

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 1 of 78

- [2- Football Playoff Pairings](#)
- [4- Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller](#)
- [6- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [7- October 16th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [11- South Dakota COVID-19 Numbers](#)
- [12- Brown County COVID-19 Numbers](#)
- [13- Day County COVID-19 Numbers](#)
- [14- Weather Pages](#)
- [18- Daily Devotional](#)
- [19- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [20- News from the Associated Press](#)



“BEING HAPPY  
DOESN'T MEAN  
THAT EVERYTHING  
IS PERFECT.  
IT MEANS THAT  
YOU'VE DECIDED TO  
LOOK BEYOND THE  
IMPERFECTIONS.”

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Groton Area's football team was just four yards shy of winning the game Friday night. Stanley County won, 6-0. Groton had four chances to score at the end of the game, but was unable to make the touchdown.

**GDILIVE.COM**

Also locally at  
89.3 FM  
GDIRADIO



Memorial Service for  
Dr. T.J. Johnson  
Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020  
10:30 a.m.  
GHS Arena



**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 2 of 78

## CLASS 11B - GAMES ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

#16	Lead-Deadwood	2-5	37.857	at	#1	Winner	7-0	46.714
#15	Garretson	2-6	38.000	at	#2	Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan	8-0	45.750
#14	Aberdeen Roncalli	3-4	39.000	at	#3	Mobridge-Pollock	7-0	44.571
#13	Chamberlain	2-5	39.143	at	#4	Sioux Valley	7-1	43.750
#12	Mt. Vernon/Plank.	3-3	39.500	at	#5	Elk Point Jefferson	5-3	42.500
#11	Redfield	3-4	40.286	at	#6	St. Thomas More	6-1	42.429
#10	Sisseton	5-3	41.375	at	#7	WWSSC	6-2	42.375
#9	McCook Central/Mont.	4-3	41.429	at	#8	Stanley County	5-2	41.714

*#17 Seed - Beresford - would replace any team unable to play b/c of Covid-19*

## CLASS 9AA - GAMES ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

### Region 1

#4	<b>Clark/Willow Lake</b>	4-4	40.375	at	#1	Hamlin	8-0	46.500
#3	Florence/Henry	6-3	41.333	at	#2	Deuel	3-2	42.600

### Region 2

#4	<b>Parker</b>	3-5	38.250	at	#1	Viborg-Hurley	7-0	46.714
#3	Arlington/Lake Preston	4-4	40.750	at	#2	Baltic	4-3	41.857

### Region 3

#4	<b>Bon Homme</b>	2-5	38.714	at	#1	Platte-Geddes	8-0	45.375
#3	Parkston	4-2	42.333	at	#2	Hanson	6-2	43.500

### Region 4

#4	<b>Elkton-Lake Benton</b>	2-6	38.000	at	#1	Lemmon/McIntosh	8-0	45.750
#3	Jones Co/White River	3-5	39.375	at	#2	Rapid City Christian	4-5	39.889

*#17 Seed - Hill City - would replace any team unable to play b/c of Covid-19*

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 3 of 78

## CLASS 9A - GAMES ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

### Region 1

#4	North Border	3-5	40.500	at	#1	Warner	7-0	47.143
#3	Britton-Hecla	4-4	41.500	at	#2	Ipswich/Ed. Cent.	6-2	42.750

### Region 2

#4	DeSmet	6-2	43.500	at	#1	Howard	7-0	48.429
#3	Chester Area	6-2	43.500	at	#2	Canistota/Freeman	7-1	46.000

### Region 3

#4	Burke	5-3	40.250	at	#1	Lyman	5-2	42.571
#3	Castlewood	4-4	40.750	at	#2	Gregory	5-3	41.750

### Region 4

#4	Northwestern	2-5	39.143	at	#1	Wall	7-0	47.143
#3	Timber Lake	3-3	42.000	at	#2	Philip	6-2	43.125

*#17 Seed - Sully Buttes - would replace any team unable to play b/c of Covid-19*

## CLASS 9B - GAMES ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

### Region 1

#4	Faulkton Area	4-3	40.571	at	#1	Herreid/Selby Area	7-1	43.750
#3	Langford Area	6-2	43.125	at	#2	Wolsey-Wessington	6-1	43.714

### Region 2

#4	Bison	2-6	37.625	at	#1	Dell Rapids St. Mary	4-2	41.833
#3	Colman-Egan	5-2	40.000	at	#2	Alcester-Hudson	5-3	40..625

### Region 3

#4	Avon	2-7	37.444	at	#1	Corsica-Stickney	4-4	40.750
#3	Irene-Wakonda	2-6	37.625	at	#2	Scotland	4-3	39.286

### Region 4

#4	Dupree	3-5	39.375	at	#1	Kadoka Area	7-1	44.500
#3	Harding Co.	4-3	41.429	at	#2	Faith	6-2	42.000

*#17 Seed - Estelline/Hendricks - would replace any team unable to play b/c of Covid-19*

## #236 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Worse and worse. We've had only five 70,000+ new-case days throughout this whole pandemic. Today is one of those: 70,500 new cases, 0.9% increase. We're at 8,087,100 cases reported in the US. At least four states, Idaho, Wyoming, Illinois, and North Carolina, are heading into fall while setting records for one-day new-case reports. Miner and Faulk counties in my own South Dakota are at #5 and #7 among all counties across the country in seven-day new-case numbers, not a distinction either one sought. The seven-day new-case average is over 53,000 now, an increase of over 55% in a month, and that's way too high. This is driven largely by surging case counts in the Midwest, the Great Plains, and the West. And there are very bad signs from the Northeast, the Pacific Northwest, and some states in the South as well. No one really has this under control. Dr. Michael Mina, professor at Harvard's TH Chan School of Public Health, compares the situation to a growing forest fire with sparks all over the country that will gain strength as the cold weather sets in. "We are likely to see massive explosions of cases and outbreaks that could potentially make what we've seen so far look like it hasn't been that much." Lovely.

This is the thing the public health experts have been warning us about: entering into the cold weather from too high a starting place. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has warned us about these high infection rates. "You can't enter into the cool months of the fall and the cold months of the winter with a high community infection baseline." I know. I wish the country would recognize this too.

There have been 218,451 deaths reported so far. There were 905 deaths today, a 0.4% increase. There are some disquieting projections for deaths in upcoming months. Hospitalizations are increasing, and that is an excellent predictor of deaths. Long-term modeling is fraught with difficulty, but the projections I've been seeing have me highly concerned. The University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) has modeled up to February 2, and the news is not great. They forecast three scenarios which reflect the impact of policies on total deaths. Their worst assumes further loosening of control measures and projects nearly a half-million deaths by February 1. Their best-case, assuming communities impose or reimpose mandates like mask-wearing as things get bad, projects well over 300,000 deaths. They see us getting back to 2000 deaths per day, a place we haven't been since the worst days in the spring.

The pattern has been to tighten up restrictions when things get bad, then after case numbers drop, go right back to whatever we were doing before, which causes another spike. This is not exactly what will help. The virus doesn't get tired, it doesn't give credit for prior good behavior, and it doesn't discriminate. A shorter-term (and therefore more accurate) projection from the University of Texas COVID-19 Modeling Consortium, predicts about 235,000 deaths by November 7; that would be around 735 deaths per day, low-ish compared to the past few days.

As we move into winter and the indoor sports season, I expect we're going to see spread associated with sporting events, particularly sports with a great deal of physical contact. While professional athletes can be kept in a bubble and tested daily, the lives of young athletes and budgets for high school and college sports will not, for the most part, run to those kinds of precautions. When I consider tens of thousands of basketball and wrestling and hockey engagements over the next few months, I go sort of weak at the knees; and yet many, many schools have plans to go ahead with a "normal" season as though we'd never heard of a coronavirus.

These thoughts surface because one example from back in June was reported out of the Florida health department yesterday; it was an indoor ice hockey game. The game was played on June 16 with 22 male participants between the ages of 19 and 53, 11 per team, in Tampa. Sixty-minute game, 20 minutes in the locker room before and after. No masks. The index case experienced symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat, and headache the day after the game. He tested positive two days later. In the five days after the game, 15 persons experienced symptoms of Covid-19; 13 of those were tested and returned positive results. That's 62% of participants. Not everyone was tested, and follow-up ceased at five days; so it is entirely possible there were more cases. The referees and the one spectator did not report symptoms.

Hockey's well-suited for viral transmission: vigorous exertion with heavy breathing, frequent contact between players, an enclosed space. Given the prevalence of lung issues, including cancer, associated

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 5 of 78

with gasoline exhaust fumes in figure skaters and hockey players, we know the ventilation systems in many indoor ice rinks is substandard, to say the least. I'm going to guess that poses a particular problem at hockey games.

In the past couple of months in New Hampshire, 159 people associated with 23 hockey teams have been diagnosed with the virus. According to the state epidemiologist, Dr. Benjamin Chan, 117 of these cases have been linked to separate hockey-associated outbreaks, and the rest are linked to hockey in some way. Chan says, "Hockey has been one of the high-risk activities where we have seen substantial spread," noting that people who are believed to have contracted Covid-19 through their association with hockey have exposed others at 24 K-12 schools throughout the state. And I also suspect those same issues will arise with the other indoor winter sports. We may soon be documenting superspreader event after superspreader event—one more reason to view the oncoming winter with trepidation.

Another blow to freedom, this time of expressing oneself in song: Yodeling shows are dangerous. In Switzerland, a yodeling show has led to a major case cluster. There were roughly 600 spectators at a recent event, giving weight to the presumption that singing is a problem in terms of transmission. Several of the yodelers tested positive for the virus, and while it is difficult to trace contacts from this sort of event, it appears many cases are associated with it.

Yesterday, the WHO announced results from clinical trials of remdesivir, and this news is not good. They say the drug has "little or no effect on mortality" and that this is conclusive evidence. Earlier studies showed the drug apparently reduces time to recovery; but according to Dr. Ilan Schwartz, infectious-disease physician at the University of Alberta, "This puts the issue to rest—there is certainly no mortality benefit." There is some question as to the design of the study; it has not been peer-reviewed. But this is disheartening. There is however, some chance the drug is still helpful to those earlier in the course of their illness.

Remember the USS Theodore Roosevelt, site of one of the largest clusters of cases in the country for weeks? It's back in the news for the same reason as it was way back in March and April, a Covid-19 outbreak. This is, at the moment, a much smaller thing, just two sailors with symptoms who tested positive. Unlike the spring when cases were ignored for far too long, both sailors have been evacuated and their contacts quarantined. We'll hope this more proactive approach to the problem yields better results than we saw in the spring.

The San Francisco Zoo has lemurs. They're quite the attraction, and if you Google lemurs, you will come to see why: They're very cute and cuddly-looking. On Wednesday morning, zookeepers discovered one of their ring-tailed lemurs missing from the lemur habitat. Finding signs of forced entry, they were pretty clear what had happened here was theft. Maki, a 21-year-old lemur was nowhere to be found; this is a particular concern because 21 is actually quite elderly for a lemur. He was on a specialized diet, so Maki could be considered somewhat fragile. This was a fairly big story locally, but for more than a day, there was simply no sign of him despite the zoo's offered reward, his endangered status, and public pleas for his return.

Then yesterday at the end of the day, as James Trinh and his mom were leaving the Hope Lutheran Day School, about four miles from the zoo, James stopped suddenly and began to point. There was a lemur on the playground wandering around the yard until he took refuge in a playhouse. Soon a crowd of excited kindergartners and their parents gathered, excitedly jumping up and down and shouting. When asked later what you should do when you spot a lemur, James shouted, "Call the zookeepers!" And so they did—called the police and the zookeepers. Animal rescue was able to lure a hungry Maki with snacks and keep him contained until zoo staff arrived to take possession of their animal.

Today, police have made an arrest in the case. It is not immediately clear what the thief's motive was or how the animal fetched up on the loose on a playground. Having had a thorough medical check-up and plenty of fruit, he appears to be no worse off for his adventure, although he will remain quarantined from his family for a few days. The reward went to the school, and James Trinh's family received a lifetime zoo membership. The director of his school says Maki was just the lesson they needed, that the children have learned in every situation there is hope. I'm on board with that.

Be well. We'll talk again.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 6 of 78

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 13
Minnesota	105,740	106,651	107,922	109,312	110,828	112,268	113,439
Nebraska	48,757	49,396	50,059	50,059	51,144	52,382	52,839
Montana	15,347	16,063	16,677	17,399	18,117	18,702	19,125
Colorado	74,191	74,922	75,785	76,619	77,642	78,461	79,037
Wyoming	5,751	5,866	6,031	6,226	6,338	6,476	6,628
North Dakota	24,364	24,857	25,384	26,040	26,628	27,265	27,737
South Dakota	24,876	25,433	26,441	27,215	27,947	28,564	28,925
United States	7,501,847	7,551,257	7,607,890	7,667,640	7,719,254	7,763,457	7,804,643
US Deaths	210,918	211,844	212,789	213,816	214,379	214,776	215,089
Minnesota	+941	+911	+1271	+1,390	+1,516	+1,440	+1,171
Nebraska	+950	+639	+663	----	+1,085	+1,238	+457
Montana	+500	+716	+614	+722	+818	+585	+423
Colorado	+654	+731	+863	+834	+1,023	+819	+576
Wyoming	+91	+115	+165	+195	+112	+138	+152
North Dakota	+502	+493	+527	+656	+588	+637	+472
South Dakota	+278	+557	+528	+774	+732	+617	+359
United States	+48,018	+49,410	+56,633	+59,750	51,614	+44,203	41,186
US Deaths	+791	+926	+945	+1,027	+563	+397	+313
	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17			
Minnesota	114,574	115,763	117,106	119,145			
Nebraska	53,543	54,467	55,428	56,714			
Montana	19,611	20,210	20,933	21,595			
Colorado	80,085	80,777	81,918	83,230			
Wyoming	6,740	6,914	7,089	7,337			
North Dakota	28,245	28,947	29,653	31,261			
South Dakota	29,339	30,215	31,012	31,805			
United States	7,859,365	7,917,223	7,980,899	8,052,978			
US Deaths	215,914	216,904	217,717	218,618			
218,							
Minnesota	+1,135	+1,189	+1,343	+2,039			
Nebraska	+704	+924	+961	1,286			
Montana	+486	+599	+723	+662			
Colorado	+1,048	+692	+1,141	1,312			
Wyoming	+112	+174	+175	+248			
North Dakota	+508	+702	+706	1,608			
South Dakota	+414	+865	+797	+793			
United States	+54,722	+57,858	+63,676	+72,079			
US Deaths	+825	+990	+813	+901			

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 7 of 78

## October 16th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Here is an abbreviated report for today. South Dakota had three more deaths. First one recorded in Edmunds County. One each in Douglas and Minnehaha. All three were in the 80+ age group, two females and one male.

#### Brown County:

Total Positive: +35 (1,685) Positivity Rate: 13.2%  
Total Tests: +264 (15,392)  
Recovered: +21 (1,355)  
Active Cases: +14 (326)  
Ever Hospitalized: +5 (88)  
Deaths: +0 (4)  
Percent Recovered: 80.4

#### South Dakota:

Positive: +793 (31,805 total) Positivity Rate: 11.5%  
Total Tests: 6,888 (354,104 total)  
Hospitalized: +44 (2,044 total). 299 currently hospitalized -5)  
Deaths: +3 (307 total)  
Recovered: +610 (24,186 total)  
Active Cases: +180 (7,312)  
Percent Recovered: 76.0%  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 12% Covid, 54% Non-Covid, 33% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 18% Covid, 40% Non-Covid, 42% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 7% Covid, 18% Non-Covid, 74% Available

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

Aurora: +3 positive, +7 recovered (58 active cases)  
Beadle (12): +17 positive, +0 recovered (197 active cases)  
Bennett (4): +2 positive, +1 recovered (41 active cases)  
Bon Homme (1): +9 positive, +3 recovered (94 active cases)  
Brookings (2): +24 positive, +12 recovered (246 active cases)  
Brown (4): +15 positive, +21 recovered (303 active cases)  
Brule (3): +6 positive, +1 recovered (53 active cases)  
Buffalo (3): +5 positive, +2 recovered (18 active cases)

Butte (3): +26 positive, +3 recovered (83 active cases)  
Campbell: +5 positive, +1 recovered (28 active cases)  
Charles Mix: +4 positive, +8 recovered (96 active cases)  
Clark: +4 positive, +0 recovered (25 active cases)  
Clay (8): +6 positive, +11 recovered (102 active cases)  
Codington (10): +26 positive, +21 recovered (254 active cases)  
Corson (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (24 active cases)  
Custer (3): +10 positive, +0 recovered (62 active case)  
Davison (4): +19 positive, +30 recovered (243 active cases)  
Day: +1 positive, +1 recovered (27 active cases)  
Deuel: +5 positive, +6 recovered (32 active cases)  
Dewey: +5 positive, +1 recovered (108 active cases)  
Douglas (3): +3 positive, +8 recovered (54 active cases)  
Edmunds (1): +4 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)  
Fall River (6): +4 positive, +2 recovered (51 active cases)  
Faulk (1): +0 positive, +0 recovered (49 active cases)  
Grant (2): +7 positive, +3 recovered (75 active cases)  
Gregory (8): +1 positive, +0 recovered (30 active cases)  
Haakon (1): +2 positive, +2 recovered (22 active case)  
Hamlin: +3 positive, +4 recovered (37 active cases)  
Hand (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (22 active cases)  
Hanson (1): +2 positive, +5 recovered (20 active cases)  
Harding: +2 positive, +0 recovered (14 active cases)  
Hughes (5): +18 positive, +19 recovered (144 active cases)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 8 of 78

Hutchinson (2): +2 positive, +12 recovered (50 active cases)  
 Hyde: +2 positive, +0 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Jackson (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (30 active cases)  
 Jerauld (6): +0 positive, +4 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Jones: +0 positive, +0 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Kingsbury: +5 positive, +1 recovered (46 active cases)  
 Lake (8): +5 positive, +5 recovered (61 active cases)  
 Lawrence (5): +19 positive, +5 recovered (158 active cases)  
 Lincoln (11): +72 positive, +50 recovered (524 active cases)  
 Lyman (4): +2 positive, +1 recovered (23 active cases)  
 Marshall: +0 positive, +0 recovered (12 active cases)  
 McCook (1): +7 positive, +9 recovered (52 active cases)  
 McPherson: +2 positive, +0 recovery (14 active case)  
 Meade (8): +21 positive, +3 recovered (174 active cases)  
 Mellette: +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Miner: +10 positive, +11 recovered (45 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (92): +181 positive, +179 recovered (1522 active cases)

Moody (1): +3 positive, +4 recovered (51 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (5): +30 positive, +7 recovered (194 active cases)  
 Pennington (43): +90 positive, +35 recovered (813 active cases)  
 Perkins: +1 positive, +1 recovered (19 active cases)  
 Potter: +3 positive, +2 recovered (23 active cases)  
 Roberts (2): +2 positive, +3 recovered (38 active cases)  
 Sanborn: +1 positive, +2 recovered (20 active cases)  
 Spink (1): +4 positive, +3 recovered (45 active cases)  
 Stanley: +2 positive, +1 recovery (19 active cases)  
 Sully: +3 positive, +0 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Todd (5): +5 positive, +9 recovered (116 active cases)  
 Tripp (1): +2 positive, +3 recovered (41 active cases)  
 Turner (8): +6 positive, +12 recovered (120 active cases)  
 Union (10): +10 positive, +31 recovered (147 active cases)  
 Walworth (1): +21 positive, +14 recovered (88 active cases)  
 Yankton (5): +12 positive, +20 recovered (128 active cases)  
 Ziebach (1): +2 positive, +0 recovered (16 active case)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	992	0
10-19 years	3560	0
20-29 years	6801	2
30-39 years	5330	7
40-49 years	4341	11
50-59 years	4412	23
60-69 years	3363	46
70-79 years	1733	57
80+ years	1273	161

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, October 14:

- 7.9% rolling 14-day positivity
  - 9.5% daily positivity
  - 713 new positives
  - 7,475 susceptible test encounters
  - 132 currently hospitalized (-26)
  - 4,759 active cases (+159)
- Total Deaths: +29 (99)

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	16756	139
Male	15049	168



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 9 of 78

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Aurora	148	92	678	0	Substantial	18.32%
Beadle	1033	832	3675	12	Substantial	12.32%
Bennett	121	81	878	4	Substantial	15.69%
Bon Homme	200	105	1363	1	Substantial	23.91%
Brookings	1109	846	5647	2	Substantial	18.72%
Brown	1685	1355	8144	4	Substantial	20.10%
Brule	195	140	1339	2	Substantial	25.66%
Buffalo	192	168	815	3	Substantial	39.73%
Butte	210	127	1943	3	Substantial	15.38%
Campbell	62	36	162	0	Substantial	26.92%
Charles Mix	293	206	2833	0	Substantial	8.99%
Clark	65	42	637	0	Moderate	3.55%
Clay	683	576	3000	8	Substantial	14.93%
Codington	1206	968	5963	10	Substantial	15.73%
Corson	128	101	762	1	Moderate	35.90%
Custer	252	188	1563	3	Substantial	20.49%
Davison	654	409	4159	4	Substantial	18.04%
Day	119	92	1147	0	Substantial	11.00%
Deuel	142	105	729	0	Substantial	15.63%
Dewey	257	143	3303	0	Substantial	11.29%
Douglas	145	90	662	3	Substantial	10.26%
Edmunds	117	104	681	1	Moderate	2.34%
Fall River	153	98	1674	6	Substantial	15.84%
Faulk	145	95	508	1	Substantial	22.22%
Grant	244	172	1398	2	Substantial	14.66%
Gregory	171	135	740	8	Substantial	15.15%
Haakon	59	34	403	1	Substantial	5.66%
Hamlin	147	110	1141	0	Substantial	6.44%
Hand	84	64	538	1	Substantial	16.85%
Hanson	63	42	402	1	Moderate	8.47%
Harding	18	4	104	0	Minimal	33.33%
Hughes	702	565	3509	5	Substantial	13.71%
Hutchinson	176	124	1468	2	Substantial	5.56%

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 10 of 78

Hyde	32	23	286	0	Moderate	15.38%
Jackson	72	41	708	1	Substantial	21.88%
Jerauld	153	128	368	6	Substantial	11.11%
Jones	24	18	117	0	Minimal	5.56%
Kingsbury	123	79	961	0	Substantial	12.66%
Lake	284	212	1691	8	Substantial	16.09%
Lawrence	630	477	5060	5	Substantial	14.49%
Lincoln	2094	1521	12206	11	Substantial	16.76%
Lyman	207	184	1371	4	Substantial	11.73%
Marshall	54	42	724	0	Moderate	5.36%
McCook	171	116	1036	1	Substantial	6.86%
McPherson	53	38	368	0	Moderate	4.05%
Meade	773	609	4602	8	Substantial	13.29%
Mellette	47	39	544	0	Moderate	11.11%
Miner	94	47	391	0	Substantial	18.26%
Minnehaha	8712	7032	48147	92	Substantial	13.69%
Moody	159	108	1024	1	Substantial	23.40%
Oglala Lakota	518	313	5221	5	Substantial	10.97%
Pennington	3468	2637	22570	43	Substantial	13.63%
Perkins	59	43	425	0	Moderate	15.22%
Potter	82	59	570	0	Substantial	6.83%
Roberts	266	225	3102	2	Substantial	13.17%
Sanborn	66	44	402	0	Substantial	10.53%
Spink	206	153	1591	1	Substantial	11.27%
Stanley	65	46	489	0	Moderate	13.51%
Sully	27	18	153	0	Moderate	26.92%
Todd	292	184	3259	5	Substantial	19.15%
Tripp	223	180	1081	1	Substantial	11.88%
Turner	341	202	1703	8	Substantial	27.56%
Union	630	464	3753	10	Substantial	18.14%
Walworth	234	146	1220	1	Substantial	15.09%
Yankton	590	448	5584	5	Substantial	7.02%
Ziebach	78	61	559	1	Moderate	5.56%
Unassigned	0	0	1931	0		

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 11 of 78

## South Dakota

New Total Cases Today

793

New Confirmed Cases

720

New Probable Cases

73

Currently Hospitalized

299

Active Cases

7,312

Recovered Cases

24,186

Total Cases

31,805

Total Confirmed Cases

30,940

Total Probable Cases

865

Ever Hospitalized

2,044

Total Persons Tested

226,990

Total Tests

354,104

Deaths

307

% Progress (September  
Goal: 44,233 Tests)

216%

% Progress (October Goal:  
44,233 Tests)

145%

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 12 of 78

## Brown County

New Total Cases Today	New Confirmed Cases	New Probable Cases
35	33	2
Currently Hospitalized	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
17	326	1,355
Total Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Probable Cases
1,685	1,679	6
Ever Hospitalized	Total Persons Tested	Total Tests
88	9,829	15,392
Deaths	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests)	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests)
4	216%	145%

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 13 of 78

## Day County

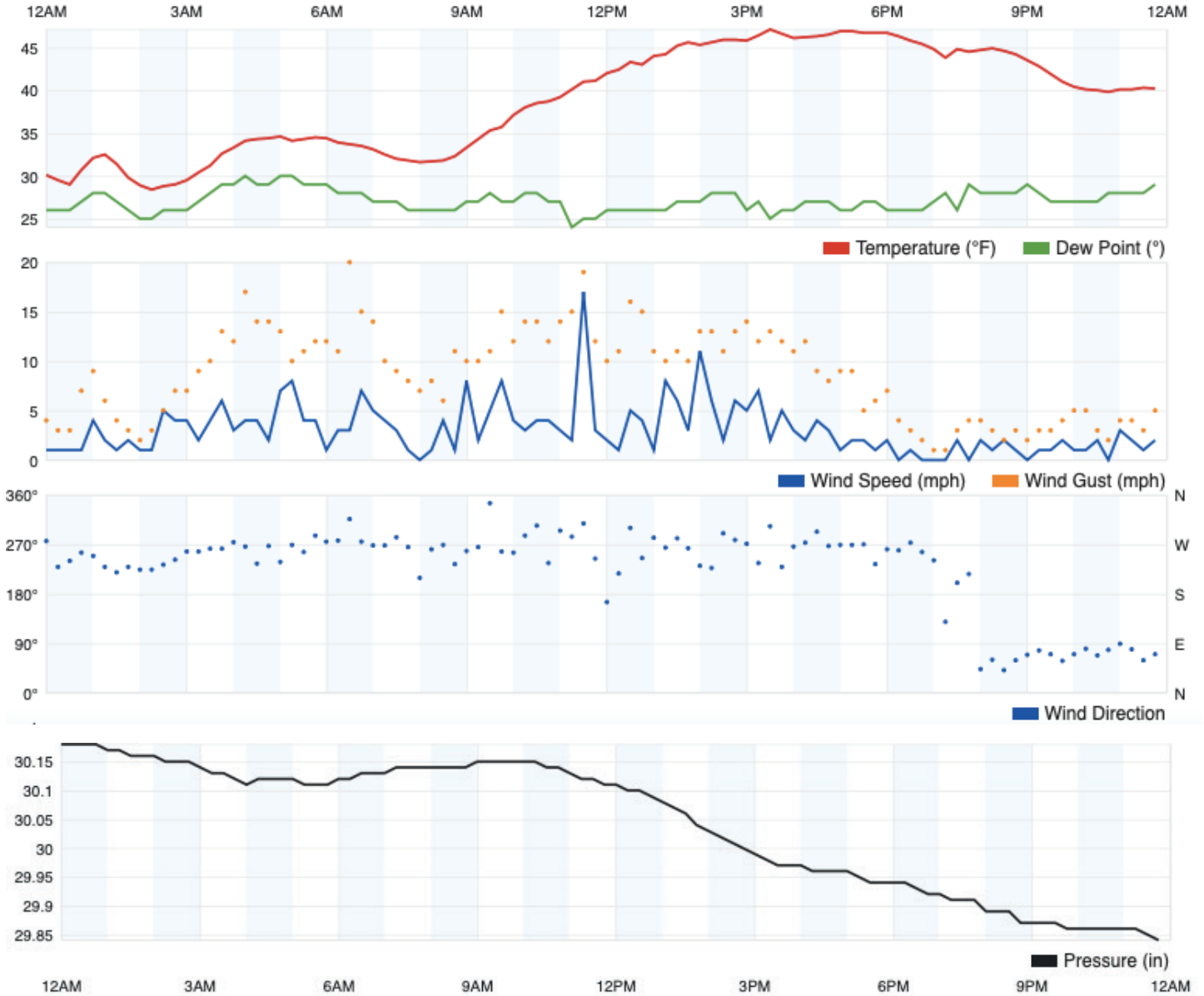
New Total Cases Today	New Confirmed Cases	New Probable Cases
1	1	0
Currently Hospitalized	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
1	27	92
Total Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Probable Cases
119	119	0
Ever Hospitalized	Total Persons Tested	Total Tests
14	1,266	2,077
Deaths	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests)	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests)
0	216%	145%



