

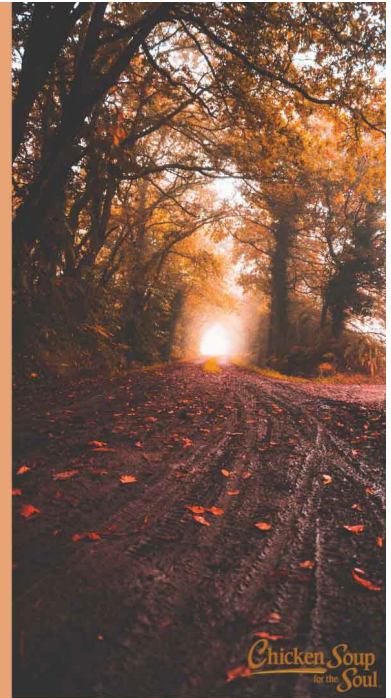
# Groton Daily Independent

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“ SUCCESS IS  
BLOCKED BY  
CONCENTRATING  
ON IT AND  
PLANNING FOR IT...  
SUCCESS IS SHY--IT  
WON'T COME OUT  
WHILE YOU'RE  
WATCHING.”

-TENNESSEE WILLIAMS



## Monday, October 12, 2020

Instructional Planning Day  
Volleyball hosting Waubay-Summit (One JH match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match)  
7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

## Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Volleyball hosting Tiospa Zina (7th grade match at 5 p.m. in GHS Gym (no 8th grade match). Matches in the Arena are C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match)

## Wednesday, October 14, 2020

LifeTouch Pictures at Groton Area Elementary School

## Thursday, October 15, 2020

LifeTouch Pictures at Groton Area High School  
3:30pm: Region 1A Cross Country Meet at Webster  
Junior High Football hosts Webster Area (7th grade at 4:30 p.m., 8th at 5:30 p.m.)  
Volleyball at Milbank (Junior High matches are cancelled. C/JV matches at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

## Friday, October 16, 2020

End of 1st Quarter  
7:00pm: Football hosting Stanley County



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

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

## Dental Health Affects Overall Wellness

I remember feeling jealous of my grandparents as a child. During one of our summer visits, I realized that while my siblings and I were told to brush our teeth, my grandparents would simply pop their teeth out and drop them into a glass. That seemed like a lot less work! Besides, I thought that no teeth would mean no trips to the dentist, and thus no poking and prodding of sharp instruments in my mouth. Although our dentist and his team were unfailingly caring and gentle, I was always nervous.

As I recall, when I expressed my newfound enthusiasm for the convenience of false teeth, Grandma informed me that wearing dentures would mean giving up fresh corn on the cob. That was all the incentive I needed. I kept brushing.

Soon, I realized that a healthy smile meant something more than the ability to enjoy garden bounty. I sensed my tough-as-nails mother and grandmother each were ashamed of their smiles. Without understanding why, I could see that people were judged by the condition of their teeth. Dental health seemed to be an indication of a person's place in society.

With the benefit of age, and medical training, I learned that the impact of dental disease goes well beyond dietary inconvenience and social embarrassment. People with unhealthy mouths may suffer from malnutrition, which can be both a cause and an effect of their dental problems. Others may unfairly perceive them as less trustworthy, and less employable.

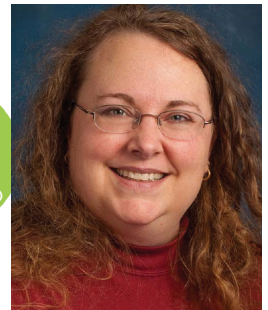
Emergency rooms and medical clinics see the consequences of delayed or absent dental care. Patients seek antibiotics and pain medicines to "get them by" until they can see a dentist. These treatments may convert a raging infection to a smoldering, but temporarily bearable, one. However, they don't fix the underlying problems.

There is another layer to the interplay between dental and physical health: many medical diseases and their treatments may cause or worsen dental problems. The antidepressant I give a patient might cause dry mouth, which worsens tooth decay. The medicine to prevent a broken hip may severely damage the bone of the jaw. Diabetes increases the risk for dental disease which in turn, can worsen a person's diabetes management.

Additionally, research shows that poor dental health increases our risk for heart attacks and could possibly lead to premature births.

All in all, there are myriad reasons to take care of our teeth and gums, no matter our age. So, thanks, Grandma, for convincing an impatient child to keep brushing.

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



By Debra Johnston, M.D ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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**#231 in a series**

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

It's Sunday, so the numbers ran small; we'll be slow again tomorrow and then have a clearer picture where things are going on Tuesday. Things are still not great. We had 45,600 new cases reported today, a 0.6% increase to 7,792,000 cases. We had four consecutive days, Wednesday through Saturday, this week with over 50,000 cases; the last time that happened was mid-August, two months ago. And Friday's almost-58,000 cases is the highest single-day total since mid-August as well. We do not want to go back to August; it wasn't that great a month. We're now averaging 47,786 new cases per day over the past week and 46,714 over the past two weeks; the two-week average is up by 2550 and the one-week average is a whopping 6000 higher this week. This is the fourth consecutive week of increase after 11 weeks of decline and a large increase at that. We are going in a bad direction at an ever-accelerating pace.

Here is our Sunday two-week summary: Growth rates are slightly higher this week. We are seeing increasing rates of growth in many states. One-week increase in total cases was 305,500 (4.3%) last week and is 348,500 (4.7%) this week. Two-week increase was 618,300 (9.1%) last week and is 654,000 (9.2%) this week. Last Sunday, we said we need these numbers lower before it gets cold; it's colder this week, and they're breaking in the wrong direction. I remain extremely concerned.

I track 54 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and we're up to six of these showing two-week rates of increase greater than 25%. Here are the states with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: Montana (54.49% - big increase), Connecticut (38.00% - enormous increase), Wyoming (35.11%), North Dakota (31.56%), Wisconsin (29.33%), and Alaska (26.91% - an increase). The two new states on the list this week are Connecticut and Alaska; no one has dropped off. We're up to 34 states and territories with growth rates above the US growth rate, which means the trouble is fairly widespread across the country.

Highest per capita new-case numbers in the past week are in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin, Utah, Idaho, and Nebraska. Predictions are that Florida is "ripe for another large outbreak." According to Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, "What they've done is opened up everything as if nothing had ever happened there, and you and I could be talking probably in eight to 10 weeks, and I will likely bet that Florida will be a house on fire." Dr. Deborah Birx, White House Coronavirus Task Force coordinator has issues warnings about the Northeast, mentioning "early suggestions" of alarming trends. The rolling average of new cases per million residents in the area has increased by 91% in the last month.

There are 28 states, mostly in the Midwest and Northeast reporting an increase in seven-day new-case numbers in the past week. Wisconsin is a particular worry as it sets records for new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Utah is also seeing rapidly-increasing hospitalizations and reporting strains on the system. And the Dakotas and Montana are also reporting nation-leading per capita new-case numbers. Montana was 150 days into the pandemic before it had its 5000th case; now they've reported 5000 new cases in just 11 days. Yesterday, five states, Alaska, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Missouri, and Indiana, set single-day new-case records. States setting records for seven-day new-case average are Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, Indiana, and Kentucky. The nationwide new-case average is increasing, and hospitalizations are increasing.

Fifteen states reported one-day new-case records last week; these are Alaska, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Maryland, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia. Fourteen states reported record hospitalizations; they are Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Indiana. It should not come as a surprise that there's a great deal of overlap between these two lists; the differences between them result from the lag time between diagnosis and serious illness requiring hospitalization. Note that, except for Alaska, this cuts right through the center of the country, largely more rural, more sparsely populated states. That has been the trend over at least a couple of months.

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There were 420 new deaths reported today, a 0.2% increase. We have now had 214,599 deaths in the US. The increase in this total was the same this week as last, 2.4%. The latest projections from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) are that more than 2900 Americans will be dying per day by January. For comparison, during the worst of the spring surge, we were around 2300 deaths per day. Longer-term projections are risky, so factor that in, but IHME projections are that, by February 1, if we continue as we have been, there will be 394,000 deaths. If states relax mask mandates and continue easing of restrictions, that number could rise to over 500,000. But if 95% of Americans wore masks when they are outside their homes, we could be looking at just over 300,000 deaths instead. That looks like a matter which is up to each of us.

A new warning from the WHO, echoed by the CDC, indicates that while obesity is a significant risk factor for severe Covid-19, moderate excess weight may also increase risk. In the US, 40% of adults are obese and another 32% are overweight, and this comes to a whole lot of people. It has taken some time to determine whether the risk of excess weight was simply because of the other medical problems which typically accompany excess weight or the excess fat itself was the problem. Now it seems to be becoming clearer that the fat itself is the thing. Fat is biologically active, causing metabolic changes and abnormalities; additionally, abdominal obesity causes compression of the diaphragm, lungs, and chest cavity, which restricts breathing and may make it more difficult to clear the lungs of pneumonia and similar respiratory problems. So the fat appears to be the problem.

Here is the list of medical conditions causing increased risk in adults of any age that appears on the CDC website:

Cancer

Chronic kidney disease

COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)

Heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, and cardiomyopathies

Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant

Obesity [body mass index (BMI) over 30, but less than 40] – You can find BMI calculators online.

Severe obesity (BMI of 40 or more)

Sickle cell disease

Smoking

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Conditions which may cause increased risk in adults of any age include the following:

Asthma (moderate to severe)

Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)

Cystic fibrosis

Hypertension (high blood pressure)

Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immunosuppressive medications

Neurologic conditions such as dementia

Liver disease

Overweight (BMI over 25, but less than 30)

Pregnancy

Pulmonary fibrosis (damaged or scarred lungs)

Thalassemia (a blood disorder)

Type 1 diabetes mellitus

Evidence of underlying conditions which present increased risk in children is limited because children are so much less frequently severely affected. Conditions which might present increased risk in children include obesity, medical complexity (having co-morbidities of several medical conditions), severe genetic disorders, severe neurologic disorders, inherited metabolic disorders, congenital heart disease, diabetes, asthma and other chronic lung disease, and immunosuppression due to malignancy or immune-weakening

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medications. We do not know who is at increased risk for the rare, but serious complication in children called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

A couple of weeks ago, Jaines Andredes started her new career as a trauma surgery nurse practitioner. That's cool; everyone who goes to school so they can get into a career must feel great gratification upon being hired for that first professional job. But for some, the journey to the dream is more circuitous and demanding than for others.

Turns out Andredes was no stranger to the hospital where she was starting out in her new job classification as a nurse practitioner; she's worked there for a decade. She started as a janitor, and she used that job to finance her years in nursing school until she became a registered nurse and began working in that role. More time and more education brought her to the nurse practitioner role, earning every step of the way.

Andredes displays three work badges proudly: the one that says, "Custodian, Environmental Svcs," the one that says, "Registered Nurse II," and this final one which says, "Nurse Practitioner, Trauma Surgery." And she explains, "I hope that my story can inspire people who feel maybe discouraged by their past or where they came from. I just want to let them know, if I can do it, anyone can." That seems like a reasonable assumption.

Andredes also wants us to hear this: "I hope that my story can inspire people who feel maybe discouraged by their past or where they came from. I just want to let them know, if I can do it, anybody can." The longest walk starts with the first step.

Take a step toward good health. We'll talk again.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12
Minnesota	105,740	106,651	107,922	109,312	110,828	112,268
Nebraska	48,757	49,396	50,059	50,059	51,144	52,382
Montana	15,347	16,063	16,677	17,399	18,117	18,702
Colorado	74,191	74,922	75,785	76,619	77,642	78,461
Wyoming	5,751	5,866	6,031	6,226	6,338	6,476
North Dakota	24,364	24,857	25,384	26,040	26,628	27,265
South Dakota	24,876	25,433	26,441	27,215	27,947	28,564
United States	7,501,847	7,551,257	7,607,890	7,667,640	7,719,254	7,763,457
US Deaths	210,918	211,844	212,789	213,816	214,379	214,776

Minnesota	+941	+911	+1271	+1,390	+1,516	+1,440
Nebraska	+950	+639	+663	----	+1,085	+1,238
Montana	+500	+716	+614	+722	+818	+585
Colorado	+654	+731	+863	+834	+1,023	+819
Wyoming	+91	+115	+165	+195	+112	+138
North Dakota	+502	+493	+527	+656	+588	+637
South Dakota	+278	+557	+528	+774	+732	+617
United States	+48,018	+49,410	+56,633	+59,750	51,614	+44,203
US Deaths	+791	+926	+945	+1,027	+563	+397

	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

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## October 11th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

No deaths in South Dakota. Currently hospitalized number is reduced by one to 266. There were 617 positive cases and 285 recovered. Those with double digit increases were Beadle 22, Brookings 35, Brown 21, Davison 31, Hughes 13, Lawrence 11, Lincoln 44, Meade 18, Minnehaha 139, Oglala Lakota 10, Pennington 58, Todd 11, Turner 11, and Union 16.

Locally, Brown had 21 positive and 22 recovered, leaving 284 active cases. Day had 3 recovered leaving 25 active cases. Edmunds had 7 positive, 1 recovered, and 7 active; Marshall had 0 positive, 2 recovered, 11 active; McPherson had 1 positive, 0 recovered, 11 active; Spink had 2 positive, 2 recovered, 35 active.

Positive cases in the under 18 group was 16, those in the teens was 58, 20s was 112, 30s was 90, 40s was 77, 50s was 94, 60s was 92, 70s was 46 and 80+ was 32.

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +21 (1,555) Positivity Rate: 11.1%

Total Tests: +190 (13,790)

Recovered: +22 (1,267)

Active Cases: -1 (284)

Ever Hospitalized: +7 (75)

Deaths: +0 (4)

Percent Recovered: 81.5

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +617 (28,564 total) Positivity Rates: 16.8%

Total Tests: 3,672 (331,978 total)

Hospitalized: +37 (1,866 total). 266 currently hospitalized -1)

Deaths: +0 (286 total)

Recovered: +285 (22,413 total)

Active Cases: +332 (5,865)

Percent Recovered: 78.4%

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 11% Covid, 47% Non-Covid, 42% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 21% Covid, 52% Non-Covid, 28% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 9% Covid, 12% 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: +8 positive, +2 recovered (61 active cases)

Beadle (11): +22 positive, +6 recovered (140 active cases)

Bennett (4): +1 positive, +2 recovered (33 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +5 positive, +3 recovered (64 active cases)

Brookings (2): +35 positive, +3 recovered (181 active cases)

Brown (4): +21 positive, +22 recovered (284 active cases)

Brule (1): +5 positive, +1 recovered (43 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +3 positive, +3 recovered (29 active cases)

Butte (3): +6 positive, +0 recovered (52 active cases)

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

Charles Mix: +7 positive, +5 recovered (86 active cases)

Clark: +1 positive, +0 recovered (14 active cases)

Clay (8) +9 positive, +0 recovered (83 active cases)

Codington (9): +5 positive, +11 recovered (198 active cases)

Corson (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)

Custer (3): +6 positive, +2 recovered (35 active case)

Davison (4): +31 positive, +9 recovered (224 active cases)

Day: +0 positive, +3 recovered (25 active cases)

Deuel: +1 positive, +2 recovered (25 active cases)

Dewey: +5 positive, +0 recovered (77 active cases)

Douglas (1): +8 positive, +1 recovered (55 active cases)

Edmunds: +3 positive, +1 recovered (7 active cases)

Fall River (6): +5 positive, +1 recovered (37 active cases)

Faulk (1): +9 positive, +1 recovered (37 active cases)

Grant (2): +4 positive, +2 recovered (63 active cases)

Gregory (7): +2 positive, +5 recovered (24 active cases)

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Haakon (1): +3 positive, +0 recovered (15 active case)  
 Hamlin: +6 positive, +1 recovered (25 active cases)  
 Hand (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Hanson (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Harding: +1 positive, +0 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Hughes (5): +13 positive, +20 recovered (132 active cases)  
 Hutchinson (2): +5 positive, +5 recovered (57 active cases)  
 Hyde: +0 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Jackson (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (17 active cases)  
 Jerauld (4): +2 positive, +0 recovered (22 active cases)  
 Jones: +0 positive, +1 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Kingsbury: +3 positive, +0 recovered (30 active cases)  
 Lake (8): +5 positive, +0 recovered (48 active cases)  
 Lawrence (5): +11 positive, +8 recovered (123 active cases)  
 Lincoln (10): +44 positive, +20 recovered (402 active cases)  
 Lyman (4): +2 positive, +2 recovered (24 active cases)  
 Marshall: +0 positive, +2 recovered (11 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +4 positive, +1 recovered (48 active cases)

McPherson: +1 positive, +0 recovery (11 active case)  
 Meade (6): +18 positive, +10 recovered (140 active cases)  
 Mellette: +0 positive, +2 recovered (8 active cases)  
 Miner: +7 positive, +1 recovered (31 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (88): +139 positive, +46 recovered (1263 active cases)  
 Moody (1): +1 positive, +2 recovered (49 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (4): +10 positive, +7 recovered (132 active cases)  
 Pennington (41): +58 positive, +34 recovered (630 active cases)  
 Perkins: +5 positive, +0 recovered (14 active cases)  
 Potter: +6 positive, +3 recovered (20 active cases)  
 Roberts (1): +2 positive, +2 recovered (41 active cases)  
 Sanborn: +3 positive, +1 recovered (19 active cases)  
 Spink (1): +2 positive, +2 recovered (35 active cases)  
 Stanley: +3 positive, +1 recovery (13 active cases)  
 Sully: +0 positive, +0 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Todd (5): +11 positive, +6 recovered (80 active cases)  
 Tripp (1): +2 positive, +5 recovered (35 active cases)  
 Turner (7): +11 positive, +1 recovered (86 active cases)  
 Union (10): +16 positive, +2 recovered (129 active cases)  
 Walworth (1): +5 positive, +1 recovered (60 active cases)  
 Yankton (5): +7 positive, +8 recovered (119 active cases)  
 Ziebach (1): +1 positive, +0 recovered (11 active case)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	892	0
10-19 years	3218	0
20-29 years	6252	2
30-39 years	4831	7
40-49 years	3895	10
50-59 years	3942	22
60-69 years	2934	45
70-79 years	1518	53
80+ years	1082	147

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, October 11:

- 7.6% rolling 14-day positivity
  - 8.5% daily positivity
  - 640 new positives
  - 7,523 susceptible test encounters
  - 144 currently hospitalized (+4)
  - 4,426 active cases (+257)
- Total Deaths: +18 (339)

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	15013	129
Male	13551	157



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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Aurora	134	73	652	0	Substantial	17.33%
Beadle	958	807	3504	11	Substantial	8.33%
Bennett	104	67	861	4	Moderate	9.45%
Bon Homme	156	91	1325	1	Substantial	10.82%
Brookings	984	801	5420	2	Substantial	13.45%
Brown	1555	1267	7957	4	Substantial	14.83%
Brule	179	135	1315	1	Substantial	8.41%
Buffalo	180	148	805	3	Substantial	10.19%
Butte	167	112	1877	3	Substantial	13.04%
Campbell	55	31	160	0	Substantial	17.91%
Charles Mix	262	176	2686	0	Substantial	9.34%
Clark	54	40	631	0	Moderate	15.63%
Clay	643	552	2908	8	Substantial	7.33%
Codington	1107	912	5746	9	Substantial	17.45%
Corson	115	98	759	1	Moderate	5.88%
Custer	218	180	1505	3	Substantial	8.67%
Davison	561	333	3979	4	Substantial	17.08%
Day	113	88	1110	0	Substantial	24.75%
Deuel	121	95	704	0	Substantial	15.38%
Dewey	211	135	3213	0	Substantial	11.67%
Douglas	133	77	641	1	Substantial	14.49%
Edmunds	108	101	668	0	Substantial	5.29%
Fall River	135	92	1632	6	Moderate	7.53%
Faulk	129	91	488	1	Substantial	12.00%
Grant	217	152	1353	2	Substantial	14.20%
Gregory	158	127	720	7	Substantial	18.38%
Haakon	44	28	407	1	Moderate	3.64%
Hamlin	129	104	1106	0	Substantial	4.76%
Hand	75	56	528	1	Substantial	14.48%
Hanson	53	34	390	1	Moderate	16.67%
Harding	8	4	100	0	Minimal	14.29%
Hughes	637	500	3432	5	Substantial	17.32%
Hutchinson	157	98	1414	2	Substantial	9.29%

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Hyde	28	22	283	0	Minimal	3.70%
Jackson	55	37	693	1	Moderate	4.44%
Jerauld	150	124	363	4	Substantial	19.23%
Jones	20	18	115	0	Moderate	21.43%
Kingsbury	99	69	931	0	Substantial	11.21%
Lake	254	198	1649	8	Substantial	12.90%
Lawrence	561	433	4866	5	Substantial	11.28%
Lincoln	1832	1410	11864	10	Substantial	15.45%
Lyman	202	174	1353	4	Substantial	13.91%
Marshall	51	40	710	0	Moderate	22.73%
McCook	150	101	1011	1	Substantial	12.82%
McPherson	48	37	361	0	Moderate	9.28%
Meade	709	563	4434	6	Substantial	13.08%
Mellette	42	34	531	0	Moderate	14.00%
Miner	66	35	387	0	Moderate	15.22%
Minnehaha	7986	6635	46693	88	Substantial	8.91%
Moody	144	94	996	1	Substantial	21.92%
Oglala Lakota	423	287	5054	4	Substantial	8.18%
Pennington	3121	2450	21795	41	Substantial	10.31%
Perkins	52	38	400	0	Moderate	15.91%
Potter	76	56	556	0	Substantial	8.60%
Roberts	254	212	2999	1	Substantial	11.51%
Sanborn	59	40	390	0	Substantial	19.61%
Spink	182	142	1564	1	Substantial	5.90%
Stanley	57	44	479	0	Moderate	8.33%
Sully	22	16	148	0	Moderate	31.58%
Todd	226	141	3173	5	Substantial	12.50%
Tripp	204	165	1026	1	Substantial	18.67%
Turner	287	185	1671	7	Substantial	7.79%
Union	555	416	3646	10	Substantial	16.22%
Walworth	184	123	1208	1	Substantial	9.02%
Yankton	534	410	5343	5	Substantial	5.54%
Ziebach	71	59	545	1	Moderate	13.33%
Unassigned	0	0	2314	0		

