

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 1 of 86

[1- This Week](#)

[2- Stanley County wins defensive game](#)

[4- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)

[6- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)

[7- PrairieDoc Column: The Psychology of Smoking](#)

[Cessation](#)

[8- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)

[9- October 18th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)

[13- South Dakota COVID-19 Numbers](#)

[14- Brown County COVID-19 Numbers](#)

[15- Day County COVID-19 Numbers](#)

[16- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)

[17- Weather Pages](#)

[20- Daily Devotional](#)

[21- 2020 Groton Events](#)

[22- News from the Associated Press](#)



This week

Volleyball hosting Langford Area: 7th grade match at 5 p.m. in the Arena followed by the JV at 6 p.m. and then the varsity match. There will also be an intramural match between the 8th grade team and the C team in the GHS Gym.

Tomorrow, the volleyball team will travel to Northwestern. The junior high matches are cancelled. A C match will start at 5 p.m. with the jV at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity match.

Then on Thursday, a newly scheduled match will have Groton Area traveling to Wilmot with a JV match at 6:15 p.m. followed by the varsity match.

On Saturday, the state cross country meet will be held at Yankton Trails in Rapid City (Isaac Smith is a state qualifier). The ACT Testing will be held at GHS on Saturday.



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Stanley County wins defensive game

Groton Area was just four yards short of tying or winning the game right at the very end as Stanley County edged out Groton Area, 6-0.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO, sponsored by Groton Vet Clinic, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Doug Abeln Seed Company, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Midwest Masonry & Concrete Pumping and Tyson DeHoet Trucking.



Andrew Marzahn, Jaimen Farrell and Ethan Gengerke tackle Stanley County's Evan Nordstrom. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jordan Bjerke makes this catch as he is defended by Stanley County's Levi Stover.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Favian Sanchez jumps high in the air to deflect this pass intended for Stanley County's Nathan Cook. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 3 of 86



Lane Tietz gets ready to throw the ball. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The game could not have been much more equal as both teams had 221 yards of total offense and Stanley County had just one more first down than Groton Area, 13-12. Both teams had three fumbles and lost one.

Jaimen Farrell led the offense with 23 carries for 101 yards, had one catch for six yards and also led the defense with 14 tackles. Andrew Marzahn had three carries for 38 yards. Pierce Kettering had three carries for nine yards, had one catch for 25 yards and had 14 tackles. Jordan Bjerke had two catches for 42 yards and had five tackles. Alex Morris had 10 tackles while Jackson Cogley had and Kale Pharis each had five tackles and Ethan Gengerke had one fumble recovery.

Groton Area had 148 yards rushing and 73 yards passing. Stanley County had 135 yards rushing and 86 yards passing. Evan Nordstrom led Stanley County with 14 carries for 48 yards. Nathan Cook had three carries for 47 yards.

The lone touchdown in the game came with 6:26 left in the first half when Lathan Prince had a six yard run. The PAT pass was no good and that was the score, 6-0.

Groton Area finishes its season 2-5. Stanley County is 4-2 and will advance into the playoffs.

- Paul Kosel

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 4 of 86

#238 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Before we get started tonight, I'm going to note we seem to have picked up a few trolls here in the past couple of days, people who haven't come to obtain or share information, but to challenge the judgement of those with actual expertise in infectious diseases, public health, and epidemiology and to share false claims and wild speculation about this pandemic. This isn't OK with me, and so I'll be deleting those comments. Let me be clear, your First Amendment rights do not apply here; you are not free to say whatever you wish, factual or fantastical, and you are not free to be rude to the folks who gather here. The First Amendment only covers governmental abridgement of free speech, and I'm not the government, so I'm free to censor the hell out of this page if I choose. I enforce courtesy and demand facts here; if this is an issue for you, feel free to move on to another place more congenial to your delusions: no hard feelings. I'm trying to keep people alive here, and I don't have time for your fragile sensibilities.

Now, on with the show.

Sunday reporting; everything's low and it's a light news day. This will be relatively brief. I expect the pattern will hold that Monday will also show low numbers before we get a truer accounting of things on Tuesday. For today, we're at 8,188,700 cases reported in the US so far in the pandemic. Today, there were 47,100 new case reports, a 0.6% increase from yesterday. This is our 13th straight day above 40,000 new cases. There were 371 deaths reported today, a 0.2% increase to 219,537.

Here is our Sunday two-week summary: Growth rates are considerably higher this week. We are seeing increasing rates of growth in more states than last week. One-week increase in total cases was 348,500 (4.7%) last week and is 396,700 (5.1%) this week. Two-week increase was 654,000 (9.2%) last week and is 745,200 (10.0%) this week. I have us at a one-week average new-case number of 56,671, well above last week's 49,786. This is very concerning.

I track 54 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and we're up to seven of these showing two-week rates of increase greater than 25%. Here are the states and territories with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: Montana (54.84%), Wyoming (38.76%), Connecticut (38.00%), North Dakota (35.79%), Alaska (38.72% - big increase), Guam (25.68%), and Wisconsin (25.52%). The new territory on the list this week is Guam; no one has dropped off. We still have 34 states and territories with growth rates above the US growth rate, which means the trouble remains widespread across the country. Highest per capita new-case numbers in the past week are in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Utah, and Idaho—same states as last week, just shifted a bit in position.

I am hearing again—sigh!—talk about herd immunity, as in all we have to do is let this thing burn through the population for a while, and we'll achieve herd immunity and we'll all be saved. Now I know we've had this conversation before (notably on May 15 in Update #82 at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3596272713722442>, on July 10 in Update #138 at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3758924150790630>, and on September 26 in Update #216 at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/4015075315175511>), but it appears we need to have it again because this thing keeps arising.

Herd immunity is an actual thing; if enough of a population is immune to a pathogen, then the virus will have a hard time finding someone to whom it can spread, so its R_e drops and the pandemic burns out. This concept is useful when we talk about vaccinating against a pathogen, but we've never really applied it to a pathogen for which we don't have a vaccine. This is because the amount of morbidity and mortality we'd have to endure to get there through natural infection is generally pretty horrifying. And so it is with this one. Tom Frieden, a physician and former director of the CDC, explains, "There is a saying that for every complicated problem, a solution exists that is quick, simple—and wrong. That applies here: Pursuing herd immunity is the wrong, dead wrong, solution for the pandemic."

If herd immunity kicks in at 60% of the population, with a conservative estimate according to what is known now and a fatality rate around 0.5%, current best-case estimates are that another half-million Americans would need to die in order for us to achieve herd immunity; it could be as many as twice that number. Whether you're in the "protect the vulnerable" camp or not, this is a whole lot of funerals. And

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 5 of 86

it is important to recognize that protecting the vulnerable is an enormous task: the virus spreads fairly freely through family and social groups from the young and healthy to the older and vulnerable. And I should mention that the "vulnerable" includes a huge number of people: the 52 million over-52s and the 60% of us with medical conditions that place them at risk. We cannot protect the vulnerable unless we protect all of us.

One more complication in any plan to achieve herd immunity through natural infection is our current uncertainty about whether infected people develop a protective immune response and, if they do, how long that protective immunity lasts. Signs are encouraging that there is a protective response, but we're still not sure how related that is to the severity of the infection the person has. It could be that only severe disease results in immunity and those who weren't very sick will not be very well protected. And we're thinking that treating with antibodies, whether convalescent plasma or one of these specialized monoclonal antibody concoctions, might inhibit the development of an effective immune response in the patient; this could result in large numbers of recovered individuals not developing immunity at all or developing only weak immunity. If any of this comes true, that's going to get in the way of protecting the population too.

Herd immunity through natural infection really is not a feasible way out of this. We need to deal with this pandemic head-on. First, we have to mitigate spread. This involves, as we've said approximately a zillion times before, reducing close contacts, avoiding indoor contacts, wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing our hands. It means avoiding crowds. And it also requires monitoring spread and having a plan to deal with it. And then we have to prevent cases from becoming clusters and clusters from becoming outbreaks. For that, we need testing and contact tracing so that we can isolate and quarantine.

We can't just sit around waiting for a vaccine. We may have one soon, but even so, we're looking at months before it is widely distributed and probably no herd immunity immediately after it is. Let's say the optimistic estimate comes true and an early vaccine is 70% effective and we can get 70% of the population to take it; that would protect only around half the population. We don't have expectations of herd immunity anytime soon.

Preliminary results from a few small studies of patients with lung damage from Covid-19 are giving hope that the damage is reversible, at least in some of them. It appears exercise and use of devices used to promote forceful breathing are useful methods for rehabilitation of those with this sort of damage. Over a period of weeks, CT scans are showing the lung lesions from the pneumonia are decreasing, sometimes disappearing entirely. Patients are coughing less, breathing more easily, more able to engage in light exercise, and sometimes showing marked improvement in endurance. Larger studies are needed with longer term follow-up; but this is a hopeful sign.

Carrie Kelley's an experienced marathoner; she's run 68 of them in her life. The most recent one was early this month in Utah; but things weren't going well for her in that race. Only four miles in, she was having a tough time, struggling with injury and in pain, but trying to continue despite her discouragement. Well behind the pack, she was thinking about giving it up when she heard footsteps behind her as a runner came up to join her. It was Fidel Ybarra, not a registered entrant, but a prisoner on work release to help with the race.

There with an inmate crew to help with setup and cleanup at the event with a crew following up the last runner, Kelley, Ybarra was wearing overalls and work boots. He joined Kelley and finished the race with her, running 22 miles without proper gear or any sort of preparation. After the race, she said, "Without Fidel's help, I wouldn't have been able to finish. . . . I saw how much pain Fidel was in, but he wouldn't quit because he didn't want me to run alone."

His statement included the following: "I am not sure why I began running with her, but I think maybe I saw a little bit of myself and other inmates in the situation. We are normally left to the back and left to our own devices. . . . I felt like I could not let her finish the marathon alone. . . . something kept me going. I feel like by the end I was in more pain than her, but the feeling of accomplishment was more than I can describe in words."

I'm not sure who helped who that day, and maybe that doesn't matter. Maybe the lesson is that you just help where you see help is needed and let the outcomes take care of themselves. It worked out for this unlikely team.

Stay healthy. I'll be back tomorrow.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 6 of 86

The Minnesota Vikings (1-5) were absolutely embarrassed by the previously winless Atlanta Falcons (1-5) on Sunday, losing 40-23. The final score makes the game appear closer than it was, as the Falcons were in control of the game from the first play. The Vikings have a lot of questions to answer going forward.

The Vikings won the toss, and instead of kicking like they usually do, they chose to receive the ball to start the game. On the first play from scrimmage, Kirk Cousins threw a horrible interception, and it was all downhill from there. Atlanta scored a touchdown

five plays later, on their way to scoring 20 unanswered points in the first half. The Vikings had six drives in the first half (technically seven after getting the ball back with .01 seconds left in the half, but we won't count that one), and those six drives went like this: interception, three-and-out, three-and-out, turnover on downs, interception, interception. The one good drive was the one that ended on a turnover on downs; the Vikings had driven 74 yards on seven plays and were faced with a fourth and goal at the Falcons' one-yard line. Head coach Mike Zimmer elected to go for it, and third-string running back Mike Boone was stuffed for a loss of one yard.

The Falcons got the ball to start the second half and marched 56 yards on 10 plays before the drive stalled and they kicked a field goal to go up 23-0. The Vikings finally managed to reach the end zone on their next drive on an 11-yard pass to Justin Jefferson. Unfortunately, the Vikings' defense was unable to stop the Falcons and maintain any momentum, and Atlanta scored a touchdown to extend their lead back to 23 points. The two teams traded punts for the rest of the third quarter before Atlanta was able to put more points on the board halfway through the fourth quarter with a field goal to extend their lead to 33-7. By this time, the Vikings were down by four scores and the game was essentially over. Kirk Cousins managed to put two more touchdowns on the board to pad his stats in garbage time, but overall, it was a poor performance by the entire Vikings' roster – including the coaches.

Kirk Cousins: 24/36 343 yards, 3 TD, 3 INT

Justin Jefferson: 9 receptions, 166 yards, 2 TD

Ifeadi Odenigbo: 5 tackles, 1.5 sacks, 1 tackle for a loss

Stat of the game: 32 rushing yards by Minnesota

With Dalvin Cook sitting this game out with an injury, everybody fully expected Alexander Mattison to step right into his shoes. The Vikings were unable to get anything going on the ground, however, and that completely disrupted the Vikings' offensive game plan. Atlanta was not intimidated by the Vikings' run game, which meant Cousins was unable to get play action working. At the end of the day, the Vikings only attempted 13 rushes on Sunday.

Looking ahead, the Vikings have their bye week coming up. I don't expect any big changes to be made in the near future (like Zimmer getting fired), but at this point, nothing would surprise me.

Skol?



By Jordan Wright

The Psychology of Smoking Cessation

As a primary care physician, I commonly encounter patients who smoke cigarettes. Most people, including those who smoke, are aware of the long term health risks posed by smoking. Of course, as a physician who cares about their current and future health, I want these patients to embrace the goal of smoking cessation. As someone who has never been a smoker myself, I admit I cannot fully understand the struggle of this task. However, the data suggest that quitting smoking can be extremely difficult. I find it helpful to understand some basic psychology when it comes to smoking cessation.



By Dr. Kelly Evans-Hullinger ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

In the 1970s, a duo of scientists named Prochaska and Diclemente, after studying subjects who smoked and their likelihood of successfully quitting, developed the Transtheoretical Model of Stages of Change. This model is widely used today to assess readiness for change when it comes to smoking and other lifestyle changes such as diet, exercise, alcohol and other substance use. The following explains each stage and how we can apply them to help with smoking cessation:

Precontemplative stage: A person has no intention of changing their behavior soon. In this case, I “plant the seed” by providing some basic education and encouraging the patient to think about it before the next visit. Pushing or forcing change at this stage is not likely to be fruitful.

Contemplative stage: A person is thinking about making a change, perhaps in the next six months, but they may not be ready for a definitive plan. I offer specific education about quitting and ensure follow up to help with planning when they are ready.

Preparation stage: A person is ready to implement change in the next 30 days. Time to cheer on my patient and set them up for success! We might set a quit date together, consider referral to the Quitline, and discuss more specific strategies, including medication or nicotine replacement.

Action stage: This is the first six months of the big change, during which patients have a high risk of relapse. It is crucial that the patient check in often with me, their Quitline counselor, and other support people.

Maintenance stage: After the action stage, risk of relapse decreases but does not go away. I offer my patients a safe place to discuss their urge to smoke and encourage them to stay tobacco-free. If they do slip up, I remind them not to give up. I help them focus on the hard work they’ve already done and stay successful.

Quitting smoking can be difficult, but it is truly one of the best things a person can do for their long-term health. There is support out there, starting with your primary care provider. When you are ready, ask for help!

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices internal medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 8 of 86

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	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	
Minnesota	114,574	115,763	117,106	119,145	121,090	122,812	
Nebraska	53,543	54,467	55,428	56,714	57,334	58,068	
Montana	19,611	20,210	20,933	21,595	22,233	22,821	
Colorado	80,085	80,777	81,918	83,230	84,369	85,302	
Wyoming	6,740	6,914	7,089	7,337	7,479	7,673	
North Dakota	28,245	28,947	29,653	30,414	31,261	31,978	
South Dakota	29,339	30,215	31,012	31,805	32,611	33,269	
United States	7,859,365	7,917,223	7,980,899	8,052,978	8,107,404	8,148,368	
US Deaths	215,914	216,904	217,717	218,618	219,311	219,668	
218,							
Minnesota	+1,135	+1,189	+1,343	+2,039	+1,945	+1,722	
Nebraska	+704	+924	+961	1,286	+620	+734	
Montana	+486	+599	+723	+662	+638	+588	
Colorado	+1,048	+692	+1,141	1,312	+1,139	+933	
Wyoming	+112	+174	+175	+248	+142	+194	
North Dakota	+508	+702	+706	+761	+847	+717	
South Dakota	+414	+865	+797	+793	+806	+658	
United States	+54,722	+57,858	+63,676	+72,079	+54,426	+40,964	
US Deaths	+825	+990	+813	+901	+693	+357	

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 9 of 86

October 18th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Eight more deaths scattered among various age groups were recorded today. One in the 80+ age group, one in the 70s, one in the 60s, four in the 50s and one in the 40s. There were two females and four males. Roberts and Minnehaha county each recorded two deaths and one was recorded in each of Pennington, Moody, Bennett and Meade. Harding County saw a near doubling of its positive cases.

Counties with double digit increases are Beadle 15, Bon Homme 13, Brookings 44, Brown 20, Codington 28, Custer 10, Davison 15, Harding 13, Hughes 10, Lawrence 21, Lincoln 37, Meade 12, Minnehaha 120, Oglala Lakota 24, Pennington 50, Turner 16, Union 13 and Yankton 20.

Locally, Brown had 20 positive, 17 recovered, 353 active; Day had 4 positive, 4 recovered, 30 active; Marshall had 2 positive, 1 recovered, 13 active; McPherson had 0 positive, 0 recovered, 14 active; Spink had 7 positive, 3 recovered, 62 active. I've also included the survival percentage based on the totals - the percent of recovery if you should happen to get COVID-19.

Positive cases by age group: 0-9=20 (100%), 10-19=64 (100%), 20s=132 (99.9%), 30s=91 (99.9%), 40s=98 (99.7%), 50s=79 (99.4%), 60s=94 (98.7%), 70s=53 (96.7%), 80+=27 (87.5%).

Brown County:

Total Positive: +20 (1,752) Positivity Rate: 15.5%

Total Tests: +129 (15,829)

Recovered: +17 (1,395)

Active Cases: +3 (353)

Ever Hospitalized: +2 (90)

Deaths: +0 (4)

Percent Recovered: 79.6

South Dakota:

Positive: +658 (33,269 total) Positivity Rate: 14.9%

Total Tests: 4,422 (364,409 total)

Hospitalized: +42 (2,119 total). 300 currently hospitalized +4)

Deaths: +8 (323 total)

Recovered: +406 (24,934 total)

Active Cases: +244 (8,012)

Percent Recovered: 74.9%

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 12% Covid, 53% Non-Covid, 34% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 21% Covid, 41% Non-Covid, 39% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 6% Covid, 18% Non-Covid, 76% Available

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

Aurora: +1 positive, +1 recovered (62 active cases)

Beadle (12): +15 positive, +10 recovered (193 active

cases)

Bennett (4): +2 positive, +0 recovered (37 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +13 positive, +6 recovered (190 active cases)

Brookings (2): +44 positive, +17 recovered (317 active cases)

Brown (4): +20 positive, +17 recovered (353 active cases)

Brule (2): +9 positive, +5 recovered (57 active cases)

Buffalo (3): +6 positive, +1 recovered (26 active cases)

Butte (3): +7 positive, +4 recovered (84 active cases)

Campbell: +3 positive, +0 recovered (32 active cases)

Charles Mix: +4 positive, +6 recovered (90 active cases)

Clark: +4 positive, +4 recovered (23 active cases)

Clay (8) +7 positive, +5 recovered (108 active cases)

Codington (10): +28 positive, +7 recovered (259 active cases)

Corson (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (27 active cases)

Custer (3): +10 positive, +2 recovered (68 active case)

Davison (4): +15 positive, +20 recovered (272 active cases)

Day (1): +4 positive, +4 recovered (30 active cases)

Deuel: +3 positive, +0 recovered (41 active cases)

Dewey: +7 positive, +1 recovered (120 active cases)

Douglas (4): +2 positive, +2 recovered (51 active cases)

Edmunds (1): +0 positive, +0 recovered (18 active cases)

Fall River (6): +8 positive, +4 recovered (52 active cases)

Faulk (1): +8 positive, +4 recovered (54 active cases)

Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 10 of 86

Grant (2): +6 positive, +2 recovered (78 active cases)
 Gregory (8): +3 positive, +1 recovered (32 active cases)
 Haakon (1): +4 positive, +1 recovered (30 active case)
 Hamlin: +4 positive, +3 recovered (41 active cases)
 Hand (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (21 active cases)
 Hanson (1): +0 positive, +1 recovered (19 active cases)
 Harding: +13 positive, +0 recovered (27 active cases)
 Hughes (5): +10 positive, +7 recovered (130 active cases)
 Hutchinson (2): +5 positive, +3 recovered (54 active cases)
 Hyde: +0 positive, +1 recovered (8 active cases)
 Jackson (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (29 active cases)
 Jerauld (6): +0 positive, +0 recovered (19 active cases)
 Jones: +1 positive, +2 recovered (7 active cases)
 Kingsbury (1): +6 positive, +5 recovered (52 active cases)
 Lake (8): +9 positive, +4 recovered (72 active cases)
 Lawrence (5): +21 positive, +7 recovered (166 active cases)
 Lincoln (14): +37 positive, +42 recovered (567 active

cases)
 Lyman (4): +2 positive, +2 recovered (18 active cases)
 Marshall: +2 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)
 McCook (1): +2 positive, +4 recovered (54 active cases)
 McPherson: +0 positive, +0 recovery (14 active case)
 Meade (9): +12 positive, +9 recovered (160 active cases)
 Mellette: +0 positive, +0 recovered (11 active cases)
 Miner: +6 positive, +6 recovered (53 active cases)
 Minnehaha (96): +120 positive, +110 recovered (1722 active cases)
 Moody (2): +1 positive, +2 recovered (50 active cases)
 Oglala Lakota (5): +24 positive, +4 recovered (242 active cases)
 Pennington (44): +50 positive, +49 recovered (789 active cases)
 Perkins: +1 positive, +1 recovered (17 active cases)
 Potter: +0 positive, +2 recovered (21 active cases)
 Roberts (4): +5 positive, +2 recovered (42 active cases)
 Sanborn: +5 positive, +2 recovered (25 active cases)
 Spink (1): +7 positive, +3 recovered (62 active cases)
 Stanley: +3 positive, +2 recovery (21 active cases)
 Sully: +2 positive, +0 recovered (14 active cases)
 Todd (5): +8 positive, +2 recovered (110 active cases)
 Tripp (1): +5 positive, +0 recovered (50 active cases)
 Turner (8): +16 positive, +7 recovered (154 active cases)
 Union (10): +13 positive, +9 recovered (170 active cases)
 Walworth (1): +4 positive, +2 recovered (91 active cases)
 Yankton (5): +20 positive, +4 recovered (163 active cases)
 Ziebach (1): +0 positive, +0 recovered (16 active case)

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	1034	0
10-19 years	3699	0
20-29 years	7093	2
30-39 years	5550	7
40-49 years	4565	12
50-59 years	4624	28
60-69 years	3555	47
70-79 years	1817	60
80+ years	1332	167

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	17478	147
Male	15791	176

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report
 COVID-19 Daily Report, October 18:

- 8.9% rolling 14-day positivity
- 10.4% daily positivity
- 716 new positives
- 6,904 susceptible test encounters
- 147 currently hospitalized (-1)
- 5,652 active cases (+282)

Total Deaths: +5 (404)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 11 of 86

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Aurora	157	95	683	0	Substantial	18.32%
Beadle	1062	857	3729	12	Substantial	12.32%
Bennett	125	83	898	5	Substantial	15.69%
Bon Homme	310	119	1390	1	Substantial	23.91%
Brookings	1199	880	5816	2	Substantial	18.72%
Brown	1752	1395	8252	4	Substantial	20.10%
Brule	208	149	1355	2	Substantial	25.66%
Buffalo	202	173	809	3	Substantial	39.73%
Butte	221	135	1980	3	Substantial	15.38%
Campbell	68	36	160	0	Substantial	26.92%
Charles Mix	311	221	2851	0	Substantial	8.99%
Clark	70	47	641	0	Moderate	3.55%
Clay	700	584	3059	8	Substantial	14.93%
Codington	1246	977	6076	10	Substantial	15.73%
Corson	133	105	767	1	Moderate	35.90%
Custer	268	195	1588	3	Substantial	20.49%
Davison	704	438	4210	4	Substantial	18.04%
Day	128	97	1157	1	Substantial	11.00%
Deuel	147	106	746	0	Substantial	15.63%
Dewey	266	146	3312	0	Substantial	11.29%
Douglas	148	93	673	4	Substantial	10.26%
Edmunds	123	104	682	1	Moderate	2.34%
Fall River	166	108	1693	6	Substantial	15.84%
Faulk	156	101	516	1	Substantial	22.22%
Grant	257	177	1414	2	Substantial	14.66%
Gregory	176	136	760	8	Substantial	15.15%
Haakon	66	35	409	1	Substantial	5.66%
Hamlin	157	116	1155	0	Substantial	6.44%
Hand	89	67	538	1	Substantial	16.85%
Hanson	64	42	413	1	Moderate	8.47%
Harding	32	5	103	0	Minimal	33.33%
Hughes	727	587	3579	5	Substantial	13.71%
Hutchinson	185	129	1482	2	Substantial	5.56%

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 12 of 86

Hyde	32	24	289	0	Moderate	15.38%
Jackson	75	45	718	1	Substantial	21.88%
Jerauld	153	128	370	6	Substantial	11.11%
Jones	27	20	119	0	Minimal	5.56%
Kingsbury	138	85	975	1	Substantial	12.66%
Lake	298	218	1727	8	Substantial	16.09%
Lawrence	662	491	5124	5	Substantial	14.49%
Lincoln	2178	1597	12362	14	Substantial	16.76%
Lyman	210	188	1375	4	Substantial	11.73%
Marshall	57	44	738	0	Moderate	5.36%
McCook	179	124	1045	1	Substantial	6.86%
McPherson	54	40	372	0	Moderate	4.05%
Meade	792	623	4675	9	Substantial	13.29%
Mellette	48	39	548	0	Moderate	11.11%
Miner	109	44	387	0	Substantial	18.26%
Minnehaha	9012	7194	48828	96	Substantial	13.69%
Moody	166	114	1040	2	Substantial	23.40%
Oglala Lakota	568	321	5305	5	Substantial	10.97%
Pennington	3554	2721	22903	44	Substantial	13.63%
Perkins	61	42	438	0	Moderate	15.22%
Potter	83	62	580	0	Substantial	6.83%
Roberts	275	229	3152	4	Substantial	13.17%
Sanborn	73	48	407	0	Substantial	10.53%
Spink	220	157	1621	1	Substantial	11.27%
Stanley	71	50	499	0	Moderate	13.51%
Sully	33	19	158	0	Moderate	26.92%
Todd	311	196	3279	5	Substantial	19.15%
Tripp	232	181	1088	1	Substantial	11.88%
Turner	377	215	1728	8	Substantial	27.56%
Union	656	476	3812	10	Substantial	18.14%
Walworth	241	145	1237	1	Substantial	15.09%
Yankton	623	455	5616	5	Substantial	7.02%
Ziebach	78	61	560	1	Moderate	5.56%
Unassigned	0	0	1807	0		

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 13 of 86

South Dakota

New Total Cases Today	New Confirmed Cases	New Probable Cases
658	628	30
Currently Hospitalized	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
300	8,012	24,934
Total Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Probable Cases
33,269	32,339	930
Ever Hospitalized	Total Persons Tested	Total Tests
2,119	231,047	364,409
Deaths	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests)	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests)
323	216%	168%

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 14 of 86

Brown County

New Total Cases Today 20	New Confirmed Cases 21	New Probable Cases 0
Currently Hospitalized 17	Active Cases 353	Recovered Cases 1,395
Total Cases 1,752	Total Confirmed Cases 1,746	Total Probable Cases 6
Ever Hospitalized 90	Total Persons Tested 10,004	Total Tests 15,829
Deaths 4	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests) 216%	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests) 168%