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 14 of 78

## Yesterday's Groton Weather



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 15 of 78

Today



Slight Chance  
Rain then  
Partly Sunny  
and Breezy

**High: 40 °F**

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

**Low: 20 °F**

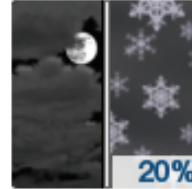
Sunday



Sunny

**High: 40 °F**

Sunday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy  
then Slight  
Chance Snow

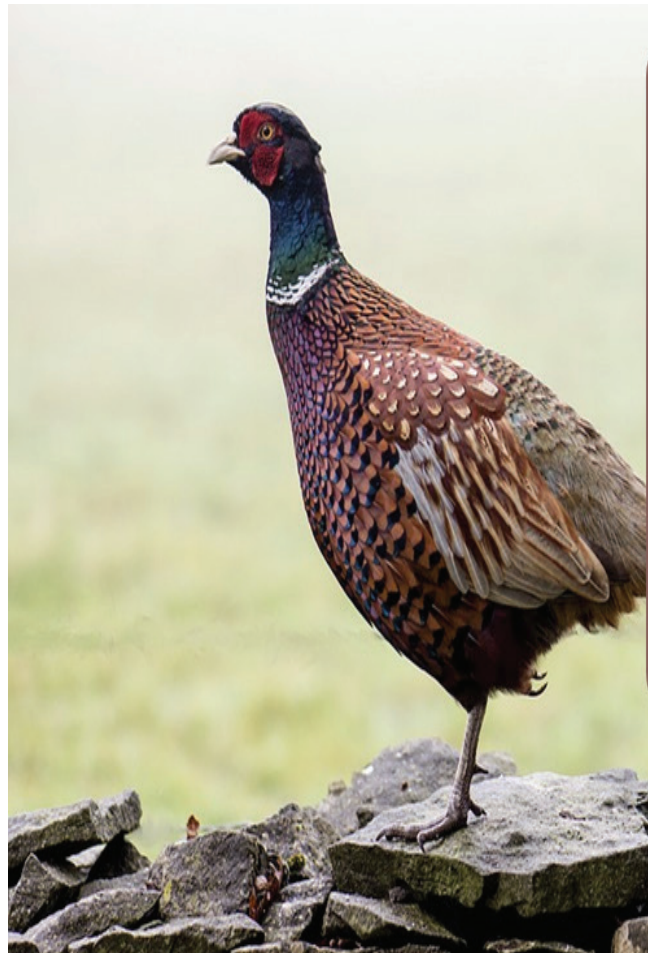
**Low: 23 °F**

Monday



Chance Snow  
then Chance  
Rain/Snow


**High: 40 °F**



## Weekend Forecast

Today	Sunday
42 to 48°	36 to 42°
NW winds, strongest in the afternoon with 25-35mph gusts possible. Rain/snow mix possible along the ND/SD border this morning, and for central SD later this evening.	Northwest winds, mostly dry aside from any lingering precipitation in central SD early.

National Weather Service  
**Aberdeen, SD**



Ongoing precipitation is occurring along the ND/SD border this morning pushing eastward. Precip looks to be mostly rain, but a rain/snow mix is not out of the question. Late this morning and through the afternoon, breezy conditions are expected with gusts 25-35 mph possible. Later tonight, central SD may see some precipitation as well, that could start out as rain and transition to snow in the overnight hours.

## Today in Weather History

October 17, 1910: The temperature in Aberdeen, South Dakota, warmed to 90 degrees on this day. This reading is the latest day in the calendar year in which the high temperature reached 90 degrees.

October 17, 2011: A strong low-pressure system to the northwest and a strong high-pressure system to the southeast brought stiff southerly winds across central and north-central South Dakota from the late morning until the early evening. South winds of 30 to 40 mph with gusts over 60 mph caused spotty damage across the region. The high winds created large waves on Lake Oahe near Pierre, which damaged several docks along with some boats at a marina. There were also some tree branches downed across the region, along with some damage to a few structures. With the high winds, warm temperatures, and low humidity, several grassland fires also broke out across parts of the region. The maximum wind gust of 68 mph occurred in Corson County.

1910: A category 4 hurricane moved north-northeast, passing just east of the Dry Tortugas. The maximum storm surge observed in Key West was 8 feet, with 15-foot waves at what is now Fort Zachary Taylor State Park.

1971: Great balls of fire were observed just ahead of a tornado moving down the main street of Wray, Colorado. However, little other electrical activity accompanied the storm. Nine people were injured in the storm, all at a trailer court at the edge of town.

1984: A snowstorm struck northern Utah producing a record 18 inches in 24 hours at Salt Lake City and 40 inches at the nearby Alta Ski Resort. The town of Magna, located ten miles west of Salt Lake City, did not receive any snow at all. The storm was responsible for a fifty-vehicle pile-up along Interstate 15 near Farmington, Utah.

1997: Late on October 17, Super Typhoon Ivan attained its peak intensity with winds of 185 mph and an official barometric pressure of 905 mbar. On the same day, while near peak intensity, Typhoon Joan was located about 1300 miles east of Typhoon Ivan.

1998: During the weekend of October 17-18, 1998, torrential rains fell over southern and southeast Texas. Up to 22 inches of rain fell, which first resulted in deadly flash flooding from San Antonio to Austin followed by record-breaking river floods along several South Texas rivers the following week. Based on provisional data from the USGS, which is subject to revision, the flood peak for this event was the highest known peak stage at 15 locations. Tragically, a total of 31 people died during the event (26 drownings, two tornado deaths, two heart attacks, and one electrocution/drowning). At least 17 of the drowning victims were in vehicles that were either driven into water or were swept away by rapidly rising water. Preliminary property damage estimates approached three-quarters of a billion dollars.



# Groton Daily Independent

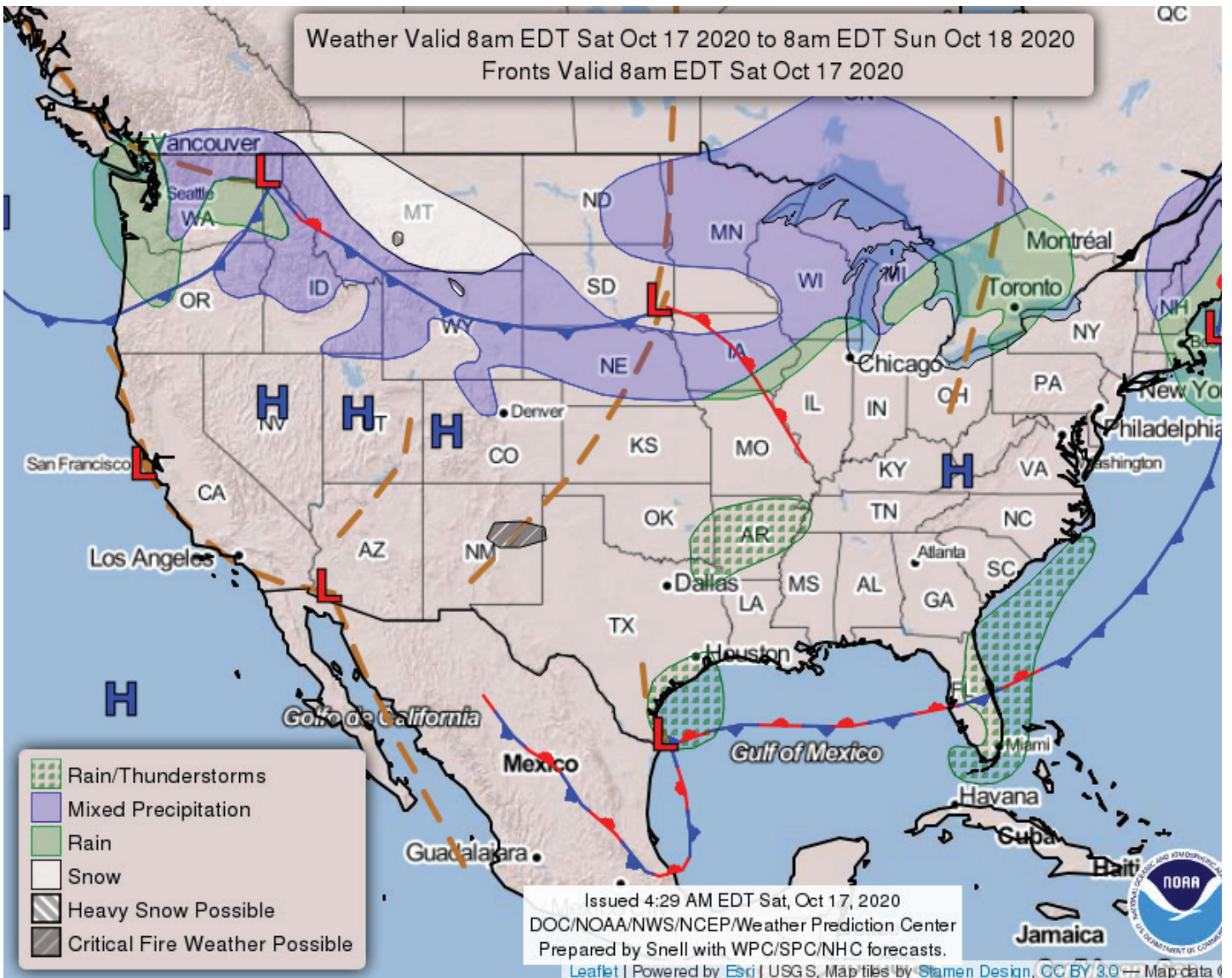
Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 17 of 78

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 47 °F at 3:31 PM**  
**Low Temp: 28 °F at 2:10 AM**  
**Wind: 20 mph at 6:24 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 92° in 1910**  
**Record Low: 15° in 1930**  
**Average High: 57°F**  
**Average Low: 32°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 1.16**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 19.64**  
**Precip Year to Date: 15.28**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:44 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:55 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 18 of 78



## DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!

The class was excited to meet the new art teacher. Waiting expectantly for their first assignment, the teacher stood before the class and said, "I want each of you to draw a square, a triangle, and a rectangle. And I want you to do your best."

After a few minutes, she began to walk among the students and observe their work. Pausing to look at the work Bobby was doing, she noticed that his lines were not straight.

"Look, Bobby," she said, "that line isn't straight."

"I know," he admitted, "but I can straighten it later."

"Bobby," she replied, "a straight line never needs to be straightened. Do it right the first time!"

The Psalmist wrote, "I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your law." In this psalm, the author reveals two critical decisions: first, to be faithful to God's laws and, second, not to be deterred from being faithful and fully committed to keeping God's commandments. He said emphatically, "I am determined!"

God has given each of us the wonderful gift of choice. In this psalm, the author said that he made one decision that would guide every other decision he would ever make.

If our decisions are grounded in the teachings of God's Word, we will not need to go back and "straighten the lines of our lives." May God's Word light our paths and guide our steps.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, that our decisions are guided by Your Word so that our lives will be well-pleasing to You. May we live lives of integrity and honesty. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your regulations. Psalm 119:30



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 19 of 78

## 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

### **Police: man killed in officer-involved shooting**

SIOUX Falls, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a man is dead after an officer-involved shooting late Friday. Police say two officers responded to an apartment building at about 11:30 p.m. for a person who was refusing to leave. Police say the man began shooting at one of the officers who arrived on the scene. Police say the suspect received a gunshot wound to his head from the second officer and died at the scene. The officer who was fired upon received minor injuries and did not require medical attention, police said. Police did not identify the man or the officers, who have been placed on administrative leave.

### **Rural Midwest hospitals struggling to handle virus surge**

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Rural Jerauld County in South Dakota didn't see a single case of the coronavirus for more than two months stretching from June to August. But over the last two weeks, its rate of new cases per person soared to one of the highest in the nation.

"All of a sudden it hit, and as it does, it just exploded," said Dr. Tom Dean, one of just three doctors who work in the county.

As the brunt of the virus has blown into the Upper Midwest and northern Plains, the severity of outbreaks in rural communities has come into focus. Doctors and health officials in small towns worry that infections may overwhelm communities with limited medical resources. And many say they are still running up against attitudes on wearing masks that have hardened along political lines and a false notion that rural areas are immune to widespread infections.

Dean took to writing a column in the local weekly newspaper, the True Dakotan, to offer his guidance. In recent weeks, he's watched as one in roughly every 37 people in his county has tested positive for the virus.

It ripped through the nursing home in Wessington Springs where both his parents lived, killing his father. The community's six deaths may appear minimal compared with thousands who have died in cities, but they have propelled the county of about 2,000 people to a death rate roughly four times higher than the nationwide rate.

Rural counties across Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana sit among the top in the nation for new cases per capita over the last two weeks, according to Johns Hopkins researchers. In counties with just a few thousand people, the number of cases per capita can soar with even a small outbreak — and the toll hits close to home in tight-knit towns.

"One or two people with infections can really cause a large impact when you have one grocery store or gas station," said Misty Rudebusch, the medical director at a network of rural health clinics in South Dakota called Horizon Health Care. "There is such a ripple effect."

Wessington Springs is a hub for the generations of farmers and ranchers that work the surrounding land. Residents send their children to the same schoolhouse they attended and have preserved cultural offerings like a Shakespeare garden and opera house.

They trust Dean, who for 42 years has tended to everything from broken bones to high blood pressure. When a patient needs a higher level of care, the family physician usually depends on a transfer to a hospital 130 miles (209 kilometers) away.

As cases surge, hospitals in rural communities are having trouble finding beds. A recent request to transfer a "not desperately ill, but pretty" sick COVID-19 patient was denied for several days, until the patient's condition had worsened, Dean said.

"We're proud of what we got, but it's been a struggle," he said of the 16-bed hospital.

The outbreak that killed Dean's dad forced Wessington Springs' only nursing home to put out a statewide request for nurses.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 21 of 78

Thin resources and high death rates have plagued other small communities. Blair Tomscheck, interim director of the health department in Toole County, Montana, worried that the region's small hospitals would need to start caring for serious COVID-19 patients after cases spiked to the nation's highest per capita. One out of every 28 people in the county has tested positive in the last two weeks, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.

"It's very, very challenging when your resources are poor — living in a small, rural county," she said.

Infections can also spread quickly in places like Toole County, where most everyone shops at the same grocery store, attends the same school or worships at a handful of churches.

"The Sunday family dinners are killing us," Tomscheck said.

Even as outbreaks threaten to spiral out of control, doctors and health officials said they are struggling to convince people of the seriousness of a virus that took months to arrive in force.

"It's kind of like getting a blizzard warning and then the blizzard doesn't hit that week, so then the next time, people say they are not going to worry about it," said Kathleen Taylor, a 67-year-old author who lives in Redfield, South Dakota.

In swaths of the country decorated by flags supporting President Donald Trump, people took their cues on wearing masks from his often-cavalier attitude towards the virus. Dean draws a direct connection between Trump's approach and the lack of precautions in his town of 956 people.

"There's the foolish idea that mask-wearing or refusal is some kind of a political statement," Dean said. "It has seriously interfered with our ability to get it under control."

Even amid the surge, Republican governors in the region have been reluctant to act. North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum said recently, "We are caught in the middle of a COVID storm" as he raised advisory risk levels in counties across the state. But he has refused to issue a mask mandate.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who has carved out a reputation among conservatives by foregoing lockdowns, blamed the surge in cases on testing increases, even though the state has had the highest positivity rate in the nation over the last two weeks, according to the COVID Tracking Project. Positivity rates are an indication of how widespread infections are.

In Wisconsin, conservative groups have sued over Democratic Gov. Tony Evers mask mandate.

Whether the requirement survives doesn't matter to Jody Bierhals, a resident of Gillett who doubts the efficacy of wearing a mask. Her home county of Oconto, which stretches from the northern border of Green Bay into forests and farmland, has the state's second-highest growth in coronavirus cases per person.

Bierhals, a single mother with three kids, is more worried about the drop in business at her small salon. The region depends on tourists, but many have stayed away during the pandemic.

"Do I want to keep the water on, or do I want to be able to put food on the table?" she asked. "It's a difficult situation."

Bierhals said she thought the virus couldn't be stopped and it would be best to let it run its course. But local attitudes like that have left the county's health officer, Debra Koniter, desperate.

Konitzer warned that the uncontrolled spread of infections has overwhelmed the county's health systems.

"I'm just waiting to see if our community can change our behavior," she said. "Otherwise, I don't see the end in sight."

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

27-32-50-52-57, Mega Ball: 12, Megaplier: 5

(twenty-seven, thirty-two, fifty, fifty-two, fifty-seven; Mega Ball: twelve; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$77 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$82 million

## College students fill need for substitute teachers

By ELISA SAND Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Samantha Wood is getting some additional teaching experience and filling a need for substitute teachers.

Wood is a junior at Northern State University and studying to be a teacher. This year she and the other teacher candidates have a new pre-teaching opportunity that can count toward their required field experience hours.

That experience can now be gained teaching in classrooms where substitutes are needed.

"Personally, I feel like I'm getting more of an experience," Wood said explaining that the experience allows her to see all parts of teaching.

"I'm learning by experience, which is really awesome for me," she said.

Wood said she was nervous about her first placement in the classroom, but said it was really exciting to see what the teacher had planned for the day and easy to jump in and keep class activities moving. And she can get creative with those activities.

"As a teacher candidate, I can put my own spin on it," she said.

She'd been filling in various classrooms for more than two weeks now. She was already close to meeting her required field experience hours, but planned to continue working in classrooms, the Aberdeen American News reported,

"We're calling it an alternative field experience," said Andria Moon, associate dean for Northern's Millicent Atkins School of Education. "We are ecstatic about this partnership. Schools do so much, we're excited to give back to them through this opportunity."

Moon said university staff knew there was an increased need for substitute teachers this year because older substitute teachers aren't comfortable teaching in the classrooms during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In prior years, no one would have thought of this," Moon said. "It wasn't a need."

While teacher candidates have subbed in classrooms in the past, she said, they didn't have the opportunity to get credit for field experience until Northern called and asked if that was a possibility and got approval to do so.

"We want to give back to our community," Moon said. "Those who are choosing, they are excited. Not every candidate is willing, but those who are super confident. We're proud of them and can vouch for their qualifications."

A little more than a third of Northern's teaching candidates eligible for the alternative teaching experience have taken advantage of the program.

Wood said sharing her experience in the classroom got her classmates interested.

"After I shared my experience they were asking me questions and more willing to try," she said.

Becky Guffin, superintendent for Aberdeen's public school district, agreed the need for substitute teachers is high this year. So far the district is managing, but there have been challenges and some creative solutions.

Because of COVID-19, she said, teachers aren't just out for a day. South Dakota Department of Health recommendations include a two-week quarantine for someone who comes in close contact with a person who tests positive for the virus.

It can also be multiple days before the results of a COVID-19 test come back.

"The district has been able to fill the substitute need so far, but sometimes it takes more than one substitute," Guffin said.

In some cases there's one person who fills in the morning and another who fills in the afternoon. Sometimes, Guffin said, teachers give up their open planning period to cover another classroom. During planning periods, she said, teachers don't typically have students in a classroom as they are planning ahead or getting caught up with work.

"When they don't have students of their own, they work when they should be planning," Guffin said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 23 of 78

"We've been very fortunate."

As for COVID-19 cases, she said, the district is seeing some, which was expected.

Multiple calls have gone out to parents of high school students alerting them that a student or students have tested positive. Middle school parents have also received calls, and at least one elementary school call has been made.

Since the high school is the largest group of students, Guffin said, it's to be expected that there will more cases there. Teachers are prepared to be flexible for those students who are out for 10 to 14 days and have tests and work to make up.

She said there's no set threshold that will trigger remote learning for the district.

The goals, Guffin said, is to keep the buildings staffed and operational.

"We're holding our own," she said. "It's a very different year."

## Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Brandon Valley 63, Harrisburg 27

Bridgewater-Emery 51, Beresford 0

Brookings 63, Spearfish 0

Burke 14, Alcester-Hudson 6

Canistota 40, Hanson 0

Canton 20, Sioux Falls Christian 19

Castlewood 63, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 8

Chester 22, Baltic 12

Clark/Willow Lake 46, Great Plains Lutheran 14

Colman-Egan 46, Deubrook 0

Corsica/Stickney 50, Gayville-Volin 10

Custer 30, Hot Springs 7

Dakota Hills 38, Estelline/Hendricks 6

DeSmet 44, Arlington/Lake Preston 8

Dupree def. Edgemont, forfeit

Elk Point-Jefferson 42, Flandreau 14

Faulkton 52, Potter County 20

Florence/Henry 42, Deuel 30

Gregory 36, Kimball/White Lake 29

Herreid/Selby Area 50, Northwestern 12

Huron 27, Tri-Valley 8

Ipswich/Edmunds Central 48, Sully Buttes 8

Kadoka Area 55, Hill City 6

Langford 64, Waverly-South Shore 14

Lemmon/McIntosh 80, Bison 16

Madison 38, Lennox 20

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 46, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 0

O Gorman 44, Aberdeen Central 12

Parker 66, Centerville 12

Philip 38, Lyman 28

Pierre 48, Mitchell 20

Platte-Geddes 41, Parkston 2

Scotland 12, Colome 0

Sioux Falls Lincoln 28, Sioux Falls Washington 20



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 24 of 78

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 55, Watertown 14  
Sioux Valley 14, Garretson 3  
Sisseton 52, Webster 8  
St. Thomas More 52, Lead-Deadwood 0  
Stanley County 6, Groton Area 0  
Sturgis Brown 35, Belle Fourche 6  
Tea Area 31, Milbank 15  
Vermillion 48, Dakota Valley 7  
Wall 34, New Underwood 6  
Warner 39, Britton-Hecla 0  
West Central 34, Dell Rapids 0  
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 55, Aberdeen Roncalli 6  
Yankton 42, Douglas 14

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

## **New coronavirus cases surge at South Dakota state prison**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — More than 100 inmates at a South Dakota prison have tested positive for the coronavirus this week, the Department of Corrections said Friday, as the state experiences some of the worst transmission rates in the country.

Mass testing at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield resulted in 127 positive tests among inmates and 22 inmates testing negative. Since the pandemic began, 149 inmates at the minimum to medium security prison have tested positive, while 103 have tested negative. The prison held 1,022 inmates as of Sept. 30.

The inmates who tested positive have been isolated while inmate transfers to and from the facility were temporarily suspended. Classes, training and work programs were also temporarily suspended.

The South Dakota Department of Health reported 793 new cases Friday as well as three deaths. The new cases pushed the seven-day average of positive results to 657, up from 246 a month ago. Part, but not all, of that rise reflects increased testing, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported. South Dakota reported 6,888 new test results on Friday, the largest total since Oct. 7. The state also reported that 299 people were hospitalized with COVID-19, five fewer than Thursday.

The Corrections Department also said Friday that an additional 11 people imprisoned at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls tested positive, raising the facility's total to 16 inmates infected.

The Argus Leader reported that the spike in Springfield comes as a spike that began in September subsides among inmates at the state's correctional facilities for women in Pierre. Ten active cases remain among the 241 inmates who tested positive.

Inmates at the Mike Durfee State Prison were among those tasked with making masks, face shields and other personal protective equipment for corrections staff and inmates. Inmates were given three face masks each. Early on in the pandemic, inmates were provided with disinfectants and directed to do extra cleaning and hand-washing.

## **Amazon purchases land in Sioux Falls for planned facility**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Online retail giant Amazon says it has purchased land for the \$200 million facility it plans to build in Sioux Falls.

The Seattle-based retailer will build the facility in the Foundation Park industrial area in the northwestern part of the city.

"This land purchase in Sioux Falls provides us with the flexibility to quickly respond to our future network needs," spokeswoman Kirsten Wenker said in a statement Thursday. "And we look forward to becoming

a member of the South Dakota community in the future.”

As part of a grant application sent by city officials to the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Amazon leadership submitted plans for a facility that would bring 1,000 jobs to the community.

The facility itself could be as big as 1 million square feet, set for an 80-acre parcel of land in the industrial park, the Argus Leader reported.

The City Council in September approved the designation of a tax increment financing district for a swath of land that includes the future Amazon site and stretches north to undeveloped portions of the industrial park.

A TIF is a tool used by municipal governments to finance development projects or other investments using the anticipation of future tax revenue resulting from new development.

## Suspect in teacher's beheading in France was Chechen teen

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A suspect shot dead by police after the gruesome beheading of a history teacher in an attack near Paris was an 18-year-old Moscow-born Chechen refugee, officials said Saturday.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor's office said authorities investigating the killing of Samuel Paty in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine on Friday also arrested nine suspects, including the teen's grandfather, parents and 17-year-old brother.

Paty had discussed caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad with his class, leading to threats and a complaint from a parent, police officials said. Islam prohibits images of the prophet, asserting that they lead to idolatry. The officials could not be named because they were not authorized to discuss ongoing investigations.

The French anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said an investigation for murder with a suspected terrorist motive had been opened.

Ricard told reporters that the suspect, who had been granted a 10-year residency in France as a refugee in March and was not known to intelligence services, had been armed with a knife and an airsoft gun, which fires plastic pellets.