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## South Dakota

New Total Cases Today	New Confirmed Cases	New Probable Cases
617	542	75
Currently Hospitalized	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
266	5,865	22,413
Total Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Probable Cases
28,564	27,943	621
Ever Hospitalized	Total Persons Tested	Total Tests
1,866	218,111	331,978
Deaths	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests)	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests)
286	216%	95%

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## Brown County

New Total Cases Today	New Confirmed Cases	New Probable Cases
21	20	1
Currently Hospitalized	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
266	284	1,267
Total Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Probable Cases
1,555	1,551	4
Ever Hospitalized	Total Persons Tested	Total Tests
75	9,512	13,790
Deaths	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests)	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests)
4	216%	95%

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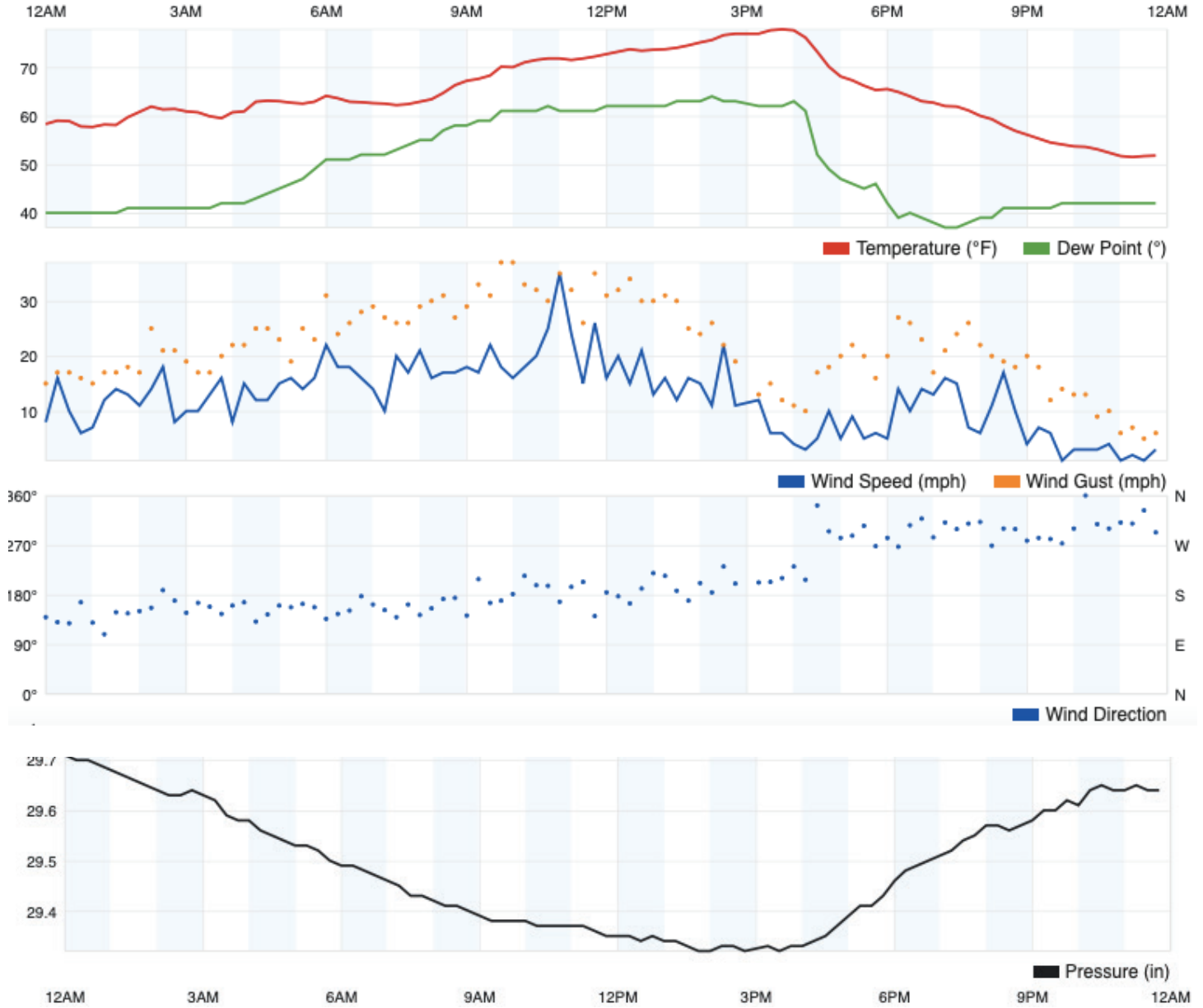
## Day County

New Total Cases Today 0	New Confirmed Cases 0	New Probable Cases 0
Currently Hospitalized 266	Active Cases 25	Recovered Cases 88
Total Cases 113	Total Confirmed Cases 113	Total Probable Cases 0
Ever Hospitalized 14	Total Persons Tested 1,223	Total Tests 1,851
Deaths 0	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests) 216%	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests) 95%

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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**Columbus Day**



Increasing Clouds

**High: 68 °F**

**Tonight**



Partly Cloudy

**Low: 41 °F**

**Tuesday**



Sunny

**High: 62 °F**

**Tuesday Night**



Partly Cloudy then Chance Showers

**Low: 45 °F**

**Wednesday**



Chance Showers and Breezy

**High: 61 °F**

## Continued Dry & Mild

\*\*\*High to Very High Fire Danger Today

**Today**

- Mostly sunny and breezy
- Highs in the upper 60s to low 70s

**Tonight**

- Partly cloudy and breezy
- Lows in the mid 30s to low 40s

**Tuesday**

- Mostly sunny and cooler
- Highs in the 60s

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

ISSUED: 4:56 AM - Monday, October 12, 2020

Dry, mild, and breezy weather will set the stage for elevated fire danger and Red Flag warnings today. High pressure will bring lighter winds and cooler but seasonable weather on Tuesday.

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## Today in Weather History

October 12, 1997: High winds upward of 60 mph were recorded throughout western South Dakota.

1918: On October 10, 1918, two men working near a railroad siding northwest of Cloquet, Minnesota, saw a passenger train pass by the siding, and soon after, that discovered a fire burning through grass and piles of wood. The fire could not be contained, and by October 12, fires had spread through northern Minnesota. At least 450 lives were lost, and 52,000 people were injured or displaced, 38 communities were destroyed, 250,000 acres were burned.

1962: The Columbus Day Storm of 1962 was a Pacific Northwest windstorm that struck the West Coast of Canada and the Pacific Northwest Coast of the United States. It is considered the benchmark of extra-tropical wind storms. The storm ranks among the most intense to strike the region since at least 1948, likely since the January 9, 1880 "Great Gale" and snowstorm.

1979: The lowest barometric pressure ever recorded occurs in the center of Typhoon Tip on this day. A fly reconnaissance mission recorded the low pressure of 870 hPa or 25.69 inHg. Typhoon Tip was the most extensive tropical cyclone on record with a wind diameter of 1380 miles at its peak.

1836 - A third early season storm produced heavy snow in the northeastern U.S. Bridgewater NY received 18 inches, a foot of snow fell at Madison NY, and for the third time all the mountains of the northeastern U.S. were whitened. (David Ludlum)

1918 - Forest fires ravaged parts of Minnesota from the Duluth area northeastward, claiming the lives of 600 persons. Smoke with a smell of burnt wood spread to Albany NY and Washington D.C. in 24 hours. Smoke was noted at Charleston SC on the 14th, and by the 15th was reported in northeastern Texas. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1962 - The "Columbus Day Big Blow" occurred in the Pacific Northwest. It was probably the most damaging windstorm of record west of the Cascade Mountains. Winds reached hurricane force, with gusts above 100 mph. More than 3.5 billion board feet of timber were blown down, and communications were severely disrupted due to downed power lines. The storm claimed 48 lives, and caused 210 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Floyd, the only hurricane to make landfall the entire season, moved across the Florida Keys. Floyd produced wind gusts to 59 mph at Duck Key, and up to nine inches of rain in southern Florida. Sixteen cities in the Ohio Valley and the Middle Mississippi Valley reported record low temperatures for the date. Record lows included 27 degrees at Paducah KY, and 24 degrees at Rockford IL and Springfield IL. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date, including International Falls MN with a reading of 17 degrees. The town of Embarass MN reported a morning low of 8 degrees. Snow showers in the northeastern U.S. produced five inches at Corry PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Temperatures again warmed into the 80s in the Central Plains Region and the Middle Mississippi Valley, with 90s in the south central U.S. Six cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Fort Smith AR with a reading of 92 degrees. Strong winds along a cold front crossing the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley gusted to 61 mph at Johnstown PA. (The National Weather Summary)



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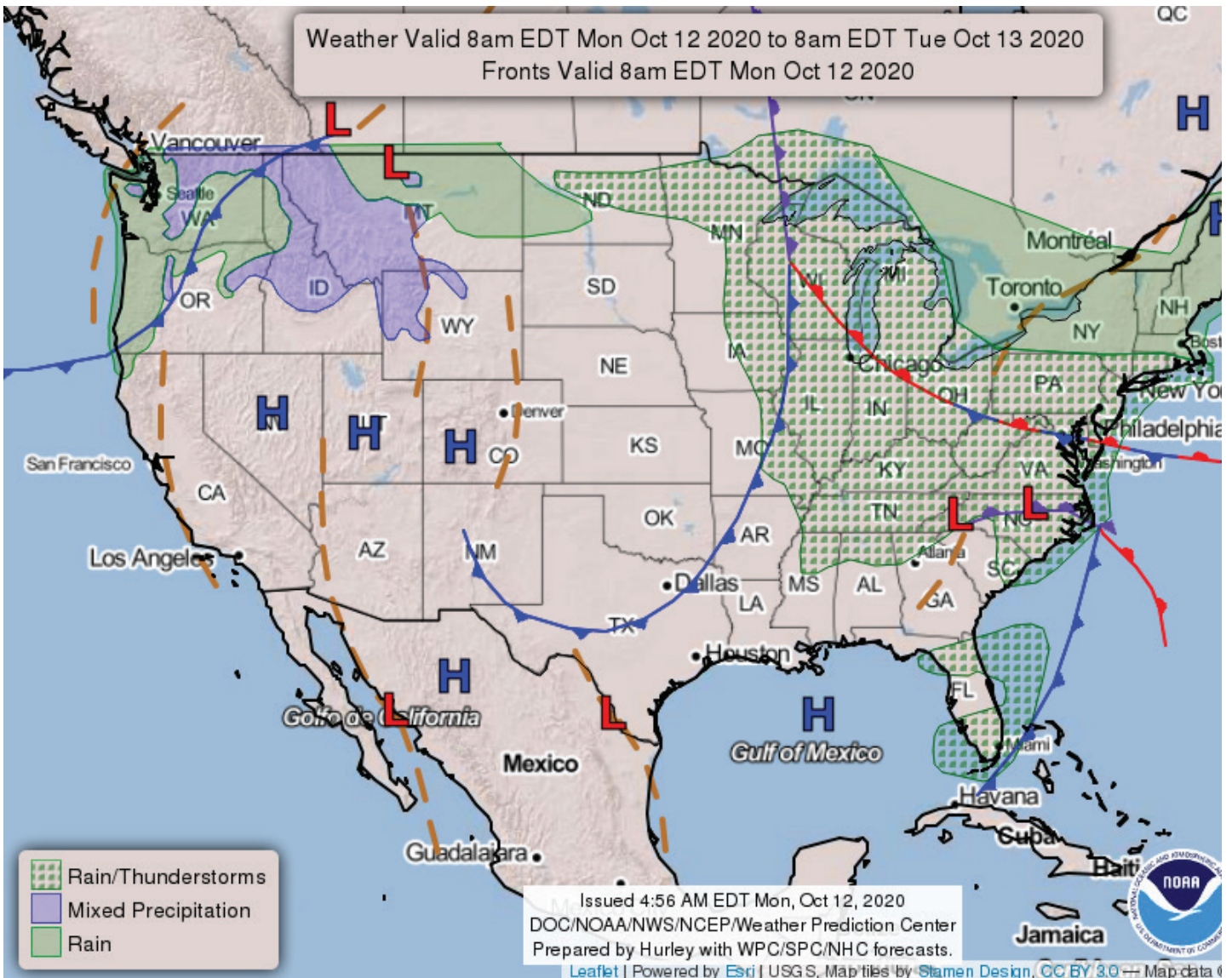
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 78 °F at 3:41 PM**  
**Low Temp: 51 °F at 11:09 PM**  
**Wind: 37 mph at 9:40 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 89° in 1910**  
**Record Low: 11° in 1917**  
**Average High: 60°F**  
**Average Low: 34°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 0.80**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 19.22**  
**Precip Year to Date: 15.28**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:53 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48 a.m.**



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## IS IT THE END OR THE BEGINNING?

Two men met for prayer early one morning. After reading a passage of Scripture, they knelt in prayer. Said the first, "Lord, it's hard for me to pray. You know that I am at the end of all my resources. I have nothing left. I am totally broken in mind, heart, and spirit!"

Upon hearing his brokenness, his prayer partner put his arm around his shoulder and shouted, "How wonderful! Now you are at the beginning of God's resources."

Mark's Gospel has an exciting story about a ruler and his resources. It reminds us of the importance and necessity of eternal values rather than earthly riches.

Jesus, in speaking of the emphasis we place on money, said, "People with wealth will have a difficult time in getting into heaven." Astonished, one of his disciples asked, "Well, if money won't get us into heaven, what will?"

Calmly He replied, "Humanly speaking, getting into heaven on your own is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God."

Material possessions and our desire to acquire them tend to fix our hearts on the things of this world. When this happens, we lose sight of what is truly valuable: our relationship with God. He becomes unimportant.

For many, it is easier to pass the test of adversity than the test of prosperity. Prosperity places the focus on ourselves, while adversity proves our need for God.

Prayer: Help us to realize, Lord, that unless we place our trust in You and the redeeming love of God, we lose sight of what is important! May we seek Your "way." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." Matthew 19:26

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### **South Dakota Mines research project now part of global firm**

By NATHAN THOMPSON Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — What started as a research project at South Dakota Mines in Rapid City is now part of a global firm after Gamma Biosciences announced last week that it was acquiring Nanopareil, LLC.

In 2006, South Dakota Mines professors Dr. Todd Menkhaus and Dr. Hao Fong began researching different uses of polymer nanofibers, a substance that is one thousand times smaller than human hair. The National Science Foundation saw promise in the work and funded the research.

The professors found that by spraying nanofibers into multiple-layered mats, a new filter could be created that reduces the costs of purifying vaccines and medications, making the lifesaving treatments more affordable, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Menkhaus said that by 2011 the research was seen as commercially viable. He and Fong started the new company, now called Nanopareil, LLC.

"What we are now is an advance materials company that makes separation devices for therapeutics and vaccines to make the production of those medicines and vaccines more efficient," Menkhaus said. "The goal is that by using these devices and working with pharmaceutical companies, we'll be able to make the production much more accessible all over the globe."

Nanopareil has a history of success. In 2014, NSF awarded them a Small Business Innovation Research grant, and the company won the South Dakota Governor's Giant Vision Awards. In 2017, Nanopareil was named the Buzz of BIO at the BIO International Convention and took first place in the Technologies of Tomorrow competition.

"As we continued to learn more about it and develop it, we got a lot of interest from pharmaceutical companies and other end-users of this technology, so we commercialized it," Menkhaus said.

Nanopareil opened a lab in Rapid City and another facility in Sioux Falls. In 2019, the Rapid City location was moved to the Ascent Innovation building. Menkhaus stayed on as a founder and D. Craig Arnold was named president/CEO. The Rapid City location has seven full-time employees, all graduates and current students at South Dakota Mines.

Menkhaus said the partnership formed with South Dakota Mines is the reason for the company's success.

"I'm really looking forward to expanding that now with the acquisition (by Gamma Biosciences) and growing that team in South Dakota," he said. "All of the continued development and research going into these materials for commercialization will stay in South Dakota."

Gamma Biosciences is a life sciences tools platform created by KKR, with headquarters in Menlo Park, California, and Cambridge, United Kingdom. Nanopareil will be a part of Gamma Biosciences' subsidiary Astrea Bioseparations.

Joseph Wright, South Dakota Mines associate president for research and economic development, said Nanopareil's success is a historic moment for the state.

"This might be the first time a product developed by research at a South Dakota university has seen an acquisition of this magnitude and importance," Wright said in a news release. "This would be a big deal for any major research university, but for a smaller school like South Dakota Mines it's virtually unprecedented. This demonstrates that Mines researchers can be world leaders in research and innovation."

### **South Dakota sees 38% positivity rate in daily virus tests**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials on Sunday reported a nearly 38% positivity rate on COVID-19 tests in the last day, with 617 new cases.

The update lifted the number of positive tests to 28,564. Of those, 5,865 are considered active cases, an increase of 332 from Saturday's report.

No new deaths were reported Sunday.

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Hospitalizations dropped by one, to 266. COVID-19 patients occupy 11% of the state's hospital beds, with an overall total availability rate of 42%, according to state Health Department figures. Among staffed ICU beds, 21% are currently being used by COVID-19 patients and 28% of ICU beds remain available.

There were about 772 new cases per 100,000 people in South Dakota over the past two weeks, which ranks second in the country for new cases per capita, according to The COVID Tracking Project. North Dakota ranks first at about 822 new cases per 100,000 people.

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

## Trump inks law addressing missing, murdered Native Americans

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday signed a bill named for a Fargo murder victim to address cases of missing and murdered Native Americans.

Savanna's Act, which is named for Savanna Greywind, passed the House last month after passing the Senate earlier this year. The bill was introduced by former Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, of North Dakota, last Congress and was reintroduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska, in the current Congress.

"This legislation addresses a tragic issue in Indian Country and will help to establish better law enforcement practices," said North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

The law is meant to help police track, solve and prevent crimes against Native Americans. It directs the Departments of Justice and Interior to consult with American Indian tribes while developing national law enforcement guidelines.

The 22-year-old pregnant Greywind was murdered in 2017 and her unborn baby was cut from her body. Her remains were found in the Red River north of Fargo. Two people are in prison for her death. Her infant survived.

"Savanna's life was lost far too early," North Dakota Sen. Kevin Cramer said. "I hope this legislation serves as a remembrance of her story and prevents other tragedies from occurring."

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## GOP governors in spiking states strain for silver linings

By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

Hospitalizations from COVID-19 have hit their highest points recently throughout the Midwest, where the growth in new cases has been the worst in the nation.

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But that's not the message coming from a number of Republican governors in the region, who are working to find silver linings in the ominous health data as outbreaks surge in their states.

"In South Dakota, we didn't take a one-size-fits-all approach and the results have been incredible," Gov. Kristi Noem told lawmakers in her state, which Johns Hopkins University says ranks second in the country for new cases per capita.

Oklahoma's governor has been effusively upbeat about progress against the virus, despite what figures compiled by public health experts and a White House task force show. North Dakota's governor has called his state's test positivity rate an achievement, even though its rate of new cases tops the nation.

The rhetoric in some cases is mirroring that of President Donald Trump, who continues to downplay the virus' risk even after being hospitalized with COVID-19. And it's worrying public health experts concerned about a flu season that may exacerbate the outbreak's effects.

"Public health is built on the backs of thousands of individual actions. ... In order for there to be behavior change, there has to be trust on the data and the guidelines," said Dr. Thomas Tsai, a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital and assistant professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Most of the Midwest Republican governors where the virus is worsening have either refused to enact statewide mask restrictions or have been rolling back restrictions imposed because of the pandemic.

Trump, who tweeted "don't be afraid of Covid" as he was being released from the hospital, cheered Noem for her speech to the Legislature last week, where she championed her refusal to issue a stay-at-home order or other restrictions.

But South Dakota's new cases and positive test rates rank at or near the highest in the country. The number of people hospitalized in the state because of COVID-19 reached a new high last week, but Noem prefers to emphasize that only about 10% of the state's hospitalizations are because of the virus.

Doug Burgum, North Dakota's Republican governor, acknowledges his state's numbers are moving in the wrong direction as it hit new highs for active and newly confirmed cases, as well as hospitalizations. But he's also touting the state's test positivity staying in the 7% range.

"That's an achievement compared to many, many other states that have never been in the spot to have this low of a positivity rate and have their economy open," Burgum said. "If you're saying that among the states, who's doing a great job, those would have to be some of the criteria you would have to look at."

In Iowa, which has eased most of its earlier coronavirus restrictions, COVID-19 hospitalizations also hit a record high last week. Gov. Kim Reynolds, however, has defended the state's decision to reopen bars and send students back into classrooms without masks required.

"The president is also right. We can't let COVID-19 dominate our lives," Reynolds said.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson has cited where he sees his state making progress, even as a White House task force recently listed it in the "red zone" for its high rate of new cases and positive tests. The state also recently hit a new high for hospitalizations. Parson and his wife were both diagnosed on Sept. 23, though they've both recovered.

"The fight is not over, but we are on the right track, and we will get through this," Parson said in a video posted Sept. 30.

Some governors are even pushing back against Trump's own advisers for giving blunter assessments of their states' situations. Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, who in July became the first governor to announce he had tested positive for COVID-19, lashed out at the White House Coronavirus Task Force after it said high community transmission led to "many preventable deaths" in Oklahoma.

"The governor maintains that Oklahoma has performed much better than the nation as a whole in terms of protecting our most vulnerable, and the White House agrees with that assertion," Stitt's office said.

The governors putting a positive spin on their states' worsening situations face little political fallout for doing so, and are even facing pressure from the right to lift any remaining restrictions. That's the case in Arkansas, where a group of Republican lawmakers are suing to invalidate a mask mandate and other directives imposed by GOP Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

Hutchinson also has been criticized by Democrats, teachers' groups and others who say the governor

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has sent mixed messages about the seriousness of the state's outbreak.

"I understand the drive and need to put a positive spin on things, but I would like to see a greater sense of urgency," Democratic Sen. Greg Leding said.

Hutchinson has cited progress with the state's testing positivity, but has acknowledged it needs to improve in other areas such as hospitalizations and rate of new cases. Hutchinson has continued resisting calls to roll back some of the state's reopening, saying he's relying more on personal responsibility.

