and my little superman here came in and saved the day," she said, gesturing to her beaming husband. In her hands she held a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

She said her husband and her older sister improvised to speed up the ceremony at the church, which is just a few miles inland.

"Within 16 hours they threw an entire wedding together, and it's beautiful. I can't ask for better," she said. "At the end of the day, we just wanted to get married, and it was important that we did it in the church because that was important to our parents and our faith."

Speaking after the church service, her mother Linda Choate said it was beautiful.

"She just wanted to be absolutely perfect for her groom. It was very important for her that she did get married in the church and when that almost didn't happen she was so distraught," she said. "They asked 'Father, can we please do this before you have to evacuate?' and he said, 'Today!'"

The groom, who could not stop smiling after the service, said he reassured his bride that it would all work out.

And it did.

## As virus fills French ICUs anew, doctors ask what went wrong

By ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — During a single overnight shift this week, three new COVID-19 patients were rushed into Dr. Karim Debbat's small intensive care ward in the southern French city of Arles. It now has more virus patients than during the pandemic's first wave and is scrambling to create new ICU beds elsewhere in the hospital to accommodate the sick.

Similar scenes are playing out across France.

COVID-19 patients now occupy 40% of ICU beds in the Paris region, and more than a quarter of ICUs nationwide as weeks of growing infections among young people spread to vulnerable populations.

Despite being one of the world's richest nations — and one of those hardest hit when the pandemic first washed over the world — France hasn't added significant ICU capacity or the staff needed to manage extra beds, according to national health agency figures and doctors at multiple hospitals.

Like in many countries facing resurgent infections, critics say France's leaders haven't learned their lessons from the first wave.

"It's very tense, we don't have any more places," Debbat told The Associated Press. The Joseph Imbert Hospital in Arles is converting recovery rooms into ICUs, delaying non-urgent surgeries and directing more and more of his staff to high-maintenance COVID-19 patients.

Asked about extra medics to help with the new cases, he said simply, "We don't have them. That's the problem."

When protesting Paris public hospital workers confronted French President Emmanuel Macron this week to demand more government investment, he said: "It's no longer a question of resources, it's a question of organization."

He defended his government's handling of the crisis, and noted 8.5 billion euros (\$9.3 billion) in investment promised in July for the hospital system. The protesting medics said the funds are too little and too slow in coming, after years of cuts that left France with half the number of ICU beds in 2020 that it had in 2010.

ICU occupancy rates are considered an important indicator of how saturated the hospital system is and how effective health authorities have been at protecting at-risk populations. And France's numbers aren't looking good.

It reported a record daily count of more than 20,300 new virus cases Friday, and COVID patients now occupy 1,439 ICU beds nationwide — a figure that has doubled in less than a month. France's overall ICU capacity is 6,000, roughly the same as in March, according to national health agency figures provided to the AP.

In comparison, Germany entered the pandemic with about five times as many intensive care beds as France. To date, Germany's confirmed virus-related death toll is 9,584 compared to 32,521 people in France.

Getting ICU capacity right is a challenge. Spain was caught short in the spring, and has expanded its permanent ICU capacity by about 1,000 beds. Britain expanded ICU capacity by building emergency field hospitals. They were mothballed because they were barely used, but the government says they can be utilized again if required.

France added extra makeshift beds in the spring and transported patients by plane and high-speed train from hotspots to less saturated areas. The health agency said French hospitals could eventually double their ICU capacity if needed this fall.

Compared to March and April, doctors say French intensive care wards are better armed this time around, both with protective equipment and more knowledge about how this coronavirus works. Medics put fewer patients on breathing machines now and hospitals are practiced in how to rearrange their operations to focus on COVID-19.

The number of virus patients in the ICU quickly doubled last month in the New Civilian Hospital in Strasbourg, but the atmosphere is surprisingly calm. An AP reporter watched teams of medics coordinating closely to manage the trajectory and treatment of each patient according to strict protocols they're now accustomed to.

But that extra practice doesn't mean managing resurgent virus cases in ICUs is easy. In addition to extra breathing machines and other equipment, adding temporary ICU beds also takes time and labor – as does treating the COVID-19 patients in them.

"The work is harder, and takes longer" than for most other patients, said Pierre-Yves, head of the intensive care ward at the Laveran Military Training Hospital in Marseille. He was not authorized to be identified by his last name because of military policy.

Seven or more of his 47 staffers are needed each time they slowly and carefully rotate a patient from back to stomach or vice versa. Entering and leaving the ward now involves a lengthy, careful dance of changing full-body gear and disinfecting everything they've touched.

Dr. Debbat in Arles said training ICU staff takes several months, so he's relying on the same personnel levels as in the spring, and he worries they could burn out.

"I'm like a coach and I have just one team, with no reserve players," he said.

He also worries about non-virus patients, who were already put on the back burner earlier this year. And he worries about the upcoming flu season, which sends about 2,000 patients to ICUs in France every year.

The head of emergency medical service SOS Medecins, Serge Smadja, doesn't think France will again face the situation it saw in the spring, when more than 7,000 virus patients were in intensive care at the peak of the crisis, and some 10,000 infected people died in nursing homes without ever making it to hospitals. But he said the French public and its leaders were wrong to think "the virus was behind us."

"There aren't enough beds ... and there is especially a lack of personnel," he said. And with his service seeing a steady uptick in cases and the pandemic wearing on, he warned, "what's missing is an end date."

Jean-Francois Badias in Strasbourg, France, Aritz Parra in Madrid and Pan Pylas in London contributed to this story.

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

## **Biden, Harris dodge questions about Supreme Court expansion**

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — There are few topics that Joe Biden isn't willing to opine on — except the Supreme Court. The Democratic presidential nominee and his running mate, Kamala Harris, are refusing demands from Republicans — and some fellow Democrats — to say whether they would seek to expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court.

Harris dodged persistent questioning about the issue on Wednesday during her debate against Vice President Mike Pence. And facing pressure to take a stance during a campaign swing through Phoenix on Thursday, Biden offered a particularly terse response.

"They'll know my position on court packing when the election is over," he said.

In the final weeks of the campaign, Biden is in a bind when it comes to the future of the judiciary. Republicans, increasingly fearful of losing both the presidency and the Senate, are seizing on the issue to make a last-minute argument to voters that a Biden administration would upend norms and install liberals on an expanding Supreme Court. Some progressive Democrats are pressing Biden to embrace all means possible to counter Republican power plays that have pushed the court to the right.

The debate is likely to intensify next week when Senate Republicans start confirmation hearings for Amy Coney Barrett. She would cement a 6-3 conservative majority on the court, the balance already tilted by Republicans' holding open a vacancy in the 2016 election year by refusing to consider President Barack Obama's nominee.

Biden and Harris have said the Senate should wait until after the election to fill the seat. Biden has pledged to select the first Black female justice if given a chance. But he and Harris are otherwise taking pains to avoid talking about their vision for the Supreme Court's future.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 87 of 105

Tad Devine, a former top adviser to Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign, said that Trump and his allies are pushing the issue to undercut Biden's opening with moderate Republicans and that the ticket is wise to dodge the question for now.

"When you choose to engage on any issue like this, you're going to create news coverage, awareness and back and forth," Devine said. "And when you refuse to engage, you make it really hard for the side that's trying to create the engagement."

Republicans face political vulnerabilities related to the Supreme Court as well. In the aftermath of President Donald Trump's coronavirus infection, Barrett's nomination hasn't become the rallying cry the party hoped for.

Democrats also are trying to shore up any advantage by emphasizing that a conservative court could finally overturn the 2010 Affordable Care Act, which has grown in popularity over time but faces its latest challenge in oral arguments slated for Nov. 10, a week after Election Day.