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 15 of 86

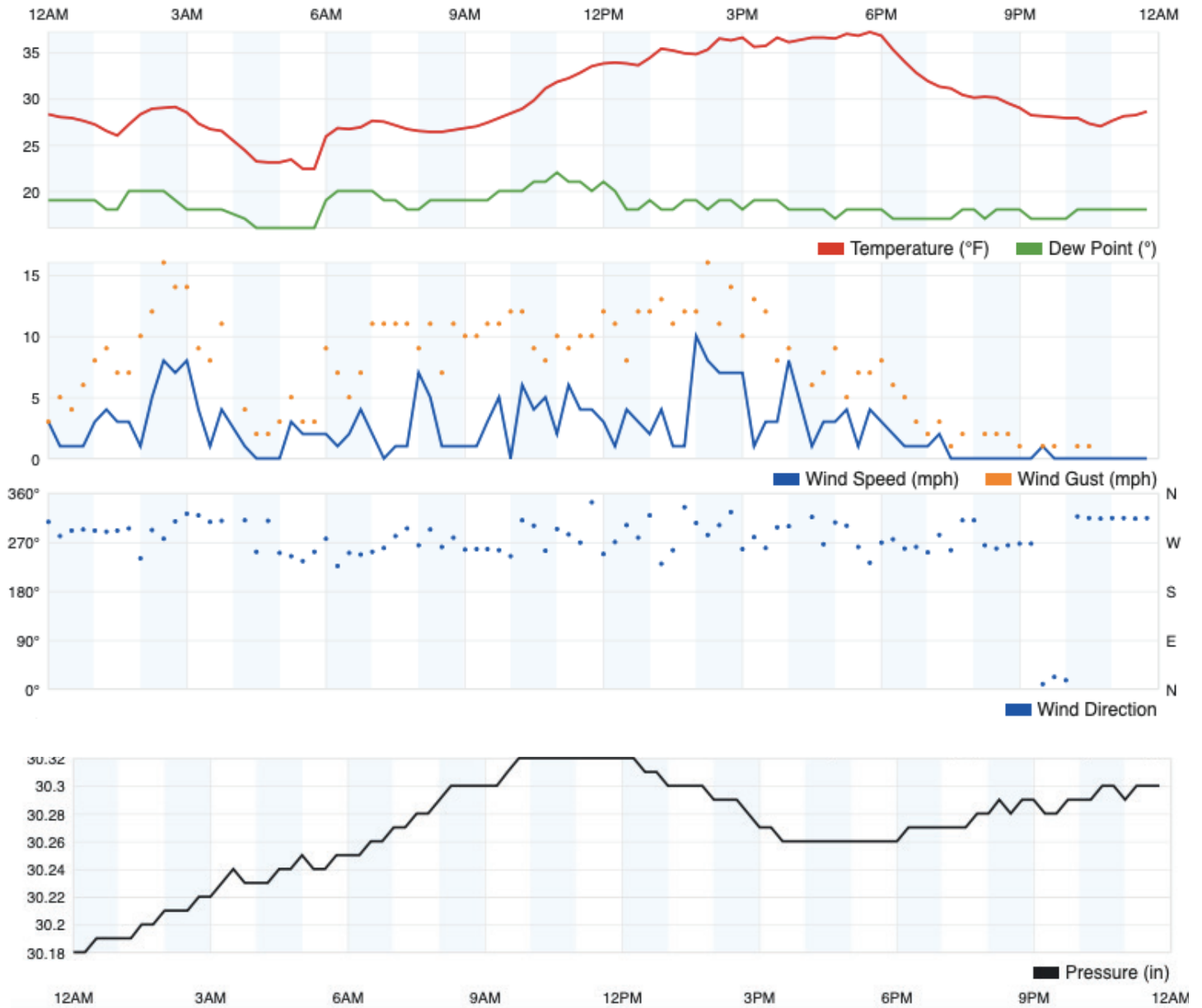
Day County

New Total Cases Today	New Confirmed Cases	New Probable Cases
4	3	1
Currently Hospitalized	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
0	30	97
Total Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Probable Cases
128	126	2
Ever Hospitalized	Total Persons Tested	Total Tests
16	1,285	2,270
Deaths	% Progress (September Goal: 44,233 Tests)	% Progress (October Goal: 44,233 Tests)
1	216%	168%

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 16 of 86

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 17 of 86

Today

Tonight

Tuesday

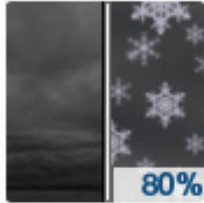
Tuesday
Night

Wednesday



70%

Snow Likely



80%

Cloudy then
Snow



90% 90%

Rain/Snow
then Rain



Mostly Cloudy



30% 40%

Chance Snow
then Chance
Rain/Snow

High: 37 °F

Low: 30 °F

High: 41 °F

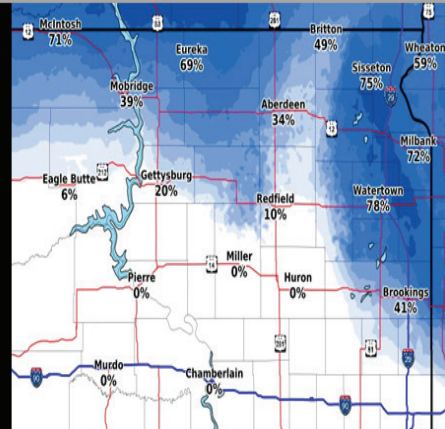
Low: 24 °F

High: 39 °F

Snow Expected
Today and Tuesday

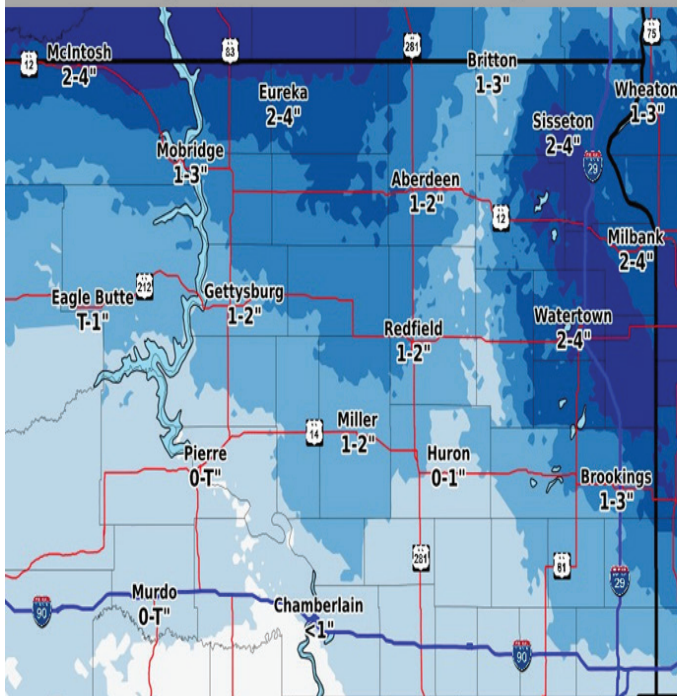


Percent Chance of Seeing 2" or More of Snow

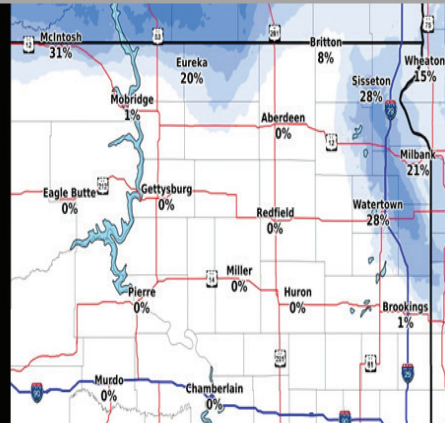


Updated: 10/19/2020 4:45 AM Central

Most Likely Snowfall through Tuesday Afternoon



Percent Chance of Seeing 4" or More of Snow



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Light snow is ongoing for parts of north central and northeastern SD and is expected to continue through the morning with small accumulations. A larger system moves into the region late tonight into Tuesday bringing larger accumulations that may make travel difficult.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 18 of 86

Today in Weather History

October 19, 1982: An early fall snowstorm dropped 3 to 12 inches of wet snow over the southeastern corner of South Dakota. The wet snow combined with the gusty winds of 20 to 40 mph dropped wind chills to around zero. Numerous trees snapped downing power lines. Power outages were extensive from Vermillion to Mitchell. Thunder rumbled, and lightning flashed amidst the height of the snowstorm. Almost a foot of snow fell in northern Union and southern Lincoln counties. High wind gusts knocked out television and radio transmitters in Sioux Falls. The weight of the snow collapsed a panel on the covered stadium at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion.

1844 - The famous "Lower Great Lakes Storm" occurred. Southwesterly winds were at hurricane force for five hours, driving lake waters into downtown Buffalo NY. The storm drowned 200 persons. (David Ludlum)

1961 - Rain changed to a record early season, heavy wet snow over the southern mountains of West Virginia. Leaves were still on trees, resulting in the worst forest disaster since the fires of 1952 and 1953. One to two feet of snow fell near Summersville and Richwood. (19th-20th) (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Thunderstorms deluged the town of Odem, TX (located 15 miles northwest of Corpus Christi) with 25 inches of rain in just three and a half hours. Most businesses in Odem were flooded, as were 1000 homes in nearby Sinton. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought rainshowers to parts of the central U.S., and ushered cool Canadian air into the Great Plains Region. Daytime highs were only in the 30s in North Dakota and eastern Montana. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced high winds in eastern Colorado, with gusts to 63 mph reported at La Junta. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Record breaking snows fell across northern and central Indiana. Totals ranged up to 10.5 inches at Kokomo, and 9.3 inches was reported at Indianapolis. The 8.8 inch total at South Bend was a record for the month as a whole. Up to seven inches of snow fell in extreme southern Lower Michigan, and up to six inches fell in southwestern Ohio. The heavy wet snow downed many trees and power lines. Half the city of Cincinnati OH was without electricity during the morning hours. Temperatures dipped below freezing across much of the Great Plains Region. Twenty cities, including fourteen in Texas, reported record low temperatures for the date. North Platte NE reported a record low of 11 degrees. In Florida, four cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The record high of 92 degrees at Miami also marked a record fourteen days of 90 degree weather in October, and 116 such days for the year.

1996: The opening game of World Series between the Braves and Yankees in New York was postponed by heavy rains and high wind from a major storm system affecting the East Coast, marking the third time in history that the World Series opener had been postponed. Overall, nine of the 22 games that have been canceled in Series history were scheduled in New York or Brooklyn.

2007: A total of 87 tornadoes were reported in the United States from Oct. 17-19, a new record outbreak for the month, according to NOAA's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The outbreak also contributed to the monthly total of 105 tornado reports – the second highest for October, behind the 117 tornadoes in October 2001. Records date back to 1950.

Groton Daily Independent

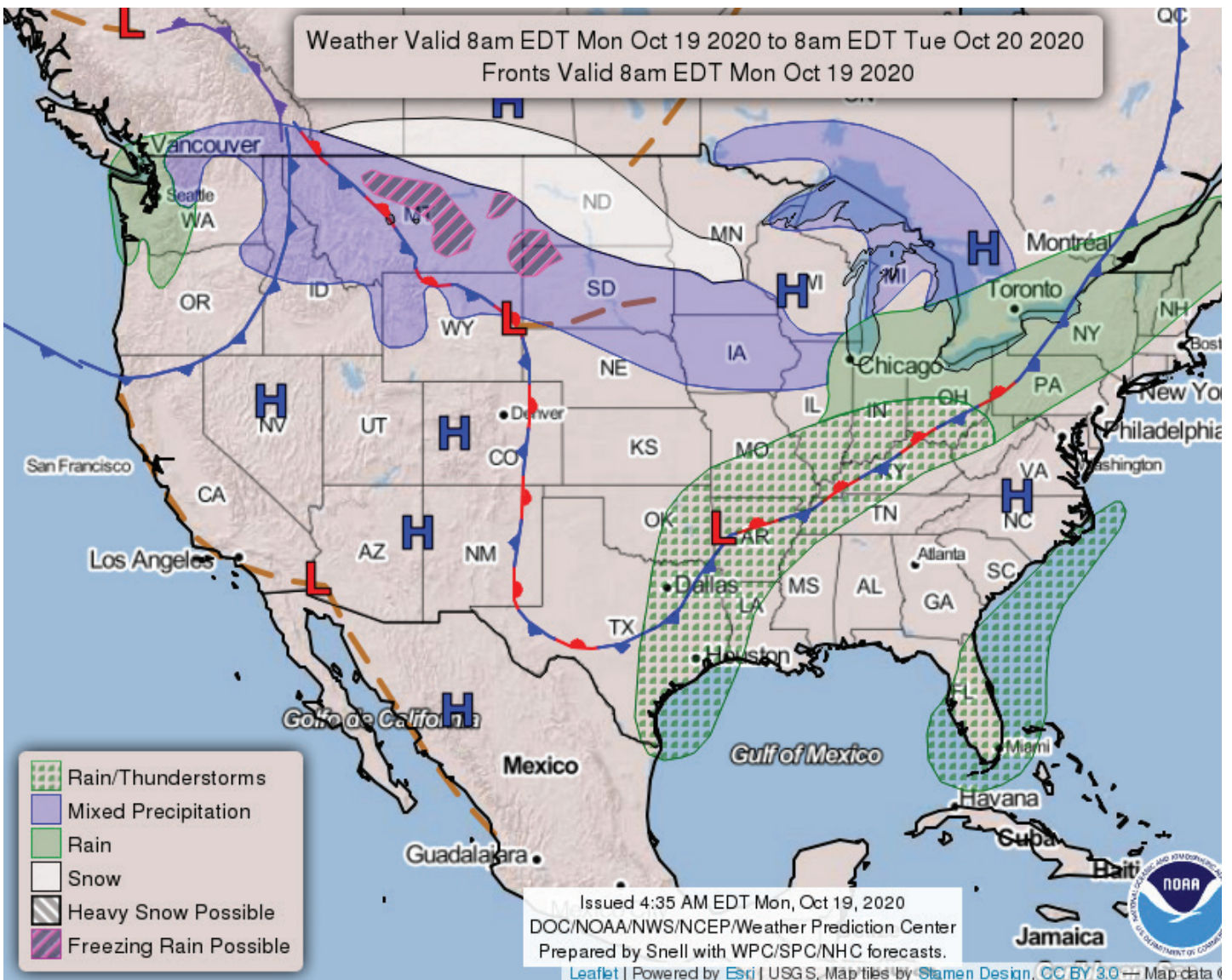
Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 19 of 86

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 37 °F at 5:45 PM
Low Temp: 22 °F at 5:36 AM
Wind: 17 mph at 2:47 AM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1947, 1958
Record Low: 10° in 1917
Average High: 56°F
Average Low: 32°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.30
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 19.78
Precip Year to Date: 15.28
Sunset Tonight: 6:40 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:57 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 20 of 86



YOU CAN'T STAY WHERE YOU ARE

Someone once described life as an "incline." If we are not continually going up, we will undoubtedly slip downward. We can never stay where we are. And when we falter and fall, it is what we do that makes a difference.

Years ago, I heard of a tombstone that contained the words, "He died climbing." What a profound statement a loved one had made about him. Imagine what we might all accomplish for God if our lives were dedicated to moving upward and forward in love and service to Him!

When Jesus was telling His disciples about His return, He said, "Stand straight and look up, for your salvation is near!" He wanted His followers to focus on what they had to look forward to - not what was going on around them. Concentrating on what is going on around us will cause us to lose sight of what is before us - the joy we have in our relationship with Christ!

If we only focus on the tragedies and troubles, pains and problems that surround us, we will find an excuse to worry and fear, doubt and despair. But, if we embrace the joy of living in and through our Savior and Lord, we will find a peace that passes all understanding and the comfort that comes from knowing that God is in control.

As believers, we can look forward to the return of our Lord and His reign of justice and peace. Rather than fearing what is going on around us, we must constantly, continually, and confidently look forward to Christ's return and the hope we have of being with Him forever!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to keep our eyes and minds on You and not the things of this world. Give us strength and courage to go forward every day of our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near! Luke 21:28

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 21 of 86

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

Driver dies, 2 passengers injured in SUV crash near Rowena

ROWENA, S.D. (AP) — One person has died and two others were injured in a one-vehicle crash near Rowena, east of Sioux Falls in southeastern South Dakota.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol said Monday that an SUV was eastbound on South Dakota Highway 42 on Sunday afternoon when the vehicle left the road and rolled. The driver, a 33-year-old woman, died at the scene.

The two passengers, a 34-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman, were thrown from the vehicle and sustained serious non-life threatening injuries. Both were taken to a Sioux Falls hospital.

Names of the three people involved were not immediately released pending notification of family members.

Authorities say the three were not wearing seat belts. The crash remains under investigation.

City, groups chip in to help homeless during virus pandemic

By SIANDHARA BONNET Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — About 50 people lined the southeast corner of the Rapid City Skate Park parking lot one afternoon this month waiting for soup from the Hope Center.

One after the other, they said thank you and spoke with the center's volunteers, who greet them by name.

Hope Center Executive Director Melanie Timm said the faith-based nonprofit began feeding what she calls their guests — homeless and non-homeless — in the skate park in August. She said they feed about 80 to 100 people at a time at 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

A similar scene plays out almost every day in Rapid City and recently prompted Mayor Steve Allender to hold a press conference to say the city doesn't have enough resources to meet the needs of every homeless person west of the Missouri River and that the growing population is attracted to the city by 11 organizations that feed them.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, Timm said the center saw the need to feed and decided to help. She said an overwhelming number of volunteers wanted to help them initially provide food at the center on Kansas City Street in downtown Rapid City.

"We were going to step in, we were going to provide that service," she said. "It's not a line item on our budget, never has been."

Feeding the homeless also gave the volunteers a first-hand look at a population that struggles, Timm said.

"But being outside for four months made homelessness very visible, and homelessness is not pretty," she said. "It's ugly, it's complicated, it's emotional."

Timm said on one day she received a photo of a number of individuals sleeping outside the Hope Center. It was eye opening, she said.

"It really hurts my heart they're sleeping outside on our sidewalk, that they're sleeping outside anywhere," she said. "But for some that's their comfort level. That's what they're used to, that's their choice. They want to be close to the earth, they want to lay outside and watch the stars. They should be able to do that without fear of violence or their things being stolen."

Timm, however, said Mayor Allender was correct when he said in his press conference that the city doesn't have enough resources to help everyone, the Rapid City Journal reported,

"Particularly when you're dealing with people who have mental health issues and they have addiction issues and they've experienced a lot of trauma in their life, it gets very difficult," she said. "To be able to find the right service to meet that person's needs is sometimes challenging."

Mona Herrington with Oyate Kin Chatewastepi, another organization that feeds the homeless in Rapid City, said she couldn't listen to Allender's entire conference.

"He said they're coming from the reservation because we're feeding them, and these people, they've

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 23 of 86

been here, they've all been here," she said. "There's a couple that came and are estranged, but they don't have anywhere to go on the reservation. They haven't been there. They need a place, we need a building."

Allender said providing a building was on a list of demands given to him at an earlier meeting. He said that would only be a short-term solution and homelessness is an "insurmountable problem without an adequate solution."

Oyate Kin Chatewastepi serves meals to the homeless at 5 p.m. on Fridays at the Founders Park bandshell. Herrington said the group feeds between 150 and 200 people per meal now, which has grown from the 30 to 75 served in 2018.

Curtis Touche from the Lower Brule Reservation was following his girlfriend when he moved to Rapid City about 10 years ago. He said she's back on the reservation now, but he has friends here. He also said he knows where to go to find food and other things he needs, which now includes socks since winter is coming.

The downside of homelessness, he said, is that it can be dangerous out there.

"Nights, we've been walking through here all night and you hear gunshots all the time," Touche said. "You hear cop sirens all the time. When you go to sleep, when you fall asleep, it's really appreciable, but when you wake up, it's really hard to go back to sleep around it."

Touche said people wake up early since that's the best time to get something to eat and everyone looks out for each other — like a family.

Majooie Little Eagle said she was homeless and now comes to the Hope Center's feeding to support the others, including her daughter.

"I got my own place," she said, "but I got one daughter that she's got no place to go. So, I get scared for her in the night."

Brendyn Medina, public information officer for the Rapid City Police Department, said the department's Quality of Life Unit has noticed an increase in the number of new homeless people over the past six months.

The unit, he said, make contacts with the homeless and works to form relationships with them. Police Chief Don Hedrick said at the mayor's press conference that the unit has helped get 70 people off the streets since its inception in 2018.

At Allender's press conference on Sept. 30, he said there are about 100 new faces in the homeless population this year, many from nearby reservations. He said they are attracted to free meals served in city parks.

Oglala Sioux President Julian Bear Runner responded to the conference by saying Allender's comments were "racist, ignorant, inflammatory and insensitive."

Allender said Thursday he's still willing to work toward a solution to help the homeless, but isn't sure if a compromise is possible before winter starts.

After every red Powerade and water bottle was passed out and each bowl filled with soup made by volunteers was served earlier this month, recipients sat together under the shade of a tree.

For Little Eagle, it was having a meal with her daughter. For Touche, it was a meal with friends celebrating his 37th birthday.

"It's not a cake," he said. "Not everything's perfect, but you just have to go with what you have around here."

South Dakota has reached 100 COVID-19 deaths in October

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials confirmed Sunday that the state has reached the 100 mark in deaths due to complications from COVID-19 in October, with eight new fatalities in the last day.

The update showed 658 positive tests since Saturday, for a total of 33,269 infections since the pandemic began. The death toll stands at 323.

There have been about 978 new cases per 100,000 people in South Dakota over the past two weeks. That ranks second in the country behind North Dakota for new cases per capita, according to The COVID Tracking Project. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases in South

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 24 of 86

Dakota has increased by 63.5%.

Of the deaths reported Sunday, four people were in their 50s and one was in their 40s.

The number of people being treated in hospitals across the state stands at 300, an increase of five in the last day. Of those patients, 65 are in intensive care units and 30 require the assistance of a ventilator, state data shows.

Minnehaha County, which includes the Sioux Falls metropolitan area, has gone over 9,000 in total number of virus cases. There have been 96 deaths in the county.

Nagorno-Karabakh truce frays amid new shelling reports

By AVET DEMOURIAN Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — More reports of shelling on Monday challenged the new cease-fire in the conflict over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, where heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces has raged for over three weeks.

The new truce was announced Saturday. It was a second attempt to establish a cease-fire and end the fighting that killed hundreds since Sept. 27, when clashes resumed in a conflict that has simmered for decades. A cease-fire deal brokered by Russia earlier this month quickly frayed as both sides blamed each other for repeated violations.

The Nagorno-Karabakh military said Monday that Azerbaijani forces in the morning resumed shelling in the northern and the southern directions. Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian also reported "heavy fighting" in the southern direction of the conflict zone.

Azerbaijan, in turn, accused Armenian forces of shelling its Goranboy, Terter, and Aghdam regions overnight and targeting the Aghjabedi region in the morning.

Also Monday, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev announced that the country's forces have taken control over 13 villages in the Jabrayil region near the Iranian border.

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. By the time the war ended, Armenian forces not only held Nagorno-Karabakh itself but also captured substantial areas outside the territory borders.

According to Nagorno-Karabakh officials, 710 of their servicemen have been killed the fighting since Sept. 27. Azerbaijan hasn't disclosed its military losses, but says 60 civilians have died so far and 270 have been wounded.

The recent fighting involved heavy artillery, rockets and drones and has continued despite repeated calls for cessation of hostilities coming from around the globe. It marked the biggest escalation of a decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and raised concerns of a wider conflict involving Turkey, which has publicly supported Azerbaijan, and Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia.

On Oct. 9, Moscow hosted foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan. After more than 10 hours of talks, they announced a cease-fire deal, which was violated minutes after it took force.

The new truce announced on Saturday followed Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's calls with his counterparts from Armenia and Azerbaijan, in which he strongly urged them to abide by the Moscow deal. Despite the agreement, both sides have reported new attacks.

—Daria Litvinova contributed from Moscow.

Wales locks down as COVID-19 cases spike; Manchester resists

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Wales on Monday became the second nation in the United Kingdom to lock down large swathes of its economy to combat rising coronavirus infections, but British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is resisting loud calls to do the same throughout England.

Wales' First Minister Mark Drakeford said his administration was backing a short, sharp "firebreak" to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 25 of 86

Northern Ireland has already ordered schools to close for the next two weeks, banned most social gatherings and shut down many businesses including bars and restaurants for a month.

The Welsh decision came as officials in Greater Manchester kept rejecting efforts by Johnson's Conservative government to move the region into the highest level of restrictions in the three-tier system Johnson unveiled a week ago. While the government's scientific advisers have recommended a short national lockdown, Johnson says his tiered, regional approach limits the economic and social damages from the pandemic on areas where infection rates are lower.

Johnson's government says the talks with authorities in Manchester must be completed Monday because the public health situation is deteriorating, but local officials are holding out for more financial assistance for those hurt by the restrictions.

Sean Fielding, a council leader in the Manchester area, told the BBC that local leaders are trying to protect residents from the government's "untested" strategy. Fielding said he favors a short national lockdown instead.

"The logical solution, to me, seems to be to take the advice of your national scientific advisers, do the short-term circuit-breaker lockdown, which will be much less painful because it will be for a shorter period," he said. "It will be cheaper in the long run as well, because you will only have to provide that financial support for those few weeks whereas this could run on and on and on beyond Christmas."

Talks between Greater Manchester officials and Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick went on all weekend and Johnson has threatened to impose the measures unilaterally if an agreement can't be reached.

"We've set out the action that we think is appropriate, but we're also willing to continue and have final discussions with council leaders and the mayor in Greater Manchester today to see if we can reach an amicable agreement, because we think that that is the most effective way of proceeding," Jenrick told the BBC.

Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham told Sky News that a deal was not just about the "size of the check." Local officials want to protect low-paid workers, self-employed people and businesses that may collapse under the restrictions, he said.

"We've always said we would put people's health first, and we will do that," he said. "But health is about more than controlling the virus — people's mental health, I think, is now pretty low given that we've been under restrictions here for three months already."

Under the U.K.'s system of devolved government, the regional administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales control health policy in their areas and the U.K. government makes the rules for England.

Johnson's three-tier strategy applies only to England, but he says he will coordinate with the devolved administrations in other parts of the U.K.

Britain has the deadliest coronavirus outbreak in Europe, with over 43,700 confirmed deaths.

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

Thai authorities seek to censor coverage of student protests

By GRANT PECK and CHRIS BLAKE Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai authorities worked Monday to stem a growing tide of protests calling for the prime minister to resign by threatening to censor news coverage, raiding a publishing house and attempting to block the Telegram messaging app used by demonstrators.

The efforts by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government to drain the student-led protests of support and the ability to organize comes as they have grown in the capital and spread around the country, despite an emergency decree, which bans public gatherings of more than four people in Bangkok, outlaws news said to affect national security and gives authorities broad power to detain people.

The mostly young protesters have gathered en masse across Bangkok the past six days to push their demands, which also include a controversial call for reform of the monarchy.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 26 of 86

The protesters charge that Prayuth, an army commander who led a 2014 coup, 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 written and passed under military rule is undemocratic.

But their more recent demand for checks and balances on the monarchy has deeply angered conservative Thais — and broken a taboo since the monarchy is considered sacrosanct and tough laws protect it from insult. It has also raised the risk of confrontation in a country where calls for political change have a history of being met with military intervention or even violence.

Authorities are now increasingly turning to censorship to try to clamp down on the demonstrations after protesters heckled a royal motorcade last week in a once unthinkable scene.

With protesters starting to gather for three new rallies in Bangkok on Monday evening, a top official with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission confirmed reports that the agency had been ordered to block access to the messaging app Telegram. Suthisak Tantayothin said it was in the process of talking with internet service providers to discuss doing so, but so far the encrypted messaging app favored by demonstrators the world over was still available in the country.

Police also searched the office of a publishing house that handles books by Thai and foreign scholars with sometimes controversial perspectives. Same Sky publishing house said police took away copies of three titles that had been sold at a recent book fair in a bundle it called Monarchy Studies, and asked their publisher to come for questioning at their station.

Deputy police spokesman Kissana Phatarachoen also confirmed an order signed by the chief of police that could allow officials to block access to news sites that give what he called "distorted information."

Under existing laws, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society are empowered to ban broadcasts and block internet content. Police themselves can also do so under the emergency decree, which went into effect Oct. 15.

Kissana spoke after a leaked copy of the censorship request circulated on social media. The order calls for blocking access to the online sites of Voice TV, The Reporters, The Standard, Prachatai, and Free Youth, and removing their existing content. It also proposes a ban on Voice TV's over-the-air digital broadcasts.

All the outlets have been broadcasting live coverage of the protests. Voice TV and Prachatai are openly sympathetic to the protest movement, and Free Youth is a student protest organization. As of Monday, none had been blocked. At least one local cable TV provider, however, has been censoring international news broadcasts during their segments on the Thai protests.

The Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand said it was "deeply concerned" by the censorship threat, adding that it "makes the government appear heavy-handed and unresponsive to criticism, and could stir up even more public anger."

"Bona fide journalists should be allowed to report important developments without the threat of bans, suspensions, censorship or prosecution hanging over them," the club said in a statement.

Despite the spread of protests outside the capital, Prayuth, the prime minister, told reporters the state of emergency will remain only in Bangkok for now.

In addition the emergency decree making protests illegal, authorities have also tried in vain to keep people from gathering by selectively shutting down stations on Bangkok's mass transit lines. It has also warned that it will take legal action against those who promote the protests on social media, including by taking photographs there or checking into them on social media apps.

Despite that, protest-related hashtags remain the most used on Twitter.

Prayuth said Monday that the government is open to an extraordinary session of Parliament to seek a solution to the current situation. It was not clear when that might be held.

Trump, Biden go on offense in states they're trying to flip

By BRIAN SLODYSKO, JILL COLVIN and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden went on offense over the weekend as both campaigned in states they are trying to flip during the Nov. 3 election, just over

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 27 of 86

two weeks away.

Trump began his Sunday in Nevada, making a rare visit to church before a fundraiser and an evening rally in Carson City. Once considered a battleground, Nevada has not swung for a Republican presidential contender since 2004.

The rally drew thousands of supporters who sat elbow to elbow, cheering Trump and booing Biden and the press. The vast majority wore no masks to guard against the coronavirus, though cases in the state are on the rise, with more than 1,000 new infections reported Saturday. The Republican president, as he often does, warned that a Biden election would lead to further lockdowns and appeared to mock Biden for saying he would listen to scientists.

"He'll listen to the scientists. If I listened totally to the scientists, we would right now have a country that would be in a massive depression," Trump said.

Biden, a practicing Catholic, attended Mass in Delaware before campaigning in North Carolina, where a Democrat has not won in a presidential race since Barack Obama in 2008.

Both candidates are trying to make inroads in states that could help secure a path to victory, but the dynamics of the race are remarkably stable. Biden enjoys a significant advantage in national polls, while carrying a smaller edge in battleground surveys.

Earlier in the day, Trump sat in the front row at the nondenominational International Church of Las Vegas as the senior associate pastor, Denise Goulet, said God told her early that morning that the president would secure a second term.