"We're Republicans, we're conservative and we don't want to increase restrictions on business, we don't want to increase mandates and the only way you can navigate through this crisis is by simply making sure that we have individual discipline," Hutchinson told his cabinet last week.

DeMillo reported from Little Rock, Ark. Associated Press writers Sean Murphy and Ken Miller in Oklahoma City, Jim Salter in St. Louis, David Kolpack in Fargo, North Dakota, Scott McFetridge in Des Moines, and Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, contributed to this report

Follow Andrew DeMillo on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ademillo](http://www.twitter.com/ademillo)

## Iran has highest daily virus death toll, new patient count

By AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — For the second day in a row, Iran shattered its single-day record for new deaths and infections from the coronavirus, with 272 people confirmed dead among more than 4,200 new cases on Monday.

Like in many other countries, the spiraling outbreak in Iran reflects the government's contradictory virus response. This month, as the daily recorded death toll reached the triple digits, authorities announced tighter restrictions for the hard-hit capital of Tehran. Recently reopened universities and schools, as well as libraries, mosques, cinemas, museums and beauty salons shuttered. On Saturday, the government mandated that all Tehran residents wear face masks outdoors and in public places, warning violators would be fined. Cabinet spokesman Ali Rabiei promised those who tested positive would be closely tracked.

And yet enforcement in the country of 80 million remains a challenge. Those who disobey face fines of just 500,000 riyals, or \$1.60, roughly the price of a burger downtown. Many residents, tired of staying home, now ignore the rules about masks and social distancing to pack the city's indoor cafes and restaurants. As residents defy coronavirus precautions and the government resists a lockdown amid a worsening economic crisis, Iran's caseload is skyrocketing.

Early in the pandemic, Iran emerged as a global epicenter of the virus and saw the worst outbreak in the Middle East, with more than 500,000 confirmed cases.

It has recorded over 28,800 deaths and 409,000 recoveries. Initially, leaders played down the virus's risks and, as hospitals filled up, the reported figures fueled skepticism among international experts who suspected Iran was hiding the true number of infections and deaths. Authorities have since admitted that outbreak is significantly bigger than reported, with a recent parliamentary report putting the number of infections at "eight to 10 times" higher than the official numbers.

Iran appeared to curb the spread of the virus somewhat in May with movement restrictions, only to see it return as the country reopened to boost economic activity the next month. Early in the outbreak, religious considerations also played a role in the Shiite theocracy as authorities declined for weeks to close shrines where the faithful touch or kiss the tombs' protective bars.

Over recent weeks, Iran has seen daily death tolls spike to their highest-ever levels. The country has struggled to balance provincial lockdowns to stop the virus's spread with the fear of stalling out an economy already suffering under U.S. sanctions after America's unilateral withdrawal in 2018 from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

As in the White House, where President Donald Trump and a growing circle of his aides and staff recently tested positive for the coronavirus, the disease has spread to the highest levels of Iran's government.

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Among those recently infected is the head of the country's atomic energy organization and the country's vice president in charge of budget and planning. A number of Cabinet ministers also have tested positive, as well as top officials including senior Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri and Vice President Massoumeh Ebtekar. The head of an Iranian government task force on the coronavirus who had urged the public not to overreact about its spread was among the first officials to contract the virus in late February.

The virus first appeared in Iran at the same time the government was trying to shore up support for the country's parliamentary elections, which saw the lowest voter turnout since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that brought its clerical leadership to power.

As the death toll reached new heights, the nation's currency plunged to its lowest level ever on Sunday, following the Trump administration's decision on Thursday to blacklist 18 Iranian banks that had so far escaped the bulk of re-imposed U.S. sanctions.

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Associated Press writer Isabel DeBre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## **EU nations set to adopt common travel rules amid pandemic**

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union countries are getting ready to adopt a common traffic light system to coordinate traveling across the 27-nation bloc, but a return to a full freedom of movement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic remains far from reach.

In addition to causing the deaths of at least 151,000 EU citizens and plunging the EU's economy into recession, the coronavirus has also landed a blow to a cherished cornerstone of EU citizenship, the free movement of people.

When the virus struck in March, several EU countries decided to close their borders to non-citizens without talking to their neighbors, creating huge traffic jams and slowing down the delivery of much-needed medical equipment.

The cacophony, which also played havoc with millions of tourists caught off guard by the virus, prompted the EU's executive arm to push for a more unified approach. The EU commission last month came up with proposals that have been discussed and amended before their scheduled approval by EU nations on Tuesday.

"We hope it's a big step in addressing unilateral disruptions," a EU commission official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity as per the commission's policy.

The key measure agreed upon is a common map of infections that will be drawn up by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. It will sort European regions into green, orange and red zones according to the severity of coronavirus outbreaks, taking into account new confirmed cases per 100,000 people and the percentage of positive tests.

Still, the harmonization stops short of providing common practical rules for the EU's orange and red zones. Travelers from green areas won't face limits on their journeys, but national governments will continue to set their own restrictions such as quarantines or mandatory testing upon arrival for people coming from orange or red zones.

The commission recommended mandatory testing only for travelers from the most dangerous zones but can't impose such a measure because health and border issues remain the prerogative of national governments.

One diplomat said the goal was to create a way for EU states not to close their borders to one another.

EU countries have yet to find common practices for the length of self-isolation periods following an exposure to the virus, but they agreed to mutually recognize test results in all member states. They will also to develop a harmonised passenger locator form for all means of transport including trains and planes.

According to the commission, a list of essential travelers allowed to move freely across the bloc will also be devised during Tuesday's meeting, and cross-borders workers should be unaffected by the restrictions.

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

## Supreme Court nominee Barrett faces Senate despite virus

By MARK SHERMAN, LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — Confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett are set to begin as a divided Senate charges ahead on President Donald Trump's pick to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and cement a conservative court majority before Election Day.

Barrett, a federal appeals court judge, will tell the Senate Judiciary Committee that she is "forever grateful" for Ginsburg's trailblazing path as a woman. But she is resolved to maintain the perspective of her own mentor, the late conservative Justice Antonin Scalia and "apply the law as written," according to her prepared opening remarks for the hearings, which start Monday as the country is in the grips of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Courts are not designed to solve every problem or right every wrong in our public life," Barrett says in the remarks, which The Associated Press obtained.

Republicans, who control the Senate, are moving at a breakneck pace to seat Barrett before the Nov. 3 election to secure Trump's pick and hear a high-profile challenge to the Affordable Care Act and any election-related challenges.

Democrats are trying in vain to delay the fast-track confirmation by raising fresh concerns about the safety of meeting during the pandemic after two GOP senators on the panel tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Spokesmen for Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said the senators are symptom-free. Tillis will participate remotely Monday. Lee's spokesman said the senator would be making a decision on whether to attend Monday morning, per his doctor's orders. Both tested positive 10 days ago.

Key Democrats are staying away. California Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice presidential nominee and a committee member, plans to participate remotely from her Senate office due to coronavirus concerns, her spokesman said Sunday.

The committee released a letter from the Architect of the Capitol on Sunday that says the hearing room has been set up in consultation with the Office of Attending Physician with appropriate distance between seats and air ventilation systems that meet or exceed industry standards.

"We're going to work safely," said the committee's chairman, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures." He said he took a coronavirus test last week and is "negative."

Trump chose the 48-year-old judge after the death last month of Ginsburg, a liberal icon. It's the opportunity to entrench a conservative majority on the court for years to come with his third justice.

Outside groups are pushing Democrats to make a strong case against what they call an illegitimate confirmation, when people are already voting in some states, saying the winner of the presidency should make the pick. No Supreme Court justice has ever been confirmed so close to a presidential contest.

"The public is with them that this shouldn't happen before the election," said Brian Fallon, executive director of Demand Justice, which advocates against right-leaning nominees.

The country will get an extended look at Barrett over the next three days in hearings like none other during the heated election environment and the pandemic limiting public access.

Faith and family punctuate her testimony, and she said would bring "a few new perspectives" as the first mother of school-age children on the nine-member court.

Barrett says she uses her children as a test when deciding cases, asking herself how she would view the decision if one of her children were the party she was ruling against.

"Even though I would not like the result, would I understand that the decision was fairly reasoned and grounded in the law?" she says in the prepared remarks.

A Catholic, she says she believes in the "power of prayer." Barrett's religious views and past leadership role in a Catholic faith community pose a challenge for Democrats as they try to probe her judicial approach

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to abortion, gay marriage and other social issues without veering into inappropriate questions of her faith.

Ordinarily, Barrett would get to show off her family and seven children. But the White House event announcing her nomination, in which most of the audience did not wear masks, has been labeled a “super-spreader” for the coronavirus.

More than two dozen people linked to the Sept. 26 Rose Garden event, including the two GOP senators, have contracted COVID-19 since then. Barrett and her family went maskless at the event. She and her husband, Jesse, tested positive for the virus earlier this year and recovered, two administration officials have said.

Democrats already were enraged that Republicans are moving so quickly having refused to consider President Barack Obama nominee in February 2016, well before that year’s election.

Barrett is the most openly anti-abortion Supreme Court nominee in decades and her vote could provide a majority to restrict if not overturn abortion rights. Democrats have made clear that they will press Barrett on health care, abortion and other issues where her vote could push the court further to the right.

Republicans will highlight Barrett’s belief in sticking to the text of laws and the original meaning of constitutional provisions, both Scalia trademarks as well.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly in Washington and Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California, contributed to this report.

## **‘I got stories.’ A life of troubles, and a story of love**

By WONG MAYE-E Associated Press

BIDWELL, Ohio (AP) — “I got stories,” Tasha Lamm said when we first met her, in a little town in Appalachian Ohio. And she did.

Her problems might seem overwhelming: poverty, unemployment, a stint of homelessness, an abusive mother, a boyfriend who died of a heroin overdose. The many other things that she hinted at, but never revealed.

But Lamm is far more than the sum of her hardships. She’s a petite, talkative woman who has faced so much in her 30 years. It’s as if she was almost unbreakable, with all that history feeding a palpable fighting spirit. She knew what was holding her back in life, and she knew what she needed to do to stay afloat and — hopefully, someday — escape from her tiny, troubled world.

The three of us on The Associated Press’ road trip across America met Lamm as we tried to make sense of a country upended by the coronavirus pandemic, unemployment, protests over racial justice and the brutal politics of the upcoming elections.

Her home is small, cozy, and neat, carefully decorated with things that mean something to her and her girlfriend, Alicia Mullins. Her two young boys are rambunctious and happy. On the summer day we visited, they were playing with a hose in the backyard. She doesn’t let them wander from the house. After what she’s been through, she doesn’t trust the world out there.

At dinnertime, she and Alicia make the meal together, often with donated food but also with care.

It’s too easy to stereotype people like Tasha. She’s jobless, lives in subsidized housing, and has a kitchen cabinet full of donated food.

But she’s also smart, strong and organized. She cares deeply for her kids and her girlfriend. She’s taken the little she has and made a life out of it, even if she’s desperate to find a way out of here. She dreams of going to New York City.

In the end, it wasn’t the struggles of the little family that stood out most in that little house. It was love.

## **2 Stanford economists win Nobel prize for auction theory**

By DAVID KEYTON and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two American economists won the Nobel Prize on Monday for improving the theory of how auctions work and inventing new and better auction formats that are now woven into many parts

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of the economy, including one that revolutionized the telecoms industry.

The discoveries of Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson "have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world," the Nobel Committee said, noting that the auction formats developed by the winners have been used to sell radio frequencies, electricity, fishing quotas and airport landing slots.

Both economists are based at Stanford University, which said their work is credited with shaping the entire modern telecommunications industry after they developed a new format for the U.S. Federal Communications Commission's radio spectrum auctions in 1994. That format has since been copied and adapted for dozens of auctions involving hundreds of billion dollars worldwide.

Reached by phone at his home in California, Milgrom said he received news of their win "in a strange way."

"I got a knock at my door from Bob Wilson," he told The Associated Press. "He was my Ph.D. advisor, and he lives right across the street from me."

Milgrom said students, friends and colleagues had long suggested he and Wilson might be due for the prize.

"It's really sweet actually," he said. "It's nice to have their respect but their affection as well."

Technically known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, the award was established in 1969 and is now widely considered one of the Nobel prizes. The winners were announced in Stockholm by Goran Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The committee said Wilson's work showed "why rational bidders tend to place bids below their own best estimate of the common value."

"(Bidders) are worried about the winner's curse — that is, about paying too much and losing out," the committee said.

Among the problems that the two tried to tackle was the "snake in the grass strategy," Wilson said. This involves a company keeping its interest in the item being sold secret for most of the auction and then making the winning bid at the last minute.

"It's like sniping an eBay auction," Wilson told the AP. "We had to design rules that at that time sort of restricted that kind of activity."

This involved forcing bidders to reveal their interest earlier on, he said.

Wilson said his interest in auction theory dated back to the 1950s and that he thought the time for winning a Nobel Prize had already passed.

Speaking to reporters in Stockholm by phone after learning of his win, Wilson struggled to think of a recent auction he himself had participated in. But then added: "My wife points out to me that we bought ski boots on eBay."

The 83-year-old described his former student as "sort of the genius behind all of this auction work."

Milgrom, 72, developed a more general theory of auctions that takes into account what is known as the "private value" of what's being sold that can vary greatly from bidder to bidder.

Americans have figured prominently among this year's Nobel winners. Leaving aside the peace prize, which went to the U.N.'s World Food Program, seven of the 11 laureates have been Americans.

"After the Second World War there's been an enormous investment in research and higher education in the United States, and that has paid off in all the sciences," said Hansson. "And we'll see how that trend may change in the future."

Last year's award went to two researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a third from Harvard University, for their groundbreaking research into efforts to reduce global poverty.

Few economists could have predicted last fall that the globe would come to a virtual standstill within months, as governments closed their borders, imposed lockdowns and ordered other measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, triggering a sharp dip in business activity worldwide.

Wilson said that, given the ongoing pandemic, he had no immediate plans for what to do with his share of the the 10-million krona (\$1.1 million) cash prize that comes with the award, along with a gold medal.

"There's not much I can use it for, in terms, you know, travel or something," he told reporters on the phone from Stanford. "Probably I'll just save it for my wife, my children."

Last week, the Nobel Committee awarded the prize for physiology and medicine for discovering the liver-

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ravaging hepatitis C virus. The prize for physics honored breakthroughs in understanding the mysteries of cosmic black holes, and the chemistry prize went to scientists behind a powerful gene-editing tool.

The literature prize was awarded to American poet Louise Glück for her "candid and uncompromising" work. The World Food Program won the Nobel Peace Prize for its effort to combat hunger worldwide.

Jordans reported from Berlin. Associated Press writer Desiree Seals in Smyrna, Georgia, and David Runk in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, contributed to this report.

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

## UK cities chafe at new restrictions in 3-level lockdown plan

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government is set to announce new restrictions Monday on business and socializing in major northern England cities with high infection rates. But pubs, restaurants and other businesses are pushing back, arguing that they are not to blame for a resurgent outbreak.

Local authorities in hard-hit cities including Liverpool and Manchester are seeking financial support for businesses that are ordered to close, and details of an exit strategy from local lockdowns.

After falling in the summer, coronavirus cases are on the rise in the U.K. as winter approaches, with northwest and northeast England seeing the steepest increases.

Under the new measures, areas of England will be placed in "tiers," classing them as at medium, high or very high risk, and placed under restrictions of varying severity.

Liverpool mayor Steve Rotheram said his city was to be placed in the highest category.

"We were told we were going into Tier 3 — no ifs, no buts," he said.

Rotheram, mayor of the greater Liverpool region in northwest England, said local officials have not yet agreed with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government what the exact restrictions will be. Johnson is due to give more details in the House of Commons later.

Businesses including gyms and pubs are expected to be shut, but restaurants are lobbying to be allowed to remain open. Rotheram said cities also wanted to know what the exit strategy would be from the measures, which are set to be reviewed after a month.

The U.K. has experienced Europe's deadliest outbreak, with an official death toll of 42,825. Health officials say Britain is at a tipping point in the outbreak, with strong action needed to prevent hospitals being overwhelmed at a time of year when they are already at their busiest with flu and other winter illnesses.

Stephen Powis, medical director of the National Health Service in England, said there are currently more people hospitalized with the virus than there were when the country went into lockdown in March.

He said three temporary COVID-19 hospitals in northern England that were mothballed when the outbreak receded over the summer were being readied to admit patients once again in the coming weeks.

England's deputy chief medical officer, Jonathan Van-Tam, said Monday that while northern England has the highest infection rates, cases are on the rise across the country.

"The epidemic this time has clearly picked up pace in the north of England earlier than it did in the first wave and that almost certainly relates to the fact the disease levels in the north, and certainly in the northwest, never dropped as far in the summer as they did in the south," Van-Tam told a news conference.

But, he added: "This is a nationwide phenomenon now."

Liverpool has one of the country's highest levels of infection, with more than 600 cases per 100,000 people.

Bar and restaurant owners have questioned whether they are major sources of transmission, and say the government has not shared the evidence to back up the claim.

Manchester City Council leader Richard Leese said data from the city's public health officials "seems to

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demonstrate that there is not a particular connection between bars and restaurants and the transmission of COVID.”

But Calum Semple, professor of outbreak medicine at the University of Liverpool and a member of the government’s Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, said “most of the outbreaks are happening within and between households and then after that, it’s in the retail and hospitality sector.”

“Alcohol and people’s behaviour are well known to be factors that result in relaxation of one’s adherence to regulations, let’s put it politely,” Semple told the BBC. “And so I can understand why this move is happening.”

The government has announced a support package to pay two-thirds of the salaries of employees of companies that are told to close, but many in the pub and restaurant sector say that is not enough to save already struggling businesses.

England is already under national restrictions including a 10 p.m. curfew on pubs and restaurants and a ban on more than six people gathering. Some areas have tougher measures, such as a ban on households mixing. The rest of the U.K. is under similar, and sometimes tougher, restrictions. In Scotland’s two biggest cities, Glasgow and Edinburgh, pubs have been closed for 16 days to suppress the outbreak.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump’s shaky claims on virus, Dem misfires

By HOPE YEN, CALVIN WOODWARD and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Impatient to return to the campaign trail, President Donald Trump dubiously claimed he’s fully recovered and immune from COVID-19, hailed a cure that isn’t so and declared the coronavirus is “disappearing” even as cases spiked.

The comments over the weekend capped a week that featured the only vice presidential debate of 2020 and Trump’s hurried approach to leaving his convalescence behind and getting on with the campaign for the Nov. 3 election.

With confirmation hearings beginning Monday for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice presidential candidate, made an unsubstantiated claim that Abraham Lincoln would’ve waited until after the election to fill the vacancy if he were in Trump’s shoes.

A look at the claims and reality:

### CORONAVIRUS

TRUMP: “I’m immune ... It could be a lifetime.” — interview Sunday on Fox News.

TRUMP: “A total and complete sign off from White House Doctors yesterday. That means I can’t get it (immune), and can’t give it.” — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: That’s far from certain, and Twitter later flagged his tweet with a fact-check warning.

Some medical experts have been skeptical that Trump could be declared free of the risk of transmitting the virus so early in the course of his illness. Nor can he be completely assured of immunity following his illness.

Trump was referring to a memo released Saturday by the White House in which Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley said Trump met the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for safely discontinuing isolation and that by “currently recognized standards” he was no longer considered a transmission risk. The memo did not declare Trump had tested negative for the virus.

Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist and department chairman at the Yale School of Public Health, said the White House appeared to be following CDC guidelines for when it is appropriate to end isolation after mild to moderate cases of COVID-19.

But Ko cautioned that those who have had severe cases of the diseases should isolate for 20 days, not just 10 days as Trump has done. He noted that Trump was treated with the steroid dexamethasone, which is normally reserved for patients with severe COVID-19.

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Dr. Marc Lipsitch, an infectious disease expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, said the doctor's letter does not provide enough information to be confident that Trump can no longer infect others. He said Trump's use of steroids could prolong viral shedding so the CDC's 10-day standard may not be enough.

As to immunity, while there's evidence that reinfection is unlikely for at least three months even for those with a mild case of COVID-19, very few diseases leave people completely immune for life. Antibodies are only one piece of the body's defenses, and they naturally wane over time.

"Certainly it's presumptuous to say it's a lifetime," Ko said.

**TRUMP**, on the pandemic: "It's going to disappear; it is disappearing." — remarks Saturday.

**THE FACTS:** There is no sign the virus is "disappearing," or "rounding a corner" as he sometimes puts it, despite Trump's repeated assertions since first making the claim in February, over 214,000 deaths ago. And it's certainly not what his top health advisers say.

"I'm sorry but I have to disagree with that," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious diseases expert, said last month, when the U.S. was seeing 40,000 cases a day. The U.S. is now seeing over 57,000 new cases daily, with spikes in numerous states.

Trump made the claim as he and several of his aides seek to recover from the coronavirus following a potential superspreader event last month where Trump announced his nomination of Barrett to the Supreme Court. More than two dozen people in attendance that day have since contracted the virus. Trump now plans to return to the campaign trail Monday, and officials have signaled Trump's intention to travel nearly every day for the rest of the campaign.

Fauci has cautioned that people should not underestimate the pandemic and they will "need to hunker down and get through this fall and winter because it's not going to be easy." He and other health experts, such as Dr. Robert Redfield of the CDC, have warned of a potentially bad fall because of dual threats of the coronavirus and the flu season.

**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 214,000 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, Dr. Sean Conley, says 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

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Vaccine, die from the Flu. Are we going to close down our Country? No, we have learned to live with it, 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 214,000 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 last 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.

## SUPREME COURT

HARRIS, citing precedent for waiting to fill a Supreme Court vacancy until after the November election: “Abraham Lincoln was up for reelection, and it was 27 days before the election, and a seat became open on the United States Supreme Court. Abraham Lincoln’s party was in charge, not only in the White House, but the Senate. But honest Abe said it’s not the right thing to do. The American people deserve to make the decision about who will be the next president of the United States, and then that person can select who will serve for a lifetime on the highest court.” — vice-presidential debate Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Her claim is unsupported.