Polling suggests most Americans want the Senate to wait on confirming a new justice until after the election.

Indeed, the Constitution says nothing about the number of Supreme Court justices or lower court judges, only that the president nominates federal jurists and the Senate confirms them. The high court, in fact, has had as many as 10 justices since Congress set the original roster of six in 1789.

There are no formal proposals to add justices, and the court wasn't a topline issue in the presidential campaign before Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death last month. But since then, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has said "nothing is off the table" if Republicans rush Barrett's confirmation.

The matter presents Biden with uncomfortable realities. A former vice president and six-term senator, he venerates the Senate and a bygone era of deal-making that he insists is possible again. But the current confirmation politics don't easily fit that vision.

Further, Biden's reluctance to disclose a position on court expansion stands out from his willingness to engage on other divides within the broad coalition he's trying to marshal against Trump. The progressive movement clamoring for a larger Supreme Court also wants a single-payer health insurance system, tuition-free college for all Americans and a complete phase-out of fossil fuels. Anti-Trump Republicans considering Biden still prefer the president's tax and regulatory policies to Biden's.

The Democratic nominee has told them all no — unlike his sidestepping on court expansion.

"The moment I answer that question, the headline in every one of your papers will be about that, other than focusing on what's happening now," Biden told reporters, referring to Barrett's fast-paced confirmation process after millions of voters are already casting early ballots. "They're denying the American people the one shot they have, under constitutional law, to be able have their input" by electing a president, Biden said.

His predicament is an outgrowth of years of gamesmanship across both parties.

Republicans' push for Barrett is at odds with the reasoning they used to ignore Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland after Justice Antonin Scalia died nine months before the 2016 election. Democrats in 2016, including Biden, made an argument Trump makes now: A president's power lasts a full four years.

Republicans abolished the filibuster for Supreme Court confirmations in 2017 to fill the seat they'd held open, ending the long-standing practice of effectively requiring 60 senators to confirm a justice.

In 2013, Senate Democrats abolished filibusters for regional appeals court posts like the one Barrett now holds on a Chicago-based bench. They cited Republicans' blocking of Obama appellate nominees and GOP calls to reduce the size of the appeals courts by eliminating some seats they were ensuring remained empty, a kind of reverse "court packing."

Before that, it was Senate Democrats — including Biden — opposing conservative nominees from President George W. Bush and Republicans dragging their heels on many of President Bill Clinton's second-term nominees.

So it goes back to a titanic fight in which Biden played a starring role. As Judiciary chair in 1987, he presided over a hearing and vote that ended with conservative luminary Robert Bork being denied a Supreme Court seat.

Biden's hope in 2020 is that enough voters can take the same philosophical view that his Republican

colleague and fellow future presidential nominee Bob Dole took 33 years ago.

"He's very fair to me in there," Dole, then the Senate Republican leader, said of Biden during a break in Bork's hearings. But, Dole added: "The big test is coming. It'll test not only the chairman, who I think's a good chairman, but everybody else. ... The people are going to find out who's playing politics and which ones are asking reasonable but tough questions."

Associated Press writer Alexandra Jaffe in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Trump: Justice Dept. had 'plenty of time' for Durham probe**

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, ZEKE MILLER and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday piled more criticism on the status of the Justice Department's investigation into the origins of the Russia probe, after reports that Attorney General William Barr has said not to expect conclusions before Election Day.

Trump and Barr are increasingly at odds over the investigation, as the president grows insistent that criminal charges be brought, and Barr becomes more frustrated by Trump's public pronouncements about the case.

Trump and his allies had high hopes for the investigation led by Connecticut U.S. Attorney John Durham, betting it would expose what they see as wrongdoing when the FBI opened a case into whether the Trump campaign was coordinating with Russia to sway the 2016 election. Trump has also pushed to tie prominent Obama administration officials to that effort as part of his campaign against Joe Biden, who was serving as vice president at the time.

But a year and a half into the investigation, and with less than one month until Election Day, there has been only one criminal case: a former FBI lawyer who pleaded guilty to altering a government email about a former Trump campaign adviser who was a target of secret FBI surveillance.

On Friday, Trump told conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh that Justice Department investigators had "plenty of time to do it. They've been looking at it for two years. The facts are on the table."

Barr has communicated recently to Republican lawmakers that it's highly unlikely the report will be completed by Election Day, according to people familiar with the matter. After Limbaugh read Trump an Axios story on the topic, Trump said he'd be disappointed if Barr had relayed that message to lawmakers.

"If Bill Barr actually made that statement, I would be very disappointed in him. I don't know that he made that statement," Trump said.

Trump is increasingly airing his dissatisfaction in tweets and television appearances. Barr, meanwhile, has privately expressed frustration over the public comments.

Despite Trump's unhappiness, there's no indication Barr's job is at risk in the final weeks of the campaign. Still, the tensions between Trump and the attorney general over the fate of the probe underscore the extent to which the president is aggressively trying to use all of the levers of his power to gain ground in an election that has been moving away from him.

He also said that if he doesn't win, the investigation will go away. "If we don't win, that whole thing is going to be dismissed," he said.

This account is based on interviews with six people who have direct knowledge of Trump and Barr's relationship. They were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Trump is also said to blame Barr for comments from FBI Director Chris Wray on election fraud and mail-in voting that don't jibe with the president's alarmist rhetoric. Wray has said there has not historically been any kind of mass voter fraud, whether through the mail or otherwise, a message at odds with Trump and Barr's repeated efforts to sound the alarms about a process they claim is especially vulnerable to abuse.

Still, much of the uptick in tensions between Trump and Barr centers on the Justice Department's handling of the Durham probe. A senior administration official said Trump feels like he's given Barr wide latitude to advance the investigation, including declassifying documents related to Russia. In the absence



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 89 of 105

of blockbuster findings, Trump is now moving to make documents public himself with his new acting head of intelligence.

On Thursday morning, Trump did not hide his displeasure in an interview on Fox News Business.

"Unless Bill Barr indicts these people for crimes — the greatest political crime in the history of our country — then we'll get little satisfaction, unless I win," he said.

The comment followed an earlier barrage of presidential social media posts, including one in which Trump retweeted a doctored image of Barr superimposed with the late "Saturday Night Live" actor Chris Farley in character as a motivational speaker yelling at him. The caption: "for the love of God ARREST SOMEBODY."

The Justice Department declined to comment on the matter. The White House did not immediately comment.

Since Durham's appointment, he has cast a broad net in interviewing former government officials, including ex-CIA Director John Brennan. It is unclear when Durham plans to submit his report or how damning any of his final conclusions might be.

Even the outlines of the case involving FBI lawyer Kevin Clinesmith, who pleaded guilty in the Durham probe, were already known before he was charged. And the case against him didn't allege any broader FBI conspiracy to go after Trump.

Though Barr is broadly in agreement with Trump on the need to investigate the origins of the Russia probe, he's often bemoaned Trump's lack of understanding about the intricacies of the legal system and the steps that need to be taken to complete an investigation.

A friend of Barr's said there has been obvious "tension" between the president and the attorney general, and while Barr himself believes deeply in the importance of the Durham investigation and in the president's authority to exercise control over federal agencies, he will not tolerate interference in specific investigations.

Trump aides had banked on the Durham probe being finished before 2020 election to lend credibility to Trump's claims that his own investigative agencies were working against him. A report from the Justice Department's inspector general in December knocked down multiple lines of attack against the Russia investigation, finding that it was properly opened and that law enforcement leaders were not motivated by political bias. But Barr has said he and Durham disagreed with the inspector general over whether the FBI had enough information to open a full investigation and, in particular, to use surveillance on a former Trump campaign aide.