The prosecutor said a text claiming responsibility and a photograph of the victim were found on the suspect's phone. Ricard said the suspect had been seen at the school asking students about the teacher, and the headmaster had received several threatening phone calls.

French leaders offered messages of sadness but also of hope after the killing.

"We'll pick ourselves up together, thanks to our spirit of solidarity," said Laurent Brosse, mayor of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine.

"We are all affected, all touched by this vile assassination," said Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer in a video message.

Mourners marched near the school in solidarity, holding signs that read "I am a teacher."

A police official said the suspect was shot dead about 600 meters (yards) from where Paty died. Police opened fire after he failed to respond to orders to put down his arms and acted in a threatening manner. The official could not be named because of the ongoing investigations.

French President Emmanuel Macron went to the school on Friday night to denounce what he called an "Islamist terrorist attack." He urged the nation to stand united against extremism.

"One of our compatriots was murdered today because he taught ... the freedom of expression, the freedom to believe or not believe," Macron said.

The presidential Elysee Palace announced Saturday that there will be a national ceremony at a future date in homage to Paty, about whom few details have so far emerged.

In a video posted recently on Twitter, a man describing himself as the father of a student asserted that Paty had shown an image of a naked man and told students it was "the prophet of the Muslims."

Before showing the images, the teacher asked Muslim children to raise their hands and leave the room because he planned to show something shocking, the man said. "What was the message he wanted to

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 26 of 78

send these children? What is this hate?" the man asked. The AP has not been able to independently confirm these claims.

Chechnya is a predominantly Muslim Russian republic in the North Caucasus. Two wars in the 1990s triggered a wave of emigration, with many Chechens heading for western Europe. France has offered asylum to many Chechens since the Russian military waged war against Islamist separatists in Chechnya in the 1990s and early 2000s.

France has seen occasional violence involving its Chechen community in recent months, believed linked to local criminal activity and score-settling.

This is the second time in three weeks that terror has struck France linked to caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. Last month, a young man from Pakistan was arrested after attacking two people with a meat cleaver outside the former offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The weekly was the target of a deadly newsroom attack in 2015, and it republished caricatures of the prophet this month to underscore the right to freedom of information as a trial opened linked to that attack.

Friday's terror attack came as Macron's government works on a bill to address Islamic radicals, who authorities claim are creating a parallel society outside the values of the French Republic.

Elaine Ganley contributed to this report.

## Transit shutdowns fail to deter Thai pro-democracy protests

By JERRY HARMER Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Pro-democracy activists in Thailand staged a fourth straight day of high-profile protests in the capital on Saturday, thwarting efforts by the authorities to stop them, including a shutdown of the city's mass transit systems.

Unlike protests a day earlier, which saw police using water cannons to keep the protesters at bay, Saturday's demonstrations were peaceful, with no reports of any clashes by the time participants started heading home in the evening.

The protesters are calling for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to leave office, the constitution to be amended to make it more democratic and the nation's monarchy to undergo reform.

All stations of Bangkok's elevated Skytrain transit system were closed Saturday afternoon to try to keep protesters from gathering. The underground MRT system was also shut, and police blocked off several roads.

Protesters met anyway as planned at the Skytrain stations, where they held small impromptu rallies, in effect establishing a temporary but active presence across the city.

The organizers then issued a fresh advisory for followers to gather at three stations outside the city's central area, where access was easier. Once that was announced, money was pooled by participants so they could take taxis to get around the transit shutdown.

"Right now we can do nothing much," said a 26-year-old hotel worker who asked to be called only Veronica. "What we can do right now is only show our power to let the outside see."

Several thousand people gathered in multiple locations, with some taking turns airing their views over a megaphone. By the evening, police had not disturbed them, even when some groups took to marching in the street. Protesters began dispersing at 8 p.m., the time organizers had said the protests would end.

The protesters acted despite a state of emergency imposed by Prayuth on Thursday that makes them all subject to arrest.

They also appeared not to be cowed by a crackdown on their rally in central Bangkok on Friday night, in which riot police backed up by water cannons cleared the streets in about an hour.

No major injuries were reported from that confrontation. It was the first time in three months of sporadic protests that the authorities have employed such forceful tactics against the student-led movement.

A 20-year-old student who used the name Ryo said Friday night's events had hardened his resistance. "I respect people's political opinions, but after yesterday's incident, I feel it was so harsh, perpetrating

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 27 of 78

violence against unarmed people who had no weapons to fight back," he said.

Protective gear such as goggles was distributed Saturday at some venues.

Friday night's violent dispersal led the People's Party, the protesters' umbrella organization, to declare in a statement that "the government and military have established themselves as the enemy of the people," Most of the group's top leaders have been arrested.

The protesters have been doing their best to elude the authorities, using social media to assemble followers before police have time to block them. The government has announced plans to take legal action against Twitter and Facebook accounts that announce the protests, but fresh calls to action were posted Saturday.

The protesters charge that Prayuth, who as army commander led a 2014 coup that toppled an elected government, was returned to power unfairly in last year's general election because laws had been changed to favor a pro-military party. The protesters say a constitution promulgated under military rule and passed in a referendum in which campaigning against it was illegal is undemocratic.

The call by the protesters for reform of the monarchy has significantly raised the political temperature in Thailand, angering many older conservative Thais for whom any critical discussion of the royal family is tantamount to treason.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn and other key members of the royal family are protected by a lese majeste law that has regularly been used to silence critics who risk up to 15 years in prison if deemed to have insulted the institution.

Prayuth's declaration of a state of emergency said the measure was necessary because "certain groups of perpetrators intended to instigate an untoward incident and movement in the Bangkok area by way of various methods and via different channels, including causing obstruction to the royal motorcade."

He was referring to an incident Wednesday that showed some members of a small crowd heckling a motorcade carrying Queen Suthida and Prince Dipangkorn as it slowly passed.

On Friday, two activists were arrested under a law covering violence against the queen for their alleged part in the incident. They could face up to life in prison if convicted. They denied any wrongdoing.

## **New virus restrictions in Europe; Merkel warns of hard days**

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Germans to come together like they did in the spring to slow the spread of the coronavirus as the country posted another daily record of new cases Saturday.

"Difficult months are ahead of us," she said in her weekly video podcast. "How winter will be, how our Christmas will be, that will all be decided in these coming days and weeks, and it will be decided by our behavior."

Meanwhile, new restrictions went into effect in several other European nations in an effort to staunch the resurgence of the pandemic.

In Paris and eight other French cities, restaurants, bars, movie theaters and other establishments were being forced to close no later than 9 p.m. to try to reduce contact among people. The country was deploying 12,000 extra police officers to enforce the new rules.

Many restaurant owners have bristled at the order. An earlier months-long lockdown devastated the sector. "I have the right to question the government's approach, I think it's a catastrophic measure for the industry," said Xavier Denamur, who owns Les Philosophes and several other bistros in Paris's chic Le Marais district, saying that if nothing else, the curfew should be 11 p.m.

"At least that would not destroy us," he said. "There's no evidence that this difference of a couple of hours will have any effect on the virus circulating."

In Britain, a three-tier regional approach to battle the pandemic introduced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson went into effect, with each level bringing progressively tighter restrictions.

On Saturday, tier-2 cities like London and York were subject to a ban on socializing with people from other households indoors, while the county of Lancashire joined Liverpool in tier 3 with the tightest restrictions.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 28 of 78

Among other things, that means pubs have been forced to close and socializing with others is banned even in many outdoor settings.

In Northern Ireland a lockdown lasting four weeks came into force Friday. All pubs and restaurants must close except for takeaway services, and schools will close for two weeks for an extended half-term holiday.

Data from Friday showed that a further 136 people died in the U.K. within 28 days of testing positive for coronavirus, bringing the total official toll to 43,429.

The World Health Organization has warned that intensive care units in a number of European cities could reach maximum capacity in the coming weeks if the number of infections doesn't slow.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg joined the list of top politicians who have tested positive for the virus, and was quarantined though he showed no symptoms, his office told Austria's APA news agency.

The Vatican, meanwhile, said someone who lives in the same hotel as Pope Francis tested positive for the virus, adding to the 11 cases of COVID-19 among the Swiss Guards who protect him.

In Germany, which was widely lauded for rapidly slowing the spread of the virus when the pandemic first broke out, the numbers have been climbing rapidly.

On Saturday, the country's disease control center, the Robert Koch Institute, reported 7,830 cases overnight, a new record.

Like most countries, Germany has been grappling with how to keep schools and businesses open while trying to prevent people from coming into close contact with one another.

Germany has registered a total of 356,387 coronavirus cases and a relatively low 9,767 deaths.

Merkel urged Germans to avoid unnecessary travel, cancel parties and remain at home whenever possible.

"What brought us so well through the first half year of the pandemic?" she asked. "It was that we stood together and obeyed the rules out of consideration and common sense. This is the most effective remedy we currently have against the pandemic and it is more necessary now than ever."

In the neighboring Czech Republic, the number of new infections surpassed 10,000 for the first time, surging to 11,105 on Friday, the Health Ministry said. The country has now registered a total of 160,112 cases, including 1,283 deaths.

Despite new restrictive measures to slow the surge, Health Minister Roman Prymula said he still expects a rise in those testing positive for about two weeks.

Next door, Slovakia said it was acquiring 13 million rapid antigen tests — enough to test each member of the population twice — and would establish 6,000 testing sites.

Prime Minister Igor Matovic said testing will take place over the next two weekends, starting with the three or four hardest hit counties. It was not immediately clear whether tests would be mandatory.

Italy's northern Lombardy region, where the European outbreak began in late February, has taken new measures to contain rebounding infections, limiting bar service and alcohol sales, banning contact sports and closing bingo parlors.

The regional government late Friday called for high schools to adopt hybrid schedules, with students alternating in-person with online learning.

The measures were taken after Lombardy, Italy's most populous region, once again became the most affected, adding more than 2,000 infections a day. Hospitals are coming under strain and intensive care units are filling up.

The new measures allow only table service for bars from 6 p.m., ban takeout alcohol sales from that time and prohibit all consumption of booze in public spaces.

Italy's other hardest hit region, southern Campania, has taken similarly strict measures, including a shutdown of schools for two weeks. After parents protested, the regional governor backed off Friday and allowed daycare centers to remain open.

In the capital, Rome, residents grumbled as cases climbed, fearing a return to the strict country-wide measures that were imposed when the virus was spreading out of control.

"The situation is critical thanks to the morons, because I call them morons, who have not respected



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 29 of 78

the rules," said resident Mario Massenzi. "And if we fall back into the same situation as in March, we are finished."

Thomas Adamson in Paris, Sylvia Hui in London, Nicole Winfield in Rome, Colleen Barry in Milan and Karel Janicek in Prague contributed to this report.

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

## Rural Midwest hospitals struggling to handle virus surge

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Rural Jerauld County in South Dakota didn't see a single case of the coronavirus for more than two months stretching from June to August. But over the last two weeks, its rate of new cases per person soared to one of the highest in the nation.

"All of a sudden it hit, and as it does, it just exploded," said Dr. Tom Dean, one of just three doctors who work in the county.

As the brunt of the virus has blown into the Upper Midwest and northern Plains, the severity of outbreaks in rural communities has come into focus. Doctors and health officials in small towns worry that infections may overwhelm communities with limited medical resources. And many say they are still running up against attitudes on wearing masks that have hardened along political lines and a false notion that rural areas are immune to widespread infections.

Dean took to writing a column in the local weekly newspaper, the True Dakotan, to offer his guidance. In recent weeks, he's watched as one in roughly every 37 people in his county has tested positive for the virus.

It ripped through the nursing home in Wessington Springs where both his parents lived, killing his father. The community's six deaths may appear minimal compared with thousands who have died in cities, but they have propelled the county of about 2,000 people to a death rate roughly four times higher than the nationwide rate.

Rural counties across Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana sit among the top in the nation for new cases per capita over the last two weeks, according to Johns Hopkins researchers. In counties with just a few thousand people, the number of cases per capita can soar with even a small outbreak — and the toll hits close to home in tight-knit towns.

"One or two people with infections can really cause a large impact when you have one grocery store or gas station," said Misty Rudebusch, the medical director at a network of rural health clinics in South Dakota called Horizon Health Care. "There is such a ripple effect."

Wessington Springs is a hub for the generations of farmers and ranchers that work the surrounding land. Residents send their children to the same schoolhouse they attended and have preserved cultural offerings like a Shakespeare garden and opera house.

They trust Dean, who for 42 years has tended to everything from broken bones to high blood pressure. When a patient needs a higher level of care, the family physician usually depends on a transfer to a hospital 130 miles (209 kilometers) away.

As cases surge, hospitals in rural communities are having trouble finding beds. A recent request to transfer a "not desperately ill, but pretty" sick COVID-19 patient was denied for several days, until the patient's condition had worsened, Dean said.

"We're proud of what we got, but it's been a struggle," he said of the 16-bed hospital.

The outbreak that killed Dean's dad forced Wessington Springs' only nursing home to put out a statewide request for nurses.

Thin resources and high death rates have plagued other small communities. Blair Tomscheck, interim director of the health department in Toole County, Montana, worried that the region's small hospitals would

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 30 of 78

need to start caring for serious COVID-19 patients after cases spiked to the nation's highest per capita. One out of every 28 people in the county has tested positive in the last two weeks, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.

"It's very, very challenging when your resources are poor — living in a small, rural county," she said.

Infections can also spread quickly in places like Toole County, where most everyone shops at the same grocery store, attends the same school or worships at a handful of churches.

"The Sunday family dinners are killing us," Tomscheck said.

Even as outbreaks threaten to spiral out of control, doctors and health officials said they are struggling to convince people of the seriousness of a virus that took months to arrive in force.

"It's kind of like getting a blizzard warning and then the blizzard doesn't hit that week, so then the next time, people say they are not going to worry about it," said Kathleen Taylor, a 67-year-old author who lives in Redfield, South Dakota.

In swaths of the country decorated by flags supporting President Donald Trump, people took their cues on wearing masks from his often-cavalier attitude towards the virus. Dean draws a direct connection between Trump's approach and the lack of precautions in his town of 956 people.

"There's the foolish idea that mask-wearing or refusal is some kind of a political statement," Dean said. "It has seriously interfered with our ability to get it under control."

Even amid the surge, Republican governors in the region have been reluctant to act. North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum said recently, "We are caught in the middle of a COVID storm" as he raised advisory risk levels in counties across the state. But he has refused to issue a mask mandate.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who has carved out a reputation among conservatives by foregoing lockdowns, blamed the surge in cases on testing increases, even though the state has had the highest positivity rate in the nation over the last two weeks, according to the COVID Tracking Project. Positivity rates are an indication of how widespread infections are.

In Wisconsin, conservative groups have sued over Democratic Gov. Tony Evers mask mandate.

Whether the requirement survives doesn't matter to Jody Bierhals, a resident of Gillett who doubts the efficacy of wearing a mask. Her home county of Oconto, which stretches from the northern border of Green Bay into forests and farmland, has the state's second-highest growth in coronavirus cases per person.

Bierhals, a single mother with three kids, is more worried about the drop in business at her small salon. The region depends on tourists, but many have stayed away during the pandemic.

"Do I want to keep the water on, or do I want to be able to put food on the table?" she asked. "It's a difficult situation."

Bierhals said she thought the virus couldn't be stopped and it would be best to let it run its course. But local attitudes like that have left the county's health officer, Debra Koniter, desperate.

Konitzer warned that the uncontrolled spread of infections has overwhelmed the county's health systems.

"I'm just waiting to see if our community can change our behavior," she said. "Otherwise, I don't see the end in sight."

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump sees what others do not in the pandemic

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "I believe we're rounding the corner." "We're a winner on the excess mortality." "We have the vaccines coming and we have the therapies coming." "We have done an amazing job."

President Donald Trump sees in the pandemic what he wants to see. He seemed to acknowledge as much when he was challenged on stage a few days ago for repeatedly and thoroughly misrepresenting a study about masks.

No, the study did not find that most people who wear masks get COVID-19. Most people don't. But, "that's what I heard and that's what I saw, and — regardless...."

Regard for the facts is not a hallmark of Trump's campaign for the Nov. 3 election or of his presidency.

His assurance, heard for weeks, that the U.S. is rounding the corner on the coronavirus is belied by ris-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 31 of 78

ing infection in the vast majority of states and higher deaths in 30 by week's end, as well as by a surge in Europe. This as the flu season approaches, another layer of risk to health.

As for Trump's claim that he's done an amazing job on the pandemic, that's part of a record in office that voters are judging now and until polls close for the Nov. 3 election. He and Democratic rival Joe Biden bid for late advantage in competing forums that replaced a canceled presidential debate.

Meantime, the Senate vetted Judge Amy Coney Barrett's nomination for the Supreme Court with committee hearings that often seemed to put the Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare," on trial.

Some statements from the past week and how they compare with the facts:

## THE VIRUS

TRUMP, asked about the many attendees at a White House event who got sick with COVID-19: "Just the other day they came out with a statement that 85% of the people that wear masks catch it." — NBC forum in Miami on Thursday.

NBC'S SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: "Well, they didn't say that, I know that study."

TRUMP: "Well that's what I heard and that's what I saw, and -- regardless, but everybody's tested and they're tested often."

THE FACTS: That was at least the third time the same day that he flatly misstated the findings of a federal study and the first time he was called out on it. The study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not find that 85% of mask wearers catch COVID-19. If that were so, the majority of Americans would be infected.

It found something quite different: that 85% of a small group of COVID-19 patients surveyed reported they had worn a mask often or always around the time they would have become infected. Dining in restaurants, where masks are set aside for meals, was one activity suspected of spreading community infection. The study not declare masks ineffective.

Trump told a North Carolina rally earlier in the day: "Did you see CDC? That 85% of the people wearing a mask catch it, OK?" And to Fox Business News: "CDC comes out with a statement that 85% of the people wearing masks catch it."

TRUMP: "We're a winner on the excess mortality." — Miami forum.

THE FACTS: That marker of mass death is a problematic bragging point.

Excess mortality estimates take a look at how many more people are dying than usual. The estimates help to illustrate that the death toll attributed to COVID-19 understates how many are actually dying from the disease.

As many as 215,000 more people than usual died in the U.S. during the first seven months of the year, suggesting that the number of lives lost to the coronavirus was significantly higher than the official toll, which was then about 150,000. More than half the dead in the excess mortality count were people of color, a higher proportion than their share of the population, according to an analysis by The Associated Press and the Marshall Project, a nonprofit news organization covering the criminal justice system.

Exactly how many of the abnormally high deaths were from the virus cannot be known, and international comparisons cannot be made with precision.

But the findings don't make the U.S. a "winner."

## SUPREME COURT

JOE BIDEN: "This nominee said she wants to get rid of the Affordable Care Act." — remarks to reporters Monday.

BIDEN: "Why do Republicans have time to hold a hearing on the Supreme Court? ... It's about finally getting his (Trump's) wish to wipe out the affordable health care act because their nominee has said in the past that the law should be struck down." — to supporters in Ohio on Monday.

THE FACTS: No, Barrett has not said explicitly that she would strike down the health law. Biden may ultimately be right that if she joins the court, she would vote to eliminate the law, but there are also rea-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 32 of 78

sons to believe she might not.

Biden is alluding to a 2017 commentary Barrett wrote that included a critique of the Supreme Court's 2012 ruling upholding parts of the law. Barrett was a University of Notre Dame law professor at the time.

In her critique, she specifically took issue with Chief Justice John Roberts' reasoning that the penalty attached to one part of the law — the mandate that everyone get health coverage — be considered a tax and therefore within the powers of Congress to enforce. She said he stretched the law "beyond its plausible meaning" to uphold it in the 5-4 vote.

That's not necessarily the same as her wanting to trash the entire law. It's difficult to take what a prospective jurist wrote about a complex law and use it to state as fact how she might rule years later when some circumstances have changed. But Biden and other Democrats didn't hesitate to do so.

All that is certain is that Barrett criticized how her potential colleagues on the high court ruled on the law eight years ago.

---

## FROM NORTH CAROLINA

TRUMP, reacting to news that several people associated with the Biden campaign on a recent flight with Biden's running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, tested positive for COVID-19: "We extend our best wishes, which is more than they did to me, but that's OK." — North Carolina rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: That's false.

Hours after Trump's early morning announcement on Oct. 2 that he had tested positive, both Biden and Harris sent their wishes for a quick recovery via Twitter.

"Jill and I send our thoughts to President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump for a swift recovery," Biden wrote. "We will continue to pray for the health and safety of the president and his family."

Harris tweeted a similar message "wishing President Trump and the First Lady a full and speedy recovery. We're keeping them and the entire Trump family in our thoughts."

The Biden campaign at the time also said it would stop running negative ads, with the candidate tweeting that "this cannot be a partisan moment" when Trump was going to a hospital for treatment of his coronavirus infection. Biden's camp resumed the advertising after Trump was released.

---

## GOP v. "OBAMACARE"

SEN. TED CRUZ: "Obamacare' has doubled the profits of the big health insurance companies, doubled them. 'Obamacare' has been great corporate welfare for giant health insurance companies at the same time, according to the Kaiser foundation, premiums — average families' premiums — have risen more than — have risen \$7,967 per year on average. That is catastrophic that millions of Americans can't afford health care. It is a catastrophic failure of 'Obamacare.'" — Barrett nomination hearing Wednesday.

THE FACTS: No, family premiums for health insurance have not risen by \$7,967 per year, as Cruz asserted. Nowhere close.

That figure comes from the Kaiser Family Foundation but it captures the increase over 11 years — 2009 to 2020 — not per year, as the Republican senator from Texas put it. In addition, the figure applies to the cost of premiums for employer-provided coverage, not for "Obamacare" or for health insurance overall.

Kaiser's Larry Levitt says the cost of employer coverage wasn't much affected by the health law and "the increase in premiums is largely due to changes in underlying health care costs over this period."

The law's premiums for a standard "silver" individual plan purchased by a hypothetical 40-year-old went up from an average of \$273 a month nationally in 2014, to \$462 this year.

Levitt said there's not a clear equivalent for a family premium in the health law's marketplaces; what a family pays is the sum of each member's individual premiums.

Cruz's take on insurer profits also missed the mark. Some major insurers lost money for a time selling "Obamacare" coverage, and several companies exited the health law's markets. The law actually has a provision that in effect limits insurer profits.

---



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 33 of 78

SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM: "Under the Affordable Care Act, three states get 35% of the money, folks. Can you name them? I'll help you, California, New York and Massachusetts. They're 22% of the population. ... Now, why did they get 35% of the money when they are only 22% of the population?" — Barrett confirmation hearing Tuesday.

THE FACTS: The South Carolina senator's suggestion that Democrats designed the health law to benefit Democratic states is misleading.

Big states with higher premiums and more enrollment in the health insurance marketplaces get more federal money. But that's driven by differences in premiums between states and by the number of people who sign up for taxpayer-subsidized coverage.

Moreover, some states such as South Carolina get much less federal money under the health law because they chose not to expand Medicaid, where the federal government picks up 90% of the cost.

## THE UNDEBATE ECONOMY

TRUMP: "We had the greatest economy in the history of our country." — Miami forum.

THE FACTS: The numbers show it wasn't the greatest in U.S. history.

Did the U.S. have the most jobs on record before the pandemic? Sure, the population had grown. The 3.5% unemployment rate before the recession was at a half-century low, but the percentage of people working or searching for jobs was still below a 2000 peak.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Romer looked at Trump's economic growth record this month. Growth under Trump averaged 2.48% annually before the pandemic, only slightly better than the 2.41% gains achieved during Barack Obama's second term. By contrast, the economic expansion that began in 1982 during Ronald Reagan's presidency averaged 4.2% a year.

So Trump is wrong.

## CRIME

BIDEN: "The crime bill itself did not have mandatory sentences, except for two things, it had three strikes and you're out, which I voted against in the crime bill." — ABC forum in Philadelphia on Thursday.

THE FACTS: That's misleading. Biden is understating the impact of the Clinton-era bill and the influence he brought to bear in getting it passed into law.

Biden wrote and voted for that sweeping 1994 crime bill, which included money for more prisons, expanded the use of the federal death penalty and called for a mandatory life sentence for three-time violent offenders — the so-called three strikes provision.

He did call the three-strikes rule "wacko" at one point, even as he was helping to write the bill. Whatever his reservations about certain provisions, he ultimately voted for the legislation, which included the three-strikes rule and has come to be seen in the Black Lives Matter era as a heavy-handed and discriminatory tool of the justice system.

## ELECTION FRAUD

TRUMP: "When I see thousands of ballots dumped in a garbage can and they happen to have my name on it? I'm not happy about it." — Miami forum.

THE FACTS: Nobody has seen that. Contrary to Trump's repeated, baseless attacks on voting security, voting and election fraud is vanishingly rare. No cases involving thousands of ballots dumped in the trash have been reported in this election.

Trump has cited a case of military ballots marked for him being thrown in the trash in Pennsylvania as evidence of a possible plot to steal the election. But he leaves out the details: County election officials say that the seven ballots, along with two unopened ones, were accidentally tossed in an elections office in a Republican-controlled county by a single contract worker and that authorities were swiftly called.

The Brennan Center for Justice in 2017 ranked the risk of ballot fraud at 0.00004% to 0.0009%, based on studies of past elections.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 34 of 78

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

TRUMP: "We have the vaccines coming and we have the therapies coming." —Miami forum.

THE FACTS: That's the expectation, but not a certainty. The intense effort to develop vaccines and treatments has had both advances and setbacks.

Despite Trump's repeated promises of an imminent vaccine, scientists say it's unlikely that data showing a leading shot actually works would come before the election. Promising therapies are being tried.

A new study led by the World Health Organization suggests that the antiviral drug remdesivir — among the drugs given to Trump — did not help hospitalized COVID-19 patients. But that's not the final word on a medicine that became the standard of care in many countries after a U.S. study found it sped recovery.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA

FRACKING

TRUMP: "One of the most important issues for Pennsylvania is the survival of your fracking industry. Joe Biden has repeatedly pledged to abolish fracking. He's a liar. He's a liar." — remarks Tuesday at a rally in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

THE FACTS: That's false. Biden has repeatedly pledged not to abolish fracking. None of that has dissuaded the president from wholly distorting Biden's position.

At one of the Democratic primary debates, Biden misspoke when he addressed the subject, saying that if he became president, there would be "no more — no new — fracking." Biden's campaign quickly corrected his mistake.

Biden's actual position is that he would ban new gas and oil permits, including for fracking, on federal lands only. The vast majority of oil and gas does not come from federal lands.

He's hewed closely to that middle-of-the-road position, going so far as to tell an anti-fracking activist that he "ought to vote for somebody else" if he was in a hurry to see fracking abolished.

Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, opened up a yearslong oil and gas boom in parts of the Southwest, High Plains and Northeast, including battleground Pennsylvania. The technique went into widespread use during the Obama-Biden administration.

Some liberal Democrats wish Biden were taking a tougher line against fracking now. But he isn't.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

TRUMP: "The World Health Organization just admitted that I was right. Lockdowns are killing countries all over the world. The cure cannot be worse than the problem itself. Open up your states, Democrat governors. Open up New York. A long battle, but they finally did the right thing!" — tweet Monday.