"At 4:30, the Lord said to me, 'I am going to give your president a second win,'" she said, telling Trump, "you will be the president again."

Trump spoke briefly, saying "I love going to churches" and that it was "a great honor" to attend the service. He dropped a wad of \$20 bills in the collection plate before leaving.

The message was far different in both style and substance later in the day, when Biden attended a virtual discussion with African American faith leaders from around the country.

Biden held up a rosary, which he said he carries in his pocket every day, and described it as "what the Irish call a prisoner's rosary" since it was small enough to be smuggled into prisons.

"I happen to be a Roman Catholic," Biden said. "I don't pray for God to protect me. I pray to God to give me strength to see what other people are dealing with."

Earlier, at a drive-in rally in Durham, North Carolina, Biden focused heavily on promoting criminal justice changes to combat institutional racism and promised to help build wealth in the Black community.

He noted that Trump had said at one of his rallies that the country had turned the corner on the pandemic. "As my grandfather would say, this guy's gone around the bend if he thinks we've turned the corner. Turning the corner? Things are getting worse," Biden said.

In addition to public polling that indicates Biden has an edge, the former vice president enjoys another considerable advantage over Trump: money.

Trump raked in \$12 million during a fundraiser Sunday afternoon at the Newport Beach home of top GOP donor and tech mogul Palmer Luckey, which also featured a performance by the Beach Boys.

But over the past four months, Biden has raised over \$1 billion, a massive amount of money that has eclipsed Trump's once-overwhelming cash advantage.

That's become apparent in advertising, where Biden and his Democratic allies are on pace to spend twice as much as Trump and the Republicans in the closing days of the race, according to data from the ad tracking firm Kantar/CMAG.

Though Trump has pulled back from advertising in Midwestern states that secured his 2016 win, he's invested heavily elsewhere, including North Carolina, where he is on pace to slightly outspend Biden in the days ahead.

In Nevada, which Trump came close to winning in 2016, Democrats are set to outspend Trump in the closing days by a more than 3-to-1 ratio.

Trump's visit to the state is part of an aggressive schedule of campaign events, where he has leaned heavily into fear tactics.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 28 of 86

Trump's Carson City rally was held at an airport with a golden scrub brush-covered hill providing a dramatic backdrop. He relived fond moments from his 2016 campaign against Hillary Clinton, revisited his long-running feud with NFL players and went on an extended rant about water management policy, which he blamed for people having to "flush their toilet 15 times."

He also added to his litany of hyperbolic attacks against Biden, claiming that, if Biden were elected, he would mandate new lockdown measures that would make Carson City "a ghost town" and "the Christmas season will be cancelled."

As he surveyed his crowd, Trump expressed disbelief that he could possibly be tied (in fact losing, according to public polls) to Biden in the state.

"How the hell can we be tied?" he asked. "What's going on? ... We get these massive crowds. He gets nobody.... It doesn't make sense!" Biden has held very small and virtual events in recent months because of the ongoing pandemic.

Biden started his day with Mass in Delaware at St. Joseph's on the Brandywine, as he does nearly every week. He and his wife, Jill, entered wearing dark-colored face masks. She carried a bunch of flowers that including pink roses.

The church is a few minutes' drive from Biden's home. Biden's son Beau, who died of brain cancer in 2015, is buried in the cemetery on its grounds. Joe and Jill Biden visited the grave after the service.

Trump attends church far less often but has drawn strong support from white Evangelical leaders and frequently hosts groups of pastors at the White House. Trump often goes to the Church of Bethesda-By-The Sea near Mar-a-Lago in Florida for major holidays, including Easter, and he attended a Christmas Eve service last year at Family Church in West Palm Beach before the onset of the pandemic.

If elected, Biden would be only the second Roman Catholic president in U.S. history and first since John F. Kennedy. The former vice president speaks frequently about his faith and its importance in his life.

___ Slodysko reported from Washington and Weissert from Durham, North Carolina. Associated Press Writer Elana Schor in Washington contributed to this report.

World struggles as confirmed COVID-19 cases pass 40 million

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 40 million, but experts say that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the true impact of the pandemic that has upended life and work around the world.

The milestone was hit Monday morning, according to Johns Hopkins University, which collates reports from around the world.

The actual worldwide tally of COVID-19 cases is likely to be far higher, as testing has been variable, many people have had no symptoms and some governments have concealed the true number of cases. To date, more than 1.1 million confirmed virus deaths have been reported, although experts also believe that number is an undercount.

The U.S., India and Brazil are reporting by far the highest numbers of cases — 8.1 million, 7.5 million and 5.2 million respectively — although the global increase in recent weeks has been driven by a surge in Europe, which has seen over 240,000 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic so far.

Last week, the World Health Organization said Europe had a reported a record weekly high of nearly 700,000 cases and said the region was responsible for about a third of cases globally. Britain, France, Russia and Spain account for about half of all new cases in the region, and countries like Belgium and the Czech Republic are facing more intense outbreaks now than they did in the spring.

WHO said the new measures being taken across Europe are "absolutely essential" in stopping COVID-19 from overwhelming its hospitals. Those include new requirements on mask-wearing in Italy and Switzerland, closing schools in Northern Ireland and the Czech Republic, closing restaurants and bars in Belgium, implementing a 9 p.m. curfew in France and having targeted limited lockdowns in parts of the U.K.

The agency said several European cities could soon see their intensive care units overwhelmed and warned

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 29 of 86

that governments and citizens should take all necessary measures to slow the spread of the virus, including bolstering testing and contact tracing, wearing face masks and following social distancing measures.

WHO has previously estimated about 1 in 10 of the world's population — about 780 million people — have been infected with COVID-19, more than 20 times the official number of cases. That suggests the vast majority of the world's population is still susceptible to the virus.

Some researchers have argued that allowing COVID-19 to spread in populations that are not obviously vulnerable will help build up herd immunity and is a more realistic way to stop the pandemic instead of the restrictive lockdowns that have proved economically devastating.

But WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned against the belief that herd immunity might be a viable strategy to pursue, saying this kind of protection needs to be achieved by vaccination, not by deliberately exposing people to a potentially fatal disease.

"Allowing a dangerous virus that we don't fully understand to run free is simply unethical," Tedros said last week.

The U.N. health agency said it hopes there might be enough data to determine if any of the COVID-19 vaccines now being tested are effective by the end of the year. But it warned that first-generation vaccines are unlikely to provide complete protection and that it could take at least two years to bring the pandemic under control.

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

China's economy accelerates as virus recovery gains strength

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's shaky economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic is gaining strength as consumers return to shopping malls and auto dealerships while the United States and Europe endure painful contractions.

Growth in the world's second-largest economy accelerated to 4.9% over a year earlier in the three months ending in September, up from the previous quarter's 3.2%, official data showed Monday. Retail spending rebounded to above pre-virus levels for the first time and factory output rose, boosted by demand for exports of masks and other medical supplies.

China is the only major economy that is expected to grow this year while activity in the United States, Europe and Japan shrinks.

The recovery is "broadening out and becoming less reliant" on government stimulus, Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report. He said growth is "still accelerating" heading into the present quarter.

Most Asian stock markets rose on the news of increased activity in China, the biggest trading partner for all of its neighbors. Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 1.1% while Hong Kong's Hang Seng climbed 0.9%. Markets in South Korea and Australia also rose.

China's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.7% on expectations the relatively strong data will reduce the likelihood of additional stimulus that might boost share prices.

China, where the pandemic began in December, became the first major economy to return to growth after the ruling Communist Party declared the disease under control in March and began reopening factories, shops and offices.

The economy contracted by 6.8% in the first quarter, its worst performance since at least the mid-1960s, before rebounding.

The economy "continued the steady recovery," the National Bureau of Statistics said in a report. However, it warned, "the international environment is still complicated and severe." It said China faces great pressure to prevent a resurgence of the virus.

Authorities have lifted curbs on travel and business but visitors to government and other public buildings still are checked for the virus's telltale fever. Travelers arriving from abroad must be quarantined for two

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 30 of 86

weeks.

Last week, more than 10 million people were tested for the virus in the eastern port of Qingdao after 12 cases were found there. That broke a two-month streak with no virus transmissions reported within China.

Industrial production rose 5.8% over the same quarter last year, a marked improvement over the first half's 1.3% contraction. Chinese exporters are taking market share from foreign competitors that still are hampered by anti-virus controls.

Retail sales rose 0.9% over a year earlier. That was up from a 7.2% contraction in the first half as consumers, already anxious about a slowing economy and a tariff war with Washington, put off buying. Online commerce rose 15.3%.

In a sign demand is accelerating, sales in September rose 3.3%.

"China's recovery in private consumption is gathering momentum," said Stephen Innes of AxiCorp in a report.

China has reported 4,634 coronavirus deaths and 85,685 confirmed cases, plus three suspected cases.

Economists say China is likely to recover faster than other major economies due to the ruling party's decision to impose the most intensive anti-disease measures in history. Those temporarily cut off most access to cities with a total of 60 million people.

The International Monetary Fund is forecasting China's economic growth at 1.8% this year while the U.S. economy is expected to shrink by 4.3%. The IMF expects a 9.8% contraction in France, 6% in Germany and 5.3% in Japan.

Private sector analysts say as much as 30% of China's urban workforce, or up to 130 million people, may have lost their jobs at least temporarily. They say as many as 25 million jobs might be lost for good this year.

The ruling party promised in May to spend \$280 billion on meeting goals including creating 9 million new jobs. But it has avoided joining the United States and Japan in rolling out stimulus packages of \$1 trillion or more due to concern about adding to already high Chinese debt.

National Bureau of Statistics (in Chinese): www.stats.gov.cn

2020 Watch: Is debate Trump's last chance to save himself?

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

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

Days to general election: 15

Days to next scheduled presidential debate: 3

THE NARRATIVE

President Donald Trump is openly contemplating the prospect of losing, while Democratic challenger Joe Biden is warning his supporters against overconfidence as the 2020 presidential election speeds into its closing days.

With more than 22 million votes already cast, Biden's lead in the national polls appears to be as strong as ever. His advantage in some battleground states, including Florida, is narrowing, but he's forced Trump on the defensive in states like Iowa and Georgia that Democrats six months ago didn't seriously expect to win.

While the campaigns appear to be moving in opposite directions on paper, it's a very different feeling on the campaign trail. Trump is drawing huge crowds reminiscent of 2016's final days, and Biden is sticking to his cautious approach with small events focused more on adhering to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's social distancing recommendations than energizing his supporters. He'll get a boost this week as former President Barack Obama hits the road on his behalf.

While there will be plenty of action, this week will center on Thursday's final debate, which may be

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 31 of 86

Trump's last and best chance to change the direction of this election.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

Is the debate Trump's last chance to save himself?

We've certainly questioned the significance of debates in the past, but Thursday's faceoff in Nashville represents a huge opportunity for Trump to generate some badly needed momentum. There will be no moment before Election Day in which more persuadable voters are paying attention to the Republican president's message.

Trump cannot afford another bad performance. His angry and aggressive posture that marred the first debate was widely considered a blunder, and it helped Biden extend his polling advantage.

But there is also significant pressure on Biden. Given Trump's persistent questions about the 77-year-old former vice president's age and mental health — fair or unfair — Biden cannot afford to have a "senior moment" or anything like it on the biggest political stage of his life.

Will the new COVID-19 surge impact voting?

Two weeks before Election Day, coronavirus infections are surging to their highest levels since July. At least 10 states reported their highest single-day number of infections ever over the weekend, and some health experts are predicting the possibility of 100,000 daily U.S. infections in the near future.

This is bad news for the nation on multiple fronts, and it adds a new layer of uncertainty to an election already plagued by ballot access questions. From a policy and political perspective, this is more evidence of Trump's failure to control the nation's worst health crisis in a century. But given the timing, it also raises real questions about whether voters might alter their behavior to protect themselves.

Early voting numbers have been on pace to shatter records so far. It's unclear to what extent that will continue and whether a surge of mail balloting might add stress to a patchwork elections system already stretched to its limit. Many people are ultimately expecting a massive turnout once all the votes are counted, but pollsters will tell you that's far from guaranteed.

What happened to the Republicans' money?

Whether he wins or loses, Trump's struggle to manage his campaign finances is a major factor shaping the election's final stretch. Over the next two weeks, Trump and his allies focused on the presidential election are being outspent on political advertising \$70.7 million to the Democrats' \$141.3 million, according to the media tracking firm Kantar/CMAG.

That disadvantage for an incumbent has never happened in the modern era. And it's forcing Trump to make painful decisions when he can least afford them.

Facing a cash shortfall, Trump has largely retreated from TV advertising in the Midwest, shifting much of his campaign's advertising investments to states such as Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Georgia, as well as Pennsylvania.

Is complacency a real concern for Democrats?

There's no doubt that the most passionate partisans in both parties are fervently engaged this fall. There is doubt, however, whether infrequent voters — including young people and African Americans who typically support Democrats — will feel the same urgency to show up given the possibility that Biden could score a blowout victory.

Fears of complacency prompted Biden campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon to issue a memo over the weekend reminding would-be supporters of similar dynamics that shaped the final weeks of the 2016 election.

"The reality is that this race is far closer than some of the punditry we're seeing on Twitter and on TV would suggest," O'Malley Dillon wrote. "If we learned anything from 2016, it's that we cannot underestimate Donald Trump or his ability to claw his way back into contention in the final days of a campaign, through whatever smears or underhanded tactics he has at his disposal."

THE FINAL THOUGHT

We were struck by the dramatically different pace of the Trump and Biden campaigns over the weekend.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 32 of 86

Trump has always been the more aggressive campaigner, but we expected Biden to pick it up eventually. Not so much.

On Saturday, for example, Biden was down all day. Trump campaigned in Michigan and Wisconsin and finished his day in Nevada. Only two more Saturdays remain before Election Day, in case anyone is counting.

Biden will get some help from Obama this week, and running mate Kamala Harris has an aggressive schedule as well. Biden also has a major advertising advantage, as we mentioned above. But if Biden ultimately loses this election, he may not be able to say he left it all out on the field.

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/>.

Facing terror charges, ETA's last boss apologizes for deaths

By ARITZ PARRA and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The last known chief of ETA, the now-extinct Basque separatist militant group, goes on trial Monday in Paris for terrorism charges that he deems "absurd" because of his role in ending a conflict that claimed hundreds of lives and terrorized Spain for half a century.

Josu Urrutikoetxea led ETA during one of its bloodiest periods, when its victims included children bombed to death while sleeping in a Zaragoza police compound, where a monument to their stolen lives now stands. In a rare interview after 17 years on the run, he offered an apology, advised other separatist movements against resorting to violence and painted himself as a changed man.

That's a preposterous claim to those who lost loved ones to ETA's violence, which caused around 850 deaths and thousands of injuries and hijacked the Basque and Spanish political debate for decades. Just because he oversaw ETA's end in 2018, they stress, that doesn't erase his past.

Spanish anti-terrorism investigators have depicted him as a bloodthirsty advocate of violence who only opportunistically pursued negotiations after police crackdowns and a shrinking support base from Basque separatists weakened ETA.

Now 69, diminished by a battle with cancer and facing the prospect of spending the twilight of a life devoted to Basque independence behind bars, the man widely known by his police alias Josu Ternera, or "The Calf," says he's sorry for the "irreparable damage" caused by ETA violence as it sought to build an independent state straddling the Pyrenees mountains between Spain and France.

But even when he admits regrets, he adds a caveat.

Asked if he would apologize to ETA victims' families, he told The Associated Press: "Of course, (I offer) apologies for something that we can't repair."

But he insisted Basque's independence movement suffered, too, from violence rooted in the Spanish dictatorship that ended more than four decades ago. "The Basque country was entering into a black hole" of cultural repression, he said, "and we had to do the maximum to pull it out."

Some of ETA's victims said they want more than apologies; they want him to face justice.

"I don't seek revenge against Josu Ternera," said Lucía Ruiz, who was 10 when she was injured in the 1987 blast targeting military police barracks in Zaragoza, where she lived with her father, a civil guard. "But this gentleman tried to kill me and I want for him to pay a price for it. It's my right as a Spanish citizen."

Since his long-awaited arrest last year, Urrutikoetxea has been on a campaign to shed the terrorist label and rebrand himself as a repentant, aging peacemaker.

Amid growing international support, he won conditional release in July pending trial, after lawyers argued his poor health made him vulnerable to contracting coronavirus. He's now staying with a professor friend near Paris' Place de la Republique where he is trying to get a college diploma and is allowed out a few hours a day with an electronic bracelet.

In a petition published Saturday, former Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, academic social critic Noam Chomsky, separatist Catalan ex-president Carles Puigdemont and more than 250 other intellectuals called for France and Spain to end Urrutikoetxea's "outrageous and intolerable" prosecution.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 33 of 86

By putting him on trial, they argue, "France is implicitly criminalizing all negotiators and calling into question all current and future peace processes in the world."

But across the Pyrenees, those calls are rejected by the vast majority of Spain's political mainstream. Spanish newspaper El Mundo described what it called "an operation to whitewash" him. Survivors of violent attacks and relatives of ETA's victims say the campaign humiliates them.

Ruiz and Spanish authorities believe that Urrutikoetxea, as ETA's leader, either approved or knew about the car that, loaded with dynamite, exploded under her window at the Zaragoza Civil Guard headquarters where she lived with her father, mother and sister.

Three ETA assailants were tried and imprisoned as the executors of the attack, which killed 11 people, including six minors, all of them her neighbors or acquaintances.

"He now presents himself as the country's savior," Ruiz said. It will be difficult to prove in court that he orchestrated the attack, she said, because "unfortunately these people don't leave a paper trail. But this gentleman is a murderer, with murder written in capital letters."

Urrutikoetxea denies any role, saying, "They want me to answer for something I had nothing to do with."

His life mirrors the trajectory of ETA, whose initials stand for "Basque Homeland and Freedom" in the Basque language and was created during Gen. Francisco Franco's 1939-1975 dictatorship.

He joined at 17 in 1968, the year of ETA's first deadly attack. Classified as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and several countries, ETA shot to international prominence in the 1970s amid attacks and kidnappings.

ETA's cause was politically and socially divisive inside Spain's Basque society and widely rejected across the rest of Spain. It had some significant support among separatist-minded Basques, but many other Basques were appalled by its tactics and silenced by the terror the group imposed.

Many Spaniards thought that ETA should have disbanded with the return of democracy to Spain after Franco's death in 1975, not continue its violent assault on the state and its citizens. ETA assassinated politicians, policemen and judges but also ordinary people; a car bomb attack in a Barcelona supermarket by ETA in 1987 killed 21 people and injured 45.

Urrutikoetxea led ETA in the late 1980s, was arrested in 1989 and spent the next 11 years behind bars in France and Spain. As ETA's violent methods lost sway, Urrutikoetxea served as a lawmaker in the Basque regional parliament and a negotiator in talks with Spanish envoys to try to end the group's activities.

Indicted for his alleged role in the Zaragoza attack while he was on a parliamentary visit to Switzerland in 2002, he was Spain's most-sought fugitive until his arrest outside a hospital in the French Alps in May 2019.

Ruiz said she dropped her coffee mug the morning her husband broke the news of Urrutikoetxea's arrest. Her phone started ringing and she didn't stop taking calls until late that night.

"At first, it was a tremendous joy thinking that he's no longer on the run," Ruiz said, adding that Urrutikoetxea could have information on more than 300 unresolved ETA killings.

Urrutikoetxea claims he was under quiet French police protection for years.

"You can't say I was living clandestinely," he said. "The French government was aware and was directly involved because they facilitated the possibility for me to travel" to peace talks in Switzerland and Norway, despite being on Interpol's most-wanted list.

France's Justice Ministry and Interior Ministry would not comment on his claims.

ETA gave up its arms in 2017, and Urrutikoetxea read the statement announcing ETA's final dismantling in an audio recording released on May 3, 2018.

"We had to reach the point of the end of confrontation and create the conditions and open the path to peace, whatever it cost ... for the generations to come," including his six grandchildren, he said.

Spanish and French authorities haven't forgotten ETA's past. Spain wants to try him for crimes against humanity, multiple killings and belonging to a terrorist organization.

In the meantime, he is facing justice this week for the first time in decades, in two back-to-back Paris trials where he is charged with "criminal association with a view to preparing a terrorist act," for alleged attack plots in the 2000s and 2010s.

He was already convicted in absentia in both cases and sentenced to 15 years total in prison, but after

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 34 of 86

his arrest he asked to be retried.

"This accusation is for actions when I was preparing the ground to work toward a peace process. It's absurd that they want to judge me" for this, he said.

His lawyer plans to request a delay in Monday's trial for procedural reasons. Once the French trials end, France has agreed to extradite Urrutikoetxea to Spain, although his defense has appealed.

Despite some support in France for his cause, French President Emmanuel Macron has stressed ETA's "grave crimes," saying that "political reconciliation and renouncing weapons don't erase anything."

Ruiz, a prominent member of Spain's Association for Victims of Terrorism, rejects Urrutikoetxea's peddling of himself as "a man of peace."

"He has never approached us to apologize, and even if he did I doubt I would pardon him. What I do want is to see him taking the stand in court," she said, standing at the site of ETA's attack on the Civil Guard.

Urrutikoetxea says victims are "politicized by the Spanish government," and prefers talking about the future.

"The pain is there, of the families," he said. "What will that remedy? Nothing at all ... you have to be ready to move forward."

For Gaizka Fernández Soldevilla, a historian with the Foundation and Memorial for Terrorism Victims in the Basque region's capital, Vitoria, the efforts to disband ETA should be treated separately from the blood crimes committed under those initials.

Basque society, he said, remains divided: "There is a part that wants to turn the page without having read it, and there is another side that wants to get a lesson for democracy out of it. To draw a conclusion, not to punish ourselves, but to try to heal the wounds and become a more coherent, cohesive society."

That won't happen, Fernández said, "if all that's done is to try to forget."

Parra reported from Zaragoza, Spain. Nicolas Vaux-Montagny in Lyon, France contributed.

Vaccine storage issues could leave 3B people without access

By LORI HINNANT and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

GAMPELA, Burkina Faso (AP) — The chain breaks here, in a tiny medical clinic in Burkina Faso that went nearly a year without a working refrigerator.

From factory to syringe, the world's most promising coronavirus vaccine candidates need non-stop sterile refrigeration to stay potent and safe. But despite enormous strides in equipping developing countries to maintain the vaccine "cold chain," nearly 3 billion of the world's 7.8 billion people live where temperature-controlled storage is insufficient for an immunization campaign to bring COVID-19 under control.

The result: Poor people around the world who were among the hardest hit by the virus pandemic are also likely to be the last to recover from it.

The vaccine cold chain hurdle is just the latest disparity of the pandemic weighted against the poor, who more often live and work in crowded conditions that allow the virus to spread, have little access to medical oxygen that is vital to COVID-19 treatment, and whose health systems lack labs, supplies or technicians to carry out large-scale testing.

Maintaining the cold chain for coronavirus vaccines won't be easy even in the richest of countries, especially when it comes to those that require ultracold temperatures of around minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 F). Investment in infrastructure and cooling technology lags behind the high-speed leap that vaccine development has taken this year due to the virus.

With the pandemic now in its eighth month, logistics experts warn that vast parts of the world lack the refrigeration to administer an effective vaccination program. This includes most of Central Asia, much of India and southeast Asia, Latin America except for the largest countries, and all but a tiny corner of Africa.

The medical clinic outside Burkina Faso's capital, a dirt-streaked building that serves a population of 11,000, is a microcosm of the obstacles.

After its refrigerator broke last fall, the clinic could no longer keep vaccines against tetanus, yellow fever,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 35 of 86

tuberculosis and other common diseases on site, nurse Julienne Zoungrana said. Staff instead used motorbikes to fetch vials in insulated carriers from a hospital in Ouagadougou, making a 40-minute round-trip drive on a narrow road that varies between dirt, gravel and pavement.

A mother of two who visits the Gampela clinic says she thinks a coronavirus inoculation program will be challenging in her part of the world. Adama Tapsoba, 24, walks four hours under scorching sun to get her baby his routine immunizations and often waits hours more to see a doctor. A week earlier, her 5-month-old son had missed a scheduled shot because Tapsoba's daughter was sick and she could only bring one child on foot.

"It will be hard to get a (COVID-19) vaccine," Tapsoba said, bouncing her 5-month-old son on her lap outside the clinic. "People will have to wait at the hospital, and they might leave without getting it."

To uphold the cold chain in developing nations, international organizations have overseen the installation of tens of thousands of solar-powered vaccine refrigerators. Keeping vaccines at stable temperatures from the time they are made until they are given to patients also requires mobile refrigeration, reliable electricity, sound roads and, above all, advance planning.

For poor countries like Burkina Faso, the best chance of receiving a coronavirus vaccine is through the Covax initiative, led by the World Health Organization and the Gavi vaccine alliance. The goal of Covax is to place orders for multiple promising vaccine candidates and to allocate the successful ones equitably.

The United Nations' children's agency, UNICEF, began laying the global distribution groundwork months ago, in Copenhagen. At the world's largest humanitarian aid warehouse, logistics staff are trying to foresee shortages by learning from the past, especially the spring chaos surrounding global shortages of masks and other protective gear that were commandeered off airport tarmacs or stolen and traded on the black market.

Currently, 42 coronavirus vaccine candidates are in clinical trials and another 151 are in pre-clinical evaluation, according to WHO. The ones most likely to end up in the Covax mix must be stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius (25-46 F).

A Pfizer candidate is among the ones in advanced testing requiring storage at ultracold temperatures. The company, which has designed a special carrying case for its vaccine, has expressed interest in Covax and signed contracts with the United States, Europe and Japan.

Medical freezers that go down to minus 70 degrees Celsius are rare even in U.S. and European hospitals. Many experts believe the West African countries that suffered through a 2014-16 Ebola outbreak may be the best positioned, because a vaccine against that virus also requires ultracold storage.

For more than two-thirds of the world, however, the advanced technology is nowhere on the horizon, according to a study by German logistics company DHL. Meanwhile, billions of people are in countries that don't have the necessary infrastructure to maintain the cold chain for either existing vaccines or more conventional coronavirus candidates, the study said.

Opportunities for vaccines to be lost expand the farther a vaccine travels. DHL estimated that 15,000 cargo flights would be required to vaccinate the entire planet against COVID-19, stretching global capacity for aircraft and potentially supplies of materials such as dry ice.

"We need to find a bridge" for every gap in the cold chain, DHL chief commercial officer Katja Busch said. "We're talking about investments ... as a society, this is something we have to do."

Gavi and UNICEF worked before the pandemic to supply much of Africa and Asia with refrigeration for vaccines, fitting out 40,000 facilities since 2017. UNICEF is now offering governments a checklist of what they will need to maintain a vaccine supply chain and asking them to develop a plan.

"The governments are in charge of what needs to happen in the end," said Benjamin Schreiber, who is among the directors of UNICEF's vaccination program.

Cracks in the global cold chain start once vaccines leave the factory. Container ships are not equipped to refrigerate pharmaceutical products with a limited shelf life. Shipping vaccines by air costs a lot more, and air cargo traffic is only now rebounding from pandemic-related border closures.

Even when flights are cold and frequent enough, air freight carries other potential hazards. WHO estimates that as much as half of vaccines globally are lost to wastage, sometimes due to heat exposure or

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 36 of 86

vials breaking while in transit. With coronavirus vaccines, which will be one of the world's most sought-after products, theft is also a danger.

"They can't be left on a tarmac and fought over because they would actually be spoiled and they would have no value — or worse still, people would still be trying to distribute them," said Glyn Hughes, the global head of cargo for the International Air Transport Association.

Tinglong Dai, a Johns Hopkins University researcher who specializes in health care logistics, said creativity will be needed to keep the cold chain intact while coronavirus vaccines are distributed on a global scale. Gavi and UNICEF have experimented with delivering vaccines by drone. Indian officials have floated the idea of setting aside part of the country's vast food storage network for the coronavirus vaccines.

"If people can figure out how to transport ice cream, they can transport vaccines," Dai said.

Temperature-sensitive labels that change color when a vaccine is exposed to heat too long and no longer safe to use, and live delivery tracking to ensure vaccines reach their destinations as intended also have allowed for progress in delivering safe shots.

Yet chances for something to go wrong multiply on the ground as vaccines are prepped to leave national depots. Since the cold chain is so fragile, logistics planning is crucial; syringes and disposal boxes must be available as soon as vaccine shipments arrive.

By the end of the year, UNICEF expects to have 520 million syringes pre-positioned for coronavirus vaccines in the developing world and maps of where the refrigeration needs are greatest "to ensure that these supplies arrive in countries by the time the vaccines do," Executive Director Henrietta Fore said.

The last vaccine requiring cold storage that India's national program adopted was for rotavirus, a stomach bug that typically affects babies and young children. Dr. Gagandeep Kang, who led the research for that vaccine, estimated that India has about 30% less storage capacity than it would need for a coronavirus vaccine.

In countries such as India and Burkina Faso, a lack of public transportation presents another obstacle to getting citizens inoculated before vaccines go bad.

Dr. Aquinas Edassery, who runs two clinics in one of India's poorest and least developed regions, said patients must walk for hours to receive health care. The trip on a single road that winds 86 kilometers (53 miles) over steep hills and washes out for months at a time will pose an insurmountable barrier for many residents of the eastern district of Rayagada, Edassery said.

As with most logistics, the last kilometer (mile) is the hardest part of delivering a coronavirus vaccine to the people who need it. In Latin America, perhaps nowhere more than Venezuela provides a glimpse into how the vaccine cold chain could go dramatically off course.