Despite being close allies on a range of issues, tensions have flared between Trump and Barr at other points, including earlier this year when Trump was tweeting about Stone's case. Barr later reversed a recommendation from prosecutors that Stone be sentenced to 7 to 9 years in prison, and critics argued he was doing Trump's bidding.

Barr said in an interview with ABC News that the president's tweets were making it "impossible" to do his job and told those close to him he was considering resigning. The two eventually patched things up.

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Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Kevin Freking and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

## Twitter tightens limits on candidates ahead of US election

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Twitter is imposing tough new rules that restrict candidates from declaring premature victory and tighten its measures against spreading misinformation, calling for political violence and spreading thoughtless commentary in the days leading up to and following the Nov. 3 U.S. election.

The social platform will remove tweets that encourage violence or call for people to interfere with election results. Tweets that falsely claim a candidate has won will be labeled to direct users to the official U.S. election results page on Twitter.

Twitter said Friday it is also making it more difficult to retweet posts it has labeled to highlight the presence of misleading information — whether about COVID, civic integrity or for including manipulated photos or videos. Beginning next week, people who want to retweet such posts will see a prompt point-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 90 of 105

ing them to credible information about the topic before they are able to retweet it. The step is designed to make people pause and think, potentially slowing the thoughtless retweets that are often a problem on the platform.

Beginning on Oct. 20, and at least through Election Week in the U.S., Twitter says it will also encourage people to add their own commentary to retweets. People who try to retweet someone else's post will first be directed to the "quote tweet" feature, which lets them add their own comment.

Twitter said in a blog post it hopes this "will encourage everyone to not only consider why they are amplifying a Tweet, but also increase the likelihood that people add their own thoughts, reactions and perspectives to the conversation."

The San Francisco company is also placing tighter limits on politicians with more than 100,000 followers, a category that includes President Donald Trump with 87 million and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, with 10 million. If these users tweet misleading information, the tweets will get a label saying the information is disputed. Anyone who wants to see the tweets will have to tap through the warning; even then, they won't be able to like, retweet or comment on it.

The changes come a day after Facebook announced similar new restrictions ahead of the election, which is less than three weeks away. Early voting has already started in some states. Unlike Facebook, which imposed new restriction on political ads on Thursday — banning them on Nov. 3 after the polls close for at least a week — Twitter hasn't allowed any political advertisements for some time.

Social media companies appear to be learning how to rapidly respond to existing and anticipated threats to the election process. Trump's campaign and its GOP allies have been going to new lengths to contest election procedures and to question the integrity of mail-in ballots. Trump has also refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses, although both parties have rejected his comments and vowed a peaceful transition.

## AP Explains: Transfer of power under 25th Amendment

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A week ago, President Donald Trump was diagnosed with the coronavirus, spent several days at Walter Reed Medical Center for treatment and evaluation, and has since returned to the White House.

Throughout it all, Trump remained in control. He chose not to invoke the 25th Amendment, which details how presidential power can be transferred, either temporarily or more permanently, in the event a president is unable to do the job.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi cited the amendment Friday when introducing legislation to establish a commission that would help determine whether future presidents are capable of maintaining power during an illness. She said it wasn't about whether Trump was capable, but rather that his illness had shown the need to strengthen "guardrails in the Constitution to ensure stability and continuity of government in times of crisis."

Some questions and answers about the 25th Amendment:

WHY WAS IT PASSED?

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

HAS IT BEEN INVOKED TO TRANSFER POWER BEFORE?

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

In 2002, President George W. Bush became the first to use the amendment's Section 3 to temporarily

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 91 of 105

transfer power to Vice President Dick Cheney while Bush was anesthetized for a colonoscopy. Bush temporarily transferred power in 2007 to undergo another colonoscopy.

## WHAT ABOUT RONALD REAGAN?

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

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

To temporarily transfer power to the vice president, a president sends a letter to the speaker of the House of Representatives and president pro tempore of the Senate stating he is "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office." The vice president then becomes acting president. When the president is ready to resume authority, the president sends another letter. That's spelled out in the amendment's Section 3.

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

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

## WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED NOW?

Section 4 of the amendment gives Congress the power to establish a "body" that can, with the support of the vice president, declare that the president is unable to do his job. If they agree the president is unfit, the vice president would take over. But Congress has never set up the body.

On Friday, Pelosi and Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., a former constitutional law professor, proposed the creation of a commission to fill that role. The legislation would set up a 16-member bipartisan commission chosen by House and Senate leaders. It would include four physicians, four psychiatrists and eight retired statespersons, such as former presidents, vice presidents and secretaries of state. Those members would then select a 17th member to act as a chair.

After the commission is in place, Congress would be able to pass a resolution requiring the members to examine the president, determine whether the president is incapacitated and report back. Raskin introduced a similar bill in 2017.

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Associated Press reporters Colleen Long and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## Russia sponsors Nagorno-Karabakh cease-fire talks

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia moved to stop the worst escalation of fighting in the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh in more than a quarter-century by hosting cease-fire talks on Friday.

Late Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a statement calling for a break in the fighting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani forces that have raged for nearly two weeks over the region. The Kremlin said Putin's initiative followed a series of calls with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

The latest outburst of fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces began Sept. 27 and marked the biggest escalation of the decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 92 of 105

war in 1994.

The Kremlin said Putin proposed calling a cease-fire to exchange prisoners and collect the bodies of dead soldiers. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov greeted his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts at the ministry's mansion in Moscow on Friday afternoon.

Armenia said it's open to holding a cease-fire, while Azerbaijan has made a potential truce conditional on the Armenian forces' withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh, arguing that the failure of international efforts to negotiate a settlement left it no other choice but to try to reclaim its lands by force.

Speaking in an address to the nation, the Azerbaijani president said nearly three decades of international talks "haven't yielded an inch of progress, we haven't been given back an inch of the occupied lands."

"Mediators and leaders of some international organizations have stated that there is no military solution to the conflict," Aliyev said. "I have disagreed with the thesis, and I have been right. The conflict is now being settled by military means and political means will come next."

Azerbaijani officials and Nagorno-Karabakh separatist authorities said heavy shelling continued overnight.

Fighting with heavy artillery, warplanes and drones has engulfed Nagorno-Karabakh despite numerous international calls for a cease-fire. Both sides have accused each other of targeting residential areas and civilian infrastructure.

Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, has been under intense shelling. Residents are staying in shelters, some of which are in the basements of apartment buildings.

On Thursday, a historic cathedral in the town of Shusha in Nagorno-Karabakh came under shelling, a shell piercing its dome and damaging the interior. No one was hurt in the attack, but hours later more shelling wounded two Russian journalists inspecting the damage. The Azerbaijani military denied targeting the cathedral.

According to the Nagorno-Karabakh military, 376 of its servicemen have been killed since Sept. 27. Azerbaijan hasn't provided details on its military losses. Scores of civilians on both sides also have been killed.

Armenian officials say Turkey is involved in the conflict and is sending Syrian mercenaries to fight on Azerbaijan's side. Turkey has publicly backed Azerbaijan in the conflict but has denied sending combatants to the region.

In an interview with CNN Arabic aired Thursday, Azerbaijan's president admitted that Turkish F-16 fighter jets have stayed on in Azerbaijan weeks after a joint military exercise, but insisted that they have remained grounded. Armenian officials had earlier claimed that a Turkish F-16 shot down an Armenian warplane, a claim that both Turkey and Azerbaijan have denied.

Aliyev's office said French President Emmanuel Macron called him Friday to discuss the conflict, but wouldn't give any details of the conversation. The call followed Macron's conversation with the Armenian prime minister late Thursday.