It’s true that Lincoln did not immediately announce a nomination after the chief justice, Roger Taney, died Oct. 12, 1864, just 27 days before the presidential election.

But there’s no evidence that Lincoln said anything as Harris described. His reasons for delaying a nomination remain unclear.

“I would describe Senator Harris’s interpretation as fanciful, based on no evidence that I have seen in my 36 years conducting research on — and writing about — Lincoln,” said Michael Burlingame, the distinguished chair in Lincoln studies at the University of Illinois-Springfield.

Burlingame told The Associated Press in an email Saturday that Lincoln actually delayed a nomination for more practical reasons — the Senate had been out of session for months when Taney died, and it was not scheduled to reconvene until December, after the election.

With his reelection chances already looking strong, Lincoln delayed announcing his pick of Salmon Chase, a political rival known for his anti-slavery views, to avoid offending conservatives and moderates before the election who did not share Chase’s “radical” Republican views, according to Burlingame.

Republicans are pushing forward with hearings Monday for Barrett, Trump’s pick to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died last month. Democrats say the Senate should wait until after the Nov. 3 election to let the winner of the presidential election fill the vacancy. Obviously, they hope the winner will be Joe Biden.

## HEALTH CARE

TRUMP, on Democratic criticism that he has no plan to protect people with preexisting conditions: “They know that’s false. ... We are going to protect people with preexisting conditions, and they’re going to pay a lot less money for the new health care.” — interview Sunday on Fox News.

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

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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.

## ECONOMY

TRUMP: "The country is doing well. We're looking like a super V." — Fox interview Sunday.

THE FACTS: Not so.

It's too soon to know the shape of the recovery — things are still fragile.

The Trump administration could point to the stock market and argue a rebound that resembles a "V." But the monthly job gains have started to slow in a way that suggests the recovery is tapering off without additional government aid. The poorest Americans have yet to return to work in substantial numbers, while the affluent are doing better. That has prompted some economists to say the U.S. is actually in a "K-shaped" recovery with the paths diverging between the richest and the poorest.

What is clear is that nearly \$3 trillion in government aid cushioned the blow from the recession. Roughly two-thirds of Americans have described their personal finances as good in polling by AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs, as direct checks and expanded jobless aid helped. But those benefits have run out, causing doubts about the trajectory of the economy.

## 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 considers 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



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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.

**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.

## TRADE and TAXES

**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.

## PANDEMIC

**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 CDC says large gatherings of people who have traveled 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.

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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."

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.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Ellen Knickmeyer, Seth Borenstein, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Colleen Long and Amanda Seitz contributed to this report.

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

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## Asia Today: China to test 9 million after new outbreak

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese health authorities will test all 9 million people in the eastern city of Qingdao for the coronavirus this week after nine cases linked to a hospital were found, the government announced Monday.

The announcement broke a two-month streak with no virus transmissions reported within China, though China has a practice of not reporting asymptomatic cases. The ruling Communist Party has lifted most curbs on travel and business but still monitors travelers and visitors to public buildings for signs of infection.

Authorities were investigating the source of the infections in eight patients at Qingdao's Municipal Chest

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Hospital and one family member, the National Health Commission said.

"The whole city will be tested within five days," it said on its social media account.

China, where the pandemic emerged in December, has reported 4,634 deaths and 85,578 cases, plus nine suspected cases that have yet to be confirmed.

The last reported virus transmissions within China were four patients found on Aug. 15 in the north-western city of Urumqi in the Xinjiang region. All the cases reported since then were in travelers from outside the mainland.

The ruling party lifted measures in April that cut off most access to cities with a total of some 60 million people including Wuhan in central China.

Qingdao is a busy port with the headquarters of companies including Haier, a major appliance maker, and the Tsingtao brewery. The government gave no indication whether the latest cases had contacts with travel or trade.

Travelers arriving from abroad in China still are required to undergo a 14-day quarantine.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— India has reported 66,732 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, driving the country's overall tally to 7.1 million. The Health Ministry on Monday also reported 816 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities to 109,150. India is seeing fewer new daily cases of the virus since mid-September when daily infections touched a record high of 97,894 cases. It's averaging more than 70,000 cases daily so far this month. Health experts have warned that congregations during major festivals later this month and in November have the potential to spread the virus. They also caution that coming winter months are expected to aggravate respiratory ailments.

— Malaysia will restrict movements in its biggest city, Kuala Lumpur, neighboring Selangor state and the administrative capital of Putrajaya starting Wednesday to curb a sharp rise in coronavirus cases. Defense Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob says all schools in these areas will be shut and all religious, sports and social activities will be halted for two weeks. He says economic activities can continue but with strict health measures. The move comes just over four months after Malaysia lifted a three-month nationwide lockdown to control the pandemic. It has experienced a new wave of cases following increased travel for an election last month in eastern Sabah state, a hotspot on Borneo island. Several politicians, including a Cabinet minister, tested positive for the virus after returning from Sabah. Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin had to isolate himself for two weeks after coming into contact with the minister. The government earlier announced that Sabah will be placed under a restricted movement order from Tuesday. Ismail said inter-district travel is banned under the partial lockdown, except with approval. Other restrictions include a limit of two people leaving each household to purchase groceries. Malaysia has reported more than 16,000 cases with 157 deaths.

— Authorities in Indonesia's capital have moved to ease strict social restrictions despite a steady increase in cases nationwide. Jakarta imposed large-scale social restrictions from April to June, then eased them gradually. The city brought back strict restrictions last month as the virus spread. Jakarta Gov. Anies Baswedan said his administration decided to ease the restrictions from Monday because the increase in infections has stabilized. The move came days after President Joko Widodo urged local administrations to refrain from imposing lockdown measures that could cause crippling economic damage in Southeast Asia's largest economy.

— Sri Lankan officials say they have suspended the repatriation of citizens stranded overseas by the coronavirus because the country's quarantine facilities are full. Army Commander Shavendra Silva, who heads the task force to control the virus, says a steep rise in COVID-19 patients in the past week has filled the quarantine facilities. Sri Lanka earlier announced it had successfully contained the virus, with no local infections reported for two months. But a cluster originating in a garment factory earlier this month has resulted in 1,307 new cases in just one week. The country has reported a total of 4,791 cases, including 13 deaths.

— South Korea has confirmed 97 new cases of the coronavirus, a modest uptick from the daily levels

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reported last week. The increase comes as officials ease social distancing restrictions after concluding that transmissions have slowed following a resurgence in mid-August. The figures released by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Monday brought the number of infections since the pandemic began to 24,703, including 433 deaths. South Korea relaxed its social distancing guidelines beginning Monday, allowing high-risk businesses like nightclubs and karaoke bars to open as long as they employ preventive measures. Spectators will also be allowed at professional sports events, although teams will initially be allowed to only sell 30% of the seats in stadiums.

## Armenia, Azerbaijan report attacks despite cease-fire deal

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Armenia and Azerbaijan on Monday accused each other of attacks over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh despite a cease-fire deal brokered by Russia in an effort to end the worst outbreak of hostilities in the region in decades.

The cease-fire came into effect on Saturday, but was immediately challenged by mutual claims of violations that persisted throughout the weekend and continued on Monday morning.

Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian said Monday that Azerbaijani forces were “intensively shelling the southern front” of the conflict zone.

Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry, meanwhile, insisted that Azerbaijan was observing the cease-fire but accused Armenian forces of shelling the Goranboy, Terter and Agdam regions of Azerbaijan that lie around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The recent bout of fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces started Sept. 27 and has left hundreds of people dead in the biggest escalation of the decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh since a separatist war there ended in 1994. The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia.

The foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a truce in Moscow after Russian President Vladimir Putin had brokered it in a series of calls with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian.

The cease-fire took effect at noon Saturday, after talks in Moscow that were sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The deal stipulated that the cease-fire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict.

If the truce had held, it would have marked a major diplomatic coup for Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but has also cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan.

## Trump’s task: Resetting campaign that GOP fears is slipping

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is running out of time to recover from a series of self-inflicted setbacks that have rattled his base of support and triggered alarm among Republicans who fear the White House is on the verge of being lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

The one-two punch of Trump’s coronavirus diagnosis and his widely panned debate performance also has Republicans worried they could lose control of the Senate. With just over three weeks until Election Day, Senate races in some reliably red states, including South Carolina and Kansas, are competitive, aided by a surge in Democratic fundraising that has put both the Republican Party and Trump’s own campaign at an unexpected financial disadvantage.

The president will aim for a reset this week, hoping an aggressive travel schedule and Judge Amy Coney Barrett’s Supreme Court confirmation hearings will energize his most loyal supporters and shift attention away from a virus that has killed more than 214,000 Americans on his watch.

Optimists in the president’s inner circle point to his unique ability to command attention and to his 2016 campaign, which also seemed destined for defeat before a late shift. But that comeback was aided by outside forces against an unpopular opponent. This year’s campaign, other Republicans worry, may instead resemble 1980 or 2008: a close race until, at the end, it decidedly wasn’t.

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"It's not good for my side," said veteran GOP pollster Whit Ayres. "Pretty obviously, in many ways down-ballot Republicans are in the boat with Donald Trump. That's good for Republicans in deep-red states, but more problematic for those in swing states."

Asked for any bright spots for the Republican field, Ayres said, "I'm wracking my brain and just struggling."

This account of Trump's reelection effort was compiled from interviews with nearly two dozen White House and campaign officials and Republicans close to the West Wing, many of whom were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations. It describes how a race that has generally been stable for months has endured a series of historic jolts.

Republicans began sensing warning signs last month.

The death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg animated conservatives but also electrified Democrats, driving a tsunami of cash toward Biden and down-ballot Democrats. Trump's heavily derided debate performance only exacerbated the problem, as even his own supporters found him rude as he so frequently interrupted Biden.

Reviewing data afterward, campaign aides worried as they started to see Trump's support begin to slip. They saw the president's coronavirus diagnosis as only compounding the problem, particularly with seniors.

"It's not good," said Alex Conant, a senior campaign adviser to Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign. "It's been a long time since Donald Trump has had any good news, and when he does have good news, he manages to step on it."

The Trump campaign insists the president can win reelection, saying his return to the road will excite his base while claiming that public polling has undercounted their supporters.

But national polls have shown Biden with a significant lead. And while the margins in the battleground states are smaller, Trump has faced stubborn deficits in most of the states that will decide the election.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said Friday if that people are depressed and upset on Election Day, "I think we could lose the White House and both houses of Congress, that it could be a bloodbath of Watergate proportions." In November 1974, the first congressional election after the Watergate scandal drove Republican President Richard Nixon from office, Democrats added significantly to their majorities in both houses. They took back the White House in 1976 and added still more seats in Congress.

Trump's campaign worries that it is losing support among suburban voters, women and older voters. The loss of older voters would be especially concerning in states like Florida and Arizona, where aides felt pre-debate Trump had pulled even with or slightly ahead Biden in part due to his improved standing with Latino voters.

Advisers privately concede that Trump, who has not moderated his tone on the virus after getting sick, has little chance of victory without Florida, which will be the site of his first post-diagnosis rally on Monday. And a loss in Arizona would require Trump to hold onto Pennsylvania.

Biden in recent weeks has pushed into states that once were considered safe for Trump, among them Iowa, Georgia and Texas, forcing the president to spend valuable time and resources to play defense. The Democrat on Monday will make a trip to Ohio for his general election campaign, another state Trump won convincingly in 2016.

"He's in trouble, there's no question. By every traditional measuring stick, this looks like a Biden landslide," said Ari Fleischer, former press secretary for President George W. Bush. "It's hard to predict what will happen in Congress, but anytime there is a large-scale victory, it has the potential to create tides to sweep people out."

The fate of the Senate has increasingly weighed on Republicans, who see tough races in Maine, Colorado, Arizona and North Carolina and even worries in deep-red Kansas and South Carolina. Some Trump backers are warning that GOP Senate candidates are now at an inflection point and some, including Sens. John Cornyn of Texas and Martha McSally of Arizona, took small steps to distance themselves from the president in recent days.

Dan Eberhart, a prominent GOP donor and Trump supporter, said there is no doubt that Trump's handling of the pandemic is eroding support for down-ballot Republicans and could lead to a Democratic sweep of government.

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"I hope the polls have it wrong," Eberhart said. "But Republicans ... need to develop a campaign strategy committed to protecting the Senate at all costs, even if it means sacrificing the Oval Office."

One significant opportunity to potentially change the trajectory of the race is Barrett's Senate confirmation hearings this week. Trump's campaign believes the hearings could change the political narrative away from the virus and draw attention to Biden's refusal to say whether he would expand or "pack" the Supreme Court.

But there has been second-guessing of Trump and campaign senior staff, including Bill Stepien, the campaign manager also ill with COVID-19, for balking at appearing in a remote debate last week. The move, like Trump's impulsive decision to blow up COVID relief talks only to later restart them, was one of several recent episodes that felt less like an effort to win and more about creating excuses for a loss.

And after days of back and forth, only one debate remains, depriving Trump of a free 90 minutes to reach tens of millions of Americans. And that price tag matters.

The Trump campaign has spent more than \$1.5 million in the District of Columbia market — one of the most liberal in the country but home to the president's obsessive cable-watching habits — since the end of April. That's more than he has spent in Virginia and New Hampshire and has contributed to the erosion of Trump's once-massive cash advantage to Biden.

The Democrat is outspending Trump by more than 2-to-1 at a time when the president has largely retreated from advertising in battleground states that helped him win in 2016.

While Biden's campaign and Democrats have booked \$172 million in ad time the final three weeks, Trump and the GOP have reserved \$92 million, according to the political ad tracker Kantar/CMAG.

Some Trump allies say their best bet is to hope that the results look close election night, before some of the mail-in ballots are counted, allowing Trump to declare victory and have the results thrown to the courts.

The Trump campaign believes the president's return to the campaign trail will shift the story from COVID and says an economic closing argument — 56% of people in a Gallup poll this week said they were better off than four years ago, despite the pandemic — will be a winner.

"If we believe public media polls, then we would be talking about Hillary Clinton's reelection right now," said Tim Murtaugh, the campaign's communications director. "The choice in this campaign boils down to this: Who do you trust to restore the economy to greatness, the president who has done it once already and is already doing it again or Joe Biden and his 47-year record in Washington?"

Still, Trump is flailing for a final message, turning a spate of recent interviews into tirades about the 2016 election and pushing his attorney general to investigate his political opponents. Newt Gingrich, who believes Trump will win again, warned the president to stop fighting the last war.

"He hasn't quite adjusted to the fact that Biden is not Hillary and he has not adjusted that he has been around for five years and not being a fresh face," the Republican former House speaker said. "The things that worked against Hillary haven't worked against Biden."

While the state of the race looks promising, Democrats know that three weeks add up to an eternity in the age of Trump.

"There is an opportunity for a massive Democratic win, but this is still close in some of these states," said Claire McCaskill, a Democratic former senator from Missouri. "The fundamentals of the race have not changed. But the reason I am optimistic is that the president's instincts have never been more wrong."

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This story has been corrected to show that Monday will not be Joe Biden's first general election campaign visit to Ohio. Biden visited the state on Sept. 30.

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Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Phoenix and Lisa Mascaro, Aamer Madhani and Brian Slodysko in Washington contributed to this report.

## English villages wake up to find they're Brexit's new border

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

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SEVINGTON, England (AP) — Four years after Britain voted to leave the European Union, Brexit can still seem abstract. But in the county known as the Garden of England, it is literally taking concrete form.

Just beyond the ancient oaks and yews that surround medieval St. Mary's Church in the village of Sevington, bulldozers, dump trucks and cement mixers swarm noisily over a field. They are chewing up land to create part of Britain's new border with the European Union — a customs clearance depot with room for up to 2,000 trucks.

No one asked local people for permission, and even in this Brexit-backing area, the disruption is straining support for the U.K.'s rupture with the EU.

"The first anyone knew about it was when a sign went up saying the footpaths had been closed," said Sharon Swandale, whose home in the village of Mersham used to be a 20-minute walk from Sevington. Closure of the path for construction work means it's now an almost 4-mile (6.4-kilometer) drive.

This county, Kent, voted by 60%-40% to leave the EU in Britain's 2016 referendum, but Swandale said visions of truck stops and customs depots were not uppermost in their minds.

"That was never part of the actual selling and the marketing for Brexit," she said.

The two prosperous villages of Sevington and Mersham are 15 miles (24 kilometers) from the Channel Tunnel to France and 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Britain's biggest ferry port at Dover. Between them, the two routes carry 4 million trucks a year, filled with food and all manner of other essential items.

Those goods moved back and forth freely while Britain was part of the EU's single market and customs union. The U.K. left the bloc's political structures in January, and will make an economic break when a transition period ends Dec. 31. That means Britain must erect a customs border with the 27-nation EU, its biggest trading partner.

Opponents of Brexit say it is a waste of money and effort that will hurt businesses on both sides. For supporters, it's all part of taking back control of the country's borders and trade.

But everyone agrees it means new red tape, with the need for customs declarations and inspections. If the U.K. and the EU fail to strike a free trade deal before the end of the year, tariffs will be slapped on many goods, bringing more disruption, bureaucracy and expense.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government has been reluctant to disclose details of its border plans. But last month it admitted its "reasonable worst-case scenario" involved "7,000 port-bound trucks in Kent and associated maximum delays of up to two days."

The government's plans for limiting the disruption include converting parts of a highway into a temporary parking lot for trucks, and imposing a "Kent access pass" — essentially a passport that truckers heading for the EU must have to enter Kent from other parts of Britain.

The Sevington site is intended for customs checks, and could also be a "temporary traffic management facility" — a parking lot — for trucks if there are border delays, the government says.

The 27-acre field is one of 10 sites around the country earmarked for potential border infrastructure, under powers the government has given itself to buy and build without consulting local authorities or residents first.

"Up to now no local resident has seen the plans," said Rick Martin, chairman of Sevington parish council, adding that locals are worried about gridlock and the effect the site will have on property prices.

"People are quite perplexed at the moment about what it's going to look like when there's 1,000 lorries parked across the road," he said.

Sevington and Mersham are ancient settlements, mentioned in the 1086 census known as the Domesday Book, but the residents can't be said to reject modern life. They already live with the hum of traffic on the M20 highway that cuts through the area, and the sound of trains whooshing at 185 mph (300 kph) toward the Channel Tunnel.

That makes them even more determined to preserve the remaining rural character of their communities.

With the support of local politicians, villagers are trying to limit the damage by saving an adjoining field, also bought by the government but not yet slated for development. It's the last green space between them and the sprawling town of Ashford nearby.

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"It would be the perfect place to save as a green buffer between all the development here and the village," said Swandale, a member of the Village Alliance, a local campaigning group.

Construction has already chased off the skylarks that used to inhabit the future customs site. Swandale says preserving the other field could save great crested newts and dormice and the paths used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

"It's taking back control," she said, echoing the Brexiteer slogan. "It's having this for the local people, it's using it. It's planting trees to reduce carbon, it's increasing its biodiversity. ... It would go a long way to mitigate this development."

Britons still don't know whether New Year's Day 2021 will bring the government's worst-case scenario or a smoother exit. Talks on a U.K.-EU trade deal are deadlocked over fishing rights and fair-competition rules. At a summit this week, EU leaders will assess whether a breakthrough is possible. There are only weeks left to seal a deal if it is to be ratified by year's end.

Paul Bartlett, a Conservative member of Kent County Council who lives right beside the huge construction site, acknowledges the customs facility on his doorstep came as a surprise. But as a staunch supporter of Brexit, he is determined to see the positive side of the new customs site.

"We need jobs," he said, after the coronavirus pandemic plunged the U.K. into recession. "I hope we'll have 300 jobs and there's a good system of apprenticeships that young people can sign up to and develop a career for themselves.

"It's a beautiful part of the country to live in, and sometimes you've got to take the rough with the smooth."

## Five years on, Israelis see few benefits from major gas deal

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Five years after Israel signed a landmark agreement to develop large offshore gas fields over the objections of antitrust authorities, environmentalists and consumer advocates, ordinary Israelis have yet to see the windfall promised by the government.

The deal has chiseled away at the monopoly held by Houston-based Noble Energy and Israel's Delek Group, which discovered and developed the fields, bringing prices down. The country is on track to phase out coal and derive nearly all its electricity from cleaner-burning gas and solar power by 2025, and is exporting gas to neighboring Egypt and Jordan.

But the financial benefits have yet to trickle down to Israeli consumers, who continue to pay stubbornly high electricity costs even as oil and gas prices have plunged in recent years.

As the scramble for natural gas creates new alliances and rivalries across the eastern Mediterranean, Israel's experience shows that while big gas discoveries can yield geopolitical clout they don't always deliver the riches promised by politicians.

The government says the gas reserves have turned Israel into a regional player and solidified ties with two Arab neighbors. Israel has also teamed up with Cyprus and Greece for a planned \$6 billion pipeline to Europe, strengthening its position as it prepares to hold rare talks with Lebanon this week over their disputed maritime border.

But the so-called EastMed pipeline has heightened tensions with Turkey and is fraught with political and logistical challenges. It could prove infeasible if gas prices remain low and Europe accelerates its shift to renewable energy.

At the time of the 2015 gas deal, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised "hundreds of millions of shekels for education, welfare, health and for every Israeli citizen," but a hoped-for sovereign wealth fund has yet to materialize because revenues have been lower than expected.

Israel's revenues from oil and gas royalties have hovered around \$250 million a year since 2015, less than 1% of the country's most recent national budget, of around \$135 billion.

Prior to the 2015 gas framework agreement, a partnership between Noble and Delek was the main developer of the Tamar field, which went online in 2013, and Leviathan — one of the largest gas fields discovered in the Mediterranean — which went online last year.



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The gas deal required them to sell two smaller fields, which were acquired by the Greek firm Energean in 2016. Delek must sell its share of Tamar next year, and Noble — which was recently acquired by gas giant Chevron — is required to reduce its holdings.

Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz, a driving force behind the 2015 agreement, says the restructuring of the industry has brought new contract prices down from more than \$6 per million British Thermal Units to less than \$4 per mMBTU.

“The reality is very clear. Prices today are much lower than they used to be before the framework,” he said, adding that he expects a further drop of up to 25%.