When a blackout last year left much of the nation in the dark for a week, doctors in several parts of Venezuela reported losing stocks of vaccines. The country's largest children's hospital had to discard thousands of doses of vaccines for illnesses like diphtheria, according to Dr. Huniades Urbina, head of the Venezuelan Society of Childcare and Pediatrics.

"We won't be able to halt either the coronavirus or measles," Urbina said.

Preserving the cold chain has only grown more difficult since then. Gas shortages limit the ability to move vaccines quickly from one part of Venezuela to another. Dry ice to keep vaccines cool during transport is harder to find. And after years of economic decline, there also are fewer doctors and other professionals trained to keep the chain intact.

"I'm not optimistic on how the vaccine would be distributed in the inner states because there is no infrastructure of any kind to guarantee delivery — or if it gets delivered, guarantees the adequate preservation under cold conditions," Dr. Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, a Venezuelan pathologist, said.

Venezuela presents an extreme example, but a coronavirus vaccine also is likely to test parts of Latin America with more robust health care systems. In Peru, private businesses that typically transport fish and beef have offered their trucks, though it remains unclear whether the Health Ministry will accept.

Back in Burkina Faso, vaccination days became an ordeal at the Gampela clinic when the refrigerator went out, said Zoungrana, the nurse. Staff members on hospital courier runs must buy fuel they often

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 37 of 86

can't afford and make a second trip to and from the capital to return any unused doses.

"We're suffering," said Zoungrana, who was run off the road on her motorbike just a few weeks ago.

Days after journalists from The Associated Press visited the clinic this month, a long-awaited solar refrigerator arrived. With technicians in short supply, the clinic was waiting to be sure the appliance would function properly before stocking it with vaccines.

Nationwide, Burkina Faso is about 1,000 clinical refrigerators short, and less than 40% of the health facilities that conduct vaccinations have reliable fridges, national vaccination director Issa Ouedraogo said.

Multi-dose vials — the equivalent of bulk storage for vaccines — can drastically reduce global transportation costs. But once a vial is opened, its shelf life counts down even faster; if too few people show up for their jabs in time, whatever remains in the larger vials must be discarded.

"It's really upsetting to have wastage like that. It'll result in loss of lives and pain and suffering. It's a waste of resources," said University of Massachusetts at Amherst professor Anna Nagurney, who studies supply chain logistics.

For now, UNICEF is betting on 20-dose vials of coronavirus vaccine and hoping that the amount wasted will stay below 3% for closed vials and 15% for open multi-dose vials that do not get used up, according to Michelle Siedel, one of the U.N. agency's cold chain experts.

If Burkina Faso were given 1 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine today, the country wouldn't be able to handle it, Jean-Claude Mubalama, UNICEF's head of health and nutrition for the African nation.

"If we had to vaccinate against the coronavirus now, at this moment, it would be impossible," he said.

— This story corrects the spelling of professor's last name to Nagurney.

— Hinnant reported from Paris. Aniruddha Ghosal in Delhi, Christine Armario in Bogota, Colombia, and Linda A. Johnson in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, also contributed.

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

Morales aide claims victory in Bolivia's election redo

By CARLOS VALDEZ and JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Evo Morales' party claimed victory in Bolivia's presidential election as official results trickled in from Sunday's high-stakes redo of last year's annulled ballot that saw the leftist leader resign and flee the country.

More than nine hours after polls closed, barely 6% of all ballot boxes had been counted and they showed Morales' handpicked successor, Luis Arce, trailing a conservative rival.

But with a private quick count of sampled polling stations favoring Arce by a wide margin, even interim President Jeanine Áñez — an archrival of Morales — recognized that the socialist movement looked set to return to power in what looked to be a major jolt to South America's beleaguered left.

"I congratulate the winners and I ask them to govern thinking in Bolivia and in our democracy," Áñez said on Twitter.

Bolivians have long been accustomed to quick preliminary results in presidential elections. But after allegations of fraud and days of unrest marred last year's ballot, newly installed electoral authorities had been appealing for patience, reminding voters that they have up to five days to declare a winner.

While voting was peaceful, the long wait Sunday night for results fueled speculation that something was awry. Adding to intrigue, publication of two exit polls was also withheld after private pollsters said they didn't trust their own survey results.

Morales broke the tense silence by declaring Arce the winner. Later, two pollsters said a quick count of official tally sheets at select polling stations showed Arce had garnered more than 50% of the votes, compared to 31% for former President Carlos Mesa, the top finisher of four rival candidates.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 38 of 86

"We've recovered our democracy," Morales said in brief remarks from exile in Argentina. "Lucho will be our president."

Appearing a few minutes later, Arce took a less strident tone and appealed for calm, saying he would seek to form a government of national unity.

"I think the Bolivian people want to retake the path we were on," Arce declared around midnight surrounded by a small group of supporters, some of them in traditional Andean dress in honor of the country's Indigenous roots.

The early official results favored Mesa, a former journalist and historian, with 49% compared to 33% for Arce.

Prior to voting, polls showed Arce ahead but lacking enough votes to avoid a November runoff, where conservative voters would've likely rallied behind Mesa. To win in the first round, a candidate needs more than 50% of the vote, or 40% with a lead of at least 10 percentage points over the second-place candidate.

Arce, who oversaw a surge in growth and reduction in poverty as Morales' economy minister for more than a decade, would face an uphill battle trying to jumpstart growth this time.

The coronavirus, which led authorities to postpone Sunday's election twice, has hit the impoverished, landlocked Bolivia harder than almost any other country on a per capita basis. Nearly 8,400 of its 11.6 million people have died of COVID-19.

Arce also faces the challenge of emerging from the long shadow of his former boss, who remains polarizing but whose support enabled the low-key, UK-educated economist to mount a strong campaign.

Morales was barred from running in Sunday's election, even for a seat in congress, and faces prosecution on what are seen as trumped-up charges of terrorism if he returns home. Few expect the sometimes-irascible politician to sit by idly in a future Arce government.

Bolivia, once one of the most politically volatile countries in Latin America, experienced a rare period of stability under Morales, the country's first Indigenous president.

A boyhood llama herder who became prominent leading a coca grower's union, Morales had been immensely popular while overseeing an export-led economic surge. But support was eroding due to his reluctance to leave power, increasing authoritarian impulses and a series of corruption scandals.

He shrugged aside a public vote that had set term limits, and competed in the October 2019 presidential vote, which he claimed to have narrowly won outright. But a lengthy pause in reporting results fed suspicions of fraud and nationwide protests followed, leading to the deaths of at least 36 people.

When police and military leaders suggested he leave, Morales resigned and fled the country. Morales called his ouster a coup and a non-elected conservative government has ruled ever since.

Sunday's vote is an attempt to reset Bolivia's democracy. All seats in the 136-member Legislative Assembly were also up for grabs and expected to echo the results of the presidential race.

"Bolivia's new executive and legislative leaders will face daunting challenges in a polarized country, ravaged by COVID-19, and hampered by endemically weak institutions," said the Washington Office on Latin America, a Washington-based human rights advocacy organization.

Voting appeared to be peaceful, with long lines at some polling places but little of the hustle and bustle of past election days. Voters appeared to be wearing masks and following physical distancing restrictions.

Morales initially urged his followers to patiently wait for the results, saying from his refuge in Argentina that they should not be provoked into violence.

"The great lesson we should never forget is that violence only generates violence, and with that, we all lose," he said.

Morales led Bolivia from 2006 until 2019 and was the last survivor of the so-called "pink wave" of leftist leaders that swept into power across South America during a commodities boom.

Although outrage with corruption fueled a resurgence in right-wing politics, notably in Brazil, Arce's victory is bound to reenergize the left, whose anthem of economic justice has broad appeal in a region poverty is expected to surge to 37% this year, according to the United Nations.

In the end, Arce may have benefited from overreach and a series of errors by Morales' enemies. Áñez, a conservative senator, proclaimed herself interim president amid last year's tumult and was accepted by the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 39 of 86

courts. Her administration, despite lacking a majority in congress, set about trying to prosecute Morales and key aides while undoing his policies, helping prompt more unrest and polarization.

"A lot of people said if this is the alternative being offered, I prefer to go back to the way things were," said Andres Gomez, a political scientist based in La Paz.

Añez dropped out at as a candidate for Sunday's presidential election while trailing badly in polls. That boosted Mesa, who governed Bolivia following the resignation in 2003 of former President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada amid widespread protests.

The Trump administration, which celebrated Morales' departure as a watershed moment for democracy in Latin America, has been more cautious as Morales' handpicked successor surged in the polls. A senior State Department official this week said the U.S. is ready to work with whomever Bolivians select in a free and fair vote.

Goodman reported from Medellin, Colombia. AP writer Paola Flores contributed to this report from La Paz.

'Crazy' beekeepers determined to make it in tough times

By MARTHA IRVINE and CARRIE ANTLFINGER Associated Press

IOLA, Wis. (AP) — They wrote it right into their business plan — an expectation that, each year, at least half the stock on which their livelihood depends would die.

Building a business around bees is not for the faint-hearted. "You have to be a little crazy," says James Cook, who, with wife Samantha Jones, started beekeeping eight years ago. They knew well the challenges their bees face — parasites and the impact of pesticides among them.

Even so, they were hopeful. 2020 was to be their year to go off on their own, after working several years for another beekeeper. They and their bees spent the past winter in California's massive almond orchards, full of white blossoms that turn into nuts, thanks to the many beekeepers who travel extensively with their hives to pollinate many of the nation's crops.

Then the coronavirus hit and, for a moment, Cook and Jones panicked.

"Do we stay? Do we go?" they asked each other. By that time, they had packed up their tent and trucked their hives from California's San Joaquin Valley to another temporary home in the state's foothills, where the bees could "detox" from the agricultural work.

There, they raised "nucs" — hive starter-kits, of sorts, with new queens — which they sell to other beekeepers to replace bees that inevitably die over the course of a season. This work and the almond pollination each represent about a third of their business.

But they didn't want to get stuck in California's pandemic shutdown. The other third of their business was in their permanent base of Wisconsin, where they own a farmhouse and spend the summer honey season.

Deemed essential agricultural workers in a line of work that's generally quite solitary, they decided to wait it out. Then they and the bees trekked back to Iola, Wisconsin. There, marshaling their 750 bee colonies, they would set out to create their brand, Bird and the Bees Honey.

The bird in the title is Kat, their free-ranging parrot who often rides in the cab of their truck and who also happens to like honey.

This summer, Cook and Jones and their small crew worked day and night to build an extraction and bottling facility out of old semi trailers.

They were exhausted and in debt, having taken on loans to get the business up and running — but also excited.

Jones, 38, noted how much of the honey available in grocery stores is blended and cooked. "It would lose all those fine, delicate flavors that honey has," she says. "And I thought that people deserved good honey."

Unlike other agricultural crops, honey also can be stored indefinitely. That's fortunate since the pandemic has left them fewer outlets for sales; farmers' markets have been limited and restaurants and breweries have cut back, as well.

Cook, 35, says the experience of starting a business in these challenging times will make them more

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 40 of 86

resilient.

"I think beekeeping sort of taught me (that) inside of this space of sheer chaos and uncertainty and fear and danger, in a lot of ways, you kind of need to look for the optimism and the beauty that you can find," he says. "Because otherwise, it's really hard to wake up in the morning."

Antfinger reported from Wisconsin and Irvine from Chicago. Terry Chea, an AP reporter based in California, also contributed to this report.

Bellinger HR sends Dodgers to 3rd World Series in 4 years

By STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers celebrated as Cody Bellinger's drive soared deep into the Texas night. Bellinger flung his bat off to the side and strutted up the first-base line.

All the way to the World Series.

Bellinger hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the seventh inning, and the Dodgers advanced to the Fall Classic for the third time in four years by topping the Atlanta Braves 4-3 in Game 7 of the NL Championship Series on Sunday.

"This year is our year," manager Dave Roberts said.

Bellinger connected an inning after Kiké Hernández became the first pinch hitter with a game-tying or go-ahead homer in a winner-take-all-game. His homer tied it at 3 and, like Bellinger's, came on the eighth pitch of the at-bat.

The Dodgers, who matched an LCS record with 16 homers, overcame a 3-1 series deficit by winning three consecutive games when facing elimination for only the second time in their storied history.

"Defensively, pitching, game-calling, planning, everything. we grinded all the way through this series," said shortstop Corey Seager, who was named NLCS MVP after bashing a record five homers in the series. "We're glad to be on top."

After winning both their NL Division Series and the NLCS in the new \$1.2 billion Globe Life Field, the Dodgers get to stay in place for the World Series. Game 1 against the American League champion Tampa Bay Rays is Tuesday night.

Julio Urias closed with three perfect innings as the Dodgers won their 24th NL pennant, their 12th since moving to Los Angeles. They are coming off their eighth consecutive NL West title.

It was the 16th consecutive playoff appearance in which Atlanta did not win a World Series, the most for any team.

But these Braves have won three consecutive NL East titles and have a bunch of young players surrounding NL MVP candidate Freddie Freeman, who had never been to the NLCS in his previous 10 seasons in Atlanta.

"We're taking strides in the right direction. And we did it with our young players and the experience they got," manager Brian Snitker said. "A lot of our young players grew up a lot in these last three months."

The Dodgers are once again going for their first World Series title since 1988. They lost Game 7 at home three years ago to the Houston Astros, and then lost in five games to the Boston Red Sox in 2018 when Mookie Betts was the AL MVP and playing against Los Angeles.

Tampa Bay's win in Game 7 of the ALCS late Saturday night wiped out the chance for an October rematch with the Astros, whose 2017 World Series victory over the Dodgers has been heavily tarnished by the revelations of Houston's sign-stealing tactics that season.

Betts, the first-year Dodger signed for 12 more years, made another incredible defensive play, robbing Freeman of a solo homer in the fifth. He had run-saving plays in all three of their potential elimination games.

"This is really the first time we've had our backs against the wall," Betts said. "It seemed like we were getting handled a little bit early on. We were able to get a hold of ourselves and fight back. We're never going to give up."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 41 of 86

Urias, the fifth Dodgers pitcher, got his fourth win in four appearances this postseason. The 24-year-old right-hander, already in his fourth postseason, has a 0.57 ERA in these playoffs.

"That's his moment right there. That was his game to win and he went out there and did it," Seager said.

The massive shot to right by reigning NL MVP and 2018 NLCS MVP Bellinger came on a 94-mph sinker after fouling off three pitches in a row by Chris Martin, the fifth Braves pitcher who started the seventh with strikeouts of Max Muncy and Will Smith.

Hernández led off the sixth with a 424-foot drive to left-center off A.J. Minter.

"Game 7 of the NLCS, win or go home, I was ready from first pitch of the game on. Mentally prepared, physically ready, envisioning AB situations," Hernández said.

Dansby Swanson homered for Atlanta, which hasn't been to the World Series since 1999.

Before the late drama, it was the first winner-take-all game in postseason history matching rookie starters.

The Dodgers scored twice in the third to tie it at 2, the first runs allowed by Ian Anderson in his four postseason starts — the 22-year-old right-hander started only six games for Atlanta in the regular season. His scoreless streak of 17 2/3 innings was the third-longest to start a postseason career.

Justin Turner drew a two-out walk, Muncy doubled and Will Smith bounced a two-run single through the open gap near second created by the defensive shift.

The Dodgers' Dustin May became the first pitcher to walk the first two batters in a winner-take-all game — and the 23-year-old from nearby Justin, Texas, did so without throwing a strike to Ronald Acuna Jr. or Freeman. The Braves didn't even swing at a pitch until Marcell Ozuna's sharp single through the left side of the infield on an 0-1 curveball for a 1-0 lead.

"We believed we should have been in the World Series," Freeman said. "It's just the Dodgers came, and they won three games in a row. I feel like you can hang your head high. We gave it everything we had."

HUGE DOUBLE PLAY

The Braves had just taken a 3-2 lead on Austin Riley's RBI single when the Dodgers turned an unconventional double play in the fourth. With runners on second and third, and the infield playing back, Nick Markakis hit a hard grounder to third baseman Justin Turner. Swanson got caught in a rundown between third and home. He was tagged out when Turner dived at him before getting up and throwing to Seager at third to get Riley.

Asked about momentum changes in the game, Roberts said that play "started it, to kind of keep the game where it was at."

GOING DEEP

Swanson became the 14th different player to homer in the series, the most ever in an NLCS. He was the sixth Atlanta player to go deep, while the Dodgers had eight. ... The teams combined to hit 25 homers, tied for the second-most in any LCS.

UP NEXT

The Dodgers and Rays last played in 2019, when they split two games in Los Angeles and split two in Tampa Bay. That was the same as when they had previously played in 2016.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Dodgers-Rays rare wild-card era matchup of baseball's best

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The World Series matchup between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay Rays is a rare meeting of baseball's best for the title, and a matchup of organizations with Andrew Friedman's imprint.

Friedman was the Rays' director of baseball operations from 2004-05 and then general manager from until he left in October 2014 to become the Dodgers president of baseball operations.

Game 1 is Tuesday night.

Retired first baseman James Loney, a veteran of both organizations, describes the Rays as "feisty."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 42 of 86

"We were always fighting. But we always did feel like we were the better team," he said Sunday. "I don't ever feel like we went out there overmatched. We didn't care who was pitching. We didn't care what kind of lineup they had. We were bringing that mentality and I think the Rays team this year has that."

"Both teams are really committed to winning and trying to find any kind of edge they could," added Loney, who played for the Dodgers from 2006-11 and the Rays from 2013-15. "The Rays are really known for their analytics and getting in there, trying to find different ways to beat hard teams: Is it a bullpen guy that we need to use in maybe an unorthodox situation? And the Dodgers, I felt we kind of started doing that towards the end of my career."

Despite the shortened schedule and expanded playoffs, the teams with the best record in each league meet in the World Series for just the fourth time since Major League Baseball realigned each league into three divisions in 1995 and .

Reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger, newcomer Mookie Betts and manager Dave Roberts' Dodgers went 43-17, the best record in the majors by eight wins. They overcame a 3-1 deficit in the NL Championship Series, beat Atlanta 4-3 on Bellinger's late home run in Game 7 Sunday night and reached the World Series for the third time in four years.

Rookie sensation Randy Arozarena and skipper Kevin Cash's bullpen-rich Rays were 40-20 and topped the American League by four victories. They also won a Game 7, topping Houston 4-2 in the ALCS and earn the second World Series trip in franchise history.

"Going to be a fun Series," Bellinger said.

Because of its superior record, Los Angeles has "home field advantage" when the neutral site Series starts in Arlington, Texas, and will bat last in Games 1 and 2, and then in 6 and 7, if necessary.

"From the moment we that we were able to put a season together, once they figured out that COVID thing, everybody was expecting us to get to the World Series. We were expecting to get to the World Series," said Kiké Hernández, who tied Game 7 with a pinch-hit home run in the sixth inning.

About 11,000 fans will be allowed at Globe Life Field, the new home of the Texas Rangers with a retractable roof, for each game.

Corey Seager and AJ Pollock boost LA's offense and Walker Buehler and Clayton Kershaw head the pitching staff. The Dodgers won their 24th pennant by getting past Milwaukee, San Diego and Atlanta, but have not won a title since 1988, falling short a seven-game Series loss to Houston in 2017 and a five-game defeat to Boston the following year.

The Dodgers have won half their pennants since leaving Brooklyn for Los Angeles after the 1957 season.

Tampa Bay is in the Series for just the second time and is among just six current franchises that have never won, joined by Colorado, Milwaukee, Texas, San Diego and Seattle. The Rays lost to Philadelphia in five games in 2008.

While the Dodgers topped the major leagues with a \$95.6 million prorated payroll as of Aug. 1, the Rays were 28th at \$29.3 million, according to figures compiled by Major League Baseball. Only Baltimore (\$23.8 million) and Pittsburgh (\$23.6 million) were lower).

Tampa Bay's offense is much less known to most fans. The Rays' top hitter during the season was Brandon Lowe with 14 homers and 37 RBIs, but he slumped to .115 (6 for 52) with two RBIs in the playoffs. Arozarena has been the breakout star of the postseason, hitting .382 with seven homers and 10 RBIs.

Pitching has been key, with Tyler Glasgow, Blake Snell and Charlie Morton leading the Rays past Toronto, the New York Yankees and Houston. Tampa Bay also is known for taking an innovative approach to the game, employing a versatile staff and occasionally using a four-man outfield.

Since the postseason doubled to eight teams in 1995, the only World Series between the top regular-season records in each league were Atlanta's victory over Cleveland in 1995, the New York Yankees' win over the Braves in 1998 and Boston's triumph over St. Louis in 2013 -- all in six games.

Baseball's postseason keeps getting bigger, expanding to 10 teams in 2012 and 16 this year, when the novel coronavirus pandemic caused the regular season schedule for each team to be cut from the normal 162 games.

The Rays and Dodgers haven't played that much over the years, only 17 times overall. LA has won 10

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 43 of 86

of them.

Loney is among a group to have played for both teams that includes Carl Crawford, Jose Cruz, Logan Forsythe, Dioner Navarro and J.P. Howell.

And they share a notorious player in common: Manny Ramirez was acquired by the Dodgers from Boston in July 2008 and stayed until August 2010. He signed with the Rays for the 2011 season but retired after five games rather than face a 100-game suspension for a positive drug test.

Tampa Bay began as expansion team in 1998 and transformed from Devil Rays to plain old Rays for the 2008 season, the first after Stuart Sternberg bought control from founding owner Vince Naimoli. The Rays beat Boston in Game 7 of the AL Championship series as Matt Garza outpitched Jon Lester and Evan Longoria, Willy Aybar and Rocco Baldelli, then lost to Philadelphia in a World Series that remains the second-lowest viewed since television ratings are available dating to 1968.

In an attempt to become more of a regional draw, Tampa Bay moved a three-game home series to the Braves' then-spring training ballpark in Kissimmee in May 2007 and another in April 2008.

The Dodgers are among baseball's most traditional teams, playing at two ballparks for most of the past century-plus: Brooklyn's Ebbets Field (1913-57) and Dodger Stadium (since 1962), with a short stop at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum from 1958-61). Dodger Stadium remains one of baseball's iconic venues, with seats of yellow, light orange, foam green and light blue, and the San Gabriel Mountains beyond the outfield pavilions.

Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg is known for its catwalks that obstruct popups and its largely empty seats. The ballpark known previously as the Florida Suncoast Dome (1990-93) and ThunderDome (1993-96), and team has fought unsuccessfully for ballpark projects at the site of nearby Al Lang Field (abandoned in 2009) and Ybor City (abandoned in 2018).

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

'Our house is on fire': Suburban women lead a Trump revolt

By CLAIRE GALOFARO AP National Writer

TROY, Mich. (AP) — She walks with the determination of a person who believes the very fate of democracy might depend on the next door she knocks on, head down, shoulders forward. She wears nothing fussy, the battle fatigues of her troupe: yoga pants and sneakers. She left her Lincoln Aviator idling in the driveway, the driver door open -- if this house wasn't the one to save the nation, she can move quickly to the next.

For most of her life, until 2016, Lori Goldman had been politically apathetic. Had you offered her \$1 million, she says, she could not have described the branches of government in any depth. She voted, sometimes.

Now every moment she spends not trying to rid America of President Donald Trump feels like wasted time. "We take nothing for granted," she tells her canvassing partner. "They say Joe Biden is ahead. Nope. We work like Biden is behind 20 points in every state."

Goldman spends every day door knocking for Democrats in Oakland County, Michigan, an affluent Detroit suburb. She feels responsible for the country's future: Trump won Michigan in 2016 by 10,700 votes and that helped usher him into the White House. Goldman believes people like her -- suburban white women -- could deliver the country from another four years of chaos.

For many of those women, the past four years have meant frustration, anger and activism — a political awakening that powered women's marches, the #MeToo movement and the victories of record numbers of female candidates in 2018. That energy has helped create the widest gender gap — the political divide between men and women — in recent history. And it has started to show up in early voting as women are casting their ballots earlier than men. In Michigan, women have cast nearly 56% of the early vote so far, and 68% of those were Democrats, according to the voting data firm L2.

That could mean trouble for Trump, not just in Oakland County but also in suburban battlegrounds outside Milwaukee, Philadelphia and Phoenix.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 44 of 86

Trump has tried to appeal to "the suburban housewives of America," as he called them. Embracing fear and deploying dog whistles, he has argued that Black Lives Matter protesters will bring crime, low-income housing will ruin property values, suburbs will be abolished. Campaigning in Pennsylvania last week, he begged: "Suburban women, will you please like me?"

There's no sign all this is working. Some recent polls show Biden winning support from about 60% of suburban women. In 2016, Democrat Hillary Clinton won 52%, according to an estimate by the Pew Research Center.

Talk to women across suburban Michigan, and you'll find ample confirmation: the lifelong Republican who says her party has been commandeered by cowards. The Black executive who fears for the safety of her sons. The Democrat who voted for Trump in 2016 but now describes him as "a terrible person."

Together, they create a powerful political force.

Goldman started her group, Fems for Dems, in early 2016 by sending an email to a few hundred friends that said she planned to help elect the first female president and asked if they'd like to join her. Four years later, their ranks have swelled to nearly 9,000.

There is one thing Goldman gives Trump credit for. He stormed into the White House on pure guts and bombast, unwilling to acknowledge failure, averse to saying sorry. Those are not natural traits for most women who've absorbed societal expectations to please and be polite, she says. But she dug deep within herself to find some hint of them.

A married real estate agent with 12-year-old triplets and a 23-year-old daughter, she became simultaneously the stereotype of a suburban woman and its antithesis: She lives in a 6,000-square-foot home with seven bathrooms, and drinks Aperol spritzers. She also peppers almost every sentence with curse words and no longer gives one damn what people think.

"I hate the saying, 'When they go low, we go high.' That's loser talk," she says. "You can be right all day, but if you're not winning, what's the point?"

And it's worked: She described her coalition to a newspaper once as "a bunch of dumpy, middle-aged housewives," and a few got mad at her, but far more joined.

But she is terrified that the constant cycle of crises has left many women exhausted and that could stall this leftward lurch. The nation is reeling from a pandemic and protests, the death of a revered Supreme Court justice, the hospitalization of the president, a foiled plot to kidnap Michigan's governor.

"Our house is on fire," Goldman says, and so she steers her SUV to the next door on the cul de sac.

Oakland County stretches from the edge of Detroit more than 30 miles, through moneyed subdivisions, quaint small towns and swanky shopping districts, into rural stretches with dirt roads and horse pastures. Goldman has covered nearly every inch of it.

Although Clinton won here in 2016, she won fewer votes than Barack Obama four years earlier, while the third-party vote soared. If Clinton had matched Obama's total, Oakland County alone might have cut Trump's margin of victory in Michigan by more than half.

But in 2018, some political scientists described it as the epicenter of a major political shift as women turned on Republicans.

"Women are pragmatic voters," said Michigan's Democratic governor, Gretchen Whitmer. "We care about our kids. We care about our parents. We care about economic security. And so candidates who stand up for those values and show that they can be good, decent human beings is something I know resonates. And I think this moment, with this White House, that is more acute than ever."

Whitmer nearly doubled Clinton's margin in Oakland County in 2018. That same year, Democrat Elissa Slotkin flipped a congressional seat that was under Republican control for almost 20 years.

Some of Slotkin's strongest supporters were Republican women.

Nancy Strole, a longtime elected township clerk in the rural northern part of the county, had not been able to bring herself to vote for Trump. She considers herself an "old-fashioned kind of Republican." She hasn't changed, she said — her party was "hijacked."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 45 of 86

"It's not just Trump," she said. "It wouldn't happen unless there are others who acquiesced and were willing to go along with it either by their silence, by their lack of will, by their lack of courage."

When Trump began his presidency by undermining international alliances and routinely denigrating people, she grew frustrated that Republicans did nothing about it.

Strole said she called her congressman, Mike Bishop, and never heard back. Meanwhile, Slotkin, a former CIA analyst, announced her bid against Bishop. Her reason for running jibed with Strole's growing consternation: She had watched Bishop stand by at the White House, smiling, as Republicans worked to gut the Affordable Care Act.

In a lifetime as a Republican, Strole had never volunteered for a congressional campaign. But she knocked on 1,000 doors for Slotkin.

Andrea Moore, by contrast, was raised in a Democratic family. But she voted for Trump because she was fed up with career politicians who seemed interested only in money and power.

"He was an unknown quantity, but now we know," said Moore, 45, who lives in a suburban community in Wayne County.

She can't remember the precise moment she decided she'd made a mistake. It felt like a toxic relationship: You can make excuses for a while, but eventually disgust settles in.

"A million little things," she said — the rapid-fire attacks on people, divisiveness, fear mongering. "They just kind of piled up."

She can't understand how anyone could support Trump after his response to his own bout with COVID-19 — how he flouted masks and held rallies, downplayed the threat, failed to acknowledge that he had access to treatments that others don't, she said. All this when more than 219,000 Americans have died.

Moore, a stay-at-home mom who home-schools her 9-year-old son, doesn't love Biden. But if the choice is between Trump and anyone else, she said, anyone else will do. She hopes the administration will be driven by Kamala Harris — a Black woman, the child of immigrants, young, sharp.

"It's been an old white guy's game for way too long," Moore said.