Macron's office voiced hope that a truce could be negotiated soon, noting that it was coordinating its efforts with the Kremlin.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin visited the Armenian capital Friday to attend a meeting of a Moscow-dominated economic alliance of ex-Soviet nations.

Mishustin emphasized the need to "ensure an immediate cease-fire and start diplomatic efforts to settle the conflict," adding that Russia is ready to help achieve that together with the United States and France, the co-sponsors of the so-called Minsk group working under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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Associated Press writers Avet Demourian in Yerevan, Armenia, Aida Sultanova in Baku, Azerbaijan and Sylvie Corbet in Paris contributed to this report.

## **Broadway shutdown due to virus extended again until May 30**

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans of Broadway will have to wait a little longer for shows to resume — until at

least late May.

Although an exact date for various performances to resume has yet to be determined, Broadway producers are now offering refunds and exchanges for tickets purchased for shows through May 30.

"We are working tirelessly with multiple partners on sustaining the industry once we raise our curtains again," said Charlotte St. Martin, president of the Broadway League, which represents producers.

The latest delay was endorsed by Actors' Equity Association, which represents 51,000 theater actors and stage managers.

"Today the Broadway League made the difficult but responsible decision to put the safety and health of their workers and audience first. This is a deeply painful time for everyone who depends on the arts for their livelihood," said Mary McColl, executive director for Actors' Equity Association.

"We are at this moment because, seven months into the pandemic, our nation still lacks a coherent national strategy for masks and testing which could help bring the virus under control."

Broadway theaters abruptly closed on March 12, knocking out all shows — including 16 that were still scheduled to open — and scrambling the Tony Award schedule, with nominations this year set for Oct. 15. Producers, citing health and city authorities, previously extended the shutdown to June 7, then again to Sept. 6 and again to Jan. 3.

The new timeframe may complicate a clutch of show that had planned to open in the spring, including "The Music Man," "Flying Over Sunset," "Caroline, or Change," "Plaza Suite," "American Buffalo" and "The Minutes." Within hours of the announcement, the musical based on Michael Jackson, called "MJ," pushed back its performances to September.

The move by the Broadway League comes less than a month after the Metropolitan Opera said it will skip an entire season for the first time in its nearly 140-year history and intends to return from the pandemic layoff next September.

In London, producer Cameron Mackintosh has said his company's West End productions of "Hamilton," "The Phantom of the Opera," "Mary Poppins" and "Les Miserables" won't reopen until 2021 due to the pandemic. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., has canceled most previously announced performances and events through the end of 2020, as has the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston.

Broadway grossed \$1.8 billion last season and attracted a record 15 million people. Producers and labor unions are discussing ways theaters can reopen safely.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Trump administration targets diversity hiring by contractors

By MATT O'BRIEN AND ALEXANDRA OLSON AP Business Writers

American companies promising to hire more Black employees in leadership roles and teach their workforce about racism are getting a message from President Donald Trump's administration: Watch your step if you want to keep doing business with the federal government.

Trump's Labor Department is using a 55-year-old presidential order spurred by the Civil Rights Movement to scrutinize companies like Microsoft and Wells Fargo over their public commitments to diversity. Government letters sent last week warned both companies against using "discriminatory practices" to meet their goals.

Microsoft has brushed off the warnings, publicly disclosing the government inquiry and defending its plan to boost Black leadership.

But advocates for corporate diversity initiatives worry that more cautious executives will halt or scale back efforts to make their workplaces more inclusive out of fear that a wrong step could jeopardize lucrative public contracts. The agency has oversight over the hiring practices of thousands of federal contractors that employ roughly a quarter of all American workers.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 94 of 105

"For tech companies that don't care about these issues, the pronouncements are a dog whistle that they can carry on discriminating the way they already have," said Laszlo Bock, an executive who ran Google's human resources division for more than a decade and now leads software startup Humu.

Bock said those who do care, however, will see Trump's actions as political "sound and fury" that will be hard to enforce.

"It's not at all illegal to strive to have a workforce that reflects the makeup of your nation," Bock said.

Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1965 order was designed to "adjust the imbalances of hiring that are a legacy of our racist past," said employment attorney and public contracting expert Daniel Abrahams.

"Trump is turning it around into an instrument of white grievances," he added.

The president has also ordered the Labor Department to set up a new hotline to investigate complaints about anti-racism training sessions that Trump has called "anti-American" and "blame-focused." The order signed last month calls attention to discussions of deep-seated racism and privilege that could make white workers feel "discomfort" or guilt.

Trade groups representing the tech and pharmaceutical industries are protesting Trump's new order, saying it would restrict free speech and interfere with private sector efforts to combat systemic racism.

Trump's executive order is a twist on Johnson's 1965 directive and amendments that followed that set rules banning discriminatory practices at companies that contract with the federal government. It requires contractors to take "affirmative action" to open the doors to hiring minorities and women.

But the Labor Department is raising questions about the specificity of commitments made by executives addressing racial injustice in response to the wave of Black Lives Matter protests that followed May's police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said in June that the tech company would double the number of Black and African American managers, senior individual contributors and senior leaders by 2025. Wells Fargo CEO Charles Scharf made a similar commitment in June to doubling Black leadership over the next five years.

Abrahams said he doubts that the Labor Department has much of a case against companies that are trying to boost diversity, though "there's some discrimination against white people that's probably actionable," and courts have danced around the question of what happens when employers set "inflexible" targets for racial quotas.

But he said it's more likely the Trump administration is using the move as a political tactic ahead of the presidential election. Trump has criticized workplace training that he says is based on critical race theory, or the idea that racism is systemic in the U.S.

Dozens of companies have ramped up their efforts to bring more Black and other minority employees into their ranks since the protests over Floyd's death shook the country and triggered a national reckoning over racism. Many have announced initiatives specifically targeting the African American community.

The CEOs of the 27 largest employers in New York — including Amazon and J.P. Morgan — formed a coalition to recruit 100,000 people from low-income Black, Hispanic and Asian communities in the city by 2030. More than 40 companies have joined a pledge to add at least one Black member to their board of directors by 2021.

Several other top government contractors have set numeric goals for adding Black or Latino employees, including consulting firms Accenture and Deloitte.

Johnny Taylor, the CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, said he has asked for a conference with U.S. Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia to seek clarity about the intention of the inquiries.

"I want them to ensure the companies are complying with the law but that investigation doesn't result in a chilling effect on diversity and inclusion programs," said Taylor, whose organization represents 300,000 human resource professionals across the world.

Taylor said he believed the policies announced by Microsoft and Wells Fargo amounted to aspirational goals, rather than quotas based on race. But he said announcing numbers may have opened companies to discrimination complaints.

Companies can protect themselves against claims of discrimination by widening their applicant pool to

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 95 of 105

ensure a large enough number of qualified minority candidates, said Mabel Abraham, an assistant professor of management at Columbia University. The challenge, she said, is that companies have to show they have measurable diversity goals to attract talented minority applicants in the first place.

"Companies that are going to get the applicants are the ones that actually have minorities in top roles and that are putting out messages of race and diversity," she said. "It's a chicken-and-egg problem."

The latest actions affecting contractors align with a broader Trump administration trend on matters of race.

The Education Department last month opened an investigation into racial bias at Princeton University over the school's recent acknowledgment of racism on campus, and on Thursday, the Justice Department sued Yale University, weeks after prosecutors found the university was illegally discriminating against Asian American and white applicants, in violation of federal civil rights law.

Trump's newest executive order also applies to educational institutions that receive federal funding. At least one university, the University of Iowa, suspended its diversity efforts in response to the order.

Liz Tovar, the university's interim associate vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion, said the decision was taken because of "the seriousness of the penalties for non-compliance with the order, which include the loss of federal funding."