That’s true for new contracts, but the price Israeli consumers pay is still largely determined by a 2012 contract between Tamar and the state-run Israel Electric Corporation, in which prices are tethered to the U.S. consumer price index and have steadily risen since 2015 to more than \$6 per mMBTU, even as global prices have plunged.

Orit Farkash-Hacohen served as the head of Israel’s public utilities authority at the time the framework was being negotiated and was sidelined after arguing that the pricing mechanism was unfair to consumers. She had suggested prices be pegged to an international basket instead, and that Israel push for the change as part of the 2015 agreement.

Israel’s antitrust commissioner resigned in protest after arguing that the 2015 deal would not bring competition to the market, and thousands took to the streets in demonstrations. Netanyahu was eventually able to push it through by citing national security considerations.

Farkash-Hacohen supports much of the framework, but faults the government for not renegotiating the main contract between the gas companies and the IEC.

“When you’re dealing with an electricity monopoly you regulate its prices in order for it not to misuse its power,” said Farkash-Hacohen, who was recently appointed tourism minister.

“In that sense it was a missed opportunity that unfortunately affected the cost of living of the people of the state of Israel.”

Gabriel Mitchell, an energy researcher at Israel’s Mitvim Institute, says Israelis are paying prices that are “wildly above” those available on the international market.

“One of the big issues that we’re seeing now in 2020, with everything that’s happened post-coronavirus and with the collapse of global energy prices, is that the average Israeli is paying somewhere between two and three times the amount for a unit of energy than is available on the global market,” he said.

He and other critics point to the IEC’s recent purchase of liquified natural gas on the international market for a lower price than it is getting from Israel’s own fields.

The U.S. Henry Hub price, seen as an international benchmark for natural gas purchases, has averaged around \$2.75 per mMBTU over the past five years and fell below \$2 after the pandemic caused a global drop in demand.

The price of the Tamar gas has steadily risen during the same period, and Israelis have seen little change in their electricity bills since 2015, with tariffs hovering around 14 cents per kilowatt hour.

When asked about the high prices enshrined in the Tamar contract, Chevron, which completed its acquisition of Noble last Monday, said it “firmly believes in the sanctity of contracts.”

“These are very early days and as we continue to build relationships with all of our stakeholders in Israel, we are confident that they will see Chevron is committed to building trusted and mutually beneficial relationships,” it said in a statement.

The Israeli government says the shift from coal to natural gas has been good for the environment. Natural gas burns cleaner than coal or oil, cutting down on air pollution. But the drilling and transport of natural gas results in the leakage of methane, which has 86 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

In January, Israel began exporting gas to Egypt under a 10-year deal valued at \$15 billion. In 2016, Noble and Delek reached a \$10 billion agreement to export gas to Jordan over 15 years.

Israel’s excess gas revenues were supposed to flow into a sovereign wealth fund for investment abroad, a path to riches used by other big exporters. The fund was supposed to be launched in 2018, but has yet

to reach the 1 billion shekels (\$290 million) required to begin investing.

Authorities hope to launch the fund next year. That's also when Delek is set to sell off its share of Tamar and when the IEC is eligible to renegotiate its costly Tamar contract. That should bring prices down, but Farkash-Hacohen says it should have happened much earlier.

"Why were they given full immunity of prices, and secondly, such a long period of time to divest their ownership?" she said.

## DC charters lead the way on in-school teaching experiment

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — While most of the kids in Washington's public schools are dealing with computer screens and Zoom rooms, a dozen students work diligently at their desks at Meridian Charter School, many separated by tall, three-sided partitions that were originally set up as protection against COVID-19.

Head of School Matt McCrea said administrators later realized the enclosures wouldn't do much to prevent the spread of the virus. Now the cardboard is optional, but more than half of the students still use them as personalized organizers — taping up calendars, decorations and schedules.

"It's all a learning experience and it's all playing out in real time," McCrea said.

While the mainstream public school system in the nation's capital was forced to start the year with total distance learning for all its approximately 52,000 students, about a dozen charter schools have essentially chosen to become medical-educational experiments, offering in-person instruction for select groups of students.

Smaller and more nimble than the monolithic D.C. Public Schools system, the charters have been able to adapt and modify on the fly, trading information and pushing the limits of pandemic-era education.

"This is our attempt to redesign school," said Myron Long, executive director of the Social Justice School, which is offering in-person instruction to about 15 of its 50 total students. "Our size is our best asset."

It's a process that D.C. Public Schools has watched closely as it plans its own return to the classroom.

Mayor Muriel Bowser had fully planned to start the 2020 school year offering a hybrid model combining distance learning with two days a week of in-school instruction. But the city was forced to abandon that plan at the last minute amid strong safety objections from the teachers union.

The city was surveying the charter experiments "to see what's working, what are best practices, what we can learn from and what they can share with us," Bowser said. "We think we can learn from some of their experiences, but DCPS will have to make decisions that affect ... 60 buildings, 50,000 kids and over 4,000 employees."

The new DCPS reopening plan, announced Monday, seems to draw heavily from the charter schools' experiences. One option would offer direct in-class instruction to a select group of students with special-education needs, those learning English, and students experiencing homelessness or otherwise deemed to be at-risk.

That's essentially the same criteria that most D.C. charters used in selecting their own student groups for in-building instruction.

"There were definitely groups of students who were not succeeding in a virtual environment," McCrea said. "We have a good amount of data on which students had a hard time with the distance learning."

In some cases, spots were made available to the children of essential workers. Meridian was forced to turn away some parents who wanted to send their children, but Social Justice was able to accommodate every student whose parent expressed an interest.

"Some parents contacted us and just said, 'We have nowhere for them to go during the day,'" Long said.

Charter schools educate about 46% of Washington's public school students. Each charter is classified as an independent Local Education Agency, or LEA. Some larger LEA's run multiple schools in multiple buildings but most are self-contained solo entities. DCPS is technically classified as its own massive LEA.

Each charter has been free to devise its own safety protocols, resulting in some distinct variations. At Meridian, every student and visitor receives a temperature check upon arrival. But at Social Justice School,

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in addition to the temperature check, visiting journalists were required to don full medical gowns, surgical gloves and face shields just to enter the building.

The process has been marked by ongoing experimentation, fueled by a slowly developing understanding of how the virus works.

"There's a tremendous amount of trial and error," said Shannon Hodge of the D.C. Charter School Alliance, a nonprofit that advocates for the charter system. "There are real innovations coming out of it."

Each of the three student "cohorts" at the Social Justice School are assigned a specific bathroom to use.

At both Meridian and Social Justice, the hallway water fountains have been shut down. Social Justice emphasizes the point with a sign near the disabled fountains: "NOTICE: Do Not Use." At Meridian, students have their own water bottles and can fill them at specialized water dispensers.

An automatically strange educational challenge has been made even stranger at the Social Justice School, which has never actually functioned under non-pandemic conditions. The school received its approval from the D.C. Public Charter School Board over the summer and opened its doors for the first time this fall.

Built around a specific ethos that emphasizes social and racial awareness — staff refer to the students as "scholar-activists" — the school seeks to build a tight-knit community around its 50 students and families. But it was nearly impossible for this new community to meet over the summer. Now administrators have started holding regular outdoor gatherings around the city on Wednesdays, when there are no classes, just so students, parents and staff can safely meet each other.

The school has also introduced a novel spin on its in-person teaching model: the students who are attending in-person training are also on Zoom in the same virtual learning environment as those at home. Everyone in the classroom is on a laptop wearing headphones and the teachers in the room are instructing all students together.

Long said the idea was partially born out of staffing issues: there weren't enough teachers at the small school to separately handle the in-person and distance students. But the communal arrangement also fits into the school's ethos of equality, he said.

"We wanted our students to have the same learning experience—both in school and at home," Long said.

Bowser's education administrators have been in regular contact to pick up tips on how the whole experiment is going.

"We're talking to every single charter" that is conducting in-person instruction, Deputy Mayor for Education Paul Kihn told The Associated Press. "It's really crucial that we learn from all of these activities."

McCrea, the Meridian head of school, said he had personally reached out to Kihn's office with his own experiences and recommendations on how the larger school system could reopen safely. At the top of his list was that the school district acquire the necessary equipment to conduct daily rapid testing on all students, teachers and staff—with results available within 15 minutes. The current testing offered by the city produces results in three to five days.

"The peace of mind that would bring to my students and staff would be huge," he said. "Three days for a result is a long time."

## Bubble Kings: Lakers run past Heat for 17th NBA championship

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — The ultimate anguish. The ultimate joy.

This season, for LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers, had it all. And it ended in the only fashion that they deemed would be acceptable, with them back atop the basketball world.

For the first time since Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago, the Lakers are NBA champions. James had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Lakers beat the Miami Heat 106-93 on Sunday night to win the NBA Finals in six games.

"Our organization wants their respect. Laker Nation wants their respect," James said. "And I want my damn respect, too."

Anthony Davis had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers, who dealt with the enormous anguish that followed the death of the iconic Bryant in January and all the challenges that came with leaving home

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for three months to play at Walt Disney World in a bubble designed to keep inhabitants safe from the coronavirus.

It would be, James predicted, the toughest title to ever win.

"We have a Ph.D in adversity, I'll tell you that much," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We've been through a lot."

They made the clincher look easy. James won his fourth title, doing it with a third different franchise — and against the Heat franchise that showed him to to become a champion.

Bam Adebayo had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, which got 12 points from Jimmy Butler — the player who, in his first Heat season, got the team back to title contention. Rajon Rondo scored 19 points for the Lakers, who put together the elite talents of James and Davis with this moment in mind.

And Davis, as white and gold confetti coated the floor around him, spent his first moments as an NBA champion thinking of Bryant.

"All we wanted to do was do it for him," Davis said. "And we didn't let him down. ... I know he's looking down on us, proud of us."

With that, the league's bubble chapter, put together after a 4 1/2-month suspension of play that started March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic and came with a promise that it would raise awareness to the problems of racial injustice and police brutality, is over. So, too, is a season that saw the league and China get into political sparring, the death on Jan. 1 of commissioner emeritus David Stern — the man who did so much to make the league what it is — and then the shock on Jan. 26 that came with the news that Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven other died in a helicopter crash.

The Lakers said they were playing the rest of the season in his memory.

They delivered what Bryant did five times for L.A. — a ring, and the clincher was emphatic.

"You have written your own inspiring chapter in the great Laker history," Lakers owner Jeanie Buss said. "And to Laker Nation, we have been through a heartbreaking tragedy with the loss of our beloved Kobe Bryant. Let this trophy serve as a reminder of when we come together, believe in each other, incredible things can happen."

Game 6 was over by halftime, the Lakers taking a 64-36 lead into the break. The Heat never led and couldn't shoot from anywhere: 35% from 2-point range in the half, 33% from 3-point range and even an uncharacteristic 42% from the line, not like any of it really mattered. The Lakers were getting everything they wanted and then some, outscoring Miami 36-16 in the second quarter and doing all that with James making just one shot in the period.

Rondo, now a two-time champion and the first to win NBA rings as a player in the cities of Boston and Los Angeles — the franchises now tied with 17 titles apiece — was 6 for 6 in the half, the first time he'd done that since November 2007. The Lakers' lead was 46-32 with 5:00 left in the half, and they outscored Miami 18-4 from there until intermission.

Ball game. The 28-point halftime lead was the second-biggest in NBA Finals history, topped only by the Celtics leading the Lakers 79-49 on May 27, 1985.

"We didn't get the final result that we wanted," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But even what I mentioned to the guys, these are going to be lifetime memories that we have together. This locker room ... we're going to remember this year, this season, this experience and that locker room brotherhood for the rest of our lives."

True to form, the Heat — a No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference that finished with a losing record last season, a team that embraced the challenge of the bubble like none other — didn't stop playing, not even when the deficit got to 36 in the third quarter.

"We're trending in the right direction," Butler said. "We're going to learn from this. We're going to get better. We're going to come back."

A 23-8 run by Miami got the Heat to 90-69 with 8:37 left. But the outcome was never in doubt, and before long confetti was blasted into the air as the Lakers' celebration formally and officially began.

"Laker Nation," Vogel, now a first-time champion who saw his title hopes as Indiana's coach thwarted three times by James and the Heat, bellowed during the trophy ceremony. "We did it."

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## TIP-INS

Lakers: Davis did not wear the gold-painted sneakers that he had for Game 5; instead, he went with red-and-black ones Sunday. ... Among the ring-winners: Dion Waiters, who began this season with the Heat; 19-year-old Talen Horton-Tucker (he turns 20 Nov. 25) and Kostas Antetokounmpo — the brother of two-time NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks.

Heat: Goran Dragic (torn left plantar fascia) checked in late in the first quarter, his first appearance since Game 1 of the series. "I just wanted to be out there to help my team as much as possible. It is what it is. The Lakers were better," an emotional Dragic said. ... Jae Crowder had 12 points and Duncan Robinson had 10 for the Heat.

## JOIN THE CLUB

John Salley and Robert Horry were, until Sunday, the only players to win championships with three different franchises. James (Miami, Cleveland) and Danny Green (San Antonio, Toronto) added their names to that list with this title.

## HEAT SEASON

Miami led the NBA with 94 games played this season — 30 more than Minnesota, which played the fewest in the NBA. The Heat finished with 1,247 3-pointers this season, including playoffs, 290 more than any other year in team history.

## UP NEXT

Nobody knows. The draft is set for Nov. 18, but the dates for the start of free agency, training camps and next season's schedule could be weeks away from being finalized.

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

## Security guard jailed in deadly shooting at Denver protests

DENVER (AP) — A private security guard working for a Denver TV station is behind bars and accused in the deadly shooting of another man during dueling right- and left-wing protests, police said Sunday.

Matthew Dolloff, 30, was booked into jail for investigation of first-degree murder following the clash Saturday afternoon in Civic Center Park.

Authorities have not identified the man killed, but his son told the Denver Post it was his father, Lee Keltner, a 49-year-old U.S. Navy veteran who operated a hat-making business in the Denver area.

"He wasn't a part of any group," Johnathon Keltner told the newspaper. "He was there to rally for the police department and he'd been down there before rallying for the police department."

A man — appearing to be Keltner — participating in what was billed a "Patriot Rally" slapped and sprayed Mace at a man who appeared to be Dolloff, the Post reported, based on its photographs from the scene. The man identified by the newspaper as Dolloff drew a gun from his waistband and shot the other person, according to the Denver Post journalist who witnessed the episode.

A woman who said she was Keltner's mother, Carol Keltner, wrote in a social media post that her son was killed after being shot in the head.

A decision on any charges will be up to the Denver District Attorney's Office, police said. A spokesperson for District Attorney Beth McCann said Sunday that the arrest affidavit in the case remained sealed and referred further questions to the police.

It was not immediately clear if Dolloff had an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Police Division Chief Joe Montoya said two guns were found at the scene, as well as a Mace can.

The shooting occurred beneath a city surveillance camera, and police said they have footage of the incident, KUSA-TV reported.

KUSA said it had hired the guard through the Pinkerton security firm.

"It has been the practice of 9NEWS for a number of months to hire private security to accompany staff at protests," the station said.

The right-wing "Patriot Rally" was one of two demonstrations happening at about the same time that

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drew hundreds of people to the park. Protesters at a left-wing "BLM-Antifa Soup Drive" nearby held up flags and signs railing against Nazis and white supremacists.

Security guards in Denver are supposed to be licensed, with additional endorsements needed to carry a firearm or operate in plainclothes, according to rules for the industry adopted by the city in 2018.

In photos from Saturday's shooting, Dolloff did not appear to be in uniform. His name does not show up on a city-run database that lists several thousand licensed security guards.

Representatives of Pinkerton did not immediately return email and telephone messages for comment.

## **Analysis: LeBron James has done it again, and did it his way**

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — He went to Miami and became a champion.

He went back to Cleveland and won another title.

He went to Los Angeles and now the Lakers are back atop the basketball world.

LeBron James, love him or hate him, is in his own category now. He has led three franchises to NBA titles, something nobody has ever done. His legacy was complete long before Sunday night, when the Los Angeles Lakers became NBA champions for the 17th time by beating the Miami Heat and winning the title to cap a season like none other, in a bubble like none other.

But that legacy is just a bit shinier now.

"I guess, as Frank Sinatra would say, I did it my way," James said earlier in these playoffs.

That's not up for debate.

He's got four titles. He's a four-time NBA Finals MVP, the second to win that many. He's done it all with the NBA's biggest target on his back, with every action and every word scrutinized and often criticized.

James has become the epitome of the independent superstar athlete, something many try to be but few even have a chance of pulling off. He does whatever he wants, whenever he wants, however he wants and makes it work. Bill Russell will forever have more rings and Michael Jordan will forever be the choice of many as the NBA's greatest player. And that's OK with James, who has forged his own path.

"The game of basketball will pass me by," James said as the title loomed. "There will be a new group of young kids and vets and rookies throughout the course of this game. So, I can't worry about that as far as on the floor. How I move, how I walk, what I preach, what I talk about, how I inspire the next generation is what matters to me the most."

He's never forgotten that he was once a broke kid from Akron, Ohio. If he's not a billionaire yet, he's trending that way. He's on a Wheaties box now, saying its unveiling last week was "one of the best moments of my life." He founded a school and stays involved with matters there. He's actively trying to get more people, particularly Black people, to vote than ever before.

"I just hope I make my guys proud and that's all that mattered to me," James said. "I make my guys proud, make the fan base proud, my family back home, I can't wait to get back home to them. Akron, Ohio, we did it again — and that's what it's all about."

Oh, if that wasn't enough, he delivered a championship to a Lakers franchise that went 10 years without one and did so in a year when they needed it most, letting them cry tears of joy after all the tears of anguish that followed the death of Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash in January.

"I think it's remarkable what LeBron is still doing at his age," Denver coach Michael Malone said of James. "The minutes he's playing, how effective he is on both ends of the floor, and the impact he has on both ends of the floor, his will to win is just incredible."

The 35-year-old James finished this postseason with 580 points; no one at his age had ever done that. He had 184 assists; no one at his age had ever done that. If he's slowing down, he's not showing it; he had 32 points in his first playoff game 14 years ago, he exceeded that six times in this postseason run.

"He's shown why he is the player that he is, why he's had the career and the legacy that he's continually building," Miami's Jimmy Butler said.

James is 4,148 points behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the regular-season scoring lead, meaning he'll

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have to play at least two more full seasons to reach that mark. Sunday was his 260th career playoff appearance, passing Derek Fisher for the all-time record. He was All-NBA for the 16th time this season, a record. He started his 16th consecutive All-Star Game this season, yet another record. More fans picked him as MVP this season than Giannis Antetokounmpo, who won the award.

There's nothing left to prove on the basketball court.

Then again, there's been nothing left to prove for a while now.

"I think the story will be told how it's supposed to be told and be written how it's supposed to be written," James said. "But I don't live my life thinking about legacy. What I do off the floor is what means more to me than what I do on the floor."

What he's done, on and off the floor, is how legends are defined.

"I just think it is a true testament to his greatness to be able to sustain this type of success year in, year out," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Different uniforms. New players and new teams going after him. It's a real testament to that commitment. He's seen everything. At this point in his career, it's just about winning."

Others have won more. But nobody in the NBA has won the way James has.

His way.

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Tim Reynolds is a national basketball writer for The Associated Press. Write to him at [treynolds\(at\)ap.org](mailto:treynolds(at)ap.org)

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## Security guard jailed in deadly shooting at Denver protests

DENVER (AP) — A private security guard working for a local TV station was jailed for investigation of first-degree murder in the deadly shooting of another man during dueling right- and left-wing protests in downtown Denver, police said Sunday.

Matthew Dolloff, 30, was taken into custody in connection with a clash that took place Saturday afternoon in Civic Center Park.

A man participating in what was billed a "Patriot Rally" slapped and sprayed Mace at a man who appeared to be Dolloff, the Denver Post reported, based on its photographs from the scene. The man identified by the newspaper as Dolloff drew a gun from his waistband and shot the other person, according to the Denver Post journalist who witnessed the episode.

The shooting victim was not named by authorities and died at a nearby hospital. But his son identified the man on Sunday to the Denver Post as Lee Keltner, a 49-year-old U.S. Navy veteran who operated a hat-making business in the Denver area.

"He wasn't a part of any group," Johnathon Keltner told the newspaper. "He was there to rally for the police department and he'd been down there before rallying for the police department."

A woman who said she was the victim's mother, Carol Keltner, wrote in a social media post that her son was killed after being shot in the head.

A decision on any charges will be up to the Denver District Attorney's Office, police said. A spokesperson for District Attorney Beth McCann said Sunday that the arrest affidavit in the case remained sealed and referred further questions to the police.

It was not immediately clear if Dolloff had an attorney.

Police Division Chief Joe Montoya said two guns were found at the scene, as well as a Mace can.

The shooting occurred beneath a city surveillance camera, and police said they have footage of the incident, KUSA-TV reported.

KUSA said it had hired the guard through the Pinkerton security firm. "It has been the practice of 9NEWS for a number of months to hire private security to accompany staff at protests," the station said.

The right-wing Patriot Rally was one of two demonstrations happening at about the same time that drew hundreds of people to the park. Protesters at a left-wing "BLM-Antifa Soup Drive" nearby held up flags

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and signs railing against Nazis and white supremacists.

Security guards in Denver are supposed to be licensed, with additional endorsements needed to carry a firearm or operate in plainclothes, according to rules for the industry adopted by the city in 2018.

In photos from Saturday's shooting, Dolloff did not appear to be in uniform. His name does not show up on a city-run database that lists several thousand licensed security guards.

Representatives of Pinkerton did not immediately return email and telephone messages for comment.

## 'We can't lose our momentum!' Louisiana vows to rebuild

By REBECCA SANTANA, STACEY PLAISANCE, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and BOBBY CAINA CALVAN  
Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP) — Back-to-back hurricanes in the space of six weeks left parts of Louisiana blanketed Sunday with tarpaulins, mangled metal and downed power lines — but not necessarily despair.

Utility crews fanned out across the battered southwestern part of the state to restore electricity in the wake of Hurricane Delta, and residents began returning home along roads lined with debris and houses missing roofs. Some were grateful that the damage was not as bad as it could have been.