WHITE HOUSE: "Over the weekend, the World Health Organization officially changed their policy and strongly stated that prolonged lockdowns must end because of their significant harms." — White House official in call Monday with reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

THE FACTS: They're twisting words out of context. The WHO has not shifted its position that national stay-at-home orders or "lockdowns" should be considered a measure of last resort to contain the virus. Nor did it ever declare that Trump "was right" on his COVID-19 response.

Trump appeared to be referring to comments made last week by Dr. David Nabarro, one of six special envoys to the WHO on COVID-19. He told the British magazine *The Spectator* that lockdowns should be considered as just one measure among many to control the virus, with an aim to give countries "breathing space" to roll out other, better anti-COVID measures.

"We in the World Health Organization do not advocate lockdowns as the primary means of control of this virus," Nabarro said. He added that lockdowns can only be justified "to buy you time to reorganize, regroup, rebalance your resources, protect your health workers who are exhausted. But by and large, we'd rather not do it."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 35 of 78

Since declaring the coronavirus a pandemic in March, the WHO has said that if countries decide to go into lockdown, it should be considered temporary and they should use the time to implement measures such as testing, tracing, informing local populations and promoting physical distancing.

The United Nations body has been inconsistent at times with its recommendations, such as mask wearing that it first opposed for the general public. It has also lagged governments in pushing border closings. But on "stay at home" lockdown measures, it hasn't changed.

Associated Press writers Amanda Seitz, David Klepper, Jude Joffe-Block, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Bill Barrow, Josh Boak, Darlene Superville, Kevin Freking and Jamey Keaten contributed to this report.

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

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apnews.com/APFactCheck>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

## 'There's a lemur!' 5-year-old helps crack SF Zoo theft case

Associated Press undefined

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Police said Friday they arrested a man suspected of stealing a ring-tailed lemur from the San Francisco Zoo, where officials rewarded a 5-year-old boy who helped recapture the endangered primate with a lifetime membership.

The theft of Maki, an arthritic 21-year-old lemur, made the news Wednesday in San Francisco and beyond when zoo officials reported the animal missing and found evidence of forced entry at his enclosure.

Five-year-old James Trinh was unaware of the headlines when leaving his preschool Thursday in Daly City, about 5 miles from the zoo, and exclaimed, "There's a lemur! There's a lemur!" Cynthia Huang, director of the Hope Lutheran Day School, told the San Francisco Chronicle Friday.

Huang was skeptical at first. "I thought, Are you sure it's not a raccoon?" she said.

Maki scurried from the parking lot into the school's playground and took refuge in a miniature play house, as the school called police who quickly alerted animal control and zoo officials. The children, parents and teachers watched as caretakers arrived and coaxed the lemur into a transport cage, Huang said.

Also Thursday, police took 30-year-old Cory McGilloway into custody, San Francisco police Lt. Scott Ryan told reporters Friday.

McGilloway, whom investigators had identified as a suspect in the lemur's abduction, was arrested Thursday evening by San Rafael police on unrelated charges. He was expected to be transferred to San Francisco County Jail to be booked on charges of burglary, grand theft of an animal, looting and vandalism all related to the lemur theft, Ryan said.

Police did not provide other details, saying the investigation was still underway but credited a multi-agency effort and tips on a public tip line that led to the suspect's capture.

San Francisco Zoo director Tanya Peterson said Maki was "an aging wild animal who needed special care" for ailments including arthritis. "He's still agitated, dehydrated and hungry," she said, adding that veterinarian teams were working to get him back to health. Due to his travels, she added, "He's socially distancing from his primate family" but would hopefully join the other lemurs soon.

Authorities had offered a \$2,100 reward for locating Maki, which the zoo will be giving to the church.

"I understand there is a young boy there who witnessed this and also called in the tip, and we are giving his family a free membership to the zoo," said Tanya Peterson, director of the zoo, who thanked the boy and everyone who helped. "They literally saved a life."

## For Trump, city where 'bad things happen' looms large

By MIKE CATALINI and MARC LEVY Associated Press

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 36 of 78

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — When President Donald Trump told the world that “bad things happen in Philadelphia,” it was, in part, a blunt assessment of his party’s struggles in the nation’s sixth-most populous city.

For decades, Philadelphia has been the cornerstone of Democratic victories in the battleground state — producing Democratic margins so massive that winning statewide has been a longshot for most Republican presidential candidates.

But it’s a longshot Trump pulled off in 2016 and is trying to repeat again. His debate stage disdain for the City of Brotherly Love — which quickly inspired memes and T-shirts — underscored his campaign’s months-long effort to fight the blue tide that starts in the city.

That fight has involved court challenges and statehouse wrangling over mail-in voting and poll watching, efforts Democrats characterize as voter suppression.

And it came as Trump openly declared, citing no evidence, that the only way he can lose Pennsylvania to former Vice President Joe Biden is through a massive fraud engineered by Democrats in the city of 1.6 million.

But Trump can’t change the basic political math in the state: one in eight registered voters live in Philadelphia, a city that keeps delivering increasingly large Democratic margins, routinely provides one in five votes for Democratic presidential candidates and is spurring a leftward drift in the heavily populated suburbs around it.

“Trump is right, ‘bad things happen in Philadelphia,’ especially for him,” Philadelphia’s Democratic Party chair, Bob Brady, said. “And bad things are going to happen for him in Philadelphia on Election Day.”

Recent polls show Trump and Biden in a competitive race in Pennsylvania, or Biden ahead by single-digits in a state Trump won by just over 44,000 votes — less than a percentage point — in 2016.

Trump’s victory was the first by a Republican presidential candidate since 1988, and it shocked Pennsylvania Democrats to the core.

In Philadelphia, Biden’s campaign is putting a heavy emphasis on turning out Black and Latino voters and is bringing in former President Barack Obama to campaign there. Trump’s campaign is making its own appeal to Black and Latino voters and hoping for even better results with his white, working-class base.

Brady predicted Philadelphia will carry the rest of Pennsylvania and produce a bigger margin of victory for Biden than the 475,000 it produced for Hillary Clinton in 2016. That gap was slightly smaller than the historic margins Obama had in 2008 and 2012.

The Biden campaign has several “voter activation” centers around the city, not to mention Biden’s campaign headquarters.

Trump’s campaign, meanwhile, opened offices in heavily Black west Philadelphia and in heavily white northeast Philadelphia.

Thanks to a year-old state law that greatly expanded mail-in voting, people now have weeks to vote and turnout is brisk at newly opened election offices around the city where voters can fill out and cast ballots.

That is giving hope to Philadelphia Democrats, after the city’s predominantly Black wards did not turn out as strongly in 2016 for Clinton as they did for Obama, including some that delivered 10% fewer votes.

“The line went around the block,” state Rep. Chris Rabb, whose district is 70% Black, said of a newly opened election office there. “It was nothing that I’ve seen since 2008 and I’ve worked the polls for 16 years now.”

In a city that is 42% Black, the belief that Trump has fueled a racist surge is widely held.

Breaking up concrete on a contracting job at a west Philadelphia rowhouse this week, Dexter Ayres, a lifelong Democrat, said he already voted for Biden in hopes of improving how Black people are treated in America.

Some of his friends are skeptical that voting will change anything. Ayres, who is Black, admitted that makes him wonder, “Wow, why did I vote?”

“But then I look at it like: ‘Well, maybe my vote will make a difference,’” Ayres said. “I’m just praying and leaving it in God’s hands.”

Sitting on her front porch in west Philadelphia this week, Latoya Ratcliff, a Democrat, said she will vote for Biden, and sees more enthusiasm in her neighborhood to vote out Trump than in 2016 to vote for

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 37 of 78

Hillary Clinton.

The defining issue for Ratcliff, who is Black, is racism.

"They understand a little more about getting out and getting that vote out," said Ratcliff, 39.

In northeast Philadelphia, Trump saw unexpectedly strong support from an area with a reputation for being home to unionized building trades members, police officers and firefighters. Republicans say they now expect even stronger support for Trump there.

"Back the Blue" yard signs and thin-blue-line flags are everywhere in some neighborhoods, the city's police union endorsed Trump again and the city's firefighters and paramedics union also endorsed him, breaking with its international association's endorsement of Biden.

Leaving his northeast Philadelphia home to go shopping recently, lifelong Democrat Joe Dowling said he will vote for Trump after backing Clinton four years ago. The issue that changed his mind, he said, has been the violence in the wake of George Floyd's death and a backlash against police.

"It's out of control," said Dowling, 60, who is white. "There's no reason for anybody to disrespect the police."

Democrats acknowledge that they slipped in northeast Philadelphia in 2016 — the swing was about 11,000 voters from 2012.

Still, the area snapped back for Democrats in 2018 and U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle, who represents it in Congress, said he expects Biden to do better there than Clinton.

He recalled a paper-shredding event his office last fall, attended by hundreds in the parking lot of the plumbers' union office in northeast Philadelphia.

"I was surprised by the animus toward Trump, people unsolicited saying, 'Gotta get him out of there, he's a disaster,'" said Boyle, a Democrat. "And it was different. I wasn't hearing that a few years earlier."

Stephen Lomas, a long-time registered Republican who lives between two Trump supporters in northeast Philadelphia, said he will vote for Biden.

Lomas, 84, who is white, said Trump and members of his administration "are tearing down our belief in the system. ... They're out-and-out crooks. They're almost traitors to our Constitution."

Besides mail-in voting, another thing that is different in this presidential election is a network of allied liberal issues and community groups in Philadelphia, organizers say, with a long-term focus on reaching people unlikely to vote in predominantly Black and Latino neighborhoods.

Briheem Douglas, vice president of Unite Here Local 274, a union of casino, food service and hotel workers that supports Biden, said he is canvassing harder than ever before.

Douglas, 36, tells a personal story to everyone he meets who isn't planning to vote: He is caring for the infant child of his 21-year-old niece, Brianna, who died in September from the coronavirus.

"So I'm laser-focused on canvassing more than in 2016," Douglas said.

---

Levy reported from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Follow Marc Levy on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/timely-writer](https://www.twitter.com/timely-writer) and Mike Catalini at [www.twitter.com/mikecatalini](https://www.twitter.com/mikecatalini)

---

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>

## Iran announces its virus death toll passes 30,000 killed

By AMIR VAHDAT The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran announced Saturday that its death toll from the coronavirus has passed the milestone of 30,000 killed, in what has been the Mideast region's worst outbreak.

The announcement by Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari saw Iran put its total death toll from the outbreak at 30,123 killed, with 253 new deaths being added to the official count.

Lari added that there are 4,721 virus patients that are in critical condition.

Iran has been struggling with the coronavirus since announcing its first cases in February, with more



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 38 of 78

than 526,000 confirmed cases to date.

In recent weeks, Iran has seen daily death tolls spike to their highest-ever levels, sparking increasing concern even as government officials continue to resist a total lockdown for fear of cratering the economy, which has been hard-hit by U.S. sanctions.

On Wednesday, Iranian officials announced a travel ban to and from five major cities, including the capital of Tehran and the holy city of Mashhad, that they said aimed to contain the virus' spread.

The coronavirus has also spread to some of the highest levels of Iran's government, which includes many older men. Among those recently infected is the head of the country's atomic energy organization, while Iran's vice president in charge of budget and planning tested positive on Sunday.

After downplaying the outbreak in its first weeks, Iranian officials have more recently begun to admit the scope of the epidemic within the country.

Deputy Health Minister Iraj Harirchi, who had tested positive for the virus in March after playing down its threat and refuting reports of mass deaths, told state TV on Wednesday that the country's true death toll is about double the reported figures.

According to officials, there are also large numbers of patients in hospitals being treated as COVID-19 cases but who have not been tested, whose tests came out as false negatives or whose symptoms are not the same as those listed by the World Health Organization and who are therefore not counted in the official case numbers.

Like in many other countries, the spiraling outbreak in Iran reflects the government's contradictory virus response. This week, as the daily recorded death toll hit the record for three times, 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, shut down. In the past week, the government mandated that all Tehran residents wear face masks outdoors and in public places, warning violators would be fined. Officials promised those who tested positive would be closely tracked.

Movement restrictions this spring somewhat checked the spread of the disease. Then the government swiftly reopened the country, desperate to boost its stricken economy. Since June, the case count has steadily increased — and spiked to new heights in recent weeks.

Long before the virus hit, Iran's economy was ailing, pummeled by U.S. sanctions after the Trump administration's unilateral withdrawal in 2018 from Tehran's nuclear accord with world powers. As the death toll soared this week, the nation's currency plunged to its lowest level ever, following the U.S. administration's decision last week to blacklist Iranian banks that had so far escaped the bulk of re-imposed American sanctions.

As Iran approaches winter, the seasonal influenza could be an added and serious issue for the country, as it has had purchasing the flu vaccine amid new American sanctions on Iranian banks.

Iran's Red Crescent Society said in a tweet on Tuesday that they were in charge of importing two million flu vaccine doses into the country, but that new U.S. sanctions prevented the import.

Meanwhile on Saturday, the United Arab Emirates has announced its highest single-day total of new cases of the coronavirus amid a spike in the Gulf nation that is home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The country's Health Ministry said tests found 1,538 new cases of the virus, pushing the overall number of cases to 114,387.

The ministry said another four people died from the virus, pushing the overall death toll to 459. Overall recoveries are at 106,354.

Recorded infections have soared again in recent weeks, as authorities have relaxed restrictions and resumed schools for in-person instruction. Dubai has reopened its airport for international travelers and embarked on an active campaign promoting itself as a tourism destination amid the pandemic.

The UAE is engaged in an aggressive testing campaign, with over 11 million tests conducted in a country home to over 9 million people.

---



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 39 of 78

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell, in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## New Zealand's Ardern wins 2nd term in election landslide

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won a second term in office Saturday in an election landslide of historic proportions.

With most votes counted, Ardern's liberal Labour Party was winning 49% of the vote compared to 27% for its main challenger, the conservative National Party.

Labour was on target to win an outright majority of the seats in Parliament, something that hasn't happened since New Zealand implemented a proportional voting system 24 years ago. Typically, parties must form alliances to govern, but this time Ardern and Labour can go it alone.

In a victory speech in front of hundreds of cheering supporters in Auckland, Ardern said her party had gotten more support from New Zealanders that at any time in at least 50 years.

"This has not been an ordinary election, and it's not an ordinary time," she said. "It's been full of uncertainty and anxiety, and we set out to be an antidote to that."

Ardern promised not to take her new supporters for granted and to govern for all New Zealanders.

"We are living in an increasingly polarized world, a place where, more and more, people have lost the ability to see one another's point of view," she said. "I think in this election, New Zealanders have shown that this is not who we are."

A record number of voters cast early ballots in the two weeks leading up to the election.

On the campaign trail, Ardern was greeted like a rock star by people who crammed into malls and spilled onto streets to cheer her on and get selfies with her.

Her popularity soared earlier this year after she led a successful effort to stamp out the coronavirus. There is currently no community spread of the virus in the nation of 5 million and people are no longer required to wear masks or social distance.

Ardern, 40, won the top job after the 2017 election when Labour formed an alliance with two other parties. The following year, she became only the second world leader to give birth while in office.

She became a role model for working mothers around the world, many of whom saw her as a counterpoint to President Donald Trump. And she was praised for her handling of last year's attack on two Christchurch mosques, when a white supremacist gunned down 51 Muslim worshippers.

She moved quickly to pass new laws banning the deadliest types of semi-automatic weapons.

In late March this year, when only about 100 people had tested positive for COVID-19, Ardern and her health officials put New Zealand into a strict lockdown with a motto of "Go hard and go early." She shut the borders and outlined an ambitious goal of eliminating the virus entirely rather than just trying to control its spread.

With New Zealand having the advantage of being an isolated island nation, the strategy worked. The country eliminated community transmission for 102 days before a new cluster was discovered in August in Auckland. Ardern swiftly imposed a second lockdown in Auckland and the new outbreak faded away. The only new cases found recently have been among returning travelers, who are in quarantine.

The Auckland outbreak also prompted Ardern to postpone the election by a month and helped increase the early voter turnout.

The National Party's leader, Judith Collins, is a former lawyer. She served as a minister when National was in power and prides herself on a blunt, no-nonsense approach, a contrast to Ardern's empathetic style. Collins, 61, was promising sweeping tax cuts in response to the economic downturn caused by the virus.

In a speech to her supporters in Auckland, Collins said she'd called Ardern to congratulate her.

"It is an outstanding result for the Labour Party," Collins said. "It has been a tough campaign."

Collins promised that the party would be back to fight another day.

The election also saw Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters and his small New Zealand First party voted out. The libertarian ACT Party increased its support to 8% and the Green Party won 7.5% of the votes.

Labour Minister David Parker said it was a landslide win for his party. "It's a tremendous accolade first and foremost to the prime minister, but also to the wider Labour team and the Labour movement," he said.

In the election, voters also had a say on two contentious social issues — whether to legalize marijuana and euthanasia. Polls taken before the election indicated the euthanasia referendum was likely to pass while the outcome of the marijuana vote remained uncertain. The results of both referendums will be announced Oct. 30.

## **Azerbaijan: Armenian missile killed 13, wounded over 50**

By AIDA SULTANOVA Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Azerbaijan on Saturday accused Armenia of striking its second-largest city with a ballistic missile that killed at least 13 civilians and wounded 50 others in a new escalation of their conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian Defense Ministry denied launching the strike, but the separatist authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh put out a statement listing alleged "legitimate" military facilities in the city of Ganja, although they stopped short of claiming responsibility for the attack.

Azerbaijani officials said the Soviet-made Scud missile destroyed or damaged about 20 residential buildings in Ganja overnight, and emergency workers spent hours searching in the rubble for victims and survivors.

Scud missiles date back to the 1960s and carry a big load of explosives but are known for their lack of precision.

In a televised address to the nation, Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, denounced the missile strike as a war crime and warned the leadership of Armenia that it would face responsibility for that.

"Azerbaijan will give its response and it will do so exclusively on the battlefield," Aliyev said.

While authorities in both Azerbaijan and Armenia have denied targeting civilians, residential areas have increasingly come under shelling amid the hostilities that have raged for three weeks despite Russia's attempt to broker a cease-fire.

Stepanakert, the regional capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, came under intense shelling overnight, leaving three civilians wounded, according to separatist authorities.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a war there ended in 1994. The latest outburst of fighting began on Sept. 27 and has involved heavy artillery, rockets and drones, killing hundreds and marking the largest escalation of hostilities between the South Caucasus neighbors in more than a quarter-century.

Aliyev announced Saturday that Azerbaijani forces have taken the town of Fizuli and seven villages around it, gaining a "strategic edge."

Fizuli is one of the seven Azerbaijani regions outside Nagorno-Karabakh that was seized by the Armenian forces during the war in the early 1990s.

Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but also has cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan, hosted top diplomats from both countries for more than 10 hours of talks that ended with Saturday's cease-fire deal. But the agreement immediately frayed, with both sides blaming each other for breaching it.

Azerbaijan has insisted it has the right to reclaim its land by force after efforts by the so-called Minsk group of international mediators that comprises Russia, the United States and France failed to yield any progress. Azerbaijan has actively pushed for its ally Turkey to take a prominent role in future peace talks.

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar spoke on the phone with his Azerbaijani counterpart, congratulating Azerbaijan on "liberating Fizuli from the occupation" and downing the Armenian jets.

The Azerbaijani military declared Saturday that they downed an Armenian Su-25 jet, a claim quickly dismissed by Armenia's Defense Ministry.

Drones and rocket systems supplied by Turkey have given the Azerbaijani military an edge on the battlefield, helping them outgun the Armenian forces that rely mostly on outdated Soviet-era weapons.

Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul, Turkey, contributed to this report.

## Dark *déjà vu* for European economy as virus cases spike

By CARLO PIOVANO Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Europe's economy was just catching its breath from what had been the sharpest recession in modern history. A resurgence in coronavirus cases this month is a bitter blow that will likely turn what was meant to be a period of healing for the economy into a lean winter of job losses and bankruptcies.

Bars, restaurants, airlines and myriad other businesses are getting hit with new restrictions as politicians desperately try to contain an increase in infection cases that is rapidly filling up hospitals.

The height of the pandemic last spring had caused the economy of the 19 countries that use the euro to plunge by a massive 11.8% in the April-June quarter from the previous three-month period. About 1.5 million more people registered as unemployed during the pandemic. The damage was contained only by governments' quick decision to spend hundreds of billions of euros (dollars) to keep another 45 million on payrolls and companies running.

While the new restrictions are so far not as drastic as the near-total shutdown of public life imposed in the spring, they are kicking an economy that's down. For many Europeans, there is a foreboding sense of *déjà vu*.

"It is a disaster," says Thomas Metzmacher, who owns a restaurant in Germany's financial hub, Frankfurt, of the government's decision to impose an 11 p.m. curfew.

He noted that even before the new restrictions many people in his industry could only just about survive. The curfew means people who come in for a meal don't linger for a few extra beers or schnapps, which is where restaurants make most of their profits. "Now it is: go for a meal, finish your drink, pay, go home," he says.

Experts say that the global economy's course depends on the health crisis: Only when the pandemic is brought under control will it recover.

Countries like China, which have so far avoided a big resurgence like Europe, are faring better economically. The U.S. never quite got its first wave under control and its economy remains hobbled by it.

Europe had reduced the number of infections much faster than the U.S. and managed to keep a lid on unemployment. But the narrative that contrasted Europe's successes against the Trump administration's failure to subdue the pandemic is being quickly revised.

As coronavirus cases rise anew in Europe, economists are slashing their forecasts.

Ludovic Subran, the chief economist at financial services firm Allianz, says there is a high risk that the economies of France, Spain, and the Netherlands will contract again in the last three months of the year. Italy and Portugal are also at risk. While Germany is seeing an increase in infections, too, it is not as bad and the economy appears more resilient.

"We see an elevated risk of a double dip recession in countries that are once again resorting to targeted and regional lockdowns," he said.

The pandemic is worsening just as governments were trying to ease off the massive amounts of financial support they have been giving households and business owners.

Many governments have programs where they pay the majority of salaries of workers who are redundant in the hope that they will be able to quickly get back to work after the pandemic. In France and Britain that covered a third of the labor force at one point, and 20% in Germany. They also gave cash handouts to households and grants to business owners.

Now governments are phasing out some of that support and aiming to provide more targeted aid to people directly affected by new restrictions. That will not help people whose jobs are affected indirectly. A pub facing a curfew, say, would be eligible to get wage support for its staff but the brewery supplying it might not.

The impact will vary between countries — while Britain is shifting to a less-comprehensive wage support plan, Germany has extended its program.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 42 of 78

As with the pandemic's initial surge in the spring, the sectors in Europe most affected by limits on public life are services including travel and hospitality — those that depend most on face-to-face contact between people.

Countries like Spain, Portugal and Greece rely heavily on tourism. It accounts for almost 12% of Spain's economy, compared with less than 3% for the U.S. and about 7% for France.

Major airlines in Europe expect to operate at about 40% of normal levels this winter and are again cutting the number of flights. Lufthansa, British Airways and others are cutting tens of thousands of jobs as they expect no quick return to how things were before the pandemic — even with government aid.

Even where there are no hard restrictions, the health hazard scares customers away, so shops are likely to see less business.

The EU is giving 750 billion euros (\$880 billion) in financial support to member countries to cope with the fallout. Governments like Spain's were planning to invest in long-term projects such as renewable energy and technology. It now appears they will have to spend more on just keeping the economy afloat. The European Central Bank is injecting 1.35 trillion euros (\$1.6 trillion) into the economy, which keeps borrowing cheap even for countries with weak finances like Spain and Italy.

But the longer the pandemic drags on, the more the decisions on how to spend financial aid will become political, says Subran, the economist. Political parties are fighting over how to deploy the resources, and unions are going on strike to influence the debate. It mirrors the turmoil in the U.S., where a badly needed stimulus package has been delayed.

For Ludovic Nicolas-Etienne, a Parisian shopping for food among the stalls of the central Bastille square, it is a tragedy foretold. He blames the people who during the summer disregarded safety recommendations to party and socialize after months of lockdown.

"I was expecting this," he says, wearing a mask outdoors the day after France announced a state of emergency. "Some people are not responsible enough, so the good people are paying for the bad ones."

Oleg Cetinic in Paris and Christoph Noelting in Frankfurt contributed to this report.

## After Lebanese revolt's fury, waning protests face long road

By DALAL MAWAD Associated Press  
BEIRUT (AP) —

A year ago, hundreds of thousands of Lebanese took to the streets protesting taxes and a rapidly deteriorating economic crisis. A spontaneous and hopeful nationwide movement was born, denouncing an entire political establishment that had for decades pushed Lebanon toward collapse.

Today, as crises multiply and the country dives deeper into uncertainty and poverty, protests seem to have petered out. Even widespread anger over a devastating explosion at Beirut's port on Aug. 4, blamed on government negligence, failed to re-ignite the movement.

It is both bewildering and frustrating for those who believe only a sustained popular uprising can bring change in Lebanon.

Some argue the protests lost momentum because of the political elite's moves to hijack and weaken the movement. Protesters have been met with violence, arrest and intimidation. Others say Lebanese have become numb to incompetence and corruption among the political class.

But Lebanon's confessional-based power-sharing system also proved difficult to bring down. A revolt against the status quo means breaking a sectarian patronage network cultivated by the ruling elite that many in the divided population benefit from. Even if dissatisfied, some blame other factions for the country's problems or fear change will give another sect power over them — a fear politicians eagerly stoke.

"We don't have one head of state, it's a group of men, they have agreed to divide the spoils of the state at every level. It's a system that you can hardly topple," said Carmen Geha, associate professor in public administration and an activist. She compared the dismantling of Lebanon's system to the dismantling of Apartheid in South Africa, a long and arduous process.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 43 of 78

For all its limitations, the protest movement that erupted on Oct. 17, 2019 had successes.

Even after street demonstrations dissipated, grassroots networks quickly mobilized following the Beirut explosion, which killed nearly 200 and wrecked tens of thousands of homes. Authorities almost completely left the public on its own to deal with the aftermath, with no government clean-up crews in the streets and little outreach to those whose homes or businesses were wrecked.

So activists stepped in and took charge of rebuilding.

"You find people more mobilized toward helping each other ... that is another face of the revolution," Geha said. "We need to show people how inept politicians are and provide them with an alternative system, one focused on services."

The protests showed Lebanese could march against politicians of their own sect. In unprecedented scenes, large crowds turned out even in cities like Tripoli, Sidon and Nabatiyeh, which have been strongly affiliated to traditional sectarian parties, including Hezbollah. Politicians considered untouchable gained something of a pariah status, named and shamed in public or even chased out of restaurants.

"We broke the sectarian barriers and the taboo of opposing these warlords, we broke their halo," said Taymour Jreissati, once a prominent protester, now living in France. Jreissati left in the summer, for the sake of his children, he said, and after being threatened by politicians and security agencies.