## Enrollment drops worry public schools as pandemic persists

By FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Rather than wait to see how her children's Florida public school would teach students this fall, Erica Chao enrolled her two daughters in a private school that seemed better positioned to provide instruction online during the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic.

The virtual lessons that Emily, 8, and Annabelle, 6, received in the spring while enrolled at a Miami-Dade County elementary school became a "free for all," Chao said. The private school classes, by contrast, hold the girls' attention, and their mother no longer worries they will fall behind if she doesn't attend school with them at home.

"For the first time since March, I was able to walk away," Chao said.

Parents across the country have faced similar choices about whether to keep their children in public schools as the pandemic extends into a new academic year. Some opted for private or charter schools. Others are dedicating themselves to homeschooling, hiring tutors to oversee multi-family "learning pods" or struggling to balance their children's educations with work when school times and technology keep changing.

Such personal decisions could exacerbate the financial problems of public school systems that receive a set amount of state funding for every student they enroll, which are the vast majority. With preliminary figures showing unexpected enrollment declines in many places, school officials used letters, phone calls and volunteers going door-to-door to persuade parents to register their youngsters before this month's fall student census.

The superintendent of Georgia's fifth-largest district spelled out the financial implications on YouTube after only 2,912 pupils were enrolled in virtual kindergarten classes by mid-September. Clayton County's public schools usually greet 3,500 to 3,600 new kindergarteners.

"Kindergarten parents, wherever you are, remember this....When you enroll your child in kindergarten this year, that means we get funding next year," Superintendent Morcease Beasley said, explaining that would mean fewer services for students starting first grade in fall 2021.

Similar appeals came from other public education systems where fewer students showed up either online or in person last month, especially in the lower grades. The Los Angeles Unified School District, the country's second-largest school system, saw kindergarten enrollment go from 42,912 to 36,914 this fall, a decrease of 14%. In Nashville, Tennessee, public kindergarten enrollment is down about 1,800 students, or 37%.

"If families are not enrolled this week, we want them enrolled next week, next month, as soon as they can, for the benefit of their kids," Colorado Gov. Jared Polis said two days before the state's scheduled

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 96 of 105

attendance count last week.

The governor encouraged parents to sign up their children in a different district if they were unhappy with the quality of the distance learning offered last semester, saying education was "not something to be taken lightly."

"Don't just think you're homeschooling because you're giving your kid a book all day and leaving them at home," Polis said.

In states where education funding is awarded under a per-pupil formula, losing even a small number of students adds up for schools. Miami-Dade County had 12,518 fewer students at the end of September than in fall 2019, three-quarters of them missing from pre-kindergarten to third grade, officials said. Since Florida gives schools roughly \$7,800 for every student, the nation's fourth-largest district stands to lose about \$97,640,000.

Lawmakers and state education officials are scrambling to come up with temporary funding mechanisms while districts brace for future shortfalls, if enough families pull out of public schools. The Texas Education Agency gave districts six more weeks to do their official counts so schools could "make operational and budget adjustments based upon clearer information." California lawmakers agreed to use last year's enrollment numbers when calculating the money schools would get this academic year.

In Florida's Palm Beach County, where the school district is the largest employer, school board member Erica Whitfield said during a September board meeting that she was "beyond terrified" that lower enrollment will eventually lead to layoffs. The district had 5,471, or 2.8% fewer students this fall.

"I've been watching the homeschooling numbers. I've been watching people leaving to go to private schools. And I know it's larger than it's ever been," Whitfield said.

Many school districts hope to get students back when in-person classes resume and to stem the hit to their budgets in the meantime by improving virtual instruction. But having fewer dollars for teacher salaries, computers and classroom equipment could exacerbate the problems that are causing parents to seek out other options during the pandemic.

More affluent families may have chosen private schools or homeschooling because they did not like the pre-packaged curricula that many public school systems are using for online learning, and they are unlikely to return to public schools any time soon, University of Wisconsin education professor Michael Apple said.

But the enrollment declines schools are seeing can't just be attributed to affluent families choosing other options, Apple said. The children of poor, homeless or immigrant parents living in the country illegally face hurdles such as lack of internet access, computers or a suitable space for learning, he said.

Apple foresees enrollment decreases expanding to upper grades during future waves of the coronavirus if teenagers need to get jobs to help support their families or are left in charge of younger siblings.

"This crisis is national and, in fact, it is international," he said.

Carla Engle moved to Williamson County, Tennessee for the school system, but said her children learned nothing after classes went virtual last March. She was equally unimpressed with the online program the school system offered for parents who didn't feel safe sending their children to a brick-and-mortar school this fall.

Engle took her seventh and eighth graders out of their public school and enrolled them in an online-only school Connections Academy.

"It is all-around heartbreaking. I called the principal to unenroll, and she and I both cried," Engle said. "I love the teachers. They love my kids just like I love my kids."

Ashraf Khilil in Washington and Travis Loller in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

## Judge denies motion to extend Florida's voter registration

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN and FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A federal judge has denied a motion to extend voter registration in Florida even though a computer meltdown on the final day of registration might have prevented thousands of



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 97 of 105

potential voters from taking part in November's presidential election.

In a 29-page ruling on Friday morning, U.S. District Court Judge Mark E. Walker said his decision was "an incredibly close call" but added that "the state's interest in preventing chaos in its already precarious—and perennially chaotic—election outweighs the substantial burden imposed on the right to vote."

Walker shared in the exasperation of voter advocacy groups even as he ruled against them, peppering his opinion with sharply worded criticisms of the state.

"In so ruling, this Court notes that every man who has stepped foot on the Moon launched from the Kennedy Space Center, in Florida. Yet, Florida has failed to figure out how to run an election properly—a task simpler than rocket science," the judge wrote.

Secretary of State Laurel Lee reopened registrations for seven hours on Tuesday after consulting with Gov. Ron DeSantis, providing another opportunity to people who weren't able to submit their voter registrations online before Monday night's deadline. But Walker said this was too little, too late and done with not enough notice.

"With the public sounding the alarm, the Secretary of State decided to implement a half measure," Walker wrote. "She hastily and briefly extended the registration period and ordered Florida's supervisors of election to accept applications submitted by the Secretary's new 'book closing' deadline."

Walker wrote that Lee's "cure" had at least one major flaw: She did not notify the public until after noon on the date of her new deadline.

"This left less than seven hours for potential voters to somehow become aware of the news and ensure that they properly submitted their voter registration applications, all while also participating in their normal workday, school, family, and caregiving responsibilities," Walker wrote.

The final day of the registration period has historically been one of the busiest, as thousands of people register, requesting replacement voter cards or updating addresses and other voter information to be sure their ballots will be counted.

Lee, who oversees the voting system, said her office had put in additional servers to accommodate the heightened interest, but misconfigurations in the system prevented it from handling the surge.

Florida's chief information officer, James Grant told The Associated Press that "the servers were configured in a way that reduced its capacity to a fraction of a fraction of what it was capable of," and that while denying people opportunities to vote was not their intention, he acknowledged that the system failed on a critical day.

The Secretary of State's Office said the system was overloaded by some 1.1 million requests per hour. During the peak of the slowdown, about 49,000 people were trying to access the system — many trying repeatedly to register without success.

Some gave up and never returned to register to vote despite Lee's decision to reopen the registration period, said Cloe Cabrera, the spokesperson for Organize Florida, one of the groups that sued the state. Others might not have learned of the next day's extension.

"We're disappointed that so many Floridians were disenfranchised because of the state's failure to upkeep the online voter registration system," Cabrera said.

"A lot of folks who went to the website, which crashed, didn't go back to the website and they won't be able to exercise their democracy, which is very upsetting," she said.