Trump's pitch to try to reclaim suburban female voters relies on an airbrushed version of America's past. He has warned that "Biden will destroy your neighborhood and your American dream." He revoked an Obama-era housing initiative meant to curtail racial segregation, claiming that property values would diminish, crime would rise and suburbs would "go to hell."

"I think if this were 1950, his message would be perfect," said Karyn Lacy, a sociologist at the University of Michigan. "The problem is it's not 1950."

Trump's description of the suburbs seems to Alison Jones like nostalgia for "a 'Leave it to Beaver' time" when people who look like her could not have lived in her subdivision, where no house costs less than \$1 million.

Now when Jones, a Black woman, sees Trump lawn signs, she wonders: Do her neighbors really want her here?

Suburbs like this were once exclusively white by design: The federal government long underwrote segregationist policies that kept Black families out. Even now, Oakland County remains very white, but not as white as it once was. In 1990, the county was 88% white. By 2019, that dropped to 71.5%.

Jones watched as Trump stood on a debate stage and declined to condemn white supremacy, telling a hate group to "stand back and stand by." She was a child in the South in the 1960s, when schools were integrating, and the message felt very familiar: It's us against them.

She fears for her two sons, maybe even more in this predominantly white community than she would in a city, she said. In 2018, a Black 14-year-old boy got lost not far from where she lives and knocked on a door to ask for directions. The white homeowner shot at him.

Jones believes the United States has reached a critical point. Police killings have exposed systemic racism, COVID-19 has disproportionately killed Black people, and they have borne the brunt of the economic fallout, too. "I think 2020 has opened the wounds, pulled back the curtain so we can see what's really here."

An executive at a Fortune 500 company, Jones moved here for the same reason as everybody else:

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 46 of 86

good schools, secure property values, safety.

And like Jones, many women here work outside the home. Households aren't all as they were depicted when Beaver and Wally lived in the fictional town of Mayfield.

Linda Northcraft moved to Oakland County in 1997 for a job as a rector of an Episcopal church, and bought a home with her partner, Ellen Ehrlich.

Some in the congregation left. "Gay priest splits parish," the headline read. Skinheads protested in the parking lot. It was devastating, and some from their old church suggested maybe they should move back to Baltimore.

But they stayed, times changed, and they got married. Ehrlich said "my wife" recently to a stranger and reported back to Northcraft: "They didn't even blink an eye," she said. "It's become normal."

They became active in Democratic politics when Whitmer was running for governor. Before dinner, they pray for people sick from COVID-19, for Biden and Harris and, until recently, for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Ehrlich had been in a "mini state of depression." She's an extrovert and the shutdown to curtail the spread of the coronavirus had left her demoralized. But Ginsburg's death energized her. Without even speaking of it, they both understood the stakes: A stronger conservative majority on the Supreme Court could undo years of expanding protections for civil rights — including their own right to be married.

They sat down the next morning and made campaign donations to every Democrat they could think of.

Lori Goldman doesn't enjoy knocking on strangers' doors, asking them to vote for Democrats.

She's hungry because she often doesn't take the time to eat. Her knee aches from a replacement surgery six months ago. Often the houses have Trump flags hanging from the porch rails.

"But this is war," she says, and she considers herself a street fighter.

People look at her and make assumptions, she said: a \$2 million house, fancy car, American Express black card that she always loses because she keeps it in her bra. But she grew up in a steel town not far away, one of six kids raised by a single mother, poor, dependent on government cheese.

Most of her family and childhood friends are Trump supporters, so she knows there are many whose minds she won't change.

Like Ally Scully, 27, who hesitantly voted for him in 2016. She believes in traditional small-government Republican ideals like tax cuts and supporting small business. She prayed over her decision and walked into the booth still unsure. Now she thinks he earned her vote again.

"I'm surprised to be saying that because I didn't think he would," she said. "I think it's just his willingness to go out on a limb, even if it was unpopular, that boldness has been remarkable."

She believes he's empowered women in his administration — including his own daughter — and thinks claims of his racism and sexism are overblown by the media. Scully, who now leads the county's young Republican club, acknowledges that many women have fled the GOP under Trump. But she also believes another, quieter contingent is going the other way.

Goldman worries that she's right.

But then again, some things have happened to spur more women to battle Trump.

Earlier this month, her phone started ringing one morning with call after call from women asking to knock on doors with her. The catalyst: Six men were charged with conspiring to kidnap Gov. Whitmer because of her "uncontrolled power."

Whitmer has been a persistent target of right-wing vitriol since she implemented a strict lockdown to try to contain the coronavirus. Thousands of men stormed into the Capitol with guns. Trump egged them on: "Liberate Michigan," he tweeted, dismissing Whitmer as "the woman from Michigan."

Whitmer felt it was her duty to publicly blame Trump. Most women, she said, have been on the receiving end of belittling comments.

"I'm at a point in my life where I'm going to take it on every time," she said. "There's no room for it. I don't have time to waste. I have a job to do."

Women approached her at events to thank her, she said. Some said they were Republicans, tired of the divisiveness and determined to make a change.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 47 of 86

Goldman heard the same thing. "It's because she's a woman who dared to speak up and so now a bunch of men are going to teach her a lesson," she said. "This is the violent version of mansplaining, and it's happened since Adam and Eve."

So Goldman conjures her Trumpian bluster. Sometimes she stands up in the middle of Starbucks and bellows, "Who here can't take it anymore? Who wants this guy out of office?"

Some fraction of the room will be furious, but that's OK with her, because some fraction will ask how they can help. Fems for Dems swells.

Her group has about 8,900 members. But that's not what Trump would say, so it's not what she does, either.

"Over 9,000," she says. "And growing."

Associated Press journalists David Eggert, Hannah Fingerhut, Emily Swanson and Angeliki Kastanis contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's falsehoods on virus, taxes and Bidens

By HOPE YEN, CALVIN WOODWARD and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Back fully campaigning after COVID-19 sidelined him, President Donald Trump returned to familiar form, spreading a litany of falsehoods.

Over the weekend, he asserted yet again the virus was "rounding the corner" when it isn't, misrepresented Democratic rival Joe Biden's tax proposals and resurrected unfounded claims about Biden and the business dealings of his son, Hunter Biden, in Ukraine.

The statements came after Trump and Biden bid for a late advantage this past week in competing forums that replaced a canceled presidential debate. The two are to meet Thursday in the last scheduled debate before the Nov. 3 election.

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. Biden went beyond the facts in suggesting that Barrett would undoubtedly strike down the law.

A look:

TAXES and ECONOMY

TRUMP, in all capital letters: "Sleepy Joe Biden is proposing the biggest tax hike in our country's history!" — tweet Saturday.

THE FACTS: It wouldn't be the biggest.

Biden's proposal would raise as much as \$3.7 trillion in new revenue over a decade, mostly by increasing business taxes and taxes on households with incomes over \$400,000 a year. That revenue would come to about 1.3% to 1.4% of the overall economy, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

The Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan tax policy group, evaluated the Biden tax plan against other historical tax increases and found that Biden's proposal would rank fifth largest among 21 major tax bills passed since 1940, based on the share of the U.S. economy.

Biden's would-be plan is surpassed by the Revenue Act of 1941, the Revenue Act of 1942, the Revenue Act of 1951, and the Revenue and Expenditure Control Act of 1968, which raised annual federal revenue between 1.5% and 5% of GDP, according to the study.

TRUMP: "We had the greatest economy in the history of our country." — NBC town hall in Miami on Thursday.

THE FACTS: No, 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 48 of 86

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.

HUNTER BIDEN

TRUMP on Joe Biden and Ukraine: "I never had a quid pro quo. How about this quid pro quo? 'We're not going to give you the billion dollars unless you get rid of the prosecutor ... Stop investigating my son.' And then he goes, boom, the prosecutor was fired and they got the billion dollars." — rally Saturday in Muskegon, Michigan.

THE FACTS: Trump is repeating a false claim alleging that Biden as vice president pressed to have a prosecutor fired while the prosecutor was investigating Burisma, the energy company in Ukraine where Biden's son Hunter sat on the board of directors. In fact, by the time Biden came out against the prosecutor, the investigation into the company was dormant.

Biden, among other international officials, was pressing for a more aggressive investigation of corruption in Ukraine, not a softer one.

Trump's team often cites a video of Joe Biden from 2018. Speaking on a public panel, Biden recounted threatening to withhold a loan guarantee from Ukraine's government unless it fired the prosecutor, who was widely considered ineffective if not corrupt himself.

What Trump doesn't say is that in February 2016, a few months after Biden threatened to hold back a \$1 billion loan guarantee, the International Monetary Fund threatened to delay \$40 billion in aid unless Ukraine took action to fight corruption.

An investigation into Burisma's owner for money laundering, tax evasion and other alleged misdeeds began in 2012 and pertained to the years before Hunter Biden joined the board.

SUPREME COURT

RONNA MCDANIEL, chair of the Republican National Committee, on whether Biden supports "court packing": "You have a candidate on the Democrat side right now, Joe Biden, who, on your town hall, and continually, after question after question about whether he's going to upend the third branch of government and burn down our checks and balances, is saying to the American people, 'I'll tell you what I'm going to do after the election.'" — interview Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

THE FACTS: That's not what Biden said at the ABC town hall Thursday. She's correct that the Democrat has repeatedly ducked the question of whether he would support an expansion of the Supreme Court, and at one point this month said people would know his opinion about it after the election.

But he has since revised that stance, saying last week he would reveal his views on the matter before Nov. 3. Voters "do have a right to know where I stand, and they will have a right to know where I stand before they vote," he added.

Senate Republicans are rushing a Supreme Court confirmation vote for Amy Coney Barrett in the final days before the election. Liberals are pushing for an expanded Supreme Court if Barrett is confirmed. Faced with a likely 6-3 conservative court as the new year begins, Democrats would need to add four seats to overcome the Republicans' edge.

BIDEN: "This nominee said she wants to get rid of the Affordable Care Act." — remarks to reporters on Oct. 12.

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 Oct. 12.

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

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 49 of 86

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.

THE VIRUS

TRUMP, speaking in a state where COVID-19 cases are surging: "We're rounding the corner. We got the vaccines, all that, but even without it, we're rounding the corner." — Wisconsin rally Saturday.

THE FACTS: Rising cases and his own government health experts tell a different story.

Infection has been increasing in the vast majority of states and deaths are rising in 30. This as the flu season approaches, another layer of risk to health.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious diseases expert, has repeatedly made clear that he disagrees with Trump's assessment based on the data and has cautioned that people should not underestimate the pandemic. He says Americans will "need to hunker down and get through this fall and winter because it's not going to be easy." Fauci and other health experts, such as Dr. Robert Redfield of the CDC, have warned of a potentially bad fall because of dual threats of the coronavirus and the flu season.

Trump spoke in Wisconsin, which broke records last week for new coronavirus cases, deaths and hospitalizations. Confirmed virus cases and deaths are also on the rise in the swing states of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The president, who was treated for the coronavirus this month, continues to shun wearing masks and to hold campaign rallies at which face masks are not required. Many attendees don't wear them.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former head of the Food and Drug Administration under Trump, said even if a vaccine becomes available late this year, the first group of people who get vaccinated probably won't see the full effects of protection until February or March.

"The next three months are going to be very challenging," he said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." "There's really no backstop against the spread that we're seeing."

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." — Miami forum.

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 50 of 86

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."

DEM INFECTIONS

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 51 of 86

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.

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.

MORE FROM THE UNDEBATE 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.

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.

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 52 of 86

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>

2016 sequel? Trump's old attacks failing to land on Biden

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump stood before a crowd in a state that had once been firmly in his grasp. There were fewer than three weeks left in the campaign, one reshaped by a virus that has killed more than 215,000 Americans, and he was running out of time to change the trajectory of the race.

He posed a question.

"Did you hear the news?" the president asked the hopeful crowd. "Bruce Ohr is finally out of the Department of Justice."

There were scattered cheers in the crowd as the president then detailed the fate of a mostly forgotten, minor figure in the Russia probe that feels like a lifetime of news cycles ago.

That moment Wednesday in Iowa, a state Trump won comfortably four years ago but is now seen as competitive, underscored a fundamental challenge facing his reelection campaign: It's not 2016.

The president's attempts to recycle attacks he used on Hillary Clinton that year have so far failed to effectively damage Democrat Joe Biden. And Trump has found himself dwelling more and more in the conservative media echo chamber, talking to an increasingly smaller portion of the electorate.

Fueled by personal grievance, the president has tried to amplify stories that diehard Fox News viewers know by heart but have not broken through to a broader public consumed with the sole issue that has defined the campaign: the president's management of the pandemic. Though firing up his base to turn out in huge numbers is a vital part of his campaign's strategy, Trump's insistence on fighting the last war has sounded alarms within the Republican party.

"There's probably no reason to change in his mind when he surrounds himself in an echo chamber where everyone always tells him he's doing great and he's always in front of adoring crowds who are cheering for him," said Brendan Buck, a former top adviser to Republican House Speakers Paul Ryan and John Boehner. "They're running a campaign that tries to recreate the energy from before and there are many other factors that make that a fraught path to reelection."

In recent days, Trump's campaign has tried to weaponize potentially hacked emails about Biden. Trump's inner circle has been largely whittled down to the familiar faces of four years ago. A fundraising email sent late Friday was entitled "Lock her up," the rallying cry against Clinton.

Oftentimes, it feels as though Trump is simply recycling old material.

"Biden's repeatedly surrendered your jobs to China and other countries," Trump said last month in North Carolina.

Four years ago in Florida, the line was: "It's one more way the Clintons have surrendered American prosperity to China and so many other countries."

And Sunday night in Nevada, he recounted — again — which states he won on Election Night in 2016.

Of course, Trump came from behind in the final stages of that campaign to win the White House. Four years later, his campaign expresses confidence that that attacking Biden's nearly five decades in Washington, along with unproven allegations of family corruption, can work again.

"The president's message is clear: he has accomplished more for America in 47 months than Joe Biden has in 47 years," said Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh. "This boils down to a choice between a political outsider who has shaken up Washington and a failed career politician."

The Trump campaign believes it has a viable, if narrow path to victory. It has tried to repair his standing among seniors and suburban voters and believes the president can find his way to 270 Electoral College votes again by winning the Sun Belt battlegrounds - Florida, North Carolina, Arizona - while making a huge push in perhaps the most contested state on the map, Pennsylvania.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 53 of 86

But some Trump allies and aides believe the campaign's inability to define Biden, while just resuscitating old talking points, is a failure, one exacerbated by a president who can't stay on message, according to four campaign officials and Republicans close to the White House not authorized to publicly discuss private discussions.

It also points to a campaign that has been unable to adjust to an election year unlike any in a century. From the start of the pandemic, Trump sought to downplay the threat of the virus. His scattershot management threatened his standing among seniors, who are a key to his bases. His approach also squandered what is often a normal American instinct during a crisis: to rally around the flag — and the president.

President George W. Bush campaigned for the White House in 2000 as a compassionate conservative. Like Trump, he lost the popular vote in his first race. But after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks reshaped his presidency, Bush pivoted to an emphasis on national security and ultimately won a majority of votes — and another term.

"When a crisis hits, and a leader grabs hold of the crisis, throws himself into it and as seen as the personification of how to get through it, crisis rebounds to the benefit of that person," said Ari Fleischer, who was Bush's press secretary. "President Trump downplayed the crisis enough when he was then viewed as not handling COVID well and has reaped no reward."

Instead, Trump and his advisers leaned on their fog machine again, amplified by conservative media as it did during the Russia probe and the impeachment investigation. He pushed the Department of Justice to investigate members of the Obama administration and the federal bureaucracy for the investigation into the Trump campaign's possible collusion with Russia.

But a probe into unmasking, a common request by a government official for an intelligence agency to identify someone in contact with a foreigner under surveillance, ended with a whimper. And Attorney General William Barr has said John Durham's probe — in short, an investigation into the investigators — would not be completed before the election, which drew Trump's ire.

Last week, allegations about corruption by Biden's son, Hunter, were met with skepticism, in large part because of questions about the authenticity of an email at the center of the story.

The FBI began investigating whether the emails published by The New York Post related to the younger Biden are connected to a possible Russian influence operation to spread disinformation.

None of the efforts had the impact of Trump's claims four years ago that Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state endangered national security and alleged she used her government connections to enrich her family. Nor have the Biden emails gained the traction of those hacked from the Clinton campaign and distributed by WikiLeaks.

The one place where the allegations have taken hold is in the conservative media.

Fox News and other outlets have, with regularity, amplified the president's attacks on the Deep State and ran with unproven allegations against the Obama administration and the Biden family. That, some Republicans believe, creates an echo chamber with Trump, an avid cable news consumer, and convinces him that the storylines are more broadly meaningful than they are.

"He's in the Fox bubble, he's not being effective against Biden, he's throwing stuff up against the wall, it's not going to work," said Bill Kristol, former chief of staff to Vice President Dan Quayle and director of Republican Voters Against Trump. "But he's also an incumbent who is underwater because he's done a terrible job. No campaign is going to take change that."

And that bubble, some aides fear, has impacted Trump's message.

In 2016, Trump stuck to key broad themes — on immigration, trade, corruption and political correctness — and channeled his supporters' grievances. This year, he's asking them to share his own.

"This is a fatal flaw for Trump. He needs to speak to what the people care about," said Tobe Berkovitz, professor of communications and advertising at Boston University. "Yes, it's COVID, but all the issues spinning around the COVID, like the economy, like can my kids go to school, can I afford cable so the kids can be in on Zoom. That matters. Not this."

Lemire reported from New York.

Armenia, Azerbaijan blame each other for truce violations

By AVET DEMOURIAN Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Despite a second attempt at a cease-fire, Armenia and Azerbaijan traded accusations Sunday of violating the new truce in their destructive conflict over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The latest truce, which was announced Saturday and took force at midnight, was the second attempt to establish a cease-fire since heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces broke out in Nagorno-Karabakh on Sept. 27. The fighting and shelling has killed hundreds of people — both combatants and civilians — and marks the biggest escalation of a decades-old conflict over the region in more than a quarter-century.

The fighting, involving heavy artillery, rockets and drones, has continued despite repeated calls for cessation of hostilities coming from around the globe. It also raises the specter of a wider conflict that could draw in Russia and Turkey and threaten Caspian Sea energy exports.

Armenian military officials on Sunday reported artillery shelling and missile strikes by Azerbaijani forces in the conflict zone overnight. In the morning, “the enemy launched an attack in the southern direction,” and there were “casualties and wounded on both sides,” Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian said.

Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry, in turn, maintained that Armenian forces used mortars and artillery in the conflict zone overnight despite the cease-fire and in the morning attempted attacks in several directions. The ministry accused Armenia of using large-caliber weapons to attack the positions of the Azerbaijani army in two regions north of Nagorno-Karabakh along the border, a claim Armenian military officials denied.

The Azerbaijani military also said it downed an Armenian Su-25 warplane “attempting to inflict airstrikes on the positions of the Azerbaijan army in the Jabrayil direction,” but Stepanian dismissed the statement as untrue.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned attacks from both sides on populated areas and expressed deep regret that the warring parties have “continuously ignored the repeated calls of the international community to immediately stop the fighting,” U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

The U.N. chief underscored in his latest calls with the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan that both sides have an obligation under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, Dujarric said. Guterres also expects both parties to abide by the Oct. 18 humanitarian truce and resume negotiations without delay under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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.

According to Nagorno-Karabakh officials, 673 of their servicemen have been killed in the renewed fighting. Azerbaijan hasn’t disclosed its military losses, but says 60 civilians have died so far and 270 have been wounded.

Turkey has publicly backed oil-rich Azerbaijan in the conflict and vowed to help it reclaim its territory.

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

The new cease-fire agreement was announced a week later on Saturday, following Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s calls with his counterparts from Armenia and Azerbaijan, in which he strongly urged them to abide by the Moscow deal.

But several hours after the truce took force at midnight, both sides started accusing each other of breaching the agreement.

Later Sunday, Armenia and Azerbaijan reiterated their commitments to the cease-fire in statements is-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 55 of 86

sued by their foreign ministries, and laid the blame for the breaches on each other.

Azerbaijan "reserves its right to take counter measures to protect its civilians and positions," the country's Foreign Ministry said.

Yerevan "will continue to undertake all necessary measures to impose peace on Azerbaijan and establish a cease-fire regime which will entail precise and effective mechanisms for maintaining and verifying it," Armenian Foreign Ministry said.

In a separate statement, Armenia said the Azerbaijani government in Baku "categorically rejected" an attempt to reach an agreement on withdrawing wounded soldiers from the battlefield through mediation by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Azerbaijani authorities said they were prepared to hand over the bodies of some Armenian servicemen to Armenia through mediation by the ICRC and an agreed-upon border corridor "in the direction of the Tovuz region." Officials didn't clarify how many bodies that entailed.

Associated Press writers Daria Litvinova in Moscow and Aida Sultanova in London contributed to this report.

Millions more virus rapid tests, but are results reported?

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After struggling to ramp up coronavirus testing, the U.S. can now screen several million people daily, thanks to a growing supply of rapid tests. But the boom comes with a new challenge: keeping track of the results.

All U.S. testing sites are legally required to report their results, positive and negative, to public health agencies. But state health officials say many rapid tests are going unreported, which means some new COVID-19 infections may not be counted.

And the situation could get worse, experts say. The federal government is shipping more than 100 million of the newest rapid tests to states for use in public schools, assisted living centers and other new testing sites.

"Schools certainly don't have the capacity to report these tests," said Dr. Jeffrey Engel of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. "If it's done at all it's likely going to be paper-based, very slow and incomplete."

Early in the outbreak, nearly all U.S. testing relied on genetic tests that could only be developed at high-tech laboratories. Even under the best circumstances, people had to wait about two to three days to get results. Experts pushed for more "point-of-care" rapid testing that could be done in doctors offices, clinics and other sites to quickly find people who are infected, get them into quarantine and stop the spread.

Beginning in the summer, cheaper, 15-minute tests — which detect viral proteins called antigens on a nasal swab — became available. The first versions still needed to be processed using portable readers. The millions of new tests from Abbott Laboratories now going out to states are even easier to use: they're about the size of a credit card and can be developed with a few drops of chemical solution.

Federal health officials say about half of the nation's daily testing capacity now consists of rapid tests.

Large hospitals and laboratories electronically feed their results to state health departments, but there is no standardized way to report the rapid tests that are often done elsewhere. And state officials have often been unable to track where these tests are being shipped and whether results are being reported.

In Minnesota, officials created a special team to try and get more testing data from nursing homes, schools and other newer testing sites, only to be deluged by faxes and paper files.

"It's definitely a challenge because now we have to do many more things manually than we were with electronic reporting," said Kristen Ehresmann, of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Even before Abbott's newest BinaxNOW rapid tests hit the market last month, undercounting was a concern.

Competitors Quidel and Becton Dickinson have together shipped well over 35 million of their own quick

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 56 of 86

tests since June. But that massive influx of tests hasn't showed up in national testing numbers, which have mostly ranged between 750,000 and 950,000 daily tests for months.

Besides tallying new cases, COVID-19 testing numbers are used to calculate a key metric on the outbreak: the percentage of tests positive for COVID-19. The World Health Organization recommends countries test enough people to drive their percent of positives below 5%. And the U.S. has mostly been hovering around or below that rate since mid-September, a point that President Donald Trump and his top aides have touted to argue that the nation has turned the corner on the outbreak. The figure is down from a peak of 22% in April.

But some disease-tracking specialists are skeptical. Engel said his group's members think they aren't getting all the results.

"So it may be a false conclusion," he said.

One of the challenges to an accurate count: States have wildly different approaches. Some states lump all types of tests together in one report, some don't tabulate the quick antigen tests at all and others don't publicize their system. Because antigen tests are more prone to false negatives and sometimes require retesting, most health experts say they should be recorded and analyzed separately. But currently the vast majority of states do not do that and post the results online.

The federal government is allocating the tests to states based on their population, rather than helping them develop a strategy based on the size and severity of their outbreaks.

"That's just lazy" said Dr. Michael Mina of Harvard University. "Most states won't have the expertise to figure out how to use these most appropriately."

Instead, Mina said the federal government should direct the limited test supplies to key hot spots around the country, driving down infections in the hardest-hit communities. Keeping tighter control would also ensure test results are quickly reported.

Johns Hopkins University researcher Gigi Gronvall agrees health officials need to carefully consider where and when to deploy the tests. Eventually, methods for tracking the tests will catch up, she said.

"I think having the tools to determine if someone is infectious is a higher priority," she said.

AP data journalist Nicky Forster contributed to this story

Follow Matthew Perrone on Twitter: @AP_FDWriter

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

Trump, Biden go on offense in states they're trying to flip

By BRIAN SLODYSKO, JILL COLVIN and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden went on offense Sunday, as both campaigned in states they are trying to flip during the Nov. 3 election that is just over two weeks away.

Trump began his day in Nevada, making a rare visit to church before a fundraiser and an evening rally in Carson City. Once considered a battleground, Nevada has not swung for a Republican presidential contender since 2004.

The rally drew thousands of supporters who sat elbow to elbow, cheering Trump and booing Biden and the press. The vast majority wore no masks to guard against the coronavirus, though cases in the state are on the rise, with more than 1,000 new infections reported Saturday. The president, as he often does, warned that a Biden election would lead to further lockdowns and at one point appeared to mock Biden for saying he would listen to scientists.

"He'll listen to the scientists. If I listened totally to the scientists, we would right now have a country that would be in a massive depression," Trump said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 57 of 86

Biden, a practicing Catholic, attended Mass in Delaware before campaigning in North Carolina, where a Democrat has not won in a presidential race since Barack Obama in 2008.

Both candidates are trying to make inroads in states that could help secure a path to victory, but the dynamics of the race are remarkably stable. Biden enjoys a significant advantage in national polls, while carrying a smaller edge in battleground surveys.

Earlier in the day, Trump sat in the front row at the nondenominational International Church of Las Vegas as the senior associate pastor, Denise Goulet, said God told her early that morning that the president would secure a second term.

"At 4:30, the Lord said to me, 'I am going to give your president a second win,'" she said, telling Trump, "you will be the president again."

Trump spoke briefly, saying "I love going to churches" and that it was "a great honor" to attend the service. He dropped a wad of \$20 bills in the collection plate before leaving.

The message was far different in both style and substance later in the day, when Biden attended a virtual discussion with African American faith leaders from around the country.

Biden held up a rosary, which he said he carries in his pocket every day, and described it as "what the Irish call a prisoner's rosary" since it was small enough to be smuggled into prisons.

"I happen to be a Roman Catholic," Biden said. "I don't pray for God to protect me. I pray to God to give me strength to see what other people are dealing with."

Earlier, at a drive-in rally in Durham, North Carolina, Biden focused heavily on promoting criminal justice changes to combat institutional racism and promised to help build wealth in the Black community.

He noted that Trump had said at one of his rallies that the country had turned the corner on the pandemic.

"As my grandfather would say, this guy's gone around the bend if he thinks we've turned the corner. Turning the corner? Things are getting worse," Biden said.

In addition to public polling that indicates Biden has an edge, the former vice president enjoys another considerable advantage over Trump: money.

Trump raked in \$12 million during a fundraiser Sunday afternoon at the Newport Beach home of top GOP donor and tech mogul Palmer Luckey, which also featured a performance by the Beach Boys.

But over the past four months, Biden has raised over \$1 billion, a massive amount of money that has eclipsed Trump's once-overwhelming cash advantage.

That's become apparent in advertising, where Biden and his Democratic allies are on pace to spend twice as much as Trump and the Republicans in the closing days of the race, according to data from the ad tracking firm Kantar/CMAG.

Though Trump has pulled back from advertising in Midwestern states that secured his 2016 win, he's invested heavily elsewhere, including North Carolina, where he is on pace to slightly outspend Biden in the days ahead.

In Nevada, which Trump came close to winning in 2016, Democrats are set to outspend Trump in the closing days by a more than 3-to-1 ratio.

Trump's visit to the state is part of an aggressive schedule of campaign events, where he has leaned heavily into fear tactics.

Trump's Carson City rally was held at an airport with a golden scrub brush-covered hill providing a dramatic backdrop. He relived fond moments from his 2016 campaign against Hillary Clinton, revisited his long-running feud with NFL players and went on an extended rant about water management policy, which he blamed for people having to "flush their toilet 15 times."

He also added to his litany of hyperbolic attacks against Biden, claiming that, if Biden were elected, he would mandate new lockdown measures that would make Carson City "a ghost town" and "the Christmas season will be cancelled."

As he surveyed his crowd, Trump expressed disbelief that he could possibly be tied (in fact losing, according to public polls) to Biden in the state.

"How the hell can we be tied?" he asked. "What's going on? ... We get these massive crowds. He gets nobody.... It doesn't make sense!" Biden has held very small and virtual events in recent months because

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 58 of 86

of the ongoing pandemic.

Biden started his day with Mass in Delaware at St. Joseph's on the Brandywine, as he does nearly every week. He and his wife, Jill, entered wearing dark-colored face masks. She carried a bunch of flowers that including pink roses.

The church is a few minutes' drive from Biden's home. Biden's son Beau, who died of brain cancer in 2015, is buried in the cemetery on its grounds. Joe and Jill Biden visited the grave after the service.

Trump attends church far less often but has drawn strong support from white Evangelical leaders and frequently hosts groups of pastors at the White House. Trump often goes to the Church of Bethesda-By-The Sea near Mar-a-Lago in Florida for major holidays, including Easter, and he attended a Christmas Eve service last year at Family Church in West Palm Beach before the onset of the pandemic.