Two governments were toppled under the pressure of the streets -- one last October, the other right after the Beirut explosion.

Jad Chaaban, an economist and activist, says the protest movement was thwarted by the political elite.

"The politicians cemented their alliances again and distributed the roles to protect each other," he said. "The counter-revolution was at the level of the economy, allowing it to deteriorate .. (and) on the streets through a fierce police crackdown."

The political factions in power have generally claimed to support the protesters' goals of reform and an end to corruption. At the same time, they have made no move to enact reform, often depicting the protesters as agents of instability.

In a speech to his party faithful last week, former Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil -- who is the son-in-law of the president and who was particularly vilified in protesters' chants as a symbol of the ruling class -- called on "the true, sincere movement" to join his party in forming a program of change. But he also warned that Lebanese are threatened "with being brainwashed by 'revolutions' fabricated and financed from abroad."

The protest movement also failed to offer solid leadership. From the start, protesters shunned calls to do so, worried leaders could be targeted or co-opted. With time, that absence became a constraint.

Some experts see the protesters' chief demand as unrealistic — typified in the chant, "All of them means all of them," meaning all politicians in the establishment must step down.

That addressed the wrong issue and was "a dilution of the problem," said Nadim Shehadi, from the London-based think tank Chatham House.

"The problem in Lebanon is not the system of governance, it has its flaws but it is not the cause of the problem, Hezbollah is," said Shehadi, who is also executive director of the New York headquarters and academic center at the Lebanese American University.

At various protests, supporters of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its Shiite ally Amal attacked demonstrators. Hezbollah and its political allies have also snarled efforts to form a more reformist government since the port explosion — wary, critics say, of changes that could impact its strength as an independent armed force and support system for its Shiite community.

The uprising tripped over a myriad of crises. The coronavirus pandemic undermined turnout. The breakdown of the economy — and then the port explosion — threw people into survival mode, drained by their inability to make ends meet.

People may eventually go back to street protests. The Central Bank is expected to end subsidies of basic goods in coming weeks, throwing more people into poverty.

But many activists now focus on the grassroots level, building an alternative to the patronage system to deliver basic needs. With time, they hope more people will break with their traditional leadership.



"It's a long road," says activist Lina Boubess, a 60-year-old mother who has not missed one protest since October.

"I am the civil war generation, but this new generation gives me hope. I believe in a tomorrow, I don't want to give up."

## Trump on defense, courting voters in two must-win states

By STEVE PEOPLES, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and BILL BARROW Associated Press

MACON, Ga. (AP) — Backed into a corner and facing financial strains, President Donald Trump went after his opponent's family and defended his own struggle to contain the pandemic as he fought to energize his sagging reelection bid in the nation's Sun Belt. With Election Day looming, Democrat Joe Biden pushed to keep voters focused on health care in the Midwest.

Trump campaigned Friday in Florida and Georgia, neighboring states he carried four years ago and must win again to extend his presidency. His decision to devote Friday evening's prime-time slot to Georgia in particular highlighted the serious nature of his challenge: Far from his original plan to expand into Democratic-leaning states, he is laboring to stave off a defeat of major proportions.

No Republican presidential candidate has lost Georgia since George H.W. Bush in 1992. And earlier this week, Trump had to court voters in Iowa, a state he carried by almost 10 points four years ago.

In Macon, he cited support from former University of Georgia football star Herschel Walker to win favor from his rally crowd. "How good was Herschel Walker?" Trump said as the Georgia crowd roared. "He's on our side, and he's an incredible guy."

Trump had tried the same strategy Wednesday in Iowa, bringing wrestling legend Dan Gable onstage.

Earlier, in Florida, the president derided the Bidens as "an organized crime family," renewing his daily claims about the candidate's son, Hunter, and his business dealings in Ukraine and China.

More to the point for Trump's Florida audience, he spoke directly to seniors who have increasingly soured on his handling of the pandemic.

"I am moving heaven and earth to safeguard our seniors from the China virus," Trump said, using his usual blame-shifting term to describe the coronavirus. He also offered an optimistic assessment of the pandemic, even as a surge of new infections spreads across America.

"We are prevailing," the president said, promising to deliver the first doses of a vaccine to seniors when it's ready.

Despite the tough talk, Trump's actions on the ground in Florida underscored the conflicting messages his administration has sent throughout the pandemic. All the president's security personnel and support staff were wearing face masks when Air Force One touched down, but Trump and Florida's Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis were barefaced. Crowds gathered at the president's subsequent events, many without masks as well.

It was just the opposite as Biden opened his Michigan swing at a suburban Detroit community center. In keeping with his usual protocols, Biden and all the participants wore masks throughout the event, except when they were speaking, and a small crowd of dozens of reporters and supporters watched from folding chairs separated by circles to ensure social distancing.

"He's living in a dream world," Biden said of Trump's rosy predictions of the pandemic. The former vice president then turned to the Trump administration's court fight to overturn the "Obamacare" health coverage law — including its protection for people with preexisting conditions — without having a replacement plan.

"Mishandling the pandemic isn't enough for Trump," Biden charged. "On top of that he's still trying to take away your health care."

Meanwhile, the president's campaign released new numbers suggesting he's likely the first incumbent president to face a fundraising disadvantage in the modern era.

Trump's campaign, along with the Republican National Committee and associated groups, raised \$247.8 million in September, well short of the \$383 million raised by Biden and the Democratic National Committee. To open October, the Trump effort officially had \$251.4 million in the bank, according to a campaign spokesman, compared with \$432 million for Biden.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 45 of 78

Trump claimed he could have raised more. He said he could call the heads of Wall Street firms and ask for millions, but added: "I can't do that though, because you know what, if I do that, I got to do things for them. I could be the world's greatest fundraiser, but I just don't want to do it."

In Georgia, the state's leading Republicans — including Gov. Brian Kemp and two senators up for reelection — all gathered to bask in Trump's praise. The defeat of either Sen. David Perdue or Sen. Kelly Loeffler would be a huge blow to the GOP's prospects for keeping the majority in the Senate.

The president was seeking momentum on the campaign trail a day after he and Biden squared off in dueling televised town halls that showcased striking differences in temperament, views on racial justice and approaches to the pandemic.

On NBC, Trump was defensive about his administration's handling of the coronavirus, which has claimed more than 217,000 lives in the United States. Angry and combative, Trump refused to denounce the QAnon conspiracy group — and only testily did so regarding white supremacists.

Speaking in Florida on Friday, Trump sarcastically called the NBC event "a nice pleasurable evening" and jabbed moderator Savannah Guthrie for "going totally crazy."

On ABC, Biden denounced the White House's handling of the virus, declaring that Trump's administration was at fault for closing a pandemic response office established by the Obama administration in which he served.

"It's getting worse, as predicted," Biden said Friday in Michigan of the rising coronavirus numbers. "The president knew and lied about knowing."

Biden also sought to win support from the state's auto workers during an appearance at the Michigan State Fairgrounds. "I've always believed in Michigan. We have the finest auto workers in the world here," Biden said.

While decidedly on the defensive on the ground in key states, Trump released a scathing new ad on Friday attacking Biden's record on race. Specifically, the ad seizes on Biden's support for a criminal justice law that disproportionately punished people of color.

"He insulted us, jailed us, we must not elect him president," the narrator declares.

It's unclear whether the attack ad will break through the saturated airwaves. Biden and his allies are outspending Trump and his allies on paid advertising more than 2 to 1 through Election Day, according to the advertising tracking firm Kantar/CMAG.

Peoples reported from New York. Barrow reported from Detroit. AP writer Kevin Freking in Washington contributed.

## Life on the line: Early voters wait 'as long as it takes'

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Americans are accustomed to standing in line. They queue up for airport security, the latest iPhone, COVID tests, concerts or food. But the line of voters building before sunrise outside Mallard Creek High School in a distant suburb of Charlotte, North Carolina, on Thursday was different.

It was a living chain of hundreds of people who stepped into place — around the building, down some stairs and past a fleet of idled yellow school buses — determined to be counted in the elemental civic ritual of voting, which seems even more consequential in the bitterly fought 2020 presidential election.

"If you want the United States to remain united, you need to vote," said Monique Sutton, 52 and a nurse practitioner. "Because if we get any further away from each other, I don't know that we'll ever be able to come back."

The rush to vote early is a phenomenon that has shattered early turnout records across critical Mecklenburg County, battleground North Carolina and the nation, driven both by Democratic enthusiasm and a pandemic that has claimed more than 217,000 American lives.

President Donald Trump captured North Carolina by 3 percentage points in 2016 and almost certainly must win the state again to defeat his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden. Hillary Clinton overwhelmingly

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 46 of 78

won Mecklenburg, the county that's home to Charlotte. But Trump took the neighboring counties by roughly similar margins.

Biden's formula for winning the state relies on robust turnout by Black voters and suburban women. Trump will need to again deliver enormous margins among whites in rural areas.

The pandemic is the dismal overlay of the campaign, but it has inspired record levels of early voting.

By the end of Thursday, North Carolina had accepted 333,466 in-person ballots, up from 166,000 on the first day of in-person voting in 2016. In Mecklenburg County, the number was 35,015, compared with about 14,000 on opening day four years earlier, according to the State Board of Elections.

Shaken by coronavirus and thinking about what comes before and after this year of isolation and blame, every one of more than a dozen line dwellers interviewed during the first six hours of in-person voting said they chose to show up because they worried that mailed-in ballots could get lost.

One after another, they spoke of a sense of urgency driving them to the polls on the first day, even though they can vote early and in-person through Halloween.

"It's just on everyone's radar," said Audrey Long, who was struck by news coverage of lines in other states, such as Georgia. "This is something that's within our control."

Their top two issues: the administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and Trump's refusal to acknowledge systemic racism or condemn white supremacists.

Masked and inching forward with 6 feet between them, the people in the line voiced a distinct disregard for how long they'd have to wait for the simple act of casting a ballot.

"What I tell my kids is, there's people that look like us that have died for this right," said Manny Golfe, 44, a commercial banker who waited almost two hours to vote for Democrat Joe Biden. Like most people in the line, he is Black. "So yeah, it's that important for me to get out here and wait in line for however long it takes. And if it took all day, I'd stand out there."

As the sun rose over the deserted sports complex — home of the Mavericks — voters filtered through the nearby Highland Creek community to line up in their cars out front, or take their place in the crowd.

By the time the door had been open for an hour, more than 140 people were willing to risk joining the queue, which stretched between the football stadium and tennis courts toward a remote back parking lot.

The line, some said, provided the unexpected social delight of chitchat with strangers after six months of isolation. But mostly, the atmosphere was one of quiet patience, and a fair bit of reflection.

Retired nurse Cheryl Midkiff, 72, an independent, would not say whether she was voting for Trump or Biden.

But she said the act of casting a ballot on the first day was a civil way of making her statement on issues that have strained relationships, even decades-long friendships, throughout the Trump presidency. That includes one woman she's known since the two were teens.

"I've had to do a lot of soul searching about it," Midkiff said. "If it were a more casual relationship, that person probably would not be in my circle. And I don't like that about myself."

Some in line said they were thinking about both the past and the future.

Karen Stirling, 74, a retired accounts payable supervisor for nearby NASCAR, said she regrets not voting in 2016. She didn't like Trump or Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, and she "thought no one would miss" her vote. Trump won, and the pandemic frightened her.

This time, Stirling said, she set her alarm early Thursday, ate some Cheerios and got in line at 7 a.m. Nearly two hours later, Stirling headed home with her voting "pen" in hand. Inside, she said, each person got one enveloped in sterile plastic to cast a "touchless" ballot in line with pandemic safety.

"I just wanted to make sure that my vote was counted this time," she said, before casting a vote for Biden.

For many, voting on the first day carried the additional weight, especially given North Carolina's ugly history of gerrymandering and voter suppression.

"It's my civic duty," said Cynthia Teace, 60, who said she's voted in every election since she was 18. "My grandmother (and) grandfather were from Eastern North Carolina. From childhood on, they would always tell us how important it was to vote. Equal rights for voting first started in North Carolina so it's something

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 47 of 78

that I instill in my children as well.”

Around lunchtime, Arve Carter, 49, and her daughter, Autumn, 23, voted together — in part because Arve’s mother insisted on it.

“It’s more of a privilege right now,” said Autumn. “I know that my grandmother and great-grandmother really fought for this to be an opportunity for us to be able to do this.”

By then, the line had dwindled to about a dozen people.

About 100 miles southwest, Trump, the world’s most famous recently-recovered COVID patient, appeared at a campaign rally in Greenville, North Carolina. Reports of lines of voters dominated the news in North Carolina, after days of similar reports from Georgia and elsewhere.

Trump noticed it was the first day of in-person voting in this critical state. From the stage at Pitt-Greenville Airport, he said he’d heard about “lines through the roof in areas that would more typically vote for us.” “I think we’re leading everywhere where people are intelligent actually,” he said.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

## **Biden email episode illustrates risk to Trump from Giuliani**

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A New York tabloid’s puzzling account about how it acquired emails purportedly from Joe Biden’s son has raised some red flags. One of the biggest involves the source of the emails: Rudy Giuliani.

Giuliani has traveled abroad looking for dirt on the Bidens, developing relationships with shadowy figures, including a Ukrainian lawmaker who U.S. officials have described as a Russian agent and part of a broader Russian effort to denigrate the Democratic presidential nominee.

Yet Giuliani says foreign sources didn’t provide the Hunter Biden emails. He says a laptop containing the emails and intimate photos was simply abandoned in a Delaware repair shop and the shop owner reached out to Giuliani’s lawyer.

That hasn’t stopped the FBI from investigating whether the emails are part of a foreign influence operation. The emails have surfaced as U.S. officials have been warning that Russia, which backed Trump’s 2016 campaign through hacking of Democratic emails and a covert social media campaign, is interfering again this year. The latest episode with Giuliani underscores the risk he poses to a White House that spent years confronted by a federal investigation into whether Trump associates had coordinated with Russia.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that intelligence agencies had warned the White House last year that Giuliani was the target of a Russian influence operation. The newspaper, citing four former officials, said that assessment was based on information including intercepted communications showing Giuliani had been in contact with people tied to Russian intelligence.

The newspaper said national security adviser Robert O’Brien had warned Trump that information Giuliani brought back from Ukraine should be considered contaminated by Russia, but that Trump brushed off the warning.

Far from distancing himself from Giuliani, Trump has made the purported Hunter Biden emails one of his main talking points in the final weeks of the campaign as he tries to disparage his Democratic rival.

The Trump-friendly New York Post began publishing stories about the emails Wednesday, saying it had obtained them from the former New York mayor. The newspaper said the emails of Hunter Biden, a California resident, were found in a laptop that had been dropped off for service at a Delaware repair shop by an unidentified man who never picked it up. They said the shop owner turned it over to the FBI, but also made a copy of the hard drive and provided that to Giuliani’s lawyer.

One 2015 email published by the Post purported to show a top adviser for Burisma, the Ukraine gas company where Hunter Biden held a board seat, thanking Biden for giving him an opportunity to meet his father when the older Biden was serving as U.S. vice president. The Biden campaign and a lawyer for Hunter Biden said they had no record of such a meeting taking place. They have not addressed the



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 48 of 78

authenticity of the emails.

Giuliani did not respond Friday for a request for comment from The Associated Press. But in an interview Thursday with a SiriusXM show, he asserted that the laptop had been dropped off by Hunter Biden, and that the material was not hacked and the laptop was legally obtained. He said on Fox News on Friday that the information from the laptop was "authentic as hell."

The FBI is investigating whether the emails are tied to a foreign influence operation, according to a person who was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity to AP. The exact scope of what was being investigated was not clear.

But the report that intelligence agencies have been concerned about Giuliani is hardly surprising.

Andrii Derkach, the Ukrainian parliamentarian who is one of Giuliani's principal contacts, was mentioned in an August intelligence assessment that described a concerted Russian effort to disparage Biden. A Treasury Department sanction announcement from last month characterized Derkach as an "active Russian agent for over a decade."

Derkach in recent months has leaked recordings of calls Biden had as vice president with Ukraine's then-leader, audio the Biden campaign contends is heavily edited. Despite his own administration's warnings on Derkach, Trump has promoted those recordings on Twitter.

Giuliani has not been shy about discussing his foreign contacts, including with Derkach. In December, Derkach posted on his Facebook page photos of him and Giuliani meeting in Kyiv.

Frustration about Giuliani in the West Wing has long run rampant, with those around the president warily watching Giuliani's efforts to bring down the Bidens and fearful they could boomerang back on the president.

Giuliani was central to advancing a discredited theory that Ukraine, not Russia, had interfered in the 2016 election. His shadowy efforts to get Ukraine to launch investigations into the Bidens helped create the impeachment case against Trump.

Even detractors in the president's orbit recognize Giuliani as a force in Trump's defense during the lengthy Russia investigation by the special counsel. The probe detailed extensive contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia but did not allege a criminal conspiracy between the two to tip the 2016 election. Yet the effort to undermine Robert Mueller led Giuliani to Ukraine, which many feel directly led to Trump's impeachment. He was acquitted by the Senate in February.

After long struggling to find a cable-ready defender, Trump has been mostly appreciative of Giuliani's attack-dog style — and, for a time, his broadsides against Mueller appeared to play a role in driving down the special counsel's approval ratings. But at other times, the president has expressed private dismay at Giuliani's scattershot style.

Some around Trump fear that the case being made against the younger Biden has been weakened because Giuliani has become its face.

The Trump campaign has been pushing allegations of corruption against the Bidens for more than a year, with the president advancing the widely discredited theory that the vice president sought to force out Ukraine's top prosecutor to protect his son from scrutiny. Though Trump associates believe a case can be made that Hunter enriched himself by selling access to his father, they fear that Giuliani's lack of credibility will cause the allegations to implode.

---

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire in New York and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington contributed to this report.

## Low-key Democrat tries to hang onto Senate seat in Michigan

By DAVID EGGERT Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Call him low-key, understated, maybe even "boring." First-term Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan is betting voters care more about his effectiveness, as he desperately fights to keep a seat his party is counting on to take the Senate majority.

The bespectacled, bearded 61-year-old former investment adviser is a rare Senate candidate this cycle,



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 49 of 78

a Democrat running in a battleground state Donald Trump carried in 2016. But unlike Democrat Joe Biden, whose lead over the president has grown, Peters is finding it tougher to shake top Republican recruit John James, a Black business executive and combat veteran.

Michigan has something it has not seen in 20 years — a competitive Senate contest — with control of the chamber hanging in the balance and Peters trying to cut through a polarizing political climate.

Peters was the only non-incumbent Democrat to win a Senate election in 2014, when he prevailed easily despite the GOP's successes nationally and in Michigan. He told The Associated Press his reelection campaign is "basically me just focusing on my job," as the U.S. combats the coronavirus pandemic and the economic fallout. "I think what Michiganders want is someone who rolls up their sleeves, gets things done, not out there throwing rocks all the time."

Some allies fret that it has been tough for the nonflashy Peters to stand out with his message of pragmatism and bipartisanship. In a change from 2018, when James lost by 6.5 percentage points to the state's senior senator, Debbie Stabenow, James has outraised Peters since announcing his candidacy. Super PACs and other outside groups on both sides are spending heavily in one of Republicans' few pickup opportunities on the Senate map.

"Biden's numbers are stable. He seems to be consolidating exactly the coalition of voters" that propelled Democrats to Michigan's top offices in 2018, said Lonnie Scott, executive director of the liberal advocacy group Progress Michigan. "That is just not the case with Peters."

Peters' fate could hinge on his ability in the closing weeks to seize on Democratic enthusiasm and win over younger voters, women, independents and especially African Americans. All largely back both Biden and Peters, but a bigger percentage remain undecided in the Senate race, according to some polls.

"I think 2016 showed that we can't take anything for granted," Scott said.

Peters touted his governing approach at a small get-out-the-vote campaign event Friday in downtown Grand Rapids, which remained quiet because of the pandemic. He said he ranks as one of the most bipartisan Senate Democrats and, despite being a freshman in the minority, has written and passed more of his bills than any other senator.

He greeted several supporters who put their absentee ballots in a roadside drop box rather than use the mail. Michigan is on track for record turnout, an advantage for Democrats. "Make a plan to vote," Peters said, noting that no-excuse absentee voting and same-day voter registration are legal under a 2018 ballot initiative.

He later joined Biden's own campaign stops in the Detroit area.

Before winning promotion to the Senate, Peters was a congressman, lottery commissioner and state senator and served in the Navy Reserve. Biden called him a "go-to" lawmaker for the Obama administration when Biden was vice president.

Peters is no stranger to tough races. He beat an incumbent Republican in 2008 and survived a national GOP wave in the 2010 midterm.

Stu Sandler, a consultant for James' campaign, said support for Peters is "soft all around. People don't know him, they don't think he'd work for them. He talks about his record, but people can't name anything he's done."

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

Democrats say the bitter Supreme Court nomination fight has helped nationalize the Michigan contest and highlight the stakes, including the fate of the Obama-era health care law and potentially reproductive rights. Peters, who will vote against confirming Amy Coney Barrett, went public earlier this week with the story of his ex-wife's abortion. She faced serious health risks after being told to wait for a miscarriage to occur naturally, he told Elle magazine.

He said Friday he had heard an "outpouring" of similar stories from women in recent days. Karen Dunnam, a 63-year-old Democratic retiree from Grand Rapids, cited the story after voting absentee for Peters.

"Sen. Peters is going to bring it home," she said. "What he released about his former wife's issues with

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 50 of 78

medical care, I think a lot of people will say: 'OK, this is his position on this. He cares about us instead of just playing politics.'"

Experts say the result will depend in large part on the top of the ticket. The party that wins the presidential race almost always takes the Senate contest, too, and it could prove tough for either candidate to substantially outperform his party's presidential nominee. Republicans have won just one of Michigan's last 15 Senate races, in 1994.

James, 39, "is a top-tier recruit in a state that surprised a lot of people in 2016," said Jon McHenry, a Republican pollster. "I think the question there is, Does President Trump keep the race close enough that James can run far enough ahead to win?"

Black voters could be especially critical. Garlin Gilchrist II, the state's first Black lieutenant governor, said Peters can seal the deal by letting people of color know "he's going to be a fighter and show up for them."

Jim Manley, a strategist and former top aide to Senate Democrats, said Michigan is getting more attention as Democrats' prospects of taking the majority brighten. Peters and Democratic groups had spent about \$51 million on advertising as of Friday, topping \$41 million in spending by James and GOP organizations. Recent polls have been mixed. Most showed Peters as leading or slightly ahead, while some indicated a very close race.

"No one in this case should take anything for granted given the amount of dark money that's sloshing around," Manley said, while expressing confidence in Peters. "There might be a little hand-wringing here and there, but I think most everyone believes that he's going to win."

Follow David Eggert at <https://twitter.com/DavidEggert00>

## Trump plays down virus as he steps up pitch for second term

By AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gone are the days when President Donald Trump held forth daily at the White House podium flanked by members of his coronavirus task force. And the days when Vice President Mike Pence and other task force officials would head to Trump's office to brief him immediately after their meetings.

The White House won't say when Trump last met with the task force.

In the week since he emerged from coronavirus isolation, Trump has demonstrated new determination to minimize the threat of the virus that has killed more than 215,000 Americans and complicated his chances of winning another four years in the White House.

"The light at the end of the tunnel is near. We are rounding the turn," Trump told supporters Friday at an event in Fort Myers, Florida, one of many moments during a week of campaigning in which the president tried to play down the virus threat. "Don't listen to the cynics and angry partisans and pessimists."

In word and action, he is pushing an optimistic outlook at a moment when coronavirus infections are spiking in Europe and public health officials are raising alarm that the infection rate in the U.S. is climbing toward a new peak.

In the past week he has spread misinformation about the virus, undercut the nation's leading infectious disease expert and kept up his practice of shunning mask use. The effort to diminish the virus has gone into overdrive as Democrats try to frame the race for the White House as a referendum on Trump's handling of the worst U.S. public health crisis in over a century.

The U.S. economy is still roughly 11 million jobs short of recovering all 22 million jobs that were lost when the pandemic struck in early spring. The nation averaged more than 50,000 new coronavirus cases per day over the past week. National and battleground public opinion polls suggest that Trump faces stiff headwinds in his bid for a second term.

Olivia Troye, a former aide to the task force who has emerged as a harsh Trump critic, says that early in the crisis Trump was "asking the right questions" when doctors spoke to him about their concerns that the country could face a surge of cases in the fall and winter.

"That's why it so completely reckless of him, after having COVID himself, to turn around this week and

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 51 of 78

double down on taking the mask off and parading around like it's not a necessary thing, calling himself immune," she said. "He's doubling down on misinformation that has been coming out of his mouth for the entire tenure of this pandemic."

At his NBC News town hall on Thursday night, Trump was asked whether he should have known better than to announce his nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court with a Rose Garden ceremony and indoor reception where few guests wore masks and social distancing was nonexistent.

He responded by incorrectly citing a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study to falsely suggest that mask wearing doesn't mitigate the spread of the virus. The study did not say that.

Trump also has been guarded in releasing information about his health and wouldn't say whether he had tested negative on the day of his first debate with Democrat Joe Biden, two days prior to his positive diagnosis, allowing only, "Possibly I did, possibly I didn't."

After first lady Melania Trump revealed this week that their son, Barron, had tested positive for the illness, Trump used his child's health scare -- and recovery -- to make the case that the virus is no big deal for young people.

"It happens. People have it, and it goes," Trump said at a rally in Iowa. "Get the kids back to school."

And earlier this week, Trump undermined the nation's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has at times contradicted the president's commentary about the virus.

"He's a nice guy so I keep him around, right?" Trump mused at a rally in North Carolina, adding of the studiously non-partisan Fauci: "He's a Democrat. ... He's (New York Gov. Andrew) Cuomo's friend."

On the campaign trail, Trump and his team often forgo wearing masks, a return to the status quo for a president who earlier in the crisis suggested that some people wore masks just to signal their disapproval of him.

In one striking moment this week, senior adviser Hope Hicks returned to the campaign trail with Trump more than two weeks after she tested positive for the virus. Hicks, the president and other aides climbed aboard Maine One wearing no masks.

Trump, for his part, defends his decision to go mask-less by saying that doctors tell him he isn't shedding virus anymore and he remains "immune" for at least four months.

But public health experts say that by refusing to wear masks, Trump and his advisers are missing an opportunity to model behavior that is essential to keep the rest of America safe.

"As president, it's absolutely imperative," said Lawrence Gostin, a public health expert at the Georgetown University school of law. "He has to be a model. If you're not wearing a mask, people that support you won't be wearing a mask."

Dan Eberhart, a prominent Republican donor and Trump supporter, said the president's rhetoric since leaving the hospital isn't easing jitters among conservative contributors either.

Several GOP incumbents in tough Senate reelection battles are having difficulty keeping up with an avalanche of Democratic campaign contributions that's being driven, in part, by liberal anger over the president's handling of the pandemic, Eberhart said.

"Keeping up the veneer that everything is fine may soothe the president's ego, but it isn't motivating donors," Eberhart added.