Dream Defenders, New Florida Majority, LatinoJustice PRLDEF and others who joined the lawsuit in Tallahassee said at least two additional days were needed to provide citizens with enough time to respond. Anything less would be voter suppression, they said.

The groups were considering an appeal, but with Election Day now less than four weeks away, that option might be impractical and sow further chaos into an election season already hampered by the coronavirus outbreak.

Florida's online voter registration system serves the state's 67 counties and became operational in October 2017. It has had a few hiccups over the years, but nothing like what happened Monday — the final day for potential voters to register for the November presidential election.

In the last seven hours of Monday, only about 8,100 people successfully accessed the system. Earlier in the day, more than 70,000 Floridians had been able to log on before the system slowed to a crawl at about 5 p.m.

Data filed by the state indicates that 50,000 people registered during the extended time period. Based on previous trends, the judge noted, perhaps more than 20,000 additional people might have also registered to vote, if they had been able to access the system.

A spokesman for DeSantis, Fred Piccolo, told the AP on Friday that "the governor took quick and decisive action to ensure voter access to multiple registration options including online, in person, or through the mail. There was no basis for federal courts to get involved and the governor expected this outcome."

The judge, however, suggested that the failures gave DeSantis little to be proud of.

"This case is about how a state failed its citizens," he wrote. "Potential voters attempted to perform their civic duty, to exercise their fundamental right, only to be thwarted, once again, by a state that seemingly is never prepared for an election."

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Frisaro reported from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

## Connecticut city OKs renaming sewage plant for John Oliver

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

It's official. Every time residents of Danbury, Connecticut, flush, they will be sending their special deliveries to the John Oliver Memorial Sewer Plant.

The City Council voted 18-1 Thursday night to rename the sewage plant after the comedian, who began a tongue-in-cheek battle with Danbury when he went on an expletive-filled rant against the city on HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" in August.

Mayor Mark Boughton didn't waste any time responding on social media. He posted a video of himself at the sewage plant saying the city was going to name it after Oliver.

"Why?" the Republican mayor asked. "Because it's full of crap just like you, John."

That drew a delighted response from Oliver, but he went off against the city again because Boughton later said he was just joking.

Oliver upped the stakes on his Aug. 30 show by offering to donate \$55,000 to local charities if Danbury actually followed through with renaming the plant.

"I didn't know that I wanted my name on your (expletive) factory but now that you floated it as an option, it is all that I want," Oliver said.

Boughton said Friday that the feud has been a good distraction from the coronavirus and other troubles of the times. He also said Oliver's promised donations have helped spur local fundraising efforts for area food banks that could end up collecting a few hundred thousand dollars to feed needy families.

The mayor added he will be offering tours of the sewer plant for \$500 donations to local food pantries.

"I think it's been a home run. It's been a lot of fun," Boughton said of the spat. "If I can put food on people's table for Thanksgiving by naming a sewer plant after a very popular comedian, we'll do it all day long."

Oliver has offered to provide the new sign for the plant that includes his name, as well as attend the ribbon-cutting, Boughton said. A timeline has not been finalized.

Representatives for Oliver and HBO had no immediate comment Friday.

It's still not clear why Oliver singled out Danbury for a tongue-lashing. He first brought up the city during an August segment on racial disparities in the jury selection process, citing problems in a few Connecticut towns from decades ago. He noted Danbury's "charming railway museum" and its "historic Hearthstone Castle."

"I know exactly three things about Danbury," he said. "USA Today ranked it the second-best city to live in in 2015, it was once the center of the American hat industry and if you're from there, you have a standing invite to come get a thrashing from John Oliver — children included — (expletive) you."

## Kyrgyz president declares state of emergency amid protests

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The embattled president of Kyrgyzstan ordered a nearly two-week state of emergency Friday in the capital in a bid to end turmoil sparked by a disputed parliamentary election as clashes between rival factions escalated and gunshots were fired at several political leaders.

President Sooronbai Jeenbekov decreed that the state of emergency, from 8 p.m. Friday through 8 a.m. on Oct. 21, could include a curfew and travel restrictions. He also ordered the military to deploy troops to Bishkek, the capital, to enforce the measure.

"We are witnessing a real threat to the existence of our state," Jeenbekov said in a statement. "The peaceful life of our citizens mustn't be sacrificed to political passions."

But just hours after the presidential decree, the Interior Ministry said the state of emergency in the capital would only be introduced on Saturday — the confusion reflecting the chaos that has engulfed the country.

Convoys of military trucks were seen driving into the city, but it wasn't immediately clear whether police and the military would comply with the presidential order.

Jeenbekov has faced calls to step down from hundreds of protesters who stormed government buildings the night after Sunday's parliamentary vote was reportedly swept by pro-government parties. The demonstrators also freed former President Almazbek Atambayev, who was sentenced to 11 years in prison in June on charges of corruption and abuse of office that he and his supporters described as a political vendetta by Jeenbekov.

The turmoil marks a third time in 15 years that protesters have moved to topple a government in Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian nation of 6.5 million that is one of the poorest to emerge from the former Soviet Union.

Like in the uprisings that ousted Kyrgyz presidents in 2005 and 2010, the current protests have been driven by clan rivalries that play a key role in the country's politics.

After an initial attempt to break up protesters immediately after the vote, police have pulled back and refrained from intervening with the demonstrations. Residents of the capital began forming vigilante groups to prevent looting that marked previous uprisings in the country.

Under pressure from protesters, the Central Election Commission has overturned the parliamentary vote results and protest leaders have moved quickly to form a new government. An emergency parliament session on Tuesday named lawmaker Sadyr Zhaparov as a new prime minister, but the move was immediately contested by other protest groups, plunging the country into chaos.

Atambayev spoke to demonstrators who flooded central Bishkek on Friday, urging them to refrain from violence.

"I'm against using force, everything should be done by peaceful means," he said.

Shortly after he spoke, supporters of Zhaparov assailed pro-Atambayev demonstrators on Bishkek's central square, hurling stones and bottles.

A man with a pistol fired several shots at Atambayev's car as it sped away, but the former president was unhurt. Two other politicians affiliated with Atambayev also had their cars shot at as they left the square, their party said. They weren't injured.

Another politician was badly injured amid the clashes on the square, but the circumstances of the incident weren't immediately clear.

Jeenbekov, who hunkered down for days after the vote, used the infighting between his foes to dig in. He said Thursday he may consider stepping down, but only after the political situation stabilizes.

The president met with the new chief of the military General Staff Friday, saying that he relies on the armed forces to help restore order.

"We must quickly take the situation under control," Jeenbekov said.

Kyrgyzstan is strategically located on the border with China and once was home to a U.S. air base used for refueling and logistics for the war in Afghanistan. The country is a member of Russia-dominated economic and security alliances, hosts a Russian air base and depends on Moscow's economic support.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 100 of 105

Russian President Vladimir Putin chaired Friday's session of his Security Council to discuss the situation in Kyrgyzstan, among other issues.

"It was noted that it's necessary to quickly stabilize the situation to prevent it from sliding into chaos," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said after the meeting.

## Spanish govt imposes state of emergency in virus-hit Madrid

By BARRY HATTON and ALICIA LEON Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's government declared a state of emergency in Madrid on Friday, wresting control of efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19 from local authorities in a region that is experiencing one of Europe's most significant coronavirus outbreaks.

The step, which took immediate effect and lasts for two weeks, forced Madrid authorities to restore restrictions on travel that had been introduced by the national government but were struck down the previous day by a Madrid court ruling.

That successful legal challenge by Madrid officials was part of a long quarrel between the country's main political parties over their coronavirus response. Those differences, and the changing rules, have often dismayed and confused local residents.