A 70-year-old woman in Iberia Parish died in a fire likely caused by a natural gas leak following damage from Hurricane Delta, the Louisiana Department of Health said Sunday.

Louisiana officials also blamed the death of an 86-year-old man on the hurricane. The St. Martin Parish resident died in a fire that erupted after he refueled a generator in a shed, Gov. John Bel Edwards said. He said it didn't appear the generator had cooled down before the man refilled it.

A third storm-related death was reported in Florida, where a 19-year-old tourist from Illinois drowned after getting caught in a rip current caused by the storm off Destin, authorities said.

Roughly 350,000 customers in Louisiana remained without power two days after Delta blew ashore near the town of Creole with winds of 100 mph (155 kph), slamming a part of the state still recovering from Hurricane Laura's 150 mph (241 kph) onslaught on Aug. 27. Laura was blamed for 32 deaths, many of them caused in the storm's aftermath by carbon monoxide poisoning from generators.

The remnants of Delta, meanwhile, dumped heavy rain on parts of Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

The storm was also blamed for washing out a railroad track and causing the derailment of a freight train in the Atlanta area that sparked a small fire and briefly forced some residents from their homes. Two crew members were taken to a hospital for observation and later released.

Clair Hebert Marceaux lost her home in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, during Hurricane Laura and said the community was hard at work on rebuilding when Delta struck.

"We can't lose our momentum," she said, though she added there was "utter devastation" in the area.

Marceaux, who was born and raised in Cameron Parish, is the director of the community's busy port, which hosts fleets of shrimp and crab boats and serves as a key link in the region's oil and gas industry.

Vessel traffic was halted until port authorities and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers could take stock of the damage. Sunken boats, utility poles and other flotsam filled waterways.

"We are still in an assessment phase," Marceaux said, "but we will be limping along as best as we can."

Lynn Nguyen and her four children fled to Fort Walton, Florida, ahead of the storm and returned home to Abbeville, Louisiana, on a circuitous route to avoid flooded roads. Her home was spared major damage, though a fence was flattened.

"For the most part, I'm just glad I still have a job and a roof over my head," said Nguyen, who works at a seafood market.

Earnestine and Milton Wesley had decided to ride out Delta in their Lake Charles home, damaged by Laura. As the wind rustled the roof tarp above them, they grabbed it through the hole in the ceiling and held on tight. Water poured in, flooding their den.

"We fought all night long trying to keep things intact," Milton said. "And with God's help we made it."

After blowing ashore, Delta moved over Lake Charles, a city where Laura damaged nearly every home and building. More than 8,000 Louisiana residents who evacuated because of Laura were still in shelters



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as of Sunday, Edwards said. Roughly 850 people were in shelters because of Delta.

Before Friday's storm, the streets of Lake Charles were already lined with mountains of debris from the previous hurricane — soggy insulation, moldy mattresses, tree limbs, twisted metal siding, ruined family treasures. Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter estimated hundreds of already damaged homes took on water from Delta, which dumped more than 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain on the city over two days.

Delta, the 25th named storm of an unprecedented Atlantic hurricane season, was the 10th to hit the mainland U.S. this year, breaking a record set in 1916, Colorado State University researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

The floodwaters surged up the Wesley family's front yard, and they were terrified it would pour inside, but it stopped short of the door. It carried with it bags of trash and muck, swept up from their neighbors' piles of debris from the prior storm.

"The water was something else last night," Milton said. "We've never seen it flood so bad out here, to the point I could have swam out here last night, that's just how deep it was."

Calvan reported from Tallahassee, Florida; Associated Press contributors include Sudhin Thanawala and Sophia Tulp in Atlanta; Gerald Herbert in Lake Charles; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge; Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland.

## Senators weigh COVID risk for Barrett Supreme Court hearing

By MARK SHERMAN, LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MIKE BALSAMO Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett vows to be a justice "fearless of criticism" as the split Senate charges ahead with confirmation hearings on President Donald Trump's pick to cement a conservative court majority before Election Day.

Barrett, a federal appeals court judge, draws on faith and family in her prepared opening remarks for the hearings, which begin Monday as the country is in the grips of the coronavirus pandemic. She says courts "should not try" to make policy, and believes she would bring "a few new perspectives" as the first mother of school-age children on the nine-member court.

Trump chose the 48-year-old judge after the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a liberal icon.

"I have been nominated to fill Justice Ginsburg's seat, but no one will ever take her place," Barrett says in her remarks to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Associated Press obtained a copy of her statement on Sunday.

Barrett says she has resolved to maintain the same perspective as her mentor, the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who was "devoted to his family, resolute in his beliefs, and fearless of criticism."

Republicans who control the Senate are moving at a breakneck pace to seat Barrett before the Nov. 3 election, in time to hear a high-profile challenge to the Affordable Care Act and any election-related challenges that may follow voting.

Democrats are trying in vain to delay the fast-track confirmation, raising fresh concerns about the safety of meeting as two GOP senators on the panel tested positive for COVID-19.

The committee released a letter from the Architect of the Capitol on Sunday that says the hearing room has been set up in consultation with the Office of Attending Physician with appropriate distance between seats and air ventilation systems that meet or exceed industry standards.

Still, California Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice presidential nominee who is also a committee member, plans to participate remotely from her Senate office due to coronavirus concerns, her spokesman said Sunday.

Two members who have tested positive for the virus, Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah and Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., have not said if they will attend in person. Lee's spokesman said the senator is symptom-free but would be making a decision on whether to attend Monday morning, per his doctor's orders. A spokesman for Tillis did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Harris and others said the hearings should not move forward without plans to test those attending for

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COVID. One Republican, Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa, said "it would be smart to do that," according to the Des Moines Register. Aside from media, few, if any, members of the public will be allowed to attend.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York told the AP that the committee's chairman, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has "an obligation to be tested" for COVID-19 beforehand because he has been exposed to those with the disease.

Graham told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" that he took a test last week and is "negative." He said, "We're going to work safely."

The hearings are taking place less than a month after the death of Ginsburg gave Trump the chance to entrench a conservative majority on the court with his third justice.

Another reason for moving quickly: It may be harder to confirm Trump's pick before the end of the congressional session if Democrat Joe Biden were to win the White House and Democrats gain seats in the Senate. No Supreme Court has ever been confirmed so close to a presidential election.

The country will get an extended look at Barrett over three days, beginning with her opening statement late Monday and hours of questioning Tuesday and Wednesday.

"She's going to wow them," said Carrie Severino, president of Judicial Crisis Network, which backs conservative nominees.

Barrett is telling senators that "courts are not designed to solve every problem or right every wrong in our public life."

"Policy decisions and value judgments of government must be made by the political branches," she said in the prepared remarks. "The public should not expect courts to do so, and courts should not try."

A mother of seven, she also says she uses her children as a test when deciding cases, asking herself how she would view the decision if one of her children were the party she was ruling against.

"Even though I would not like the result, would I understand that the decision was fairly reasoned and grounded in the law?" she says.

A Catholic, she says she believes in the "power of prayer." Her religious views and past leadership role in a faith community pose a challenge for Democrats as they try to probe her judicial approach to abortion, gay marriage and other social issues without veering into inappropriate questions of her faith.

Ordinarily, Barrett would get to show off her family. But the White House event announcing her nomination, in which most of the audience did not wear masks, has been labeled a "superspreader" for the coronavirus.

More than two dozen people linked to the Sept. 26 Rose Garden event, including the two GOP senators, have contracted COVID-19 since then. Barrett and her family went maskless at the event. Barrett and her husband, Jesse, tested positive for the virus earlier this year and recovered, two administration officials have said.

Democrats already were enraged that Republicans are moving so quickly having refused to consider President Barack Obama nominee in February 2016, before that year's election. The Senate did not grant Judge Merrick Garland even a hearing, much less a vote.

Outside groups are pushing Democrats to make a strong case against what they call an illegitimate confirmation so close to the election, when people are already voting in some states.

"The public is with them that this shouldn't happen before the election," said Brian Fallon, executive director of Demand Justice, which advocates against right-leaning nominees.

Democrats have made clear that they will press Barrett on health care, especially with the imminent Supreme Court arguments, and abortion, among other issues where her vote could push the court further to the right.

"I intend to, and I think everybody else on the Democratic side, will focus on the fact that she is being pushed on to the Supreme Court just in time for the Nov. 10 hearing on the Affordable Care Act," Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said. "That leaves millions and millions of families totally in the cold in regard to health care."

Barrett also is the most openly anti-abortion Supreme Court nominee in decades and her vote could

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provide a majority to restrict if not overturn abortion rights. She also has voiced skepticism about some gun control laws.

Republicans will highlight Barrett's belief in sticking to the text of laws and the original meaning of constitutional provisions, both Scalia trademarks as well.

Her personal story also will be a frequent topic for Republicans asking questions.

"She has proven a mom really can do anything," Ernst said after meeting with Barrett last week.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly in Washington and Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California, contributed to this report.

## Graham, Harris share spotlight as Barrett hearings begin

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are vowing a quick confirmation for President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, as the party — undeterred by coronavirus infections or other distractions — rushes to put conservative Judge Amy Coney Barrett on the high court before the Nov. 3 election.

The process starts Monday with hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The hearings are likely to be a hybrid of in-person questioning and some participation via video after three GOP senators — including two on the committee — contracted the virus.

The GOP-led panel has held more than 20 hearings during the pandemic as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell continues his drive to confirm conservative judges. The hearings have all had a combination of in-person and remote questioning.

Some outside groups have pushed for Democratic senators to boycott the Barrett hearings to protest the accelerated confirmation process and remind voters of Republicans' refusal to consider President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee in 2016, but those pleas were ignored. Still, some Democrats have refused to meet with Barrett and the hearings are likely to be contentious, although not as explosive as hearings two years ago to consider Brett Kavanaugh, who was confirmed.

Unable to block Trump's pick on their own, Democrats argue that Barrett's confirmation would threaten protections of the Affordable Care Act — a focus that Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has embraced and many Democrats see as a winning message. The court will hear a case challenging the constitutionality of Obama's health care law just after the election, adding to the urgency of the issue.

Conservative groups have been pushing hard for Barrett's confirmation and are expected to spend more than \$10 million to drum up support for her and pressure senators to swiftly confirm Trump's third Supreme Court nominee.

Senators to watch as the four-day hearings kick off at the Capitol complex:

SENATE JUDICIARY CHAIRMAN LINDSEY GRAHAM, R-S.C.

At the helm of a process that will include days of televised hearings, Graham will be in the national spotlight, a position he has said may benefit his own political standing. Graham is locked in a tight race for reelection against Democratic challenger Jaime Harrison that has featured record-breaking fundraising and accusations of hypocrisy.

Graham said four years ago that a judicial nominee should not be approved just before a presidential election, adding that voters should "use my words against me" if he changed his mind. "How good is your word?" Harrison asked at a debate last week.

Graham said Barrett "is going to be confirmed because the president has the constitutional authority to do it."

He called Barrett a "buffer to liberalism" and said he hoped she "won't be treated like Kavanaugh." Graham's fiery 2018 defense of Kavanaugh helped cement the senator's close relationship with Trump and generated renewed support from conservatives. Graham's actions also riled up liberals, who are now pouring millions of dollars into Harrison's campaign and working to oust the GOP senator.

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SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN, D-CALIF.

As top Democrat on the Judiciary panel, the veteran Feinstein will lead questioning of Barrett, although she may cede the spotlight to fellow California Sen. Kamala Harris, a committee member and the party's vice presidential nominee.

At 87, Feinstein is the oldest sitting senator, and some Democrats worry she may have lost some of her effectiveness as a questioner. Feinstein still faces criticism for her comments during Barrett's 2017 confirmation hearing to be a federal judge. Feinstein had joined Republicans on the panel in asking Barrett about her Roman Catholic faith, but then went further by telling Barrett, then a Notre Dame law professor, that "when you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you."

Republicans have seized on Feinstein's question to accuse Democrats of criticizing Barrett's faith — a charge Democrats vigorously deny.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said there's no "religious litmus test" for a judge, nor any truth to the idea that Democrats oppose judicial candidates because of their religion. "Not a single Democrat will make these attacks or make personal, religious beliefs an issue," Schumer said.

Feinstein led Democrats in calling on Barrett to provide any missing materials from a questionnaire she completed for her confirmation. Barrett signed a 2006 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."

The ad was not included in materials Barrett provided to the Judiciary panel. Feinstein and other Democrats asked the Justice Department to explain the omission and confirm whether other materials were left out.

SEN. KAMALA HARRIS, D-CALIF.

Harris, Joe Biden's running mate in the presidential election, will again be in the spotlight as Democrats question a Trump nominee for the Supreme Court. Harris, a former prosecutor and state attorney general, earned high marks from Democrats for her aggressive questioning of Kavanaugh in 2018. Those hearings, at which Harris played a starring role, drew more than 20 million viewers.

Harris plans to participate remotely from her Senate office due to coronavirus concerns, her spokesman said Sunday. Harris and other key Democrats said the hearings should not move forward without plans to test people attending, including senators, for coronavirus.

Successful questioning of Barrett could boost the Biden-Harris ticket, but missteps could risk harming Democrats' chances of winning an election they now lead in national polls. "I think there's probably more pressure on Kamala to actually engage ... in a political way than ever before just because of the fact that she's on the ticket" with Biden, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said.

In a sign of the heightened scrutiny, Vice President Mike Pence tried to get Harris to reveal whether she and Biden support expanding the Supreme Court, as many liberals advocate. Harris dodged the question at their debate, focusing instead on Republicans' decision to move forward to fill the current vacancy so close to an election.

SEN. JOSH HAWLEY, R-MO.

Hawley, a conservative and outspoken critic of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision upholding abortion rights, has led GOP efforts to warn Democrats to refrain from criticizing Barrett on the basis of her Catholicism.

Hawley specifically cited Feinstein's comments about Barrett's faith during her 2017 nomination hearing for a Chicago-based appeals court post.

"I call on you and every member of the Democratic caucus to publicly reject Sen. Dianne Feinstein's egregious personal attacks on Judge Barrett's Christian faith during her previous confirmation hearings, and to pledge you will abstain from that kind of anti-Catholic, anti-Christian, anti-faith vitriol in the hearings to come," Hawley wrote in a letter to Schumer last month. "You owe it to the country."

Democrats call Hawley's comments off-base. No Democrat has criticized Barrett's religion since her nomination was announced late last month.

SEN. CHRIS COONS, D-DEL.

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A longtime Biden loyalist who holds the Democratic presidential nominee's former Senate seat, Coons was among the first Democrats on the Judiciary panel to meet with Barrett, although he did so by phone because of the pandemic.

Coons said he would attend the hearings in person, although other members with health concerns will likely ask questions over video. The remote aspect "increases the likelihood that we're sort of speaking past each other," Coons said, and is a key reason "we should not be racing ahead with this partisan process."

Coons told MSNBC that he has been reading Barrett's opinions and law articles, "and I'm increasingly convinced that she's even more conservative than (former) Justice (Antonin) Scalia, for whom she clerked on the Supreme Court, and she has demonstrated a willingness to reverse long-settled precedent."

Voters should remember that Trump has said the reason he is "pressing for her to be seated before the election was so that she could participate in decisions about the election, if it is closely contested, and so she could help overturn the Affordable Care Act," Coons said.

"A vote for Judge Barrett is a vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act," he said. "That's what I'll be trying to lay bare in the upcoming hearings."

SENS. MIKE LEE, R-UTAH, AND THOM TILLIS, R-N.C.

Lee and Tillis both contracted the novel coronavirus and are in self-quarantine as the hearings approach. Both attended a Sept. 26 Rose Garden ceremony in Barrett's honor that seems to have been a major spreader of the virus.

Tillis said he expects to participate in at least some of the confirmation hearings remotely but believes he will be cleared to return to the Capitol in person for an expected Oct. 22 committee vote on her nomination.

Tillis, like Graham, is in a tight reelection race and pledged to support Trump's nominee even before Barrett's name was announced. He said he does not have symptoms and could join hearings in person later in the week. Democrats have warned that appearing in person could put other senators and staffers at risk. They are urging Graham to require COVID-19 testing of all senators.

Lee, a conservative who has praised Barrett, has said he expects to be "back to work in time to join my colleagues in advancing" her nomination.

SEN. MAZIE HIRONO, D-HAWAII

Hirono, one of the most liberal members of the Senate, said she will focus on the health care law and possible consequences of a more conservative Supreme Court rolling back reproductive rights or overturning *Roe v. Wade*. In just three years on the 7th Circuit, Barrett has twice argued for approval of abortion restrictions that violated Supreme Court precedent, Hirono said.

"Amy Barrett has a history of anti-choice advocacy and a demonstrated lack of respect for precedent," Hirono said, adding that Barrett "is being pushed on to the Supreme Court just in time for the November 10th hearing on the Affordable Care Act, where she'll be expected to be among those who strike the Affordable Care Act down. That leaves millions and millions of families totally in the cold in regard to health care."

## Dem challenger in SC Senate race raises record \$57 million

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina Democrat Jaime Harrison has shattered congressional fundraising records, bringing in \$57 million in the final quarter for his U.S. Senate campaign against Republican incumbent Lindsey Graham as the GOP tries to retain control of the chamber in the Nov. 3 election.

Harrison's campaign said Sunday the total was the largest-ever during a single three-month period by any Senate candidate. That tops the \$38 million raised by Democrat Beto O'Rourke in 2018 in the final fundraising period of his challenge to Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who won the race, and comes as other Democratic Senate challengers continue to rake in eye-popping cash against Republican incumbents.

The third-quarter amount brings Harrison's overall campaign fundraising to \$86 million. Attributing the success to grassroots support, Harrison's campaign said the \$57 million came in the form of 1.5 million donations from 994,000 donors. The average contribution was \$37.

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"This campaign is making history, because we're focused on restoring hope back to South Carolina," said Guy King, Harrison's campaign spokesman. "While Lindsey Graham continues playing political games in Washington, Jaime Harrison is remaining laser-focused on the real issues impacting people here — like health care, broadband access, and COVID relief for businesses and families."

Graham hasn't released fundraising totals for the latest quarter, although it's likely he's been eclipsed by Harrison, an associate Democratic National Committee chairman and former lobbyist. Last month, Graham made a public fundraising plea to help him keep up with Harrison, saying on Fox News he was "getting killed financially" by Harrison, who he predicted would "raise \$100 million."

"The money is because they hate my guts," Graham added.

In a statement Sunday, Graham questioned whether the money would have any real effect on South Carolina's electorate, which has not voted in a Democratic Senate candidate since the 1998 reelection of Sen. Fritz Hollings.

"The problem is there's not enough money in the world to convince South Carolinians to vote for the radical liberal agenda," Graham said, citing top Democrats such as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California and Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York as leaders he says support that agenda.

Other challengers are making financial strides. Kentucky's Amy McGrath hasn't released third-quarter figures in her race against Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell but had raised \$47 million as of the end of June, compared with McConnell's \$37 million, which was through September. In her challenge to Maine Sen. Susan Collins, Democrat Sara Gideon had taken in \$24 million as of the end of June, compared with the incumbent's \$17 million through last month.

The latest fundraising report comes one day before the start of what's predicted to be a contentious hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee - chaired by Graham - on President Donald Trump's nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

Graham's commitment to confirming Trump's third nominee to the court has become a focal point in the Senate campaign, with Harrison frequently chiding Graham for reversing on previous promises not to consider election-year nominations. Graham has responded by saying he feels Democrats would do the same, if given the choice.

With advertising for both Harrison and Graham already wall-to-wall online and on air in South Carolina's relatively inexpensive media markets, it's hard to see where Harrison's cash could help him eke out more visibility.

Harrison has been far outspending Graham on television time in South Carolina, a trend the Democrat aims to continue through Nov. 3. According to Advertising Analytics, a media monitoring and analytics agency, Harrison has spent or reserved more than \$61 million in TV ad spots, with more than \$14 million of that coming in the next three weeks.

Over the same span, Graham has spent or reserved \$22 million in television advertising, with \$4 million in the campaign's closing weeks.

Television stations are upping rates, one consultant said, charging campaigns several times their typical amounts to capitalize on the limited ad space they're able to offer.

"There's no question that the mountain of cash in this race, specifically from the Harrison campaign, has led to political organizations paying at least twice or three times as much as they would normally pay for airtime in a South Carolina election," said Kurt Pickhardt, a Republican media consultant and vice president of Smart Media Group, a Washington-based media buying firm. "There's also a legitimate question to be asked as to whether or not the Harrison campaign can even spend all of the money they've raised."

Asked how the additional money could possibly be spent, Harrison campaign manager Zack Carroll told The Associated Press they planned to hold nothing back, using "every dollar donated" in ads, digital organizing and communication with Black voters.

Third-party organizations supporting both candidates are also occupying much of the available ad space.

The Senate Leadership Fund is dumping \$10 million into an ad blitz in the campaign's closing weeks, and another pro-Graham political action committee has reserved more than \$2 million. Groups backing

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Harrison including The Lincoln Project, a group of current and former Republican officials who want to defeat Trump, and the Lindsey Must Go PAC have spent millions.

At the end of June, both candidates were roughly matched at about \$30 million apiece, money largely from out of-state donors. For the race overall - not including the most recent quarter, which isn't yet available - Harrison's in-state contribution amount is 10%. Graham's is 14%.

In 2018, copious cash allowed O'Rourke creative ways of pursuing harder-to-reach voters, like creating a statewide cellphone database through which they could canvass all Texans, finding and following up with Republicans potentially willing to support him.

"Once you start raising that kind of money, you can afford to contact everyone who you might think will talk," said Zack Malitz, O'Rourke's statewide field director.

The dollars don't necessarily translate into victory, but Malitz they could have positive effects for other South Carolina Democrats.

"When people see that's it's possible, people who could be potential candidates are more likely to run," he said. "You inspire people who otherwise might not run, to run."

Meg Kinnard can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>.

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

## Perfect in Paris, Nadal overwhelms Djokovic to tie Federer

By HOWARD FENDRICH and JOHN LEICESTER AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — All the years of work, all the many wins, led to this moment, with Rafael Nadal preparing to serve against Novak Djokovic, one point from a 13th French Open championship, one point from a 20th Grand Slam trophy to tie Roger Federer's record for men.