If elected, Biden would be only the second Roman Catholic president in U.S. history and first since John F. Kennedy. The former vice president speaks frequently about his faith and its importance in his life.

___ Slodysko reported from Washington and Weissert from Durham, North Carolina. Associated Press Writer Elana Schor in Washington contributed to this report.

Twitter blocks tweet from Trump adviser downplaying masks

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter blocked a post Sunday from an adviser to President Donald Trump who suggested that masks do not work to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Scott Atlas, who joined the White House in August as a science adviser, had tweeted "Masks work? NO," and said widespread use of masks is not supported.

The tweet violated a Twitter policy that prohibits sharing false or misleading misinformation about COVID-19 that could lead to harm, a company spokesperson said. The policy bans statements that have been confirmed to be false or misleading by experts such as public health authorities.

In such cases, Twitter disables the account until its owner deletes the post in question.

Trump has downplayed the importance of masks in reducing the spread of the virus, even after he contracted the disease, which has killed more than 215,000 Americans.

"I don't understand why the tweets were deleted," Atlas said in an email, calling Twitter's actions censorship. He said his tweet was intended to show that "general population masks and mask mandates do not work," and he clarified that the correct policy is to use masks when one cannot socially distance. Atlas added that infections exploded even with mandates in Los Angeles County, Miami-Dade County, Hawaii, Alabama, the Philippines, Japan and other places.

Researchers have concluded that masks can control the spread of the virus, and public health experts have urged the public to wear them. But Trump and his team often go without masks while campaigning.

Atlas, the former chief of neuroradiology at Stanford University Medical Center and a fellow at Stanford's conservative Hoover Institution, has no expertise in public health or infectious diseases. He has criticized the coronavirus lockdowns and campaigned for children to return to classrooms. Some scientists view Atlas as promoting dangerous theories around "herd immunity."

Last week, Twitter and Facebook moved quickly to limit the spread of an unverified political story published by the conservative-leaning New York Post. The story cited unverified emails from Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's son, and it has not been confirmed by other publications. There have been no new tweets from the Post since Oct. 14, indicating Twitter may still be blocking the newspaper's tweets.

___ Associated Press Writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Puerto Rico, unable to vote, becomes crucial to US election

By DÁNICA COTO and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The campaigns of President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden are rallying people in a place where U.S. citizens cannot cast ballots but have the ear of hundreds of thousands of potential voters in the battleground state of Florida.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 59 of 86

The candidates are targeting Puerto Rico in a way never before seen, with the U.S. territory suddenly finding itself in the crosshairs of a high-stakes race even though Puerto Ricans on the island cannot vote in presidential elections despite being U.S. citizens since 1917.

Campaigners know this, but they hope those on the island will push relatives and friends on the U.S. mainland to vote for them in a strategy that capitalizes on the close ties they share.

It's a novel role that plays off the sentiment that Puerto Ricans in Florida feel they are voting by proxy for those back home left out of U.S. democracy. And a growing number find this role appealing, especially since many on the island are struggling to recover from hurricanes Irma and Maria, a string of strong earthquakes, a deep economic crisis and the pandemic.

"I'm voting for 3 million Puerto Ricans on the island, including my entire family," said Jerick Mediavilla, who is from the mountain town of Corozal and is voting in a U.S. presidential election for the first time after moving to Orlando four years ago. "Puerto Rico doesn't have a voice. Our voice is via the United States."

It's people like Mediavilla that Democrats and Republicans are trying to target as they court Latinos in Florida, which has the largest population of Puerto Ricans in the U.S., with nearly 1.2 million. Trump won Florida in 2016 and has virtually no path to the White House if he doesn't do so again. Polls are tight, and as the Trump campaign worries of support slipping among suburban and older voters, Latinos in Florida have become crucial.

Puerto Ricans represent 27% of Hispanics of voting age in Florida, trailing only Cuban-Americans. While it's unclear how many are Democrats or Republicans, Democrats have widened the gap of Hispanic voters registered for this election over the GOP compared with 2016. The gains were in counties with a high number of Puerto Ricans including Orange County, home to Orlando, and Hillsborough, home to Tampa. Polk County, where the Puerto Rican population has more than doubled since 2013, saw the fastest growth of Latino registered voters, with Democrats registering 21,000 more voters than Republicans. The gap in 2016 was 15,000. But those same counties also have a very high number of voters registered without party affiliation.

"Puerto Ricans will play a very crucial role in this election," said Yadira Sánchez, co-executive director of Poder Latinx, a U.S.-based non-profit group that aims to mobilize Latino voters.

Election observers, however, note Puerto Ricans have weaker voter turnout rates than other Hispanic groups that favor Republican candidates.

Trump recently secured an endorsement from Puerto Rico's governor and promised nearly \$13 billion in additional aid last month to help the island rebuild from Hurricane Maria. During a recent rally in Florida, Trump declared: "I'm not gonna say the best, but I'm just about the best thing that ever happened to Puerto Rico. You better vote for me, Puerto Rico." Many were quick to note that those living on the island don't have that right.

Meanwhile, Biden granted an exclusive interview to Puerto Rico's main newspaper that for the first time in its 50 years endorsed a U.S. presidential candidate and asked those in the U.S. mainland to support Biden: "We ask that you, with the great power of your vote, especially in key electoral states, help open the way to the transformation effort that will honor the dignity and promote the progress of every person."

Biden recently launched digital and print ads on the island with the hashtag "HazloXMi," or DoItForMe, urging Puerto Ricans to tell their friends and family on the U.S. mainland to participate: "With your vote over there, you help us here."

"Both campaigns are doing it thinking this will bounce back to Florida," said Carlos Suárez, a political science professor at the University of Florida.

It's unclear whether the indirect campaign strategy will work, but Luis Gutiérrez, a former U.S. representative who served 26 years in Congress and now lives in Puerto Rico, called it a smart move.

Puerto Ricans "are always in contact. Why? Because whether you're one of 3 million on the island or 5 million somewhere else, you're part of one community," the Democrat said. "If you are born in Puerto Rico, it will be part of your life until the last day."

As the election draws near, pressure keeps growing on Puerto Ricans on the island and on the mainland.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 60 of 86

A Florida political group recently created a song set to the tune of "Rakatá" by Wisin y Yandel, a renowned Puerto Rican reggaeton duo who first became popular in the early 2000s. The song encourages Puerto Ricans who moved to Florida to use their new voting power and hurl a "chancleta" or flip-flop at Trump to help those living on the island: "He doesn't care one bit for Boricuas."

Trump's campaign has countered with ads highlighting the billions of dollars his administration has pledged to help Puerto Rico recover from Maria, a Category 4 storm that caused an estimated \$100 billion in damage and killed an estimated 2,975 people in its aftermath. However, the administration withheld billions of dollars in emergency aid for months, saying it worried about mismanagement and corruption on the island.

Wyneska Méndez, who moved to Miami from Puerto Rico eight years ago, said she would not let fellow Puerto Ricans influence her decision, adding that Trump is the only choice to protect the economy. She especially likes that Trump feels strongly against abortion because of her Christian faith, and she believes Puerto Rico needed to get its affairs in order to receive the same kind of relief offered to U.S. states.

"I don't let others get in my head," Méndez said as she waited for a speech by Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday in Miami.

Dozens of Trump supporters who gathered Sunday in Puerto Rico for a rally shared her sentiment, saying the president has sent billions of dollars to help with hurricane reconstruction as they praised his pro-life stance.

Dr. Miriam Ramírez de Ferrer, a former senator and member of Puerto Rico's pro-statehood party, said that Trump's personality can be misinterpreted and that she believes he was joking when making comments about the island that critics have found offensive.

"There have been many erroneous messages from certain Puerto Ricans toward Trump, and we don't want people to think that all Puerto Ricans are the same," Ramírez said as she pulled down the face mask of a fellow Trump supporter decorated with bald eagles and U.S. flags.

Despite the aid Puerto Rico has received under the Trump administration, Mediavilla and his brother, Omar, who lives in Puerto Rico, remain unswayed.

"It's a great help, but really, in the end, I see it as a political strategy," said Omar Mediavilla, adding that he is grateful his brother was motivated by the aftermath of Maria to support Biden. "They're our voice carrying our complaints ... It's important that Puerto Ricans over there give us this opportunity."

Some who live on the island remain wary of the campaigning to influence Puerto Ricans on the mainland.

Omar Soto, a production supervisor whose brother lives in Lakeland, Florida, said the strategies are pointless.

"It seems like there's a tone of despair," he said, adding that he believes it could backfire. "I think it's disrespectful. We should have the option to vote for president."

Associated Press writer Danica Coto reported this story in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and AP writer Adriana Gomez Licon reported from Miami.

Despite past Democratic wins, Trump making a play for Nevada

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Democrats have kept Nevada in their column in every presidential election since 2004. In the 2018 midterm election, Democrats delivered a "blue wave," flipping a U.S. Senate seat and bolstering their dominance of the congressional delegation and Legislature.

But this year, political strategists and organizers warn Nevada is still a swing state. And it could swing.

"I don't know where this state goes," said Annette Magnus-Marquart, executive director of the Nevada progressive group Battle Born Progress. "Nevada is still a purple state. Nevada is still a battleground. No matter what your party is, you have to fight when you're running in this state."

President Donald Trump, who narrowly lost here in 2016, scheduled a rally Sunday night in Carson City, his second campaign visit to the state in as many months as the first big wave of voting kicks off.

Nevada's Democrat-controlled state government is automatically mailing ballots to all active registered

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 61 of 86

voters because of the coronavirus pandemic, but in-person voting that started Saturday is typically when most people vote. It's expected to remain a popular choice this year, with long lines forming at several sites Saturday.

Democrat Leigh Natale, a 65-year-old retired paralegal, waited outside a polling place tent set up in a parking lot south of the Las Vegas Strip. She called Trump "a crazy man" and said his handling of the pandemic "just exacerbated what was already a really horrible administration." A Joe Biden supporter, Natale said, "It's time we had some forward-looking policies and got back on track in this country."

Toward the back of the line, 55-year-old Tom Johnson, a corporate trainer who says he is an unaffiliated voter, was going to vote for the president. "He's doing better than anybody else could" in fighting the virus, Johnson said.

The pandemic has pummeled the tourism-dependent economy. The unemployment rate is the highest in the nation.

For the vaunted Democratic political machine, it's shifted in-person campaigning and knocking of voters' doors to a virtual effort for much of this year. Republicans only moved to a virtual format for a few months and have been working hard, with a staff twice as big as their 2016 effort. They're making inroads with a diverse electorate and trying to redirect economic frustrations away from the president and onto the state's Democratic governor, Steve Sisolak.

Though Trump lost Nevada in 2016, he performed better than Mitt Romney in 2012 or John McCain in 2008. The state also has a higher percentage of noncollege educated whites, who have made up the base of his electoral support, than in many other pivotal states, including Florida, Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Recent polls suggest that Biden is ahead in Nevada, though some show narrower margins than others. But the state has a strong independent streak and is notoriously difficult to poll. The hospitality industry, including the gambling-resort hub of Las Vegas, has a significant slice of night and shift workers and a highly transient population moving in, out and around the state.

Those same factors can make door-knocking particularly important for reaching and registering voters.

Since the spring, Republicans have consistently added more voters to their rolls than Democrats each month, narrowing their voter registration deficit in September to 5 percentage points — 1 point narrower than in 2016.

Biden's campaign has maintained that it can effectively organize digitally, but earlier this month it resumed door-to-door canvassing. The former vice president and his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, made their own visits to Las Vegas this month.

Rory McShane, a Nevada-based Republican political strategist, said the state has a strong populist presence and Republicans may benefit from voters who may be frustrated with Sisolak's virus-related restrictions and a hobbled state unemployment system that still has tens of thousands of residents who've been waiting for assistance since spring.

Democrats aren't buying that theory. They say the Trump administration's handling of the pandemic, the economic fallout and the president's disregard of his own government's health and safety guidelines will all hurt him.

William Jordan, 57, said as he waited to vote in Las Vegas on Saturday that the president has handled the crisis "very horribly," which added to Jordan's decision to vote for Biden.

Jordan, a Democrat who says he aligns with Republicans on economic issues, said he had recovered from COVID-19. His 82-year-old mother survived the virus but he has had two friends who have died from it.

Jordan also cited the president's rhetoric on race as one of the big reasons he's voting Democratic. "The country has been pulled apart so drastically and that makes me fearful for myself as a Black man and for my kids, growing up and just people in general," he said. "It's depressing, to be honest with you."

Trump's campaign has been courting the state's diverse demographic groups, including Black voters, a fast-growing population of Asian American and Pacific Islanders and Latinos, who make up 29% of the population.

In Nevada, Latinos in particular have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and make up almost

half of the state's confirmed coronavirus cases.

No group is more motivated than the 60,000-strong casino worker's Culinary Union. About half of the heavily Latino, heavily female union is currently out of work and 50 of its members or family members have died from COVID-19.

The union has endorsed Biden and says it has turned its political organizing and canvassing program on earlier than ever and bigger than ever, with 350 people currently in the field.

Geoconda Argüello-Kline, the union's secretary-treasurer, said her members will work "until the last minute to be sure we can get the last person to go vote," and feel "the only way we're going to get out from this mess is to remove President Trump."

Hardliner wins Turkish Cypriot leadership election

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A hardliner who won a Turkish Cypriot leadership election said Sunday he's ready to resume dormant talks aimed at ending Cyprus' 46-year ethnic division, as long as rival Greek Cypriots come to grips with Turkey's regional might.

Ersin Tatar, who favors fully aligning Turkish Cypriot policies with those of regional patron Turkey, said any peace accord should take into account the "realities" in and around the war-divided east Mediterranean island. Tatar spoke after defeating leftist incumbent Mustafa Akinci in a runoff.

"It won't be difficult to reach a settlement at the negotiating table if our friends the Greeks and Greek Cypriots properly analyze the strategic, economic and social balances in our region," Tatar told supporters during a victory speech in the Turkish Cypriot half of the Cypriot capital Nicosia.

"They should know that if they continue these intransigent attitudes, we won't give up our rights."

Tatar also urged the European Union and the United Nations to be "fair" and change tack on how to assist negotiations because their previous approach has failed.

"You will no longer ignore the rights of the Turkish Cypriot people," Tatar said.

Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Only Turkey recognizes a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north that is economically and militarily dependent on Ankara. The island's internationally recognized government has its seat in the Greek Cypriot south and is part of the 27-nation European Union.

Tatar, a 60-year-old scion of Turkish Cypriot political leaders, beat Akinci in the closely contested runoff that was beset by accusations of "unprecedented" meddling by Turkey in a bid to round up votes for the challenger.

Turkish Cypriot broadcaster BRT says with 100% of the votes counted, Tatar secured 51.74% of the vote compared to 48.26% for Akinci.

Akinci, 72, a champion of Turkish Cypriots who oppose Turkey's complete domination of their affairs and a backer of a federal deal with Greek Cypriots, conceded defeat to Tatar in a speech to supporters at his campaign headquarters, congratulating his opponent on his victory.

"We went through an election contest that wasn't normal ... These results mark the end of my 45-year political career," Akinci said. "I wish good luck to our people."

Tatar criticized those he said "accused the motherland of turning the election into a political tool" and expressed pride that "Turkey always stands by our side."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan took to his official Twitter account to congratulate Tatar for his election victory.

"Turkey will continue to make all necessary efforts to defend the rights of the Turkish Cypriot people," Erdogan said.

Nearly five decades of U.N. facilitated attempts at achieving reunification based on a federal framework have failed.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is expected to soon call a meeting to bring together the two sides and Cyprus' "guarantors" — Greece, Turkey and Britain — to scope out chances of resuming talks.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 63 of 86

A negotiations reboot could help ease soaring tensions in waters off Greece and Cyprus over sea boundaries and energy exploration rights after Turkey redeployed a research vessel near the Greek island of Kastellorizo.

Turkey insists it has every legal right to search for hydrocarbons in waters where Greece and Cyprus claim exclusive economic rights. The Greek and Cypriot governments accuse Turkey of violating international law. The dispute raised fears of a military conflict between Greece and Turkey, which are NATO members but are strong regional rivals.

Tatar told The Associated Press in an interview last month that tensions would fade if Greek Cypriots agreed to divide up Cyprus' territorial waters and drilling rights with Turkish Cypriots before formal peace talks resume.

He also shares the Turkish government view that a federation may not be the most viable option and alternatives such as a two-state deal should be pursued.

Earlier this month, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said Ankara wouldn't engage in peace talks if Greek Cypriots don't preemptively agree to equally share decision-making powers with the minority Turkish Cypriots on all levels of an envisioned federal government. He said the alternative would be to start talks on a two-state deal.

Analyst Tumay Tugyan said she expects peace talks to become markedly more complex with Tatar now at the helm.

But she said the Turkish Cypriot side had committed itself to a federal model in previous rounds of talks and that it would be difficult to shift that basis to something else.

Tugyan said what will noticeably change is the Turkish Cypriots' relationship with Turkey whose "interference" in their affairs "would get harsher than ever."

Is Facebook really ready for the 2020 election?

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

Ever since Russian agents and other opportunists abused its platform in an attempt to manipulate the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Facebook has insisted — repeatedly — that it's learned its lesson and is no longer a conduit for misinformation, voter suppression and election disruption.

But it has been a long and halting journey for the social network. Critical outsiders, as well as some of Facebook's own employees, say the company's efforts to revise its rules and tighten its safeguards remain wholly insufficient to the task, despite it having spent billions on the project. As for why, they point to the company's persistent unwillingness to act decisively over much of that time.

"Am I concerned about the election? I'm terrified," said Roger McNamee, a Silicon Valley venture capitalist and an early Facebook investor turned vocal critic. "At the company's current scale, it's a clear and present danger to democracy and national security."

The company's rhetoric has certainly gotten an update. CEO Mark Zuckerberg now casually references possible outcomes that were unimaginable in 2016 — among them, possible civil unrest and potentially a disputed election that Facebook could easily make even worse — as challenges the platform now faces.

"This election is not going to be business as usual," Zuckerberg wrote in a September Facebook post in which he outlined Facebook's efforts to encourage voting and remove misinformation from its service. "We all have a responsibility to protect our democracy."

Yet for years Facebook executives have seemed to be caught off guard whenever their platform — created to connect the world — was used for malicious purposes. Zuckerberg has offered multiple apologies over the years, as if no one could have predicted that people would use Facebook to live-stream murders and suicides, incite ethnic cleansings, promote fake cancer cures or attempt to steal elections.

While other platforms like Twitter and YouTube have also struggled to address misinformation and hateful content, Facebook stands apart for its reach and scale and, compared to many other platforms, its slower response to the challenges identified in 2016.

In the immediate aftermath of President Donald Trump's election, Zuckerberg offered a remarkably

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 64 of 86

tone-deaf quip regarding the notion that “fake news” spread on Facebook could have influenced the 2016 election, calling it “a pretty crazy idea.” A week later, he walked back the comment.

Since then, Facebook has issued a stream of mea culpas for its slowness to act against threats to the 2016 election and promised to do better. “I don’t think they have become better at listening,” said David Kirkpatrick, author of a book on Facebook’s rise. “What’s changed is more people have been telling them they need to do something.”

The company has hired outside fact-checkers, added restrictions — then more restrictions — on political advertisements and taken down thousands of accounts, pages and groups it found to be engaging in “coordinated inauthentic behavior.” That’s Facebook’s term for fake accounts and groups that maliciously target political discourse in countries ranging from Albania to Zimbabwe.

It’s also started added warning labels to posts that contain misinformation about voting and has, at times, taken steps to limit the circulation of misleading posts. In recent weeks the platform also banned posts that deny the Holocaust and joined Twitter in limiting the spread of an unverified political story about Hunter Biden, son of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, published by the conservative New York Post.

All this unquestionably puts Facebook in a better position than it was in four years ago. But that doesn’t mean it’s fully prepared. Despite tightened rules banning them, violent militias are still using the platform to organize. Recently, this included a foiled plot to kidnap the governor of Michigan.

In the four years since the last election, Facebook’s earnings and user growth have soared. This year, analysts expect the company to rake in profits of \$23.2 billion on revenue of \$80 billion, according to FactSet. It currently boasts 2.7 billion users worldwide, up from 1.8 billion at this time in 2016.

Facebook faces a number of government investigations into its size and market power, including an antitrust probe by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. An earlier FTC investigation socked Facebook with a large \$5 billion fine, but didn’t require any additional changes.

“Their No. 1 priority is growth, not reducing harm,” Kirkpatrick said. “And that is unlikely to change.”

Part of the problem: Zuckerberg maintains an iron grip on the company, yet doesn’t take criticism of him or his creation seriously, charges social media expert Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University communications professor. But the public knows what’s going on, they said. “They see COVID misinformation. They see how Donald Trump exploits it. They can’t unsee it.”

Facebook insists it takes the challenge of misinformation seriously — especially when it comes to the election.

“Elections have changed since 2016, and so has Facebook,” the company said in a statement laying out its policies on the election and voting. “We have more people and better technology to protect our platforms, and we’ve improved our content policies and enforcement.”

Grygiel says such comments are par for the course: “This company uses PR in place of an ethical business model.”

Kirkpatrick notes that board members and executives who have pushed back against the CEO — a group that includes the founders of Instagram and WhatsApp — have left the company.

“He is so certain that Facebook’s overall impact on the world is positive” and that critics don’t give him enough credit for that, Kirkpatrick said of Zuckerberg. As a result, the Facebook CEO isn’t inclined to take constructive feedback. “He doesn’t have to do anything he doesn’t want to. He has no oversight,” Kirkpatrick said.

The federal government has so far left Facebook to its own devices, a lack of accountability that has only empowered the company, according to U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a Washington Democrat who grilled Zuckerberg during a July Capitol Hill hearing.

Warning labels are of limited value if the algorithms underlying the platform are designed to push polarizing material at users, she said. “I think Facebook has done some things that indicate it understands its role. But it has been, in my opinion, far too little, too late.”

Israel, Bahrain sign deal establishing formal ties

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 65 of 86

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and Bahrain on Sunday agreed to establish formal diplomatic relations, making the small Gulf country the fourth Arab state to normalize ties with Israel.

The U.S.-brokered agreement capped a one-day visit by a high-level delegation of American and Israeli officials to Bahrain.

Bahrain joined the United Arab Emirates at a festive White House ceremony last month marking the "Abraham Accords," a pair of U.S.-brokered diplomatic pacts with Israel. While the UAE's deal with Israel formally established ties, the agreement with Bahrain was less detailed and included a mutual pledge to follow suit.

Sunday's visit appeared to complete that task, clearing the way for the countries to open embassies and exchange ambassadors in the coming months.

"It was indeed an historic visit, to start opening relations between both countries, to have fruitful bilateral relations in both fields," said Bahrain's foreign minister, Abdullatif al-Zayani, at the signing ceremony.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser, Meir Ben-Shabbat, led the delegations.

"Today we made the first formal step in bringing closer ties between the countries," Ben-Shabbat said. "We were accepted with open arms, with warmth and cordiality."

"This is an important step in stability in the region, in bring prosperity to all the people in the region and in the countries," added Mnuchin.

Israel's agreements with the UAE and Bahrain have marked diplomatic victories for the Trump administration and for Netanyahu.

But they have come under heavy criticism from the Palestinians, who have long counted on a unified Arab stance that recognition of Israel should come only after the Palestinians achieve an independent state of their own. The agreements reflect a shifting Middle East, in which shared concerns about Iran and business opportunities have overshadowed the Palestinian issue.

The Palestinians have severed ties with the White House, accusing it of being unfairly biased toward Israel. U.S. officials have in turn cultivated ties between Israel and Arab states, hoping to increase pressure on the Palestinians to reduce past demands in peace talks.

Bahraini civil society groups and opposition figures, already targeted in a yearslong crackdown on dissent, have also spoken out against normalization with Israel.

Israel's commercial El Al flight 973 — a nod to the international dialing code for Bahrain — flew through Saudi Arabia's airspace en route to Manama. Although Saudi Arabia has not normalized ties with Israel, it has signaled tacit support for the moves by its Gulf neighbors, which reflect shared concerns about Iran.

The El Al flight landed at Bahrain International Airport on Sunday afternoon. The kingdom's state-owned television channels did not carry the arrival live. Bahrain's state-run news agency later published pictures of the arrival, acknowledging the Israeli officials were there to sign documents "establishing diplomatic relations between the kingdom of Bahrain and the state of Israel, in addition to a number of memoranda of understanding in the areas of joint cooperation."

In a rare recording, the Islamic State group condemned the move toward normalization with Israel, identifying the UAE and Bahrain and also accusing Saudi Arabia of showing "subservience to crusaders" and Jews.

"Here now, the Jews have come to you and are walking freely in your streets and countries, feeling safe and secure with approval from your tyrants and supported by your edicts," said the group's spokesman, Abu Hamza al-Qurayshi. He also called for attacks to undermine the Saudi economy.

It was the first recording by al-Qurayshi in about a year.

Egypt and Jordan are the only other two Arab states to sign diplomatic treaties with Israel, in 1979 and 1994, respectively. Other Arab countries could follow suit, with analysts and insiders pointing to Sudan, Oman and Morocco as possibilities.

The trip to Bahrain on Sunday also came as U.N. arms embargoes on Iran expired despite American objections. Bahrain, like several other Gulf Arab nations, views Iran as the most serious threat to its se-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 66 of 86

curity in the Persian Gulf.

The Israeli delegation was slated to fly back to Tel Aviv later Sunday, while the Americans will head to the UAE before flying to Israel on Tuesday.

Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb contributed from Beirut.

PG&E lacked basic training before California blackouts

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE and JUSTIN PRITCHARD Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — When Pacific Gas & Electric cut power to large swaths of wildfire-prone Northern California last fall, few of the emergency personnel managing the blackouts for the nation's largest utility had learned the fundamentals of managing an emergency in their home state.

The utility entered 2019 planning to "de-energize" its aging electric grid during autumn windstorms, so that downed lines couldn't spark a blaze. Yet among the hundreds of people who handled the blackouts from PG&E's emergency operations center, only a handful had any training in the disaster response play-book that California has used for a generation, The Associated Press found.

Predictably enough, the October 2019 outages brought chaos from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Sierra Nevada, as more than 2 million people lost power.

Computers went dark, phones stopped working as did gas pumps, elevators, traffic lights, water pumps, stoves, medical devices — the list seemed endless.

Fast forward to this fall. PG&E's catchphrase for the blackouts is "smaller, shorter, smarter." By many accounts, the three power shutoffs so far have indeed been smoother.

That improvement reflects more than just infrastructure upgrades and a year to finetune. Chastened by its failures and required by state regulators, PG&E sought the training it had neglected.

As its name suggests, the Standardized Emergency Management System helps institutions as different as a massive utility and a rural county enter a public disaster with a built-in plan. The blueprint covers a range of issues, including how to share information and how to structure emergency operation centers. It also creates a common vocabulary -- an important tool given the collision of jargon and acronyms when jurisdictions converge.

Responding to a disaster requires improvisation, much like a jazz band performance, said Chris Godley, director of emergency management in fire-besieged Sonoma County. An untrained PG&E last year was like having a stranger come to the show with their instrument, "walk onto the stage and just jump into the middle of the song."

That might work if the new player has skills. When it came to emergency management, PG&E did not.

Others likened the dynamic to a team that shows up without knowing the rules of the game, or an aircraft pilot who doesn't communicate with air traffic control.

The revelation of just how unprepared the utility was comes as PG&E tries to repair damage done by a decade of criminal recklessness and cover-ups that culminated in wildfires which killed more than 140 people and destroyed nearly 28,000 homes and other buildings. PG&E spent 17 months in bankruptcy court hashing out \$25.5 billion in settlements to pay for the devastation it wreaked.

Hoping to avoid even more calamity, PG&E embraced training, turning to state experts for online sessions that introduce the Standardized Emergency Management System. During 2020, about 90% of the 676 workers in its emergency centers have completed the required initial training, the utility told AP in a statement.

"We've already seen the value of this transition," according to the statement, "and expect to continue evolving our maturity as we move through the remaining phases of training."

The Standardized Emergency Management System grew from a catastrophic 1991 fire that raged through the Oakland hills, across the bay from PG&E's San Francisco headquarters.

Paralyzed by inadequate planning, first responders from dozens of jurisdictions fought confusion, broken or overloaded communication channels, and bottlenecks on narrow streets as they tried to tame the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 67 of 86

flames. More than 3,000 homes burned and 25 people were killed.

Breakdowns in the response were for California what 9/11 would be a decade later for emergency communications systems -- a catalyst event to organize before disaster strikes.

Yet instead of learning California's long-established language and customs, when PG&E started contemplating in 2018 how to handle intentional blackouts it developed its own emergency management curriculum, one tailored to the utility industry.

That contrasted with training requirements at California's two next largest utilities -- Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric.

San Diego Gas & Electric considers the Standardized Emergency Management System "absolutely foundational" during intentional blackouts, said Augie Ghio, a former firefighter who is now the company's director of emergency management.

"Everyone has been trained in it, so there is no confusion when we pull the trigger," Ghio said.

PG&E has described San Diego Gas & Electric as its role model for managing planned outages.

Yet in an answer PG&E gave in January as part of legal discovery amid a state investigation into the 2019 blackouts, the utility described its standards like this: "While PG&E typically staffs certain EOC (emergency operations center) roles with individuals having prior emergency management experience, there are currently no positions within the EOC organization structure that require prior emergency management experience, qualifications, or certification."