"Well, it is all very nauseating," Vicente de la Torre, a 22-year-old Madrid mechanic, told The Associated Press. "We have no idea what we should do or what we shouldn't do."

The government announced the state of emergency after a hastily arranged Cabinet meeting in the wake of the court ruling. Health Minister Salvador Illa said the previous measures would come back into force and that only the legal framework for them was changing.

He told a press conference it was "undeniable" that there is community transmission in the Madrid region, not just isolated outbreaks, at a crucial juncture as winter approaches and respiratory problems increase.

"Action is needed, and today we couldn't just stand by and do nothing," Illa said. "It's very important that this doesn't spread to the rest of the country."

The Madrid region's 14-day infection rate of 563 coronavirus cases per 100,000 residents is more than twice Spain's national average of 256 and five times the European average rate of 113 for the week ending Sept. 27.

The central government's measures prohibit all nonessential trips in and out of the capital and nine of its suburbs, affecting some 4.8 million people. Restaurants must close at 11 p.m. and stores at 10 p.m.. Both must limit occupancy to 50% of their capacity.

The national government had ordered police in Madrid to fine people if they left their municipalities without justification. More than 7,000 police officers will now be deployed to ensure the restrictions are observed, Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said.

But Madrid's conservative regional government opposed those restrictions, saying they were draconian and hurt the economy. Madrid's regional president, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, said her own, more moderate measures were enough to fight COVID-19.

A Madrid court on Thursday upheld the regional government's appeal, saying the national government's imposition of restrictions violated people's fundamental liberties.

The spat has taken place against a backdrop of political differences: Spain's national government is led by the center-left Socialist party, while the Madrid region is run by the country's main opposition party, the conservative Popular Party.

"It seems to me like an ideological war that is trying to show who has more power," said 18-year-old student Marta Illo. "They (the Spanish government) don't really like the regional government of Madrid. And we the people of Madrid are paying the price for a fight that is really political and has nothing to do with us."

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Hatton reported from Lisbon, Portugal. Joe Wilson in Barcelona contributed to this report.

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

## Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict draws in fighters from Mideast

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — For the past two weeks, Raffi Ghazarian has been glued to the TV at home and at work watching news about the fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces. If it goes on, the 50-year-old Lebanese of Armenian descent says he's ready to leave everything and volunteer to defend his ancestral land.

Some from Lebanon's large ethnic Armenian population have already traveled to join the fight, according to members of the community, although they say the numbers are small.

The new eruption of violence in the Caucasus region strikes close to home for Lebanon's Armenians. Red, blue and orange Armenian flags are flown on balconies, windows and roofs of buildings in Bourj Hammoud, Beirut's main Armenian district, which also features anti-Turkish graffiti in English and Armenian.

Fighting has raged since Sept. 27 in the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh, leaving several hundred dead. The enclave lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by neighboring Armenia since 1994, when a truce ended a years-long war that killed an estimated 30,000 people.

On the other side of the latest fighting, Turkey has sent hundreds of Syrian opposition fighters to back its ally, Azerbaijan, according to a Syrian war monitor and three Syria-based opposition activists.

Lebanese-Armenians have been sending money and aid, and have been campaigning in the media in support of ethnic Armenians in the enclave, which they refer to as Artsakh. The support they can give is limited — Lebanon is passing through a severe economic crisis, and banks have imposed tight capital controls.

Lebanon is home to one of the largest Armenian communities in the world, most of them descendants of survivors of the 1915 genocide by Ottoman Turks.

An estimated 1.5 million died in massacres, deportations and forced marches that began in 1915 as Ottoman officials worried that the Christian Armenians would side with Russia, its enemy in World War I.

The event is widely viewed by historians as genocide. Turkey denies the deaths constituted genocide, saying the toll has been inflated and that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest.

"We will not allow what happened in 1915 to happen again. We will fight until the last Armenian soldier," said Ghazarian, standing next to a coffee stand decorated with Lebanese and Armenian flags.

"This is not a war between Muslims and Christians. This is a war for the existence of the Armenian entity and we are ready," said Ghazarian, who owns a clothes shop.

Lebanese legislator Hagop Pakradounian, who heads the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the largest and most powerful Armenian party in Lebanon, said volunteers going from Lebanon to Armenia act on their own, and there is no decision by any organization or the community itself to send them.

"We cannot tell them not to go. They are free," Pakradounian told The Associated Press in his office in Bourj Hammoud. "We consider it a war against all the Armenian people and a continuation of the genocide project since the Ottoman Empire."

Meanwhile, Turkey has sent more than 1,200 Syrian fighters — most of them members of Turkish-backed opposition groups — to fight alongside Azerbaijani forces, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human rights, an opposition war monitor that tracks Syria's nine-year conflict. The Observatory's chief, Rami Abdulrahman, said 72 Syrian fighters have been killed so far.

Three opposition activists in Syria corroborated the report. They said Turkish security companies recruit the men ostensibly to work as guards at oil facilities in return for about \$1,200 a month, but most end up on front lines. One of the activists sent AP photos of young men allegedly killed in Azerbaijan.

A citizen journalist based in northern Syria said he knows some of the fighters who joined the battle, adding that warnings they sent about the intensity of the fighting and the dangers made others who were

planning to go change their minds.

The deployment is similar to what happened in Libya, where battle-hardened Syrian fighters helped tip the balance of power in favor of the U.N.-supported government of Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj, an ally of Turkey.

Armenia has repeatedly said over the past week that Turkey sent Syrian fighters to back the Azerbaijanis, a claim that Ankara and Azerbaijan deny.

Syrian President Bashar Assad told Russia's RIA Novosti news agency that Turkey is bringing "terrorists" from Syria and Libya to fight in Azerbaijan, accusing Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of being "behind the escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh."

French President Emmanuel Macron spoke with Russia's Vladimir Putin about the conflict last week. Macron later told reporters he had information "that we're confident in" confirming Turkey's deployment of Syrian mercenaries in the fighting. "It's a very serious new development that also changes the balance of things," he said.

Russia's Foreign Ministry expressed concern over reports about "militants from illegal armed groups" from Syria and Libya being sent to the conflict zone.

Hikmet Hajiyev, a foreign policy aide to the Azerbaijani president, said this week that "we completely reject" the claim, calling on those who make the accusations to give evidence.

Maj. Youssef al-Hammoud, an official with the so-called Syrian National Army, an umbrella for Turkish-backed armed opposition groups in Syria, strongly denied in a telephone call with the AP that any fighters were being sent from Syria to Azerbaijan. "This is an Armenian media campaign," al-Hammoud said.

Lebanon's Armenians are doing what they can to help. Yeghia Tashjian, a freelance researcher, said he was writing articles to raise awareness about what Armenians are being subjected to.

"For us, this is existential war that it is important to win not just for emotional or nationalist issues but because it is our homeland and we should fight for it," Tashjian said.

In Bourj Hammoud, Tro Mandalian, who works in a perfume distribution business, said Armenians' opponents always had bigger armies but still Armenians survived. "We have strong hearts," he said.

"Let them try us," he said. "We don't surrender and we only kneel to God."

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Associated Press writer Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed.

## Bar or restaurant? The big issue in pandemic-struck Brussels

By RAF CASERT and MARK CARLSON Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — New coronavirus restrictions have put a spotlight on two Belgian classics this week: Beer and surrealism.

Since bars in Brussels were forced to close Thursday for at least a month to deal with a massive surge in virus cases but restaurants were allowed to remain open, the big question on the streets is: when is a bar a bar and when is a bar a restaurant? And more importantly, does the distinction really help contain the pandemic?

It is all very reminiscent of surrealism master Rene Magritte, who painted a picture of a pipe and wrote under it "Ceci n'est pas une pipe (This is not a pipe)," — because, of course, it is an image of a pipe.