Trump's interest in engaging with Fauci and other top medical officials on the coronavirus task force waned long ago.

White House spokesman Judd Deere refused to answer the question of when Trump last attended a White House coronavirus task force meeting. But Deere said the president is regularly briefed by Pence, who heads the task force.

Dr. Deborah Birx, the task force coordinator, continues to spend most of her time traveling -- frequently by car -- between hotspot states trying to help governors and public health officials handle their epidemics.

Neither Fauci nor Birx has appeared with Trump in public in months. As recently as Friday, Fauci contradicted Trump, saying he was "concerned" about the president frequently describing the country as "rounding the corner" on the virus, a notion at odds with the data.

Tensions on the task force continue between Trump's science adviser, Dr. Scott Atlas, who is not an expert in public health or infectious diseases, and the other professional scientists. The latter view Atlas, who joined the White House in August, as promoting dangerous theories around "herd immunity" and resisting more aggressive calls for Americans to wear face masks. They see Atlas as reinforcing Trump's worst instincts and lending the veneer of science to rhetoric they see as fundamentally dangerous.

Earlier this week, the White House organized a call with reporters in which two senior administration officials cited a declaration published by a group of scientists arguing against lockdowns and calling for a reopening of businesses and schools. The Barrington Declaration in part approves of reaching "herd immunity" by allowing the virus to spread among young healthy people while protecting older and more vulnerable residents.

Troye, the former task force aide, said Trump was showing "complete disregard for the truth, science, and facts" in the hopes of boosting his re-election chances.

She added, "I don't know that Donald Trump can see past the current moment."

---

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking in Washington and Darlene Superville in Fort Myers, Fla., contributed reporting to this article. Madhani reported from Chicago.

## Trump changes course, approves California relief for 6 fires

By DON THOMPSON and JOHN ANTCZAK Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration abruptly reversed course and approved California's application for disaster relief funds to clean up damage from six recent deadly and destructive blazes that have scorched the state, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Friday.

"Just got off the phone with President Trump who has approved our Major Disaster Declaration request. Grateful for his quick response," Newsom said in a brief statement.

Neither he nor the White House gave details on why the administration shifted positions less than two days after it initially denied the state's request for a declaration that officials said could provide the state with hundreds of millions of dollars.

The reversal came the same week the Pacific Gas and Electric utility cut off service to more than 40,000 Northern California customers to prevent powerful winds from damaging equipment and sparking wildfires amid a fall heat wave. Electricity was restored to most customers by Friday evening, PG&E said.

Preliminary inspections found 30 instances of weather-related damage, including downed power lines in areas where winds were the strongest, PG&E said.

The utility better targeted outages this time after it was criticized in 2019 for cutting power to about 800,000 customers and leaving about 2 million people in the dark for days.

White House spokesman Judd Deere previously said California's disaster declaration request "was not supported by the relevant data" needed for approval. He initially said Trump agreed with Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator Pete Gaynor, who said in a three-paragraph rejection letter that the damage "was not of such severity and magnitude as to be beyond the (state's) capabilities."

"The Governor and (GOP) Leader (Kevin) McCarthy spoke and presented a convincing case and additional on-the-ground perspective for reconsideration leading the President to approve the declaration," Deere said in a statement after Trump's change of heart.

McCarthy thanked Trump in a tweet for providing "the assistance needed to rebuild and repair."

Fellow Republican U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock said in a tweet that McCarthy told him "the President has committed to reverse FEMA's decision ... and help is on the way." Both congressmen represent areas harmed by wildfires.

The state had planned to appeal the denial and believed it had a strong case, Brian Ferguson, a spokesman with the governor's Office of Emergency Services, said before the reversal.

Newsom asked for the major disaster declaration on Sept. 28 to cover fires in Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego and Siskiyou counties.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 53 of 78

The 30-page request described the disasters and pointed out that damage assessments were incomplete because the fires were still raging and access was difficult.

Federal major disaster declarations allow for cost-sharing for damage, cleanup and rebuilding between the state and federal governments. They also activate relief programs led by FEMA.

The dispute surfaced as a representative of one fire-stricken area warned that time was running out to clean up debris before rain and snow arrived, bringing the threat of mudslides and toxins being washed into a river watershed.

Denials of relief are rare and Newsom, a Democrat, has previously praised the Republican administration for approving aid related to the fires and the coronavirus pandemic. The White House said Trump quickly approved wildfire relief that was supported by damage estimates.

Among the fires listed in the now-approved aid application is the Creek Fire, which erupted in the Sierra Nevada on Sept. 4 and is 60% contained after burning 850 homes and more than 537 square miles (1,391 square kilometers) in Fresno and Madera counties.

Republican state Assemblyman Jim Patterson of Fresno said the state needs to move quickly to avoid further problems in areas left barren by fires.

"We're going to see rain pretty soon, snow pretty soon," he told an online briefing. "If we don't get into those areas quickly we're going to miss this window and we're going to end up seeing mudslides where this toxic debris goes into the San Joaquin River watershed."

No major new fires were reported statewide early Friday, but warnings of dangerously hot, dry and gusty conditions that can fan fires were expected to remain in effect until the evening. Nearly 9,000 firefighters remain on the lines of 21 fires.

Near San Francisco's international airport, crews were battling a smoky grass fire burning on a highly visible hill with an iconic sign welcoming people to "South San Francisco." The city of nearly 70,000 people said on social media that authorities were on the scene and evacuation instructions would follow if needed.

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

It has been a disastrous wildfire season in California, with more than 8,500 blazes burning more than 6,400 square miles (16,000 square kilometers) since the start of the year. Thirty-one people have died and some 9,200 buildings have been destroyed.

Most of this year's fires have occurred since mid-August, when an unusual siege of thousands of lightning strikes ignited huge blazes.

The causes of two fires that broke out in September remain under investigation. PG&E equipment is being examined in connection with the Zogg Fire in Northern California, and Southern California Edison equipment is under scrutiny in the Bobcat Fire near Los Angeles.

---

Antczak reported from Los Angeles. AP reporters Janie Har contributed from San Francisco and Kevin Freking from Washington, D.C.

## **GOP senator mispronounces Kamala Harris' name at Trump rally**

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. David Perdue mocked Kamala Harris, his Senate colleague and the Democratic vice presidential nominee, on Friday by repeatedly mispronouncing her name at a Georgia rally for President Donald Trump.

Perdue was wrapping up his remarks at an event in Macon when he referred to Harris as "KAH'-mah-lah? Kah-MAH'-lah? Kamala-mala-mala? I don't know. Whatever." The audience laughed.

A spokesperson for Perdue said the first-term senator "didn't mean anything by it."

Harris' political opponents have repeatedly mispronounced her name since she became the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent on a national ticket. Democrats say the mispronunciations



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 54 of 78

smack of racism. Her first name is pronounced "KAH'-mah-lah" — or, as she explains in her biography, "comma-la,' like the punctuation mark."

Trump and Vice President Mike Pence are among the top Republicans who have repeatedly mispronounced it. A few Democrats, including former President Barack Obama, have said it incorrectly, too.

Harris' spokesperson, Sabrina Singh, responded to Perdue's remark in a tweet: "Well that is incredibly racist. Vote him out." In a second tweet, she wrote, "He has been her Senate colleague for over 3 years. 3. Years. THREE. Do better."

Casey Black, a spokesperson for Perdue's campaign, tweeted that the senator "simply mispronounced Sen. Harris' name."

"He didn't mean anything by it," Black wrote. "He was making an argument against the radical socialist agenda that she & her endorsed candidate Jon Ossoff are pushing."

Jon Ossoff, who is running against Perdue in November, tweeted that his opponent "mocked Sen. Harris' name," adding, "We are so much better than this."

Ossoff, who staged an unsuccessful bid for Congress in a 2017 special election, also tweeted a fundraising message over video of Perdue's comments and said in another tweet, "Senator Perdue never would have done this to a male colleague. Or a white colleague. And everyone knows it."

Georgia's Democratic Party demanded that Perdue apologize.

"Senator Perdue's intentionally disrespectful mispronunciation of Senator Harris's name is a bigoted and racist tactic straight from President Trump's handbook," Nikema Williams, chair of the Georgia Democratic Party, said in a statement. "He owes Georgians an apology for his offensive display."

## Trump on defense, courting voters in two must-win states

By STEVE PEOPLES, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and BILL BARROW Associated Press

MACON, Ga. (AP) — Backed into a corner and facing financial strains, President Donald Trump went after his opponent's family and defended his own struggle to contain the pandemic on Friday as he fought to energize his sagging reelection bid in the nation's Sun Belt. With Election Day looming, Democrat Joe Biden pushed to keep voters focused on health care in the Midwest.

Trump campaigned in Florida and Georgia, neighboring states he carried four years ago and must win again to extend his presidency. His decision to devote Friday evening's prime-time slot to Georgia in particular highlighted the serious nature of his challenge: Far from his original plan to expand into Democratic-leaning states, he is laboring to stave off a defeat of major proportions.

No Republican presidential candidate has lost Georgia since George H.W. Bush in 1992. And earlier this week, Trump had to court voters in Iowa, a state he carried by almost 10 points four years ago.

In Macon, he cited support from former University of Georgia football star Herschel Walker to win favor from his rally crowd. "How good was Herschel Walker?" Trump said as the Georgia crowd roared. "He's on our side, and he's an incredible guy."

Trump had tried the same strategy Wednesday in Iowa, bringing wrestling legend Dan Gable onstage.

Earlier, in Florida, the president derided the Bidens as "an organized crime family," renewing his daily claims about the candidate's son, Hunter, and his business dealings in Ukraine and China.

More to the point for Trump's Florida audience, he spoke directly to seniors who have increasingly soured on his handling of the pandemic.

"I am moving heaven and earth to safeguard our seniors from the China virus," Trump said, using his usual blame-shifting term to describe the coronavirus. He also offered an optimistic assessment of the pandemic, even as a surge of new infections spreads across America.

"We are prevailing," the president said, promising to deliver the first doses of a vaccine to seniors when it's ready.

Despite the tough talk, Trump's actions on the ground in Florida underscored the conflicting messages his administration has sent throughout the pandemic. All the president's security personnel and support staff were wearing face masks when Air Force One touched down, but Trump and Florida's Republican

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 55 of 78

Gov. Ron DeSantis were barefaced. Crowds gathered at the president's subsequent events, many without masks as well.

It was just the opposite as Biden opened his Michigan swing at a suburban Detroit community center. In keeping with his usual protocols, Biden and all the participants wore masks throughout the event, except when they were speaking, and a small crowd of dozens of reporters and supporters watched from folding chairs separated by circles to ensure social distancing.

"He's living in a dream world," Biden said of Trump's rosy predictions of the pandemic. The former vice president then turned to the Trump administration's court fight to overturn the "Obamacare" health coverage law — including its protection for people with preexisting conditions — without having a replacement plan.

"Mishandling the pandemic isn't enough for Trump," Biden charged. "On top of that he's still trying to take away your health care."

Meanwhile, the president's campaign released new numbers suggesting he's likely the first incumbent president to face a fundraising disadvantage in the modern era.

Trump's campaign, along with the Republican National Committee and associated groups, raised \$247.8 million in September, well short of the \$383 million raised by Biden and the Democratic National Committee. To open October, the Trump effort officially had \$251.4 million in the bank, according to a campaign spokesman, compared with \$432 million for Biden.

Trump claimed he could have raised more. He said he could call the heads of Wall Street firms and ask for millions, but added: "I can't do that though, because you know what, if I do that, I got to do things for them. I could be the world's greatest fundraiser, but I just don't want to do it."

In Georgia, the state's leading Republicans — including Gov. Brian Kemp and two senators up for reelection — all gathered to bask in Trump's praise. The defeat of either Sen. David Perdue or Sen. Kelly Loeffler would be a huge blow to the GOP's prospects for keeping the majority in the Senate.

The president was seeking momentum on the campaign trail a day after he and Biden squared off in dueling televised town halls that showcased striking differences in temperament, views on racial justice and approaches to the pandemic.

On NBC, Trump was defensive about his administration's handling of the coronavirus, which has claimed more than 217,000 lives in the United States. Angry and combative, Trump refused to denounce the QAnon conspiracy group — and only testily did so regarding white supremacists.

Speaking in Florida on Friday, Trump sarcastically called the NBC event "a nice pleasurable evening" and jabbed moderator Savannah Guthrie for "going totally crazy."

On ABC, Biden denounced the White House's handling of the virus, declaring that Trump's administration was at fault for closing a pandemic response office established by the Obama administration in which he served.

"It's getting worse, as predicted," Biden said Friday in Michigan of the rising coronavirus numbers. "The president knew and lied about knowing."

Biden also sought to win support from the state's auto workers during an appearance at the Michigan State Fairgrounds. "I've always believed in Michigan. We have the finest auto workers in the world here," Biden said.

While decidedly on the defensive on the ground in key states, Trump released a scathing new ad on Friday attacking Biden's record on race. Specifically, the ad seizes on Biden's support for a criminal justice law that disproportionately punished people of color.

"He insulted us, jailed us, we must not elect him president," the narrator declares.

It's unclear whether the attack ad will break through the saturated airwaves. Biden and his allies are outspending Trump and his allies on paid advertising more than 2 to 1 through Election Day, according to the advertising tracking firm Kantar/CMAG.

Peoples reported from New York. Barrow reported from Detroit. AP writer Kevin Freking in Washington contributed.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 56 of 78

## For grateful NBC, Savannah Guthrie changes the subject

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Savannah Guthrie did more than just display her journalistic chops at NBC News' town hall with President Donald Trump. She changed the subject for her bosses.

NBC was reeling heading into Thursday's event, under widespread criticism for scheduling it at the same time as ABC's town hall with Democratic opponent Joe Biden. NBC was accused of rewarding Trump for rejecting the debate commission's plan to do the second debate virtually.

That was quickly forgotten when the president sat opposite Guthrie, who questioned him specifically on when he last tested positive for COVID-19 (he said he didn't remember), whether he had pneumonia (didn't say) and his personal finances.

The Georgetown Law School graduate had clearly done her homework, seemingly prepared for each response. When the president recited a statistic from a study on the effectiveness of masks in spreading COVID-19, Guthrie had read it, too, and countered him.

As host of the "Today" show, Guthrie knows the importance of time and how to stop an interview subject from filibustering. That background also teaches how to crystallize what an audience is thinking in a plain-spoken way, as evidenced in her most-quoted moment.

She was incredulous when, after asking why Trump had retweeted a false conspiracy theory that American special forces didn't really kill Osama bin Laden, he said that he "just put it out there" to let people decide for themselves.

"I don't get that," Guthrie said. "You're the president. You're not like you're somebody's crazy uncle who can just retweet anything."

Similarly, Guthrie described the theory promoted online by QAnon that Democrats are running a satanic pedophile ring and that Trump was the savior meant to stop them, and asked why he didn't denounce it. Trump said he knew nothing about it.

"I just told you," she said.

Just because she says something doesn't mean it's true, the president retorted.

"There's not a satanic pedophile cult," she said. "You don't know that?"

Trump is "hands down" the most difficult public figure to interview, said Axios reporter Jonathan Swan, who with Fox News' Chris Wallace and now Guthrie have received the most praise of any TV journalists to take him on this election cycle.

"The biggest challenge with President Trump is that it's never a linear conversation," Swan said. "It's like riding a bronco. The crafting of the questions doesn't really matter because he responds to topics."

It requires enormous homework, both to know the facts and anticipate how Trump will respond, he said. Even then, it's possible to become so absorbed in fact-checking that it disrupts the flow of conversation, he said.

When Guthrie asked Trump about his personal finances and taxes, the president tried to cut off the conversation by saying what he has since 2016, that he couldn't talk about it because he was under audit. Guthrie said there was no law that prevented someone being audited from discussing his taxes, and pressed on: "Who do you owe \$421 million to?" she asked.

She jumped in when, during a discussion about White House events where masks were not worn, the president mentioned how he was touched by people at a reception for relatives of military members killed in service.

"Do you believe a grieving military family gave you COVID," she asked.

She took an unusual amount of time for head-to-head questioning, given that the format called for questions from the audience to dominate the event. She followed up audience questions, too: When Trump talked about health care and maintaining protection for preexisting conditions, Guthrie pointed out that his administration was trying in court to eliminate that.

One look online provided an illustration of Guthrie's effectiveness. Words like "condescending," "badgering," "argumentative" and "bully" were used on social media by supporters of the president. Memes popped up with Guthrie's face made to seem like a vampire or devil.

"Why does anyone take Savannah Guthrie seriously?" tweeted conservative talk show host Buck Sexton.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 57 of 78

"She was clownish and shrill last night. Just awful."

Before an appearance in Florida on Friday, Trump called his experience with Guthrie "small potatoes."

"If you can't handle Savannah, you cannot handle Putin and President Xi and Kim Jong Un," he said.

But it clearly stuck with him. He brought the interview up again at a second rally in Macon, Georgia: "Last night, she was out of line, I mean, in my opinion. She was out of line."

The Nielsen company said Friday afternoon the Biden town hall reached 14.1 million people on ABC between 8 and 9 p.m. and Trump had 13.5 million combined on NBC, CNBC and MSNBC.

Tim Murtaugh, spokesman for Trump's campaign, said even though the commission-sponsored debate was canceled on Thursday, "one occurred anyway." He said Guthrie played the role of debate opponent and Biden surrogate.

Yet in declaring Guthrie one of the winners in Thursday's night of politics on television, the Vox website said her quick line of questioning, pushbacks and fact checks "probably made the White House wish they had just done the debate."

Besides giving NBC News executives a reprieve from dealing with online critics' call for a boycott, Guthrie helped restore the honor of the "Today" show. Her former partner, Matt Lauer, received wide criticism in 2016 for his questioning during back-to-back interviews with Trump and Hillary Clinton.

NBC News said it wouldn't make Guthrie or network executives available to speak Friday about the performance.

More than anyone, Axios' Swan understands the high stakes involved when interviewing Trump.

"There's no question, because the scrutiny of every interview he does is so intense, that you can do enormous damage to yourself if you're not well-prepared," he said.

---

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

## Record avalanche of early votes transforms the 2020 election

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and ANGELIKI KASTANIS Associated Press

More than 22 million Americans have already cast ballots in the 2020 election, a record-shattering avalanche of early votes driven both by Democratic enthusiasm and a pandemic that has transformed the way the nation votes.

The 22.2 million ballots submitted as of Friday night represents 16% of all the votes cast in the 2016 presidential election, even as eight states are not yet reporting their totals and voters still have more than two weeks to cast ballots. Americans' rush to vote is leading election experts to predict that a record 150 million votes may be cast and turnout rates could be higher than in any presidential election since 1908.

"It's crazy," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida political scientist who has long tracked voting for his site ElectProject.org. McDonald's analysis shows roughly 10 times as many people have voted compared with this point in 2016.

"We can be certain this will be a high-turnout election," McDonald said.

So far the turnout has been lopsided, with Democrats outvoting Republicans by a 2-1 ratio in the 42 states included in The Associated Press count. Republicans have been bracing themselves for this early Democratic advantage for months, as they've watched President Donald Trump rail against mail-in ballots and raise unfounded worries about fraud. Polling, and now early voting, suggest the rhetoric has turned his party's rank and file away from a method of voting that, traditionally, they dominated in the weeks before Election Day.

That gives Democrats a tactical advantage in the final stretch of the campaign. In many critical battleground states, Democrats have "banked" a chunk of their voters and can turn their time and money toward harder-to-find infrequent voters.

But it does not necessarily mean Democrats will lead in votes by the time ballots are counted. Both parties anticipate a swell of Republican votes on Election Day that could, in a matter of hours, dramatically shift the dynamic.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 58 of 78

"The Republican numbers are going to pick up," said John Couvillon, a GOP pollster who is tracking early voting. "The question is at what velocity, and when?"

Couvillon said Democrats cannot rest on their voting lead, but Republicans are themselves making a big gamble. A number of factors, from rising virus infections to the weather, can impact in-person turnout on Election Day. "If you're putting all your faith into one day of voting, that's really high risk," Couvillon said.

That's why, despite Trump's rhetoric, his campaign and party are encouraging their own voters to cast ballots by mail or early and in-person. The campaign, which has been sending volunteers and staffers into the field for months despite the pandemic, touts a swell in voter registration in key swing states like Florida and Pennsylvania — a sharp reversal from the usual pattern as a presidential election looms.

But it's had limited success in selling absentee voting. In key swing states, Republicans remain far less interested in voting by mail.

In Pennsylvania, more than three-quarters of the more than 437,000 ballots sent through the mail so far have been from Democrats. In Florida, half of all ballots sent through the mail so far have been from Democrats and less than a third of them from Republicans. Even in Colorado, a state where every voter is mailed a ballot and Republicans usually dominate the first week of voting, only 19% of ballots returned have been from Republicans.

"This is all encouraging, but three weeks is a lifetime," Democratic data strategist Tom Bonier said of the early vote numbers. "We may be midway through the first quarter and Democrats have put a couple of points on the board."

The massive amount of voting has occurred without any of the violent skirmishes at polling places that some activists and law enforcement officials feared. It has featured high-profile errors — 100,000 faulty mail ballots sent out in New York, 50,000 in Columbus, Ohio, and a vendor supplying that state and Pennsylvania blaming delays in sending ballots on overwhelming demand. But there's little evidence of the mass disruption that some feared as election offices had to abruptly shift to deal with the influx of early voting.

But there have been extraordinary lines and hourslong wait times in Georgia, Texas and North Carolina as they've opened in-person early voting. The delays were largely a result of insufficient resources to handle the surge, something advocates contend is a form of voter suppression.

Republicans argue that these signs of enthusiasm are meaningless — Democratic early voters are people who would have voted anyway, they say. But an AP analysis of the early vote shows 8% of early voters had never cast a ballot before, and 13.8% had voted in half or fewer of previous elections for which they were eligible.

The data also show voters embracing mail voting, which health officials say is the safest way to avoid coronavirus infection while voting. Of the early voters, 82% cast ballots through the mail and 18% in person. Black voters cast 10% of the ballots cast, about the same as their share of the national electorate, according to the AP analysis of data from L2, a political data firm. That's a sign that those voters, who have been less likely to vote by mail than white people and Latinos, have warmed to the method.

Mail ballots so far have skewed toward older voters, with half coming from voters over age 64. Traditionally, younger and minority voters send their mail ballots in closer to Election Day or vote in person.

The mail ballots already returned in several states dwarf the entire total in prior elections. In Wisconsin, more than five times as many mail ballots have been cast compared with the entire number in 2016. North Carolina has seen nearly triple the number so far.

In-person early voting began this week in several major states and also broke records, particularly in crowded, Democratic-leaning metropolitan areas. In Texas, Houston's Harris County saw a record 125,000 ballots cast. In Georgia, hourslong lines threaded from election offices through much of the state's urban areas.

Tunde Ezekiel, a 39-year-old lawyer and Democrat who voted early in Atlanta on Thursday, said he wanted to be certain he had a chance to oust Trump from office: "I don't know what things are going to look like on Election Day. ... And I didn't want to take any chances."

The obvious enthusiasm among Democrats has cheered party operatives, but they note that it's hard

to tell which way turnout will eventually fall. Republicans may be just as motivated, but saving themselves for Election Day.

"High turnout can benefit either side," Bonier said. "It just depends."

Associated Press writers Kate Brumback in Atlanta and Pia Deshpande in Chicago contributed to this report.

## **White House: Tennessee mask mandate 'must be implemented'**

By JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The White House quietly told Tennessee early this week that "a statewide mask mandate must be implemented" to curb its growing spread of COVID-19, strong instructions that the White House and governor did not discuss publicly before the report emerged in a records request.

The Oct. 11 state report for Tennessee, where Republican Gov. Bill Lee has let counties decide whether to require masks in public, first came to light in a records request by WUOT-FM. The Associated Press obtained the report from the Knox County Health Department afterward.

"A statewide mask mandate must be implemented to stop the increasing spread among residents in rural and urban areas of Tennessee," the item in a list of recommendations states.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he was not in favor of mask mandates, but the recommendations of the task force and public health agencies, like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have often been at odds with the White House's rhetoric.

The report takes the strongest tone to date in urging Tennessee to act, though Lee has made it clear for months that he did not think masks should be required across the state. Lee, who has urged people to wear masks, continued to advise against a statewide mandate Friday in an online news conference, in which he didn't mention the White House's instruction a few days earlier.

"Statewide, one-size-fits-all mandates are not as effective in many cases as local decision making," Lee said.

In a statement late Friday, the governor's office said the White House report had not altered his thinking.

"The governor has strongly encouraged Tennesseans to make responsible decisions to protect themselves and others from COVID-19, including wearing masks in public, avoiding large gatherings, and staying home when sick," the statement said. "The governor's view has not changed based upon non-binding recommendations from the federal government. Previous White House reports dating back to the summer have included similar recommendations, so the inclusion here is not novel."

Earlier in the week, the governor and his health commissioner downplayed the importance of releasing those White House "red zone" reports. They aren't regularly released publicly, but the governor's office has produced them when requested by The Associated Press.

Lee told reporters Wednesday that "Multiple streams of data from multiple places is not helpful to people," saying his administration tries to be as "clear and concise as possible" in reporting data. Health Commissioner Lisa Piercey said the White House data comes in at a lag, and said the recommendations in the report are "nothing novel, quite frankly."

"In all of those reports the recommendations are exactly what you hear coming from our mouths, from the folks at the White House Coronavirus Task Force," Piercey said.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The wording of the Oct. 11 White House report differed from the one a week earlier, which said, "Masks must be worn indoors in all public settings and group gathering sizes should be limited."

In late July, White House COVID-19 task force leader Deborah Birx visited Nashville and urged all Tennesseans to wear a mask. At the same event, Lee said he's "been to counties that have a mandate where people are not wearing masks as well."

"People wear masks because they believe there is a reason to do so and I believe that they will increasingly understand that as their local officials advocate for that," Lee said in July.

Tennessee has seen coronavirus case counts grow in cities and, particularly, in rural areas.

The seven-day rolling average of daily new cases in Tennessee has risen from 1,412 new cases per day on Oct. 1 to 1,911 new cases per day on Thursday. Likewise, the positivity rate seven-day rolling average has grown from 5.7% on Oct. 1 to 7.48% on Thursday.

While most people who contract the coronavirus recover after suffering only mild to moderate symptoms, it can be deadly for older patients and those with other health problems.

Adrian Sainz contributed to this report from Memphis, Tennessee.

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

## Grisly beheading of teacher in terror attack rattles France

By ELAINE GANLEY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — For the second time in three weeks, terror struck France, this time with the gruesome beheading of a history teacher in a street in a Paris suburb. The suspected attacker was shot and killed by police.

French President Emmanuel Macron denounced what he called an “Islamist terrorist attack” and urged the nation to stand united against extremism. The teacher had discussed caricatures of Islam’s Prophet Muhammad with his class, authorities said.

The French anti-terrorism prosecutor opened an investigation for murder with a suspected terrorist motive. Four people, one a minor, were detained hours later, the office of anti-terror prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said without elaborating. Police typically fan out to find family and friends of potential suspects in terror cases.