In its statement to AP, the utility said "several" emergency management specialists and leaders had -- on their own -- studied the Standardized Emergency Management System prior to this year. Asked for a specific number, PG&E did not answer.

PG&E's ignorance of basic protocols was "hugely significant" last year, according to a top official at the state agency that regulates utilities and is conducting the investigation.

"Everybody was basically acting as co-pilots to them because they couldn't manage it," said Rachel Peterson, acting executive director of the California Public Utilities Commission. "The lawyers were playing a big role, which is not what you want in an emergency."

While the commission's investigation may stretch into next year, according to recently filed documents, state officials immediately concluded that PG&E needed to ensure all its emergency personnel were trained.

The fact that they were not was "a staggering failure of common sense," said Megan Somogyi, an attorney representing a coalition of local governments which have pressed state regulators to hold PG&E accountable.

Somogyi likened the complexity of managing intentional outages to launching an astronaut. In this case, without consulting experts who have done it many times before.

"You're not going to use any of NASA's research, or their launch pad," she said. "You are going to build a rocket in your backyard and try to send somebody to space."

Pritchard reported from Los Angeles. Contact him at <https://twitter.com/lalanewsman>.

Michigan governor pushes back against Trump rally chants

DETROIT (AP) — Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Sunday that President Donald Trump is inciting "domestic terrorism" following "lock her up" chants at his rally in the state the night before.

Whitmer told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the rhetoric is "incredibly disturbing" a little more than a week after authorities announced they had thwarted an alleged plot to kidnap the Democratic governor.

"The president is at it again and inspiring and incentivizing and inciting this kind of domestic terrorism," Whitmer said. "It is wrong. It's got to end. It is dangerous, not just for me and my family, but for public servants everywhere who are doing their jobs and trying to protect their fellow Americans. People of good will on both sides of the aisle need to step up and call this out and bring the heat down."

At a rally in Muskegon Saturday evening, Trump urged supporters to push Whitmer to reopen the state following COVID-19 restrictions. When the crowd starting chanting "lock her up" Trump added, "Lock 'em

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 68 of 86

all up.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, speaking on ABC’s “This Week,” said Trump’s statements were “irresponsible” and accused him of injecting fear tactics.

Several Republican and Trump campaign officials appeared on Sunday news shows to defend the president. “He wasn’t doing anything, I don’t think, to provoke people to threaten this woman at all. He was having fun at a Trump rally, and, quite frankly, there are bigger issues than this right now for everyday Americans,” Lara Trump, the president’s daughter-in-law and a senior campaign advisor, said on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

Democrats have sought to tie Trump to the alleged plot against Whitmer, pointing to the president’s tweet earlier this year to “LIBERATE MICHIGAN!” after Whitmer restricted personal movement and the economy in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Michigan — particularly the Detroit area — was hit hard early during the pandemic. Many of the limits have since been lifted.

Authorities allege members of two anti-government paramilitary groups took part in plotting Whitmer’s kidnapping, although some were charged under federal law and others under state law. Six men, led by Adam Fox of the Michigan III%ers, are charged in federal court with conspiring to kidnap her. Eight others who are believed to be members or associates of a group called the Wolverine Watchmen are charged in state court with counts including providing material support for terrorist acts.

Some of the Wolverine Watchmen are accused of planning other violent crimes, such as storming the Michigan Capitol building and attacking law enforcement officers.

Plan to retrieve Titanic radio spurs debate on human remains

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — People have been diving to the Titanic’s wreck for 35 years. No one has found human remains, according to the company that owns the salvage rights.

But the company’s plan to retrieve the ship’s iconic radio equipment has sparked a debate: Could the world’s most famous shipwreck still hold remains of passengers and crew who died a century ago?

Lawyers for the U.S. government have raised that question in an ongoing court battle to block the planned expedition. They cite archaeologists who say remains could still be there. And they say the company fails to consider the prospect in its dive plan.

“Fifteen hundred people died in that wreck,” said Paul Johnston, curator of maritime history at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. “You can’t possibly tell me that some human remains aren’t buried deep somewhere where there are no currents.”

The company, RMS Titanic Inc., wants to exhibit the ship’s Marconi wireless telegraph machine. It broadcast the sinking ocean liner’s distress calls and helped save about 700 people in lifeboats.

Retrieving the equipment would require an unmanned submersible to slip through a skylight or cut into a heavily corroded roof on the ship’s deck. A suction dredge would remove loose silt, while manipulator arms could cut electrical cords.

RMS Titanic Inc. says human remains likely would’ve been noticed after roughly 200 dives.

“It’s not like taking a shovel to Gettysburg,” said David Gallo, an oceanographer and company adviser. “And there’s an unwritten rule that, should we see human remains, we turn off the cameras and decide what to do next.”

The dispute stems from a larger debate over how the Titanic’s victims should be honored, and whether an expedition should be allowed to enter its hull.

In May, a federal judge in Norfolk, Virginia, approved the expedition.

U.S. District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith wrote that recovering the radio “will contribute to the legacy left by the indelible loss of the Titanic, those who survived, and those who gave their lives.”

But the U.S. government filed a legal challenge in June, claiming the undertaking would violate federal law and a pact with Britain recognizing the wreck as a memorial site. U.S. attorneys argue the agreement regulates entry into the wreck to ensure its hull, artifacts and “any human remains” are undisturbed.

The case is pending before the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 69 of 86

The Titanic was traveling from England to New York in 1912 when it struck an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic. The wreck was discovered in 1985.

Over the years, explorers have sent remotely operated vehicles into parts of the ship. During his 2001 expedition, film director James Cameron surveyed the area in a deckhouse that holds the telegraph equipment, according to court documents filed by the company.

People on both sides of the human-remains debate claim the issue is being played down — or up — to support an argument.

RMS Titanic Inc. President Bretton Hunchak told The Associated Press the government's position is based on emotion rather than science.

"Issues like this are used simply to raise public support," Hunchak said. "It creates a visceral reaction for everybody."

The firm is the court-recognized steward of Titanic artifacts, overseeing thousands of items including silverware, china and gold coins.

"This company has always treated the wreck as both an archaeological site and a grave site with reverence and respect," Hunchak said. "And that doesn't change whether in fact human remains could possibly exist."

Gallo said remnants of those who died likely disappeared decades ago.

Sea creatures would've eaten away flesh because protein is scarce in the deep ocean, and bones dissolve at great ocean depths because of seawater's chemistry, Gallo said. The Titanic sits about 2.4 miles (3.8 kilometers) below the surface.

Yet whale bones have been discovered at similar depths, as were human remains on a 2009 Air France plane that crashed into the Atlantic.

"But generally that doesn't happen," said Gallo, who previously worked at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and has been involved in several Titanic expeditions.

Archaeologists who filed court statements supporting the government's case said there must be human remains, and questioned the motives of those casting doubts.

Johnston wrote to the court that remains could be "within the confines of the wreck or outside in the debris field" in areas lacking oxygen.

In an interview, Johnston said the company doesn't want "anyone to be thinking about human remains. They want people to think, 'Oh cool. I have new artifacts to show the public.'"

David Conlin, chief of the National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center, also filed a statement against the expedition.

Conlin told AP "it would be scientifically astounding if there were not human remains still onboard that ship."

He said wrecks older than the Titanic have contained remnants of crew or passengers.

Eight sailors' remains were discovered on the H.L. Hunley, a Confederate submarine that sank in 1864. And human bones were found at a first-century B.C. freighter wreck near the Greek island of Antikythera.

"Very deep, cold, low-oxygen water is an incredible preservative," Conlin said. "The human remains that we would expect to find are going to be in the interior spaces that are more difficult to access, where the preservation will be both tragic and spectacular."

AP Top 25: Clemson remains overwhelming No. 1 over Alabama

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Clemson easily held off Alabama on Sunday to retain the No. 1 spot in The Associated Press college football poll, extending its longest run atop the poll to seven weeks.

The Crimson Tide ran away from Georgia on Saturday night to make the case to be No. 1, but it wasn't enough to topple the Tigers.

Clemson defended its turf with a historic blowout against Georgia Tech. The 66-point rout was the largest ever in an Atlantic Coast Conference football game. Clemson received 54 first-place votes out of 62 from the panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 70 of 86

The Crimson Tide got the remaining eight first-place votes. Notre Dame moved up to a season-high No. 3, No. 4 Georgia dropped one spot and Ohio State moved up to No. 5 a week before the Big Ten starts playing.

Clemson has been No. 1 since the preseason. The Tigers have been top-ranked 23 times in school history but never more than five times in a season before this year.

North Carolina took a big fall, dropping nine spots to No. 14 after losing at Florida State.

Oklahoma State is No. 6, with Texas A&M, Penn State, Cincinnati and Florida rounding out the top 10.

POLL POINTS

When it comes to winning games against ranked teams, Alabama coach Nick Saban is the best ever.

Even before beating Georgia, Saban held the record for most victories against AP top-five teams (now 25) and top-10 teams (now 42). Saban's latest victory was his 86th, tying Penn State's Joe Paterno for the most of all time.

Saban has benefitted from having his coaching career come at a time when the rankings extend to 25 teams, as opposed to 20, which was the case for the front end of Paterno's 46-year career. The average number of games played in a college football season is also longer now than ever before.

But it took Saban only 25 seasons and 318 total games to match what Paterno did in 548 games. It might be a while before Saban gets a chance to break the tie. Alabama does not currently have another ranked team left on its schedule.

MOVING IN

Unbeaten Coastal Carolina is ranked for the first time in the program's short history. The Chanticleers from Conway, South Carolina, joined the FBS in 2017.

They beat Sun Belt rival Louisiana-Lafayette last Wednesday to improve to 4-0. The loss knocked the Ragin' Cajuns out of the Top 25, but it still has been a banner year for the Sun Belt. The conference has had three of its teams ranked at one point or another. Never before had more than one Sun Belt team been ranked in any season.

— No. 22 Marshall moved back into the rankings. The unbeaten Thundering Herd were ranked in September, got bumped by the return of Big Ten and Pac-12 teams but have played their way back in.

— No. 23 North Carolina State is ranked for the first time since 2018.

MOVING OUT

Joining Louisiana-Lafayette in falling from the rankings were two SEC teams. Auburn and Tennessee both suffered a second loss of the season and dropped from the Top 25 for the first time.

CONFERENCE CALL

ACC — 6 (Nos. 1, 3, 11, 14(t), 19, 23).

Big Ten — 5 (Nos. 5, 8, 14(t), 18, 21).

SEC — 4 (Nos. 2, 4, 7, 10).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 6, 17, 20).

Pac-12 — 2 (Nos. 13, 24).

American — 2 (Nos. 9, 16).

Conference USA — 1 (No. 22).

Sun Belt — 1 (No. 25).

Independent — 1 (No. 12).

RANKED vs. RANKED

— No. 23 North Carolina State at No. 14 North Carolina. The first time since 1993, and just the third time ever, the Research Triangle rivals will both be ranked when they meet.

— No. 17 Iowa State at No. 6 Oklahoma State. Two of the three Big 12 teams that don't already have a conference loss.

— No. 18 Michigan at No. 21 Minnesota. Season opens for the Big Ten with the battle for the Little Brown Jug.

— No. 9 Cincinnati at No. 16 SMU. The AAC's remaining unbeaten square off — hopefully. Cincinnati's game last week had to be postponed because of positive COVID-19 tests within the program.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 71 of 86

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://westwoodonepodcasts.com/pods/ap-top-25-college-football-podcast/>

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Policy vs. personality: Undecideds torn as election nears

By JILL COLVIN and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amanda Jaronowski is torn. The lifelong Republican from suburban Cleveland supports President Donald Trump's policies and fears her business could be gutted if Democrat Joe Biden is elected.

But she abhors Trump personally, leaving her on the fence about who will get her vote.

It's a "moral dilemma," Jaronowski said as she paced her home one recent evening after pouring a glass of sauvignon blanc. "It would be so easy for him to win my vote if he could just be a decent human being," she had said earlier during a focus group session.

Jaronowski is part of a small but potentially significant group of voters who say they remain truly undecided less than three weeks before the Nov. 3 election. They have been derided as uninformed or lying by those who cannot fathom still being undecided, but conversations with a sampling of these voters reveal a complicated tug of war.

Many, like Jaronowski, are longtime Republicans wrestling with what they see as a choice between two lousy candidates: a Democrat whose policies they cannot stomach and a Republican incumbent whose personality revolts them. Some voted for third-party candidates in 2016 because they were so repelled by their choices — Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton — and may do so again.

While polls show there are far fewer on-the-fence voters this year than the unusually high number in 2016, the Trump and Biden campaigns each believes it still can win over numbers that matter.

Among those people is John Welton, 40, a Presbyterian minister from Winfield, Kansas, who has spent much of his career moving from parish to parish. His political views, he said, have been shaped in part by watching how trade deals have hurt once-vibrant manufacturing communities and his congregants' livelihoods, as well as by his own "pro-Second Amendment" views.

Welton said he is turned off by Biden's support for tighter gun restrictions. But he is also put off by Trump's bullying and demeaning of opponents on Twitter and his divisive rhetoric.

On the other hand, Welton has been pleasantly surprised that Trump has made good on his campaign pledge to bring U.S. troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan, though thousands still remain.

In 2016, Welton ended up voting for Clinton, but barely. He circled the block at his polling place before making a decision. This year, he's hoping a second debate will offer him some clarity.

"I remain pretty swayable," he said.

Cathy Badalamenti, 69, an independent from Lombard, Illinois, is also struggling with her vote once again. In 2016, she voted for a third-party candidate after twice supporting Democrat Barack Obama.

"I'm not happy with anybody," she said of her choices this time. That's especially hard in a family of ardent Trump supporters who have balked at her indecision.

"Believe me, my son, my kids are looking at me and thinking, 'How can you not like Trump?!'" she said, describing difficult Sunday night dinners where she tries to redirect the conversation from politics to the Cubs.

Badalamenti credits Trump for a booming economy before the pandemic but she's turned off by his knee-jerk reactions, worried about his interactions with world leaders, and feels he should think more before he speaks and tweets.

Biden worries her, too: "I think he's trying to make a good effort but at the same time he doesn't know what's — he's only being told what's going on."

Longtime Republican pollster Frank Luntz, who has been running focus groups with undecided voters

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 72 of 86

throughout the election, including one Thursday night that included Jaronowski, sees a common refrain among many of the undecideds.

"They're judging on two completely different attributes and they can't decide which is more important to them," he said. "They don't like Trump as a person, but they don't feel badly about his administration or his policies. They really like Joe Biden as a person, but they are so nervous about what he's going to do if he were elected. And so they can't figure out which is more important to them."

With two historically unpopular candidates, the 2016 race produced unusually large numbers of voters — double digits on the eve of the election — who told pollsters they were either undecided or planned to vote for third-party candidates. Many of those voters rallied around Trump in the final weeks of the campaign, helping to hand him his unexpected victory.

Polls suggest there are far fewer on-the-fence voters this time around, but both campaigns believe they have the edge in an election where every vote could count.

"Frankly, I like our chances with them because President Trump has delivered results," said Nick Trainer, Trump's director of battleground strategy. He said that just like in 2016, those who identify as undecided tend to be right-leaning and support conservative policies such as lower taxes and a strong military.

Biden's campaign, which is ahead in polls nationally and a number of battleground states, voices similar optimism and argues those who are undecided historically break for the challenger.

Having so few undecided voters to move "is problematic if your candidate is not leading," said Becca Siegel, the campaign's chief analytics officer. She adds that the campaign's focus on unity and bringing the country together is "extremely persuasive to this group."

The Biden campaign has hope of winning over people like Jaronowski, a guidance counselor who comes from a family of lifelong Republicans.

Jaronowski, 37, who lives in Independence, Ohio, said she ended up supporting Clinton. Jaronowski said she was repulsed by Trump, whom she said she hates "with the fire of a thousand suns." But it was hard nonetheless.

This year, though she opposes Democratic policies, she has deep respect for Biden, whom she calls "a very good man."

But she and her husband own a consumer debt-buying company and fear that a President Biden could cancel that debt, which amounts to tens of millions of dollars.

"Voting in Biden, that's a very scary thing personally," she said, adding that the decision would be far easier if she didn't think he was such a good person.

Others are making their own calculations.

Sam Hillyer, 35, who lives in Fayetteville in northwest Arkansas, voted for third-party candidate Gary Johnson in 2016.

This time, he said, "it's down to either Donald Trump, Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian candidate, or possibly not voting in the presidential and voting for the other candidates." Hillyer, a dispatcher for a trucking company, has written off Biden, convinced the Democrat would raise taxes and take a more interventionist approach to foreign policy and, he said, it "doesn't help with all the new kind of shady scandals popping up."

Hillyer said he closely aligns with Jorgensen on most issues, but rejects the candidate's support for abortion rights.

Living in a strongly Republican state, he said, gives him more freedom than if he lived in a battleground state whose electoral votes are up for grabs, in which case he would vote for Trump without hesitation to try to stop Biden.

For now, he said, "I go back and forth maybe a couple times a day."

Tracye Stewart, 49, of Richmond, Virginia, is certain a Biden victory would lead to more government restrictions in the fight against the coronavirus and exact unnecessary economic pain.

Stewart, a faithful Republican voter, said that while Trump "hasn't done anything spectacular" in his first term, he also has not "made the country worse."

But Stewart's ballot remains on her desk at home unfilled.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 73 of 86

Her sometimes tearful conversations with a friend she's known since 3rd grade have given her pause. Her friend raises concerns about Trump's embrace of QAnon, an unfounded conspiracy theory, and argues that white supremacy is on the rise under the president.

Stewart, who works for a helicopter charter management company, said: "If I voted for Biden it wouldn't be for myself, it would be for my friend."

Madhani reported from Chicago.

Most US clergy avoid hellfire threats over abortion politics

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

James Altman is a Roman Catholic priest in Wisconsin, little known outside his parish until a few weeks ago. Robert Jeffress is the high-profile pastor of a Baptist megachurch in Dallas. They have a message in common for members of their faiths: Voting for Democrats who support abortion rights is an evil potentially deserving of eternal damnation.

Their fierce, openly partisan rhetoric is attention-grabbing, but it remains the exception in America's diverse religious landscape, even in this divisive election year. Most members of the clergy, including foes of abortion, steer clear of overt endorsements or denunciations of political candidates. Numerous denominations try to frame their stance on abortion in ways that respect multiple viewpoints.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for example, has adhered for three decades to a nuanced policy aimed at respecting churchgoers on all sides of the debate.

"We say that abortion should be seen as a path of last resort, but we defend a woman's right to make decisions over her own body," said Bishop Paul Egensteiner, who heads the ELCA's Metropolitan New York Synod.

The National Association of Evangelicals, which represents about 45,000 churches, declares in a policy statement that it "actively, ardently and unwaveringly opposes abortion on demand," but simultaneously appeals for civility.

"We do not dismiss those who advocate for legal access to abortion as unconcerned for human life or unworthy of our respect and attention," it says.

Such stances and tones differ sharply from those offered recently by Altman and Jeffress.

"You cannot be Catholic and be a Democrat," Altman said in a YouTube video, admonishing people to "repent of your support of that party and its platform or face the fires of hell." His comments were criticized by many Catholics, while endorsed by some others, such as Bishop Joseph Strickland of the Tyler, Texas, diocese.

Jeffress, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas and a close ally of Donald Trump, employs similarly strong language in denouncing the president's opponent.

"As long as Joe Biden and the Democratic Party continue to support unrestricted abortion for any reason and at any stage in a pregnancy, priests and pastors like myself will have no problem saying, 'Only Christians who have sold their soul to the devil would vote for Joe Biden,'" Jeffress said via email.

Jeffress' church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination. Its leadership adopted a stringent anti-abortion stance nearly 40 years ago that remains in place.

Daniel Patterson, a vice president of the Southern Baptists' public policy arm, said most of the denomination's pastors don't engage in partisan politics from the pulpit, although they're free to address abortion and other issues as they see fit.

The Rev. Kevin Smith, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware and one of the SBC's highest-ranking Black leaders, criticized Christians who stress their opposition to abortion while minimizing the problem of racism, and objected to the partisanship making inroads in some churches.

"While too many so-called pastors wait for the morning talking points from their chosen political party, too many are failing at an essential pastoral task," he tweeted last month.

Earlier this month, the National Association of Evangelicals issued a statement repenting for shortcomings

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 74 of 86

in combating poverty and racial inequality. It pledged to "resist being co-opted by political agendas" and to uphold a "comprehensive pro-life ethic that protects both the unborn and the vulnerable of all ages."

The association's president, the Rev. Walter Kim, said many NAE pastors preach about various policies but most avoid political endorsements.

One NAE board member, the Rev. Mitch Hescox, is CEO of the Evangelical Environmental Network, which urges pastors to broaden the concept of "pro-life" so it encompasses efforts to protect the environment.

"It would behoove pastors to be caring about people, rather than taking up politics," Hescox said. "We're supposed to be a voice for our values and not choose sides."

Some mainline Protestant denominations have official positions supporting reproductive rights.

Access to abortion, says a 2018 Episcopal Church resolution, "is an integral part of a woman's struggle to assert her dignity and worth."

The United Church of Christ has a similar policy. Its president, the Rev. John Dorhauer, said he's angered by warnings from some pastors that churchgoers risk betraying their faith with their political choices.

"Telling a member with a conscience and moral agency that a vote for a particular party or candidate is a violation of one's faith is, in my humble opinion, unethical and immoral," he said.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known for its conservative social views, says abortions "for personal or social convenience" violate church teachings and can lead to excommunication.

However, the church says exceptional circumstances may justify some abortions, such as when pregnancy results from incest or rape or a woman's health is at risk.

Matthew Bowman, a professor of history and religion at Claremont Graduate University, said most of that church's members oppose abortion but its leaders have not used the issue as a political rallying cry.

In Judaism, America's largest non-Christian faith, abortion hasn't been as politicized as in Christian denominations. Both the Conservative and Reform branches say abortion is acceptable under various circumstances, and the decision is up to the woman involved.

Orthodox Jews are more open to restrictions on elective abortions, said Rabbi Avi Shafran, spokesman for Agudath Israel of America,

But his Orthodox umbrella organization "would not support any law that gives an unborn child 'personhood', since Jewish religious law does counsel abortion in some rare cases," Shafran said via email. "We would, though, like to see abortion treated with greater gravity, as more than a mere 'woman's choice.'"

For many Muslim Americans, abortion is "essentially a non-issue," according to Atiya Aftab, who chairs the Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University.

"From the formative days of Islamic Law over 1,000 years ago, classical scholars took varied positions on abortion from its permissibility to its prohibition," she said via email.

More recent Islamic scholars have issued diverse rulings, including on when life begins. Abortion is generally frowned on if poverty is the motive, but accepted if a woman's health is at risk.

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

French premier joins nationwide tributes to beheaded teacher

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's prime minister joined demonstrators on Sunday who rallied together across the country in tribute to a history teacher who was beheaded near Paris after discussing caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad with his class.

The demonstrations came hours after U.S. President Donald Trump sent France a message of solidarity in the wake of the attack.

Samuel Paty was beheaded on Friday in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine by a 18-year-old Moscow-born Chechen refugee who was shot dead by police.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 75 of 86

French Prime Minister Jean Castex stood with citizens, associations and unions demonstrating Sunday on the Place de la Republique in Paris in support of freedom of speech and in memory of the 47-year-old slain teacher.

Some held placards reading "I am Samuel" that echoed the "I am Charlie" rallying cry after the 2015 attack on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which published caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. A moment's silence was observed across the square, broken by applause and a rousing rendition of La Marseillaise, the French national anthem.

Demonstrators also gathered in major cities including Lyon, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Nantes, Marseille, Lille and Bordeaux.

French authorities, meanwhile, say they have detained an 11th person following the killing.

Anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said an investigation for murder with a suspected terrorist motive was opened. At least four of those detained are family members of the attacker, who had been granted 10-year residency in France as a refugee in March, was armed with a knife and an airsoft gun, which fires plastic pellets.

His half-sister joined the Islamic State group in Syria in 2014, Ricard said. He didn't give her name, and it wasn't clear where she is now.

The prosecutor said a text claiming responsibility and a photograph of the victim were found on the suspect's phone. He also confirmed that a Twitter account under the name Abdoulakh A belonged to the suspect. It posted a photo of the decapitated head minutes after the attack along with the message "I have executed one of the dogs from hell who dared to put Muhammad down."

The beheading has upset moderate French Muslims and a group of imams in the Lyon region are holding a special meeting Sunday to discuss what the group called "the appalling assassination of our compatriot by a terrorist who in the name of an uncertain faith committed the irreparable."

The head of the world's largest body of Muslim-majority nations has also condemned the killing. In a statement Sunday by the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the office of the general secretary, Yousef al-Othaimen, reiterated the OIC's "well-known position of rejecting all forms of extremism, radicalization and terrorism for any reason or motive."

The attack has provoked a strong international rebuke. U.S. President Donald Trump addressed the killing Saturday night from a political rally in Janesville, Wisconsin.

"On behalf of the United States, I'd like to extend my really sincere condolences to a friend of mine, President (Emmanuel) Macron of France, where they just yesterday had a vicious, vicious Islamic terrorist attack — beheading an innocent teacher near Paris," he said. "France is having a hard time and Macron's a great guy."

Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

Afghans say preventing next war as vital as ending this one

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — At a Kabul museum honoring Afghanistan's war victims, talking to visitors reveals just how many layers and generations of pain and grief have piled up during four decades of unrelenting conflict.

Fakhria Hayat recalled an attack that changed her family forever. It was 1995, and the Afghan capital was under siege, pounded by rockets fired by rival mujahedeen groups. Her world exploded: A rocket slammed into her yard, killing her brother and leaving her sister forever in a wheelchair.

Danish Habibi was just a child in 2000 when the Taliban overran his village in Afghanistan's serene Bamiyan Valley. His memories of those days are reoccurring nightmares. Men were forcibly separated from wives and children. Dozens were killed. Habibi's father disappeared only to return a beaten, broken man, never able to work again. Habibi wonders how he will be able to accept peace with the Taliban.

Reyhana Hashimi told of how her 15-year-old sister, Atifa, was killed by Afghan security forces. It was

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 76 of 86

2018. Atifa had left home to take her exams, only to get entangled in a demonstration protesting the arrest of a Hazara leader. Afghan forces opened fire on protesters.

"They shot my sister right in the heart," Hashimi said. "No one from the government even came to apologize. They tried to say she was a protester. She wasn't. She just wanted to write her exams."

Today, those accumulated, unresolved grievances cast a long shadow on the intra-Afghan negotiations underway in the Gulf nation of Qatar.

Washington signed a deal with the Taliban in February to pave the way for the Doha talks and American forces' eventual withdrawal. The Americans championed the deal as Afghanistan's best chance at a lasting peace.

Afghans are not so sure. They say preventing the next war is as vital as ending the current one.

Afghanistan has been at war for more than 40 years. First was the Soviet invasion in 1979 and nine years of fighting. The Soviet withdrawal opened a bitter civil war in which mujahedeen factions tore the country apart battling for power and killing more than 50,000 people until the Taliban took over in 1996. The militants' repressive rule lasted until the U.S.-led invasion in 2001. Ever since, the country has been bloodied by insurgency.

"We must understand that there has been suffering on all sides, all Afghans have suffered at different times," Hamid Karzai, the first democratically elected president after the Taliban's collapse, said in an interview in Kabul.

"Everyone has done (their) part, unfortunately, in bringing suffering to our people and to our country," said Karzai, who left office in 2014 after serving two terms. "No one can (point) a finger toward someone to say you've done it."

But individual Afghans can. They know who caused tragedies to their families.

Hayat, one of those visiting the Kabul Center for Memory and Dialogue on a recent day, said the rockets that killed her younger brother and maimed her sister 25 years ago were fired by the men of warlord Abdul Rasul Sayyaf.

Sayyaf was notorious for his ties to al-Qaida in the 1990s and was the inspiration for the Philippine terrorist group, Abu Sayyaf. He is also a powerful politician in post-Taliban Afghanistan, often seen at meetings with Karzai's successor, President Ashraf Ghani.

Mujahedeen warlords like Sayyaf have remained powerful since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion and head heavily armed factions. They include men like Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who was on the U.S. terrorist list until he signed a 2017 peace pact with Ghani's government, and Uzbek warlord Marshal Rashid Dostum, who has been implicated in a litany of human rights crimes.

In the immediate aftermath of the Taliban's 2001 defeat, revenge attacks multiplied, and ethnic Pashtuns, who made up the backbone of the Taliban, were initially harassed and persecuted when they went back to their villages.

As a result, many eventually returned to the mountains or fled to safe havens in neighboring Pakistan. That allowed the Taliban to regroup. Today, the insurgent group is at its strongest since 2001, controlling or holding sway over nearly half of the country.

Even if an intra-Afghan deal is reached, many Afghans fear that the country's many factions, including the Taliban, will fight for power if U.S. and NATO troops leave.

Under Washington's deal with the Taliban, U.S. troops are to withdraw by April, 2021, providing that the Taliban honor their promise to fight terrorist groups, most notably the Islamic State affiliate. Trump recently surprised his military by upping the withdrawal date to the end of the year.

"Unfortunately, each time we've had a change, someone has tried to take power. It doesn't work. It hasn't worked," said Karzai. "So let's learn our lessons and move forward."

"The day after peace, we must recognize that all Afghans belong to this country ... that this Afghanistan belongs to each individual of this country, and that we must live as citizens of this country," said Karzai. "Only then can we live in a country that looks toward a better future."