"The Treachery of Images," as the painting is called, also applies to Brussels watering holes these days. To stay open, bars will have to prove that they are not bars.

Aurore Phanariotis of Le Paon d'Or, which advertises itself as a "Bar Lounge," was working on it as soon as the Brussels ban took effect. Serving coffee, beers, wines, but also pastries and nibbles, she thinks she can stay open.

"Bars indeed have to close, but bars are not places where food is served," she said. "So I interpret it in a way that benefits me and as I have a cafe serving small food, I kind of have two hats. So I take off my cafe owner hat to wear my restaurant owner hat."

Across Brussels, places known for their beers are suddenly highlighting their kitchen magic.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 103 of 105

For the rest of Belgium, bars are forced to close two hours earlier than restaurants. The government sought to make things clearer Friday by insisting that restaurants would have to display their food safety permits. So, without such a paper, a bar should remain a bar, however much food they serve.

Yet, who can blame bar owners for their creativity after suffering through a three-month lockdown this spring, as well as service restrictions since the pandemic hit Belgium in March? All too many are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.

"There are already five suicides among our members," said Diane Delen, head of the FedCaf Belgian federation of cafes.

Bars insist they have made the same costly efforts as restaurants to apply coronavirus rules but authorities insist that a bar is much more of a COVID-19 spreader than a restaurant.

"We know that the virus finds a hotbed there," said Belgian Health Minister Frank Vandenbroucke told the VRT network. "They are real hotspots. Not all bars, but, unfortunately, too many."

A day later on Thursday, though, he sounded not nearly as certain when he came under fire from legislators for targeting bars.

"Is there scientific proof? Colleagues, I will have to frustrate you, disappoint you," he said in the plenary. "Science is uncertain and data could be better."

Such words turn Delen livid.

"This is a phenomenal fraud," she said. "There is no scientific proof whatsoever."

She added the measure would lead to a wave of bankruptcies as bars already had to close for months during the pandemic's first wave. There are more than 1,600 bars in the Brussels region alone and some 12,000 overall in Belgium.

Vandenbroucke said he understood bar owners' anger but said the crisis called for drastic measures.

Belgium, a nation of 11.5 million, has one of the world's highest per-capita death rates with just over 10,000 victims. Brussels, a city of 1.2 million, has one of the highest infection rates in Europe — 568 cases per 100,000 people — and it's rising. In many parts of Germany, authorities tighten restrictions when infections surpass 50 cases per 100,000 people.

"So don't ask for the ultimate proof," Vandenbroucke said. "We have to act."

Illustrating how pressing the issue is, Brussels Minister President Rudi Vervoort, who imposed the bar ban on Wednesday, tested positive on Thursday.

"Of course it is unfair, but the virus is unfair," Vandenbroucke said.

The bar industry, though, insists any lack of fairness comes from the authorities.

"The decision taken by the government is completely unproductive because it will only push people to meet in a higher concentration in restaurants or in private parties," said Hubert Blanquet, who owns four bars in Brussels.

And, despite all the investments and efforts to contain the virus by bar owners, "we are pointed at like the bad boys," he added.

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Video journalist Sylvain Plazy contributed.

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

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Oct. 10, the 284th day of 2020. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 10, 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland.

On this date:

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 104 of 105**

In 1911, Chinese revolutionaries launched an uprising which led to the collapse of the Qing (or Manchu) Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China.

In 1913, the Panama Canal was effectively completed as President Woodrow Wilson sent a signal from the White House by telegraph, setting off explosives that destroyed a section of the Gamboa dike.

In 1917, legendary jazz composer and pianist Thelonious Monk was born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower apologized to the finance minister of Ghana, Komla Agbeli Gbedemah, after the official was refused seating in a Howard Johnson's restaurant near Dover, Delaware.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy, responding to the Thalidomide birth defects crisis, signed an amendment to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requiring pharmaceutical companies to prove that their products were safe and effective prior to marketing.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion, and resigned his office.

In 1985, U.S. fighter jets forced an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) to land in Italy, where the gunmen were taken into custody. Actor-director Orson Welles died in Los Angeles at age 70; actor Yul Brynner died in New York at age 65.

In 1997, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator, Jody Williams, were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2001, U.S. jets pounded the Afghan capital of Kabul. President George W. Bush unveiled a list of 22 most-wanted terrorists, including Osama bin Laden

In 2004, Christopher Reeve, the "Superman" of celluloid who became a quadriplegic after a May 1995 horse riding accident, died in Mount Kisco, New York, at age 52.

In 2014, Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-zeye), a 17-year-old Pakistani girl, and Kailash Satyarthi (KY'-lash saht-YAHR'-thee), a 60-year-old Indian man, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for risking their lives for the right of children to receive an education and to live free from abuse.

In 2016, amid controversy over Donald Trump's past sexual comments about women, House Speaker Paul Ryan effectively abandoned his party's nominee, telling anxious fellow lawmakers he would not campaign for or defend Trump in the election's closing weeks; pro-Trump members rebelled in anger, accusing Ryan of conceding the election to Hillary Clinton.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama delivered one of his most stinging criticisms yet of the GOP record to several thousand people in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood as he urged voters not to sit out the midterm elections. Kim Jong Il's heir apparent, Kim Jong Un, joined his father at a massive military parade in his most public appearance since being unveiled as North Korea's next leader. Opera singer Dame Joan Sutherland, 83, died at her home in Switzerland.

Five years ago: Twin bombings in Ankara killed 103 people at a peace rally in the worst terror attack in Turkey's modern history. Jerry Parr, the Secret Service agent credited with saving President Ronald Reagan's life on the day he was shot outside a Washington hotel, died at age 85.

One year ago: Florida businessmen Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, who had key roles in the efforts by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani to launch a Ukrainian corruption investigation against the Bidens, were charged with federal campaign finance violations related to a \$325,000 donation to a group supporting Trump's reelection; prosecutors said they'd been arrested while trying to board an international flight outside Washington with one-way tickets. (They have pleaded not guilty.) The University of Maine unveiled a 25-foot, 5,000-pound boat that had been created by the world's largest 3D printer, a demonstration showed that the boat was seaworthy. Michael Drejka, a white Florida man who told police that he was irritated by people who illegally park in handicapped spots, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man outside a convenience store.

Today's Birthdays: Former Illinois Sen. Adlai Stevenson III is 90. Actor Peter Coyote is 79. Entertainer Ben Vereen is 74. Actor Charles Dance is 74. Rock singer-musician Cyril Neville (The Neville Brothers) is 72. Actor Jessica Harper is 71. Author Nora Roberts (aka "J.D. Robb") is 70. Singer-musician Midge Ure is 67. Rock singer David Lee Roth is 66. Actor J. Eddie Peck is 62. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 62. Actor Julia Sweeney is 61. Actor Bradley Whitford is 61. Musician Martin Kemp is 59. Actor Jodi Benson is 59.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 099 ~ 105 of 105**

Rock musician Jim Glennie (James) is 57. Actor Rebecca Pidgeon is 55. Rock musician Mike Malinin (mah-LIHN'-ihn) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 53. Pro Football Hall of Famer Brett Favre is 51. Actor Manu Bennett is 51. Actor Joelle Carter is 51. Actor Wendi McLendon-Covey is 51. Actor/TV host Mario Lopez is 47. Retired race car driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 46. Actor Jodi Lyn O'Keefe is 42. Singer Mya is 41. Actor Dan Stevens is 38. Singer Cherie is 36. MLB outfielder Andrew McCutchen is 34. Actor Rose McIver is 32. Actor Aimee Teegarden is 31.