Macron visited the school where the teacher worked in the town of Conflans-Saint-Honorine and met with staff after the slaying. An Associated Press reporter saw three ambulances at the scene, and heavily armed police surrounding the area and police vans lining leafy nearby streets.

“One of our compatriots was murdered today because he taught ... the freedom of expression, the freedom to believe or not believe,” Macron said.

He said the attack shouldn’t divide France because that’s what the extremists want. “We must stand all together as citizens,” he said.

The incident came as Macron’s government works on a bill to address Islamist radicals who authorities claim are creating a parallel society outside the values of the French Republic. France has the largest Muslim population in Western Europe with up to 5 million members, and Islam is the country’s No. 2 religion.

A police official said the suspect, armed with a knife and an airsoft gun — which fires plastic pellets — was shot dead about 600 meters (yards) from where the male teacher was killed after he failed to respond to orders to put down his arms, and acted in a threatening manner.

The teacher had received threats after opening a discussion “for a debate” about the caricatures about 10 days ago, the police official told The Associated Press. The parent of a student had filed a complaint against the teacher, another police official said, adding that the suspected killer did not have a child at the school.

An ID card was found at the scene but police were verifying the identity, the police official said. French media reported that the suspect was an 18-year-old Chechen, born in Moscow. That information could not be immediately confirmed.

France has seen occasional violence involving its Chechen community in recent months, in the Dijon region, the Mediterranean city of Nice, and the western town of Saint-Dizier, believed linked to local criminal activity.

It was not known what link, if any, the attacker might have with the teacher or whether he had accomplices. Police were fanning out on searches of homes and potential family and friends of the man in

question, the police official said.

The two officials could not be named because they were not authorized to discuss ongoing investigations. "We didn't see this coming," Conflans resident Remi Tell, who as a child had attended the Bois D'Aulne middle school, said on CNews TV station. He described the town as peaceful.

It was the second terrorism-related incident since the opening of an ongoing trial for the January 2015 newsroom massacre at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which had published caricatures of the prophet of Islam.

As the trial started, the paper republished caricatures of the prophet to underscore the right of freedom of expression. Quickly, a young man from Pakistan was arrested after stabbing two people with a meat cleaver outside the newspaper's former offices. They did not suffer threatening injuries. The 18-year-old told police he was upset about the publication of the caricatures.

In a video posted recently on social media, a man describing himself as a father at the school said the teacher who was slain had recently shown an offensive image of a man and told students it was "the prophet of the Muslims." Before showing the images, the teacher asked Muslim children to leave the room because he planned to show something shocking, the man said.

"What was the message he wanted to send these children? ... Why does a history teacher behave this way in front of 13-year-olds?" the man asked. He called on other angry parents to contact him, and relay the message.

Michel Euler in Conflans-Saint-Honorine, Angela Charlton in Paris and Nicolas Vaux-Montagny in Lyon contributed to this report.

## Justices to weigh Trump census plan to exclude noncitizens

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Friday to take up President Donald Trump's policy, blocked by a lower court, to exclude people living in the U.S. illegally from the census count that will be used to allocate seats in the House of Representatives.

Never in U.S. history have immigrants been excluded from the population count that determines how House seats, and by extension Electoral College votes, are divided among the states, a three-judge federal court said in September when it held Trump's policy illegal.

The justices put the case on a fast track, setting arguments for Nov. 30. A decision is expected by the end of the year or early in January, when Trump has to report census numbers to the House.

Trump's high court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, could take part in the case if, as seems likely, she is confirmed by then.

Last year, the court by a 5-4 vote barred Trump from adding a census question asking people about their citizenship. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died last month, was part of that slim majority. Barrett would take Ginsburg's seat.

"President Trump has repeatedly tried — and failed — to weaponize the census for his attacks on immigrant communities. The Supreme Court rejected his attempt last year and should do so again," said American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Dale Ho, representing a coalition of immigrant advocacy groups that challenged Trump's plan in court.

Trump left it to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who oversees the Census Bureau, to figure out how many immigrants are not living legally in each state.

The outcome of the census case could affect the distribution of political power for the next 10 years. The census also helps determine the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal funding annually.

The administration told the court that the president retains "discretion to exclude illegal aliens from the apportionment based on their immigration status."

Trump's violation of federal law is "not particularly close or complicated," the ACLU said in a court filing arguing that the court shouldn't hear the case.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 62 of 78

The Supreme Court separately allowed the administration to end the actual census count this week, blocking a court order that would have kept the count going until the end of the month.

The court did not take action on two other administration appeals of controversial policies on asylum seekers and the border wall that also were ruled illegal by lower courts.

Since early last year, the administration has made asylum-seekers wait in Mexico for U.S. court hearings, which has forced tens of thousands of people to return to Mexico.

Known informally as "Remain in Mexico," the policy became a key pillar of the administration's response to a surge of asylum-seeking families from Central America at the southern border. It also drew criticism for having people wait in dangerous cities.

The administration also is appealing a ruling that the administration can't spend more than Congress authorized for border security. After Congress refused to give Trump all the money he wanted for the wall, he declared a national emergency at the border and Defense Department officials transferred billions of dollars to the project.

Lower courts sided with states and environmental groups that challenged the transfer as a violation of the Constitution's provision giving Congress the power to determine spending. A separate suit from members of Congress also is making its way to the court.

The justices blocked the court rulings in both the asylum seekers and border wall cases, leaving the policies in effect. Arguments wouldn't be heard before next year and the issues would have much less significance if Joe Biden were to become president. He could rescind Trump's policy forcing asylum seekers to wait in Mexico, for example.

## Scammers seize on US election, but it's not votes they want

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The email from a political action committee seemed harmless: if you support Joe Biden, it urged, click here to make sure you're registered to vote.

But Harvard University graduate student Maya James did not click. Instead, she Googled the name of the soliciting PAC. It didn't exist -- a clue the email was a phishing scam from swindlers trying to exploit the U.S. presidential election as a way to steal peoples' personal information.

"There was not a trace of them," James, 22, said. "It was a very inconspicuous email, but I noticed it used very emotional language, and that set off alarm bells." She deleted the message, but related her experience on social media to warn others.

American voters face an especially pivotal, polarized election this year, and scammers here and abroad are taking notice — posing as fundraisers and pollsters, impersonating candidates and campaigns, and launching fake voter registration drives. It's not votes they're after, but to win a voter's trust, personal information and maybe a bank routing number.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Better Business Bureau and cybersecurity experts have recently warned of new and increasingly sophisticated online fraud schemes that use the election as an entry, reflecting both the proliferation of political misinformation and intense interest in this year's presidential and Senate races.

"Psychologically, these scams play to our desire to do something - to get involved, to donate, to take action," said Sam Small, chief security officer at ZeroFOX, a Baltimore, Maryland-based digital security firm.

Online grifters regularly shift tactics to fit current events, whether they are natural disasters, a pandemic or an election, according to Small. "Give them something to work with and they'll find a way to make a dollar," he said.

Foreign adversaries like Russia, China and Iran get much of the blame for creating fake social media accounts and spreading deceptive election information, largely because of efforts by groups linked to the Kremlin to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. In many instances, foreign disinformation campaigns make use of the same tools pioneered by cybercriminals: fake social media accounts, realistic looking websites and and suspicious links.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 63 of 78

Online scams have flourished as so many of life's routines move online during the pandemic. The FBI reported that complaints to its cybercrime reporting site jumped from 1,000 a day to 3,000-4,000 a day since the pandemic began.

Now, the final weeks of a contentious election are giving scammers yet another opportunity to strike. "Every election is heated, but this one is very much so," Paula Fleming, a chief marketing officer for the Better Business Bureau, said. "People are more trusting when they see it's a political party or a candidate they like emailing them."

The FBI warned Americans this month to watch out for election-related "spoofing," when a scammer creates a campaign website or email address almost identical to a real one. A small misspelling or a slight change - using .com instead of .gov, for instance - are tell-tale signs of fraud, the agency said.

Investigators at ZeroFOX routinely scan dark corners of the internet to identify threats against its customers. This summer, they found a large cache of personal data for sale. The data dump included the phone numbers, ages and other basic demographic information for thousands of Americans. What made the data remarkable was that it also contained partisan affiliation, the "cherry on top" for anyone interested in buying the material, Small said.

"Someone could use that to pretend to be a political action committee raising money, to try to get your personal information or your account numbers," he said.

In 2018, scammers posed as employees from the non-profit voting advocacy group TurboVote and phoned people in Georgia, Washington and at least three other states asking them to register to vote. The calls prompted complaints to state election officials, who issued a public warning.

"TurboVote doesn't call. You'll never get a call from us," group spokeswoman Tanene Allison said of the organization that helped register millions of voters in 2018. "If you're hearing something and you can't verify the source, always check with your local election officials."

Voters should be cautious of claims that sound too good to be true, fraud experts say. Before donating to any group that reached out by email or text, check their website or look to see if they're registered as a charity or campaign. Does the organization have a physical location and phone number? Scammers often do not.

Beware of pushy pollsters or fundraisers, or emails or websites that use emotionally loaded language that makes you angry or fearful, a tactic that experts say plays on human psychology. And don't reveal personal information over the phone.

"It is tricky because there are legitimate organizations out there that are trying to help people register to vote," said Eva Velasquez, a former financial crimes investigator who now runs the Identity Theft Resource Center, based in San Diego. "But you don't have to act in the moment. Take a few minutes and do a little homework."

## French leader decries terrorist beheading of teacher

By ELAINE GANLEY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron denounced what he called an "Islamist terrorist attack" against a history teacher decapitated in a Paris suburb Friday, urging the nation to stand united against extremism.

The teacher had discussed caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad with his class, authorities said. The suspected attacker was shot to death by police after Friday's beheading.

The French anti-terrorism prosecutor opened an investigation concerning murder with a suspected terrorist motive, the prosecutor's office said.

Macron visited the school where the teacher worked in the town of Conflans-Saint-Honorine and met with staff after the slaying. An Associated Press reporter saw three ambulances arrive at the scene, and heavily armed police surrounding the area and police vans lining leafy nearby streets.

"One of our compatriots was murdered today because he taught ... the freedom of expression, the freedom to believe or not believe," Macron said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 64 of 78

He said the attack shouldn't divide France because that's what the extremists want. "We must stand all together as citizens," he said.

The gruesome killing of the teacher occurred in the town of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine while the suspect was killed by police in adjoining Eragny.

A police official said the suspect, armed with a knife and an airsoft gun — which fires plastic pellets — was shot dead about 600 meters (yards) from where the male teacher was killed after he failed to respond to orders to put down his arms, and acted in a threatening manner.

The teacher had received threats after opening a discussion "for a debate" about the caricatures about 10 days ago, the police official told The Associated Press. The parent of a student had filed a complaint against the teacher, another police official said, adding that the suspected killer did not have a child at the school. The suspect's identity was not made public.

The suspect's identity was not made public. French media reported that the suspect was an 18-year-old Chechen, born in Moscow. That information could not be immediately confirmed.

The two officials could not be named because they were not authorized to discuss ongoing investigations.

France has offered asylum to many Chechens since the Russian military waged war against Islamist separatists in Chechnya in the 1990s and early 2000s, and there are Chechen communities scattered around France.

France has seen occasional violence involving its Chechen community in recent months, in the Dijon region, the Mediterranean city of Nice, and the western town of Saint-Dizier, believed linked to local criminal activity.

The attack came as Macron is pushing for a new law against what he calls domestic "separatism," notably by Islamic radicals accused of indoctrinating vulnerable people through home schools, extremist preaching and other activities.

France has the largest Muslim population in Western Europe with up to 5 million members, and Islam is the country's No. 2 religion.

"We didn't see this coming," Conflans resident Remi Tell said on CNews TV station. He described the town as peaceful.

It was the second terrorism-related incident since the opening of an ongoing trial on the newsroom massacre in Jan. 2015 at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo after the publication of caricatures of the prophet of Islam.

As the trial opened, the paper republished caricatures of the prophet to underscore the right of freedom of expression. Exactly three weeks ago, a young man from Pakistan was arrested after stabbing, outside the newspaper's former offices, two people who suffered non life-threatening injuries. The 18-year-old told police he was upset about the publication of the caricatures.

The incident came as Macron's government is working on a bill to address Islamist radicals who authorities claim are creating a parallel society outside the values of the French Republic.

---

Michel Euler in Conflans-Saint-Honorine and Nicolas Vaux-Montagny in Lyon contributed to this report.

## **Watchdog org: Trump '16 campaign, PAC illegally coordinated**

By GARANCE BURKE The Associated Press

New documents from a former Cambridge Analytica insider reveal what an election watchdog group claims was illegal coordination between Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and a billionaire-funded pro-Trump super PAC.

The legal complaint touches on some of the same people involved in today's hotly contested presidential race and provides a detailed account alleging that Trump's last campaign worked around election rules to coordinate behind the scenes with the political action committee.

The now-defunct British data analytics firm violated election law by ignoring its own written firewall policy, blurring the lines between work created for Trump's 2016 campaign and the Make America Number 1 super PAC, according to an updated complaint the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center filed Friday with

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 65 of 78

the Federal Election Commission.

The complaint also alleges that Cambridge Analytica — which improperly acquired and used 87 million Facebook users' profiles to predict their behavior — had a shared project calendar for both entities, among other evidence.

"The idea that this spending was at all independent is farcical and these emails underscore that," said Brendan Fischer, an attorney for the government oversight group, whose new filing supplements a complaint filed four years ago. "Cambridge Analytica not only misused people's personal data, but it was a conduit for the wealthy family that owned it to unlawfully support the Trump campaign in 2016."

The super PAC created a plethora of "crooked Hillary" memes that circulated widely on social media, and was financed largely by conservative billionaire Robert Mercer, who also founded, owned and managed Cambridge Analytica. Kellyanne Conway led an earlier incarnation of the PAC when it supported Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz before she resigned to advise Trump's 2016 campaign.

Under federal law, a super PAC may raise and spend unlimited amounts of money, including from corporations and unions, to support candidates for federal office — but it's illegal for them to coordinate with political campaigns.

The complaint alleges that Cambridge Analytica used information it gained from working with Trump's campaign to develop and target ads for the super PAC supporting his candidacy, "constituting unreported in-kind contributions to Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. in the form of coordinated communications."

One September 2016 email it cites is from a Cambridge senior vice president, announcing some of the PAC's ads against Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton that the Cambridge official says were produced by "our production partner" Glittering Steel, which then-CEO of the Trump campaign Steve Bannon had a financial stake in.

The White House referred questions to the campaign. Tim Murtaugh, the communications director for Trump's reelection campaign, did not respond to repeated email and text messages seeking comment.

Kory Langhofer, an attorney for former Cambridge Analytica CEO Alexander Nix, said Nix had no knowledge of what is laid out in the complaint.

"While he was one of the executives there, he claims to be unaware of any coordination," Langhofer said.

The complaint is still before the commission, but the FEC hasn't had enough commissioners to decide on complaints since early July, and does not make cases — or its deliberations about cases — public until commissioners reach decisions and close cases, said FEC spokesman Myles Martin.

The FEC only has civil enforcement authority, so in cases where commissioners decide campaign finance law were violated, that can result in civil penalties such as fines, he said.

The cache of previously unreleased emails, presentations and slide decks was provided exclusively to The Associated Press by Cambridge Analytica's first business development director, Brittany Kaiser. Last year, Kaiser published a book and starred in a film advocating for data security and regulation of social media.

The documents offer a rare window into how Cambridge collected vast troves of data about likely voters. "Cambridge Analytica's strategy with every new client they had was that the database grew smarter, because it would have more data from the campaigns they ran," Kaiser said. "They would erase the data, but they would keep all the learning they derived off the back of it to target people more precisely."

Since resigning from the data-mining firm and taking her computer with her, Kaiser has met with former special counsel Robert Mueller's office and an associate of Julian Assange. Kaiser has also founded a nonprofit group for children's digital education and is managing the presidential campaign of independent candidate Brock Pierce, a former child actor and cryptocurrency entrepreneur.

Some officials, like Conway and former Cambridge vice president Bannon, went on to play senior roles in the administration. Other people whose names appear in the emails have worked for organizations supporting Trump's reelection bid.

They include Matt Oczkowski, Cambridge's ex-head of product whose company HuMn Behavior has been paid at least \$180,000 by the Trump 2020 campaign, and Brad Parscale, the 2016 campaign's digital director who until July managed Trump's reelection campaign.

Conway told AP she was not aware of any alleged coordination, and said the people at the "tippy top"



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 66 of 78

of Cambridge were "crooks and thieves and liars."

"You are looking at a bunch of C.Y.A. emails where they are pretending that they are somehow responsible for something positive, and that has nothing to do with me," she said. "It's men behaving badly."

A spokeswoman for Bannon did not offer comment. Oczkowski did not respond to a message sent to his company or LinkedIn account.

Cambridge dissolved after facing investigations for playing a key role in the 2014 breach of Facebook users' personal data. The company denied it used the data in Trump's 2016 campaign, an assertion which ex-employees have disputed, although Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said the data could have been used in Russian propaganda efforts.

Mercer has largely stepped back from Trump's campaign this year, although in February he donated \$355,200 to a Trump fundraising committee. In 2016, the family poured millions into pro-Trump groups.

Mercer first supported a Conway-led super PAC backing Cruz for president. When Cruz dropped out, the Mercers threw their support to Trump and the political action committee became Make America Number 1.

Oczkowski, who Kaiser said she trained, joined Cambridge's parent company in late 2015, according to the documents.

In one email, Oczkowski briefed colleagues on his efforts to win business from the National Rifle Association to work on its 'Trigger the Vote' campaign with Washington-based PR firm The Herald Group.

Documents show projects related to "Trigger The Vote" appear to have netted Cambridge work valued at \$855,000 by early 2017. There are few details about the work, but Kaiser, who was involved in the negotiations, said Cambridge ingested data from the NRA and the National Shooting Sports Foundation into its system to build models that helped Republican candidates predict what would succeed with gun owners.

"Each year, they run a large campaign aimed at 'voter education,'" Oczkowski wrote about the foundation in February 2016. "They call it voter education to avoid the corporate proxy tax by directly endorsing any candidates."

The foundation and PR firm did not respond to requests for comment. NRA spokeswoman Amy Hunter confirmed the PR firm worked on "Trigger the Vote," but said "the NRA had limited interaction with the organizations" and declined to specify how the data was used.

In all, Cambridge ran over 4,000 ad campaigns for the Trump campaign that generated more than "1.4 billion impressions," with "persuasion ads" leading to a 3 percent increase in "average favorability" and get-out-the-vote ads yielding a 2 percent increase in people voting absentee, according to a post-election presentation.

The same presentation identified some voters as ripe for "deterrence." Last week, however, the United Kingdom's Information Commissioner called Cambridge's predictive analytics exaggerated and ineffective.

In another document, Make America Number 1 took credit for Trump's surprise win in Michigan.

"We did work other groups and individuals were unwilling to do in defeating Hillary Clinton," the presentation reads. "Looking forward to the 2018 and 2020 elections, MAN1 still serves a purpose by collecting and refining data for use advancing policy and directly advocating for or against candidates."

While Cambridge assured Facebook that the data they held was deleted, Kaiser wonders who controls the models they built, and how they are being used today.

"The idea was that all that data would help any of the Republican candidates they were campaigning for," she said. "Now the question is, what happened to that data?"

## **GOP, Dems hope Supreme Court fight bolsters Senate prospects**

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Republicans, the nomination fight over Amy Coney Barrett is a chance to seal conservative control of the Supreme Court for decades. For some GOP senators, it's also a lifeline they hope will preserve their political careers and their party's control of the chamber in November's elections.

The battle over President Donald Trump's pick is letting Senate Republicans facing tough reelections highlight issues like abortion and link themselves to a conservative, religious woman whose confirmation seems certain. Most importantly, they hope it will change the subject from Trump and his failure to control

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 67 of 78

the coronavirus pandemic, which threaten to make Election Day miserable for the GOP.

But even some Republicans privately doubt the court battle will distract voters enough to make a difference. And Democrats are appealing to voters too, saying the GOP-led Senate is ignoring greater needs to quickly cement a 6-3 conservative court majority, threatening Democratic priorities like former President Barack Obama's health care law and the right to abortion.

"The Senate has a big job to do right now, and that's fighting the virus and getting people the relief they need," said Democratic consultant Rodd McLeod, citing long-stalled economic relief legislation. "Instead, they're rushing through this nomination."

There are competitive races for around a dozen GOP-held seats as the party defends its 53-47 Senate majority in next month's elections. About half of them are in states like Montana and Kansas where Trump won easily in 2016 and embracing Barrett should win broad approval. But the rest are in battleground states like Arizona, Georgia, Iowa and Maine, where backing her is riskier.

Either way, both sides are using the Supreme Court battle in fundraising appeals and other ways that underscore its political potency.

From the day after the September death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg — whose vacancy Barrett will fill — through this Wednesday, each party has spent around \$4 million on broadcast TV commercials highlighting the nomination fight, according to Kantar/CMAG, the ad-tracking firm. Democrats have advertised in seven Senate races and Republicans in eight. All but one, Sen. Doug Jones' uphill effort to survive in GOP-dominated Alabama, are contests where Republicans are defending seats.

In a common GOP theme, a spot by Senate candidate Rep. Roger Marshall of Kansas says Democratic challenger Barbara Bollier would be "just another liberal rubber stamp" for judges favored by Democratic leaders.

The liberal group Demand Justice is running its own ad against incumbent GOP senators in Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Maine and North Carolina, hitting them for ignoring the pandemic while "rushing to play politics with the court."

Four GOP senators in competitive campaigns are on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which wrapped up hearings Thursday on Barrett's nomination. All four — John Cornyn of Texas, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Joni Ernst of Iowa and Thom Tillis of North Carolina — used the sessions to praise Barrett and flash opposition to abortion or champion other hot-button conservative favorites.

That didn't escape the notice of Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., her party's vice presidential nominee and a Judiciary Committee member. She recited the number of people from those states who she said would lose coverage if the justices strike down the health care law. The court is scheduled to hear arguments in a GOP-backed case seeking to dismantle the statute the week after the election.

No GOP senator stood to potentially benefit more than Graham, the Judiciary chairman.

Seeking his fourth term from a state where Trump remains popular, Graham faces a tossup contest against Democrat Jaime Harrison, who raised a record \$57 million in this year's third quarter. Chairing the televised hearings gave Graham four days to boast about golfing with Trump, demonstrate how GOP Senate control means more conservative judges and to gesture to women voters, many of whom have fled the party because of Trump.

Graham said Barrett's confirmation will pierce "a reinforced concrete barrier around conservative women." Barrett, 48, has previously expressed opposition to abortion but during the hearings asserted that as a justice she'd set aside her personal views.

So far, public opinion polls offer little evidence that supporting Barrett is a clear winner.

A poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, conducted mostly before nomination hearings began, showed Americans roughly evenly divided among favoring her confirmation, opposing it and being uncertain. In a recent survey by The Washington Post and ABC News, a slight majority of registered voters said they'd prefer letting the next elected president fill the seat.

"It's motivating both parties' bases for sure," said Republican pollster Robert Blizzard. "It's not changing the narrative or the trajectory of the races. But that's today," he said, citing possible unforeseen events by Election Day.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 68 of 78

So far, Democratic senators and outside groups opposing Barrett have used measured tones against her. That contrasts with the 2018 confirmation fight over Trump Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, who was accused of a decades-old sexual assault that he denied. Republicans turned raucous public protests into a weapon for that fall's elections, accusing Democrats of using "mobs" to oppose him.

This week, no public witnesses were allowed in the hearing room because of COVID-19 restrictions. "It's not a strategic choice, it's a fact of the times," said Brian Fallon, who heads the progressive Demand Justice.

Ironically, Democrats have spent most of their money on Supreme Court-themed ads against Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. She and Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who's not facing reelection, are the only two Republicans expected to oppose Barrett, but Democrats think the issue helps emphasize Collins' support for the divisive president.

One spot by Democratic challenger Sara Gideon pictures Collins with Kavanaugh. Collins' decisive vote for him has been a major issue in her campaign. "Susan Collins is an enabler," the announcer says.

Collins has said she'll oppose Barrett because Republicans were rushing the vote too close to the presidential election. When a vacancy occurred in February 2016, the GOP refused to consider Obama's nominee, claiming that year's election was too soon.

---

AP writer Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

## **Awash in red ink: US posts record \$3.1T 2020 budget deficit**

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal budget deficit hit an all-time high of \$3.1 trillion in the 2020 budget year, more than double the previous record, as the coronavirus pandemic shrank revenues and sent spending soaring.

The Trump administration reported Friday that the deficit for the budget year that ended on Sept. 30 was three times the size of last year's deficit of \$984 billion. It was also \$2 trillion higher than the administration had estimated in February, before the pandemic hit.

It was the government's largest annual shortfall in dollar terms, surpassing the previous record of \$1.4 trillion set in 2009. At that time, the Obama administration was spending heavily to shore up the nation's banking system and limit the economic damage from the 2008 financial crisis.

The 2020 deficit, in terms of its relationship to the economy, represented 15.2% of total gross domestic product, the sum of all the goods and services produced by the country. That was the highest level since 1945, when the U.S. was borrowing heavily to finance World War II.

The administration's final accounting of the 2020 budget year shows that revenues fell by 1.2% to \$3.42 trillion, while government spending surged 47.3% to \$6.55 trillion. That spending reflects the relief programs Congress passed in the spring to support the economy as millions of Americans were losing their jobs.

Many of the benefit programs expired in late July or early August, and so far Democrats and Republicans have been unable to agree on legislation to re-instate them. Republicans have balked at the level of spending sought by Democrats, who warn that without significant support the country could be facing a double-dip recession.

While about half of the 22 million jobs lost in March and April have been recovered, the concern is that without more government support, those still without work will be unable to make their rent or mortgage payments and buy food. In addition to the human toll, the result would be a significant drag on U.S. economic growth.

President Donald Trump has said he is willing to compromise with Democrats on a new relief package but Senate Republicans have indicated they don't support the spending levels being put forward by Democrats.

"The administration remains fully committed to supporting American workers, families and businesses and to ensuring that our robust rebound continues," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement released with the budget report.

The joint report from Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget showed that total govern-

ment receipts of \$1.61 trillion were \$286 billion lower than the administration had projected in February. That reflected a drop of \$203 billion in individual income taxes from the February forecast and a decline of \$51.8 billion in corporate income taxes from the February projection.

The \$6.55 trillion in spending — \$1.76 trillion higher than the administration's February estimate — includes the coronavirus relief programs passed by Congress, such as individual economic impact payments of \$1,200, expanded weekly unemployment benefits of \$600 per week and the Paycheck Protection Program to provide support to small businesses.

Despite all the borrowing required to finance the surging deficit, interest payments on the debt actually came in \$53.8 billion below the administration's February projection. That was due to interest rates being lower than expected this year because of the recession that began in February.

The low interest rates are a key reason economists are not as concerned about the rising debt burden caused by the deficit. The federal deficit is approaching 100% of GDP and is projected to top that amount in 2021.