So far, there's little sign of that happening. Thousands of Taliban prisoners recently released as part of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 77 of 86

the peace process have already faced revenge attacks, assassinations and abductions, as well as harassment from local officials.

One released prisoner, Muslim Afghan, said he rarely leaves his home in Kabul for fear of retaliation. He doesn't remember Taliban rule — he was only in the second grade when they were overthrown. But his elders had been senior Taliban members and because of them, the rest of the family was harassed. He said he never joined the Taliban but was arrested in 2014 because of his family connections.

Danish Habibi, who still has nightmares about a Taliban attack, doesn't know how he can forgive.

"If you are from a family with a victim how will you trust that peace will come," he said. He wants victims to sit at the negotiating table — victims of the Taliban, of the mujahedeen, of every side. "They should all have to speak to the victims."

For Abdullah Abdullah, who heads Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, the body tasked with striking a peace deal with the Taliban, negotiating has been an emotional struggle to control his anger at the casualties of the last 19 years.

"I've seen too many people suffering, too many casualties on a daily basis, innocent people dying ... you cannot hide your emotions," he said. "But then there is the need of the country. Do we want this to continue forever? There will be endless suffering unless we find a way."

Associated Press Writer Tameem Akhgar in Kabul contributed to this report.

Uganda's 'taxi divas' rise from COVID-19's economic gloom

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — The women grappled with each other inside the vehicle. The driver jerked to ease the grip around her neck, then turned to elbow her attacker in the back seat. She flung the door open to make her escape, ending the simulated attack.

"This one is too strong for me," the attacker said, smiling and shaking her head. Then it was another woman's turn in the exercise to prepare drivers for Uganda's new all-female ride-hailing service, Diva Taxi.

The taxi service, dreamed up by a local woman who lost her logistics job at the start of the coronavirus outbreak, was launched in June and has recruited over 70 drivers. They range from college students to mothers hoping to make good use of their secondhand Toyotas.

"It started off as a joke, supported by close friends and family, but eventually the idea picked up," said company spokeswoman Rebecca Makyeli. "They said, 'Why not? As ladies, you know we can no longer slay on Instagram on the outside, so why don't we slay as divas with a cause.' So we called it Diva Taxi."

It's uncommon to find women taxi drivers in Uganda, a socially conservative East African country where most women labor on farms or pursue work in the informal sector.

Diva Taxi believes countless women are looking for job opportunities at a time of severe economic distress. The International Labor Organization has said women's employment in developing countries is likely to be hit harder than men's in the pandemic.

"I should say I was personally affected by COVID," Diva Taxi founder Gillian Kobusingye said.

A regular traveler, she found herself grounded indefinitely as authorities imposed restrictions on movement to slow the spread of the virus. For several weeks, even taxis were not authorized to operate in Uganda.

Still, Kobusingye felt optimistic. "Despite whatever circumstance in the world, there will be need of something to reach somebody ... And how does that happen? Through transport," she said.

She believed that a woman seeking to become a driver was likely to want the opportunity more than any man. And she backed women to be more reliable.

"Our ladies are extremely hardworking, very motivated, and I like their sense of pride when they do this work," she said. "They do it with one heart compared to other people, and that's the difference we have with our competitors."

Some clients, who include men, agree.

"The divas are always on time," said Kampala-based auditor Jemimah Bamwebaze, a regular user. She

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 78 of 86

also feels safer "being driven by a fellow woman."

A prospective driver must have a car in good condition and a smartphone equipped with the mobile app that clients use, along with a valid driver's license and a certificate of good conduct issued by Interpol.

With Diva Taxi, 85% of proceeds from a trip go to the driver, strikingly low in Uganda but part of a plan to size up the market, Makyeli said.

Driver Donna Ochen, a FedEx accountant furloughed in March who looks after three children, said she had been "doing nothing" at home when she saw a Diva Taxi employee on television discussing opportunities for women. With the consent of her skeptical husband, she contacted the company and was recruited.

"I decided to take it up because it would be an opportunity for me to serve and earn and support my family," Ochen said. And "it would empower me to do something for myself rather than sitting."

Another driver, college student Tracy Abola, said her mother, a teacher, had been out of work since schools were shut down in March. Abola had been driving a 1998 Toyota "to keep up appearances with friends" until she learned she could make money with Diva Taxi.

"So I decided to do something so that I can also help a bit at home," she said.

The Diva Taxi app has been downloaded at least 500 times, and each of the company's 72 drivers makes an average of 30 rides each week, Makyeli said. The company expects to have 2,000 active users by the end of this year, a modest target in a city of over 3 million people where taxis and passenger motorcycles are the main means of transport for the working class.

Despite the security training — each driver also receives a canister of pepper spray — safety remains a concern.

Ochen said she drives only during the day "to avoid being caught up in any tricky situations," including with drunken groups.

Even as she hopes to return to her job as an accountant, she plans to remain a Diva Taxi driver for as long as possible.

"We love what we are doing and it's really fun," said founder Kobusingye, an occasional driver herself. "I can't wait to partner with every woman out there that's willing to be part of Diva Taxi."

Tulsa digs again for victims of 1921 race massacre

By KEN MILLER Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A second excavation begins Monday at a cemetery in an effort to find and identify victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and shed light on violence that left hundreds dead and decimated an area that was once a cultural and economic mecca for African Americans.

"I realize we can tell this story the way it needs to be told, now," said Phoebe Stubblefield, a forensic anthropologist at the University of Florida and a descendant of a survivor of the massacre who is assisting the search, told The Associated Press. "The story is no longer hidden. We're putting the completion on this event."

The violence happened on May 31 and June 1 in 1921, when a white mob attacked Tulsa's Black Wall Street, killing an estimated 300 people and wounding 800 more while robbing and burning businesses, homes and churches.

"People, they were just robbed, white people coming in saying Black people had better property than they had and that that was just not right," said Stubblefield, whose great-aunt Anna Walker Woods had her home burned and property taken. "Burning, thieving, killing wasn't enough. They had to prevent Black people from recovering.

"Personally, professionally, spiritually I have an investment in this," said Stubblefield, a Los Angeles native who said she is in her early 50s and learned of the massacre and her ancestor, who she doesn't recall ever meeting, in the 1990s.

The two locations to be searched are in Oaklawn Cemetery in north Tulsa, where a search for remains of victims ended without success in July, and near the Greenwood District where the massacre took place.

The earlier excavation was done in an area identified by ground-penetrating radar scans as appearing to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 79 of 86

be a human-dug pit indicative of a mass grave. It turned out to be a filled-in creek, said Mayor G.T. Bynum, who first proposed looking for victims of the violence in 2018 and later budgeted \$100,000 to fund it after previous searches failed to find victims.

The massacre — which happened two years after what is known as the “Red Summer,” when hundreds of African Americans died at the hands of white mobs in violence around the U.S. — has been depicted in recent HBO shows “Watchmen” and “Lovecraft Country.”

It also received renewed attention after President Donald Trump selected Tulsa as the location for a June rally amid a national reckoning over police brutality and racial violence. Trump moved the date to avoid coinciding with a Juneteenth celebration in the Greenwood District commemorating the end of slavery.

Bynum, who is 43, said he didn’t learn of the massacre until about 20 years ago during the mayoral campaign of his uncle Bill LaFortune, and his grandparents confirmed the events.

“That’s a very common thing in Tulsa. That’s how you learned about it, not through books or the media or in school,” Bynum said. “People didn’t start talking about this event in Tulsa until about 20 years ago.”

Bodies, if discovered, will not be disturbed, Bynum said. The excavation would stop, and investigators would “do what they need to do to identify them and determine a cause of death,” Bynum said.

Efforts would also be made to find any descendants, a project that could prove difficult, according to Bynum.

“A hundred years after the fact, the descendants are scattered all around the world. Tracking down the descendants could take years,” Bynum said.

One site to be searched, known as the Original 18, is where old funeral home records indicate up to 18 Black people who were massacre victims were buried. The other site is where a man named Clyde Eddy said in the 1990s that, as a 10-year-old boy, he saw Black bodies being prepared for burial shortly after the massacre, but was told to leave the area.

Archaeologists have identified two additional possible sites, said state archaeologist Kary Stackelbeck, who is leading the investigation.

“We have multiple areas that we have identified as having merits for investigation,” based on the 2019 radar scans, Stackelbeck said. “We just have to ask for grace and patience” during the search.

The latest search is scheduled to last about a week, but could be extended, according to Stubblefield.

“I’m fully prepared to find human remains,” she said. “The questions are just whether they’re the remains we’re looking for.”

Touch-and-go: US spacecraft sampling asteroid for return

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — After almost two years circling an ancient asteroid hundreds of millions of miles away, a NASA spacecraft this week will attempt to descend to the treacherous, boulder-packed surface and snatch a handful of rubble.

The drama unfolds Tuesday as the U.S. takes its first crack at collecting asteroid samples for return to Earth, a feat accomplished so far only by Japan.

Brimming with names inspired by Egyptian mythology, the Osiris-Rex mission is looking to bring back at least 2 ounces (60 grams) worth of asteroid Benu, the biggest otherworldly haul from beyond the moon.

The van-sized spacecraft is aiming for the relatively flat middle of a tennis court-sized crater named Nightingale — a spot comparable to a few parking places here on Earth. Boulders as big as buildings loom over the targeted touchdown zone.

“So for some perspective, the next time you park your car in front of your house or in front of a coffee shop and walk inside, think about the challenge of navigating Osiris-Rex into one of these spots from 200 million miles away,” said NASA’s deputy project manager Mike Moreau.

Once it drops out of its half-mile-high (0.75 kilometer-high) orbit around Benu, the spacecraft will take a deliberate four hours to make it all the way down, to just above the surface.

Then the action cranks up when Osiris-Rex’s 11-foot (3.4-meter) arm reaches out and touches Benu.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 80 of 86

Contact should last five to 10 seconds, just long enough to shoot out pressurized nitrogen gas and suck up the churned dirt and gravel. Programmed in advance, the spacecraft will operate autonomously during the unprecedented touch-and-go maneuver. With an 18-minute lag in radio communication each way, ground controllers for spacecraft builder Lockheed Martin near Denver can't intervene.

If the first attempt doesn't work, Osiris-Rex can try again. Any collected samples won't reach Earth until 2023.

While NASA has brought back comet dust and solar wind particles, it's never attempted to sample one of the nearly 1 million known asteroids lurking in our solar system until now. Japan, meanwhile, expects to get samples from asteroid Ryugu in December — in the milligrams at most — 10 years after bringing back specks from asteroid Itokawa.

Bennu is an asteroid picker's paradise.

The big, black, roundish, carbon-rich space rock — taller than New York's Empire State Building — was around when our solar system was forming 4.5 billion years ago. Scientists consider it a time capsule full of pristine building blocks that could help explain how life formed on Earth and possibly elsewhere.

"This is all about understanding our origins," said the mission's principal scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona.

There also are selfish reasons for getting to know Bennu better.

The solar-orbiting asteroid, which swings by Earth every six years, could take aim at us late in the next century. NASA puts the odds of an impact at 1-in-2,700. The more scientists know about potentially menacing asteroids like Bennu, the safer Earth will be.

When Osiris-Rex blasted off in 2016 on the more than \$800 million mission, scientists envisioned sandy stretches at Bennu. So the spacecraft was designed to ingest small pebbles less than an inch (2 centimeters) across.

Scientists were stunned to find massive rocks and chunky gravel all over the place when the spacecraft arrived in 2018. And pebbles were occasionally seen shooting off the asteroid, falling back and sometimes ricocheting off again in a cosmic game of ping-pong.

With so much rough terrain, engineers scrambled to aim for a tighter spot than originally anticipated. Nightingale Crater, the prime target, appears to have the biggest abundance of fine grains, but boulders still abound, including one dubbed Mount Doom.

Then COVID-19 struck.

The team fell behind and bumped the second and final touch-and-go dress rehearsal for the spacecraft to August. That pushed the sample grab to October.

"Returning a sample is hard," said NASA's science mission chief, Thomas Zurbuchen. "The COVID made it even harder."

Osiris-Rex has three bottles of nitrogen gas, which means it can touch down three times — no more.

The spacecraft automatically will back away if it encounters unexpected hazards like big rocks that could cause it to tip over. And there's a chance it will touch down safely, but fail to collect enough rubble.

In either case, the spacecraft would return to orbit around Bennu and try again in January at another location.

With the first try finally here, Lauretta is worried, nervous, excited "and confident we have done everything possible to ensure a safe sampling."

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

Romania's Jewish State Theater explores work on Holocaust

By VADIM GHIRDA and EDITH BALAZS Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — The latest premiere at the Jewish State Theater in the Romanian capital, Bucharest, explores the horrors of the Holocaust via a survivor's memories of the Auschwitz and Plaszow

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 81 of 86

concentration camps.

Friday's debut of "The Beautiful Days of My Youth" by Romanian Jewish Holocaust survivor Ana Novac follows the National Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorations on Oct. 9, the day when deportations of Romania's Jews and Roma began in 1941.

Some 280,000 Jews and 11,000 Roma were deported and killed under Romania's pro-Nazi regime during World War II. During the communist era, hundreds of thousands of Romanian Jews emigrated to Israel. The current Jewish population is around 6,000, down from 800,000 before the war.

The play premiered online and in front of spectators who took up less than a third of the seats because of measures meant to slow the coronavirus pandemic in the eastern European nation.

Maia Morgenstern, head of the Jewish State Theater and a Romanian Jewish actress best known for playing Mary in Mel Gibson's 2004 movie "The Passion of the Christ," described the play's staging to The Associated Press as an "all-female project." The director is a woman, Liana Ceterchi.

"Each one of us is a facet of Ana Novac's soul and memory," Morgenstern said.

The play's author, born Zimra Harsanyi, hails from Romania's northern Transylvania region. She was deported at age 14. The diary she kept inside a Nazi concentration camp was first published in Hungary in 1966 and later translated into several languages, but it only hit bookshelves in her home country in 2004.

Many liken Novac's work to that of Anne Frank, author of the "The Diary of a Young Girl," which documented her life in hiding in Nazi-occupied Netherlands before she was deported to concentration camps.

"We are bearers of scars from wounds that are not directly ours, but still we carry these scars," Morgenstern said. She stressed the importance of evoking events through theatrical performance "in order to understand the ghosts of a painful past, the memories of terrible events that have split the world into executioners and victims."

Actresses wear the striped outfits of concentration camps against a backdrop of images depicting camp entrances, gas chambers and empty sleeping quarters. Photographs and names of Holocaust victims scroll in a video over the stage and performers. Human bones and a skull are held by performers during monologues.

The pandemic has had a severe impact on Romania's artistic community, triggering the closure of theaters during the lockdown. Later, theaters were allowed to hold performances only outdoors, then indoors with a limited number of spectators.

"These are existential and also moral questions. What to do to protect life, not to be a threat but at the same time continue our existence and activity and maintain our status as artists?" Morgenstern said.

This story corrects the spelling of Ana Novac's last name in the summary and in the story. With AP Photos.

Balazs reported from Budapest, Hungary.

Black officers break from unions over Trump endorsements

By CLAUDIA LAUER Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Police unions nationwide have largely supported President Donald Trump's reelection, amid mass demonstrations over police brutality and accusations of systemic racism — but a number of Black law enforcement officers are speaking out against these endorsements, saying their concerns over entering the 2020 political fray were ignored.

Trump has touted his support from the law enforcement community, which includes endorsements from national, city and state officers' unions — some of which publicly endorsed a political candidate for the first time. He's running on what he calls a "law and order" platform and tapping into a strain of anger and frustration felt by law enforcement who believe they are being unfairly accused of racial discrimination.

There are more than 8,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., with large departments holding sway nationally. The number of minority officers in policing has more than doubled in the last three decades, but many departments still have a smaller percentage of Black and Hispanic officers compared to the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 82 of 86

percentage of the general population those communities make up.

Many fraternal Black police organizations were formed to advocate for equality within police departments but also to focus on how law enforcement affects the wider Black community. There have often been tensions between minority organizations and larger unions, like in August, when the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers issued a letter condemning use of deadly force, police misconduct and abuse in communities of color.

While support for the Republican incumbent does not strictly fall along racial lines, many Black officers say the endorsements for Trump don't fairly represent all dues-paying members.

"We are members of these unions, and they don't take into consideration our feelings about Donald J. Trump, then they don't care about us and ... they don't care about our dues," said Rochelle Bilal, the recent past president of the Guardian Civic League of Philadelphia, calling the National Fraternal Order of Police's Trump endorsement an "outrage."

Bilal, who was elected as Philadelphia's first Black female sheriff last year, spoke at an early October news conference with other Black law enforcement groups in Philadelphia to condemn Trump endorsements and the process they say ignored their concerns over what they perceived to be racist remarks, support for white supremacist groups and a lack of respect for women from Trump.

But national union leaders say the process is designed to give everyone a voice and the endorsement represents the majority of officers. The Fraternal Order of Police represents close to 350,000 officers nationally, but does not track racial demographics.

"I am a Black American and a Black law enforcement officer," said Rob Pride, the National Fraternal Order of Police chair of trustees. "It's been emotionally a rollercoaster ride for me since the George Floyd incident. It was horrific."

Pride, who oversees the vote that leads to the organization's presidential endorsement, says the May 25 police killing of Floyd in Minneapolis and the political climate "is tearing America apart" and having a similar effect on the FOP.

National FOP leaders said they have heard from members who don't agree with the Trump endorsement — and they're open to talking over concerns — but that all 44 state Fraternal Orders of Police chapters that cast a ballot voted for Trump. Pride said the whole process starts locally, with lodges passing out candidate survey answers and ballots and then voting at a statewide meeting. State delegates then voted at the national meeting.

"We could probably have an hourlong conversation about why some folks feel President Trump is racist and why others disagree," he said. "But there are a lot of officers of all races of all backgrounds who feel he best represents and supports the interests of law enforcement."

On the local level, police reform bills driven by protests against police brutality in the wake of Floyd's killing have also stoked local unions' endorsements of candidates for state offices at higher rates this year — some issuing endorsement for the first time in decades. While many union leaders say the endorsements aren't based on political parties, they have largely been for Republicans challenging candidates who have voted for what unions call "anti-police" reform bills.

Philadelphia's FOP Lodge 5 President John McNesby said in a statement that the group, which represents 6,500 members, did not make an endorsement in the presidential race, and deferred to its parent union's endorsement. But members said that despite being the largest lodge in the state, they weren't given a chance to vote or be counted by the state or national delegates.

Denouncing the endorsement processes, The Guardian Civic League has asked its about 1,200 members to be prepared to withdraw their dues from the national FOP, as has the Club Valiants of Philadelphia — an organization of more than 500 minority firefighters — from the Local 22 of the International Fire Fighters and Paramedics Union. In endorsing Trump, Local 22 broke from its parent organization, which endorsed Democrat Joe Biden.

Valiants leaders said the Local 22's endorsement was based on survey responses from about 500 of the union's nearly 5,000 members. Local union leaders said a redo survey is being sent to members in response

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 83 of 86

to the backlash and its endorsement will be revised if necessary by the end of the month.

"The election is Nov. 3, and people are out there voting now. What is it going to do to rescind the endorsement days before the election?" said John Elam, a Philadelphia firefighter and Valiants member. "We want a fair process. We wanted a fair process from the beginning."

In New York City, Patrick Lynch — the head of the Police Benevolent Association that represents about 24,000 officers — announced the union's endorsement of Trump at August's Republican National Convention, something members said they had no warning would happen. An unsigned letter from the Guardians Association said the Black and minority officers the group represents felt blindsided by Lynch's endorsement and wished the union had stayed neutral.

Lynch said it was the union's first presidential endorsement in at least 36 years.

"That's how important this is," Lynch said to the crowd during an event at Trump's golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, telling the president: "You've earned this."

During September's presidential debate, Trump ticked off the locations where he felt he had support from law enforcement. "I have Florida, I have Texas, I have Ohio," he said. "Excuse me, Portland, the sheriff there just came out today and said, 'I support President Trump.'"

That sheriff — Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese — quickly took to Twitter to deny any support.

Terrance Hopkins, president of the Black Police Association of Dallas, said a handful of officers left the Dallas Police Department's largest union, partly driven by its support for Trump, and had joined his organization.

"A lot of these officers feel like they aren't being considered. A lot of the issues that push them to that point border along racial lines," Hopkins, a 30-year veteran officer, said. "And it's not just here. I got a call from some Black officers in Kansas City, Missouri, who wanted to join my organization because they don't have any other outlet and they don't feel like they are being represented."

Associated Press writers Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut, and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

Hard hit by virus, airlines push for tests over quarantines

By DAVID McHUGH Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — What will it take to get people flying again? International air traffic is down 92% this year as travelers worry about catching COVID-19 and government travel bans and quarantine rules make planning difficult. One thing airlines believe could help is to have rapid virus tests of all passengers before departure.

Scattered experiments on improving safety are under way around the world, and a UN organization is leading talks to set guidelines. There is a lot at stake. With no end in sight to the pandemic, the near total halt to international travel will hinder economies as they try to bounce back from recession and return to normal levels of business activity. Millions of jobs - at airlines, airports and travel related businesses such as hotels and restaurants - are affected.

Here's a look at some of the key issues.

WHY IS THE FOCUS ON TESTING?

One major factor keeping people from taking long-haul flights is the fear they will be seated next to someone with COVID-19, according to a survey by the International Air Transport Association. While flying helped carry the virus around the world initially, airplanes themselves have so far not been proven to be super-spreader locations the way business conferences and meat-packing plants have been.

Most people are also reluctant to fly into a quarantine that restricts their activities for up to two weeks after arrival. Quarantines themselves aren't perfect in terms of stopping the virus from spreading, as in some cases they're not strictly enforced.

"Testing all passengers will give people back their freedom to travel with confidence. And that will put

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 84 of 86

millions of people back to work," says Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director general and CEO.

HOW WOULD TESTING WORK?

Initial trials focus on testing passengers before departure, either at the airport or remotely. Information about the test result could be documented through a smartphone app. Newer tests can give results in less than an hour.

WHAT DO HEALTH AUTHORITIES SAY?

They are open to the idea but are still assessing how effective it would be.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control noted that testing technology, capacity and access to testing is improving. It added that "efforts are currently ongoing internationally to assess the risk reduction, determine what a feasible testing regime for air travel may look like, and gain some level of agreement on standards for a harmonized approach to testing globally in air transportation."

WHO'S GOING TO DECIDE THIS?

The IATA is calling for rapid, accurate and scalable testing for all passengers. After airline executives appealed for help on this from the European Union and the White House's COVID-19 task force, the issue appears to have moved to a United Nations forum, the International Civil Aviation Organization based in Montreal.

The ICAO is working on guidelines based on scientific advice that countries could use in establishing testing regimes. The issue is on the agenda for an Oct. 29 meeting, but that's not a guarantee that guidelines will be approved.

WHAT TRIALS ARE UNDER WAY?

Various forms of testing have been tried for weeks in different places. What airlines want is a larger-scale international approach.

For instance, China requires a time-consuming negative polymerase chain reaction test before departure. At Frankfurt's international airport, diagnostics firm Centogene has been offering tests to non-symptomatic people for 59 euros (\$69) for a result within 12 hours and 139 euros for six hours. A doctor's certificate - for another 25 euros - can help avoid quarantine restrictions.

The Switzerland-based Commons Project Foundation and the World Economic Forum are holding trials this month for CommonPass, a digital health pass that lets travellers securely document compliance with COVID-19 test requirements through a QR code on their smartphones or on paper. The idea is to get around the problems posed by printed test results, which may be from unfamiliar labs or in a language that those inspecting them don't know.

Cathay Pacific has trialled CommonPass with volunteers on a Hong Kong-Singapore flight and United Airlines will test it between London Heathrow and Newark Liberty International. The CDC's Martin S. Cetron, head of the global migration and quarantine division, says it is "eager to learn" from the trials and that CommonPass "could be one of the many potential tools." CommonPass could be adopted by individual countries, without waiting for international agreements.

WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?

There are a lot of moving parts to any testing regime. First off, the test must be accurate, fast and cheap enough to deploy on a large scale. Governments must agree to accept the results; while governments are represented in the ICAO, the organization's guidelines will not be mandatory. There has to be a way of certifying the result, while at the same time protecting privacy of passenger medical information, and a procedure for handling people who test positive.

Scientists warn there are concerns about the accuracy of some rapid tests. People can test negative for a couple of days after being infected. People can be infectious before they show symptoms, and these

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 85 of 86

people may also test negative.

IS TESTING THE ONLY SOLUTION?

The International Air Transport Association advocates a layered approach. In addition to testing, that means: social distancing at the airport, touchless check-in, wearing masks in flight, and limiting passenger movement in the cabin.

In a survey published in May, consulting firm McKinsey asked 40 corporate travel planners what would give them the confidence to book travel. Seventy-five percent said they would want a vaccine, while 39% said testing. McKinsey said business travel spending exceeded \$1.4 trillion in 2018, or 21% of the global travel and hospitality sector. Business travellers drive 55% to 75% of the profit at top airlines - even though they make up less than 10% of passengers.

David Koenig in Dallas, Texas, and Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit contributed to this report.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 19, the 293rd day of 2020. There are 73 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 19, 1781, British troops under Gen. Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, as the American Revolution neared its end.

On this date:

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress, meeting in New York, adopted a declaration of rights and liberties, which the British Parliament ignored.

In 1812, French forces under Napoleon Bonaparte began their retreat from Moscow.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy began accepting Black women into WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

In 1960, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested during a sit-down protest at a lunch counter in Atlanta. (Sent to prison for a parole violation over a traffic offense, King was released after three days following an appeal by Robert F. Kennedy.)

In 1977, the supersonic Concorde made its first landing in New York City.

In 1987, the stock market crashed as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 percent in value (its biggest daily percentage loss), to close at 1,738.74 in what came to be known as "Black Monday."

In 1994, 22 people were killed as a terrorist bomb shattered a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv's shopping district.

In 2001, U.S. special forces began operations on the ground in Afghanistan, opening a significant new phase of the assault against the Taliban and al-Qaida.

In 2002, in York, Pa., former mayor Charlie Robertson was acquitted and two other men were convicted in the shotgun slaying of Lillie Belle Allen, a young Black woman, during race riots that tore the city apart in 1969.

In 2003, Pope John Paul II beatified Mother Teresa during a ceremony in St. Peter's Square.

In 2005, a defiant Saddam Hussein pleaded innocent to charges of premeditated murder and torture as his trial opened under heavy security in the former headquarters of his Baath Party in Baghdad.

In 2014, Peyton Manning broke Brett Favre's NFL record of 508 career touchdown passes as he threw four TD passes in Denver's 42-17 victory over the San Francisco 49ers. (The record would later be broken by Drew Brees and Tom Brady.)

Ten years ago: The Pentagon directed the military to accept openly gay recruits for the first time in the nation's history. Hosam Smadi, a Jordanian man caught in an FBI sting trying to blow up a Dallas skyscraper,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 108 ~ 86 of 86

was sentenced to 24 years in prison after telling the court he was ashamed of his actions and renouncing al-Qaida. "Happy Days" patriarch Tom Bosley died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 83.

Five years ago: Canadians voted for a sharp change in their government as the Liberals led by Justin Trudeau, the son of a former prime minister, won a landslide victory to end Conservative Stephen Harper's near decade in office. Ahmed Mohamed, the Texas teenager arrested after a homemade clock he'd brought to school was mistaken for a bomb, capped a whirlwind month with a visit to the White House, where he met with President Barack Obama for "Astronomy Night." The Toronto Blue Jays roughed up Johnny Cueto for an 11-8 victory over the Royals that cut Kansas City's AL Championship series lead to 2-1.

One year ago: The Houston Astros advanced to the World Series for the second time in three years, defeating the New York Yankees 6-4 in Game 6 of the American League Championship Series. (The Astros would lose the World Series to the Washington Nationals in seven games.) At a rally in New York, Bernie Sanders resumed his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, weeks after being sidelined by a heart attack. In the wake of stinging criticism, President Donald Trump reversed his plan to hold the next Group of Seven world leaders' meeting at his Doral, Florida, golf resort.

Today's Birthdays: Author John le Carre (luh kah-RAY') is 89. Actor Tony Lo Bianco is 84. Artist Peter Max is 83. Author and critic Renata Adler is 83. Actor Michael Gambon is 80. Actor John Lithgow (LIHTH'-goh) is 75. Feminist activist Patricia Ireland is 75. Singer Jeannie C. Riley is 75. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 72. Actor Annie Golden is 69. Talk show host Charlie Chase is 68. Rock singer-musician Karl Wallinger (World Party) is 63. Former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele is 62. Singer Jennifer Holliday is 60. Retired boxer Evander Holyfield is 58. Host Ty Pennington (TV: "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition") is 56. Rock singer-musician Todd Park Mohr (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 55. Actor Jon Favreau is 54. Amy Carter is 53. "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker is 51. Comedian Chris Kattan is 50. Rock singer Pras Michel (The Fugees) is 48. Actor Omar Gooding is 44. Country singer Cyndi Thomson is 44. Writer-director Jason Reitman is 43. Actor Benjamin Salisbury is 40. Actor Gillian Jacobs is 38. Actor Rebecca Ferguson is 37. Rock singer Zac Barnett (American Authors) is 34. Singer-actor Ciara Renee (TV: "Legends of Tomorrow") is 30. Actor Hunter King is 27.