Nadal swept his right foot along the baseline, clearing away the red dust as he has so many times before. He rapped his shoes' soles with his racket — right, then left, then right again. He discarded one tennis ball behind him, another in the pocket of his blue shorts.

And then, finally ready to proceed, Nadal delivered an ace at 106 mph to cap a flawless performance and a surprisingly lopsided 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 victory over the No. 1-ranked Djokovic. Nadal dropped to his knees, smiling broadly, and pumped his arms.

Neither Djokovic, on this day, nor Federer, over the course of time, ever truly stood a chance of resisting the relentless Nadal.

"He keeps going. No holding him back, it seems like. It's amazing. I mean, I admire all his achievements, especially the one here," said Djokovic, who had won his last five Grand Slam finals.

"There's not much you can say," Djokovic said. "All the superlatives that you can use, he deserves them."

It's the fourth time the No. 2-ranked Nadal won his favorite tournament without ceding a set and made his career mark at the French Open 100-2.

No, that is not a typo.

The 34-year-old left-hander from Spain has won his favorite event four straight times, following previous streaks of four from 2005-08, then five from 2010-14. Those go alongside four triumphs at the U.S. Open, two at Wimbledon and one at the Australian Open.

Nadal made clear that while he never has been consumed with the idea of catching Federer, he can appreciate the accomplishment's significance.

"I would love to finish my career being the player with more Grand Slams. No doubt about that, no? But on the other hand, I say, 'OK, I have to do (it) my way. ... I'm not going to be thinking all the time, 'Novak (has) this one, Roger is winning the other one.' You can't be always unhappy because your neighbors have a bigger house than you or a bigger boat or have a better phone," Nadal said.

"In terms of these records, of course I care. I am a big fan of the history of sport, in general. I respect,

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a lot, that," he continued. "For me, (it) means a lot to share this number with Roger, no?"

Federer, 39, sat out the U.S. Open and French Open after two knee operations. He posted a congratulatory message on Instagram on Sunday.

"As my greatest rival over many years, I believe we have pushed each other to become better players," Federer wrote, and ended with: "I hope 20 is just another step on the continuing journey for both of us. Well done, Rafa. You deserve it."

Djokovic's loss, meanwhile, left him at 17 majors; had he won, the standings would have read 20-19-18. No other man has more than 14.

This was the 56th installment of Nadal vs. Djokovic, the most between men in the professional era. Djokovic is ahead 29-27 now, including his 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 win at the 2019 Australian Open final.

"In Australia, he killed me. ... Today was for me," Nadal said.

The key statistic Sunday: Nadal limited himself to 14 unforced errors, impressive against anyone, but especially someone the caliber of Djokovic, who accumulated 52.

"He's phenomenal," Djokovic said. "He played a perfect match, especially in the first two sets."

The first set was a 45-minute master class conducted by Nadal, who came out incredibly crisply and cleanly, steering his high-rpm forehands precisely where he wanted them and using his defense-to-offense abilities to slide and stretch and flick balls back with aggression.

"I played at my highest level when I needed to play at my highest level," Nadal said.

Appearing resigned, Djokovic was less volatile than he often is when he struggles — such as the post-point whack of a ball that inadvertently hit a line judge at the U.S. Open last month, earning a disqualification, his only other loss in 39 matches this season.

Instead, Djokovic puffed his cheeks or rolled his eyes, exasperated with himself, perhaps, but also unable to figure out how to counter what came from the other side of the net. After one exchange, he put up his palms, as if to ask, "What can I do here?"

It was only the fourth 6-0 set lost by Djokovic in 341 career Grand Slam matches. As he sat in his sideline seat digesting that shutout, four Djokovic supporters in blue jerseys and white baseball hats stood and sang in the stands, their chorus drowning out the light pitter-patter of drizzle hitting the retractable roof.

The much-anticipated matchup between these two titans of their sport was the first indoor French Open men's final, contested under Court Philippe Chatrier's new cover. From its stand in the VIP section, the Coupe des Mousquetaires trophy glistened under the artificial lights.

This also was the first French Open contested with players walking on court wearing masks on account of the coronavirus pandemic, also the reason the tournament shifted from May-June to September-October and crowds were limited to 1,000 per day. On Sunday, those lucky enough to attend mainly were concentrated in not-very-socially-distanced dense clumps in the first 20 or so rows.

"Of course, (it's) an important day for me," Nadal said afterward, "but I'm not stupid, no? Is still a very sad situation worldwide."

The seasonal change led to colder, wetter weather than usual, which affects the way the clay affects shots, making them bounce lower and slower. Some, including Nadal, wondered aloud whether that would hinder him, as could the tournament's change to a slightly heavier ball.

He figured, he said, "this year will probably be too difficult."

So much for that.

He dealt with Djokovic's predilection for drop shots much better than previous foes of the 33-year-old Serb, using anticipation and speed to dim that strategy's success.

"Didn't work great today, let's say," Djokovic admitted.

Nadal took five of Djokovic's first six service games and broke seven times in all.

Nadal faced only five break points himself, saving four.

More than two hours in, when Djokovic employed a backhand winner to get his lone break, making it 3-all in the third set, he let out a couple of roars and waved his arms to ask for more noise from fans.

Too little, too late. Less than a half-hour later, it was over.

"Rafa has proven everybody wrong," Djokovic said. "That's why he's a great champion."



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

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

## Trump claims he's free of virus, ready for campaign trail

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday declared he was ready to return to the campaign trail despite unanswered questions about his health on the eve of a Florida rally meant to kick off the stretch run before Election Day.

His impending return comes after the White House doctor said he was no longer at risk of transmitting the coronavirus but did not say explicitly whether Trump had tested negative for it. The president insisted he was now "immune" from the virus, a claim that was impossible to prove and added to the unknowns about the president's health.

"I'm immune," Trump said in an interview on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures." "The president is in very good shape to fight the battles."

In a memo released Saturday night by the White House, Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley said Trump met the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for safely discontinuing isolation and that by "currently recognized standards" he was no longer considered a transmission risk. The memo did not declare Trump had tested negative for the virus.

But sensitive lab tests — like the PCR test cited in the doctor's statements — detect virus in swab samples taken from the nose and throat. Some medical experts had been skeptical that Trump could be declared free of the risk of transmitting the virus so early in the course of his illness. Just 10 days since an initial diagnosis of infection, there was no way to know for certain that someone was no longer contagious, they said.

His return to full-fledged rallies will be in Florida on Monday, a comeback that comes with the president facing stubborn deficits in the polls. The Trump campaign and White House has not indicated that any additional safety measures will be taken to prevent the transmission of the virus among those traveling on Air Force One, at the event site or at rallies scheduled for Pennsylvania and Iowa later in the week.

Campaign officials have signaled that Trump will be traveling nearly every day the rest of the campaign, and sometimes making more than one stop, an aggressive schedule for a 74-year-old who was hospitalized just days ago.

And with the virus again dominating the national discourse, the Trump campaign has released an ad featuring Dr. Anthony Fauci praising the president's leadership — but the nation's leading infectious disease expert on Sunday objected to being included.

"The comments attributed to me without my permission in the GOP campaign ad were taken out of context," Fauci said in a statement, adding that he was talking broadly about public health officials' response to the pandemic. "In my five decades of public service, I have never publicly endorsed political candidates."

Tim Murtaugh, Trump campaign communications director, responded by saying that "these are Dr. Fauci's own words" and said they were praising the administration's response.

On Sunday, Trump asserted in a tweet that he had "total and complete sign off from White House Doctors" to fully return to the campaign trail, insisting he can no longer spread the disease to others and was impervious to getting sick again.

That's far from certain, and Twitter later flagged his tweet with a fact-check warning.

While there's evidence that reinfection is unlikely for at least three months even for those with a mild case of COVID-19, very few diseases leave people completely immune for life. Antibodies are only one piece of the body's defenses, and they naturally wane over time.

"Certainly it's presumptuous to say it's a lifetime," said Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist and department chairman at the Yale School of Public Health.

As to whether Trump could still be contagious, Ko said the White House appeared to be following CDC

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guidelines for when it is appropriate to end isolation after mild to moderate cases of COVID-19.

But Ko cautioned that those who have had severe cases of the diseases should isolate for 20 days. He noted that Trump was treated with the steroid dexamethasone, which is normally reserved for patients with severe COVID.

Dr. Marc Lipsitch, an infectious disease expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, said the doctor's letter does not provide enough information to be assured that Trump is no longer infectious to others. He noted that Trump's use of steroids could prolong viral shedding so the CDC's 10-day standard may or may not apply.

"It is a judgment call," he said.

The White House memo followed Trump's first public appearance since returning to the White House after being treated for the coronavirus at a military hospital. Hundreds of people gathered Saturday afternoon on the South Lawn for a Trump address on his support for law enforcement from a White House balcony.

Trump took off a mask moments after he emerged on the balcony to address the crowd on the lawn below, his first step back onto the public stage with just more than three weeks to go until Election Day. He flouted, once more, the safety recommendations of his own government days after acknowledging that he was on the brink of "bad things" from the virus and claiming that his bout with the illness brought him a better understanding of it.

His return was a brief one. With bandages visible on his hands, likely from an intravenous injection, Trump spoke for 18 minutes, far less than his normal hour-plus rallies. He appeared healthy, if perhaps a little hoarse, as he delivered what was, for all intents and purposes, a short version of his campaign speech despite the executive mansion setting.

"I'm feeling great," Trump told the crowd, before declaring that the pandemic, which has killed more than 210,000 Americans, was "disappearing" despite signs of surging cases in several states.

In either an act of defiance or simply tempting fate, officials organized the event just steps from the Rose Garden, where exactly two weeks ago the president held another large gathering to formally announce his nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. That gathering is now being eyed as a possible COVID-19 superspreader as more than two dozen people in attendance have contracted the virus.

## **Biden harnesses history to describe urgency of 2020 campaign**

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Presidential hopefuls tend to declare every upcoming election the most important one that voters have faced in their lifetime. Joe Biden goes bigger.

The Democratic nominee portrays 2020 as an entanglement of social, economic, political, environmental and public health crises as threatening to America's stability as the Civil War and the Great Depression. Biden points to the presidents of those times -- Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt -- for inspiration, even using one of the nation's most hallowed battlefields, where Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address in 1863, as a backdrop for his closing argument against President Donald Trump.

"A century and a half after Gettysburg, we should consider again what can happen when equal justice is denied and when anger and violence and division are left unchecked," Biden said in rural Pennsylvania.

He pledged, as president, to "marshal the ingenuity and good will of this nation to turn division into unity and bring us together." Refashioning Lincoln's words, Biden added: "It cannot be that here and now, in 2020, that we will allow the government of the people, by the people and for the people to perish from this Earth. It cannot, and it must not."

The approach, Biden aides say, is more than lofty presidential rhetoric; it's necessary groundwork for governing. Being a steady alternative to Trump, the ex-reality television star Biden describes as "erratic" and "dangerous," may be enough to win in November, they argue.

But once in office, Biden would need a clear mandate from a splintered electorate if he hopes to enact the kinds of comprehensive proposals he proposes to control the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout, combat the climate crisis and confront centuries of racial and economic inequities.

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"A lot of good work and thinking is going into how to actually tackle the challenges in this moment of crisis that the Trump administration has failed to address and resolve," Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, a Biden confidant, said in a recent interview.

"It's simple," added Coons, who holds the same Senate seat Biden occupied for 36 years. "But it's complicated."

A Biden aide who was not authorized to publicly discuss strategy and spoke on condition of anonymity said the campaign is considering at least one more major speech before the Nov. 3 election with the kind of historical sweep and imagery that Biden mustered in Gettysburg.

There are hazards and unknowns in Biden's approach.

"Tom Dewey," quipped Newt Gingrich, the former Republican House speaker and Trump ally. He was referring to Republicans' 1948 presidential nominee, who appeared a sure victor over President Harry S. Truman at a time of domestic uncertainty after World War II.

"Dewey spent a large part of October talking about how great a president he'd be, and Truman spent October taking Dewey apart" on the particulars, Gingrich said of Truman's comeback victory.

As dire as Trump's political standing appears to be, Republicans have countered Biden's argument for an ambitious presidency with equally stark warnings that the longtime center-left deal-maker is in fact a vessel for a leftward lurch toward socialism.

In Trump's telling, Biden's ideas to combat the pandemic would cripple economic activity; his tax plans are confiscatory wealth redistribution; health care insurance expansion amounts to a government takeover; his energy overhaul to stymie climate change would kill millions of jobs; and his talk of racial injustice amounts to declaring the whole country racist.

Biden has from the start of his campaign talked of Trump as an existential threat to the "soul of the nation." He nodded to racial injustice with frequent reminders that "we haven't always lived up to those values" in the Declaration of Independence. During the primary campaign he made standard Democratic arguments about bolstering the middle class.

But the coronavirus, its economic damage and a summer of protests of police violence against Black Americans have accelerated Biden's rhetoric.

"The blinders have been taken off. People realize what's at stake here," Biden said Saturday in Erie, Pennsylvania, repeating what has become a go-to line in nearly every campaign setting. Another line: "The country is ready. They get it."

And he swats away Trump's caricatures. "Do I look like a socialist?" he said recently in Miami.

Biden's tack bears cursory resemblance to some of Trump's stagecraft.

The president made Democrats seethe in August as he used the White House as his backdrop to accept the Republican nomination for a second term. Before that, Trump traveled to Mount Rushmore on the weekend of July Fourth for a dramatic address. His backdrop: the carved likenesses of Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt.

"I've done more for the Black community than any other president ... with the possible exception of Abraham Lincoln," Trump said in September, four months after conducting an interview with Fox News from the feet of the Lincoln Memorial.

Biden described his Gettysburg speech as "dramatic" in a preview to donors hours before he delivered it. Yet while Trump makes explicit comparisons to his predecessors in terms of accomplishment and renown, Biden's language more carefully calls upon them as inspiration.

In a Sept. 22 fundraiser, a top Biden supporter recalled urging the former vice president to run against Trump.

"I was grabbing you by the lapels and said, 'You're the Harry Truman of our time. You've gotta run.' I know you remember that," Dennis Mehiel, chairman of U.S. Corrugated, Inc., told Biden, drawing laughter from the candidate.

Then Mehiel pivoted, declaring a national "tipping point" that requires more. "I've changed my mind," he told Biden. "You must be the Franklin Roosevelt of our time. ... We had wonderful success in many areas following his leadership."

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Biden walked a fine line in response.

"I have trouble thinking of myself in terms of FDR," Biden said of the Democrat whose New Deal policies vastly expanded the federal government's size and scope. "But one thing I do agree on ... whoever is the next president is going to inherit an economic circumstance that is as dangerous, as consequential as Roosevelt did."

Gingrich said Biden "has no choice" but to reach for a mandate as he tries to parlay a national lead into an expanded House majority and a new Democratic-run Senate. The raw political realities of the eras Biden cites as guideposts demonstrate why.

Lincoln managed the Civil War as an iron-fisted commander in chief, often governing through executive orders his congressional opponents could do nothing about. His staunchest enemies weren't on Capitol Hill for him to navigate at all: They'd seceded.

Roosevelt, meanwhile, was vilified by Republicans and Wall Street titans as a socialist. But he commanded overwhelming Democratic majorities in Congress, margins Biden likely would never enjoy.

"For Biden to do what he wants to do," Gingrich said, "he needs to sweep."

## Ex-members of religious group mixed on Barrett nomination

By MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett's affiliation with the Christian community People of Praise is drawing scrutiny because of what former members and observers describe as its ultraconservative views on women. Her defenders say scrutinizing her beliefs and relationship to the mostly Catholic organization is akin to anti-religious bigotry.

But in interviews with a dozen former members of the organization and graduates of the schools it runs, most told The Associated Press that Barrett's association with the group should be examined when the Senate takes up her nomination beginning Monday.

Some were proud and excited that one of their own could soon be on the high court, in a position to roll back abortion rights.

Others were deeply concerned about that threat, and also about the community's teachings on gender, gay rights, and other social issues. They also raised flags about what they describe as the organization's authoritarian structure.

Some wondered why Barrett has not disclosed or even acknowledged her connection to People of Praise and why the group appeared to try to hide her affiliation by deleting documents from its website.

"I don't think membership in the group is disqualifying," said Rachel Coleman, who left the community in 2010. "I think that she needs to be open about it and transparent about it."

The AP has documented extensive ties Barrett and her family have to the community, including that an old directory listed her as being one of the organization's "handmaids," now called a "woman leader." She was a trustee of the group's Trinity Schools, and as a young law student, lived in a house owned by one of its co-founders.

People of Praise is not a church, but a faith community. It grew out of the Catholic charismatic movement rooted in Pentecostalism that began in the late 1960s. The movement emphasizes a personal relationship with Jesus and can include baptism in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophecy, according to former members and experts who have studied the movement. People of Praise was founded in 1971 in South Bend, Indiana, and now has 22 branches and around 1,700 members across North America, according to its website.

While it includes people from several Christian denominations, most of its members are Roman Catholic.

Among its teachings are that men are divinely ordained as the "head" of both the family and faith, and it is the duty of wives to submit to them, according to current and former members. People who have been involved in and studied the organization say it is authoritarian and hierarchical, and some former members told AP of practices such as leaders deciding who can date who.

The group has a strong communitarian bent. It encourages members to live in the same neighborhoods.

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Single people often live with families in the community or together in same-gender communal households, where they pool resources or even turn their paychecks over to be shared, according to articles previously published on the organization's website, as well as former members. People who join the community must sign a "covenant," in which they pledge love and service to fellow community members and to God. Members agree to give at least 5% of their income to the community, according to their website.

The AP left messages with more than a dozen current members of the organization and scores of former members. Several declined to comment, and about a dozen agreed to interviews. Several spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because they have family involved in the community.

A People of Praise spokesman declined to comment on the current and former members' views.

"The People of Praise does not take positions on partisan political matters, legislation, or constitutional interpretation. Similarly, we take no position on who should or should not sit on the U.S. Supreme Court," spokesman Sean Connolly wrote.

Coleman's husband grew up in the community and when they were dating, she agreed to go "underway," a multiyear process that members undertake before signing the covenant. Coleman said People of Praise offers a strong sense of community that is often missing in modern secular life, and that can be a powerful draw.

"They really are about living in the community and serving and giving back and helping and building God's kingdom on earth in a way that's easy to feel really, really passionate about," Coleman said.

But she said the organization adheres to outdated and troubling ideas on gender, such as that a woman's "spiritual head" is her husband, while a man's spiritual head is outside the marriage, with a man in the community. She wonders why members haven't pushed for change.

Barrett grew up in the community, Coleman noted, and as an adult, made the choice to join.

"What does her membership in People Praise mean that she believes about gender roles?" Coleman asked, adding, "She signed on to it."

Particularly notable is that Barrett would be replacing the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who in her career stood against practices such as women not being able to get credit cards in their own names.

"It just kind of bothers me to feel like someone's being put in her seat who signed into the same sort of oppressive gender ideas that Ruth Bader Ginsburg was trying to overturn," Coleman said.

She and others said Barrett should make public the covenant she signed to become a member, so people can read for themselves the pledge she made to become a permanent part of the community.

Mary Belton thinks Barrett's history with People of Praise is disqualifying. Belton was in 8th grade, around 1990, when she says her family was cast out after her mother came out as gay. She said the community they had been so close to in South Bend then shunned them.

"When we were kicked out, I literally thought that my that my mom was this awful sinner, and she's going to this literal fiery hell. And that if I supported her, that I was going there, too," Belton said.

She said it took her years to let go of teachings that she grew up hearing while involved with People of Praise, and that she now believes are deeply damaging. Barrett, she believes, will not be able to set those teachings aside.

"It's worrisome. It's who she is," Belton said. "Anyone that I know, including myself, that has grown up in it and has left has had to go through a huge transformation and rewiring of your personhood, of your brain, of your soul and spirit."

Cara Wood graduated from Trinity School at Meadow View in Falls Church, Virginia, in 2010. She recalled that the school's views on sexuality were "deeply repressive," where girls and boys were not allowed to hug or touch. Wood said it took her years to realize she was bisexual because "nothing in my environment made it possible that I could be anything but straight."

Wood says she worries about Barrett's nomination because she recalls Trinity students being encouraged to get the best education they could to then "take positions of power in the community," such as doctors and lawyers. Trinity schools, with small class sizes and a rigorous curriculum, serve grades six through 12, boast of high SAT scores, and national awards.

"They are specifically attempting to influence politics and power in the United States," Wood said. "This

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is to me why Amy Coney Barrett is so dangerous, because (People of Praise) could not have a bigger win than landing a Supreme Court justice for life."

Others pushed back against that idea, saying teachers were trying to get across the idea that students provided with a stellar education had the responsibility to give back to society.

Several former members said they opposed Barrett's nomination in full or in part because it comes under a cloud so late in President Donald Trump's term. Gene Stowe, who left People of Praise on good terms in 2011 and who spent years teaching at the Trinity School in South Bend, said he doesn't think it's right for Trump to fill the seat.

But if Trump does get a pick, Stowe says the best-case scenario is Barrett.

"She's smart, and I think she's reflective," Stowe said. "Because that's what the People of Praise does to people. It makes you deliberative."

Others were thrilled by the nomination, without reserve. Those included Peter Radosevich, a former longtime member in the Appleton, Wisconsin, branch.

He described the community as family oriented and internally focused, and very conservative, in the vein of evangelical Christians. The groups stays away from politics, he said, except in one area: abortion.

"They think it's a heinous crime, akin to infanticide, Auschwitz," Radosevich said.

Susie Lea, a retired Catholic sister who left the Shreveport, Louisiana, branch last year, said she recalled hearing about Barrett within the People of Praise when Barrett's name was first floated for the Supreme Court two years ago. Lea has not met Barrett, but based on what the judge has said publicly and due to her involvement in People of Praise, Lea believes Barrett agrees with her that abortion is wrong and will vote against it if she were on the court.

Lea believes Barrett's association with People of Praise may have had a hand in her nomination.

"I'm hoping it helped her, you know, all our prayers lifting her up," Lea said. "I just think that prayers work. If it's the will of God, that it will work."

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Associated Press writer Michael Biesecker contributed to this report.