"It's disappointing to both candidates for president proposing trillions of dollars in additional debt," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "The deeper we dig this hole, the harder it will be to claw our way out."

## Judge finds cases against 5 in Whitmer plot can move forward

By DAVID EGGERT and KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Prosecutors provided enough evidence to move toward trial for five Michigan men accused of plotting to kidnap the state's governor because of her measures to control spread of the coronavirus and they will all remain held without bond, a federal judge ruled Friday.

A two-day preliminary hearing in Grand Rapids this week featured testimony by one of the FBI agents who ran the investigation, relying on confidential informants and undercover agents to thwart the purported scheme to abduct Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Sally Berens said the five men's cases can go to a grand jury, which will determine whether to issue indictments. That is required for them to face trial.

Berens also ruled following a Friday bond hearing that Ty Garbin will remain in custody along with Adam Fox, who waived his right to a hearing. Berens on Tuesday denied bond for the three other Michigan residents charged in the case: Kaleb Franks, Daniel Harris and Brandon Caserta.

A sixth man, Barry Croft, was separately ordered on Tuesday to be transferred to Michigan from his home state of Delaware.

Authorities allege members of two anti-government paramilitary groups took part in plotting the kidnaping of Whitmer. Six men, led by Fox of the "Michigan III%ers," are charged in federal court. Eight others are believed to be members or associates of a group called the Wolverine Watchmen and are charged in state court with counts including providing material support for terrorist acts.

The federal preliminary hearing began Tuesday and wrapped up Friday. Agent Richard Trask testified that members of anti-government paramilitary groups from several states discussed abducting Whitmer or Virginia Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam during a June meeting in Ohio.

Fox and Croft were among those who attended that session, according to testimony and court documents. But it was not clear if talk of targeting Northam went beyond that meeting, and nothing from the complaint or Trask's testimony indicated that anyone had been charged with a plot involving Northam.

The men could get up to life in prison if convicted.

Several of their defense attorneys implied during questioning that their clients were "big talkers" who did not intend to follow through with action.

"It's loose talk," Scott Graham, an attorney for Franks, said. "And again, the point is: What has been done to show you that there was an actual agreement?"

Assistant U.S. Attorney Nils Kessler, though, argued that the group demonstrated their discussions were serious by taking steps to keep them secret, including using encrypted chat tools. Authorities found



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 70 of 78

conversations among group members in which they were worried that federal authorities had infiltrated their planning sessions, he said.

Some of them also participated in surveillance of Whitmer's northern Michigan home, Kessler said, rejecting defense attorneys' implication that the men participated in paramilitary group exercises without a specific plan for using those techniques.

"You're crossing a pretty serious line when you go in the middle of the night in multiple cars and stage up at a gas station and ... you go to the house of the sitting governor of the state to go surveil their house at night," Kessler said.

Berens agreed, saying prosecutors didn't have to show the men "signed on a dotted line" at this stage of their case.

A preliminary hearing is sometimes described as a mini-trial but requires a lower standard of proof — probable cause — than a criminal trial. Berens found that the information presented showed the men had a unified purpose — to kidnap Whitmer — allowing the case to move forward.

"The fact that (the plan) was likely to be unsuccessful or difficult to accomplish" isn't relevant, she said.

Douglas Parker, the attorney for Harris, said outside the courthouse that he disagreed with the judge's decision.

"There were a bunch of questions that are still unknown by the hearing, and we're going to have to see where the evidence goes," Parker said. "All I'd say is: Keep an open mind."

Whitmer, who is nearly halfway through a four-year term, has been widely praised for her response to the coronavirus but also criticized by some conservatives. The state Capitol has been the site of many rallies, some with gun-toting protesters demanding her ouster.

Michigan — particularly the Detroit area — was hit hard early during the pandemic, leading Whitmer to restrict personal movement and the economy. Many of the limits have since been lifted.

Some of the Wolverine Watchmen are accused of planning and training for other violent crimes such as storming the Michigan Capitol building and attacking law enforcement officers.

---

Associated Press reporter John Flesher contributed from Traverse City. Foody reported from Chicago.

## AP-NORC poll: Voters see the nation as fundamentally divided

By STEVE PEOPLES and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The overwhelming majority of voters believe the nation is deeply divided over its most important values, and many have doubts about the health of the democracy itself. And supporters of President Donald Trump and Joe Biden alike think the opposing candidate will make things even worse if elected, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Overall, 85% of registered voters describe Americans as being greatly divided in their values, and only 15% say that democracy in the United States is working extremely or very well. The poll shows voters overall are especially pessimistic about the impact of Trump's reelection: 65% say divisions would worsen if the Republican president were reelected, a number that includes a quarter of his supporters.

Thirty-five percent of voters believe Biden would divide the country further should he win the presidency. More, 47%, think the country would be unified if the Democrat were elected.

"Somebody's got to unite our country," said Gary Conard, a 64-year-old Republican who lives in Clever, Missouri. "I just think our society is confused and in trouble."

The poll offers a window into the depth of the division and chaos shaping the American electorate less than three weeks before Election Day. Voters are sharply divided over several major issues based on their partisan lenses, including their personal safety during the coronavirus pandemic, the value of diversity and the health of American democracy.

The cavernous rift represents a daunting challenge for the winner of the November election, as voters from each side seem to agree only on one thing: the extent of their divisions.

Fully 88% of Biden supporters and 80% of Trump supporters view Americans as greatly divided on

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 71 of 78

important values. Supporters for both candidates think a win for the opposing side will worsen those divisions: 76% of Trump supporters say this of Biden, and 91% of Biden backers say this of Trump.

About half of all voters say that democracy in the United States is not working well, and about another third think it's working only somewhat well. Roughly twice as many Biden supporters as Trump supporters have a pessimistic view of the health of democracy. Still, 3 in 10 Trump supporters say democracy isn't working well. And at least 8 in 10 on both sides say the other candidate's election would weaken democracy.

While Republicans fear the possibility of what Trump predicts without evidence will be a rigged election, Democrats are worried that inconsistent election laws, voter intimidation and Republican lawsuits will make it more difficult for their supporters to cast ballots given heightened health concerns during the pandemic.

The poll finds fewer than half of voters say they are highly confident that votes in the election will be counted accurately, but more Biden supporters than Trump supporters say that, 53% vs. 28%.

There also are dramatic differences in concerns about the pandemic — and views of Trump's response to it — based on political leanings.

Nearly 6 in 10 Biden supporters report being very worried that they or someone in their family will be infected with the coronavirus, compared to just about 2 in 10 Trump supporters. Close to half of Trump supporters say they are not worried.

Linda Railey, a 73-year-old Republican who lives in rural Alexander City, Alabama, said she's not worried about the pandemic because she and her husband are taking precautions like washing their hands, limiting contact with other people and wearing masks when they are in public. They only go to the grocery store and church, she said.

"I worry about it for other people," Railey said, noting that she lives in a rural area about 15 minutes outside the nearest town. "We stay home as much as we can."

And as the nation struggles through intense clashes over civil rights, the poll highlights different views on the value of diversity.

Half of Trump supporters said that the nation's diverse population "of many different races, ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds" makes the country stronger. About 3 in 10 Trump supporters said such diversity doesn't strengthen or weaken the nation, while about 2 in 10 say it makes the country weaker.

Among Biden supporters, 75% believe that diversity makes the country stronger.

Overall, Biden has an advantage over Trump as the candidate trusted to handle the coronavirus pandemic (52% to 28%), race relations (53% to 28%) and Supreme Court nominations (45% to 34%). Biden and Trump are competitive on the economy, gaining the trust of 43% and 42%, respectively. But each camp overwhelmingly trusts its own candidate over the other to handle key issues.

Noah Talbott, a 22-year-old unaffiliated voter who lives outside Richmond, Virginia, and works at Chick-fil-A, criticized Trump's leadership on several issues and blamed him for exacerbating political and racial divisions.

"I wouldn't say I'm proud to be an American right now," he said. "We're way too divided."

Talbott didn't vote four years ago but said he would vote for Biden this fall — a decision he described as "more of a vote against Trump" than for his Democratic challenger.

For all their differences, the poll found that both Biden and Trump supporters are about equally engaged in the campaign.

Conard, of Missouri, said he doesn't see an end to the divisions plaguing America, but he said it's in Trump's best interests to unify the nation. He plans to vote for the president on Election Day, believing that Biden has already had a chance after spending almost a half-century in Washington.

"One man had 47 years and he didn't get it done so you've got to look somewhere else," Conard said. "Trump wants the country to do well. For it to do well and for him to look good, he's got to bring people together. And he can do it — at least, I hope he can."

---

Fingerhut reported from Washington.

---

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 72 of 78

The AP-NORC poll of 1,121 adults was conducted Oct. 8-12 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>.

## **VIRUS DIARY: Becoming a car owner in middle age, abruptly**

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It rolled off the car carrier near my home in Brooklyn and less than 20 minutes later it was mine: a 2015 Mazda CX-5 in a deep blue.

It is my first car — ever. I happen to be 50 years old.

The pandemic has altered so much in America in ways great and small. In the very small department, it has given a middle-aged man with gray in his beard a teenager's rite of passage.

I'm clearly not alone: According to an online survey conducted in August by Engine Insights, four out of five American city residents say it's now essential to have access to a car.

I have admired cars all my life without owning a single one. I loved the BBC's "Top Gear," with those crabby Brits stuffed in Bugatti sports cars, and adored NPR's "Car Talk" with Click and Clack, the Tappet Brothers.

Over the years, I have rented from Enterprise and Budget and Dollar and some shady outlets, too. I was a longtime member of the car-sharing service Zipcar, until the pandemic seemed to disrupt its disruptive model.

Renting different types of cars gave me a chance to check them out. But owning one? With the worrisome dance of street parking and the nag of routine maintenance? I'd rather take the subway. Who wants to add to global warming anyway?

But urban life now is upside down. The subways, buses and ride-sharing platforms offer trips that aren't for the nervous, and car-sharing services aren't practical or economical for long-term rentals.

Enter my used Mazda, bought from one of several auto retailers that offer online shopping and delivery, like Carvana and Vroom, which both offer a seven-day test drive. It has a few miles on it. But so do I.

Like many businesses, Carvana has had to weather a financial storm. Sales began to rebound in late April, and the company ended the financial quarter in late June with sales up 40% over the same period last year. Overall, Carvana sold over 55,000 vehicles during the second quarter, a 25% increase versus the same time last year.

What new drivers am I sharing the road with? The auto group AAA did a survey in April that showed millennials are more likely to say the COVID-19 pandemic is prompting them to consider buying a vehicle in the next six months (14%) than Baby Boomers (7%). Come on in, the water's just fine — just please stop beeping at me.

But let's be honest: It's clearly not the best time to own a car in New York City. The street-side parking spots that were left after bike-sharing hubs arrived a few years back have now been gobbled up by restaurants spilling their socially distanced tables into the streets.

Finding a parking spot these days less than four blocks from home is worthy of a Tiger Woods-style fist-pump after he sinks a birdie. I belong now to a tribe of people who prize their secret spots and talk strategy for hours. Even with all the tips, though, I recently spent four hours searching for a suitable spot and had turned scarlet red in a toddler's temper tantrum when I gave up (my wife found a spot in 15 minutes).

But I am betting on the future — or at least hoping to outdrive it. I have freedom, but it is limited (see parking, above). No wonder many have chosen to flee to the suburbs, where cars are king and parking in front of your house is a God-given right.

Until then, may I ask: You pulling out of that spot?

Virus Diary, an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus pandemic through the eyes of Associated Press journalists around the world. Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>.

## Virus at 'turning point' in Europe, hitting at-risk groups

By COLLEEN BARRY and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Doctors are warning that Europe is at a turning point as the coronavirus surges back across the continent, including among vulnerable people, and governments try to impose restrictions without locking whole economies down.

With newly confirmed cases reaching records, the World Health Organization warned Friday that intensive care units in a number of European cities could reach maximum capacity in the coming weeks.

In response to the surge, the Czech Republic has shut schools and is building a field hospital, Poland has limited restaurant hours and closed gyms and schools, and France is planning a 9 p.m. curfew in Paris and other big cities. In Britain, authorities are closing pubs and bars in areas in the country's north, while putting limits on socializing in London and other parts of the country.

Europe is not alone in seeing a resurgence. In the United States, new cases per day are on the rise in 44 states, and deaths per day are climbing in 30.

"If we don't get a handle on this, we run the risk of getting into a situation that's harder to control," Bertrand Levrat, the head of Switzerland's biggest hospital complex, told The Associated Press. "We are really at a turning point — things can go both ways."

But while officials are sounding the alarm on rising cases, they are also wary of imposing the stricter nationwide lockdowns that devastated their economies this spring. Instead, they are trying more targeted restrictions.

France is deploying 12,000 extra police to enforce its new curfew; Saturday night will be the first time establishments will be forced to close at 9 p.m. Restaurants, cinemas and theaters are trying to figure out how can survive the forced early closures.

One movie theater chain will start opening at 8 a.m. in hopes of making up evening losses. Since Paris restaurants generally open at 7 or 7:30 p.m. for dinner, some might close altogether because it no longer makes financial sense to stay open for such a short shift.

"The French culture world isn't invincible, it needs help," author and filmmaker Yoann Sfar, who has a new movie coming out, said Friday on RTL radio.

Italy, the first country outside of Asia to detect local transmission of the virus, has banned pickup sports and public gatherings after health officials said the resurgence had reached "an acute phase" following a period of relative grace after its particularly strict lockdown.

The governor of Campania, which was mostly spared in the spring but is seeing infections skyrocket, urged quick action, noting the area around Naples is the most densely populated in the country.

"Half measures are not worth anything anymore," Vincenzo de Luca said in a Facebook video. He already announced the closure of schools for the rest of the month, against the wishes of Rome.

Massimo Galli, the director of infectious diseases at Milan's Luigi Sacco hospital, said Italy's surge is not the result of record testing, as policy makers have suggested, but a sign of a real return among the population most at risk of developing serious illness if infected.

That is a worrying trend since a tide of serious cases has the potential to swamp hospitals, and it's one that can be seen in other countries on the continent as many see even higher numbers than Italy.

France, Spain and Britain recorded more than 300 infections per 100,000 residents over the past two weeks, compared to Italy's quickening but relatively low 106.

The Czech Republic reported over 700 people infected per 100,000, and the country's military will start to build a field hospital at Prague's exhibition center this weekend — a reminder of the dark days of spring when many countries put up makeshift facilities to ease pressure on overwhelmed medical centers. The government is also negotiating with neighboring Germany and some other countries for Czechs to be



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 74 of 78

treated abroad if the health system can't handle them.

At a press briefing Friday, Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19, voiced concern about the rising numbers and said they were being accompanied by rising hospital admissions, including to ICUs.

"We know of a number of cities across Europe where ICU capacity will be reached in the in the coming weeks," she said.

But Van Kerkhove added that advancements in treatment and increased testing capacity puts many countries in a better position than they were in a few months ago.

In Italy, Milan is the epicenter of the resurgence, and it is seeing its hospitals strained.

"We have a situation that reminds one quite distressingly of the one that we already have experienced," Galli of Milan's Sacco hospital told The Associated Press, referring to the peak in March and April when Italy hit its record of 969 deaths in one day. The country recorded 83 deaths on Thursday — twice previous days, but far off earlier levels.

Already in Milan, Galli said that the number of elderly patients or those with other risk factors is growing, indicating the virus has moved beyond its initial late September's expansion, when most of the cases were mild or asymptomatic caught by screening and contact tracing.

Since then, mixing among families, within companies, and among students outside of school has fueled the spread to more vulnerable people, he said, renewing pressure on Milan's hospitals.

"The trend is already there, and it is frankly alarming," he said, though he noted that not all of Italy was yet experiencing a surge.

But that, he said, might only be a matter of time. Galli said Italy "will follow in the footsteps" of its European neighbors unless the transmission chain is blocked in the next two weeks.

He urged more restrictions be imposed on public transport and leisure activities if authorities want to avoid another lockdown — bad both for the economy and the social fabric.

While Italy's lockdown in the spring bought it more time, Galli said the current resurgence shows "how quickly there is a risk of wasting the results of even a very decisive and very important intervention."

Charlton reported from Paris.

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

## In head-to-head town halls, Biden beats Trump in audience

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not the tally that really matters, but Joe Biden scored something of an upset over President Donald Trump.

In their dueling town halls, the Democratic presidential candidate reached more viewers on ABC than Trump did for NBC News Thursday night.

The Biden town hall reached 14.1 million people on ABC between 8 and 9 p.m. and Trump had 13.5 million combined on NBC, CNBC and MSNBC, the Nielsen company said.

It had been expected that Trump would reach more people simply because it was being seen on three networks. But with a prime-time lineup of liberal opinion hosts on MSNBC, Trump wasn't particularly welcomed by either viewers or network personnel.

"Well, that just happened," MSNBC's Rachel Maddow said as soon as Trump's town hall with Savannah Guthrie ended, proceeding to launch into a lengthy fact-check.

The Biden town hall, with questions from the audience and moderator George Stephanopoulos, lasted 90 minutes.

NBC had received sharp criticism for scheduling its event at the same time as Biden. It was supposed to have been the night of the second debate, but the independent commission canceled it after Trump balked at doing a virtual debate.

## Virus surges in key battleground states as election nears

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Rising coronavirus cases in key presidential battleground states a little more than two weeks before Election Day are the latest worry for election officials and voters fearing chaos or exposure to the virus at polling places despite months of planning.

The prospect of poll workers backing out at the last minute because they are infected, quarantined or scared of getting sick has local election officials in Midwest states such as Iowa and Wisconsin opening more early voting locations, recruiting backup workers and encouraging voters to plan for long lines and other inconveniences.

Confirmed virus cases and deaths are on the rise in the swing states of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Wisconsin broke records this week for new coronavirus cases, deaths and hospitalizations, leading to the opening of a field hospital to handle COVID-19 patients. Gov. Tony Evers said he plans to activate the Wisconsin National Guard to fill any staffing shortages at election sites.

While holding a competitive presidential election during a pandemic is “tricky business,” the governor said, “People are ready to have this election over, and I think it will be a successful election with very few hiccups.”

In Iowa, Scott County Auditor Roxanna Moritz opened additional early voting sites in and around Davenport, the state’s third-largest city, to try to reduce the number of people casting ballots on Election Day and to keep the virus from spreading in large precincts.

“We have to remember that there is this thing called COVID,” Moritz said. “Our numbers aren’t getting any better. The more people I can get to early vote, the better.”

The pandemic’s recent trajectory close to home has some voters reconsidering a lifetime habit of entering a voting booth on Election Day.

Tim Tompkins, a welding engineer in Iowa, took the day off work to cast an early ballot at the Bettendorf Community Center. Tompkins, 62, said he and his wife, Pat, were afraid of coronavirus exposure in Election Day crowds but determined to vote, so they brought their own sanitizer to the community center Friday.

“We’d go through a vat of boiling COVID to get the current president out of office,” Tompkins said.

In some states, voting early still has carried health risks. Voters in Georgia, Texas and elsewhere encountered hours-long lines that required congregating with hundreds of other people this week. In Georgia, nearly a quarter of the workers in a warehouse where Fulton County’s election supplies are kept and voting equipment is readied tested positive for COVID-19.

The positive test results for 13 of the preparation center’s 60 workers shouldn’t delay election operations, county elections director Rick Barron said. Barron said Georgia’s most populous county is working to hire replacement staff and to implement additional safety measures, including daily rapid testing.

Voters in several Midwest states contested by U.S. President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, encountered lines when they went to cast early ballots on Friday. Some described the decision to vote this year as one that required deliberation and even courage.

Robert Baccus, 52, an independent contractor from Columbus, Ohio, was among hundreds in line at the Franklin County Board of Elections early voting center. He said he doesn’t trust voting by mail, so early voting was his best option for casting a ballot while trying to safeguard his health.

“It’s a choice between life and death, really,” said Baccus, a supporter of Democratic nominee Joe Biden. “We could not do it and our votes won’t be counted. It’s a choice I’ve got to make for my children and grandchildren.”

Vickie Howard-Penn, 50, a TSA worker from Columbus, said it was obvious Friday that the record virus cases Ohio reported this week had not deterred fellow voters.

“Did you see the lines? There are three lines trying to get up this way,” Howard-Penn said outside the Franklin County election board. She also planned to vote for Biden.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 76 of 78

At some polling places, workers wore masks, gloves and face shields. Lines and voting stations were set up six feet apart and the stations and pens were sanitized between users.

However, poll workers are not required to wear masks everywhere. In Kansas, the secretary of state's office did not make masks mandatory at the polls, drawing objections from some voters, particularly older ones.

Election officials in Wisconsin said the state's presidential primary provided lessons that were guiding current preparations.

Wisconsin held its presidential primary early in the pandemic after Democratic attempts to delay the April voting were thwarted. Voters waited in long lines in Milwaukee and elsewhere because a worker shortage meant there were fewer polling places.

Several election officials said they were confident they would have enough poll workers, sanitation supplies and protective gear to ensure Election Day goes smoothly and safely. But they are also encouraging voters to cast their ballots early, if they can.

"Our clerks and communities have learned a lot since the April election," Waukesha County Clerk Meg Wartman said. "Our community members, our voters, are a lot more confident about how they can be out (safely)...I wouldn't want people to be afraid to go to the polls because I think we're better prepared."

Wisconsin voter Jon Gausewitz, 37, still plans to vote in person on Election Day. He said that could change if the virus situation worsens where he lives outside Madison, the state capital.

"I'm just watching the numbers and rates and hospitalizations, that sort of thing, to see where we're at," Gausewitz said. "I'm still feeling pretty safe about it."

In Ohio, county election boards have put elaborate plans in place to keep voters safe during in-person voting that began Oct. 6, Ohio Association of Election Officials spokesman Aaron Ockerman said.

Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose updated a 61-point health and safety plan in late September that provides boards with detailed guidance on sanitation, use of personal protective gear, social distancing and other measures.

Anxiety among older Ohio voters may have helped drive the huge turnout at an online AARP-sponsored town hall with the secretary of state this week. More than 15,000 people dialed in, peppering the elections chief with technical questions about voting by mail.

As reassurance, LaRose provided his personal email address to participants and urged them to write with questions. Elections officials are preparing lists of reserve poll workers who are willing to be called on at the last minute.

Minnesota election officials have recruited all 30,000 poll workers they believe are needed to run the general election. They have cross-trained numerous others, including county and city workers, as reserves in case they're needed, Risikat Adesaogun, a spokeswoman for Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, said.

Officials in the battleground states reported no plans to close polling places, even if virus cases continue to spike.

"Obviously, we would try to open as many polling places as possible," Nick Custodio, a deputy commissioner for Philadelphia's election office, said. "We don't want to close polling places unless that is what is advised."

---

This story has been corrected to show the surname of a voter in Iowa is Tompkins, not Tomkins.

---

Associated Press writers Kate Brumback and Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta; Ryan J. Foley in Iowa City, Iowa; Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis; Geoff Mulvihill in Davenport, Iowa; Anna Nichols in Lansing, Michigan; David Pitt in Des Moines, Iowa; and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 77 of 78

## Today in History

Today is Saturday, Oct. 17, the 291st day of 2020. There are 75 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 17, 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

## On this date:

In 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, New York, in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1814, the London Beer Flood inundated the St. Giles district of the British capital as vats of beer ruptured, sending more than 320,000 gallons of liquid into the streets; up to nine people were reported killed.

In 1931, mobster Al Capone was convicted in Chicago of income tax evasion. (Sentenced to 11 years in prison, Capone was released in 1939.)

In 1939, Frank Capra's comedy-drama "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," starring James Stewart as an idealistic junior U.S. senator, had its premiere in the nation's capital.

In 1967, Puyi (poo-ye), the last emperor of China, died in Beijing at age 61.

In 1973, Arab oil-producing nations announced they would begin cutting back oil exports to Western nations and Japan; the result was a total embargo that lasted until March 1974.

In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, an earthquake measuring 6.9 in magnitude struck northern California, killing 63 people and causing \$6 billion worth of damage.

In 1990, the Internet Movie Database (IMDb.com) was created.

In 2007, President George W. Bush, raising Beijing's ire, presented the Dalai Lama with the Congressional Gold Medal and urged Chinese leaders to welcome the monk to Beijing.

In 2014, the World Health Organization acknowledged it had botched attempts to stop the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, blaming factors including incompetent staff, lack of information and budget cuts.

In 2018, residents of the Florida Panhandle community of Mexico Beach who had fled Hurricane Michael a week earlier returned home to find homes, businesses and campers ripped to shreds; the storm had killed at least 59 people and caused more than \$25 billion in damage in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI gave Australia its first saint, canonizing Mary MacKillop, a 19th century nun who was briefly excommunicated in part because her religious order had exposed a pedophile priest.

Five years ago: Thousands of migrants seeking a better life in Western Europe surged into Slovenia using a new route after Hungary sealed its border with Croatia. The final US Airways flight landed in Philadelphia, completing the last leg of its roundtrip journey. (The US Airways brand disappeared as the result of a merger with American Airlines.)

One year ago: Maryland Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings died at the age of 68; the sharecropper's son had risen to become a civil rights champion and the chairman of one of the House panels leading an impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump. The U.S. ambassador to the European Union told House impeachment investigators that Trump had told him and other envoys to work with his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, on Ukraine policy; Gordon Sondland said he was "disappointed" by that directive. Energy Secretary Rick Perry announced that he would leave his job by the end of the year; he'd been under scrutiny over the role he played in the president's dealings with Ukraine. Chicago teachers went on strike after their union and city officials failed to reach a contract deal in the nation's third-largest school district. (The strike canceled 11 days of classes for more than 300,000 students.) Character actor Bill Macy, best known as the long-suffering foil to Bea Arthur's unyielding feminist on the 1970s sitcom "Maude," died in Los Angeles; he was 97.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Marsha Hunt is 103. Singer Jim Seals (Seals & Crofts) is 78. Singer Gary Puckett is 78. Actor Michael McKean is 73. Actor George Wendt is 72. Actor-singer Bill Hudson is 71. Astronaut Mae Jemison is 64. Country singer Alan Jackson is 62. Movie critic Richard Roeper is 61. Movie director Rob Marshall is 60. Actor Grant Shaud is 60. Animator Mike Judge is 58. Rock singer-musician Fred LeBlanc (Cowboy Mouth) is 57. Actor-comedian Norm Macdonald is 57. Singer Rene' Dif is 53. Reggae singer Ziggy



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 106 ~ 78 of 78**

Marley is 52. Actor Wood Harris is 51. Singer Wyclef Jean (zhahn) is 51. World Golf Hall of Famer Ernie Els is 51. Singer Chris Kirkpatrick ('N Sync) is 49. Rapper Eminem is 48. Actor Sharon Leal is 48. Actor Matthew Macfadyen is 46. Rock musician Sergio Andrade (an-DRAY'-day) is 43. Actor Felicity Jones is 37. Actor Chris Lowell is 36. Actor Dee Jay Daniels is 32.