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

## Guard in custody after man dies in shooting at protests

DENVER (AP) — A private security guard working for a TV station was in custody Saturday after a person died from a shooting that took place during dueling protests in downtown Denver.

The shooting took place shortly before 3:50 p.m. in Civic Center Park after a man participating in what was billed a "Patriot Rally" sprayed Mace at another man, the Denver Post reported. That man then shot the other individual with a handgun near the courtyard outside the Denver Art Museum, according to a Denver Post journalist who witnessed the incident.

The man who was shot was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died an hour later, the KUSA TV station said.

On its website, the KUSA TV station said that it had contracted the private security guard who was arrested in connection with the shooting. "It has been the practice of 9NEWS for a number of months to hire private security to accompany staff at protests," the station said.

Denver Police Department Division Chief Joe Montoya told the Post that police could not confirm the shooter's or the victim's affiliations, but he said the incident started as a verbal altercation. Two guns were found at the scene, Montoya said, as well as a Mace can.

The Patriot Rally was one of two rallies taking place about the same time in the park. A counter-protest called "BLM-Antifa Soup Drive" took place nearby.

The right-wing Patriot Rally protesters gathered in the park's amphitheater and occasionally chanted patriotic songs and held up banners, the Post reported.

Protesters at the left-wing "BLM-Antifa Soup Drive" held up flags and signs railing against Nazis and white

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supremacists as they gathered in the middle of the park, several hundred feet from the barricaded-off amphitheater, the newspaper added.

## Trump insists he's free of virus, ready for campaign trail

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Donald Trump on Sunday declared he was healthy enough to return to the campaign trail, a day after the White House doctor said he was no longer at risk of transmitting the coronavirus but did not say explicitly whether Trump had tested negative for it.

Trump, who was poised Monday to host his first rally after his COVID-19 diagnosis, declared he was now "immune" from the virus, a claim that was impossible to prove and comes amid a series of outstanding questions about the president's health.

"I'm immune," Trump said in an interview on Fox News. "The president is in very good shape to fight the battles."

In a memo released Saturday night by the White House, Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley said Trump met the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for safely discontinuing isolation and that by "currently recognized standards" he was no longer considered a transmission risk. The memo did not declare Trump had tested negative for the virus.

But sensitive lab tests — like the PCR test cited in the doctor's statements — detect virus in swab samples taken from the nose and throat. Some medical experts had been skeptical that Trump could be declared free of the risk of transmitting the virus so early in the course of his illness. Just 10 days since an initial diagnosis of infection, there was no way to know for certain that someone was no longer contagious, they said.

The memo followed Trump's first public appearance since returning to the White House after being treated for the coronavirus at a military hospital. Hundreds of people gathered Saturday afternoon on the South Lawn for a Trump address on his support for law enforcement from a White House balcony.

Trump took off a mask moments after he emerged on the balcony to address the crowd on the lawn below, his first step back onto the public stage with just more than three weeks to go until Election Day. He flouted, once more, the safety recommendations of his own government days after acknowledging that he was on the brink of "bad things" from the virus and claiming that his bout with the illness brought him a better understanding of it.

His return was a brief one. With bandages visible on his hands, likely from an intravenous injection, Trump spoke for 18 minutes, far less than his normal hour-plus rallies. He appeared healthy, if perhaps a little hoarse, as he delivered what was, for all intents and purposes, a short version of his campaign speech despite the executive mansion setting.

"I'm feeling great," Trump told the crowd, adding that he was thankful for their good wishes and prayers as he recovered. He then declared that the pandemic, which has killed more than 210,000 Americans, was "disappearing" even though he is still recovering from the virus.

In either an act of defiance or simply tempting fate, officials organized the event just steps from the Rose Garden, where exactly two weeks ago the president held another large gathering to formally announce his nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. That gathering is now being eyed as a possible COVID-19 superspreader as more than two dozen people in attendance have contracted the virus.

His return to full-fledged rallies will be in Florida on Monday, a comeback that comes with the president facing stubborn deficits in the polls. The Trump campaign and White House has not indicated that any additional safety measures will be taken to prevent the transmission of the virus among those traveling on Air Force One or at the rally site.

As Trump returned to the public stage, Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist and department chairman at the Yale School of Public Health, said that the White House appeared to be following CDC guidelines for when it is appropriate to end isolation after mild to moderate cases of COVID-19.

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But Ko cautioned that those who have had severe cases of the diseases should isolate for 20 days. He noted that Trump was treated with the steroid dexamethasone, which is normally reserved for patients with severe COVID. Ko added that White House had issued “convoluted” statements about Trump’s health that left many questions unanswered, including whether the president ever had pneumonia.

The memo stated that Trump had reached day 10 from the onset of symptoms, had been free of fever for well over 24 hours, and that all symptoms had improved. People who have had COVID-19 can continue to test positive for weeks or longer after they are no longer infectious.

Saskia Popescu, an infectious disease epidemiologist at George Mason University, said the tight time frame laid out by the White House made it appear that “they’re really just pushing to get him out of isolation” and back to campaigning.

Trump will follow the Florida rally with trips to Pennsylvania and Iowa on subsequent days. The White House has steadfastly refused to say when his last negative test was before his October 2 diagnosis, raising questions as to how frequently the president was tested and if he potentially was carrying the virus for days before it was detected, potentially including his first debate two days earlier with Democrat Joe Biden.

Biden’s campaign said the nominee again tested negative on Saturday for COVID-19. Biden was potentially exposed to the coronavirus during his Sept. 29 debate with Trump, who announced his positive diagnosis barely 48 hours after the debate.

The president had not been seen in public — other than in White House-produced videos — since his return last Monday from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he received experimental treatments for the coronavirus.

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.

White House officials have declined to answer when Trump last tested negative for the virus before his diagnosis or release detailed information about lung scans taken while Trump was hospitalized.

While reports of reinfection in COVID-19 victims are rare, the CDC 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.

## Wave of ‘Nutcracker’ cancellations hits dance companies hard

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — For many, it’s not Christmas without the dance of Clara, Uncle Drosselmeyer, the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Mouse King and, of course, the Nutcracker Prince.

But this year the coronavirus pandemic has canceled performances of “The Nutcracker” around the U.S. and Canada, eliminating a major and reliable source of revenue for dance companies already reeling financially following the essential shutdown of their industry.

“This is an incredibly devastating situation for the arts and in particular for organizations like ours that rely on ticket sales from the Nutcracker to fund so many of our initiatives,” said Sue Porter, executive director of BalletMet in Columbus, Ohio.

“The Nutcracker” typically provides about \$1.4 million of the company’s \$2 million in annual ticket sales, against a \$7 million budget. That money goes to school programming and financial aid for dance class students, Porter said. It’s the first year since 1977 that the company isn’t staging the ballet in Ohio’s capital.

The cancellations have meant layoffs, furloughs and salary cuts, with companies relying heavily—sometimes exclusively—on fundraising to stay afloat. Beyond their financial importance, “Nutcracker” performances are also a crucial marketing tool for dance companies, company directors say.

Children often enroll in classes for the chance to dance in the performances as mice, young partygoers and angels, among other supporting roles. For adults, the shows are sometimes their initial experience watching live dance.

“It tends to be the first ballet that people see, the first time they experience attending a production, that thrill when the curtain goes up, the hush of the crowd,” said Max Hodges, executive director of the



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Boston Ballet. "So for that reason it's a key part of the pipeline in welcoming audiences into the art form."

After deciding to cancel this year's live performances, the Boston Ballet will use archived footage of past performances for a one-hour version to be shown on television in New England. The annual \$8 million in "Nutcracker" ticket sales accounts for about 20% of the company's annual budget.

The pandemic has cost the arts and entertainment industry about 1.4 million jobs and \$42.5 billion nationally, according to an August analysis by the Brookings Institution.

The economic vulnerability inherent in arts organizations is exacerbated when they rely on a major seasonal event — like "The Nutcracker" — for large portions of revenue, said Amir Pasic, dean of the School of Philanthropy at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

One silver lining is the opportunity for organizations to improve their online offerings, which could also help open up markets to younger consumers, he said.

That's the case in Toronto, where the National Ballet of Canada is contemplating future hybrid programming that offers tickets for in-person "Nutcracker" performances and less expensive tickets for those who want to watch it online. The company canceled its "Nutcracker" in August.

"We're going to build into our model regular capture of content to build a more robust catalogue," said Executive Director Barry Hughson. "So when we face this at some point in future — hopefully a long way away in the future — we will have solved that part of this equation."

The cost of the digital equipment needed to record broadcast quality performances has been a sticking point for companies in the past, said Amy Fitterer, executive director of Dance/USA, a dance service and advocacy organization. Now, companies are working on ways to access such equipment to prepare for a hybrid future of performances, she said.

Other cancellations this year include performances by the New York City Ballet, the Charlotte Ballet, the Milwaukee Ballet, the Sacramento Ballet and the Kansas City Ballet, which is forgoing about \$2.2 million in ticket sales.

Making it through this season is tough enough, but "if this goes beyond next year, then I think we've got some serious issues to attend to," said Jeffrey Bentley, the Kansas City Ballet's executive director.

Some companies that canceled are offering online streams of a past performance, such as Seattle's Pacific Northwest Ballet. Others are offering in-person performances of a sort, such as Atlanta Ballet's "Drive-In Movie Experience" allowing patrons to watch a filmed past performance from their car.

Still others are proceeding, for now, with plans for live performances. The Eugene Ballet in Oregon canceled its normal four-state tour but expanded its stage offerings from four to 10 performances, with a socially distanced audience of 500 in a 2,500-seat auditorium. The company is shortening performances to 70 minutes, reducing the number of student participants and going without a live orchestra.

"We're just all trying to be resilient, and our dancers are champing at the bit to get in the studio and start rehearsing things," said Eugene Ballet Artistic Director Toni Pimble.

Of the 50 dance companies with the largest annual expenses surveyed by the Dance Data Project, only eight were proceeding with in-person performances. Others either canceled, planned to offer streaming versions or still haven't made an announcement.

In Fort Worth, the cancellation of the Texas Ballet Theater's "Nutcracker" meant the loss of about \$2 million in ticket sales. It was also a personal blow to 16-year-old Micah Sparrow, who would have danced roles as a rat and a cook, the third time she would have performed in the show.

Sparrow, a longtime Texas Ballet Theater student, hopes to become a professional dancer. For now, she attends ballet classes reduced in scope as social distancing limits normal movement.

"It really gives me a sense of purpose around the Christmas season just to make magic for the audience and for everyone who watches it," Sparrow said. "I'm really going to miss it."

## Conservative PAC draws charges of racism in Missouri

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. (AP) — A conservative political action committee in Missouri is facing accusations of rac-

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ism after posting a website that uses images of violent protests and photos of Black politicians to attack the Democratic candidate for governor on her support for police.

Nicole Galloway, Missouri's state auditor, is trying to unseat Republican Gov. Mike Parson, a former sheriff running on a "law-and-order" platform. The website recently set up by the Uniting Missouri PAC has the heading, "Nicole Galloway's anti-policing allies" and says, "If you want to know where Galloway stands, look at who she supports."

The site includes photos of Black politicians and activists Cori Bush and Rasheen Aldridge of St. Louis, and Clem Smith, a Black man who is the acting chairman of the Missouri Democratic Party. Also pictured are mixed-race members of the Sunrise Movement. Video in the background shows violent scenes from protests.

Several Democrats along with St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist Tony Messenger and on the Kansas City Star editorial board contend it's more than coincidental that the imagery overwhelmingly involves Black people.

"To me, it is not just a dog whistle. It's a bullhorn," said Lindsey Simmons, a Democrat running for the U.S. House in Missouri's 4th District against incumbent Republican Vicky Hartzler. "They are directly saying, 'Hey, be afraid of Nicole Galloway, she is pro-crime, because look at the Black people she hangs out with, and they're pro-crime, too.' That is just incredibly, overtly racist."

Parson's campaign is not involved in the website. His campaign did not return email messages seeking comment.

Uniting Missouri Chairman John Hancock denied any racist intent, saying the people pictured meet two criteria: They support Galloway, and they "hold documented radical anti-law enforcement views."

"The website simply compiles unedited statements from Nicole Galloway's allies advocating for defunding the police, freeing convicted cop killers, and even setting fire to a police station," Hancock said in an email.

"If Nicole doesn't want to face criticism for endorsing candidates that want to defund the police, then she should rescind her endorsements — it's as simple as that," Hancock said.

Galloway campaign spokesman Kevin Donohoe said in a statement that the website is evidence that Parson's allies "are desperately trying to divide Missourians to distract from Governor Parson's failures on crime, law and order, healthcare, and the pandemic."

Bush and Aldridge are longtime activist leaders in St. Louis. Bush pulled a stunning political upset in August, defeating 10-term incumbent Democratic U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay in Missouri's 1st District primary. She's expected to win easily in November. Aldridge represents a St. Louis district in the Missouri House. Smith was a five-term state representative who was named acting chair of the Missouri Democratic Party in July.

The site includes a tweet from Bush that reads, "We need to defund the police and make sure that money goes back into the communities that need it." It cites a June story on KSDK-TV's website in which Aldridge said activist demands include defunding police and payment of reparations for past racism.

The site references a news article that said Smith signed a letter calling for the "immediate freedom" of a man serving life imprisonment without parole after killing a Philadelphia police officer in 1981.

Clarissa Rile Hayward, a political science professor at Washington University in St. Louis with expertise in the relationship between race and politics, said there are plenty of activists of other races with similar views who could have been pictured. She said the site smacks of the "Southern strategy" of communicating a racist message through coded language rather than overt racism.

"The message is, 'Galloway is not on your side; she's on their side,'" Hayward said. "I think it's pretty heavy-handed and I think there's a racist subtext that's not hard to see and is not subtle."

Opinion writers for the state's two largest newspapers also have taken exception to the website.

A Star editorial on Wednesday accused Uniting Missouri of "using an ugly tactic in their campaign" against Galloway. Messenger wrote on Tuesday that it's not enough for Parson to stand on his own record as sheriff.

"It's like his campaign, or the one run by his sidekicks, is the little boy in the movie 'Sixth Sense,' with a little racist twist: 'I see Black people,'" Messenger wrote.

## COVID-19 coverage safety net has plenty of holes in US

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

COVID-19 can do more than torment patients physically. It also clobbers some financially.

Even though many insurers and the U.S. government have offered to pick up or waive costs tied to the virus, holes remain for big bills to slip through and surprise patients.

People who weren't able to get a test showing they had the virus and those who receive care outside their insurance network are particularly vulnerable. Who provides the coverage and how hard a patient fights to lower a bill also can matter.

There are no good estimates for how many patients have been hit with big bills because of the coronavirus. But the pandemic that arrived earlier this year exposed well-known gaps in a system that mixes private insurers, government programs and different levels of coverage.

"There are in our system, unfortunately, lots of times when people are going to fall through the cracks," said Sabrina Corlette, co-director of Georgetown University's Center on Health Insurance Reforms.

More than 7 million people have had confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the virus started spreading earlier this year in the United States, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The vast majority of those patients will incur few medical costs as they wait for their body to fight off mild symptoms. But patients who visit emergency rooms or wind up hospitalized may be vulnerable financially.

Melissa Szymanski spent five hours in a Hartford, Connecticut, emergency room in late March and wound up with bills totaling about \$3,200.

The problem: The 30-year-old elementary school teacher couldn't get a test even though she was fighting a fever and her doctor wanted a chest X-ray. At the time, the hospital was limiting tests, and she didn't qualify.

Szymanski was never diagnosed with COVID-19 at the hospital and her insurer, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, said she would have to pay the high deductible on her plan before coverage started.

The bill left her flabbergasted.

"I was surprised that I got a bill because it just so clearly seemed to be COVID," said Szymanski, who also shared her story with the nonprofit Patient Rights Advocate.

Szymanski later got a blood test that showed she had the virus, and she's working to reduce the bill.

Mary Lynn Fager also got sick in late March from a suspected COVID-19 case, and she has not received a single bill. Fager spent four days in a hospital on oxygen and has had several doctor appointments.

She eventually asked someone at the hospital about the cost, and they said she shouldn't receive any bills. Fager had lost her job in March and qualified for New York's Medicaid coverage program. She said it picked up all the costs.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "Even when I couldn't breathe, that was in the back of my mind the whole time I was there. I was thinking about the hospital bills."

Separately, the federal government has said it will reimburse hospitals that treat uninsured patients for COVID-19. And 78 insurers have waived expenses like deductibles or copayments for individuals covered by their plans, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Many large employers that pay their own health care costs have done the same thing. But these waivers are not universal, and they have limits. Some will expire later this year.

The waivers also may be good only for care sought within an insurer's network of doctors and hospitals.

"If you get any out-of-network care for COVID ... you could be looking at big bills," said Karen Pollitz, a senior fellow with Kaiser.

Even insured patients who wind up at an in-network hospital could get smacked financially. There's no guarantee that every doctor treating that person also is in their insurance network.

It can sometimes take months for hospital claims to be processed, so it's too early to know how many patients are slipping through these coverage cracks, said Matthew Eisenberg, an economist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

If a large bill does arrive, patients shouldn't immediately pay. First, ask questions and check for errors.

Hospitals that received federal money to help with coronavirus-related expenses or lost revenue aren't

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supposed to send so-called surprise bills to patients who receive out-of-network care. Anyone who receive those bills should ask if the hospital got that help.

Georgetown's Corlette also noted that hospital billing departments are adjusting to processing COVID-19 claims. Some may have used the wrong code or made another error.

"There are reasons why both the provider and the insurer may say, 'Oops, we made a mistake,'" she said.

Szymanski figures she made more than 20 phone calls and emails over the past five months fighting the coverage decision on her care.

She finally made progress after contacting the state insurance department. Szymanski said state regulators helped her get an additional \$2,900 taken off the bill, and she hopes to have the rest covered as well.

Aside from fighting a coverage decision or questioning a bill, patients also should seek help, said Elisabeth Benjamin, a vice president with Community Service Society of New York, which helps people deal with medical bills.

"It's important to ask for financial aid or for the copay to be forgiven in this one circumstance because you are in tighter straits right now," she said. "I think many providers want to do the right thing."

Benjamin said patients were frustrated early in the pandemic because hospital billing offices weren't even answering the phone. Now, she's seeing a wave of cases where people are surprised by bills from out-of-network care.

"It's really tricky stuff," she said. "It's sad that our health care system requires people to be experts in how it works and how the billing processes work."

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Follow Tom Murphy on Twitter: @thpmurphy

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

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 12, the 286th day of 2020. There are 80 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 12, 2002, bombs blamed on al-Qaida-linked militants destroyed a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people, including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

On this date:

In 1492 (according to the Old Style calendar), Christopher Columbus' expedition arrived in the present-day Bahamas.

In 1864, Roger B. Taney (TAH'-nee), the fifth Chief Justice of the United States, died at 87; he was succeeded by Salmon Chase.

In 1870, General Robert E. Lee died in Lexington, Virginia, at age 63.

In 1942, during World War II, American naval forces defeated the Japanese in the Battle of Cape Esperance. Attorney General Francis Biddle announced during a Columbus Day celebration at Carnegie Hall in New York that Italian nationals in the United States would no longer be considered enemy aliens.

In 1957, the Dr. Seuss Yuletide tale "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" was first published by Random House.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon nominated House minority leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president.

In 1976, it was announced in China that Hua Guofeng had been named to succeed the late Mao Zedong as chairman of the Communist Party; it was also announced that Mao's widow and three others, known as the "Gang of Four," had been arrested.

In 1984, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher escaped an attempt on her life when an Irish Repub-

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lican Army bomb exploded at a hotel in Brighton, England, killing five people.

In 1986, the superpower meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, ended in stalemate, with President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev unable to agree on arms control or a date for a full-fledged summit in the United States.

In 1997, singer John Denver was killed in the crash of his privately built aircraft in Monterey Bay, California; he was 53.

In 2000, 17 sailors were killed in a suicide bomb attack on the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen.

In 2007, Former Vice President Al Gore and the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the Nobel Peace Prize for sounding the alarm over global warming.

Ten years ago: The Obama administration announced it was lifting the six-month moratorium on deep water oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico imposed after the BP oil spill. General Motors CEO Dan Akerson and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner (GYT'-nur) met for the first time in New York to discuss GM's initial public offering as the automaker waited for approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission to sell the shares. At least 44 people were killed when a train hit a bus at a crossing in eastern Ukraine.

Five years ago: Princeton University's Angus Deaton won the Nobel prize in economics for work that helped redefine the way poverty was measured around the world, notably in India. Actor Joan Leslie, 90, died in Los Angeles. Jamie Zimmerman, a doctor and reporter with ABC News' medical unit, drowned while on vacation in Hawaii; she was 31.

One year ago: A Black woman, Atatiana Jefferson, was fatally shot by a white Fort Worth, Texas, police officer inside her home after police were called to the residence by a neighbor who reported that the front door was open. (Officer Aaron Dean, who shot Jefferson through a back window, resigned in the days after the shooting and is charged with murder; he has pleaded not guilty.) A large section of a Hard Rock Hotel under construction besides New Orleans' historic French Quarter collapsed, killing three workers. Legislation signed by California Gov. Gavin Newsom would ban the sale and manufacture of new fur products starting in 2023.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, is 88. Singer Sam Moore (formerly of Sam and Dave) is 85. Broadcast journalist Chris Wallace is 73. Actor-singer Susan Anton is 70. Pop/rock singer/songwriter Jane Siberry is 65. Actor Hiroyuki Sanada is 60. Actor Carlos Bernard is 58. Jazz musician Chris Botti (BOH'-tee) is 58. Rhythm-and-blues singer Claude McKnight (Take 6) is 58. Rock singer Bob Schneider is 55. Actor Hugh Jackman is 52. Actor Adam Rich is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Garfield Bright (Shai) is 51. Country musician Martie Maguire (Courtyard Hounds, The Chicks) is 51. Actor Kirk Cameron is 50. Olympic gold medal skier Bode Miller is 43. Rock singer Jordan Pundik (New Found Glory) is 41. Actor Brian J. Smith is 39. Actor Tyler Blackburn is 34. Actor Marcus T. Paulk is 34. Actor Ito Aghayere is 33. Actor Josh Hutcherson is 28.